

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF SPRUCE PINE FOR REACHING THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Spruce Pine for reaching their 100th anniversary. Nestled between the majestic peaks of Mt. Mitchell and Roan Mountain, the flourishing Appalachian town of Spruce Pine boasts all the natural beauty of the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains.

Spruce Pine's story began at the turn of the century when a single house was erected near the Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio Railroad Depot. Situated between river and mountain-side, the town grew quickly, became chartered in 1913, quadrupled in population, and soon became the commercial center of the Toe River Valley.

Growth continued as mining emerged in the economic anchor of the Spruce Pine community. Best known for its incredibly rich mineral deposits, Spruce Pine boasts the most concentrated feldspar deposits on earth. This geological wonder is responsible for 60 percent of the total United States feldspar, which is used in ceramics, paints, electrical wiring devices, tile, fiberglass insulation, and glass containers.

In a way, most everyone east of the Mississippi has been impacted by goods originated from Spruce Pine. In addition, Spruce Pine is home to the entire world supply of the pure quartz used in manufacturing fused quartz apparatuses. This fused quartz is used to manufacture the semiconductors found in every computer. To own a computer is to have a connection to Spruce Pine.

Spruce Pine is also home to a proud farming population and one of the world's largest art communities. The Toe River Arts Council, which has worked in Spruce Pine for the last 37 years, ensures a legacy of handmade mountain artwork that will continue for many future generations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I recognize the town of Spruce Pine and congratulate a truly exceptional 100 years. Its contributions to our culture and industry have been remarkable. I couldn't be more proud to represent such an exemplary town, such warm people, and such a beautiful part of North Carolina.

HONORING ABILITYONE CENTERS OF SOUTH CENTRAL INDIANA

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great work of the

AbilityOne Program. As the largest single provider of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities, the AbilityOne Program puts more than 47,000 Americans to work by providing products and services to federal and commercial customers. In my home State of Indiana, I am pleased to have two AbilityOne centers, Bosma Enterprises and the First Chance Center, who help bring Hoosiers with disabilities into the workforce.

Since 1915, Bosma Enterprises has been providing Hoosiers who are blind or visually impaired with job training, employment services, rehabilitation, and outreach programs, empowering Hoosiers to reach their own personal goals while giving them the tools to live independently. In the past year, Bosma has been able to change the lives of many blind and disabled Hoosiers as they navigated the complexities of finding meaningful employment. One of those individuals is Ray Montgomery who, at the age of 17, lost his sight as a victim of a violent crime. After rehabilitation, Mr. Montgomery graduated college and began searching for a job without much success. He then came to Bosma Enterprises where they looked beyond his disability and focused on his skills and potential. Ray now works in Bosma's production facility and is learning new skills to develop personally and professionally.

The First Chance Center in Paoli, Indiana, has helped to provide sustainable gainful employment for Hoosiers with disabilities for the past 13 years. They promote the abilities of Hoosiers with disabilities and provide opportunities for these individuals to fully participate in their community. It is through these meaningful job opportunities that these Hoosiers have been able to gain marketable skills and confidence. The First Chance Center also provides a multitude of other support services, including day services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities and Tot-to-Tot playgroup for children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of Bosma Enterprises, the First Chance Center, and other AbilityOne organizations and am grateful for the work they do each day to open the doors of opportunity for Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities.

RECOGNIZING DR. JANICE IZLAR, CRNA, DNAP

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Janice Izlar, CRNA, DNAP, of Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Izlar will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am proud that Dr. Izlar was elected as the 2012–2013 president of this prestigious national organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered

nurses who treat approximately 34 million patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals.

As a CRNA, Dr. Izlar has contributed greatly to the healthcare community in southeast Georgia, serving as a self-employed CRNA and as Chief Nurse Anesthetist and Administrator for Anesthesia Services at the Georgia Institute for Plastic Surgery since 1996. Dr. Izlar was awarded her Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice by Virginia Commonwealth University, her Master of Science in Nursing by Columbia University, her Bachelor's in Nursing, cum laude, by the University of Tulsa, and her Diploma in Nurse Anesthesia by the North Carolina Baptist Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia. In addition to her service as AANA President, Dr. Izlar has held various leadership positions in the AANA, including President-elect, Vice President, and Region 2 Director, and has served on numerous committees. She is a former president of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists and is a distinguished speaker on anesthesia topics, lecturing nationwide on the safety, value and cost-effectiveness of CRNA care.

During her AANA Presidency, Dr. Izlar has been a prominent advocate for the patients and practice of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. She has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system. I am proud to have worked with Janice for years as well as during her time as President and am happy to call her a friend and a loyal advocate for CRNA priorities in Washington and beyond. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Janice on a successful term.

HONORING IRMA LOPEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Irma J. Lopez, a community leader and activist, who is a tireless champion of women's and social justice issues in Ventura County. Irma is a remarkable role model, and a woman who never stops striving to improve and strengthen her community.

Irma was born and raised in Ventura County. As a graduate of Camarillo High School and the University of California, Santa Barbara, Irma has been a longstanding citizen of the area. Her career in public service began in the State of California Employment Development Department, where she worked for more

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than 20 years. Additionally, Irma also worked for California State Senator Gary Hart.

Irma's leadership is a testament to her invigorating commitment to Ventura County. She is the founder, former chair and a current board member of Ventura County's Rebozo Festival. Every year, this festival promotes the cultural richness and diversity of the Latino community and philanthropy in Ventura County.

Irma is also a founding member of the Women's Legacy Fund and the Destino Hispanic Legacy Fund. She is a former City of Oxnard Woman of the Year and has been recognized for her humanitarian achievements on both the local and national level.

Irma's passion for public service and dedication to the community is one that I commend. Throughout her life, Irma's tireless efforts have always focused on helping those who are underrepresented and unheard. She is an exemplary model of the great achievements a devoted citizen can make.

I have personally known Irma for many years and am most pleased to join the Ventura County Women's Political Council in honoring Irma Lopez for her contributions, dedication and engagement in Ventura County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER GUAM SENATOR JAMES H. UNDERWOOD

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of James Holland Underwood, who served five consecutive terms as a member of the Guam Legislature from 1975 to 1984. He passed away on July 24, 2013, at the age of 67.

Jim was born on May 4, 1946, to former Senator Raymond Ferdinand Underwood and Ana Eclavea Torres Underwood, owners of Mariana Sales and Tendan Nene in Hagåtña.

As a senator, Jim authored legislation that led to the development of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency and the Port Authority of Guam. He also worked on the capital financing project with Duty Free Shoppers for the construction and expansion of the Guam International Airport Authority. In 1977, Jim also served as a delegate to Guam's Constitutional Convention.

Additionally, Jim held many leadership positions in several Government of Guam agencies. He served as the Executive Director of the Commission on Decolonization; General Manager of the Guam Mass Transit Authority; Director of the Guam Departments of Labor, Public Works, Public Health and Social Services, and Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities. He also was a Director for the Guam Telephone Authority.

Beyond his clear passion for public service, Jim made significant contributions to the local community, where he spearheaded numerous projects such as the Guam-Karuzawa Student Exchange and construction of crosses atop Mt. Jumulong Manglo. He also was an active member of the Young Men's League of Guam and Past-President of the Rotary Club of Guam.

Together with his family, Jim was a devout Catholic and an active parishioner of the

Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagåtña, where he served as a lector and commentator for the December 8 procession in honor of Santa Marian Kamalen. For many years, Jim and his family were also responsible for erecting the "Lanchon Kotpus" on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Alma, his son James III, his stepdaughters Lisa and Theresa, grandchildren, friends and loved ones. I join the people of Guam in remembering Jim's leadership and contributions to our community. He will be dearly missed.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE PROPHETSTOWN FIRE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave first responders who rushed to help put out the recent devastating fire that demolished much of downtown Prophetstown, Illinois.

The massive fire destroyed eight buildings and damaged two others in a blaze that took hours to put out. An estimated two dozen firefighters and EMTs responded quickly in the early morning hours to battle the flames that were destroying the town.

As Prophetstown begins the healing process, I salute all the first responders from across my region of Illinois for their courageous and selfless service. Because of their valiant efforts, the blaze did not spread to more buildings and no major injuries occurred.

I am proud to once again recognize the heroic efforts of our firefighters and EMTs, and thank them again for their service.

COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role that community pharmacies play in Iowa's Second Congressional District and throughout the country. They are the front-line health care providers and counselors for many patients who consistently depend on their training and expertise to stay informed, healthy, and out of the hospital. They also play an incredibly important role in strengthening the economies of the areas they serve, particularly in rural counties like many of those I represent.

Like most small business owners, community pharmacists face many challenges and compete and negotiate on a day-to-day basis with large entities in their business transactions. However, small pharmacy owners face an even larger disadvantage than most because of their clear lack of leverage they have when negotiating the amount they will be reimbursed for filling prescriptions when dealing with pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). PBMs serve as the middleman between the health plans and pharmacies, but they also own large mail-order pharmacies themselves.

As a result, they are in direct competition with the small pharmacies with whom they also are called upon to negotiate contracts. Also as a note, the largest PBM in the country had nearly \$94 billion in revenue in 2012.

PBMs also are charged with auditing pharmacies to detect fraud and abuse. This is an important role to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are not taken advantage of, but problems arise when audits are conducted over clerical, administrative errors rather than targeted toward bad actors who willfully game the system. I have heard from several upstanding small business owners in my district who have been subject to these unnecessary audits and I think the process needs to be reformed so that these audits are as fair and transparent as possible.

As the federal government is business partners with PBMs in Medicare Part D, FEHBP, TRICARE and Medicaid Managed Care, I believe it is our duty to take a close look at these practices to ensure our small pharmacies have a fair working relationship with these large PBMs and that the needs of seniors and all those that depend on community pharmacists are met.

I look forward to continuing to work with the community pharmacies throughout Iowa's Second Congressional District to ensure they can continue to provide individual, high quality services to Iowans.

RECOGNIZING THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 38th anniversary of the division of the island of Cyprus, and to encourage all parties in this longstanding dispute to reason together and work to achieve a final settlement that will bring about a united Cyprus.

Over 50 years ago, the Republic of Cyprus was established by Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots who were to have hands in the administration of the government and participation in national life. As a result of steps counter to that spirit through the 1960s and early 1970s, the two communities are now isolated from each other. The Greek Cypriot community, as the Republic of Cyprus, enjoys full membership in the European Union while Turkish Cypriots remain largely isolated from the global community. Nevertheless, Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated, time and again, their support for a solution where a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation is secured.

A continuation of the status quo serves no purpose, and prevents all Cypriots from living to their full potential. I ask my colleagues to join me in encouraging both parties to set a timeline of tangible steps to achieve a final agreement, and for the Obama Administration to work with both parties and European partners in securing these steps. Any solution must respect the human rights and freedoms of all Cypriots, and this must be enshrined in the work of the parties.

Let us redouble our efforts so that we do not have to observe the beginning of yet another decade in the life of the division of this