

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## INTRODUCTION OF THE GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY ACT

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will build a new paradigm for the financing of congressional campaigns. The Grassroots Democracy Act is a package of reforms designed to combat the influence of concentrated money in politics, raise civic engagement, and to amplify the voice of everyday Americans in our nation's electoral process. Through a three-pronged, comprehensive approach, we can ensure Americans' voices are heard over the din of big money that has dominated our politics and our public policy for too long.

First, the legislation provides Americans with a \$50 refundable tax credit/coupon to contribute to their preferred candidates for congressional office. With average Americans newly empowered to participate in campaign giving, candidates will have more incentive to re-engage with everyday voters rather than spending disproportionate amounts of time fundraising from moneyed interests.

Next, the legislation multiplies the impact of grassroots donations (\$100 or less). For candidates who forego PAC money and are willing and able to earn broad-based support from grassroots donors in their district or state, a public match will be available on grassroots donations. Suddenly, the \$50 contribution can become a \$300 contribution—matched at a rate of \$5 to \$1. For those candidates who agree to take only grassroots donations, the \$50 contribution can become a \$550 contribution—matched at a rate of \$10 to \$1. By democratizing the donor base and amplifying the impact of grassroots contributions, participating candidates will be able to run a viable, competitive campaign, while staying connected to the needs of the constituents they represent.

Lastly, the legislation prevents super PACs and other big money organizations—the products of the Citizens United and other recent court rulings—from drowning out the voice of the people. In elections where outside spending significantly outpaces national norms, grassroots supported candidates will have access to a People's Fund—to make sure their voice can still be heard. Once total non-candidate spending reaches a certain decibel level, grassroots supported candidates will have the opportunity to apply for an additional 1:1 match on their grassroots base, providing the immediate, supplemental support necessary to ensure the marketplace of ideas remains competitive.

Capitol Hill is full of well-intentioned people who came to Washington with noble goals and deeply held principles. Most ran for Congress out of a strong desire to serve their community

and the broader American public. The problem is the moment they decide to run for office they become distracted—distracted by the endless need for more money to win the election.

The Grassroots Democracy Act represents a path forward. Together, these reforms provide can begin to combat the influence of concentrated money in politics, raise civic engagement, and amplify the political voice of the American electorate. A new paradigm of financing campaigns will liberate candidates from dependence on special interests and big money, ensuring our public policy is truly fashioned in the interest of the public.

## RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BARBARA TACHOVSKY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barbara Tachovsky on her retirement as President of Paoli Hospital after 26 years of service to the Hospital and in the field of healthcare.

Under President Tachovsky's leadership, Paoli Hospital earned accreditation as the only Level II Trauma Center in Chester County, which alleviated the need for victims of traumatic injury to be transported further away for emergency treatment and saved countless lives. Additionally, Paoli Hospital was recognized four times as a Top 100 Hospital by Thomson Reuters and as a Best Regional Hospital in five specialties by US News and World Report. During her tenure, Paoli also received the Premier Award for Quality two years in a row, as well as numerous certifications for providing outstanding care and achieving operational efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of exemplary service to her community and a litany of sterling accomplishments too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Barbara Tachovsky for her invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania and the surrounding region.

## STOLEN VALOR ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize yesterday's passage in the House of H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act.

I, unfortunately, was not able to vote on passage of this important bill because of a

commitment back in my district. I joined with New Balance associates at the factory in Norridgewock, Maine to press U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk on the importance of preserving current footwear tariffs, which are threatened by the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a multinational free trade agreement that is currently being negotiated. I truly appreciated Ambassador Kirk's visit and the opportunity to join him and New Balance's highly skilled workers, but I regret that this prevented me from helping to pass H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act.

Had I been able to be present for the vote, I would have voted for the Stolen Valor Act. This Act appropriately creates penalties for individuals who benefit from lying about military decorations or medals. Our service members and veterans make an unparalleled commitment to our nation. They earn military honors through their sacrifices, and I am pleased that the Stolen Valor Act has passed the House to better protect the interests of those who have served our country.

## THE POWER OF ONE: ODE TO MS. NATASHA TRETHEWEY

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

One can never underestimate the power of the heart and mind,  
One can never make changes if One never puts in the time  
One can be as powerful as a nation of many if One desires to be  
One can make the difference in being a captive or living free  
One can set many on the path to harmony in the universe  
One becomes the master musician when One helps others to rehearse  
One can be the difference in making war and violence cease  
One can be essential for a world of harmony and peace  
One can show herself friendly and gain friends throughout the world  
One can give words to help mold young boys and girls  
One can be the voice of many—urging justice for all  
One can make the difference in whether we stand or fall  
One can change the world by giving a helping hand  
One, such as you, Ms. Trethewey with your love for all of man

For Ms. Natasha Trethewey, 19th U.S. Poet Laureate, Penned July 4th, 2012 by Eric Charles®.

• 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 KAREN RAPP AND  
CATHLEEN SCARBOROUGH OF  
GOVERNOR MIFFLIN MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Rapp and Cathleen Scarborough for their establishment and implementation of the "Adopt a Veteran Program" at Governor Mifflin Middle School which served to educate children about our great nation and the heroic citizens who defend it.

In the "Adopt a Veteran Program," led and coordinated by Karen and Cathleen, nine students were appointed by their teachers to interview three Governor Mifflin Middle School staff members who are also war veterans. Comprehensive interviews were undertaken and short biographies written about the veterans and their military experiences. Photographs and other mementos supplemented these biographies and the entire project was posted in a display case for all students to view.

Karen and Cathleen's efforts brought both recognition to the faculty veterans and greater insight and appreciation of America's citizen-soldiers to their students.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their efforts in establishing and implementing the "Adopt a Veteran" program, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Karen Rapp and Cathleen Scarborough of the Governor Mifflin Middle School, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE INAUGURAL MS.  
DELILAH BEASLEY TEA AND  
HONORING MS. BELVA DAVIS  
FOR A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the enduring legacy of two extraordinary, trailblazing women journalists, the late Delilah Beasley and retiring Bay Area icon Belva Davis, as they continue to inspire future generations of young women of color, many of whom will be part of the new Alameda County headquarters of Girls Inc. in Oakland, CA. This extraordinary occasion, hosted by the Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment and Reform (P.O.W.E.R.), is a testament to what is possible when we work together to celebrate, connect and transform the lives of women: past, present and future.

Today, supporters and friends, including esteemed California Governor, Edmund Gerald "Jerry" Brown, Jr., and venerable faith leader Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., have gathered to pay tribute to women who changed the face of journalism in the Bay Area and beyond

through their intellect and tenacity. Moreover, event proceeds will be donated to the Girls Inc. Building Fund.

In honor of the first annual tea in her name, we recognize American historian and Oakland Tribune newspaper columnist Delilah Leontium Beasley as a true Bay Area unsung hero. Born in 1871, Ms. Beasley's journalism career began by writing short pieces for a black Ohio newspaper called the Cleveland Gazette. In her over 50-year career, Ms. Beasley spent 25 years as a resident of Oakland. And, California and Bay Area communities are forever changed as a result of the far-reaching effects of her transformative work.

She spent nine years scouring University of California, Berkeley library archives to produce *The Negro TrailBlazers of California*, a groundbreaking and prolific chronicle of California Black History throughout the 1800s. Published in 1919, her book focused on the achievements and sacrifices of black pioneers including prominent stories of women. From 1925 to 1934, she continued her commitment to championing communities of color as the first African American woman to be published regularly in a major newspaper. As an Oakland Tribune columnist, Ms. Beasley gained local acclaim for her positive stories about the Black community and her ability to reach mainstream audiences. She was also a long-time local activist who fought for integration in every level of civic and social life, including helping to spearhead California's first anti-lynching bill. Delilah Beasley should be in the halls of every museum and on the pages of every American history book. This annual event represents a new opportunity make her story and achievements known far and wide.

Today, this legacy continues with the presentation of a P.O.W.E.R Lifetime Achievement Award to eight-time local Emmy winner Belva Davis. As the first African-American woman TV journalist in the Western United States, Ms. Davis is a living legend who tore down media barriers and defied racist stereotypes. For nearly five decades, Ms. Davis has continued to forge ahead, protecting the legacy of women like Delilah Beasley and paving the way for girls like those in Girls Inc. She began her bold career in 1964—the midst of the Civil Rights Movement—ignoring risk and personal attack to cover history in the making.

A respected anchor for news programs on KPIX-TV and KRON-TV, Ms. Davis has covered high-profile local, national and global news events, interviewing world leaders and U.S. presidents over the decades. Famed for her strong, 19-year presence as the host of public television's, "This Week in Northern California," Ms. Davis will be sorely missed by a bevy of fans, including community leaders, celebrities, colleagues and Bay Area residents. Though her final broadcast will air November 9, 2012, she will continue her role as a long-time community advocate.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I thank Ms. Belva Davis for a lifetime of service and congratulate her upon receipt of this honor. I thank P.O.W.E.R for their vital work to support the achievement of women and girls, and wish them many more years of successful celebra-

tions of the commemorative, "Ms. Delilah Beasley Tea."

HONORING LINCOLN "ED" BURTON  
FOR HIS SERVICE AS STATE  
CONSERVATIONIST FOR USDA'S  
NATURAL RESOURCES CON-  
SERVATION SERVICE IN CALI-  
FORNIA

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives FARR, GARAMENDI, MCNERNEY, and WOOLSEY, to recognize Lincoln "Ed" Burton, State Conservationist of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in California for the past 7 years, and a conservationist with that Agency in numerous western states for the past 48 years. Mr. Burton has dedicated his life to helping farmers and ranchers find conservation solutions to natural resource concerns in ways that respect both the economic and environmental contributions made by agricultural producers.

Mr. Burton has become known for his inclusiveness, diplomacy, and transparent, leadership style in administering and strategically investing \$840 million in federal conservation funding to protect natural resources on cropland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. He has expanded and enhanced wildlife habitat for common and impaired species—notably the Greater Sage Grouse.

Mr. Burton has contributed to the long-term preservation of farmland, essential to our Nation's ability to feed itself. Under his watch, farmers voluntarily enrolled historical wetlands for long-term protection so that today the Agency is responsible for the restoration of one fourth of California's current functioning wetlands.

Mr. Burton's leadership provided water quality planning and implementation services on more than 1400 dairies in California, helping the industry address the regulatory requirements they faced amid difficult economic times to protect the quality of California's surface and groundwater while helping to maintain economic viability for one of the State's top agricultural industries.

Mr. Burton oversaw a significant expansion in the air quality achievements of the Agency, helping farmers claim emissions reductions of over 1600 tons of nitrogen oxides each year.

Mr. Burton has been a staunch advocate for conservation planning to make the best possible advancements in the management and health of cropland, rangeland and forests, protecting on-farm soil, water, air and habitat resources in a manner that is acceptable and consistent with economic sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize our public servant, Ed Burton, for his visionary leadership and contributions to California's natural resources and his dedication to our agricultural communities.