

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2012 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany for ten days from May 18–27 of this year. During this ten day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for ten days April 14–22 of this year. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in April, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC–4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2012.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM LE'RON JACKSON FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. William Le'Ron Jackson. Mr. Jackson is a lifelong resident of Byram, Mississippi. He is the son of Mrs. Hollia Smith-Thompson, Henry Thompson, Jr., and Mr. William Smith. He is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Jackson is aspiring to obtain a law degree with an emphasis on Disability and Common law.

Mr. Jackson has been involved in numerous volunteer activities throughout the years. He is a dynamic role model who mentors people with and without disabilities throughout the state on the values of education and self-advocacy. Mr. Jackson has worked for Living Independence for Everyone, LIFE, of Mississippi and a children's medical program under the Mississippi Department of Health. He has also served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer. Mr. Jackson always finds time to give back to his community by giving statewide presentations and serving on various committees, such as the My Voice My Choice Board of Directors, Healthy Opportunities for Transition Advisory Council, Teen Empowerment Success Training Council, and the National Youth Leadership Network.

During 2010, Mr. Jackson expanded his volunteer service by beginning a three-year term as a Member of the Board of Directors for Disability Rights Mississippi, a non-profit agency that provides protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities statewide.

Mr. Jackson recently was selected in March 2011, to be a part of a committee, formed with the assistance of the Commissioner of the United States Administration on Development Disabilities, ADD, and other national self-advocacy organizations, to focus on improving self-advocacy throughout the state of Mississippi.

During April 2011, Mr. Jackson was awarded the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence, GIVE, Award, which is presented by

the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service in cooperation with the Office of the Governor to recognize individuals, organizations, or communities for volunteer efforts which have made a significant difference to the state or to local communities, establishing high standards for volunteer involvement and effectiveness, and multiplying resources for communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jackson for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

MEMORIES OF DAVID KATZ

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Sam Katz. Mr. Katz asked me to enter the following remarks into the RECORD in remembrance of his father, David Katz. Mr. Katz's statement follows:

Today, we mourn the loss of a great man; a man who to us was simply known and loved as, "Daddy."

Daddy was first and foremost a loving, caring, and dedicated husband for nearly 59 years to the wonderful lady we simply know and love as, "Mommy." Daddy's love and support for Mommy is something every man should learn from.

We could not have asked for a more loving and dedicated father. Always a father, he was also our mentor, teacher, and when necessary, a friend. We were deeply blessed with a very peaceful and loving family life with two wonderful parents. We always believed our parents' love for each other was strong. However, throughout Daddy's illnesses this past year, it became beautifully and painfully clear that their marriage was sustained by true and genuine love. There were times in the hospital and in care facilities when Mommy would go to extremes just to give Daddy a kiss because it meant so much to her, and for as long as we can remember, Mommy was the glimmer in Daddy's eyes. This was not a marriage that lasted out of convenience or for the sake of their four children. This beautiful and long marriage endured better, worse, richer, poorer, sickness and health, and was still parted only by death.

We never heard a cross word spoken between Mommy and Daddy, and never even heard them call each other by their first names. Everyone should be so fortunate!

Growing up was a lot of fun. We went on regular summer vacations. Daddy traveled quite a bit and at times, would take one or more of us with him on the road. We traveled to family Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and spent as much time as possible together as a family.

Family dinners were very important to Daddy. We would wait for him to come home from work and the entire family would have dinner together and talk about our day. We spent evenings together watching our 19" black and white TV in the family room—the

• 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.

only TV in the house. This was very important to Mommy and Daddy. We didn't have TVs in our bedrooms and our parents didn't hide away in theirs watching TV.

There were lots of great moments that probably weren't so great for Daddy, such as: us kids learning to drive or taking apart cars in the garage. Through it all, Daddy was always a dedicated father with our best interests in his sights. He genuinely wanted each of us to succeed and to be our best.

Daddy lived his life the proudest man in the world. He always bragged about Mommy and us four children; he treasured the fact that we remained close through our adult lives. As we got older, each of us children chose a career path and moved out on our own. We stayed in touch and enjoyed many family gatherings where we grew up in Williamsville, NY, in New Jersey and for the past 17 years, in Chesapeake, Virginia. At times, we (the kids) would stay up all night talking and having fun. About the only thing that has changed over the years is that now we sometimes stay up as late as ten p.m.

Thanksgiving has always been a very special time for all of us to unite, and this past year was no different. It meant the world to Daddy to be home and with his family. With his health declining before our eyes over Thanksgiving weekend, he remained that proud and wonderful man: the Daddy that we all loved. We are all very proud to have given him this gift, and are convinced this time together has made his journey from this earth more peaceful.

Daddy's other loves: classical music and photography. Born of two concert musicians, he studied piano at the age of three, violin at five, and once arriving in the United States, composition at one of the finest music conservatories in New York. He performed under the batons of some of the greatest conductors in the world. While Daddy's ears are probably still ringing from the blasting rock and roll sounds from our teenage bedrooms, classical music of some fashion has touched all of our lives over the years. Daddy peacefully passed with classical music playing in his room.

A self-taught accomplished photographer, his one-person shows over the years were awe-inspiring and his natural creativity will never be duplicated. Those that share his passion for photography will never forget the lessons learned from him over many years. Thankfully, he was also the kindest critic.

In closing: Daddy didn't talk a lot about being a Holocaust survivor while we were growing up. We would get "sound bites." For example, when we would ask him to drive us somewhere close, he would respond with: "I walked 500 miles to the Swiss border when I was your age." We had no idea it was really true.

Over the years, we started to understand a little more about his survival, but he was never willing to document it. Thankfully, when he retired, he took the time, and now his story has been published in several books including a wonderful autobiography. His story is also presented in several Holocaust documentaries and with the Shoah Foundation.

Daddy was well known throughout the Tidewater community as he regularly spoke about his Holocaust years at schools, military installations, and many other organizations. His story will live on for those that will never have the opportunity to meet the great man, Daddy.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE KENNEBEC VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding recipients of the 2012 Annual Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. The Kennebec Valley Chamber serves the people of Maine's Capital Region with distinction, working every day to strengthen and develop economic and community opportunity throughout the Kennebec Valley and the entire State.

Every year, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce honors some of the outstanding businesses individuals that are doing their part to make Maine a better place to work and live. These Mainers are to be commended for their outstanding service and commitment to growing the economy in the Capital Region.

This year's award recipients include the Pine State Trading Co., Business of the Year; John V. Finnegan, Business Person of the Year; and William H. Perry, Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients of the President's Award include Keltie McCatherin Collins, Kennebec Dance Centre; John Reny, Renys Department Store; and Steve Barrows, Steve's Appliance Service and Sales. Community Service Awards recipients include Judy Lloyd, Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center; and, Carolyn Neighoff, currently a service learning mentor in Augusta. Tobias Parkhurst of Oakes & Parkhurst Glass earned the Young Professional Award.

These individuals and the business they represent are some of the best that Maine has to offer, and are stellar examples of the quality of people and businesses that serve as the economic and cultural engine of the Capital Area. They are to be commended for their meritorious service to their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards on their outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING MR. WARREN SMALL FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr. Mr. Small has shown what can be done through hard work and lofty goals.

Mr. Small, a resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, was born on July 17, 1934, to Warren and Betty Small in Winona, Mississippi. He graduated from Kilmichael High School in 1953. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1955 where he served until 1958. He returned to the Army for one additional year in 1961. After serving in the Army twice, he attended Mississippi Valley State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1962.

In 1968, Mr. Small obtained a Masters in Mathematics from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From 1960 to 1993, Mr. Small taught mathematics at different levels throughout the Sharkey County, Mississippi, School System. In 1973, Mr. Small joined the Army National Guard and served until 1994 when he retired.

In 1961, he married the late Joyce Love Small and to that union they had two children, Warren III and Toyce Michelle. He joined Mount Lula Missionary Baptist Church upon his move to Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in the early 1960s. There, he actively serves on the deacon board. Since 1993, he has held the Veteran Service Officer position for the counties of Sharkey and Issaquena. He is also employed with the Issaquena County Correctional Facility in Mayersville, Mississippi, as a Life Skills and Pre-Release Counselor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an honorable veteran, Mr. Warren Small, Jr., for his dedication and service to our great country as well as his contributions to the Sharkey County, Mississippi, community.

CELEBRATING BABY LOU'S RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincere respect that I congratulate my good friend Mr. Loreto "Baby Lou" Gonzalez on his retirement from ArcelorMittal, formerly the Inland Steel Company. Mr. Gonzalez, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1010 for many years, has dedicated his life to the interests of his fellow tradesmen and the entire community in Northwest Indiana. For his lifetime of service, Baby Lou was honored at a retirement celebration at Club Ki-Yowga in East Chicago, Indiana, on January 7, 2012.

Baby Lou is the youngest of seven children born to Loreto and Carlota Gonzalez. Following his graduation in 1965 from East Chicago Washington High School, Baby Lou began working at Inland Steel in the slab yard. After years of service, he eventually moved to the 80" hot strip where he became a crane operator. Mr. Gonzalez has been one of the most active members of Steelworkers Local 1010, where he was a grievance steward for 30 years.

Baby Lou's dedication to his community has always been a focal point of his life's work. He has helped Local 1010 annually with its food and coat drive to assist families in need. Recognizing the importance of civic involvement, he has also assisted in voter registration and community outreach programs to help improve the lives of all residents of Northwest Indiana. Baby Lou Gonzalez has served as a board member for the Catherine House and the Northwest Indiana Catholic Youth Organization. Additionally, he has spent countless hours coaching and developing baseball players in the East Chicago Little League and Senior League, worked tirelessly as a precinct committeeman, and is currently a member of the Human Rights Committee for East Chicago.