

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. IRA LEE SULLIVAN FOR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Ira Lee Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan was born on May 22, 1918 in Webster County, Mississippi. His life was transcended on November 7, 2011. He was married to Jo Ella Campbell-Sullivan for 63 years until she preceded him in death in 2009.

Mr. Sullivan is a remarkable veteran for a number of reasons. His tour of duty was filled with heroic actions, life threatening calls to duty, and celebration. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy on July 6, 1938 out of Grenada, Mississippi and spent most of his tour of duty in the Pacific. He was aboard the USS *Enterprise* on December 7, 1941 in Honolulu during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was a member of the USS *Enterprise* (CV-6) aircraft carrier which became one of the most decorated U.S. Naval vessels of World War II. Mr. Sullivan was aboard the destroyer USS *Morrison* that was sunk on May 4, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. While aboard, more than twenty-five Japanese Kamikaze planes air raided the vessel killing 152 of the 331 aboard. Mr. Sullivan's parents were notified by the Navy that he was aboard the vessel when it sank and was therefore missing in action and presumed dead. Yet despite all the odds, a few weeks later he returned home to the astonishment of his family. He was honorably discharged on November 30, 1945, with numerous awards and citations that included the Presidential Unit Citation Award and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ira Lee Sullivan, a decorated World War II veteran and an unforgotten hero for his dedication and service to this country and the pride of this family.

FRED ANDERSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Colorado State Senator Fred Anderson. A Loveland native and former Senate President, Mr. Anderson recently passed away at the age of 83.

Senator Anderson is remembered by his colleagues for his decency, statesmanship, and expertise on water issues. He was first elected in 1966, at the age of 38. For eight of his sixteen years in office, he also served as Senate President. Among his signature achievements were helping to integrate Colo-

rado's ground and surface water rights, restructuring state water laws, and securing in-stream flow water rights.

Since retiring from the legislature in 1982, Senator Anderson stayed active on water issues and chaired the Loveland Water and Sewer Board. He received a Presidential appointment to the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, where he served for six years. Additionally, he helped found the House of Neighborly Service and Project Self-Sufficiency, and was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Fred Anderson's family has resided in the Loveland area since his great-great-grandparents, indentured servants from Sweden, were married there in 1876. He grew up on a farm before serving with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. After the war, he returned to Colorado and married his wife of 57 years, Anne, and began a career raising cattle. He is also survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Senator Fred Anderson. I rise today in remembrance of his dedication to his family and to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING MR. HOSEA SPENCER FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Hosea Spencer, of Greenville, Mississippi.

Mr. Spencer attended Coleman Middle & High School, located in Greenville, Mississippi. He withdrew from school in the 11th grade to join the military, enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and serving through 1957. Mr. Spencer received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. After basic training, he became a part of the James Connally Air Force Base in Waco, Texas. He was stationed there for 2½ years, and held the title, Corporal, in the medical field.

In September of 1956, Mr. Spencer volunteered to go overseas. He was stationed in England, where he was an Air Policeman at the 388th Air Police Squadron, which was his last duty assignment and major command.

Mr. Spencer was awarded during his service time for being a Rifleman and a Sharpshooter. He also received a National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Spencer learned a lot about life during his time in the service. Being in the U.S. Air Force taught him everything as a young man and gave him a chance to see the world. His only regret is that he did not make a career with the military.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hosea Spencer for his time and dedication to serving our country.

LAWRENCE ATENCIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of outgoing Pueblo, Colorado City Council Representative Lawrence Atencio. Mr. Atencio's last day representing Council District 2 was December 31, 2011.

A man of wide-ranging experience and talents, Lawrence Atencio served in the Armed Forces and worked in municipal government, academia, the arts, and in private business before his election to the council. He served two terms of office, beginning in 2007.

After graduating from East High School in 1965, Lawrence earned associate's and bachelor's degrees from Southern Colorado State College, and later a master's in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army from 1970–1972, and then returned home to Pueblo and became a Health Inspector. Since 1984, he has owned and operated LA Distributing Company.

Mr. Atencio has also been an instructor of classical ballet since 1972, as well as director/choreographer for the Colorado State Fair Fiesta Committee Scholarship Pageant and an actor in community theatre and the film industry. Since 1991, he has taught Business, Macro Economics, Sociology, and Chicano Studies at the college level. Mr. Atencio is active in the Knights of Columbus and is a private pilot.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilman Lawrence Atencio. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

RECOGNIZING MR. ISAAC DANIEL SCOTT FOR HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta, Mr. Isaac Daniel Scott.

Mr. Scott was drafted to serve in the United States Army while pursuing an education in Agriculture Business at Tennessee State University. Mr. Scott served during the Vietnam Conflict and was a member of the 1st Cavalry Air Mobile Unit. He earned the rank of Specialist and an Honorable Discharge after his tour of duty. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Mr. Scott returned to the Mississippi Delta to pursue farming with his father, Mr. Edward Scott.

Mr. Scott wanted to continue his contact with fellow veterans and became a member of

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the American Legion Post #220 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. In 2009 he was elected to serve as Vice Commander of VFW Post #220.

Mr. Scott is married to Ms. Lucy Chatman-Scott and they are the proud parents of seven children and three grandchildren. A proud veteran and family man, he lives his life by the motto: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Isaac Scott for his dedication to serving our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE TEACHERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Teachers Federal Credit Union, a financial institution dedicated to the continued success of its members and to promoting financial literacy throughout the community.

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the TFCU on the occasion of their 60th anniversary and the opening of its new headquarters in Hauppauge.

Since its founding in 1952, Teachers Federal Credit Union has grown from a tiny credit union with seven members and \$35 to an institution with over 200,000 members and \$4 billion in assets. Along the way, TFCU and its members have found time to demonstrate a continued commitment to efforts aimed at preserving the environment and improving the quality of life enjoyed by Long Islanders.

I would also like to commend TFCU on its continuing dedication to the promotion of financial literacy. In recognition of that dedication, the Teachers Federal Credit Union has been awarded the Desjardins Youth Education Award, given in honor of significant commitment to youth financial education, six times.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Teachers Federal Credit Union, and my hopes for their continued success at their new Hauppauge location.

RAY AGUILERA TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of outgoing Pueblo, Colorado City Council President Ray Aguilera. Mr. Aguilera's last day representing Council District 4 was December 31, 2011.

Ray Aguilera knows the City of Pueblo well thanks to his roles as a student recruiter at Pueblo Community College and as manager of both Pueblo Boulevard Liquors and Fiesta Used Cars. This extensive business and educational experience has served him well during his two stints with the Council, first in 2003 and then beginning in 2007.

A graduate of Pueblo Catholic High School, Mr. Aguilera attended Southern Colorado State College, St. Michaels College, and Pueblo Junior College. In addition to his Coun-

cil responsibilities, he has been a member of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, Carving for Colorado Board of Directors, and Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo Board of Directors, as well as many other outstanding civic organizations. He is the president and founder of the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation.

Mr. Aguilera's numerous local awards have included Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year, Latino Chamber Member of the Year, and the Latin-American Educational Foundation Annual Salute Award. His daughter, Andrea Nicole Aguilera, is a senior at Colorado State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilman Ray Aguilera. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT JOE NATHAN WILSON FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable veteran, Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson. Sergeant Wilson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and desire.

Sergeant Wilson, a lifelong resident of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, was born on October 7, 1973 to Joseph Johnson and Maxine Adams.

He graduated from Crystal Springs High School in 1993. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served until the Chinook helicopter he was aboard went down on November 2, 2003, in Al Fallujah, Iraq. In 2002 he married Erica Beatty and to that union they had a daughter, Yasmin.

Sergeant Wilson's attitude was always positive, whether serving in the army or competing on the football field at Crystal Springs High. He attended White Oak Baptist Church in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. As a member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, Staff Sergeant Wilson received several honors including the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson for his unwavering dedication to serving our great country.

LGBT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she declared on December 6, 2011, that LGBT rights are human rights. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the speech she gave in recognition of International Human Rights Day in Geneva, Switzerland, when she passionately and persuasively de-

scribed the importance of the LGBT struggle for basic human rights.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Good evening, and let me express my deep honor and pleasure at being here. I want to thank Director General Tokayev and Ms. Wyden along with other ministers, ambassadors, excellencies, and UN partners. This weekend, we will celebrate Human Rights Day, the anniversary of one of the great accomplishments of the last century.

Beginning in 1947, delegates from six continents devoted themselves to drafting a declaration that would enshrine the fundamental rights and freedoms of people everywhere. In the aftermath of World War II, many nations pressed for a statement of this kind to help ensure that we would prevent future atrocities and protect the inherent humanity and dignity of all people. And so the delegates went to work. They discussed, they wrote, they revisited, revised, rewrote, for thousands of hours. And they incorporated suggestions and revisions from governments, organizations, and individuals around the world.

At three o'clock in the morning on December 10th, 1948, after nearly two years of drafting and one last long night of debate, the president of the UN General Assembly called for a vote on the final text. Forty-eight nations voted in favor; eight abstained; none dissented. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. It proclaims a simple, powerful idea: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And with the declaration, it was made clear that rights are not conferred by government; they are the birthright of all people. It does not matter what country we live in, who our leaders are, or even who we are. Because we are human, we therefore have rights. And because we have rights, governments are bound to protect them.

In the 63 years since the declaration was adopted, many nations have made great progress in making human rights a human reality. Step by step, barriers that once prevented people from enjoying the full measure of liberty, the full experience of dignity, and the full benefits of humanity have fallen away. In many places, racist laws have been repealed, legal and social practices that relegated women to second-class status have been abolished, the ability of religious minorities to practice their faith freely has been secured.

In most cases, this progress was not easily won. People fought and organized and campaigned in public squares and private spaces to change not only laws, but hearts and minds. And thanks to that work of generations, for millions of individuals whose lives were once narrowed by injustice, they are now able to live more freely and to participate more fully in the political, economic, and social lives of their communities.

Now, there is still, as you all know, much more to be done to secure that commitment, that reality, and progress for all people. Today, I want to talk about the work we have left to do to protect one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today. In many ways, they are an invisible minority. They are arrested, beaten, terrorized, even executed. Many are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, even join in the abuse. They are denied opportunities to work and learn, driven from their homes and countries, and forced to suppress or deny who they are to protect themselves from harm.

I am talking about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, human beings born