

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOIS
ROCKHILL

—
HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the long and distinguished career of a true community leader in east central Indiana. After more than two decades in service to those within our community who need a helping hand, Lois Rockhill will be retiring as the executive director of the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana.

Before coming to Indiana, Lois had already distinguished herself while serving in Turkey as a member of the Peace Corps. When she came to Second Harvest in 1989, the organization had distributed 450,000 pounds of food to those in need. Under her leadership, that amount has grown to more than 9.5 million pounds of food this past year, which exceeded their goal for 2011.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana is now the region's largest charity dedicated to alleviating hunger. Each year, the organization provides food assistance to more than 69,000 low-income Hoosiers facing hunger. That includes nearly 31,000 children and more than 5,000 senior citizens.

The leadership Lois has shown over the last 23 years will be sorely missed, but I am confident that the proud legacy she built at Second Harvest will continue. And though her retirement plans include spending more time with her grandchildren and traveling with her beloved husband Erv, Lois will always be a voice for those in our community who are less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, Lois Rockhill dedicated her career to serving the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens. Her career at Second Harvest and tireless advocacy for those in need will long be remembered as a blessing to Eastern Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

—
HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 3992, the E-2 Nonimmigrant Visas for Israeli Nationals. Had I been able to I would have cast an "aye" vote in favor of the legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. GEORGE
RAZ AUTRY JR.

—
HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Raz Autry, Jr., a proud veteran, a defender of education and a dedicated, lifelong contributor to the great State of North Carolina.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps out of High School, Mr. Autry honorably served our country in World War II. Upon his return, he attended East Carolina Teachers College where he served as Student Body President. Raz married his wife Ireni Toumaras Autry in 1951.

Mr. Autry then moved to my home county of Montgomery County, North Carolina, and helped open East Montgomery High School, my alma mater. Mr. Autry found further opportunity in Hoke County in 1967, where he became Hoke High School Principal and later School Superintendent. He continues his life of service today in Hoke County as a peach farmer, author, columnist, speaker, auctioneer and respected community leader.

An ambassador for education in North Carolina for more than 45 years, Mr. Autry has served in a multitude of prominent and important roles in support of youth, farmers and our community as a whole. Mr. Autry's impact on North Carolina will last for generations. His selfless service has inspired countless others, including myself. Mr. Autry has led through both example and instruction, and continues to serve as inspiration to all of us who know him. I was honored to nominate Mr. Autry for The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest order that can be bestowed in our State of North Carolina. Raz received that recognition recently, and he is certainly deserving of such a distinction.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of my friend, a mentor, and my former High School principal, Mr. Raz Autry. Let us thank him for his life of continued service to the future of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

—
HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately delayed by a meeting and was unable to cast a vote on rollcall 111 on the evening of March 19, 2012. I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3992—"To allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel."

COMMENDING THE 2012 SUBURBAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SERVICE
AWARD

—
HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the honorees of the 2012 Suburban Chamber of Commerce Service Awards. The Chamber is an accomplished partnership of business and professional people working together to build a healthy economy and improve the quality of life in our communities. The Chamber, which represents the communities of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, brings people together who live or work in the area and who want to better their community. I congratulate the 2012 honorees for "Tying the Communities Together."

President's Award—The Honorable Jordan Glatt, Former Mayor of Summit, New Jersey.
Beautification Award—McGrath's Hardware, New Providence, NJ.

Business of the Year—Investors Bank.
Public Service Award—The Honorable Jon Bramnick, Minority Leader in the New Jersey State Assembly.

Public Service Organization—The Summit Area YMCA.

Silver Service Award—Karen Olson, Family Promise.

I thank these public servants and organizations for their tremendous public service.

CELEBRATING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF CURTIS
MEEDER

—
HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a skilled engineer, devoted public servant and faithful patriot, on a distinguished 33-year career with the Army Corps of Engineers.

On March 31st, 2012, Curtis Meeder will retire from the Corps to begin a new chapter in his life. Since 1979, he has used his extensive knowledge of economics and water resources management to improve the navigability of our Nation's waterways, to aid in disaster relief efforts and to reduce the risk of flooding in our local communities.

Curt began his career with the Corps in the Detroit District as an economist and water resources planner. From there, he went on to work as a study coordinator and technical reviewer in the North Central Division for 5 years, and then as a supervisor in the St. Paul District for 6 years.

Since moving to Pennsylvania in 1988 to work out of the Pittsburgh District, Curt has taken leadership roles in a number of projects

● 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.

aimed at improving existing water navigation systems, including the Upper Ohio Navigation Study, the Nation's largest such study on an inland river system. He has also demonstrated a clear commitment to helping communities in need. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he served two deployments in New Orleans, during which he coordinated requests for Federal debris removal assistance with parish and local municipal officials, monitored contractor curb-side collection from private properties, and worked with regulatory agencies to reduce the environmental impacts of disposal operations.

Currently, Curt serves as the Pittsburgh District's Chief of Planning and Environmental Branch. One of his most critical responsibilities in this capacity is to be a leader in the Corps' public outreach efforts. He has demonstrated a flair for concise and effective communication in his interactions with private citizens, regional organizations and government agencies. He consistently articulates esoteric engineering concepts and flood repair processes in easily understandable terms.

Curt's laudable service has earned him a number of well-deserved Army Civilian Service honors. These include the Superior Civilian Service Award; two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service; and three Achievement Medals for Civilian Service.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with Curtis for over a decade. He's a first-class public servant whose experiences and expertise will surely be missed.

I wish Curt the best of luck as he transitions into retirement. I share in the pride that his devoted wife Cindy and two sons feel in his accomplishments, and have the utmost confidence that he will continue to be successful in whatever he chooses to do next.

HONORING ALFRED L. MARDER AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise today to join the many friends, family, and community leaders who have gathered to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Alfred L. Marder as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Al is one of our community's most active advocates—dedicating much of his life to fighting for social justice and the improvement of the quality of life for all.

Al Marder is an institution in our community. He is perhaps best known for his work to promote peace, social justice, worker's rights and equality. His commitment to these issues is unwavering—regardless of controversy, he always stands firm in his fight to protect human rights.

Over the course of his 90 years, Al has made innumerable contributions to our community and our nation. In his early years, Al served as Executive Director of the Connecticut CIO Youth and Sports Organization and was President of the New Haven Youth Conference. He served in the United States Infantry during World War II and was stationed in the European Theater where he received the Bronze Star. Following the war, Al com-

pleted his college education at the University of Connecticut and soon found a passion that he would pursue for the rest of his life. During the McCarthy era, Al was one of those singled out for proudly sharing his thoughts and ideas. Standing firm in his support of civil liberties and the right of every American to freely express themselves, Al discovered his passion for civil and workers rights—two issues to which he has dedicated a lifetime of advocacy.

Here in New Haven, Al has made many contributions that have changed the face of our community. One of those outstanding efforts was his work to bring light to story of the Amistad captives and its lessons of unity to achieve freedom. The Amistad story has a special connection to the New Haven community and its resurrection and celebration has become a great source of pride. It has led to the erection of a statue of Sengbe Pieh at City Hall, the re-creation of the Amistad ship at Mystic Seaport, and the formation of the Connecticut African American Freedom Trail. Through each of these efforts, the story of the Amistad and its captives' fight for freedom teaches new generations of the fundamental liberties on which our nation was built. It has had an extraordinary impact on our community and would not have been possible without Al's commitment to ensuring its success.

I am honored to have this opportunity to join all of those gathered today in wishing Alfred L. Marder a very happy 90th birthday. At 90-years young, Al continues his work on behalf of those whose voices are too often silenced. Al has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy of advocacy and compassion that will certainly inspire generations to come. I extend my very best wishes to him, his children, Rebecca and Kenneth, and his grandchildren, Emily and Adam, for many more years of health and happiness.

125 REASONS TO CELEBRATE THE GREATER ORANGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tonight, this vibrant Chamber will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. This great advocate for small business began back in 1887 as a citizens committee and then became the city's Board of Trade just before the turn of the 20th century.

The city of Orange was born the same year Texas won its Independence, but its history goes much further back. The area first settled around 1600 by the Atakapas tribe is now a shining jewel in the Golden Triangle's crown.

Following up on Orange's proud heritage of ship building for America's military, it was this Chamber that saw the future of petrochemicals and brought jobs to the area just as our soldiers, sailors and marines were returning from World War II.

This Chamber has a long history of bringing civic leaders and business leaders together to make Orange a better place to live and work. The community, led by a vibrant Chamber of Commerce, has taken on the tough tasks from

building better roads, a first rate port, strong local schools and a growing college.

Named for its Orange groves, the modern Orange boasts its very own Shangri-La and the world class Lutch Theater as well as the renowned Stark Museum of Art. This is a community that doesn't shy away from a challenge. Hurricanes Rita and Ike only hardened the resolve of this Golden Triangle treasure and I expect more great things from Orange in the next 125 years as this community continues to grow, while maintaining its signature small town charm mixed with world-class culture.

Today, I honor all those who have made this Chamber great and look forward to meeting those who will lead it in the future.

HONORING JESSIE BENTON
FREMONT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Women's History Month, to acknowledge and honor the life and legacy of Jessie Benton Fremont, a California resident, who helped inspire and lead efforts to preserve and protect what is now a very significant part of Yosemite National Park.

Jessie Benton Fremont was born May 31, 1824, near Lexington, Virginia to United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton and his wife, Elizabeth. Her father, a Senator from Missouri, was very influential in the development of her independent and visionary nature. While in Washington, Mrs. Fremont met her husband, United States Army Lieutenant John Charles Fremont. John Fremont became a great explorer of the Western United States after he was assigned to lead expeditions reaching from the Midwest to California.

In the late 1850's, the Fremonts and their children settled in Bear Valley, near Mariposa, California. While living there, Mrs. Fremont fell in love with Yosemite Valley. Like all who view the valley for the first time, she was awestruck by the grand rock formations, Giant Sequoia trees, waterfalls, and impressive scenery. She shared her love for Yosemite Valley with those who visited her home. She took visitors on tours and hosted afternoon teas and Sunday dinners at her Bear Valley and Black Point homes for well-known authors, editors, photographers, and military and political leaders. Some of her guests included Horace Greeley, Thomas Starr King, Carleton Watkins, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and United States Senator Edward Baker of Oregon.

During these social gatherings, Mrs. Fremont shared her concern for the need to preserve Yosemite Valley and the Giant Sequoias. Many of her friends and acquaintances joined her effort to lobby Congress and President Abraham Lincoln to protect Yosemite Valley and what would later become known as the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

Mrs. Fremont's passionate leadership in preserving Yosemite Valley was an instrumental first step in a long chain of activism that resulted in designating the land as a National Park. In 1864, Mrs. Fremont and her associates encouraged their friend, Israel Ward Raymond, to send United States Senator John