

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROHNERT PARK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a city in my District on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its establishment. Incorporated in 1962, Rohnert Park has become an integral part of Sonoma County's historical and cultural heritage.

The land that would become Rohnert Park was known as Rancho Cotate when it was granted by General Mariano Vallejo to one of his soldiers in 1844. During the next century, the land would change ownership many times and experience much development.

After World War II, when Sonoma County experienced a surge in growth, the City of Rohnert Park was conceived and developed by two Sonoma County lawyers, Paul Golis and Maurice Fredericks, who had a vision of a vibrant planned community in the heart of the valley. Their concept stressed the importance of "neighborhood units", groups of houses centered around schools and parks, in order to provide ample recreation to city-dwellers.

Through collaboration and hard work, Rohnert Park was established in 1962. Today it is proud to serve its residents with many recreational amenities and attractions. Rohnert Park is home to two municipal swimming pools, an 18-hole golf course, and bike, hiking, and equestrian trails. The city also contains Sonoma State University and the Green Music Center.

Mr. Speaker, Rohnert Park is an important city in the heart of Sonoma County. Please join me in honoring Rohnert Park on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AARON
WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Director Aaron Williams for his invaluable service to the Peace Corps and our nation. As the Director throughout the past three years, Mr. Williams undeniably impacted the Peace Corps legacy. It is important that we recognize the importance of his contributions and the unique role the Peace Corps has played in our national and global community throughout his tenure.

Mr. Williams championed the ideals of the Peace Corps by bridging alliances with Minority Serving Institutions, enhancing the safety and security for the nine thousand volunteers serving abroad, and as President Obama noted, was essential in reforming and modern-

izing the agency. Sharing core American values with some of the world's most impoverished populations, his leadership these past three years reflects his service to the underrepresented and underprivileged.

Despite a complex, changing global climate, Mr. Williams dedicated tireless efforts to ensure the safety of the Peace Corps volunteers. I was proud to work closely with the Director to pass the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act. This act expanded the Peace Corps' safety precautions by providing further protection for female volunteers who are particularly vulnerable while living in foreign countries. It also increased government accountability in responding to sexual assault through a Sexual Assault Advisory Council and protects the anonymity of volunteers who report sexual assault.

Mr. Williams understood that a better Peace Corps is a bigger Peace Corps, and he therefore fought for the necessary increase in volunteers. He successfully expanded programs throughout Colombia, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone. And I was proud to work in the Appropriations Committee to help the agency obtain the largest funding in its history.

Whether it was collaborative efforts with RCPV/W or promoting fundamental principles that make the Peace Corps and our country exceptional, Mr. Williams never wavered from his commitment to enhancing Peace Corps' outreach and capacity to serve diverse communities. Having served in the Peace Corps, I know firsthand the positive impacts that result from our Peace Corps programs and volunteers. Due to Mr. Williams' vision and leadership, the Peace Corps continues to lead the cause for peace, prosperity, and progress, and it has been strengthened for future generations. Again, I thank Mr. Williams. I am immensely grateful for his service, and most of all, his friendship.

RECOGNIZING SAINT MARY'S COL-
LEGE OR MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize and congratulate Saint Mary's College of Moraga, California, upon its 150th year of academic excellence in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Saint Mary's College was founded in 1863 in San Francisco as a liberal arts institution reflecting the life and work of the founder of the Christian Brothers, John Baptist de La Salle. The College was founded to serve some of California's earliest denizens, many of whom were immigrants with few resources and the first in their families to attend college. In 1928, after establishing a brief presence in Oakland, the college moved to its current location in Moraga, California.

Saint Mary's is a Lasallian Catholic College with a strong history of service to our country. In the 1940s, Saint Mary's joined the war effort in becoming the West Coast naval aviation training center. Lieutenant Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, who would later become President of the United States, was stationed at Saint Mary's for three years as he trained young pilots for duty in the Pacific Theatre. After the Second World War, Saint Mary's welcomed returning veterans studying on the G.I. Bill and continues to support our Veterans today through the Yellow Ribbon program.

St. Mary's rightfully boasts of a faculty composed of scholars at the top of their field with a devotion to teaching students to be engaged global citizens. Nearly 45,000 alumni have earned degrees at Saint Mary's, leading to every imaginable career path. The Graduate Business programs have produced scores of corporate leaders in businesses around the world, while the School of Education has produced world-class teachers who are in turn educating millions of students around the globe.

Saint Mary's is also proud of its extra-curricular programs. The athletic department has brought national and international attention to Northern California through athletic excellence in basketball, baseball, softball, crew, soccer, golf, and rugby. Furthermore, world-renowned artists, authors, scholars, musicians and political leaders share their unique talents not only with the student community, but with all of Northern California.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Saint Mary's College of Moraga, the faculty, staff, alumni and students as they celebrate 150 years of extraordinary success as an educational leader in the State of California.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF
THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the wonderful work being done by the Georgia Aquarium, which is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta. With more than 10 million gallons of water, the Georgia Aquarium is the world's largest with more aquatic life than any other aquarium, and six distinct galleries that portray diverse aquatic habitats, ranging from arctic to tropical waters. Since opening its doors in 2005, Georgia Aquarium has established itself as a leader in aquatic animal conservation and research. The results of this research are shared with the global zoological community for the enhancement of animals everywhere, thus showcasing Georgia as a global center of animal study.

Currently, Georgia Aquarium is one of only six accredited facilities in North America that is capable of providing care for beluga whales, a

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

species which is presently listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as “near-threatened” in its indigenous Arctic and sub-Arctic environment. In June 2012, the aquarium applied for a permit to import 18 beluga whales to the United States with the purpose of conducting research which must be done in human care, for the continued edification of aquarium guests, and to secure the sustainability of the population in North American zoological parks and aquariums. Applying this important research can help the scientific community better understand the growing problems beluga whales face in their natural habitats. This application is corroborated by a five-year research study, authenticated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, validating that the acquisition of beluga whales will have no damaging impact to the beluga population of origin.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary work the Georgia Aquarium has done in pursuing research and educating citizens is highly commendable. The aquarium’s recent efforts to study beluga whales will undoubtedly improve our scientific understanding of this threatened species. Therefore, I enthusiastically support Georgia Aquarium in its endeavor to increase the North American beluga population to help to maintain a sustainable population of whales in human care in certified facilities.

COMMEMORATING NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE’S 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Northwestern College, which is celebrating its 110th year of preparing America’s students for success.

Since 1902, Northwestern College has honored the goals of its founder, J.F. Fish, to create employment opportunities by providing career-focused education. This distinguished institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as well as several programmatic agencies, and it operates three outstanding campuses in the greater Chicago area, serving more than 2,100 students.

Offering Associate degrees in health sciences, legal studies, commerce and technology, and nursing—Northwestern College prepares students for a rewarding career in their chosen fields.

I am pleased to congratulate Northwestern College on its 110th Anniversary, and for its ongoing commitment to educating students in Chicago and around the country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTOR CASCIO

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Victor Cascio, Sr. His warmhearted connection with those who were fortunate to know him and his steadfast involvement in the Monroe, La. community will always be remembered.

Throughout his lifetime, Victor was a vibrant presence in the area. He won the hearts of many as a child star on KNOE-TV’s “Happiness Exchange,” and his family has graced Monroe with their superb ability as restaurateurs since World War II. The family venture began with his late mother Josephine’s “Spaghetti Garden” and culminating with The Chateau, a Louisville Avenue institution, where Victor hosted such celebrities as Liberace, Elvis, Donna Douglas of *Elly May Clampett* fame, Danny Thomas, and every Louisiana Governor from Big John McKeithen to Bobby Jindal.

Much of Victor’s life was spent in the public eye as a phenomenal host, friend, and role model for all, and when he finally closed the doors of The Chateau amid an outpouring of support in March of this year, it was with the goal of savoring a private life with his wife of 50 years, Marie.

Undeniably, the mark he made on our community will never fade. He had a gift for putting people at ease and creating an atmosphere that is not easily duplicated. In the letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to Timothy, (2 Timothy 2:8–13), Paul says “If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him.” As we fondly remember the life and accomplishments of Victor, he lived in the faith in which he believed.

To say that he left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. Victor Cascio brought joy to so many, and he will live in our hearts forever.

TRIBUTE TO BARNEY UHART

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a great Alaskan. Barney Uhart, a devoted father and President Emeritus of Chugach Alaska Corporation, passed away on Saturday, September 8th after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Barney’s career with Chugach Alaska Corporation began in 1993, and in 2000, he became President and CEO. During his tenure, the company grew phenomenally, rising in revenue from \$19 million in 1993 to over \$1 billion in 2009. He was not only a charismatic leader and hard worker, but a close friend to many who worked with him over the years. His hard work and total commitment helped provide real, tangible, and ongoing benefits to the Native Shareholders of Chugach as he strove tirelessly to help fulfill the promises of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. His contributions to making the SBA 8(a) program a resounding success, not only for Chugach, but for all Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native American Tribes, are truly outstanding, and we are all grateful to him for his achievements.

On July 6, 2012, Barney announced his retirement from Chugach to focus on his health and spend time with his family. The Board of Directors of Chugach Alaska Corporation appointed Barney “President Emeritus” in honor of his 19 years of service, dedication, and leadership.

Barney’s career with Chugach began when he joined Chugach Development Corporation (CDC) as Operations Manager. With a background in Engineering and Business Administration, his project experience in managing Base Operation Services (BOS) contracts in extremely remote locations began 33 years ago when he went to work on his first BOS contract in 1979 on Wake Island.

Barney told of his Wake Island initiation by saying, “I was living in Hawaii and one day I was helping a friend deliver office furniture to a place called Kentron International. I had no idea what they did, but it sounded like an exotic and exciting place to work where you would get to travel. The next day I put together a resume and slid it under the door. Then I had an interview, and after about 45 minutes, I thought the interview was over and I got up to leave when the manager said, ‘When can you leave?’ The following Tuesday I was on a plane to Wake Island in the mid-Pacific and I still didn’t know what Kentron International did.” Clearly, Barney never shied away from a new opportunity.

Born in Fresno, California in 1952, Barney moved to Hawaii in 1970 after high school and his father’s passing. During this time, the Vietnam War was still raging. Barney’s brother had already done two tours in Vietnam, and he expected to be drafted at any time. Regardless, he enrolled in the University of Hawaii and played baseball. Barney then worked general construction until he decided it wasn’t the area he wanted to pursue, and instead seized opportunity by the hand when he went to Wake on his first federal contract job.

In 1985 Barney spent a winter in Greenland on the Defense Early Warning (DEW) Line and was then offered a job as Superintendent of Administration for the DEW line, but declined because he didn’t want to spend another year in the Arctic. As a result, he left to work for his first SBA 8(a) company in Hampton, Virginia where he helped grow the company in revenue from \$200,000 to \$6 million a year.

In early 1988, Barney was offered a job with an SBA 8(a) company in Louisville, Kentucky, and was promoted to Vice-President of Operations. He moved into the Company’s new offices in Panama City, Florida. Later, he received a call from Mike Brown (Chugach’s President and CEO from 1992 to 1999) who was working at that time for PMC, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

Mr. Brown received Barney’s name from someone who worked with him at Wake Island years before. Based on that recommendation, Mike wanted Barney to become the BOS contract Project Manager at Amchitka Island, on the Aleutian Chain. Not wanting to move to Amchitka Island, Barney declined the offer and went back to Florida. Five months later, Mr. Brown called him again and offered him a job as Manager of Special Projects in Anchorage.

Years later, Barney recalled with a laugh, “This time the position was in Anchorage, so I accepted, and one of the first jobs as Manager of Special Projects in Anchorage was to go out to Amchitka Island and evaluate the contract. So he kinda suckered me in with that one.”

While at PMC, the team he worked with received a Coast Guard contract, the Wake Island contract, and the contract to run Midway Island. By then he was Vice-President of Operations for PMC, when Mr. Brown, who had