

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NSP TERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 861) to rescind the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and to terminate the program.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, today's legislation is the third in a series of four announced bills explicitly intended to dismantle our nation's foreclosure prevention efforts.

In this case, the initiative being terminated is the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which has to date impacted over 100,000 properties in our nation's hardest hit areas while supporting an estimated 93,000 jobs. The program works by providing critical assistance to states, local governments and non-profit organizations to demolish or rehabilitate blighted properties, as well as establish financial assistance programs for low- and middle-income homebuyers. The resulting redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes has helped stabilize communities, preserve the value of adjacent properties, and begun to restore municipalities' tax base.

Mr. Chair, with seven million people having lost their homes to this housing crisis so far, another three million foreclosures expected through 2012, and unemployment still hovering around 9 percent, now is not the time to pull the rug out from under distressed homeowners and communities struggling to get back on their feet.

TO RECOGNIZE THE ASIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CONGRATULATE THE 2011 HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the Asian American Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate this year's Gala awardees. These awards recognize local businesses that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the community.

The Asian American Chamber of Commerce is a resource for local businesses looking to connect with one another and the community of Northern Virginia. The accomplishments of this chamber reflects the many contributions Asian Americans have made to our community and the growing prominence of Asian Americans in civic, social, and political life of our region.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize the following awardees:

Asian Business Excellence Award: Base Technologies

Lifetime Achievement Award: Master Jhoon Rhee—Pioneer of U.S. Tae Kwon Do

Non-Profit of the Year: New Tang Dynasty Television

Public Service Award: Rosemary Lauer—Devotion to Children

Member/Volunteer of the Year: Cindy Chatman—Prudential

Small Business of the Year: Allegra Print & Imaging of Fairfax

Corporate Partner of the Year: Verizon, State Farm, CitiBank

Government Agency of the Year: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their accomplishments and thanking these individuals and organizations for their work in the community. The efforts and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise. I also would like to thank the Asian American Chamber of Commerce for its tireless efforts to promote the highest caliber of business and social involvement from area businesses and owners.

HONORING MR. BRUCE A. HOLM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time today to honor the life and achievements of Bruce A. Holm, an internationally known biomedical researcher and crucial advocate in the effort to develop high-tech research at the University of Buffalo and throughout the region of Western New York.

Bruce dedicated his sharp intellect and spirit of entrepreneurship toward the improvement of research in the field of life sciences. During his time as executive director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, he was instrumental in the growth of the region's biotechnology industry as he skillfully attracted researchers and companies from around the world to collaborate at the Center.

Bruce was also a pioneering researcher in the biology of lung development and therapies for acute lung disease. Among his many other significant accomplishments, Bruce's collaboration with UB colleague Edmund Egan resulted in the development of a drug that has lowered the mortality rate of premature infants.

Known to his colleagues and students as an exceptional researcher and teacher, Bruce offered immeasurable contributions to the scholarly community at the University of Buffalo and the Western New York region. His passing is a tragic loss to his family, friends, and colleagues, and although his legacy will endure for years to come, today we mourn the loss of his brilliant life cut short. I ask you to stand with me in this moment as we honor the life

of Bruce Holm and offer our condolences to his colleagues, friends, and family.

ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, we all agree that we must get our fiscal house in order, which is why Democrats sought to cut more than \$40 billion from the President's 2011 budget request in December. We must evaluate every program and determine whether it merits taxpayer funding.

I have significant reservations about some of the cuts included in H.J. Res. 48, particularly eliminating funding for the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, which was created nearly 50 years ago and is the only source of ongoing infrastructure assistance for public broadcasting stations. Its competitive grants require a local match, resulting in a successful public-private partnership, and it is the only source of emergency funding for stations with facilities devastated by disasters. Funding has already been cut by more than half since 2004, and it is a mistake to eliminate it.

Instead of continuing their quest to dismantle public broadcasting, the authors of the bill should have found savings by ending taxpayer-funded subsidies to large oil companies, which fleece taxpayers of tens of billions of dollars.

However, while I may not support every cut, it is imperative that Congress do everything it can, and reach common ground whenever possible, to avoid a government shutdown. We cannot allow for the possibility of seniors going without Social Security checks or veterans losing access to the health benefits they have earned.

The 7-month continuing resolution the House passed in February is a dangerous bill that would create not a single job, hurt federal programs essential to economic growth, and compromise our security. With no better options, we must adopt this short-term continuing resolution to keep the government operating while we negotiate spending for the remainder of the fiscal year that will continue economic growth.

HONORING MS. JANET M. BEDROSIAN FOR 38 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished

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

public service career of Ms. Janet M. Bedrosian. Ms. Bedrosian has honorably served the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for nearly 38 years and will retire on April 2, 2011.

Ms. Bedrosian was born in Tennessee and moved to Grass Valley, California, as an infant, where she grew up in California's Mother Lode country and graduated from Nevada Union High School as class valedictorian.

Ms. Bedrosian attended the University of Nevada-Reno, where she earned dual degrees in journalism and English. Ms. Bedrosian, currently the Deputy State Director, External Affairs at the BLM's California State Office, began her BLM career in 1973 at the Nevada State Office as its first public affairs staff member. She also worked in the Washington, D.C. office as Assistant Public Affairs Chief before returning to California to work in the state office as a public affairs specialist and congressional liaison. Ms. Bedrosian worked with California's 54-member Washington delegation, more than 120 full-time members of California's State legislature, and key State and local governments and their staffs. During this time, she built a robust and comprehensive congressional and legislative program that remains unequalled in the BLM's history. Her understanding of government processes and her ability to develop strong relationships have been crucial to many of the BLM's and Department of the Interior's successes, particularly in California.

Issues for which Ms. Bedrosian played a key role include the coordination between elected officials, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the BLM that resulted in passage of the California Desert Protection Act—the largest piece of wilderness legislation in the contiguous United States ever to come before Congress.

Ms. Bedrosian is well respected for her knowledge of land management and her ability to handle complex issues. Due to these attributes, a former BLM Director called upon her to act as the BLM's Chief of Staff in 2007.

For her dedication, expertise, and service, Ms. Bedrosian has been honored with the two highest awards from the Department of the Interior—the Meritorious Service Award in 2007 and the Department's highest civilian honor, the Distinguished Service Award, presented to her in 2010. According to the Interior Department, "Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award must have demonstrated extremely significant long-term contributions to Departmental programs and missions." These awards are signed by the Secretary of the Interior and have been presented since 1948. Ms. Bedrosian is recognized nationally as an expert, a leader, and among the best External Affairs managers the BLM has ever had.

Outside the workplace, Ms. Bedrosian enjoys politics, travel, and making cookies. But mostly, she enjoys her family: husband Tod, son Sean, and daughter Kate; and her three sisters, brother, and father, all of whom live in the Sacramento area.

Ms. Bedrosian's nearly four-decade career in public service deserves the highest appreciation and commendation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Janet Bedrosian on a successful career and in wishing her happiness in her retirement.

HONORING MR. RALPH C. LORIGO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ralph C. Lorigo and his many years of dedicated service to Western New York.

Ralph was born on July 17th, 1947 to Ralph E. and Caroline (Juliano) Lorigo. He attended St. Lucy's School on Swan St. through the age of 12 and went on to West Seneca High School after his family moved to West Seneca in 1960. Upon graduation from high school, Ralph earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Buffalo. He would go on to attend the University of Buffalo Law School, earning his juris doctorate degree in May of 1973.

Ralph's interest in politics, which was certainly passed on to him from his mother Caroline, began in 1981 when he decided to run for Town Justice in West Seneca. Though his first bid was unsuccessful, Ralph went on to serve as a member of the Town Committee, then Town Chairman, and eventually as an Executive Board Member. In 1990, Ralph became the Erie County Conservative Vice-Chairman and in 1993 was a candidate for the New York State Supreme Court in a narrowly unsuccessful election campaign. Finally in 1995, Ralph became the Erie County Conservative Chairman and continues his work in that position to this day.

In addition to his political career, Ralph is also a dedicated member of the West Seneca Lions Club. He helped start a West Seneca Youth Court in 1984, has taught in the West Seneca Continuing Education program since the 1970's, sat on the West Seneca Continuing Education Board for several years, and has been involved in many other community programs.

Ralph is married to the former Deborah Caruana and has three adult children: son Michael (wife Devonie), son Joe (wife Jean), and daughter Jaime. Ralph and Deborah also have three grandchildren, Adrianna, Alana, and Alexa.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I have had the high privilege of knowing Ralph Lorigo for more than 25 years. As an attorney and political leader, Ralph's career has been one of intense dedication to those whom he has represented. But as a husband, father and community leader, Ralph's true priorities—family, faith and community—have never failed to stand out. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ralph C. Lorigo for his many years of tireless service on behalf of the Western New York community.

HONORING THE 150TH YEAR OF
ITALIAN UNIFICATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that Congressman BILL PASCRELL and I rise on behalf of the Italian American Delegation to honor the 150th year of Italian Unification.

On March 17th, 2011 the Republic of Italy celebrates their 150th year of unification throughout Italy and across the United States with a series of activities turning 2011 into an "Italian Year."

150 years ago the Risorgimento gave birth to modern Italy, preserving the ideals of western civilization: the protection of the rights, freedoms, and liberty of individuals.

Much of what we are as Americans and what we believe in has roots in Italy. As long time allies, we share a unique partnership in the arts, sciences and politics. Our friendship is strengthened through our common values and historical ties. It has been shaped through the ideas and contributions of great figures like Andrea Palladio and Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Gaetano Filangieri, Giuseppe Garibaldi and Abraham Lincoln.

As co-chairs of the Italian-American delegation, we are proud to represent millions of Americans who like ourselves, are of Italian descent. Our ancestors have brought proud traditions of service with them to the United States. We still share those values today and with assistance from many Italian-American community organizations we continue to pass these traditions onto future generations.

As President Kennedy stated during the Centennial celebration of Italian Unification, "We have the old and the new bound together and inextricably linked, Italy and the United States, past, present and we believe, future."

We proudly recognize and celebrate this 150th anniversary of Italian Unification and the continued friendship between the United States and Italy.

A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, during our celebration of Women's History Month, I would like to take an opportunity to honor the late Honorable Shirley Anita Chisholm. She was a trailblazer and an inspiration for many people across the country, including myself.

Shirley Anita Chisholm was born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, NY to immigrant parents. She was an alumna of Girls High School, and earned her B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1946. In 1952, she went on to earn her M.A. from Columbia University in elementary education. During her time in school she became interested in and became a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the NAACP.

Prior to her political career, she was an educator—a nursery school teacher from her college graduation in 1946 until 1953. From 1953 to 1959, she served as the director of Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center, and from 1959 to 1964 she was an educational consultant for the Division of Day Care in New York City.

Shirley Chisholm's political career began when she ran for the New York State Legislature in 1964. She proudly served there for four years. In 1968, she won election to the United States House of Representatives, becoming the first African-American woman elected to Congress. Congresswoman Chisholm was re-