

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING RUTH BEAVERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Ruth Beavers for being selected as a recipient of the Daily Point of Light Award. This award is a testament that Ruth is a true leader for her volunteer service to St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, LA.

Ruth joined the St. Francis Medical Center volunteer program in 2000. As of September 30, 2010, she has devoted 7,764 hours of service to St. Francis Medical Center. Ruth has continually demonstrated the mission of St. Francis Medical Center by her commitment to reaching out to others in their time of need. She has brought comfort and hope to patients and their families with her sincere concern for their welfare.

During this past decade, Ruth has dedicated her time, talent and energy to helping others. Her commitment to service is a true example of citizenship. She is truly an unsung hero to St. Francis Medical Center and the St. Francis Volunteer program. Her compassion and faithful service to St. Francis Medical Center's patients, families, and staff exemplifies the best in volunteerism.

She is an example of how one person can change the lives of many, and I commend Ruth for her hard work and dedication to making a positive difference in the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Ruth Beavers for this significant achievement.

HONORING MRS. MARGARET ANN RUSSELL ON HER EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eightieth birthday of a distinguished member of Missouri's 4th Congressional District, Mrs. Margaret Ann Russell. Mrs. Russell, of Lebanon, Missouri, will celebrate her birthday March 22nd surrounded by family and friends; I join them in commending her role as a faithful family servant and community pillar.

Born on March 22, 1931 to George T. and Vesta Carr, Margaret grew up rooted in the values of rural America. She graduated from Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Missouri, and went on to attend the historic Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, an institution dedicated since 1833 to the education and cultivation of female leaders.

Mrs. Russell married John T. Russell, also of Lebanon, Missouri, who served in the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate for almost forty years. She labored diligently to raise their three children Doug, Jeanette, and Melissa. John, Jason,

Jordan, Jimmy, Nicole, Makenzie, and Audrey have been blessed to know her as their grandmother; now, Harper and Drew have the special privilege of knowing her as their great grandmother.

While prioritizing her family, Mrs. Russell has long been involved in public service as well. She is an active part of the First Baptist Church of Lebanon. She also has encouraged local candidates to pursue public office, has given insight to community leaders, and has worked to strengthen her hometown. Recognizing the key role private citizens can play in protecting children, she consistently supports the Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

I applaud Mrs. Russell for her quiet service in support of family and a vibrant local community. The diligent attention she has given to civil society should inspire us all. It is with sincere admiration that I wish her a very happy birthday on this milestone occasion.

CONGRATULATING JIM REED OF PHILADELPHIA FOR A LIFE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Reed, a respected and beloved member of the greater Philadelphia business and civic community, who will be honored on April 14, 2011, at The Enterprise Center, 4548 Market Street, in West Philadelphia.

Mr. Reed is Director of External Affairs for Verizon Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His service to his community both includes and extends far beyond the workplace. An active and passionate leader, Jim Reed is committed to the well-being of children, youth and adults alike. From board participation to teaching; mentoring, community service and advocating for change, he has proven his commitment to the community.

Mr. Reed is a native of Savannah, Georgia, and was educated in Savannah and the School District of Philadelphia. He is a graduate of The Pennsylvania Institute of Technology and Spring Garden College. He was a math instructor at Dobbins and Edison High Schools in Philadelphia, the Opportunities Industrial Center, founded by Leon Sullivan, and Temple University.

Jim Reed has more than 45 years experience in all facets of telecommunications. He began his career with AT&T and then transferred to Bell of Pennsylvania where he moved to the External Affairs Department as Community Relations Director, and assumed his current position in 1993.

Mr. Reed's community involvement includes a wide range of interests and activities. He has chaired the Mayor's Commission on Services to the Aging. He is an active board member of the Urban Affairs Coalition, West Philadelphia Partnership, Korean Community Center, Citizens Crime Commission, The Men of the 644th Engineer Battalion "C," and many other organizations.

Jim Reed is an active member of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church where he serves as an usher. He is a member of the Methodist Men, and also a board member of Charles A. Tindley Community Development Corporation.

He has been honored by countless organizations including OIC, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, Asian American Women Coalition, Cheyney University, Berean Institute, Operation PUSH, Teenagers In Charge, Concerned Black Men, City of Philadelphia, Frontiers International, the Ducky Birts Foundation, Haddington, Multi-Service Center for Older Adults, Grands As Parents, and many others. He is a concerned community advocate in the Wynnefield neighborhood where he resides.

Jim Reed is an exemplary Philadelphian who has earned the admiration and gratitude of all who know him—and will get to know him as he continues his service—in Philadelphia. I offer my warm and sincere congratulations to Jim Reed for a life well lived and brimming with accomplishment.

WEST POINT FOUNDERS DAY 2011

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the 19th District of New York is home to the United States Military Academy and today I join the cadets and alumni of West Point in celebrating Founders Day. On March 16, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed into law the Military Peace Establishment Act that founded the United States Military Academy at West Point. Since then, over 50,000 men and women have joined the Long Gray Line and served in the United States Army in times of war and peace. This year, approximately 1,000 cadets will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants and continue a great Army tradition dedicated to Duty, Honor, Country. Their deep and enduring patriotism; their tenacity, talent, and sacrifice, make the United States Army the greatest in the world. May God continue to protect them in their mission to preserve our peace and freedom every day.

HONORING MEMBERS OF 3RD BATTALION, 135TH THEATER AVIATION BATTALION OF LEBANON, MISSOURI

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the safe return of an 11-member

• 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.

section of the Missouri National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 135th Theater Aviation Battalion, of Lebanon, MO. I want to commend them for their selfless service and sacrifice over the past year of their deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.

They were tasked with providing 24-hour-a-day command and control, supervision, staff planning, personnel service and logistical support to all units attached to the theater aviation battalion. The unit used fixed-wing aircraft to provide services to a forward deployed aviation. This allowed for the air movement of cargo, personnel, and dignitaries from the United States, NATO, and Iraq.

The section of returning Soldiers is commanded by Capt. Seth Everett, who lives in St. Louis, MO. Other members of the unit live in Lebanon, Eldon, Versailles, Linn Creek, Mountain Grove, Dixon, Liberal, Dexter, Hallsville, and Jefferson City. The unit was previously deployed to Balad in 2005.

Without soldiers like those in the 3–135th, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today, and I am eternally grateful for their service. It is only fitting that they return home safely to their families and loved ones.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming home the members of the 3–135th, and thanking them for their continued sacrifice as members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING MS. BRIDGETTE DIXON
THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has given of herself as an educator of Dunaire Elementary, a daughter, a mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as this year's Teacher of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our Nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 23, 2011 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District. Proclaimed, this 23rd day of March, 2011.

52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, March 10 marked the 52nd anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against the People's Republic of China, during which His Holiness the Dalai Lama fled into exile. On that day, there was a small commemoration on Library Mall in Madison with Wisconsin's Tibetan-American community, which my staff was honored to attend. While the commemoration serves as a painful but important reminder of China's prolonged efforts to outlaw dissent, restrict free expression, and violently occupy Tibet, it also serves as a symbol of our sustained vigilance, continued determination, and enduring hope that Tibetans everywhere will soon be free to live in peace with their land and culture intact.

On this anniversary, I offer support and conviction to the thousands of Tibetans living in exile and the thousands more who have chosen to stand beside them in the struggle for freedom. I support the Middle-Way Approach proposed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to honor the dignity of both Tibetan and Chinese people and to promote a respectful solution. I strongly believe that the United States has a responsibility to stand up for human rights and the rule of law, and I support efforts to address the plight of Tibetans.

The Dalai Lama issued a statement on March 10, as he does every year, which represents a "state of the union" speech for Tibetans. This year's statement was newsworthy, in that the Dalai Lama announced that he intends to hand over the last vestiges of his governmental responsibilities to the elected leadership of the Tibetan Government in exile, while remaining a committed advocate for the Tibet cause. At a time when despots around the world cling to power as their people yearn for democracy, the Dalai Lama's willful ceding of power is a tribute to his vision to fulfill the aspirations of the Tibetan people and should inspire others around the world.

I insert the Dalai Lama's March 10, 2011, statement into the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA
ON THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN
NATIONAL UPRISING DAY, MARCH 9, 2011

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising of 1959 against Communist China's repression in the Tibetan capital Lhasa, and the third anniversary of the non-violent demonstrations that took place across Tibet in 2008. On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to and pray for those brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for the just cause of Tibet. I express my solidarity with those who continue to suffer repression and pray for the well-being of all sentient beings.

For more than sixty years, Tibetans, despite being deprived of freedom and living in fear and insecurity, have been able to maintain their unique Tibetan identity and cultural values. More consequentially, successive new generations, who have no experience of free Tibet, have courageously taken responsibility in advancing the cause of Tibet. This is admirable, for they exemplify the strength of Tibetan resilience.

This Earth belongs to humanity and the People's Republic of China (PRC) belongs to

its 1.3 billion citizens, who have the right to know the truth about the state of affairs in their country and the world at large. If citizens are fully informed, they have the ability to distinguish right from wrong. Censorship and the restriction of information violate basic human decency. For instance, China's leaders consider the communist ideology and its policies to be correct. If this were so, these policies should be made public with confidence and open to scrutiny.

China, with the world's largest population, is an emerging world power and I admire the economic development it has made. It also has huge potential to contribute to human progress and world peace. But to do that, China must earn the international community's respect and trust. In order to earn such respect China's leaders must develop greater transparency, their actions corresponding to their words. To ensure this, freedom of expression and freedom of the press are essential. Similarly, transparency in governance can help check corruption. In recent years, China has seen an increasing number of intellectuals calling for political reform and greater openness. Premier Wen Jiabao has also expressed support for these concerns. These are significant indications and I welcome them.

The PRC is a country comprising many nationalities, enriched by a diversity of languages and cultures. Protection of the language and culture of each nationality is a policy of the PRC, which is clearly spelt out in its constitution. Tibetan is the only language to preserve the entire range of the Buddha's teachings, including the texts on logic and theories of knowledge (epistemology), which we inherited from India's Nalanda University. This is a system of knowledge governed by reason and logic that has the potential to contribute to the peace and happiness of all beings. Therefore, the policy of undermining such a culture, instead of protecting and developing it, will in the long run amount to the destruction of humanity's common heritage.

The Chinese government frequently states that stability and development in Tibet is the foundation for its long-term well-being. However, the authorities still station large numbers of troops all across Tibet, increasing restrictions on the Tibetan people. Tibetans live in constant fear and anxiety. More recently, many Tibetan intellectuals, public figures and environmentalists have been punished for articulating the Tibetan people's basic aspirations. They have been imprisoned allegedly for "subverting state power" when actually they have been giving voice to the Tibetan identity and cultural heritage. Such repressive measures undermine unity and stability. Likewise, in China, lawyers defending people's rights, independent writers and human rights activists have been arrested. I strongly urge the Chinese leaders to review these developments and release these prisoners of conscience forthwith.

The Chinese government claims there is no problem in Tibet other than the personal privileges and status of the Dalai Lama. The reality is that the ongoing oppression of the Tibetan people has provoked widespread, deep resentment against current official policies. People from all walks of life frequently express their discontentment. That there is a problem in Tibet is reflected in the Chinese authorities' failure to trust Tibetans or win their loyalty. Instead, the Tibetan people live under constant suspicion and surveillance. Chinese and foreign visitors to Tibet corroborate this grim reality.

Therefore, just as we were able to send fact-finding delegations to Tibet in the late 1970s and early 1980s from among Tibetans in exile, we propose similar visits again. At the