

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO LARRY AND
RALPH CIMMARUSTI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs, patriots, and philanthropists Larry and Ralph Cimmarusti.

With the backing and support of their parents, Los Angeles natives Pat and Ann Cimmarusti, brothers Larry and Ralph opened their first eatery 40 years ago. They were fresh out of junior college.

The first restaurant was actually an open-fronted Hollywood, California, vegetable market purchased for \$5,000 that was converted into an Italian deli. Frequented by the stars that lived in the Hollywood Hills, the deli thrived and provided their start into the restaurant world.

From this humble beginning, the Cimmarusti brothers launched Cimmarusti Holdings, LLC. Their first major success was to build one of the largest Burger King franchisees in the United States, with operations boasting annual sales near \$250 million.

Building on their success, the brothers branched out into casual dining to become one of the largest franchisees of Tony Roma's Restaurants in Southern California. Last but not least, the company purchased the Original Roadhouse Grill chain, another casual dining eatery.

The skills learned in building new restaurants provided a logical entry into real estate development. Cimmarusti Holdings owns approximately 15 properties in the western United States, including office buildings and retail strip centers, and has a construction company active in restaurant/retail center development.

Despite their size and success, Larry and Ralph still look at Cimmarusti Holdings as a mom and pop operation. They also believe in the importance of community and giving back.

Larry and Ralph were key contributors to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the names Lawrence and Ralph Cimmarusti are engraved in one of the more prominent locations at the library. At its opening, the Cimmarusti brothers helped cater the event and served meals to the five U.S. presidents in attendance.

The brothers actively aid law enforcement and have donated approximately a half-million dollars to families of police officers killed in the line of duty. They also support the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation and the Gil Garcetti's Rescue Youth Program.

Education is another major cause where they have given their time and resources, including donating \$1 million to Glendale Community College for the construction of a new Science Center on campus.

Other noteworthy causes include the Glendale Memorial Hospital and Catholic parishes in the Southern California area.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Janice, and I have enjoyed the friendship of the Cimmarusti family for many years, including Larry and Ralph's sister Loretta and her family. I had the pleasure of having Larry's son Patrick intern in my Washington, D.C., office while he attended law school. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Cimmarusti family for their entrepreneurship, their patriotism, and their philanthropy, and wish them continued great success.

GETTING A DEAL DONE ON FISCAL
CLIFF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of getting a deal done on the fiscal cliff in few hours we have remaining. A potential Alternative Minimum Tax patch would protect 30 million taxpayers overall and 222,513 Texans from paying the AMT by raising the exemption amount.

Way back on January 20, 2001, when President George W. Bush took over from President Bill Clinton, the CBO estimated the total budget surplus for 2002–2011 would be \$5.6 trillion.

And the campaign to spend the surplus began in earnest, despite warnings. Leading up to the 2001 tax cuts, the Administration and the Republican Congress were well aware of the looming AMT problem. Negotiators took advantage of this situation in order to keep down the costs of the 2001 tax cuts.

In June of 2000, one Treasury economist studied the AMT and warned that AMT taxpayers were due to grow at a rate of 30 percent each year between 2000 and 2010. Nonetheless, President Bush proposed a \$1.6 trillion tax cut without an increase in the exemption level to protect taxpayers from the AMT.

Since 2001, Congress has had to extend an AMT "patch" almost annually so that the Bush tax cuts are not taken back by the AMT. The true cost of what was to be a \$1.6 trillion tax cut has been estimated to be \$2.2 trillion because of the AMT patches, exploding expiration dates, and debt-financing when the surplus disappeared. This budgetary sleight of hand is largely why we are here—literally at the eleventh hour—seeking to stop tax hikes on the middle class and avoid a brutal sequester.

This body should also not forget that we passed the Bush Tax Cuts under Reconciliation, which again is part of the background story, and the reason they are set to expire again.

Mr. Speaker, we need to get a deal done on the fiscal cliff this evening.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER J.
BECKLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander J. Beckles, a great Bahamian-American and friend, who was on my staff for sixteen years and was my Legislative Director for eight years. Known to us as Alex, I have also heard my dear friend Chairman JOHN DINGELL call him "Little Shaft."

I first met Alex back in 1985 when he would come by my office on the 7th floor of the Longworth Building to visit the late Ms. Brenda E. Pillors, his friend and my former Chief of Staff of twenty-five years. Brenda was my first hire as a member of this institution back in January 1983.

One day back in 1986, Alex approached me saying, "Can I speak with you, Congressman TOWNS. I need your advice," and I told him to come on into my office. Alex explained that he was now working for my friend Congressman Gus Savage, but Congressman Clyde Holloway, R–Forest Hill, Louisiana, had offered him a job for his upcoming re-election campaign. After all, Alex had been the field coordinator for the Faye E. Williams, D–Alexandria, LA 8th Congressional District race two years earlier. During that period, Alex and Congressman Clyde Holloway had become friends, and the Congressman wanted Alex to work for him because of his relationship with the Black community in the 8th Congressional District of Louisiana. My response to Alex was, "If Clyde Holloway is willing to give you a better paying job, take it and don't look back." I'm happy to say, Alex took my advice and the rest is history.

Alex later worked on Congressman Holloway's Congressional staff from 1987 to 1992 as a Legislative Assistant and on a number of projects, such as a feasibility study for the Red River during and after large scale flooding in Central and Northwest Louisiana. Alex was most proud of his leadership in the Gulf States Counter-Narcotic Initiative, a unique multi-state counter-narcotics operation in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, funded by the Department of Defense.

Alex's first job on Capitol Hill was with Congressman Tom Delay, R–Houston, Texas, where Alex had attended Texas Southern University and resided for some 14 years before coming to Washington, DC. Alex also worked for the following members of Congress: Congressman George Brown, D–California, Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, D–California, and Congressman Gus Savage, D–Illinois, where he was able to work on a bill which set the national standard for minority set-asides within the Federal Government, particularly in the Department of Defense.

Alex later came to work for me in 1993, after Congressman Holloway lost to Congressman Richard Baker in the November election

• 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.

of 1992. He was an indispensable resource to the constituents of the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, New York from 1993 to 2008, as Legislative Assistant and later as my Legislative Director. Nobody had more zeal for the job, and more loyalty to the office and the constituents of the District.

An example of his service to the people of Brooklyn was demonstrated in 1994 when we received a phone call into the District office, just before President Bill Clinton was forced to send American troops to Haiti. The matter concerned a 7 year old Haitian-American girl that was living with her grandmother in Port-au-Prince, and the last commercial Air France flight had departed Haiti a few days earlier. The mother, who lived in Brooklyn, was frightened and deeply concerned for her daughter's safety. Her child, it seemed, was stranded in what was soon to be a war zone with no way out.

Alex spoke with the mother of the child and told her to give him a few days and she will have her baby home safe with her in Brooklyn. On that Thursday, my Chief of Staff, Brenda Pillors, informed me that I would need to be at Kennedy International Airport the next day to meet the mother of a 7 year old Haitian girl, who lives here in Brooklyn and had not seen her daughter in over a year. She further informed me that Alex had arranged to fly the child out of Haiti earlier that day on Mission Flights out of Fort Lauderdale. I do not know, nor did I ask, how Alex was able to get this child out of Haiti just before the war started. But he did it. This is an example of why the staff always called Alex "Mr. Fix-it" and joked that no one could ever figure it out but he was able to get it done.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say thank you to Alexander J. Beckles for all his many years of service on my Congressional staff, to this institution, and to the American people.

U.S. REP. MIKE PENCE FAREWELL
SPEECH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to rise for what will be my last time speaking as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. The people of Indiana have given me a new assignment.

But I rise tonight to pay a debt of gratitude to all of those who gave me the privilege to serve in this place. As a boy, I dreamed of someday representing my hometown in our Nation's capital. Twelve years ago, the people of the Sixth Congressional District made that dream a reality. And so I begin tonight by simply saying 'thank you' to all of them for letting me live that dream in these past 12 years, to come to this place again and again, and to be some small part of the story of this institution and America's story.

My only ambition in Congress was to look out for my family and to keep my word to the people who sent me here. To let my 'yes' be 'yes' and my 'no' be 'no.' And it is my hope that as people view the totality of my record and my life, they'll see that we've done just that.

There are those to thank tonight that made that possible, and that's what brings me to this

task this evening. First, permit me to give thanks to God, whose grace and mercy has sustained us every day that we have served the people of Indiana in this place.

Next, and on this Earth most of all, I rise to honor and thank my beloved wife, Karen Pence, whose love, whose support, whose sacrifice, patience, and kindness, have made all that I have done in the service to the people of Indiana in this place, possible. Thanks for believing in me. I love you and I'll see you home. To our children: Michael, Charlotte, and Audrey. They were 6, 7, and 8 when I first arrived in this place and stood on this floor with my right hand raised, 12 years ago. They are now 18, 19, and 21. Thank you for your love. But thank you for the sacrifices that you have made so that we could live our dreams. Now go make your dreams come true. I know every one of you can.

To my colleagues with whom I've stood at this place, shoulder to shoulder, doing freedom's work, standing each and every day, cheerfully on behalf of the founding principles of this Nation: standing for a strong national defense; for limited government; for economic freedom; and for the moral foundations of this Nation. You know who you are. And we will take you from this place in our hearts always. You know there's a saying back home, when you see a turtle on a fence post, one thing you know for sure is that he didn't get there on his own.

So lastly what I want to do tonight, Mr. Speaker, is really to pay a debt of gratitude to the best congressional staff in American history. The men and women who have served our efforts in this city, and at home in Indiana for the past 12 years. I leave this body truly humbled when I look back at the caliber of the staff that we've been able to call to this mission, servant leaders all. They are men and women who approached each and every day with a servant leader's heart and made sacrifices over the years in order to serve the people of Indiana with integrity and energy. Names like Bill Smith and Lani Czarniecki; Jennifer Pavlik and Josh Pitcock; Matt Lloyd and Paul Teller; Marc Short and Sheila Cole, Russ Vought and Mary Vought; Ryan Fisher, LeAnne Holdman Gibbs and Chris Kiefer; Brian Neale and Ryan Jarmula, just to name a few. You know, I don't really have time tonight to name all of the men and women who served us in various capacities over these last 12 years. I submit each and every one of their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this night.

Some people look on in Washington, D.C., and they are rightly frustrated. Some people can come to this Nation's capital and lose their idealism. I'm not such a person. When I walk out of this Capitol for the last time, I will leave here with my idealism intact. I will continue to believe as our Founders did, that we are one nation under God, rich with a purpose yet to be fulfilled. That no matter how dark the day may seem that we can be confident when we stand for freedom and we do freedom's work, because freedom is not just our story, it's His story. And when we stand for freedom, however imperfectly, we make His work on this Earth our own.

In the words of the poet I depart this place saying,

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

I say to my colleagues and friends and neighbors in Indiana, my duties take me elsewhere, but wherever providence leads this Nation, let us ever remember that we have promises to keep for future generations of Americans in preserving, protecting, and defending the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. And I know we'll keep that promise because we're Americans.

Thank you for the honor of addressing you tonight. And to the people of the Sixth Congressional District: know that I'll always be grateful for the privilege that you have given me to serve in this place. And I will always cherish my days in the People's House.

May God bless the United States House of Representatives, and all who serve her now, and ever on this floor. And may God bless the United States of America.

MIKE PENCE STAFF ROSTER: 2001-2012

Acornley, Mark—Part-Time Admin Assistant: October 6, 2011-2012

Adams, Susan—Staff Assistant: October 6, 2003-February 29, 2004

Ahearn, Mark—Legislative Director: January 22, 2002-April 2, 2003

Alexander, Jerry—Constituent Services Representative & Director of Community Outreach: July 9, 2001-May 15, 2007

Arnold, Ron—Director of Administration & Deputy Chief of Staff: January 3, 2001-October 31, 2009

Atterholt, Kathleen—Caseworker: January 3, 2001-January 2, 2010

Bauer, Zachary—Staff Assistant & Legislative Correspondent: January 4, 2010-2012

Bennett, Kim—Deputy District Director: January 3, 2001-2012

Berry, Debra—District Representative: August 6, 2001-2012

Breeding, Mary—Paid Intern & Staff Assistant: April 1, 2001-January 18, 2002

Brinkman, Muffet—Staff Assistant: January 8, 2001-March 31, 2001

Brown, Skip—Communications Assistant: January 2, 2004-November 16, 2005

Brown, Will—Staff Assistant & Legislative Correspondent: January 3, 2009-January 2, 2011

Castor, Amy—Staff Assistant: May 16, 2004-March 12, 2006

Collins, Larry Ken—Communications Director: January 3, 2001-March 31, 2001

Craig, Lindsey—Legislative Assistant: January 2, 2009-April 2012

Crouch, Daniel—Legislative Assistant & Senior Legislative Assistant: January 16, 2007-August 7, 2009

Czarniecki, Cary (Lani)—District Director: January 3, 2001-2012

Dilly, Jonathan—Paid Intern: May 21, 2001-August 8, 2001

Evans, Ben—Constituent Services Representative: January 4, 2010-2012

Fisher, Ryan—Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: January 3, 2001-January 2, 2007

Fortin, Kristin—Paid Intern: May 7, 2001-July 13, 2001

Gaskill, Kily Smith—Executive Assistant: January 13, 2009-2012

Gibbs, LeAnne Holdman—Staff Assistant, Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: February 24, 2004-October 21, 2008

Hawkins, Nicole—Community Development Assistant: January 23, 2006-April 6, 2007

Howe, Jeff—Field Representative: January 3, 2003-February 28, 2010

Hughes, Kaitlynn—Press Assistant, Press Secretary: January 2, 2011-2012

Jarmula, Ryan—Staff Assistant, Legislative Assistant and Senior Legislative Assistant: January 22, 2008-2012