

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS AND INTERNS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, one of the major reasons why I believe the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Carlos Fierros, Toulia Nwabunnia, Ziad Saqr, Michal Shinnar, Chike Achebe, Morgan Cassell, Deontae Wherry, Kern Kumar, Myron Latney, Mohammad Cifci, Hiromi Oka, Marcus Smith, Zahit Akinci, Alezeh Rauf, Elif Duran, Omorose Eguakun, Amy Akabue, Ariadna Mujica, Olivia Igbokwe, and Ayanna Costley.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and good.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and to place service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Colonel Dan Prather served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1993. After participating in ROTC at West Texas State University, Mr. Prather was commissioned in the U.S. Army, beginning his military career at Fort Hood. As a company commander and aide de camp to Major General George Ruhlen, he earned his Ranger tab to improve on his infantry skills. During his two tours of Vietnam, he earned the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat Valor, and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, along with numerous other medals.

As seen from his decorations, Mr. Prather demonstrated countless moments of valor, loyalty, and leadership. One exemplary moment was his decision to change daytime patrols of the Viet Cong to nighttime patrols. The "Rat Patrol," as he called it, was instantly successful, capturing weapons, mines, and grenades while neutralizing 34 enemy soldiers, all within the first month of operation. In fact, Mr. Prather's tactical strategy proved so effective that other U.S. Infantries adopted his nighttime model to high levels of success. Perhaps even more impressive than his tactical instincts is under his command, he lost not one soldier's life through both of his tours in Vietnam. That's remarkable leadership.

To quote a man who served in Prather's battalion at Fort Polk, who later became a General, "What a great soldier, leader, and commander Dan Prather was. In my view, he was the best of all . . . whenever I faced tough situations as a commander, I often thought of how he would have handled it."

After his military career, his dedication to service never waned. He served as a City Al-

derman for two terms in Madison, Mississippi, where he created local community improvement and infrastructure projects. When a horrific flood hit the town, he hopped right in his truck with his chain saw to help homeowners clear away rubble and start rebuilding. That's the active, selfless and relentless leadership for which he will be remembered.

Colonel Dan Prather, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and our community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOBBY AND LETA AYERS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bobby and Leta Ayers who celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Their commitment to each other and their family is an inspiration and a wonderful reminder of the importance of family, particularly during the holiday season.

Bobby and Leta were wed on July 3, 1953, at First Christian Church, Caddo Mills, by Dr. James S. Riley. Over the past six decades, Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have been blessed with one son, Dean, and his wife Gerry Ayers and one daughter, Diane, and her husband David Lindsey, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Ayers have lived their lives in Caddo Mills, Texas. Bobby worked for TXU Energy for 40 years and is now retired. Leta gave private piano lessons and was a church secretary for 10 years at their church, First Baptist, Caddo Mills.

Bobby and Leta Ayers are blessed to have had so many happy years together, and I wish them many more. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebration of the Ayer's 60th wedding anniversary.

HONORING LUISA DeLAURO AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor for me to have the opportunity to rise and recognize the accomplishments of those I so proudly represent. Today, however, is particularly special as I stand to pay tribute to my mother, Luisa DeLauro, who will celebrate her 100th birthday this December 24. She is—by any definition—an extraordinary woman,

• 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.

whose passion for family and civic service made all the difference in our lives and in our community.

Born December 24, 1913, at 111 Wooster Street, my mother was one of six children. She grew up in the heart of New Haven's Italian American community and spent most of her childhood in my grandmother's pastry shop, Canestri's. It was in the Wooster Square neighborhood that my mother learned the importance of family, respect, and community. She married my father, Ted, in 1938 and they successfully balanced a life of family and community service. I have vivid memories of my parents sitting with neighbors at our kitchen table—particularly newly immigrated families—and my mother and father doing all they could to help them overcome whatever obstacle they were facing. My mother was no stranger to hard work. When I was growing up, she worked in a sweatshop, sewing shirt collars for pennies. Every day she would make me come by after school to see the horrible, cramped conditions. It is something I will never forget. The lesson was clear: work hard. Make something of yourself. Get a good education.

My mother was elected to the Board of Alderman in 1965—a position she held for 35 years and which stands today as the record for the longest serving member of that Board. In her time on the Board, she focused much of her attention on her childhood community—seeing Wooster Square designated as the City's first Historic District, initiating the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, and recognizing distinguished residents and organizations with the honorary naming of streets and corners—but she was also a fierce advocate, particularly for senior citizens and children.

My mother knew the importance of helping people—she understood that politics was an avenue for change. She also understood that women had an obligation to participate in the political process. When I first ran for Congress in 1990, I found an article my mother wrote in the 10th ward Democratic newsletter in 1933, now 80 years ago. Serving as Secretary of the organization at the time, amazingly, she wrote:

It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-for stronghold of the male sex: politics. I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard.

And so, mom, I want to take this opportunity to say, "You made yourself heard." You continue to make us all proud. Thank you and congratulations on your centennial anniversary. You are your daughter's greatest inspiration.

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Kevin Haines served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1996. During his ten year military career, he served in the 89th Military Police Brigade, which supported in wartime and humanitarian services to numerous U.S. Army missions across the globe. For instance, he deployed to Iraq when the United States first invaded Kuwait in 1990 and approximately one year later, deployed to Cuba to help Haitian refugees. He also deployed to Somalia, and served at Fort Hood for several years. For his dedication and years of service, Mr. Haines was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Humanitarian Awards: Southwest Asia Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After Mr. Haines' military career honorably ended in 1996, he began his fire service career with the City of Temple Fire Rescue. He joined the Plano Fire Department in 1999 where he serves as a Paramedic Trainer and chairs the EMS Vision Committee. He received a Life-Saving Award in 2002 and was also awarded the Paramedic of the Year in 2007. Both in his military and civilian career, Mr. Haines has consistently demonstrated the highest level of service, putting his life on the line to protect our community, our businesses, and our homes.

Kevin Haines, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF
HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to seek and improve the quality of knowledge in the medical sciences, and to apply that knowledge in a meaningful way. The NIH fulfills this mission by maintaining high standards of sci-

entific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility. The NIH also enriches many colleges and universities across the country, because, though many Americans are not aware, a large portion of the budget is sent out to all fifty states in the form of extramural research grants. Through these grants, better education yields higher return on public investment in medical research.

Thanks in part to research performed by the NIH, the life expectancy of a baby born in the United States is now 79—which is three decades longer than one born in 1900. Not only are we living longer, but our quality of life is improving. According to the NIH, the proportion of elderly with chronic disabilities has dropped by almost one third over the last 25 years.

Research and development in the medical field is the key to curing not only cancer, but also a host of other diseases that impact millions of Americans. For citizens who suffer from pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest major cancers, such funding is not just necessary, it's urgent. It is critical that Congress do whatever is possible to support pancreatic cancer research at the NIH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In meetings with my constituents who have shared their stories about pancreatic cancer, it has been clear that we could do more to find a cure for this disease.

It is crucial that we, Members of the United States Congress, continue to support the NIH and its subsidiary, the NCI, by providing sustained and predictable funding. In these times of record debts and deficits and reduced budgets, it remains important that Congress continue to prioritize what is most important. The NIH is truly a national treasure. It is a light that we must not let fade.

FIVE CHINESE DAUGHTERS TO
BEIJING: PLEASE LET OUR FA-
THERS GO FREE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, When China bullies, incarcerates, tortures—and even executes—a prisoner of conscience, their entire family and friends suffer an excruciating sense of loss, bewilderment, emotional pain and agony.

Often members of the family are themselves subjected to interrogation, mistreatment and house arrest in order to amplify the hurt.

In a very real sense, everyone close to a prisoner of conscience goes to jail and lives a seemingly unending nightmare. Every day, family and friends are left to wonder what terrible abuse awaits dad or mom or a brother or sister or child. Every day, the tears flow.

The people who rule China today with an iron fist resort to these ugly methods of control in the mistaken assumption that the people—the masses—can't be trusted to govern themselves, practice their faith as they see fit or create a family. China's barbaric one child per couple population control policy in effect since 1979 continues unabated to make brothers and sisters illegal and relies on ruinous fines and penalties, forced abortion, and coercive sterilization—crimes against humanity—to