

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the dedicated staff in the Office of Legislative Counsel here in the House of Representatives for helping us to write important legislation reauthorizing surface transportation programs. In addition, I would like to thank the staff of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for providing us with their technical assistance and expertise. In particular, I would like to thank the following individuals for their work on this legislation:

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Thanks to the dedication of these experts we have achieved a major accomplishment in the passage of H.R. 4348.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the City of Alton, Illinois.

Among the first Europeans to explore the area later settled as Alton, Illinois were Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet in 1673. The Illiniwek tribes had lived in the area for many years and a Native American drawing, the Piasa, a fierce-looking bird that was painted on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River was first documented by Fr. Marquette. The drawing has been reproduced many times and the Piasa can still be seen on the bluffs today.

Situated on the banks of the Mississippi, between its confluences with the Missouri and Illinois Rivers, Alton was a natural location for development as a river town in the early 19th Century. Rufus Easton, a St. Louis businessman who ran a ferry operation at Alton named the town after his eldest son in 1818. Because of its excellent location, the community experienced tremendous growth and was incorporated as a city in 1837.

1837 was the year of another important event in Alton's history, although hardly a highlight. Abolitionist printer, Elijah Lovejoy, who had moved from St. Louis to Alton because of increasing tensions in the slave state of Missouri, was killed by a mob in Alton as he attempted to protect his printing press. Other significant historical notes of Alton in the mid-19th Century included being a major stop on the Underground Railroad and the site of a Union prison for Confederate soldiers, many of whom died there due to rampant disease. Alton was also the location for the final Lincoln-Douglas debate, in 1858.

Famous people from Alton include renowned jazz musician Miles Davis and Robert Wadlow, known as the "Alton Giant," and still the tallest human in recorded history at 8 ft. 11 inches tall.

The 20th Century saw an increase in manufacturing in the Alton area, with steel, glass and cardboard boxes among the leading industries that provided employment for Alton residents. As Alton has expanded and diversified, it has always remained tied to the river. The area is referred to as Riverbend because of the arc of the Mississippi at Alton. The National Great Rivers Museum and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, both near the Melvin Price Lock and Dam at Alton, are two recent additions that promote the study and appreciation of the rivers that gave rise to many cities like Alton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the City of Alton, Illinois and to wish them the very best for a bright and prosperous future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of Title IX. This

historic piece of legislation has had a profound and lasting impact on gender equity in this country. While many people associate Title IX with primarily promoting funding equality in collegiate athletics, its impact is much greater—affecting the role of women as leaders and role models in our society. Title IX of the Education Amendments in 1972 prohibited sex discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. It is the cornerstone of federal statutes that require equal access to all areas of education for women. Title IX sent a message to young women across this country that their achievements were just as great as those of their male counterparts.

The opportunity to succeed is an essential tenet of our American spirit; Title IX provides women with an opportunity to succeed in collegiate athletics and beyond. An entire generation of young women has seized this opportunity, as evidenced by their many achievements. In the past 40 years, women have excelled in all aspects of society. In law and government, we have seen the first female Speaker of the House, the first female Supreme Court Justice and the first female Secretary of State. In science and technology, we have seen the first female astronaut enter space and six female scientists receive Nobel Prizes. Title IX has helped lay the foundation for equal educational access for these achievements.

In addition, Title IX has helped create a generation of young female athletes: in 1972, only 1 in 27 women participated in high school sports; now 1 in 3 participate. Sports can play a key role in a young person's successful growth and development. Young people who participate in sports are more likely to be goal-oriented, healthy, confident and ambitious. These athletes have lower teenage pregnancy rates, are less likely to commit crimes and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol. The dramatic increase in female sports participation is undoubtedly an important factor in women's success and advancement in the past 40 years.

Women have come a long way since the 1970s, but considerable work remains. On average, a woman still earns only 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man across all occupations and levels of educational attainment. Further, women's rights to healthcare and prevention services are being challenged by courts and legislatures across this country. As policymakers, we must remember how long it has taken women to get to this point and must not allow gender equity to recede. We must continue to legislate with the spirit of equality and opportunity, as the Members of the 88th Congress did 40 years ago. I commend the many achievements that women have made since the passage of Title IX and look forward to seeing many more in the future.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE NIXA HIGH
SCHOOL BOWLING TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Nixa High School Bowling Team for winning their second State High School Bowling Championship.

Nixa High School's bowling team, in its second year of existence, returned to defend its championship title at the Missouri State Tournament and left its competition in the gutter. The Eagles advanced with 3 other local teams to the Missouri State Championships where they competed against 23 other teams from all across the state.

The team, which included seniors Kyle Bates and Jacob Nelson; juniors Justin Lair, Kristen Nunn, Nick Zummo, and Brandon Maser; and sophomores David Krol, Shannon Burns, and Dylan Brentlinger, initially competed in 24 games which followed the Baker Format.

The Baker format is patterned after college bowling competitions and is used to maintain a quicker pace from game to game, yielding more excitement. Nixa bowling was the Number 1 seed out of the top five teams to advance to the championship round, and the team ultimately prevailed against Jefferson City after two straight games with scores of 215–174 and 211–196.

While bowling is usually recognized as an individual sport, the Baker competition format required each member of the Nixa bowling team to think as a team because each shot would be included as part of one score. As a result, teams competing in this format will only be as good as their weakest link because all players participate in only 2 frames each.

Coaches David Krol and Larry Hughes worked diligently to instill that concept in their team and should be proud of their accomplishment in guiding such a phenomenal group of young men and women. I commend them all on a job well done.

The Nixa community is justifiably proud of this extraordinary group of young and talented future leaders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Nixa High School Bowling Team as they celebrate their second State Bowling Championship.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT JOSE
RODRIGUEZ

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today with my colleague Congressman JIM COSTA to honor the late Sgt. Jose Rodriguez who was killed on June 19, 2012 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Rodriguez paid the ultimate price, sacrificing his life, while protecting and serving the United States of America.

Sergeant Rodriguez was raised in Newman and Gustine. He graduated from Gustine High

School in 2008 and joined the army shortly thereafter. He was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington in 2009. His first deployment was in July 2009 where he was a part of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Sergeant Rodriguez decided to re-deploy on a second tour of duty in order to better provide for his wife and young son. On his second tour, he was in the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He received the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal Combat Service, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO Medal, Certificate of Achievement, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Sergeant Rodriguez's family called him a responsible, quiet, and caring man. He had hoped to become a firefighter after returning home next year. He leaves behind a loving wife, Maria "Lupita" Rodriguez and a thirteen month old son, Octavian. He is also survived by his parents Margarita Rodriguez and Augustine Rodriguez; his brothers, Ruben Rodriguez, Julian Rodriguez, Edgar Rodriguez, Jonathon Rodriguez and his two sisters, Judith Rodriguez and Jacqueline Rodriguez.

Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague, Congressman JIM COSTA, the recognition that we are offering today before the House of Representatives for Sergeant Jose Rodriguez 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. My thoughts are with Sergeant Rodriguez's family and the community as they grieve the loss of this wonderful young man.

BATTLE CRY, A CRY TO ACTION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a poem by Dona Julian Cassel. Ms. Cassel graduated from East Texas State University, currently Texas A&M University-Commerce, in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and 1971 with a master's degree in English. She is a retired teacher who has since formed her own training company which works with businesses to teach their staff communication and customer service skills.

Ms. Cassel's writing is timely for our Nation, and something I believe can inspire Americans to act.

BATTLE CRY, A CALL TO ACTION

Now is the time to take your stand!
Don't huddle in the shadows anymore—
Your collective voices must soon be heard.
Send your lawmakers a resounding roar!
Make your earnest requests be known!
Demand from Congress and from your state—
Empowerment to teach as you know best
To produce the results that made America great!

O teachers! What power you still possess!
Immortal forces upon the ages—
This noble profession which is your calling

Deserves respect and rightful wages!

Defend the honor of your vocation!

Keep its standards lifted high!

Unite! Join this call to action!

Embrace these stanzas as your battle cry!

IN HONOR OF MANDELA DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I happily rise today to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday on July 18. Mr. Mandela is a man whose life has been absolutely dedicated to service and social justice.

From a young age, Mr. Mandela was aware of the economic and civil injustices that plagued South Africa under apartheid, where racial discrimination was official government policy. Mr. Mandela joined the African National Congress and worked to end minority rule in his home country, becoming an enemy of the South African government.

In 1963, Mr. Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for political offenses, ultimately serving 27 years. During this time, he refused to renounce his political beliefs in exchange for a reduced term, and he remained steadfastly committed to his cause. Many would see a life sentence as total defeat, but Mr. Mandela continued his campaign and, in doing so, became an international symbol of resistance.

Despite a lifetime of constant struggle, Mr. Mandela never became bitter or overcome with anger. He instead looked ahead to the possibility of equality and freedom in a country that had always been divided by race. His dream was not to wage war against his oppressors. Rather he sought to liberate them from ignorance and hatred and create a unified nation.

Mr. Mandela's struggle has distinguished him as an extraordinary leader in the eyes of the international community and his fellow South Africans. Mr. Mandela was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and he accepted the award on behalf of all South Africans who had made tremendous sacrifices in the name of peace and liberty. The following year, he was elected President of South Africa in the first fully representative democratic election, defeating apartheid rule.

Even after stepping down from the South African presidency, Mr. Mandela's commitment to service did not waiver. Mr. Mandela has since founded three foundations: The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and the Mandela-Rhodes Foundation. I am truly inspired by Mr. Mandela's tireless work and continued advocacy.

In 2009, July 18 was adopted by the United Nations as Nelson Mandela International Day of Service. Mr. Mandela gave 67 years of his life to the fight for human rights, and people all over the world are asked to spend Mandela Day giving 67 minutes of their time to serve their local communities and charities.

Mr. Speaker, apartheid has ended, but struggles for peace and human dignity persist in all corners of the world. I remember one passage that Mr. Mandela wrote: "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are