

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 96, I was not able to vote because I was called away for the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to commemorate the remarkable life of Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

I am deeply saddened that my friend DON is no longer with us. DON was a special man who touched the lives of so many. He truly saw his life's work as a way to serve others and make the world a better and more just place. His compassion for all will be sorely missed.

DON was my colleague in the Education and the Workforce Committee, and I saw firsthand the passion he brought on behalf of America's children. He was a constant advocate for early education, recognizing that all children deserve a solid educational foundation regardless of income or circumstances. He recognized the power of education to further civil rights, and he strongly supported Historically Black Colleges and Native Hawaiian education. More than anything, DON saw education as a tool to create a more just and civil world.

DON's compassion extended to those suffering abroad. He worked tirelessly to promote democracy around the world, and I was fortunate to travel with DON to Haiti as part of the House Democracy Assistance Partnership, of which he was a founding member. Our bipartisan team greatly appreciated DON's leadership and experience, and his presence helped gain the U.S. delegation the respect of our Haitian colleagues.

But DON's largest overseas focus was on Africa, where he traveled to dangerous conflict areas in Somalia and Darfur. DON refused to stand by and watch the suffering of innocent African families and children. As noted by Steve Heyes, President of the Corporate Council on Africa:

Africa mourns today for it has lost its greatest advocate in America with the passing of U.S. Congressman Don Payne, and such an advocate with so much experience and passion will not rise again soon. So, too, did the poor and downtrodden lose one of the few such Congressman who still cares about their fate and understood their lives so well.

Madam Speaker, I know that DONALD PAYNE has left a lasting impact on the world. We can all start to live up to his example by living our lives with empathy and compassion. While he will be sorely missed, he will never be forgotten. I join with my colleagues and with all of his friends and colleagues in giving thanks for Congressman DONALD PAYNE's life of service.

My thoughts and prayers are with DON's family and friends. May he rest in peace.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH—HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS VICTOR MEDINA

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as our nation recognizes Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month, I rise to honor Sergeant First Class Victor Medina who was wounded in Iraq by an Improvised Explosive Device. Victor and his wife Roxana Delgado continue to work selflessly to provide encouragement and support for his fellow Wounded Warriors, even as they deal with the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

SFC Victor Medina was wounded in the summer of 2009 by an explosive formed projectile while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The blast left SFC Medina with TBI, and he spent nearly two months receiving care at the Department of Defense's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany before returning home to El Paso, Texas.

After 16 months of rehabilitation, SFC Medina still copes with lingering side effects. He continues to have problems with vision, hearing, balance, headaches, and speech; however, regardless of his symptoms SFC Medina believes that 'with or without injury we are all responsible for our actions and our future. Life is about decisions, and you can choose to stand up and make the best out of your life.' SFC Medina did just that. He chose not to be a victim; he chose to be a warrior. Since then, SFC Medina has been empowering and motivating others struggling with TBI to set their sights on a brighter future.

SFC Medina along with his wife, Roxana Delgado, created a blog during his recovery to provide insight on the effects of TBI. The couple has written about their struggles and triumphs in dealing with the issue, and their blog eventually morphed into a Web site, www.tbiwarrior.com. The blog raises awareness and understanding of TBI and serves to empower survivors and caregivers through education and advocacy while providing resources to heal with hope.

Each year approximately 1.7 million Americans experience TBI, and an estimated 3.2 million Americans are living with severe, long-term disabilities caused by it. TBI has been named the signature injury for troops wounded

in Afghanistan and Iraq with an estimated 360,000 brain-injured men and women returning home from the battlefield.

As we commemorate National Traumatic Brain Injury Month, it is my great honor to share Victor and Roxana's story for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to recognize their outstanding contributions to the Traumatic Brain Injury warrior community in El Paso, in the State of Texas, and throughout our nation.

Brave service members like SFC Medina answer the call of duty and make tremendous sacrifices for our country. As a combat veteran myself, I salute all of our courageous men and women in the Armed Forces and the families who support them. For SFC Medina and other TBI warriors, TBI is not the end; it can be a new beginning.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S "2-28 MASSACRE"

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 65th commemoration of Taiwan's "2-28 Massacre." The massacre was an anti-government uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947 and was violently suppressed by General Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government during the following weeks. Estimates of the number of deaths vary from ten thousand to thirty thousand.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year, the United Nations handed administrative control of Taiwan to the KMT-administered Republic of China, ROC. Sixteen months of KMT administration on Taiwan led to the widespread impression among the people of Taiwan that the party was plagued by nepotism, corruption, and economic failure.

Tensions increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. The flashpoint came on February 28, 1947 when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and an officer of the Government's Office of Monopoly triggered civil disorder and open rebellion by the native Taiwanese against KMT repression.

During the following weeks, Chiang's government sent troops from China to Taiwan. The Chinese soldiers started to round up and execute a whole generation of a Taiwanese elite of lawyers, doctors, students, professors etc. . .

It is estimated that up to 30,000 people lost their lives during the turmoil. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under a Martial Law that would not be lifted until 1987.

Mr. Speaker, the Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half century, the

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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.

Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the event helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a thriving and pluralistic democracy.

In some ways, the 2–28 massacre was Taiwan's "Boston Massacre" for both events functioned as the cradle of a move by both peoples to full democracy and helped galvanize the strive to independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before: "Freedom is not negotiable." May the lessons learned from the 2–28 Massacre continue to inspire the people of Taiwan in their struggle for freedom, full independence, international participation, and for the continued enhancement of the mutual relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating this sad but important historical event.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 97, I was not able to vote because I was called away for the funeral of a close friend.

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize women leaders and their many contributions to our community.

Recently, we celebrated the significant advancement in girls' participation in sports as we commemorated the 25th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day and the 40th anniversary of Title IX. Today, I want to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) women's basketball team for winning the 2012 Conference USA Championship, and the 2012 Conference USA Regular Season Title for the second time in the past five years. These talented young women serve as positive role models for the El Paso community.

I want to congratulate Keitha Adams for being named Conference USA Coach of the Year. This is the second time Coach Adams has been honored with this title, and her leadership helped the UTEP program win two

Conference USA regular season titles in the last five years. I also want to congratulate Gloria Brown for winning Conference USA Sixth Player of the Year for a second-consecutive season, and El Paso's own Kayla Thornton, an Irvin High School graduate, was recognized as an All-Conference USA performer.

These remarkable women not only strengthen themselves, their families and the El Paso community, but they serve as an inspiration to encourage schools and the El Paso community to increase opportunities for girls and women in sports.

El Paso, Texas, has a rich history and is home to strong and passionate women who have played critical roles in making higher education a reality, promoting our small businesses, serving El Paso as public servants, safeguarding our community, and ensuring access to health care for children, families and seniors.

Leaders like Dr. Diana Natalicio of the University of Texas at El Paso; Cindy Ramos-Davidson of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Belen Robles, the first female president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Dr. Blanca Enriquez, life-long educator and Associate Executive Director for Head Start; Rosa Guerrero, a pioneer educator, artist, renowned dancer, and humanitarian; and Suzie Azar, El Paso's first and only woman Mayor. These remarkable women, and many others, have made history in the border region, and we are blessed that they call El Paso home.

Mr. Speaker, while women have achieved great success, we recognize women still face many challenges and there is still much work to be done. This month, I reaffirm my commitment to policies and initiatives that support more and better opportunities for women and girls.

HONORING GIRL SCOUTS IN AMERICA

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Girl Scout Ambassador Mara Scherer. Ms. Scherer has been a Girl Scout for 12 years, and recently unveiled her exhibit at the New London Public Museum celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts in America. This exhibit represents her Gold Award project, the highest award a Girl Scout can attain.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask you to join me in celebrating the life of Juliette Gordon Low, the visionary founder of Girl Scouts in America. She established the first troop on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. For the last cen-

tury, Girl Scouts in America has had a positive impact on young girls throughout the country by teaching them values, life-skills and giving them opportunities to improve their communities.

I commend Ms. Scherer for this project, and I congratulate the Girl Scouts in America on their 100th anniversary for keeping their promise to serve God and country, to help their neighbors and to keep the Girl Scout Law.

A TRIBUTE TO RIC JURGENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Hy-Vee Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ric Jurgens, and to express my appreciation for his years of service to his company and to the people of Iowa.

For Ric, successfully assuming the head responsibilities of one of the Midwest's largest grocery companies was no accident. He has been a dedicated employee of Hy-Vee for 42 years. His career with Hy-Vee began as a part-time employee, stocking shelves in Ames, while pursuing his degree at Iowa State University. Upon graduation, Mr. Jurgens was offered his first full-time position in the company and has been climbing the ranks ever since. Most notably, in 2001, Mr. Jurgens became Hy-Vee's third president in company history; two years later Ric would be elected as Hy-Vee's CEO and by 2006 he had been elected as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Jurgens' successful tenure is one that will never be forgotten by the Hy-Vee family. Under Ric, Hy-Vee enjoyed record sales to the tune of a staggering 7.3 billion dollars for 2011 from 235 stores across eight states. Ric has overseen Hy-Vee's transformation from a respectable grocery store chain to an industry-leading powerhouse that still prides itself on staying true to its foundation—the employees. Above all, the employee owned Hy-Vee will always be about rewarding hard work, even providing the unique opportunity for a part-time employee to someday hold the company's highest office.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his entire professional career, Ric has never wavered in his commitment to providing excellent service and quality products to the people of Iowa and the Midwest. While Hy-Vee will surely miss Mr. Jurgens' expertise, he leaves his company, which is stronger than ever, in good hands. I ask the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Jurgens on a job well done, and I wish Ric and his wife Carol a long, happy and healthy retirement.