

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Congresswoman for 18th Congressional District of Texas, I rise with great pride to commemorate this recognition of Black History Month. African Americans from Texas like the pugilist Jack Johnson, the pioneer Bessie Coleman, Congresswoman Barbara C. Jordan, Congressman Mickey Leland, and African Americans from all across this nation have contributed greatly to the rich history of the United States; a country we love so dearly.

I am especially grateful to be among my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus as we do our best to honor those who came before us and strive to make this country a better place for all Americans through our work here in Congress, back home in our districts and all across this great nation. As we do so, we must remember that we are part of the great diversity of citizens that make up the fabric of this nation and we must, as African Americans, remember to reach out to all Americans from every race, creed, and color for the common purpose of leaving our country better than we found it for our children and their children's children.

This morning I had the privilege of speaking in Austin, Texas, before the Texas Legislative Black Caucus at its Legislative Summit. Being there in the Capitol built by slaves and speaking before that audience made me realize that we have a reason to celebrate our heritage and our contributions to this great nation. My speech was about African Americans remaining relevant in these changing times. Today as we bring Black History Month to a close, I would like to reflect on the many reasons to celebrate and I issue a call for all of my colleagues to be their best for our country as we continue our legislative work in this chamber.

We have reason to celebrate our heritage: We are relevant.

Barbara C. Jordan knew the importance of remaining relevant when she recited from the preamble to the Constitution and said: "We the people." It is a very eloquent beginning. But when the document was completed . . . I was not included in 'We the People.' I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision I have finally been included in "We, the people."

As redistricting hits full stride this year and the Texas legislature conducts the redrawing of congressional districts, we the people, Black and Brown Texans alike, must stand together and be represented! Our vote must count. Our candidates must be elected. For our cause is the same. A defeat for African Americans is a defeat for Hispanics and a de-

feat for Hispanics is a defeat for African Americans. This is a unique moment in time to make sure our voices are heard, that our votes count, and that we as African Americans and Hispanics remain relevant.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, Immigration Policy and Enforcement Subcommittee, I see a barrage of immigration hearings that embody a shameless attempt to pit Hispanics against African Americans. This is an outrage! We must not take the bait. The vast majority of economists, and all of the most recent research in the area, confirm that immigrants actually improve the job prospects of U.S. workers. The truth is that, in general, African-Americans and other minorities actually benefit from Immigration. Comprehensive immigration reform that provides a fair path to citizenship combined with investments in our businesses, and investment in our education and job training programs are the only solution. Draconian spending cuts to these programs and dredging up racial scapegoats are not the solution.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I take pride in my work with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and serve as an enthusiastic liaison between the two caucuses. As I do so, I am reminded of how my predecessor Congressman Mickey Leland reached out to work with Cesar Chavez as he struggled for better working conditions and dignity for Hispanic workers. He saw the importance of our communities working together in his day and I see it now in mine. African Americans endured the injustice of slavery and servitude and we must remember that history repeats; sometimes it just visits another community in the process. We must cast our fate together.

To remain relevant, we must commit right here and right now to embracing and working with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Truth be told, our plight is the same and shared progress is our common cause. As Malcolm X said "We are not fighting for integration, nor are we fighting for separation. We are fighting for recognition as human beings. We are fighting for human rights."

In closing, I invoke the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., truly spoke of remaining relevant when he said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Today, we are closer to achieving that dream. We are relevant. We are "pertinent to the matter at hand." And it is by working together with our Hispanic brothers and sisters that we will remain relevant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 92 I inadvertently voted "no." I intended to vote "yes."

ALAMOSA HIGH SCHOOL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alamosa High School wrestling team and coach Gary Ramstetter. Alamosa's Mean Moose claimed their first Class 3A state wrestling title, with eight wrestlers placing in the top four and an individual title won by Darin Sisneros. It was Mr. Ramstetter's eighth state title with the school, and earned him Coach of the Year honors.

Alamosa finished the tournament with a commanding 178 points, the closest competitor scoring only 122½. The victory represents a true team effort with every wrestler fighting for every point. Mr. Sisneros' individual title is also the 48th won by a student during coach Ramstetter's 30 year tenure, a testament to the hard work and motivation of both men.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Alamosa's wrestling team and their legendary coach. Under his expert guidance, I have no doubt that Alamosa can win many more state titles and continue its legacy of success both in the classroom and on the mat.

TRIBUTE TO MAURA PAT KELLY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the long and distinguished career of a good friend and public servant of this House, Mrs. Maura "Pat" Kelly. Pat's roots in our home state of New York run as deep as the mark she leaves on this institution after fifty-three years of service. I was honored to attend Pat's retirement ceremony last month and at which our distinguished chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, delivered the following prayer that I proudly submit on his behalf.

PRAYER FOR PAT KELLY'S RECEPTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011, REV. DANIEL P. COUGHLIN

Holy Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with all the angels and saints we praise You, with all the Irish legends and leprechauns we stand before You.

As we celebrate the life and service of Maura "Pat" Kelly this day, we do so with honor and humor, memories and best wishes. To this noble institution throughout the years she has always brought a feminine touch, a New York touch, and a touch of the Irish.

We thank You, Lord, for giving her years of health and happiness, work and colleagues, bosses and crosses, as well as love of this institution of Congress inherited from her mother, ever changing through the years and never fully understood or appreciated by the American people she served.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

May the daily public service hardly noticed, now be duly rewarded. Grant her energy and peace, friendship and satisfaction for years to come.

As she takes leave of us, may she find even greater love and faith around every bend in the road ahead. As long as she keeps smiling the world will smile back at her. And she shall never be forgotten or walk alone, Lord. For Your smile will forever call her upward and onward even though she has stolen from us all, Lord. As the old tune tells it: her Irish eyes have stolen our hearts away.

**AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO THE WORLD
WAR II MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL
AIR PATROL**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently reintroduced H.R. 719, which will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

During World War II, the volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol—civilian men and women ranging in age from 19 to 81—provided extraordinary public and combat services at a critical time of need for the nation.

Civil Air Patrol members used their own aircraft to perform a myriad of essential tasks for the military and the entire country, including attacks on enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Civil Air Patrol was established on December 1, 1941, one week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After performing exemplary service in WWII, the Civil Air Patrol was chartered by Congress as a non-profit, public service organization and in 1948 as the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

The Civil Air Patrol was initially mobilized in response to a massive German Navy submarine offensive off the east coast of the United States that targeted oil tankers and other critical shipping.

As 52 tankers were sunk by enemy submarines between January and March 1942 alone, neither the Navy nor Army had sufficient resources to patrol and protect the coastline—threatening the entire war effort.

The Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol undertook the challenge of protecting our sea lanes and supporting the military's efforts at this critical time. From March 1942 until August 1943, more than 40,000 volunteers at 21 Civil Air Patrol bases stretching from Maine to Texas coordinated thousands of patrols, investigations, and convoy missions.

Heroic Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol aircrews were responsible for attacking 57 submarines—destroying or damaging two—as well as reporting nearly 200 submarine positions, 17 floating mines, and 91 vessels and 363 survivors in distress.

In addition to the work of its Coastal Patrol, the Civil Air Patrol also established itself as a vital wartime service to the military, states, and communities across the nation.

These brave volunteers engaged in an impressive array of missions including border patrol, forest fire patrol, courier flights for mail and urgent deliveries, emergency transportation of personnel, search and rescue, and

various military support duties. Overall, during the war the Civil Air Patrol undertook tens of thousands of missions and logged hundreds of thousands of flight hours in defense of our country.

The Civil Air Patrol's WWII service came at the high cost of 64 fatalities and 150 aircraft lost. Indeed, the courage and sacrifice of the estimated 200,000 civilians in the Civil Air Patrol exemplifies the spirit and dedication of an entire generation who were willing to risk their lives for America and the cause of freedom.

In recognition of this remarkable volunteer service and commendable record, H.R. 719 will award a single gold medal collectively in honor of the WWII members of the Civil Air Patrol.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the valuable wartime service rendered by the civilian volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol by supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during last night's rollcall votes on H.R. 394, H.R. 347, and H.R. 368. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of each of those bills.

MOGOTE CHURCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Mogote Church, Margie Garcia and the committee responsible for the church's restoration. They were presented the Stephen H. Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society this year for their efforts to repair the historic landmark.

The Mogote Church was erected in 1895 by a group of Presbyterian missionaries and local Hispanic residents. Despite the risk of excommunication by the Catholic Church, they still founded a new congregation in Colorado's San Luis Valley. It fell into disrepair, however, and ceased to provide services by 1965. After years of increasing dilapidation, the campaign to restore the church began in 1999. With over a decade of work put into the project, it was completed, and once again became a functioning church. Hundreds of descendants of the original parishioners traveled to the church to attend the reopening and celebrate a historical Colorado landmark.

It is my hope that the efforts taken by this church's community inspire others to take the same initiative in their own. The Mogote church will represent the actions of a proud community for years to come and as such, Mr. Speaker, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes those who took charge in restoring a Colorado landmark.

**HONORING THE CONGRESSIONAL
SERVICE OF PAT KELLY**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maura Patricia Kelly on her retirement as a congressional aide after an astounding 53 and 1/2 years of decorated service.

Patricia Kelly was born on June 5, 1934 in Brooklyn, New York. She is the daughter of Edward Kelly, a New York City Court Justice, and Edna F. Kelly, a former Member of the United States House of Representatives. "Pat" as she is affectionately known, describes her childhood as an exciting and loving time. As she made her way from the Marymount High School in New York City to Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, Pat learned the importance of receiving a quality education. She graduated with honors in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History.

Pat's family has a long history of public service that started with her grandfather, William E. Kelly, who was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to be Postmaster of Brooklyn, New York. After college, Pat quickly joined the family business, getting her feet wet in politics by helping her mother, Edna, get elected to the congressional district that represented Brooklyn, New York. Pat began her congressional career as a research analyst for the House Committee on Un-American Activities and shortly thereafter, began her service as a legislative assistant to Members of Congress Edna F. Kelly, Martha W. Griffiths, and Matthew F. McHugh. Pat then assumed the role of legislative assistant to the House Rules Committee. In 1979, Pat took the position of Editor of the House Daily Digest, in the Office of the Clerk, where she was required to interact regularly with its 21 standing committees and two select committees. Pat held this position until her retirement on March 1, 2011—becoming one of the longest serving employees ever to work for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Pat cites her mother Edna as the catalyst behind her decision to devote her life to public service. When asked about her mother, Pat often uses words like: hard working, passionate, honest, dedicated, principled and always congenial. Pat says that many members and staff in the House often referred to her mother as "Madam Protocol." Everyone who knows Pat knows that "the apple did not fall far from the tree." Pat and her mother not only loved the House but they loved helping people in and outside it.

In 1976, Pat was named Roll Call's "Congressional Staffer of the Year." That same year she was chosen as the President of the Congressional Staff Club. More recently, she was honored for her years of outstanding service to the House. Over her career, Pat was fortunate to work on many pieces of landmark legislation including the Equal Pay Act and the Equal Rights Amendment.

We wish Pat well in retirement and will always remember her efforts to make this institution run more efficiently in the service of the American people.