

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HERB J. WESSON, JR.

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, I rise today to honor Los Angeles City Councilman Herb Wesson, Jr., who has built a ground breaking career of public service at the city, county, and state levels of government in the State of California.

Mr. Wesson made a significant contribution to contemporary Black History when he served as Chief of Staff in the office of Los Angeles County 2nd District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the first—and only—African American female ever elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors.

His first elected office came in 1998, when he was elected to the California State Assembly and was re-elected in 2000 and 2002. His colleagues in the California State Assembly—by a unanimous vote—elected Mr. Wesson the second African American in the 162-year history of the State of California to serve as Speaker of the California State Assembly.

After he left the Assembly, he was elected to represent the 10th Council District in the City of Los Angeles in 2005, capturing over 80 percent of the vote. His City Council colleagues called him “a consummate bridge builder.” Last year, he was elected by his City Council colleagues—once again unanimously—to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council, becoming the first African American to do so since Los Angeles was incorporated in 1850.

On January 3, 2012, City Council President Wesson took office and presided over his inaugural meeting of the city council. My friend and former colleague, Herb, personifies the storied and triumphant history of the African American community not just in Los Angeles, but around our great Nation.

**CIVILIAN PROPERTY
REALIGNMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, while I agree that the federal government must find a way to dispose of unused federal government property properly, I voted against H.R. 1734, because this legislation turns the federal government into a worse partner than it already is.

There is a way to save federal government dollars and reduce our property holdings while

working in cooperation with local governments and the local population. Rather than working with local governments and respecting the plans they have implemented, this legislation ignores plans that are already in place, and does not give community leaders a chance to participate in any part of the property realignment. Additionally, the legislation overrides important environmental regulation that has helped protect our communities for decades.

It is frustrating that my colleagues refused to work in a bipartisan fashion, or even to work with local governments, to develop a better way to dispose of excess federal property. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find a solution we can all agree on.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK MONTEITH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Stanislaus County community, Mr. Dick Monteith, on his 80th birthday.

Dick Monteith was born in Los Banos, California, spent his early years attending Merced and Stanislaus County public schools, and graduated from Turlock High School. He continued his education at Menlo College and Stanford University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Soon after graduation, Dick started a life-long career in agri-business as a partner in Monteith Tractor/Truck Company. He subsequently served in the Marketing Department of Gallo Wines, and then as a Sales Representative for Weyerhaeuser Company. He retired as General Manager of Sales and Distribution for Middleton Packaging prior to seeking his first elective office.

He was elected to the California State Senate representing the 12th District in 1994 and then again in 1998. In 2006, Dick was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. During his time on the Board, he witnessed the collapse of the housing market, which caused a reduction in property taxes. The county was faced with the worst budget crisis since the Great Depression. Yet, even during the darkest days, the Board of Supervisors accomplished many projects, including the Crows Landing-West Park Project, Federally Qualified Healthcare Look Alike, New Residency Program, and the sale of the Behavioral Health Center to DMC.

Some of the Capital Projects that have been completed during his tenure include the completion of Gallo Center for the Arts, the Empire Pool Project, the Expansion of the West Modesto Clinic, a new Animal Shelter, the Salida Library Remodel Projects and the ground breaking for the Juvenile Commitment Facility. In addition, he has attended 189 Board meetings, considered 4,331 Resolutions and served as Chairman of the Board in 2011.

Dick and his wife Jeanine make their home in Modesto. He has two sons, three step-daughters, and four grandchildren.

Dick is a member of Christ Community Church and serves on the boards of Modesto Gospel Mission, Youth for Christ and Stanislaus County Prayer Breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dick Monteith for his unwavering leadership and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Dick serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 31, 32 and 33. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 31, on the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 3578, “yea” on rollcall vote 32, passage of H.R. 3578, and “yea” on rollcall vote 33, on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Marriage Week, which begins today and concludes on Valentine’s Day. I am a strong supporter of traditional marriage, which is the basis of the American family. The purpose of National Marriage Week is to encourage spouses to rededicate themselves to each other and towards strengthening their marriages. Strong marriages allow children to flourish and provide a safe structured environment for emotional, spiritual, personal and professional development.

The family is the cornerstone of our society and I encourage all Americans to take this week to focus on their spouse and commit to strengthening their marriage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 34 and 35 due to commitments in my district. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 34 and “yes” on rollcall vote 35.

• 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 FAMILY CENTRAL

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Family Central, Inc.

Since its founding in 1971, Family Central has played a pivotal role in the lives of South Florida families by providing quality, safe, and affordable child care. By working at the local level, Family Central serves as an essential community partner in improving the lives of the constituents of Florida's 20th Congressional district and beyond. Throughout our region, Family Central has served approximately one million children since its founding.

I applaud Family Central's work to ensure that families in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties have access to excellent child care. As a working mother, I understand the struggles that working families go through to provide and care for their children. With the number of parents working full time on the rise, more and more families are fully engaged in the daily juggling act of making ends meet and caring for their children.

Family Central provides safe and affordable child care to over one hundred thousand South Florida children annually. The role they play is critical to ensuring families do not have to choose between being able to afford child care and being able to trust that their child is safe.

Family Central also provides training to childcare practitioners, giving them new skills to help them create a learning environment that supports a child's emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs. In the years since Family Central was created, research has reinforced that early learning is an integral part of successful child development and reducing achievement gaps in our educational systems.

This wonderful organization not only helps provide care for children when parents are working, but it also helps parents to become better and more effective caregivers for their children at home. They are one of only ten groups in the country identified as a Nurturing Parenting Affiliate. By helping parents to nurture their children, Family Central helps the families of South Florida become and remain strong, stable, and united.

The difficult economic conditions of the past few years have been especially tough for working families across the country, and particularly in South Florida. Now more than ever, the essential services provided by community partners like Family Central are critical to giving children in our community an environment in which to thrive.

Congratulations to Family Central on their 40th anniversary—and thank you to everyone who has made it possible. I commend their service to our great state, to South Florida and to the families and children of Florida's 20th Congressional District.

I look forward to more great achievements from Family Central as it continues its long tradition of providing quality, accessible and affordable services to South Florida's families.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE SEBASTICOOK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2012 Annual Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. For years, the Chamber has been at the forefront of business networking and development across 12 towns in the Newport, Pittsfield and Dexter areas.

Each year, the Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include George and Linda Lougee for the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award and C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. for the Business of the Year for 2012. Since they first came to Newport in 1999, the Lougees have devoted themselves to helping the area flourish. Their efforts to arrange Sparkle, the Chamber's and the Region's largest fund raiser, have generated \$78,000 for local organizations over the last six years. Additionally, C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. has manufactured church vestments, furnishing, and accessories since 1892. This third-generation family owned business is being recognized for community support in the region.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to Seabasticook Valley, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Seabasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WELFARE INTEGRITY NOW FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, last week I voted against the so called "Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2011," H.R. 3567.

H.R. 3567 would require states to prevent the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits in a liquor store, casino, or strip club.

This bill is being disguised as one that would ensure taxpayer dollars are being appropriately spent. In reality, this bill is being brought to the floor to demean individuals who rely on TANF benefits and to imply that they are immoral.

It is ludicrous to suggest that there is a national problem necessitating that Congress stop TANF recipients from spending their money at strip clubs.

TANF is a long-standing program, previously known as Aid for Families of Dependent Children, that is one of the most important parts of our national safety net and that keeps almost 2 million families from the brink of starvation.

What is missing from this bill is any discussion that in many underserved neighborhoods, the closest ATM is located in one of these establishments. Preventing the use of TANF cards at these establishments could result in TANF beneficiaries not being able to access their benefits. Instead of debating how Congress could pass laws that would help with economic redevelopment in underserved communities, we are spending our time vilifying individuals receiving benefits and then sanctimoniously taking credit for preventing any misuse. This is part of the message of those who seek to demean the President by calling him the food stamp President.

Further, this bill would cost money—not save it. In New Jersey, it is estimated that this bill would cost \$100,000 to implement and Governor Christie's office wrote to express their concerns about the bill.

For a bill that is supposed to be ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being well spent, this bill would hinder individuals from obtaining their legitimate benefits and cost states more money. Every Member of Congress should have opposed this bill which was more offensive than silly.

H.R. 1173 is another attempt by the Republicans to embarrass individuals who are on hard economic times instead of helping them find a job.

HONORING ANDREW G. ROMAN

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a proud son of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Andrew G. Roman, known as Andy, died peacefully January 4, 2012 at the age of 87.

Born to Greek immigrants on June 27, 1924, he was raised in Pittsburgh. By all accounts, Andy was a true patriot. During World War II, he served as a combat soldier in Italy with the 88th Infantry Division—Blue Devils, receiving two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. After his honorable discharge, he returned to marry his childhood sweetheart Tresa and started his aerospace career working on the DC-6 and Harry Truman's Sacred Cow, with Douglas Aircraft.

Traveling extensively throughout the world during his time with McDonnell-Douglas, he worked on many programs critical to the security and technological pre-eminence of the United States, including the Thor, Delta, Nike Zeus (based on Kwajalein in the South Pacific), Apollo, and SkyLab programs. Andy completed his 35 year-career as the Director of Factory Operations for McDonnell Douglas in Titusville, Florida on the Dragon and Tomahawk missiles. Throughout his career, he was honored to work with many wonderful colleagues and friends who represented the McDonnell-Douglas family, an organization he truly revered.

Andy is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Tresa, and an extensive family that includes four grandchildren and seven great-