

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PATIENTS, FAMILIES
AND CAREGIVERS COPING WITH
FTD

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patients, families and caregivers in Pennsylvania's Seventh coping with frontotemporal degeneration, a disease process with devastating effect on the areas of the brain that give us our personality. One unique characteristic of FTD is that it is a young person's dementia—with the onset of symptoms typically beginning between the ages of 40 and 60. These symptoms include a complicated mix of language impairments, changes in personality and behavior, and the loss of muscle control and movement problems.

National news outlets have covered this awful disease in recent years. The New York Times recently highlighted Michael French's experience with FTD. Michael was a good cook, but he suddenly started burning every pot he cooked with. He would throw away important tax documents make financial decisions that didn't make any sense. Michael's wife encouraged him to seek medical help, but it took over a year before Michael was properly diagnosed with FTD and could receive appropriate treatment to manage his behavioral symptoms. Michael now resides in a nursing home.

FTD robs far too many Americans like Michael of the ability to work, care for himself, and be a loving family member. However, there is no known cure for FTD, and many clinicians miss the diagnosis, especially as FTD is rare and dementia is primarily considered a problem of the elderly. Consequently, patients, families, and caregivers may endure years of confusion and ineffective treatment.

Michael's story was brought to my attention recently by a constituent who lost his father to FTD, and is now on the board of the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, a nonprofit in Pennsylvania's Seventh District. This nonprofit is doing critically important work to raise public awareness and support medical research on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of FTD. I urge my colleagues to learn more about FTD and what they can do to help their constituents access quality medical care and services, and to support the medical research that is needed to cure FTD and related neurological diseases.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HU-
MANITY AND THE CARTER WORK
PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. Anna Eshoo, Rep. Sam Farr, Rep. John Garamendi, Rep. Michael Honda, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Jerry McNerney, and Rep. George Miller, to express our most sincere appreciation to Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Work Project.

For 30 years, former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter have spent a week a year on a building project with Habitat for Humanity. Their annual commitment to Habitat is called the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project and brings attention to Habitat's work across the globe and in our local communities. This year the Carters are in Oakland and San Jose for the 30th annual event.

President Carter first became involved with Habitat for Humanity in 1984 when he used his carpentry expertise to help renovate an apartment building in New York City. Ever since, President Carter and Mrs. Carter have been building homes every year with Habitat. The Carters have built homes in New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Miami, D.C., South Dakota, Southern California, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, and now in California.

The Carters have also helped build homes abroad in Mexico, Canada, Hungary, Philippines, Korea, South Africa, India, Thailand, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Haiti.

The housing market in the San Francisco Bay Area continues to be among the least affordable in the United States. Less than half of families in the area can afford to buy a home and for low-income families it is nearly impossible. There is a strong need and demand for affordable housing in the Bay Area and the lack of affordable housing is damaging our communities. Our community needs strong solutions to this crisis.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley has helped revitalize neighborhoods, build sustainable housing solutions, and assist families in becoming successful homeowners.

Since 1986, Habitat has helped strengthen communities and empowered over 360 low-income families in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley deals with the challenge of affordable housing by using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials to build affordable homes for families in need. These families contribute "sweat equity" by contributing hundreds of hours of labor in building their own homes.

Habitat for Humanity helps build communities by strengthening neighborhood ties. Habitat recruits volunteers to help build its

homes, with nearly 60,000 volunteers having contributed over one million hours to help build homes in the East Bay and Silicon Valley.

These community-built homes are also sustainable and environmentally friendly. Habitat uses green design by taking into account energy efficiency, smart use of building materials, and water usage to better protect the environment and Habitat homeowners. Over 60 green homes have been built in the Bay Area using these environmentally-conscious building principles.

We thank President and Mrs. Carter and Habitat for Humanity for this important work. We hope their legacy of public service will serve as an inspiration to others to support and serve their communities.

HONORING RICARDO ICAZA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ricardo F. Icaza, a revered labor leader whose lifelong work and dedication has resulted in the success of Southern California's workforce.

For more than 50 years, Ricardo has been a loyal and effective member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union Local 770, which currently has over 30,000 members in the food, retail and healthcare industries.

Ricardo has held numerous positions in Local 770 including, research assistant, organizer, business representative and secretary-treasurer. In 1981, Ricardo became the first Latino president of Local 770 because of his commitment to preserving middle class values.

Under Ricardo's resilient and unwavering leadership, Local 770 has become the largest local union in California and one of the largest in the entire nation. Ricardo demonstrated his adept negotiation skills numerous times in order to ensure that his members are fairly compensated with the pay and benefits that they have worked so hard to earn.

In 2003, Ricardo stood up for the middle class and successfully led his members through a difficult 142 day lockout and strike resulting in the preservation of the health care benefits that he worked so hard to create throughout the course of his presidency. The tenacity Ricardo displayed during the lockout illustrated his dedication to improving the lives of working men and women.

In addition to Ricardo's determined efforts for our region's workers, he is an outstanding citizen who defines philanthropy. His generosity and commitment to charitable causes demonstrate Ricardo's passion for the betterment of our community and country. In 2001, Ricardo established the UFCW Local 770 Icaza Foundation, a unique non-profit organization that raises funds for leukemia research and other worthy local charities.

● 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.

Ricardo's contributions to our community surpass his duties with Local 770. He is currently the Vice President of the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), a current board member of the National Association for Hispanic Elderly and a former trustee of the California State University system. He also serves as the President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which is the largest labor federation in the country.

Ricardo's remarkable and longstanding career exemplifies his passion and commitment to our community's working people. I am pleased to join the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring Ricardo F. Icaza.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER
OF DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great appreciation and respect to recognize a true pioneer in the field of health care and in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most highly regarded cardiac surgeons. He has been an inspirational figure for the medical community, African Americans and the entire nation. After 40 years in medicine, Dr. Watkins has announced that he will retire from Johns Hopkins Medicine located in my congressional district.

Dr. Watkins attended Tennessee State University and graduated with a degree in biology with honors. Inspired by his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins, who had set his sights on medical school, decided that "it was time Vanderbilt was integrated." In May of 1966, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to be admitted into Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. This was just the beginning of the many "firsts" that Dr. Watkins would amass as he blazed his trail of success. When he subsequently graduated from Vanderbilt School of Medicine in 1970, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to do so.

In late 1970, Dr. Watkins began a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, becoming the first African American in that program. He interrupted his internship in 1973 to complete two years of cardiac research at Harvard Medical School. It was at Harvard where Dr. Watkins experienced his first scientific breakthrough with his research into the connection between the renin angiotensin system and congestive heart failure. This discovery later led to the use of angiotensin blockers in the treatment of heart failure.

After returning to Johns Hopkins and completing his residency, Dr. Watkins became Johns Hopkins' first African American chief resident in cardiac surgery. Three years later, in 1978, Dr. Watkins became an assistant professor in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Some months later, in February 1980, Dr. Watkins performed a ground breaking procedure. He implanted an automatic implantable defibrillator into the human heart, saving a woman's life and becoming the first surgeon to perform the operation. This operation has

saved many lives by shocking the heart back into its normal rhythm when the heart starts to go into arrhythmia.

Critically, Dr. Watkins didn't just save lives, he also changed them. An active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins was a member of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor. Dr. Watkins drove the church station wagon on Sunday mornings and was active in the Montgomery bus boycotts. When Dr. Watkins joined the Johns Hopkins University's admission committee, he made it his mission to diversify both the admitted students and the faculty. He assisted many future Black doctors in entering and graduating from medical school. Dr. Watkins actively wrote letters to qualified candidates encouraging them to apply to the school. His relentless determination and hard work increased minority representation at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine by 400% in four years.

Dr. Watkins created the Johns Hopkins' Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration in January of 1982 and has held the event every January since that time. The event honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideals and has brought an array of speakers to the hospital to address students and faculty members, including Reverend Jesse Jackson, actor Danny Glover, and the late Coretta Scott King. Thankfully, even after his retirement, Dr. Watkins will continue to play an integral role in the annual commemoration.

In 1991, Dr. Watkins was promoted to be a full professor of cardiac surgery, becoming the first African American at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to hold this position. He was later appointed Associate Dean in the School of Medicine and Dean of the university's postdoctoral programs and faculty development.

It is with a sense of great appreciation and admiration that I thank Dr. Watkins for all he has done for the medical field, the Black community and the entire nation. Baltimore is very fortunate to have such a dedicated pioneer to call its own. I wish Dr. Watkins all the best in his retirement and thank him for his visionary work that has made a profound impact on our country.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom Dr. Watkins knew well, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." By this or any measure, Dr. Watkins is truly a great man.

SHORT-TERM EXTENSION OF
SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters on H.R. 3233, between myself and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2013.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your consultation with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H.R. 3233, which temporarily extends the period during which certain Iraqis previously employed by the United States Government may be granted special immigrant status. I agreed to the Foreign Affairs Committee being discharged of our referral so that the bill could be promptly considered on the House floor this evening. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding regarding the Foreign Affairs Committee's continuing Rule X legislative jurisdiction over portions of H.R. 3233, which is not affected by that waiver decision.

I appreciate your assistance in expediting this important legislation for floor consideration.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2013.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3233, to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

As you noted, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was granted an additional referral of the bill. I am most appreciative of your decision to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of H.R. 3233 so that it could proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Foreign Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to hear my Republican colleagues stand in support of the District of Columbia's ability to expend its own local funds. I agree. As a member representing a district that neighbors DC, I have been a long-time supporter of budget autonomy for our nation's capital. It should be able to spend its local dollars without waiting for approval from this Congress. I hope my colleagues will remember this debate and work towards a long-term legislative fix for this issue.

However, we have a way to solve the immediate problem for the District of Columbia