

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF ALEX
HILDEBRAND

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Alex Hildebrand who passed away at the age of 98 on January 23, 2012.

Mr. Hildebrand was born and raised in the Berkeley Hills. He raised animals and rode horses, working from a young age for the Bruno cattle ranch. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1935 with a degree in Physics and Chemistry. Mr. Hildebrand had a 27 year career with Standard Oil where he served as a refinery design engineer, assistant chief engineer of the Richmond refinery, manager for the atomic energy subsidiary of Livermore Lab, and the director of Chevron's oil field research lab.

During World War II, after a stint in the Navy Reserves, Mr. Hildebrand served the war effort as Chief Engineer at an oil refinery on Bahrain Island in the Persian Gulf. Upon returning home, he purchased farmland southwest of Manteca on the San Joaquin River. In 1962, he took an early retirement from Standard Oil and moved his family to the farm. For almost 50 years, he farmed his land and served as the Consulting Engineer to the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA). He worked tirelessly to protect the Delta and the agriculture of the region.

In addition to the SDWA, Mr. Hildebrand served on more than 20 federal, state and local boards dealing with water-related issues. He served on the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Board, California Farm Bureau Water Committee, Delta Water Uses Board, Water Education Foundation Advisory Board, California Central Valley Flood Control Association Board, Sierra Club and with several others created the San Joaquin River Flood Control Association. Mr. Hildebrand was appointed by Governor Wilson to serve on the CalFed Bay Delta Oversight Committee and then the CalFed Bay Delta Advisory Committee. He served as the President of the McMullin Reclamation District for many years. He was outspoken and persistent in his advocacy of Delta water and Agriculture but treated others with respect and always appreciated a good debate.

Mr. Hildebrand was warm, loving and caring to his family and was an inspiration to many. He met his wife Barbara on a Sierra Club cross country ski trip. Together they have three daughters: Mary, Janet and Harriet and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Alex Hildebrand is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
DONNA MCEACHERN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished career of Donna McEachern, Councilwoman representing the City of Wayne, Michigan as she retires after 25 years of dedicated service.

After moving to Wayne in 1962, Donna graduated from the University of Michigan in 1964. Her devotion to her community was quickly apparent as she became secretary of Wayne Cooperative Nursery from 1966–1967. During her storied career in public service, Donna has dutifully served the citizens of the Wayne area as Public Relations Liaison for the Huron Valley Girl Scouts, Wayne Jaycee Auxiliary President, City of Wayne representative to the Detroit-Wayne County Mental Health Board, President for the West Suburban Area Council of Chambers. She was also the director of the Wayne Chamber of Commerce for 28 years.

Donna McEachern has been involved in her community in an incredible number of ways. She shared her time as a Metric Program worker in the Wayne-Westland School District, worked with the Roosevelt Scouts, and spent six years as a Religious Education Teacher at St. Mary's of Wayne. Donna lent her considerable skills to Soroptimist International Wayne-Westland, Wayne Business and Professional Women, Wayne Rotary and the Western Wayne County YWCA and many other worthy organizations.

Donna has been acknowledged as Wayne Outstanding Jaycette, District 30 Speakup Winner, Wayne Business and Professional Woman of the Year, Wayne-Westland WYCA Woman of Achievement and was named by the Wayne County Commission as a "Woman of Distinction". Her dedicated support of cultural arts is a living legacy in the Donna M. McEachern Youth Theater Scholarship established in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, during her distinguished career, Councilwoman McEachern has bettered the lives of countless Michiganders. As she embarks upon the next chapter of her life with Barry, her beloved husband of 51 years, her adored children Donna and Barry II, and her treasured grandchildren Colleen, Ian and Meredith, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding her legendary leadership, and in thanking her for her unfaltering service to our community and our country.

COMMEMORATING FATHER'S DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Father's Day and pay

tribute to our fathers and father figures in our lives, who shape us into the people we are today. The value of a father cannot be overstated. A father can be a most powerful role model, a child's best friend and loudest cheerleader. On this Sunday, families across the Nation express a deep gratitude to those who make sacrifices everyday to fill this important role in a child's life.

The unconditional love between parent and child is a pillar for that child's success. Whether by checking over a homework assignment, coaching a Little League team, or sharing time over a family dinner, fathers teach valuable lessons about succeeding in school and in life. They support and protect their children, giving them the confidence to take new risks and explore their dreams. All fathers know the enormous responsibility and hard work that come with parenthood; however, they also know the immense reward of helping a child grow into the best person he or she can be.

As a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I would also like to recognize all the fathers who are currently serving in the armed forces and are away from their families during this holiday. From their service, their children—and all our children—will live in a safer world. They are teaching their children by example, and I can think of no greater inspiration than the courage and sacrifice displayed by our servicemen and women. To these fathers and their families, I offer my own thanks and prayers for a safe return.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the millions of wonderful fathers and father figures in this country. They are a driving force for America's greatness, giving the next generation the guidance and encouragement to continue that legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JOHN H. DAVIS OF BAGDAD,
FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life of Mr. John H. Davis of Bagdad, Florida who passed away on June 9, 2012. Mr. Davis was a beloved member of the Northwest Florida community, a proud veteran, and a dedicated public servant. I am humbled to commemorate his life.

Born in 1938, John Davis grew up in the close-knit community of Bagdad. He attended the Sewanee Military Academy in Tennessee and later studied at both Florida State University and the University of Alabama. Mr. Davis honorably served a tour of duty in the United States Army, deploying to Germany and France, before returning to Bagdad. He joined Phillip R. Jones and Associates as a mechanical engineer and was the last remaining partner in the firm now known as PRJ Associates LLC.

• 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.

Outside of his professional life as an engineer, Mr. Davis was a true community leader. He served as the Chief of the Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years and was active in the Bagdad Village Preservation Association and Bagdad Waterfronts, Florida. Mr. Davis cherished his family and friends as part of the Emerald Coast Sandpipers RV club, as a member of the Blackwater Pyrates service organization, and as a lifelong member of the Bagdad United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life and service of John Davis. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his wife, Janet, his daughter Amelia, and their family. He truly will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 175

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 50th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 175 of Irving, Texas. The troop has a remarkable history of serving the community and developing young men into leaders.

Troop 175 was originally chartered at W.T. Hanes Elementary School in Irving. It then relocated its charter in 1981 to Northgate United Methodist Church in Irving.

Since its founding in 1962, Troop 175 has produced 27 Eagle Scouts with the first recorded promotion in 1971. The distinguished group of Eagle Scouts from Troop 175 include Craig Barton (1971), Paul Roberts (1975), Bobby Bell (1976), William Meers (1976), Mark Corry (1977), James Bush III (1986), Clyde Hogan Jr. (1988), Adrian Carrales (1989), Joseph Bush (1989), Andrew Bartlett (1991), Gregory Yoas (1992), Robert Daniel (1992), Travis Brandt (1998), James Cross (2000), Ryan Scott Barnett (2003), Stefan Austin Hopkins (2004), Reagan McNabb (2005), Ashwin Tharappel (2005), Robert Samczuk (2006), Frank Wright III (2006), Alexander Bichler (2007), Anish Tharappel (2007), Austin McNabb (2008), Samuel Anderson (2008), Colton Sligar (2010), Campbell Castleberry (2011), and William Canales (2012).

Throughout its 50 years, the troop has been guided by the leadership of Scoutmasters including Clyde Hogan, David West, Jerry Cross, Peter McNabb, James Roman, and Mark Sligar.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 175 for its 50 years of developing fine young men and community involvement.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SYRIAN PEOPLE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my horror and outrage at the

events currently taking place across Syria. It has now been 15 months since the first protests flared up in response to the imprisonment of 17 teenagers in Dara for writing anti-government graffiti on a wall, and the death toll has risen to well over 13,000 men, women, and children.

For the past three decades the Syrian people have lived in a restive peace. Israel had claimed it to be its safest border, and minorities were treated relatively well compared to surrounding countries. President Assad transitioned easily into power after the death of his father, and was hailed as a reformist who would lead Syria onto the world's stage as a constructive member of the international community.

However, the reforms never came, and the emergency law put into place over 50 years ago remained. People were living in a constant fear that they would be turned in by a friend or neighbor for even a simple comment against the regime. The mail and internet were tracked by government officials, and websites such as facebook were blocked. This was not the secular democracy the West expected for a reformed Syria. It is instead an authoritarian dictatorship.

In the beginning the protests in Syria were small and peaceful, but were met with such brutality from the regime that they incited even greater public resistance. The Syrian people were rising up and claiming their natural right to freedom. President Assad authorized the massacre of women and children in a desperate attempt to retain control over a country that no longer wants him.

Mr. Speaker, this conflict has escalated into civil war. Those who have fared well under Assad's government have no desire for change, but the impoverished majority has found its voice and is unwilling to return to the status quo. I believe that the United States should stand with those who are fighting for democracy and human rights.

Kofi Annan's peace plan was a valiant effort to bring an end to the violence through diplomacy, but it has not yielded the results hoped for, and President Assad has shown no inclination to keep his promises. The time has come for greater action. Yesterday Secretary Clinton rightly criticized Russia for its continued support of the Assad regime, specifically the weapons it has been providing to the regime. This and other actions by the Russians undermine the efforts of the United Nations to broker a solution to meet this crisis.

The recent massacre in Houla a few days ago, which left over 50 children dead, is the most shocking example of official terror that has been occurring weekly over the past 15 months. President Assad has lost the confidence of the Syrian people who no longer regard his regime as legitimate. I believe that for the good of the country and for the cause of peace in the region President Assad should step down.

What began as a peaceful stand against tyranny has morphed into the bloodiest movement of the Arab Spring. With a grip as tight as the Assad family has had over this country for decades the outcome was foreseeable, but nobody could have envisioned anything as bloody as this.

Mr. Speaker, Syrian men and women fighting for democratic ideals should not be abandoned to face the wrath of a tyrant alone. They should know that they have a friend in

the United States and the United Nations. I call upon both to redouble their efforts to find a solution to the crisis in Syria. As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security I have seen how America is an example of democracy and peace, and I wish to see the same outcome for Syria. I stand today to show my support for the rebel fighters and all those in Syria who are fighting against oppression and cruelty.

HONORING RITA CANNAN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rita Cannan on her retirement from the Can Am Crown International Sled Dog Races.

Rita is stepping down from the Can-Am International Sled Dog Races after 15 years as its President and 19 years of dedicated service overall. Her remarkable efforts helped transform the community of Fort Kent, Maine into a premier dog sled racing location on the mushing map of North America.

The Can-Am International Sled Dog Races loses an incredible asset with Rita's departure. She is extremely well known in the Fort Kent community as a businesswoman and a civic leader. Rita has served as a member of the planning board, president of the Greater Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce, a trustee of the Northern Maine Medical Center, a member of the Aroostook County Tourism Board, a member and president of the Rotary Club, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of the Fish River Scenic By-Way Committee, and as a director of the University of Maine at Fort Kent Foundation. Without question, Rita's leadership was instrumental to the growth of Can-Am.

The recipient of countless awards and commendations issued by the town of Fort Kent and the State of Maine, there has been little left unsaid about Rita's enormous value to the community. I am pleased to join the members of the Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Races, and the people of Maine, in congratulating Rita Cannan on her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Rita on achieving this milestone, and thanking her for her all that she has done for the community of Fort Kent.

DR. BENJAMIN T. DURAN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Benjamin Duran in the event of his retirement after fourteen years of dedicated service as Superintendent/President of Merced Community College District.

Dr. Duran has spent forty years as an educator in Merced County. His career began as a high school teacher in Le Grand. He served as Vice Principal of Le Grand High School from 1976 to 1980 before becoming the Assistant Director of Merced County's migrant