

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SAL HOWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Sal Howard and his service to the City of Buffalo. A dedicated employee with an indefatigable spirit, Sal has worked for the City of Buffalo for 31 years.

Sal began his long career with the City of Buffalo during the tenure of Mayor Jimmy Griffin. Due to the death of his father, Benjamin, Sal left high school to provide for his mother, brother, and sister. Through the Mayor's Summer Youth Program, Sal worked fixing snow plows and lawnmowers to aid his family.

After working for the Mayor's Summer Youth Program, Sal accepted a position with the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter, transporting dogs back and forth to the veterinarian, among other responsibilities. Sal's next step came with a position in the City of Buffalo's Engineering Department. As part of the Clean Sweep initiative, Sal drives trucks to help clean city streets, remove debris, and beautify our neighborhoods.

In addition to his day job, Sal serves as a New York State licensed armed security guard. Sal's work ethic is second to none.

The Howard family has an impressive history of civil service. Sal's father Benjamin was a sanitation engineer for the City, and his mother Columbia worked as a custodian for the Board of Education. His sister Sarah currently is a bus aide for the Board of Education and his brother Bernie worked for the City until his passing.

Sal's dedication to our community extends beyond his job. A devoted Catholic, he is an usher and Eucharistic Minister at St. Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church, on the corner of Hickory and Eagle Streets in Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to acknowledge Sal's commendable career and service to our community. I am grateful for his good works and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING JULIAN NABOZNY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a Phoenix community leader and businessman, who for 20 years now has given back to his community by providing complimentary breakfasts to thousands of individuals at his McDonald's restaurant on Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Julian Nabozny, a native of Argentina whose family moved to Chicago when he was 13, went to high school and college in Illinois

and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He became a high school teacher, mainly so he could pursue his first love—soccer—but soon learned he could not survive on a coach's salary. When he learned McDonald's was looking for prospective Hispanic owners, he took a shot and worked his way up from three establishments in Chicago to now owning five restaurants in Phoenix.

Since he moved to Phoenix in the early 1990s, Mr. Nabozny has built his restaurants to offer more than just a family experience; they have become local community centers. Besides providing thousands of free breakfasts on Thanksgiving Day, his McDonald's stores have provided free community resources, such as information about health insurance, immigration laws, or free mammograms. He has become a trusted leader whose voice lends help to important causes in the Hispanic community. He was recently honored as the 2012 Man of the Year at "La Noche de Amistad (The Night of Friendship)", an event organized by Phoenix 1190 AM Radio and Mujeres Unicas, a Spanish-language radio program, for donating much of his time and personal finances to help those less fortunate. In 2000, he won the National Restaurant Association's Cornerstone Humanitarian Award.

In addition, Mr. Nabozny has been a member of the McDonald's Board of Directors; president of Chicago McDonald's Hispanic Owners Association; treasurer, vice president, and president of the national McDonald's Hispanic Owners Association; chair of the company's Hispanic Marketing Committee; a leader in McDonald's Hispanic Scholarship Program; and is a member of the company's Arizona Board of Directors. He is also the Arizona/Nevada representative to the McDonald's National Hispanic Board of Directors.

As he has grown his business, Mr. Nabozny has built his restaurants to reflect the diversity of the neighborhoods in which they are located. He features Aztec-inspired artwork and a Talavera mosaic from Puebla, Mexico in his Phoenix restaurants, among other cultural features.

Mr. Nabozny has said that he believes God saved his life three times on separate occasions. Those incidents reinforced his drive to help those who are less fortunate. By providing free Thanksgiving Day breakfasts and other resources to the Phoenix community, he has provided physical nourishment, and in many cases, spiritual nourishment, to thousands of his fellow human beings. I have had a longstanding friendship with Mr. Nabozny and I admire him greatly. Therefore, on the occasion of the 20th year he plans to provide free Thanksgiving breakfasts, and to show him our deep appreciation, I ask my colleagues today to help me pay tribute to my friend and a great community leader, Mr. Julian Nabozny.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RAY LOMAS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Ray Lomas of Rock Island, Illinois.

Ray Lomas has been helping kids in the Quad-Cities since the 1950s. He coached sports teams, mentored students and athletes, and co-founded the Metropolitan Youth Program in the 1980s. Metro Youth continues to this day to engage students through its step-pers and drill team while providing tutoring and educational programs. A drummer himself, Lomas hosted the drum unit at his house every day, and made sure that they also learned practical skills like paying bills and applying for jobs.

Now 84, Ray Lomas has lived in the Quad-Cities for almost his entire life, and spent 36 years working for Deere & Co. in East Moline. His son Rory Lomas is now retired after serving in the Army for over 24 years.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Ray Lomas for his years of service to our community and I am very happy that Rock Island celebrated Ray Lomas Day on October 24th.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall 586 and 587 on November 15, 2013. I was in Massachusetts to meet with Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno at Natick Soldier Systems Center, the only active duty Army installation in New England. Since I encouraged him to come, and helped organize a portion of his visit, I felt it was necessary to be present.

Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "yes" on the Motion to Recommit (rollcall 586) and "no" on the final passage of H.R. 3350 (rollcall 587).

I would have voted against H.R. 3350 because it would have opened up health insurance plans that do not meet the basic requirements of the Affordable Care Act to new enrollees. I would have voted for the Democratic Motion to Recommit. This motion would have given insurance companies the option to continue offering plans that were in existence as of October 1, 2013 to current enrollees, but would not have opened up these plans that do not meet basic requirements to new consumers.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF READING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Reading was chartered on December 1, 1913 and was the 88th Rotary Club of over 30,000 now to be chartered. Throughout its proud 100 year history, the Reading Rotarians have committed themselves to making a difference in the community by providing meaningful service to those in need. Among the many projects the members of the Rotary Club of Reading have undertaken and completed include: establishing Rotary Park for the enjoyment of the citizens of Reading and Berks County; performing roadside cleanups; and awarding scholarships to Reading High School students.

The distinguished volunteer service by the members of the Rotary Club of Reading over the last 100 years has served to significantly improve the quality of life in the Greater Reading community.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its 100th anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Rotary Club of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I held a subcommittee hearing that was not called an "emergency" hearing, but it very well could have been. Since we first decided to hold a hearing to spotlight the human rights situation in the Central African Republic, the situation has deteriorated even further so that today the country is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Coups and dictatorships have characterized the Central African Republic since its independence in 1960, but the current crisis is far more dangerous than what has come before.

Consider this: in a country of approximately 5 million people, roughly 1.1 million citizens face serious food insecurity. Some 460,000 CAR nationals are displaced, including 64,000 who have fled to neighboring countries as refugees and nearly 400,000 who are internally displaced.

This is because there has been a complete breakdown of law and order in the country following the ouster of former President François Bozizé in March of this year. After riding to power on the back of an insurrection known as Seleka, the current dictator, Michel Djotodia, has found it difficult to disengage. Seleka, originally a political alliance, has transformed into a militia of about 25,000 men, up to 90 percent of which come from Chad and Sudan and therefore constitute in the eyes of

many a foreign invasion force. They do not speak the local language, and are Muslim in a nation that is roughly 80 percent Christian. They have targeted churches for destruction and stirred up sectarian hatreds where none had existed previously. Indeed, the Sudanese contingent in particular are said to be members of the notorious janjaweed, who have spread slavery and destruction in the Darfur region of Sudan and now are doing the same in the Central African Republic.

And if that is not bad enough, elsewhere, the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, under the psychotic leader Joseph Kony is also loose in the Central African Republic. Both the LRA and Seleka are said to kidnap children to serve as soldiers, and UNICEF estimates that there are now as many as 3,500 child soldiers affiliated with armed groups in the country.

Djotodia has formally disbanded Seleka, but Seleka continues to wreak destruction in the countryside, and they have seized mines and other resources in the country. Djotodia's writ does not extend much beyond the capital city of Bangui.

Even in Bangui, the situation is chaotic. One of our witnesses, Mike Jobbins, related how "There have been nearly a dozen successful or attempted carjackings of humanitarian vehicles over the past two weeks and at least three aid workers have lost their lives since the crisis began."

In response to the depredations of Seleka, their victims have begun to form self-defense units referred to as anti-balaka, or anti-machete, gangs, which have begun to commit retaliatory outrages of their own. Rather than confront the Seleka rebels who are responsible for starting the cycle of violence, however, they often target Muslim civilians, who are deemed "soft targets." Thus, violence begets violence.

The situation is so bad that just this past week, John Ging, director of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned, "We are very, very concerned that the seeds of a genocide are being sown."

All this is happening in a state which is, by any definition, dysfunctional.

In the words of PM Nicolas Tiangaye, who is the closest thing to a legitimate figure in the government of the Central African Republic and whom my staff and I met with this summer when he visited Washington, the Central African Republic is "anarchy, a non-state."

This descent into chaos has compounded the misery of the people of the Central African Republic suffered greatly and lagged substantially in terms of development. Prior to this year, the Central African Republic ranked 180 of 186 countries per the UN Human Development Index.

One area where the Central African Republic did lead bespeaks an irony: National Geographic ranked the Central African Republic as the nation least affected by light pollution. This is, of course, indicative of its low level of development, and the neglect and affirmative harm which generations of political leaders have subjected the country and its people.

Amid this darkness, however, there are bright spots. It is the leadership of churches and faith based organizations, as well as traditional Muslim leaders long resident in the Central African Republic who have sought to defuse communal tensions. These indigenous Muslim leaders who speak for peace need to be recognized and distinguished from foreign

fighters from countries such as Sudan—the same janjaweed who harrowed Darfur—who kill and sow destruction in the name of jihad.

We had the opportunity to hear from one such courageous faith leader, Bishop Nongo. I had the privilege of hosting Bishop Nongo in my office when he came to visit Washington this summer, and I was moved nearly to tears as he described the suffering of the people in his country. It is leaders such as Bishop Nongo, who provide assistance to all regardless of their affiliation, and who strive for peace, who provide the greatest hope for the Central African Republic.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as a scientist, I know firsthand how important scientific conferences and meetings are. I opposed H.R. 2061, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, because it would cut by 30 percent the amount of travel federal employees could undertake for conferences, meetings, and other crucial events.

Although I appreciate the sponsors' efforts to ensure oversight on travel expenditures, I suspect they fail to realize the impact that this legislation would have on the progress of science and technology. Scientific conferences play a key role in American innovation. The informal conversations, formal presentations, and everything else that goes on between scientists from different institutions and different countries lead to new collaborations that have the promise of new discoveries.

Just about any scientific society in this country can give you examples where large numbers of federally sponsored researchers have teamed up to tackle pressing issues of our day at a conference. To give just one example, the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society have stated that the development of an anti-cancer drug was the result of collaboration between a team of scientists from three laboratories that took place at one of these conferences.

We justifiably invest in federal research efforts, and we should ensure that we maximize that investment. When we deny federal scientists and researchers the ability to travel and collaborate with their peers, we leave them and our country with a diminished ability to make the most of that investment.

This affects not only scientists, of course. It is important for all federal employees to meet with their fellow professionals. If any of my colleagues wonder why face-to-face meetings are important, I would ask, why did they vote for House rules that require all of our votes to be taken in person here in the House of Representatives?

While H.R. 2061 takes some laudable attempts to increase transparency, it will undoubtedly stifle scientific collaboration, and thus I cannot support it.