

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE THREE YEARS OF SERVICE OF AMBASSADOR HAN DUK-SOO

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to offer a tribute to His Excellency Han Duk-soo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States, who is leaving his post in Washington after three years of representing and serving his country here.

Before arriving in Washington in March 2009, Ambassador Han served as his country's Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance and Economy, after previous service as ambassador to the OECD and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The past three years have been particularly busy for him, culminating in the ratification of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, which takes effect next month.

During Ambassador Han's tenure in Washington, he also dealt with sensitive and timely issues like security matters in Northeast Asia. I am particularly reminded of his thoughtful and steady leadership during the challenges Korea faced in the wake of the attacks on the Cheonan Naval Vessel and on Yeonpyeong Island in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Korea has a special place in my heart.

My father fought in Korea. I grew up hearing stories from him about the horrid conditions, and I know he carried his battle-scars with him throughout his life. Yet he never wavered in his pride for having served his country.

In November 2010, my father and I visited Korea, where we were treated with utmost hospitality and—in my father's case—gratitude. It was a memorable trip and Ambassador Han and his embassy staff helped make it possible.

Where we once forged a relationship on the battlefield together, building a secure environment for the nation to prosper over the last 60 years, today we attempt to forge a new economic and strategic bond for the future prosperity of our two nations. A country once ravaged by war, Korea received a substantial amount of foreign aid, but now enjoys an advanced and dynamic economy, and is itself today a generous donor of foreign aid. We work closely with Korea, maintaining a considered influence in that region as a deterrent to North Korean aggression and a counter to Chinese dominance.

The United States and Korea hold a forward-looking relationship. Every year, in so many ways, the United States and the Republic of Korea grow closer and closer together. The implementation this year of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade agreement is just one further symbol of the strength of our countries' friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to my dear

friend, Ambassador Han. We thank him for his service as South Korea's top diplomat in the United States and wish him every success as Chairman of the Korea International Trade Association.

HONORING DUCKS UNLIMITED FOR 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION SUCCESS

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ducks Unlimited's 75 years of tireless efforts to promote conservation and wilderness protection.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the Ducks Unlimited founders, members, supporters, partners and volunteers in Wisconsin and across the nation. Ducks Unlimited has had a positive impact on communities throughout America by helping to improve our culture and environment.

I congratulate Ducks Unlimited for the dedication of their volunteers and supporters, as well as the partners who time and time again have helped them succeed in their mission. This landmark anniversary represents the true legacy of this great organization and I applaud their efforts in conservation.

HONORING TONI AND BRUCE CORWIN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate my dear friends Toni and Bruce Corwin as they are honored by Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills at the 5th Annual Beverly Hills Purim Ball where they will be presented with the synagogue's Humanitarian Award on February 29, 2012.

I cannot imagine a more deserving couple to receive this award. For decades the Corwins have worked tirelessly within the Los Angeles Jewish community and our community at large. In addition to admiring their remarkable work, my wife, Janet, and I are personally grateful for the many years of friendship we have shared with Toni and Bruce.

Toni and Bruce have truly accumulated more than a lifetime's worth of professional and personal achievements. They have proven time and again that passion, commitment, and persistence can turn ideas into reality. Their longtime work on behalf of the Jewish community ranks them among the very top supporters and advocates in Los Angeles, and they have been an inspirational voice in higher education for decades.

Toni and Bruce are being honored by Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills for the extraor-

dinary leadership they have demonstrated for many years. In addition to providing a strong religious foundation, the synagogue, under their guidance, has developed many secular programs dealing with immigration, health insurance, the Middle East, Jewish-Muslim relations, art, dance and intergenerational theater.

Beyond the achievements Toni and Bruce have reached at Temple Emanuel, they have been recognized in the community as well. Their leadership has included membership on Mayor Tom Bradley's Blue Ribbon Committee of 40, presidency of the Coro Foundation National Board of Governors, serving as a trustee of the California Community Foundation and receiving the prestigious Pioneer of the Year Award from the Foundation of Motion Picture Pioneers.

I am delighted to congratulate my dear friends, Toni and Bruce Corwin, and ask that my colleagues join me in sending our very best wishes on this great occasion.

IN HONOR OF JACI PAPPAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of a true community pillar of California's Central Coast. Jaci Pappas is a fifth generation Californian who grew up in Stockton, California. But it has been in Big Sur where she has found her life's calling as champion volunteer. And while she has never sought out accolades, her neighbors have seen fit to honor her on March 2, 2012, as "Volunteer Extraordinaire." They have all benefited from Jaci's efforts to realize her life's theme: "Always give back to your community in whatever way you can."

Jaci earned a Business Administration degree from Mills College in Oakland, California. Soon after, she began her public service career in Sacramento as assistant to my good friend Assemblyman Willie Brown while he served as chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. In 1973, after twelve years in the Capitol, Jaci was appointed City Clerk for the City of Sacramento—the first woman to hold the position since Sacramento's founding in 1850.

In 1979, Jaci married architect Steve Pappas, and together they bought property and moved to Big Sur. She established herself as a bookkeeper working for various small businesses in Big Sur. Her volunteer work began in 1980 when she took on the unpaid position of secretary and then treasurer of the Coast Property Owners Association. She later held the same positions with the Big Sur Historical Society, and also served a number of years as head of the local Election Board, encouraging participation by all community members in the election process.

In addition to these leadership roles, Jaci has devoted countless hours giving her business and administrative skills to help community groups accomplish their work. Jaci has

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voluntarily handled the bookkeeping for the Big Sur River Run since its inception in 1981. That event has raised more than \$800,000 for the Big Sur Health Center and the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, two organizations for which Jaci also handles the bookkeeping. Other causes that she has helped in this way include the Big Sur Historical Society, Big Sur Jazz Festival, Big Sur Hidden Gardens Tour, Big Sur Grange, the Big Sur Community Emergency Response Team, the Big Sur Natural History Association, the Henry Miller Memorial Library, the Big Sur Public Library, and the Big Sur Food & Wine Festival. She also contributes her time as the editor of the Big Sur Grange, and the Round Up newsletters. She is even co-chair of the Big Sur Book Club.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I acknowledge and congratulate Jaci Pappas, Big Sur's "Volunteer Extraordinaire," for her record of stellar public service, and wish her many happy years ahead in which I know she will continue to teach us all how to live life well in voluntary service to others.

HONORING ATHLETICO AND ITS
FOUNDER, MARK KAUFMAN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank AthletiCo Physical and Occupational Therapy for serving the greater Chicagoland region for more than twenty years. AthletiCo is a rapidly expanding rehabilitation, outreach, and fitness center enterprise that has grown in size and now has over 60 facilities.

When founder Mark Kaufman first opened for business in 1991, AthletiCo had only one employee and two clients. Two decades later, AthletiCo operates throughout Northeastern Illinois, Milwaukee, and Northwest Indiana and employs more than 1,100 clinical and administrative staff. Mr. Kaufman's team has expanded over the years to include physical and occupational therapists, certified athletic trainers, personal trainers, strength and conditioning specialists, and massage therapists.

AthletiCo currently serves a large clientele of workers on disability, assisting their recovery and helping injured people get back to work. AthletiCo also closely associates with over 150 local high schools, colleges, and professional sports teams including Illinois' own Bears, Cubs, White Sox, Blackhawks, and Bulls, helping athletes stay in shape and recover from injury.

Mr. Kaufman also has a reputation for treating his employees well, allowing him to retain a happy and effective staff. AthletiCo prioritizes continuing education for its employees and also provides post-professional education through in-house training, tuition reimbursements, and orthopedic clinical residency programs.

I am proud to have this business in my district, and I look forward to its continuing positive impact. I am grateful for the services Mr. Kaufman and AthletiCo provide in Chicagoland and the surrounding areas. Please join me in celebrating AthletiCo as they continue to pursue their mission of improving the health and wellbeing of local men, women, and children.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR JIM
RIDENOUR

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and the deepest respect that I ask you to join me in honoring one of the Central Valley's most distinguished citizens, Mayor Jim Ridenour, as he ends his successful tenure as the Mayor of Modesto, California.

Mayor Ridenour epitomizes what is best about Modesto and has shown a selfless commitment to his community. A life-long resident of Modesto, Mayor Ridenour had a successful business career in the ambulance industry. He served five terms as Chairman of the California Ambulance Association, and received many awards and honors from the association and state legislators. He also served as a reserve deputy sheriff for Stanislaus and Santa Barbara counties.

During his eight years in office, Mayor Ridenour has shown a tireless commitment to help Modesto enrich and empower its citizens, families, businesses and schools. He has shown leadership in encouraging regional cooperation on important issues through initiatives such as the "Mayor's Working Group" which brings together the nine Mayors of Stanislaus County to share information and work together on central issues such as transportation. With the City Council's diligent work, he has provided leadership in consistently developing a balanced budget and in doing so has put Modesto in a far better financial position than many other cities in the surrounding area.

Mayor Ridenour has strived to make local government more user-friendly and accessible to the citizens of Modesto. He created a web-based citizen action center where citizens can report problems, ask questions and track responses and response times. He has also made applications for citizens' advisory committees available online. Mayor Ridenour has made an effort to make local government more transparent by developing a comprehensive Salary & Compensation webpage where the public can view Councilmembers' pay, Charter Officer contracts and pay, Department Director pay as well as all salary schedules and job descriptions as well as labor contracts. He has always been described as a man of the people.

Mayor Ridenour assumed an important leadership role as the President of the League of California Cities in 2010, a critical time for California's cities. As President and in his subsequent service as a member of the League's executive committee, Mayor Ridenour proved to be a powerful player in the fight for redevelopment and California's future.

Mayor Ridenour is married to his beautiful wife Renee for forty years and together they have three children and numerous grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating my good friend, Mayor Jim Ridenour and the Ridenour family as he celebrates his successful service as Modesto's Mayor.

HONORING HOLT HICKMAN AT THE
TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY IN
FORT WORTH

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has preserved Fort Worth's unique history and has made sure it is available for future generations; Holt Hickman. This Weatherford native is being honored at the Texas Independence Day in Fort Worth, and I couldn't think of a better Cowtown honoree.

While Holt is being recognized for his commitment to Fort Worth's past, his business career has been about innovation and looking to the future. Holt is responsible for helping bring air conditioning to automobiles turning the feature from a luxury to a necessity. The first Japanese cars sold to the U.S. market had air conditioning only because Holt convinced the auto makers this was the future. Holt is not only a successful businessman who has had local, national and international reach, he has also been one of the many tenacious civic leaders in our community who have made Fort Worth what it is today.

Holt helped save and preserve the Fort Worth Stockyards in what was one of the largest historic preservation projects in the country. He accomplished this in part by working with passionate and committed partners. Because of his efforts, the Stockyards are one of the most visited and beloved areas of the city today. As Mayor, I was privileged to have Holt as a partner and that friendship has continued throughout my career. His energy, generosity, and vision will continue to enhance our city's cowboy heritage for generations to come. I couldn't think of a more deserving Texan to be honored on the day of our state's independence.

HONORING ETHAN NELSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Nelson. Ethan 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 206, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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