

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE OF THE QUAD CITIES

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Belgian Culture of the Quad Cities on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

The Center for Belgian Culture was created in 1963 out of the Federation of Belgian social clubs in our region of Illinois. During the mid-19th and early 20th centuries, many Belgian immigrants settled in the Quad Cities, which once boasted the largest Belgian community in the United States and still has the second highest Belgian heritage population in the country.

The Belgian community brought many great aspects of their culture to the Quad Cities, which the Center continues to promote through its art programs, lace-making classes and, of course, Belgian waffle breakfasts. Additionally, the Center assists with historical and genealogical research and provides scholarships for students of Belgian descent.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Center for Belgian Culture on this notable milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Monterey County Hospitality Association on the occasion of its 25th annual hospitality employee recognition celebration. This is a truly remarkable event that recognizes just a few of the unsung heroes of America's number one industry.

As the co-chair of the congressional travel and tourism caucus, I frequently see the travel and tourism industry in terms of its big economics—generating \$2 trillion in revenues and supporting 14.6 million jobs. And indeed, it is crucial that national policy works to help travel and tourism thrive and benefit all of our communities.

But beneath these statistics are the people who work in the hotels, restaurants, rental car companies, and all the other myriad of visitor serving businesses. These men and women shape a visitor's experience and help them decide whether to return to the United States, to California, or to Monterey County. The place sells the first visit, but it's the hospitality employees that keep people coming back.

And that is why the Monterey County Hospitality Association event is so remarkable. I know of no other event of its size and scope where the regional travel and tourism industry comes together in such a comprehensive way to celebrate the extraordinary lengths that its employees go to make the visitor experience to the Monterey region the memory of a lifetime.

Each year colleagues nominate their co-workers for customer service that went above and beyond the ordinary call of duty—the maid who searched through the dumpster for a new bride's lost wedding ring, or a chef who recreated the menu from a couple's first date for their 50th wedding anniversary. From all of these nominees, a selection panel picks ten to receive an "Excellence in Hospitality" award.

The panel also singles out one of the awardees for special recognition for service that sets the gold standard. In 1988, this special award was given to Romulo "Papa Vince" Vicente, the renowned bar tender at Monterey's legendary Sardine Factory restaurant. And while the Sardine Factory's founders Ted Balestreri and Bert Cutino receive much of the public recognition for the Sardine Factory's success and the Monterey Bay hospitality renaissance that it helped spark, they will be the first to recognize that it was Papa Vince and employees like him that built the foundation of that success. So it is fitting that this top trophy has since been known as the Papa Vince award. It's people like Mr. Vicente who make the U.S. travel and tourism industry such a vital part of our national life and economy.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in commending the Monterey County Hospitality Association on the occasion of this significant anniversary as well as extending our congratulations to the past, current, and future "Excellence in Hospitality" award winners.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
ISAAC "IKE" SKELTON IV

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Isaac "Ike" Skelton was a consummate gentleman and a true class act. Ike was a humble man; he commonly referred to himself as a "country lawyer." He was a tireless champion of our service men and women, both on the battlefield and off. He loved his family and everyone who encountered him knew it. He served the people of Missouri for 34 years with dignity and grace, and he will be missed. In Congress, one often hears the phrase "my good friend" or "my friend across the aisle." Sometimes it can lose its meaning. But Ike and I had a close, personal friendship that extended far deeper than Washington's definition of one.

Ike and I served on the Armed Services Committee together for six years. During that time, in the context of our committee service, we talked often about military education, the roles and missions within our Armed Forces, and Ike's famous book list. I accompanied him to Warm Springs, Georgia, where he received polio treatment as a teenager. The Warm Springs Foundation held a special place in his heart, and he spoke of the lessons he learned there often.

In his farewell speech to the House of Representatives, he said: "... never let illness define you, never be limited by the expectations of others, never give up, and never stop working."

Ike exemplified that sentiment in everything he did.

Polio prevented him from serving our country in uniform, so he chose to serve members of our military instead. Ike used to say he looked at all of our troops as someone's son or daughter. To that end, he worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to improve life for our military men and women. In his position as both Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, he fought to ensure our troops had the necessary training, equipment and support on the frontlines. He worked to improve military housing and other services for them here at home.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of attending the 8th and 1 Parade at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., where Ike was the guest of honor. It rained heavily that night, but like always, it was tough to dampen Ike's spirits. I learned so much from Ike and I will truly miss him. Ike was a one-of-a-kind congressman, and this body would be far better off with more members of his caliber.

Our country has lost a statesman, his family has lost a husband and father, our military has lost a champion, and many of us he worked or served with have lost a friend.

HONORING THE FFA'S 2013 NATIONAL MODEL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

**HON. ADAM KINZINGER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pontiac Chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) for being named the 2013 Model of Excellence chapter during the Eighty-Sixth National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

FFA Chapters across the country that receive national three-star ratings are eligible candidates for the National Model of Excellence Award. The National FFA Organization consists of 579,678 students in all fifty states that are a part of 7,570 local chapters, making the competition for this prestigious award extremely demanding. While the Pontiac Chapter excelled in community and school development, it was especially successful in the area

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of chapter development as shown through their recruitment and retention of new members. The chapter made presentations to area middle schools that feed into their high school and were able to sign up 88 new members for the introduction to agriculture class. Additionally, the chapter worked with over 1,000 elementary students to increase their agricultural literacy and reading skills.

Farmers across the United States are responsible for providing food to families around the world and Illinois is at the forefront of this driver to our economy. There are over 76,000 farms in Illinois and the state is ranked second in the United States for agricultural commodity exports with nearly \$4 billion worth exported to other countries annually. The FFA helps keep this critical industry going by inspiring our youth to consider careers in agriculture and developing their leadership abilities for all facets of life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I am pleased to honor the Pontiac FFA Chapter for their impressive accomplishments and for receiving this distinguished award. I wish these students the best of luck in their future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO TCL CHINESE THEATRE AND FENG XIAOGANG

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Creative Life (TCL) Chinese Theatre on hosting the Beijing Film Panorama in America Festival and recognizing acclaimed Chinese Film Director, Feng Xiaogang during a Handprint Ceremony.

TCL Chinese Theatre, formerly known as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, has long stood as a tribute to the great men and women of film and television. The iconic signatures, handprints, and footprints in cement that have graced the theater's entrance since the 1920's, are visited by millions of people every year. It is fitting as we witness the growth of Chinese film internationally, that Hollywood celebrates this achievement in the cinematic arts throughout the world.

To mark this auspicious occasion, Feng Xiaogang will be immortalized in cement with a Handprint Ceremony. Mr. Xiaogang is an accomplished Chinese film director whose comedic films have been box office hits in China over the last two decades, and who has recently begun making dramatic period films. As the first Chinese director to receive this honor, Feng Xiaogang will join Cecil B. DeMille, Ron Howard, Steven Spielberg, Gene Kelly and Clint Eastwood, among other great film directors whose handprint impressions remind us of the talent that has brought so many stories to life through film.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating TCL Chinese Theatre and Mr. Xiaogang upon this historic occasion.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2012-2013 UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL LUNAR RESEARCH TEAM

### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2012-13 Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team on its second-place finish in the 2013 National Lunar Science Institute's national competition. The Upper Darby High School Lunar Research Team competed with colleges and universities from around the country. The student team members included Ranier Gran, Cuong Trihn, Joseph Dwyer, Mohammad Hossain, Kingson Lin, Omar Mukhtar, Evan Perotti, Evan Hunt, and Spiro Metaxas.

The team received tremendous support from its mentors Rosanne Burns and John Taffel, both Upper Darby High School teachers. It was an incredible accomplishment to finish second in the competition as a high school team.

The team researched the possibility of locating lava tubes (large underground tunnels) using temperature differences measured on the surface of the moon. It successfully confirmed the location of tubes at a number of suspected locations. These caves could someday be used as locations for lunar outposts.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Lunar Research Team, along with their parents and faculty mentors, for their hard work in the field of science and technology, and this well-deserved accomplishment.

#### GEORGE WELSH TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Welsh, current superintendent of Center School District in Colorado. His leadership and ability to think outside of the box has greatly benefitted the Center School District and provided students with opportunities to learn and achieve beyond ordinary expectations. Leading by example, through dedication to teaching and learning, Mr. Welsh has inspired teachers and students in the San Luis Valley to reach their full potential for over a decade.

Mr. Welsh was recently named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, a well-deserved honor. Center School District has faced many challenges and headwinds, often operating with extremely limited resources. With Mr. Welsh's leadership, innovative use of technology and ability to maximize the resources available to the District, graduation rates in the Center School District have risen up to 93 percent, from 33 percent when he began in 1997. This is an extraordinary achievement.

In addition to being named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Colorado Association of School Districts, Mr. Welsh was also the recipient of the Demont Award from the Colorado Association of School Boards, naming him Outstanding Rural Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. George Welsh for his dedication to education and leadership that has undoubtedly transformed many lives. Superintendent George Welsh is an incredible resource for his community, and I have no doubt that he will continue to have a significant impact during his education career, helping students and teachers reach their highest goals.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS HONOREES

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2013*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted its 37th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association presented the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Theresa Ann Mayerik. For her outstanding contributions to her community, she is to be commended.

In 1976, Theresa Mayerik graduated from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Physical Education. She began her teaching career with the Centerville School Corporation in central Indiana. While working in Centerville, Theresa started the school's first women's basketball program. After two years, Theresa returned to her hometown of La Porte, where she spent seven years teaching in the La Porte Community School System. During this time, Theresa pursued a master's degree in Education from Indiana University in South Bend and also completed coursework for an administrative license in Education. In 1986, Mrs. Mayerik became the assistant principal of Morton High School in Hammond, and after three years in this position, she was named the school's principal, a title she would hold for the next eighteen years. During her time at Morton, Theresa was able to implement the Advanced Placement and the Project Lead the Way curricula, increase parental involvement, and develop the Freshman Academy. In 2007, she was named Director of Secondary Education for the School City of Hammond, and three years later, she became Chief Administrator for Academic Services and Secondary Education. Among her many accomplishments during her tenure, Theresa implemented the Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Curriculum in all of Hammond's middle and high