

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RAYMOND J. AHEARN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ranking Member Levin to honor Raymond J. Ahearn, Specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). After a distinguished career of more than 37 years of service to Congress on international trade and economic policy issues, Ray will retire on December 28.

During Ray's years of direct support for Congress, he achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment. His authoritative, non-partisan and objective expertise and analysis, as exemplified in his many reports, confidential memoranda, committee prints, and confidential consultative work for Members and congressional staff, have addressed just about all major international trade and economic policy issues before Congress. His institutional knowledge of U.S. trade policy and the policy-making process has been invaluable, especially to the Ways and Means Committee and its Members.

Ray's deep institutional knowledge of U.S. trade policies and laws, the global trading system and architecture, multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, regional economic groupings, and the fundamental trends in the global economy have played a critical role in Congress' consideration of these issues. He has also provided intellectual leadership to the overall research agenda of the CRS Trade and Finance Section, working closely with the Ways and Means Committee, as well as many other congressional offices and committees, in ensuring that the CRS international trade and finance work was closely aligned with policy issues of core congressional interest in an authoritative, objective and timely manner.

We congratulate and thank Ray for his years of excellent service to Congress. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

HONORING MR. WAYNE NICHOLS
OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Wayne Nichols of Fort Worth, Texas for winning the "Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award" from Humanities Texas.

Each year, Humanities Texas selects eleven teachers who have demonstrated outstanding skill and dedication in the teaching of the humanities to Texas students. The winning teachers and their schools receive a generous grant to purchase materials to enhance humanities education.

Mr. Nichols teaches a variety of History, Geography and Culture classes for grades six through eight at the Middle Level Learning Center in Fort Worth, Texas, and was recognized for his ability to instill a love of learning in his students through innovative and interactive teaching methods.

Because of Mr. Nichols work, thousands of students have been given a new appreciation of the vital subjects that he teaches and the importance of those subjects in their own lives.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Mr. Nichols for this well-deserved award, and I am proud to have such an outstanding educator in my district.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF LORAIN PLUMB

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Loraine Plumb as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Loraine was born on December 4, 1912 in St. Paul, Minnesota to a proud family of Norwegian industrialists. She developed a love of teaching, and after graduating from the University of Minnesota and the graduate teaching program at Eastern Michigan University, she applied her training for 35 years teaching physical education and art in both Michigan and Minnesota.

In addition to countless children who passed through her classroom, Loraine has given her love to her two children, son Tracy Plumb and daughter Jeri Gardner Thompson. Her family and friends have referred to Loraine as a "happy little bluebird flitting from fence post to fence post"—an apt description for a woman who has touched so many lives over the years.

Today Loraine enjoys her daily afternoon coffee with friends, and all of the laughter they have given her over the years. She does not attribute her longevity to any one thing except her overall happiness and joy. The Town of Plympton has recently recognized her as the oldest resident of the town, and she is proud to call it her home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Loraine Plumb on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding my absence from rollcall votes

605–608 on Thursday and Friday, November 15, 2012 and November 16, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: For rollcall vote, 605, I would have voted "no". For rollcall vote 606, I would have voted "no". For rollcall vote 607, on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2453—Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue gold and silver coins with a design emblematic of Mark Twain, I would have voted "aye". For rollcall vote 608, on H.R. 3803 "Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012" to provide normal trade relations status to Russia and Moldova, ends Jackson-Vanik restrictions on both economies, and establishes new human rights-related sanctions on Russia, I would have voted "aye".

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO
CITY COUNCILWOMAN SANDY
SHEEDY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sacramento City Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy, as she steps down from the Sacramento City Council after 12 years of honorable service. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to honor her dedication to the people of Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilwoman Sheedy's outstanding leadership as a public servant.

Councilwoman Sheedy was born and raised in Colusa, California. Before being elected to the City Council, she served with distinction on various commissions and boards including the City Planning Commission, the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission, the Stanford Settlement Board, the Sacramento Association for the Retarded and the Camellia Symphony Orchestra.

Councilwoman Sheedy was elected to the Sacramento City Council in 2000. As Councilwoman, she served as Chair of the City Council's Code Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee and sponsored a wide variety of local ordinances, including the promotion of a stronger local government role in curbing tobacco sales to minors and codes against illegal trash dumping and dangerous dogs. She extended her reach to as many citywide issues as possible, while always fighting for the Del Paso Heights, Robla, and North Sacramento neighborhoods.

Her tenure on the City Council included the construction of a new fire station in North Sacramento and the city's first "green street" project, which allowed for the beautification of Dixie Avenue. In addition, Councilwoman Sheedy has been a long-time patron of public parks as she looked over the construction of five new parks, and I had the pleasure of joining with her for the opening of Five Star Park

• 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.

in 2008. Councilwoman Sheedy also helped upgrade the bridges and streetlights throughout her district, which were in clear need of repair.

Councilwoman Sheedy represented the City of Sacramento well, serving on the boards of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority, the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission and the Sacramento Public Library Authority. As she dedicated her energy to the betterment of the people of Sacramento, Councilwoman Sheedy leaves the City Council with a high level of energy and large possibilities for the continued revitalization of District 2.

Mr. Speaker, as Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy's husband Ted, family, friends and colleagues gather to commemorate her for her service to the people of Sacramento, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this dedicated public servant for helping make Sacramento a better place for families to live and prosper.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,369,548,799,604.93. We've added \$5,742,671,750,691.85 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY RESTORATION VOLUNTEER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the forty-five volunteers who have dedicated their time to commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

These volunteers have been working tirelessly throughout the year to prepare for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony held in December in Camden, New Jersey aboard the USS *New Jersey*.

The volunteers who have helped prepare the USS *New Jersey* for this historically-significant event are a necessary element in the production of the ceremony honoring those who were present that fateful day.

Their selfless hard work and devotion to honoring the 71st anniversary of Pearl Harbor should not go unnoticed. I join the citizens of Southern New Jersey, members of our military, as well as friends and family in congratulating these volunteers for a job well done.

HONORING WALT EKARD

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Walter F. Ekard, the Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego. As the chief executive for the fifth largest county in the United States, Mr. Ekard manages a workforce of over 16,000 employees and an annual budget of \$5 billion.

Mr. Ekard was appointed to this position by the five-member Board of Supervisors on May 4, 1999. He previously served as the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and was the Boards' "first and only choice" for the job because of his experience and strong leadership skills.

Since he began working for the County in 1996, Mr. Ekard has been a part of its dramatic transformation, including a creation of a structurally-balance budget and the implementation of a general management system. Working closely with the Board and the County's executive team, Mr. Ekard works to institute private business management practices throughout the County, stressing customer service, fiscal accountability and teamwork. He has overseen the successful implementation of the innovative information technology outsourcing project that begun in late 1998 and is currently working to prepare San Diego County government to manage with significantly less revenue due to the State of California's budget crisis and funding cuts anticipated as a result.

Mr. Ekard brings a unique combination of qualifications and experience to this post. In fact, he served as my Chief of Staff during my time at the Board of Supervisors. He also worked as a senior policy advisor to former County Supervisor Paul Fordem (1981–1984). He also managed the Rancho Santa Fe Association from 1987 to 1996, transforming this 70-year-old organization into a smooth-running, productive and powerful regional influence. During his tenure with the Association, he worked in a capacity much like a city manager, developing linkages between the Association and other community organizations, created a long-term strategic plan to secure needed support from local and regional government agencies, and reduced administrative staff while streamlining the budget process and privatizing certain Association functions.

A native of San Diego County, Mr. Ekard received his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University and a Allis Doctor degree from the University of San Diego, School of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of California and has served on a number of community boards and commissions. He and his wife, Pam, reside in El Cajon with their family.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the professional achievements of Mr. Walt Ekard. Without question, the community of San Diego has been made better by his contributions and are worthy of recognition by the House of Representatives today.

RECOGNIZING COMMODORE WILLIAM C. VOGEL, JR. FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO METROPOLITAN DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William C. Vogel, Jr. on the occasion of his installation as Commodore of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club during its 84th Annual Commodore's Ball. Serving as the club's face to the community and monitor of its policies both present and future, the position of commodore is an esteemed office befitting an individual like Mr. Vogel.

Bill has long been an active member of the Club, serving on its executive board for many years, including multiple terms as the Club's Vice Commodore. Under his leadership, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club has continued on a path of success and prosperity. Its membership has grown and it has undertaken projects to expand and improve both its facilities and the Grosse Pointe Harbor, one of Michigan's most precious treasures.

Outside of his involvement in the Grosse Point Yacht Club, Bill has been steadfastly engaged in the support of groups and issues that have historically made the Grosse Pointes a thriving group of communities. Through his support as a member and past director of the Detroit Goodfellows, he has taken the initiative to provide Detroit youth with educational scholarships and other necessities which have enhanced their quality of life. Bill has also been instrumental to the Lakeshore District of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Chair of the Friends of the Scouts Campaign.

Bill's passion for his community is mirrored in his dedication to his profession. With over thirty years of accomplishments in the field of engineering, he has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and coworkers. During his tenure with General Motors as a systems analyst, project planner and marketing planner, Bill received both the Chairman's Award and the GM North American Special Achievement Award. At EDS, he was honored with the prestigious Inner Circle Award, Circle of Excellence, and Diamond Club recognitions for his achievements as Client Delivery Executive and Solutions Delivery Executive. He also received recognition from Wayne State University's College of Engineering in 2006, earning their Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award for Industry Achievement. Finally, in August of 2012, Bill retired from his post as director of EDS's OnStar account for General Motors, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and success. He currently serves on the Board of Visitors for both Wayne State and Western Michigan Universities' Colleges of Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize William C. Vogel, Jr. on the occasion of his installation as Commodore of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. I join with Bill's wife of 37 years, Susan, as well as his children, William III, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Michael in congratulating him on this joyful occasion.