

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON CARMEN'S UNION, LOCAL 589

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, who for the past 100 years has been a strong voice for transportation professionals in Boston and the surrounding areas.

As it celebrates its centennial, the Boston Carmen's Union represents 6,000 union members and is a part of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the largest labor union in America with over 190,000 members. The union was born in the same way as the labor movement itself: with a great deal of cooperation, dedication and perseverance. In 1912, after a number of failed attempts to meet with management to assert their rights and address their grievances, the first organized Boston Elevated Carmen's Union voted to strike—1,389 votes to eight. During the strike, the newly-formed union faced uncooperative tactics and strike breakers hired by the transit company. Despite these challenges, the union members fought for their rights, enjoying strong support from the labor community, and soon after, from District Attorney Joseph Pelletier, Governor Eugene Foss and legendary Boston Mayor John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald. Finally, after more than six weeks of striking, the union was able to come to a settlement and gained recognition from Boston Elevated Company.

In the years to come, the Carmen's Union continued to grow and collaborate with other local unions, evolving with the changing transit industry to best serve its members. As it marks this centennial milestone, the Boston Carmen's Union has both served and represented the many transportation professionals whose important work forms the backbone of our city and the surrounding area's infrastructure. It is with their help that the employees of the MBTA have been able to stand up for better working conditions, hours and wages.

The Boston Carmen's Union has a stellar record of activism and community service. This year, the union participated in the National Day of Action for Transportation on April 4th. The event gathered the Carmen's membership and supporters to demand fair treatment for transit workers and to demonstrate that available, affordable and well-maintained public transit is an issue of civil rights. The union also works hard to build awareness about the crucial role transportation professionals play in the daily life of every Bostonian. From subway drivers to mechanics to baggage handlers, and so many more, members of the Local 589 provide integral services to their communities every single day.

Along with its efforts to improve working conditions for its membership and empower them to assert their rights as an employee, the Boston Carmen's Union values its ability to play a positive role in the community. When firefighters, policemen or other public servants are killed in the line of duty, members of Local 589 routinely volunteer their

time and services to provide transport to and from the memorial service. I applaud the Boston Carmen's Union both for its dedication to its mission of empowering transportation and allied professionals and for its commitment to serving the Boston community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, its President John Lee and the entire community on the celebration of 100 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEWLY RESTORED HOTEL LAFAYETTE IN DOWNTOWN BUFFALO NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary celebration. It is with great enthusiasm that I learned of their recent partnership with the newly restored Hotel Lafayette in Downtown Buffalo and I am inspired by their creative collaboration with significant restoration projects throughout our great city and region.

As the premier historical organization in Western New York, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society serves to collect, research, interpret and share the rich history of the Niagara Frontier. Founded in 1862, the organization holds more than 100,000 artifacts, 200,000 photographs, and 20,000 books.

On Thursday May 10, 2012, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society will celebrate their 150th Anniversary Gala and will partner with the Hotel Lafayette at a premier event held at the hotel to announce their collaboration and concept of leveraging Western New York history as a brand. Their shared vision will be showcased at the hotel in the form of inspired images, artifacts and ephemera from the museums vast collection.

Other creative collaborative efforts include: the use of BECHS designed Pan-American dinnerware for use as dessert plates in the newly named Pan-American Grill and Brewery in the Hotel, curating reproduced images for the hotel suites and corridors, and wall coverings to name a few.

As Buffalo's Congressional Representative, and a former teacher of History and Economics at Buffalo State College, it gives me great pride to see such innovative collaborations come to life. This presents a remarkable opportunity to tell the great story of Buffalo, its rise as one of America's fastest growing cities with a bustling and diversified economy, home of the Pan-American Exposition in 1901, and

home of many of the great works of architectural and landscape greats of America. This partnership also allows us to tell the story of a city that is making a great comeback, in large part due to the creativity and contributions of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the long-standing work and commitment of the staff, board of directors, docents and volunteers at the Buffalo and Erie County's Historical Society on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary Gala at the grand, Hotel Lafayette.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDIO ROCKETRY NATIONAL FINALISTS

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate students from Presidio High School and Lucy Rede Franco Middle School for qualifying for this year's Team America Rocketry Challenge national finals. This prestigious competition, which includes approximately 7,000 students from across the country, is the largest model rocket contest in the world.

Through their extraordinary talent and hard work these 3 teams earned a spot within the top 100 finalists, earning them a trip to Washington, DC for the national finals on May 12th. I am proud to congratulate Ana Karen Nieto, Itza Hanai Rodriguez, Antonio Bujanda, Marla Baltazar, Dylan Rivera, Rene Cardona, Gwynelle Condino, Jillianne Franco, Andres Villa, Hector Montemayor, and John Valeriano for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

IN RECOGNITION OF JASON BRANCH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Specialist Jason Branch, the winner of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 2012 Best Warrior Competition.

To be eligible for the grueling contest, Spc. Branch was first selected by his unit, the 189th Engineer Detachment, as the most qualified candidate. The Massachusetts Best Warrior Competition is known to test participants with rigorous physical and mental challenges. Now in its fourth year, the competition continues to evolve to meet the caliber of the contestants. This year's event included tests

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of physical fitness and marksmanship, a written exam and a challenging mock urban combat situation. The demanding weekend culminated in an interview with a board of Command Sergeants Major testing each participant's knowledge on a variety of subjects.

Throughout the competition, Spc. Branch demonstrated the dedication, ingenuity and perseverance that make an excellent soldier, and in the end, emerged victorious amongst the commissioned officers competing. When not in uniform, he continues to serve his community as a Unit Manager at Plymouth's Radius HealthCare and Pediatric Center, playing a vital role in the rehabilitation of the center's patients. Spc. Branch truly represents the very best of our community and our country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Spc. Jason Branch as he is honored for his excellence as a soldier, and we wish him the best of luck as he moves on to the regional stage of the competition.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU ON HIS RE-ELECTION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize and congratulate Ma Ying-jeou, President of Taiwan, as he continues to honorably serve the people of the Republic of China. On January 14, 2012, through a free and fair election, the people of Taiwan reelected Ma Ying-jeou to serve a second term as president, continuing the country's commitment to a strong and stable democratic government.

Over the past century Taiwan has increasingly become an influential free-market democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. Now a model government to surrounding countries, Taiwan continues to play a vital role in maintaining peace and stability in the region and has experienced sustained economic growth and sociopolitical development in recent years.

As a result, U.S.-Taiwan relations have become especially close. Our shared economic, cultural, political, and strategic values coupled with our mutual interest in forging strong ties have encouraged innovation and growth between our nations. U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have more than doubled over the past several years and on December 22, 2011, the U.S. State Department announced Taiwan's nomination for inclusion into the Visa Waiver Program. Officials estimate acceptance into this program will increase the more than 400,000 Taiwanese citizens who visit the United States each year by 20 to 30 percent.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I commend President Ma for his exemplary leadership and his efforts to advance and ensure regional stability and peace. President Ma and his administration have worked tirelessly to develop a strong strategy of rapprochement which upholds our shared values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. I look forward to the future as we continue to work together to seek mutual best interests for both the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating President Ma Ying-jeou and wish him continued success as he

begins his second term as president of the Republic of China.

CONGRATULATING CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues Robert Aderholdt, Martha Roby, and Dennis Ross in congratulating Cumberland School of Law on the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as an entity on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The school's legacy and impress extends across the globe and indeed into this very chamber, my three colleagues having walked its historic halls as law students.

What began as a humble and at times struggling law school in the hills of Lebanon, Tennessee, through tenacity and divine providence blossomed into a first rate and nationally-recognized center of legal education. Today, Cumberland boasts the fourth ranked trial advocacy program in the nation and has served as the educational backdrop for countless state and federal judges, legislators, and other elected officials. Judge John Carroll, whose service as the Dean and chief advocate for the law school, deserves our utmost commendation for thrusting Cumberland onto the national stage. His dedication and leadership have ensured the continued growth and prosperity of this respected law school.

Mr. Speaker, as a body that daily ponders the law and the effects of law, it is only fitting and proper that we honor an institution dedicated to excellent legal education and commend Cumberland and Judge John Carroll on a job very well done. The city of Birmingham, our great state of Alabama, indeed the entire nation owes a debt of gratitude to Cumberland School of Law for its educational prowess, its historic legacy, and its integral part in preparing the next generation of our nation's leaders.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM FOEGE, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESI- DENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great epidemiologist and immunization champion Dr. William Foege and to celebrate his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Dr. Foege's commitment to public health throughout his career—particularly in the area of promoting child survival and immunization worldwide—is nothing less than extraordinary.

In 1966, Dr. Foege served as a medical missionary in a remote part of Nigeria where he encountered the devastating disease of smallpox. He campaigned tirelessly for a more aggressive response to this terrible disease. In the absence of sufficient vaccine supply, Dr. Foege developed a strategy called "surveillance and containment" to combat the spread

of smallpox. An innovative strategy, his focus on "hot zones" was remarkably successful and led to the global eradication of smallpox in 1979.

Dr. Foege's work led him to become the Chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Smallpox Eradication Program and in 1977 he was elevated to Director of the CDC where he remained an aggressive champion for childhood immunization and continued his leadership in the fight for the eradication of smallpox.

Dr. Foege's accomplishments and awards are many and span his long career. After leaving the CDC, he formed the Task Force for Global Health (1984), which continues today as a critical nexus for the establishment of international collaborations to promote child wellness and survival. The impact that Dr. Foege and the Task Force has had on the world through childhood immunizations to prevent polio, measles, river blindness, and many other diseases has been nothing short of astonishing.

In 1986, Dr. Foege joined the Carter Center in Georgia serving as their Executive Director until 1992. He is a professor emeritus at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta and an affiliate professor of epidemiology in my District at the University of Washington (UW), School of Public Health. In 1999, he became senior medical advisor to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he remains an emeritus fellow. With this record of accomplishment and service, it is clear why UW chose to name their Bioengineering-Genome Sciences building after Dr. Foege.

To this day, Dr. Foege continues to educate the world on domestic and international health policies through his writing and speaking engagements. His is a career defined by service and rooted in science. Dr. Foege's enthusiasm and talent for global health continues to generate and influence future generations of public health professionals. I am delighted that he has been awarded this honor.

WELCOMING THE SEVENTH HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA TO WASHINGTON, DC

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Honor Flight South Alabama and the World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing on its seventh flight to Washington, D.C. on May 9, 2012. It is also my honor to insert this tribute into the RECORD during the week of the 67th anniversary of the Victory in Europe (V-E Day).

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from southwest Alabama to see their national memorial.

Nearly seven decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you," yet for