

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
DENNIS KAHN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life Mr. Dennis Kahn, a great citizen and prominent attorney in my western New York Community. Mr. Kahn passed away on February 6th, 2012 at the young age of 60.

Mr. Kahn was one of Buffalo's brightest and most successful attorneys. He earned his law degree from the University of Akron after completing undergraduate work at the University at Buffalo. He began his practice in 1976 and became partner at a firm that eventually bore his name, Siegel Kelleher & Kahn, focusing on personal injury law. Mr. Kahn helped expand the firm to the sixth-largest law firm in western New York. He was recognized in "Who's Who" in law and nominated as "Best in Field—Personal Injury".

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Kahn served as a member of the Erie County, New York State, and American Bar Associations. He was admitted to practice before U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, and Federal Tax Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Kahn also served as a member of the advisory board for Bry-Lin Hospitals and is a former member of the board of trustees for Shea's Performing Arts Center.

I was privileged to introduce Dennis at an American Cancer Society event in 2011. Dennis was a tireless advocate in the fight against cancer and I was proud to stand with him in that fight. We will carry on this mission in his memory, reflecting on the passion with which he waged his fight against this terrible disease.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my deepest condolences to Dennis's wife, Carrie, his son, Max, and the rest of the Kahn family.

HONORING NATHAN VINCENT
FAGERSTONE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Vincent Fagerstone. Nathan 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 175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan 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, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2012 theme—Black Women in American Culture and History. This year's theme offers us the opportunity to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of African American women who often faced not only racial discrimination, but gender discrimination as well.

The innumerable contributions made by African American women throughout history have played a major role in shaping our great nation. From historical heroes, such as the leader of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, and the courageous civil rights activist, Rosa Parks, to modern leaders, including First Lady Michelle Obama, and locally, the Honorable Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of the City of Gary, Indiana, the American people have been blessed and inspired by extraordinary African American women who have at many times, against all odds, strengthened our union.

As the Representative of the First Congressional District of Indiana, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to know and work with Mayor Freeman-Wilson. Mayor Freeman-Wilson's first term began this year, and her victory is an extraordinary example of how far our nation has come. With her recent election, Mayor Freeman-Wilson became the first female mayor of the city of Gary and the first African American female mayor in the State of Indiana.

Standing on the shoulders of the brave African American women who fought so hard for their rights, Mayor Freeman-Wilson continues to inspire and is a role model for women of all races. Mayor Freeman-Wilson grew up in Gary and was taught by her parents the importance of hard work and public service at an early age. She eventually graduated from Harvard Law School but quickly realized her calling was to be a public servant. She has held many prestigious positions throughout her career including: presiding judge for the Gary City Court, Attorney General for the State of Indiana, Executive Director of the National Drug Court Institute, and Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. She is also ac-

tive in numerous organizations and charitable groups aimed at protecting human rights, promoting the quality of life, and combating substance abuse. In particular, Mayor Freeman-Wilson's work with the Second Chance Foundation, an organization she helped found to fight substance abuse, is truly admirable.

It is leaders like Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson who become an inspiration for future generations. We honor her, along with all of the courageous African American women, past and present and across the nation, for their courage and tenacity to help create better communities and a better nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in remembering the many strong African American women who have left their mark in history and have fought for equality for all races and genders. They are worthy of the highest praise. Through the efforts of these honorable individuals, we are reminded of how far we have come as a nation, while recognizing that there is still much progress to be made.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA
YING-JEOU ON HIS RE-ELECTION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated President of the Republic of China, ROC, on May 20, 2008. He was elected on a platform which included a promise to revive Taiwan's economy and improve cross-strait relations.

President Ma was re-elected on January 14, 2012. Upon President Ma's re-election, The White House issued a statement. "Cross-strait peace, stability, and improved relations in an environment free from intimidation are of profound importance to the United States. We hope the impressive efforts that both sides have undertaken in recent years to build cross-strait ties continue." The U.S. State Department also congratulated President Ma and, added, "Taiwan has once again held a free and fair election."

President Ma's victory shows that the people of Taiwan agree with his efforts, and so do I. As the former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I offer my congratulations to President Ma. I have known President Ma before he was first elected, back when he was one of many candidates. I knew then what I know now. President Ma is the right man for the right times.

Since his election in 2008, U.S.-Taiwan relations have been far better than any period in recent memory, and the Obama administration has shown clear support for the Ma administration by more than doubling the Bush's administration's arms sales to Taiwan. The Obama administration has also sent high-level officials from the U.S. to Taiwan and, most recently, the Obama administration nominated

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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.

Taiwan for inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, VWP.

The people of Taiwan have also shown strong support for President Ma and his policies. As a result of President Ma's policy to reduce tensions in cross-strait relations, there are now 558 direct flights from cities in Taiwan to cities in China every week. China-bound investments have been relaxed, and business is good for both the Taiwanese and Chinese people.

President Ma's policy of rapprochement, which upholds our shared values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law, has advanced regional peace and stability, and the U.S. is appreciative and supportive of President Ma's initiatives because improved cross-strait relations are in the best interest of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

President Ma Ying-jeou graduated from National Taiwan University. After earning a Master of Laws degree from New York University, he received a Doctor of Juridical Sciences from Harvard Law School, specializing in the law of the sea and international economic law.

President Ma's father, Ma Ho-ling, and his mother, Chin Hou-hsiu, dedicated themselves to government and country. Following in his parents' footsteps, President Ma devoted his life to creating a government that upholds those ideals that embody Taiwan's core traditional values—benevolence, righteousness, diligence, honesty, generosity, and industriousness.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to the service President Ma Ying-jeou has rendered for and on behalf of the people of Taiwan. President Ma is married to Chow Mei-ching and they have two daughters—Ma Wei-chung and Ma Yuan-chung—and a stray dog affectionately known as Ma Hsiao-jeou (Little Ma).

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA CENTENNIAL

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will introduce this week the following resolution to recognize Arizona on her Centennial birthday.

For almost 50 years, Arizona has been my home, and today I could not be more excited to celebrate her 100th birthday.

While Arizonans celebrate her Centennial, we also remember the pioneers who went before us to settle our beautiful state, and those since who have made her the Masterpiece of the West.

Our state motto is "Ditat Deus," or "God Enriches." The truth of that phrase can never be clearer each time I travel across our painted deserts, peaks, valleys, and canyons or see a red sunset.

It is not only the beauty of our landscape, but the character of our people that make Arizona a great place to live and raise our families.

Here's to another 100 years for our Grand Canyon State.

RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE ARIZONA CENTENNIAL

Whereas on February 14, 1912, after nearly 49 years as a United States territory and

thousands of years as a sacred home to indigenous peoples, Arizona became the 48th State and the last of the contiguous states to enter the Union of the United States;

Whereas in 2008, in order to commemorate its centennial and to properly celebrate the history of its people, the Arizona Centennial Commission was established to develop a comprehensive plan to specially mark such an auspicious occasion;

Whereas Arizona has been home to some of the most influential citizens in United States history including Barry Goldwater, William Rehnquist, Carl Hayden, Mo Udall, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Pat Tillman;

Whereas after being explored by Europeans in the 1500s, first by Spanish Franciscan Marcos de Niza and later by the Spanish explorer Coronado, Arizona is now known around the world as the Grand Canyon State for its breathtaking natural formations and unique beauty;

Whereas Arizona, among all the States, has the largest percentage of its land set aside and designated as Indian lands;

Whereas Arizona is the home of the Salt River Pima, Gila River, Fort McDowell, Pasena Yaqui, and many other indigenous communities;

Whereas Arizona is home to Oraibi, the oldest Indian settlement in the United States, which was founded by the Hopi Indian Tribe;

Whereas the Navajo Code talkers helped safeguard United States military secrets during the Second World War;

Whereas in 2001, the Arizona Diamondbacks defeated the New York Yankees 4 games to 3 in the World Series, becoming the youngest expansion franchise to win the World Series;

Whereas Arizona's State flag consists of 13 rays of red and yellow to symbolize its picturesque sunsets and the 13 original colonies, a copper star to represent the copper mining industry, and a blue background to represent liberty;

Whereas Arizona's centennial engenders a sense of unity and pride in the diverse nature of Arizona's people, and reminds Arizonans of the need to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come; and

Whereas the sun shines in Arizona more than 85 percent of the time: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and commends the State of Arizona and its people on Arizona's centennial.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA L. BONESSA, AFTER 41 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa will retire from federal service on February 28th, 2012, after 41 distinguished years of service to the U.S. Army.

Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa has distinguished herself by her exceptional leadership and unparalleled demonstration of technical expertise in the management of the Army's Budget from June 2006 to February 2012. Ms. Bonessa led the development of seven Army Budget requests totaling \$944 billion dollars and seven

supplemental requests totaling \$635 billion. These resources were essential to the Army's strategic and unprecedented goals of restoring balance to a force feeling the cumulative effects of 10 years of war and setting conditions for the future to fulfill its strategic role as an integral part of the Joint Force.

Ms. Bonessa led the Army Budget Office's efforts to develop, justify, and defend the Army's budget requests along four imperatives: Sustaining Soldiers, Families, and Army Civilians in an era of persistent conflict; Preparing Soldiers, units, and equipment for success in the current conflicts; Resetting returning Soldiers, units, and equipment to restore readiness consumed in operations; and Transforming the Army to improve its ability to meet the needs of combatant commanders.

To ensure the Army's story was widely told and understood by its stakeholders, Ms. Bonessa built highly effective strategic partnerships with senior officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget, and with Congressional staff and members. Her ability to facilitate formal and informal information-sharing and articulate the Army's message garnered resources and protected programs that were necessary to build and sustain the Army while simultaneously prosecuting two wars. These relationships were instrumental in the Army's ability to articulate, defend and secure both base and supplemental funding for the past 7 years. Through her tireless efforts, the Army's base and supplemental requests were consistently and flawlessly presented, justified, defended, and ultimately submitted to and supported by Congress. Her leadership and technical skills directly resulted in obtaining critical and timely funding for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn; Grow the Army; Army Modularity; Base Realignment and Closure; Army Modernization; sustainment of the All-Volunteer Force; care of Soldiers, Families and Civilians; and Soldier and leader development. As a direct result of her efforts, the Army's supplemental requests were consistently funded at 100% or more of its request.

There are very few Financial Management professionals or leaders who have had a greater impact during their service to the Nation than Barbara Bonessa. She is highly respected throughout the government for her unquestionable integrity and passion for supporting Soldiers and the Army. Our commanders in the field have always benefitted from her incredible capacity to meet challenges, whether presented by individual units or the Congress, and to develop an enterprise approach to solutions. The Army has gained immeasurably over the last 7 years from her positive and strategic outlook, and she leaves a solid foundation upon which the Army will continue to build.

Ms. Bonessa richly deserves to be recognized for her selfless service and influential leadership and her efforts to support an Army at war and sustain the all-volunteer force. Her exceptional performance leaves a lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Ms. Barbara L. Bonessa, for her extraordinary dedication and service to her country throughout her distinguished career as an Army civilian. We wish her and her husband Alan all the best in her well-deserved retirement.