

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF ALEX ESCLAMADO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a courageous and legendary community leader, Alex Esclamado, who passed away in the Philippines on November 4, 2012. He was held in the highest regard, and his name was synonymous with freedom and the fight for democracy.

Alex Esclamado arrived in the United States in 1959, living and working in California for decades. As founding publisher of The Philippine News and a devoted Filipino community advocate in the United States, he championed the key issues of immigration reform, farm workers' rights, professional recognition and licensing of foreign graduates, and naturalization of World War II Filipino Veterans. In the United States, Alex Esclamado's biggest battle was against the dictatorship of then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

In 1997, Alex retired from the daily operations of the newspaper to devote his full-time attention to establishing the foundation of NaFFAA, whose goals are the national unification of some 3,000 Filipino-American associations in the United States, the empowerment of Filipino Americans, and assistance to the Philippines. Alex became the founding national chair of NaFFAA and was elected unanimously as the first National Chair during the First National Filipino-American Empowerment Conference held in Washington D.C. in August 1997, which was attended by over 1,500 Filipino-American leaders representing associations throughout the United States. He served as National Chair from 1997 to 2002. He also served as National President of the Filipino American Political Association (FAPA), a political advocacy group since 1965. In 1998–99, he served as the only Filipino-American member of the U.S. Census Advisory Committee on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations.

Mr. Esclamado's life and work are a lasting example of a true profile in courage. His work inspired generations of leaders in the Philippines and in the United States. His many honors include a special award for his Filipino-American Welfare and Human Rights Advocacy during the celebration of the 432nd Araw Ng Maynila, the first Filipino-American award-ee by the City of Manila. He was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and was compared with the inspirational leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez from the Greenlining Institute. He was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor Award and Medal, the highest honor accorded to a civilian in the Philippines, by Philippine President Corazon Aquino for "his distinguished and outstanding service to the country during the past 20 years." He was the only Filipino-American recipient of this award. During the centennial

celebration of the Statue of Liberty in New York in October 1986, outstanding immigrants were honored for their contributions to America. Alex Esclamado was the only Filipino-American recipient of the Congressionally-sponsored Ellis Island Medal of Honor along with 79 other outstanding Americans representing all other nationalities.

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS WEEK

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Community Foundations Week, and to recognize the millions of Americans who have joined together throughout our nation's history to support charitable causes in their communities. This spirit of generosity is a central tenet of the American spirit, and the good work done by the over 650 community foundations in the United States is evidence of the good that can be achieved when communities come together in support of a common cause.

Established in 1989, observation of Community Foundations Week has served to draw more attention to the work done by Community Foundations across the country. In my home state of Illinois alone, there are 26 community foundations. I would like to highlight some of the work done by just 2 of them in Central Illinois. The Galesburg Community Foundation, for example, funds a variety of programs that are strengthening their community and helping those who have nowhere else to turn. One of their most innovative projects is called KnoxCorps. This project teams with local Knox College to place graduates at local non-profits to provide human capacity for initiatives and causes that affect the greater Galesburg area. The placements last for one year, but the impact that has already been achieved is much more far reaching. This partnership has kept some of the best and the brightest in this small rural community, contributing to positive economic development, stronger communities, and a thriving spirit of service.

In the 18th District we have the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, which operates out of my hometown of Peoria. One focus for them is Community Needs Grants, given to local non profits to aid them in their service to the area. For example, in 2011, CFCL partnered with the American Red Cross Central Illinois Chapter with a Community Needs Grant that allowed the continuance of free youth education classes. These classes have educated over 35,000 youth on how to prepare for emergencies, prevent injuries, and make healthy choices. With the help of the grant, the program was enhanced by the addition of a puppet show to better connect with the children and provide an interactive learning experience.

These two examples are just a small snapshot of the extraordinary work done by these two organizations, as well as organizations like them around Illinois and the nation. I am honored to recognize all Community Foundations this week for the outstanding work they do fifty-two weeks a year.

HONORING JACOB MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Moore. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Royal Rangers and earning the most prestigious award of the Gold Medal of Achievement.

Jacob has taken an active part with the Royal Rangers through his church, Blue Springs Assembly in Blue Springs, Missouri. The Royal Rangers provide young men the character development and leadership formation needed to thrive in today's world. Attaining the Gold Medal of Achievement demonstrates Jacob's dedication and commitment to the Royal Rangers. I am sure that Jacob will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Moore for his accomplishments with the Royal Rangers and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Medal of Achievement.

IN HONOR OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Thomas. The month of October 2012 marked the 45 year anniversary of this tremendous parish. Nearly a half century ago, a small group of Greek Orthodox from South Jersey saw a need for a church to serve the Philadelphia metropolitan area and its New Jersey suburbs. This parish has been paramount in reaching out to the Southern New Jersey community, teaching the Greek language and heritage, and sharing the traditions of the Greek Orthodox faith.

Perhaps most worthy of praise are the number and variety of group organizations the church provides. Among them are the "Philoptochos," a philanthropic society for lady parishioners who are committed to serving the sick, destitute, elderly, and others in need of assistance. The Hellenic Heritage Dance

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Group teaches youth the traditional dance of Greece. From the Hellenic Orthodox Primary Enrichment, HOPE, a group devoted to the early introduction of kindergartners to the Orthodox fellowship to the Maturity Club for senior citizens, all ages are able to meet and celebrate their faith through church outings, meaningful discussion groups, retreats, service projects, and athletics.

Let us commemorate, on the record, the Church of St. Thomas in its 45th year of operation for the invaluable service it provides to the Greek Orthodox faith and the South New Jersey community at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 13, 2012, and missed rollcall vote 604. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 604.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS EDUCATION PROGRAM AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans Education Program at California State University, Fresno. This outstanding program is for veterans who served overseas and are transitioning into the next phase of their lives.

An inexcusable number of veterans are coming home to a hard hit economy and find that they have few options when it comes to finding a job. The Veterans Education Program was created to fix that problem. In many cases, our veterans need time to transition once they are home, and the program helps with the shift from military to civilian life.

Fresno State will welcome its first class in January of 2013. Each six week class will have up to 25 veterans, and students will receive six units of transferable credit. In addition to taking a refresher course in English and mathematics, students will also develop skills to help with obtaining a career and managing their finances. The last couple weeks are individualized, so students can create a plan to fulfill their goals after leaving the program.

The Veterans Education Program is specifically designed so that veterans can be successful after the course is completed. Some might continue on with their education at Fresno State, and others may enter the workforce or do an internship that relates to their future career. The program has partnered with several veteran support organizations who are interested in providing opportunities for veterans in the workplace or in school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me recognizing the Veterans Education Program at California State University, Fresno. As a nation we cannot ignore the needs of our vet-

erans when they come home from being overseas. They deserve our unwavering support and gratitude. The program will provide opportunities for thousands of veterans living throughout the Central Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Champaign, Illinois and missed the suspension vote on H.R. 6371, Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act, which transfers authority from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to the Department of Labor for processing claims for wages due to laborers and mechanics hired by contractors on public works projects.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "aye" on the above stated bill.

HONORING DANIEL JOHN CATTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel John Catton. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1367, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel earned the 50-Miler Award. Daniel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Daniel designed and constructed the installation of storage units for Triality Tots, an organization that provides high quality educational opportunities for children with special health needs or developmental delays. Daniel plans on pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel John Catton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll No. 604. Had I been

present, I would have voted, "yea", to approve H.R. 6371.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the 2012 Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce serves the people and the business community in order to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the region and the State of Maine.

Each year, the Franklin County Chamber recognizes local businesses, business leaders, organizations and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. Each honoree is committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in this western Maine county.

This year's honorees are Barclays, the Daily Bulldog and the Wilton Blueberry Festival. These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer and through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and these honorees on their outstanding service and achievement.

HONORING MR. KEVIN BENNETT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kevin Bennett to recognize his dedicated service to the great state of Minnesota and his selection as Minnesota's middle school principal of the year.

Mr. Bennett began his teaching career in 2001 in his 20's, and a mere three years later was hired by the Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resource School, FAIR, as an assistant principal. One short year later, he became principal. Now in his mid-30's, Mr. Bennett is the principal of two FAIR schools, one in Minneapolis and one in Crystal.

Since his arrival, Mr. Bennett has made great strides toward the FAIR schools' goal of greater integration. Mr. Bennett, along with his superintendent, reworked the curriculum of both schools. This paid off and last academic year resulted in more than 1,600 enrollment applications for 150 openings at the two schools. Since Mr. Bennett became principal, the number of minority students at Crystal has risen from 32 to 44 percent. The reworked curriculum and diversified student population has resulted in significant test score increases.

With the downtown school's focus on literacy and the arts, 94 percent of the third graders met or exceeded Minnesota's reading proficiency standards last spring. The third