

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS COONAN

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today, on behalf of the men and women of our institution, to honor the American life of Thomas Coonan.

For most Members of Congress, the gateway to the chamber of the United States House of Representatives is the doorway to the Speaker's Lobby.

For many years, Tom Coonan stood at that door in the service of his country and the service of democracy. As a trusted member of the House Chamber security detail and the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, it was his post.

For more than 15 years, Tom Coonan stood at the passage to the People's House, where he was a familiar and comforting sight to all who passed regularly through our chamber.

But Tom Coonan was standing vigil for American democracy long before his first day of work for the House.

Before he served his country with the House Sergeant-at-Arms Office, Tom Coonan served his country with distinction in our armed forces.

He began his military career in 1963, and served as an Assistant Intelligence officer, as the commander of Amphibious Group Two, until 1966.

For the next decade and a half Tom held a number of civilian positions. Then, in 1981, once again feeling the tug of his desire to serve the nation he loved, Tom volunteered for a recall to reserve active duty.

Beginning in 1990, he served as the U.S. Commander-in-Chief Pacific's Representative for the Southwest Pacific, Suva, and Fiji.

In September 1995, he joined the House Sergeant-at-Arms Office as a member of the Chamber Security staff. He was always stationed in the Speaker's Lobby—the gateway to the chamber at the heart of the democracy Tom spent most of his adult life protecting.

On August 23, 2012, tragically, while members were away for the August District Work Period, Tom Coonan suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in Washington, DC. He is to be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

For those who served with Tom Coonan, knew him, and were protected by him, his presence is sorely missed. But because of his steadfast and constant service, the vibrant commotion of democracy goes on. And as the House returns this week for legislative business, its members and staff do so with unfailing gratitude for the life he led.

Having stood guard faithfully at the passage to the People's House, Thomas Coonan now stands in the halls of eternity with Our Creator—forever strong, forever vigilant, and forever at peace.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
CENTURY OF SERVICE COM-
MEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2139, the Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act. I thank my colleague, Mr. ROSKAM from Illinois, for introducing this bill which would direct the Secretary of Treasury to mint and issue \$1 coins in commemoration of the centennial of the founding of the Lions Clubs International.

Founded in 1917 by Chicago businessman Melvin Jones, the Lions Club has expanded to over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members worldwide. What began as a national association extended beyond U.S. borders within 3 years of founding. Now, nearly a century later, the Lions continue to carry out their motto "We Serve" in 207 countries, touching every corner of the globe.

In the last century, Lions Clubs International has helped to solve problems and serve humanitarian needs on the ground. Their services reach the blind, youth, and the elderly and also address health, the environment and disaster relief.

I am especially grateful to the Lions for their dedicated assistance to the people of my district in American Samoa. Following the deadly 2009 tsunami that devastated villages in American Samoa and Samoa, our local Lions Clubs were among those that came to the aid of our people. The Lions Club of Pago Pago continued to provide relief to many residents who lost their eyeglasses during the tsunami. Volunteers offered residents eye screening services that included complete eye examinations to evaluate visual health and detect eye diseases, prescriptions, and referral services. The Apia Lions in Samoa also provided assistance through disaster relief shelters and distributed donations such as clothing, food, and medicine from international Lions Clubs members.

I am proud to say that the Lions Club of Pago Pago has provided consistent services to our people of American Samoa and is a priceless asset to our community. I commend the Lions Clubs International and I stand in full support of this bill which celebrates and honors a century of international leadership in humanitarian service.

IN MEMORIAM AND REMEM-
BRANCE OF FIRST SERGEANT
ACKEEM PAUL GREEN 369TH
HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS—HAR-
LEM YOUTH MARINES, INC.**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to share the news of a devastating loss to Harlem and the greater New York City community. We joined with many family members and friends at Memorial Baptist Church to celebrate the life of Harlem Youth Marine Cadet First Sergeant, Ackeem Paul Green, who passed away Sunday, June 3, 2012, from a fatal gunshot wound.

On behalf of our beloved Village of Harlem, my wife Alma and I want to extend our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy, support, and love to my beloved friend, Col. Gregory E. Collins, and the entire family of the First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green. At the age of 25 he was indeed a promising young man continuing the honorable legacy of his father to better not only himself but his fellow community youth members as well.

Great young men like Ackeem are precious gifts that God has made to help make this world a better and safer place for all of us. First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green lost his life on the urban battlefield, from gun violence right here at home, while enjoying a game of basketball with friends on a Sunday afternoon. First Sergeant Green was shot in the back by the enemy of illegal guns in the hands of our misguided youth. An enemy that has taken the lives of so many of our promising young carnations and roses and that has declared war throughout every urban neighborhood in the United States of America.

Every time I hear the news that one of our young sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, husbands and wives are struck down by illegal guns in the wrong hands of our misguided young people—it pains my heart with depression and anger. What makes this very difficult for me is that it has taken the life of a young man whose very focus in life was to mentor young men and women and provide them with a positive direction through the principles and leadership of the Harlem Youth Marines and with the values and courage of the United States Marine Corp.

Since the age of 15 Ackeem has committed countless amounts of time and effort to the Harlem Youth Marine Cadets (HYMC). Once Ackeem reached the age limit to serve as a cadet, he remained dedicated and continued to serve the organization through volunteer work. He took time to mentor young cadets and served as a positive and much needed role model to many of our youth both in and outside of HYMC.

The Harlem Youth Marines, Inc. provides instruction in military grooming and development to students willing and eager to learn. This

• 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.

program has supported the youth in my district for over thirty years with an emphasis on youth development through education and discipline. They also provide cadets with the opportunity to indulge in basic military skill building activities such as rappelling, marksmanship, and weapons safety. The children of Harlem have thoroughly benefited from this program through the development of body, mind, and spirit. Ackeem was a remarkable testament of their success.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we, the Village of Harlem, will honor Ackeem's life by ensuring that his young infant son, Ackeem Paul Green, Jr., follows in his father's drill steps and exceeds his dreams and aspirations to be all that he can be. May First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green's legacy be far remembered and everlasting, as we pick up the flag and defeat this enemy of illegal gun violence that has destroyed the lives of our children, families and communities. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring a great young man and an impassioned mentor whose legacy shall be far remembered and everlasting.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church of Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey, which is celebrating 100 years as an important member of the local community.

Since St. Joseph's establishment in 1912, it has been contributing to the religious, cultural and social diversity that has come to define New Jersey. The church was initially founded by immigrants fleeing religious persecution in Slovakia. Many of the early members of the congregation worked in the Woolen Mills, Duke Park and along the railroads crisscrossing the area. Beginning with only a handful of families, the parish of the new St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church gathered on October 1, 1912 to form a church society with the goal of raising enough money to build a church where they could practice their faith in their native tongue free from persecution or prejudice.

In 1914, the society raised enough money to purchase a piece of property in Raritan for the construction of a church. The church was formally dedicated in 1915 after a year of construction. Adding to their permanent presence in Raritan, the parish added an adjoining school in 1926. The school initially had a class of 234 students and was focused on providing students with a source of education on their Catholic faith and Slovak heritage.

St. Joseph's provides an exemplary illustration of the benefits of sharing culture and beliefs with others. Religious and cultural centers such as St. Joseph's, provide religious education, philanthropic assistance for those in need, and a greater sense of cultural awareness to the local community while providing a place for people to gather and worship.

The parish of St. Joseph's has been very involved in giving back to the community philanthropically, participating in food bank collections, gathering baby clothing and formula for

struggling mothers, and joining other churches in their charitable works. St. Joseph's assistance casts a wide net, helping people from the Raritan area as well as participating in worldwide assistance efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Joseph's Slovak Catholic Church for 100 years of dedicated work on behalf of the Great State of New Jersey.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office; the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,046,680,286,836.39. We've added \$5,419,803,237,923.31 dollars to our debt in 3 years. This is \$5.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF UNITY CHURCH IN
GRAPEVINE**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the 30th anniversary of Unity Church located in Grapevine, Texas. It is an honor for me to celebrate this congregation's achievement and share its history with my fellow colleagues in Congress.

The Unity Church of Northeast Tarrant County, which is now commonly called the Unity Church of Grapevine, held its first worship service in rented hotel facilities on September 12, 1982. The church moved to facilities in Hurst, where they remained until 1991 when the church purchased property at 1970 E. Dove Road in Southlake, Texas.

In January 1996, the church purchased 5,825 acres on Hughes Road, one mile south of downtown Grapevine. The church built a 13,116 square foot building which was dedicated in September, 1996. Funding for the building was through issuance of \$920,000 in church bonds through American Church Trust. The bonds were re-financed in 2002, providing funding for the start up of Hughes Road Montessori in September, 2003. The Church sold 1.75 acres of back property in 2005 for \$285,000, leaving it with roughly 4 acres. The church received a signing bonus for the property mineral rights from Chesapeake Exploration in 2008 for the amount of \$92,754.50 which was applied against the mortgage. A campaign to pay off the mortgage of \$106,000 by June 1, 2012 began February 12, 2012 from a \$50,000 matching contribution from anonymous donors.

For 26 years, Unity Church in Grapevine has conducted a weekly ministry in the Federal Prison System at Federal Correctional In-

stitute in Fort Worth, Texas. In June 1989, the church received the John Templeton Radio Grant to begin a radio ministry and in 1991 was awarded the first Voice of Unity Award for excellence in broadcasting. Also in 1991, a Care Team was established in the church with its members making hospital calls, nursing home visits, furnishing food for members as needed, and contacting members by phone once a month.

Active in the community, Unity Church of Grapevine assists Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE) by furnishing food for the food pantry. The church partners with Grapevine Middle School and has tithed to the school over the past eleven years with funds providing an after school martial arts program, medical assistance, and for needs of students and their families in time of crisis. Members also volunteer as mentors to the students.

Rev. Carol Record has served the Unity Church in Grapevine since its inception. She served as Chaplain of Trinity Springs Pavilion (the County psychiatric hospital), the first woman president of Grapevine Rotary, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a 26-year volunteer at Federal Correctional Institute, mentor at Grapevine Middle School, and a MHMR Visions Board member. Rev. Record leads the weekly Sunday services, teaches a Bible class each week as well as spiritual growth classes throughout the year. She is a published author, a well known speaker, and a community leader.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Unity Church in Grapevine on its 30th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall No. 558; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall No. 559; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the nearly three thousand lives lost in the attacks of September 11th. On Patriots Day, we also honor the servicemen and women who have paid the ultimate price in the war on terror. We will never be able to fully honor their sacrifice in the defense of our freedoms.

In the 11 years since the devastation of that day, our anger and sadness have turned to unfaltering resolve and determination. On that terrible day, 19 terrorists believed they would bring America to its knees. They believed our Nation and our people could be defeated by a cowardly attack. They were wrong.