

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLEY DIAZ, USCG

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career achievements of Charley L. Diaz as he retires from the United States Coast Guard. Charley has dedicated over thirty years to serving this great nation in the United States Coast Guard.

As a second generation American, he answered the call to serve by attending the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1982. Quickly rising up the ranks, he thwarted narcotic, terrorist, and other maritime threats. He returned to school and attained high honors at both the United States Naval War College and Harvard University. His work even caught the attention of Hollywood and authors alike; he briefed famed spy novel/military author Tom Clancy on maritime drug smuggling techniques for his book and later turned movie, "Clear and Present Danger." Under his leadership, the crew rescued the distressed fishermen of "The Perfect Storm." To top it all off, Charley is a proud recipient of four Meritorious Service medals, three United States Coast Guard Commendation medals, the Humanitarian Service medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, please join me in congratulating Charley, who is retiring with over thirty years of service. Charley, we wish you and your family all the best!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding players of Marcus High School's boys' basketball team as they celebrate their second consecutive title as 5A state champions. Capably led by Head Coach Danny Henderson, the team's history is a story of success.

The Marcus Marauders demonstrated their determination last year by winning the 2011 state championship. This year, I am very pleased to see they have retained the title of 5A state champions. In the last three seasons, Marcus High School won 115 of its 121 games, proof that the team's drive is matched by its athletic ability. Teammates Phil Forte and Marcus Smart scored 39 points defending their Class 5A championship with a 56-52 victory over Fort Bend Travis. The Marauders closed out the 2011-2012 season with a four point victory. Forte was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2012 Class 5A state championship game.

I am proud of these young men and their coaches; they have been excellent athletic

ambassadors for the Town of Flower Mound and the Lewisville Independent School District. Joining me in saluting their tremendous achievement are their fellow Marcus High School students and the LISD administrators, staff and teachers who have supported their efforts. I am pleased to recognize the Marcus High School boys' basketball team of Flower Mound, Texas as 5A state champions for 2012.

HONORING CANDY O'DONEL-BROWNE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Candy O'Donel-Browne, a tireless advocate for victims of domestic abuse in California's San Joaquin Valley. As we observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week, this is a fitting time to honor Mrs. O'Donel-Browne. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, VRC, I was proud to nominate Mrs. O'Donel-Browne for the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy, one of five annual awards given by the VRC. Each year, the Ed Stout Award honors professionals or volunteers whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. Mrs. O'Donel-Browne has spent her life doing just that.

After seeing the lack of services for victims in our Valley's rural communities, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne and a few other concerned community members created Mountain Crisis Services, Inc., MCS, in Mariposa, California, in 1990. Since the beginning of MCS, she served as a dedicated and innovative board member and now serves as President of the Board of Directors. Though the work is challenging both physically and mentally, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne has shown exceptional creativity and flexibility, easily filling the role of Executive Director when needed. Due to her diligence and dedication, the life saving services offered by MCS never cease.

In 2008, Mrs. O'Donel-Browne again noticed a void in victims' services in Merced County. After a sister agency was forced to close its doors, MCS opened a fully functioning office and shelter in only six weeks. When the agency finally shut down its services, the Valley Crisis Center stood at the ready to assist victims in Merced County. During this time, she often articulated the need to ensure that no victim should be left without services or access to safety.

MCS has transformed from a single domestic violence agency with a staff of 12 to a dual domestic violence and rape crisis agency with a staff of 30, serving two counties with vastly different populations. Although this transition occurred in a time of economic recession and tight state and federal budgets, she surmounted the odds and did so with professionalism, passion and grace.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking Mrs. Candy O'Donel-Browne for her devotion to the domestic violence movement and to the victims she so faithfully serves. Please join me today in recognizing her remarkable achievements and wish her and the communities she serves many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary bravery and sacrifice of our service men and women by celebrating National Military Appreciation Month.

Since 1999, veteran and service organizations have held events around the country to demonstrate to current and former men and women in uniform and their families that we honor their service. From Military Spouse Appreciation Day to Victory in Europe Day, and from Loyalty Day to Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, the month of May is a time for our Nation to come together. It is important for all of us to recognize the tremendous service of military members and families across the globe.

The men and women who serve in uniform are guided by their tremendous sense of duty to America and their fellow citizens. In California's 37th District, we've had over 190,000 troops deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001. It has been my honor to represent these constituents and I am extremely proud of their service.

In my district, we suffered the loss of 12 remarkable servicemen. We remember Long Beach residents: Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano, Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins, Sgt. Anthony J. Davis, Jr., Sgt. Israel Garcia, Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra, Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr., Spec. Roberto L. Martinez Salazar, Spec. Astor A. Sunsin-Pineda, Pfc. David T. Toomalatai, Pfc. George D. Torres and Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, as well as Carson resident Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle, who were all killed in action.

As we acknowledge our former, current and future military men and women, it is essential that we provide the resources necessary to help wounded warriors and their families adjust to life outside of the military. I am extremely proud that from 2007-2010, under Democratic Leadership, Congress showed unprecedented support for the troops, their families, and veterans by strengthening health care for more than 5 million veterans, giving troops a pay raise, and strengthening support for military families.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to praise our most heroic citizens. I hope you'll all join me in reflecting on the valor and courage our solemn warriors display in defense of our freedom.

• 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.

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY 2012

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Israel is celebrating the 64th Anniversary of its declaration of Independence, issued one day before the expiration of the British Mandate. For 64 years, Israel has grown from an agricultural nation of pioneers to an ultra-modern high tech powerhouse.

Israel has repeatedly absorbed hundreds of thousands of immigrants, found employment for them and used their skills and ingenuity to build a remarkable country. Since its founding, Israel's population has grown tenfold, thanks in part to the arrival of Jewish populations fleeing discrimination in Europe, Arab countries, Africa and the Soviet Union. As a nation of immigrants, Israel draws its strength from the diversity of its people, much as the United States does.

Against all odds, Israel has grown into an economic powerhouse. It was welcomed in 2010 as a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), marking it as one of the world's most highly developed economies. Israel has shown that a small country with few natural resources can succeed by investing in its people and supporting its emerging companies. Israel has more high tech start-ups than any other country in the world other than the United States, and it attracts more venture capital per capita than any other nation.

Israel has succeeded by transforming its challenges into assets. Adversity has made it innovative. Lacking potable water, it is at the forefront of desalination efforts. Lacking arable land, it developed innovative ways to grow produce in a desert. Lacking energy, it has pioneered advances in solar and wind energy. Lacking security, it has built one of the world's best militaries and produces some of the most effective security products. Lacking space, Israel has invested in developing information technology which requires intellectual capital but little land. Some say that Israel's culture is ideal for innovation, with its lack of hierarchy, comfort with risk-taking and drive for individualism.

Despite Israel's great advances, Israel continues to face a hostile neighborhood and is surrounded by hostile nations that deny its right to exist. In my view, the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable. As the only true democracy in the Middle East, Israel faces the challenges of a pluralistic society. Israel shares our devotion to a free press, freedom of association and adherence to the rule of law.

Although Israel's economy is currently thriving, it has spent its entire existence in a state of war. In light of the challenges that confront it, Israel has the absolute right and sole discretion to take whatever steps may be necessary to defend itself and its citizens.

Today on Yom Ha'atzmaut we rejoice in Israel's successes and renew our commitment to support the right of Israel's citizens to live in safety and security.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL THOMAS H. MAYFIELD

**HON. JON RUNYAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas H. Mayfield of Willingboro, New Jersey for his courageous and dedicated service to our Nation. Lieutenant Colonel Mayfield entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and was one of the first members of the 332d Fighter Group, more commonly known as the Tuskegee Airmen, an African-American aviation unit which provided critical support for the Allied campaign during World War II.

Tuskegee Airmen like Lieutenant Colonel Mayfield were called upon to serve their country at a time when the armed forces were segregated, yet they persevered in the face of discrimination and proved themselves to be valiant and indispensable warriors. Their example paved the way for future generations of African Americans to serve honorably in the military.

For his outstanding service to the United States as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, Lieutenant Colonel Mayfield was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. This historic unit's unparalleled record also led to a Presidential Unit Citation.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas H. Mayfield retired from the United States Air Force in 1970 with over 29 years of distinguished service. Throughout his military career he received numerous accolades, decorations and awards for outstanding service, most notably, the Silver Pilot Wings and promotion to Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps after completing flight training school in Tuskegee, Alabama.

I thank Lieutenant Colonel Mayfield for his patriotism, and his continued service to his community and his country. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of this trail-blazing American aviator.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
REGINALD E. GILLIAM, JR.

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 27, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Reginald E. Gilliam, Jr. After a brave battle against lymphoma, Reg—as he was known—passed away on March 28, 2012 at the age of sixty-seven. Reg had an extraordinary career, honorably serving his country, mentoring students, and paving an inclusive path in politics and in life for all Americans.

Reg served our country proudly and with distinction. As Legislative Counsel to Senator John Glenn, Reg developed legislation on education, economic development and urban safety and fire prevention, all of which were enacted into law. Reg also served in the sub-cabinet of New York Governor Mario Cuomo

as his chief official in charge of surface transportation, and then as Chief of Staff to Congressman Louis Stokes. The breadth of his knowledge and the depth of his dedication to the people he served were always apparent, and his efforts led to his enriching the lives of countless people.

As Vice Chairman and Commissioner of the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) under President Jimmy Carter, Reg promoted the inclusion of minorities throughout the transportation industry. No one was more proud of his appointment to this important position than his father, one of the original members of A. Philip Randolph's Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and an employee of the railroad industry, which was closely regulated by the ICC. Reg was sworn into office by his father in an emotional and moving ceremony.

Reg's influence was not limited to the public sector. As Senior Managing Director at Hill & Knowlton Worldwide Public Affairs, he represented large and small companies alike on legislative and regulatory policy. For the past ten years, he was Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at Sodexo, Inc., playing a vital role in shaping the company into the significant enterprise that it is today.

Perhaps most notable was Reg's commitment to education. He was one of the founders of the Harvard Black Student Association, became its first Chairman and would eventually serve on the Board of Trustees for several colleges and universities. He also taught at the State University of New York and at Williams College.

In addition to pursuing his own education, Reg always made sure to give back. During his time at Harvard, Reg served as a Voting Rights Act poll watcher in the South, volunteered on neighborhood safety patrols in Harlem, and wrote his final legal thesis on the Newark riots.

Reg was dedicated to utilizing his own success to help others and spent countless hours mentoring and counseling young people. His service was recognized on numerous occasions, including his receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Harvard Black Law Association and the President's Award for Leadership & Excellence from the Washington Government Relations Group.

Reg was a significant presence in our community. It takes an extraordinary person to approach every situation with the grace and compassion that Reg did. His good work made a difference in the lives of many, and he will always be remembered for his kindness, dedication and tireless efforts to help others.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of working with Reg on a number of issues important to workers and businesses in our community. He always conducted himself with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism. He was careful to present all sides of an issue and explain what he was seeking to accomplish. In addition, Reg regularly took the time to ask how others were doing even as he was struggling with his own personal health challenges. I will miss his warm personality, good humor and sense of humanity.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife Arleen and to his many friends, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable man.