

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Mike Neubeiser and the Northwest High School football team of Germantown, Maryland, who won the Maryland Class 4A State football championship on Friday, December 6th.

With a 33–16 victory over Suitland High School, the Northwest Jaguars capped off a 12–2 season. This is Northwest's first state football championship since 2004 and the first state championship for a Montgomery County high school since 2008.

Even though Coach Neubeiser's team started the season with two losses in their first eight games, the Jaguars turned their season around to win the state title. This improbable turnaround proves that even when faced with adversity, Coach Neubeiser and his staff can inspire these young adults to accomplish great things. Thanks to his leadership, Northwest student-athletes have excelled both on the field and in the classroom. I wish the Northwest Jaguars the best of luck next season as they defend their title.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring this significant accomplishment.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to draw your attention to a speech given by one of my young constituents, Jonathan Serota of Brookville, NY. Jonathan ran for President of Yale Model Congress and spoke about the need for compromise and commitment to our country. His words are wise beyond his years and all of the members of this chamber would do well to hear them. I'd like to share them with you now and hereby insert Jonathan's speech as follows in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

For 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that

very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That IS what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill."

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress,

we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana," "Make the playing field fairer," "lower taxes," "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

MAG STRITTMATTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mag Strittmatter for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

It takes great strength to face the heart-breaking issues of poverty day after day, and even more strength to lead others in that fight. Leading The Action Center, Mag has that strength in abundance. She has overseen a revolution in volunteer engagement at the Action Center, where more than 7,000 volunteers contribute annually for the good of the community. She has built on-going partnerships with Red Rocks Community College, Jeffco Human Services and the Metro Community Provider Network to bring resources to clients in one location. In her mentoring she can identify strengths and build the organization around them, with the deep wisdom to see

• 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.

that each person has an important role. Under her leadership, The Action Center's revenue increased by more than 600% since 2002. Directly affecting the community she serves in such a positive way.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mag Strittmatter for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH WHITE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative Kennedy, Representative McGovern, Representative Neal, and Representative Tsongas rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph White, President of the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts, upon his upcoming retirement.

Mr. White has diligently served the Association for the past forty-five years, and his leadership has guided this organization through many changes. Having retired at the age of thirty-eight from his position as a parole officer in the aftermath of a gunfire assault, Mr. White knew that there was still much for him to give to the Commonwealth. He then began his role of President of the Association. Throughout his tenure, he was instrumental in enacting many key reforms that benefit retirees. Such reforms included raising the pension cost-of-living ceiling, ensuring that retirees' and survivors' health insurance payments remained at a reasonable level, and improving protections for disability retirees. Mr. White has given a great deal to the Association and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and his perseverance has touched many lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join us in thanking Mr. Ralph White for his many years of service.

HONORING THE BARBER SHOPPE IN KIRKLAND

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Barber Shoppe in Kirkland on fifty years of successful business. Since it opened in 1964, the Barber Shoppe has been providing the community with quality service and customer care. Their commitment to excellence has ensured that business stays steady in rough economic times and remains a local favorite.

I would like to give special recognition to Bill Bitz, the man who first started the business in the 1960's. Although Bill died last year at the age of 86, his legacy lives on at the Barber Shoppe. Bill instilled a special charm in the family-owned business that is behind its popularity.

Bill's daughter, Brenda Gordon, proudly took over the shop from her father when he retired.

Gordon's training at Folks Barber College in Renton has helped her to continually enhance and improve the shop.

Although the shop now has a new building and a new name, it continues its legacy of classic comfort and high quality care. The Barber Shoppe serves as a role model for many other local businesses that hope to achieve a similar record of success.

I congratulate the Barber Shoppe on all of its accomplishments, and thank it for its contribution to the Kirkland community.

HONORING MR. RAYMOND THOMAS "R.T." RYBAK

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions of R.T. Rybak to the city of Minneapolis during his 12-year tenure as mayor, and to applaud his leadership in areas from education to government accountability to economic opportunity. Mayor Rybak has been an outstanding leader, a great public servant and a close friend.

R.T. Rybak, a Minneapolis native, began his distinguished career as a journalist for the Minneapolis Tribune. While working for various media outlets—including the Twin Cities Reader, Minnesota Public Radio, and Public Radio International—he was also an organizer who ran political campaigns and engaged in community activism. He campaigned for airport noise mitigation, sponsoring the famous "Pajama Protest" of 1999. Mayor Rybak's tactics have been inventive and inclusive, and his openness has made him a strong ally of communities often left out of the political process.

Mayor Rybak confronted a city with serious challenges: an increasing budget deficit, a stark achievement gap, pension issues, and public safety concerns. He went to work immediately, making difficult decisions to adjust taxes and budget priorities. Under his leadership, Minneapolis cut spending by 16 percent and paid down \$350 million of the city's debt, in spite of repeated state-level funding cuts. Faced with crises such as the 2007 collapse of the I-35W bridge, and the 2009 Great Recession, Mayor Rybak helped the city recover with poise and energy. He was a strong advocate for Minneapolis residents, while also using these opportunities to bolster mass transit infrastructure and to further diversify our economy. Minneapolis has recovered all 10,000 jobs lost in the recession, and added an additional 5,000. The city now ranks first in the country for its low unemployment rate, and is less susceptible to future economic fluctuations.

Minneapolis is safer now than it has been in years. Most crimes have fallen to levels not seen in 35 years.

The people of Minneapolis are also more connected and informed. City-wide wireless internet, digital access to government information and services, and a forum for viewing city goals have made Minneapolis more open and accessible.

Mayor Rybak's advocacy for North Minneapolis, in particular, has been long overdue on the city's agenda. He increased city investment in addressing persistent gaps in edu-

cation, housing, and economic opportunity that have faced North Minneapolis for decades. He championed programs that trained residents and placed them into good jobs, working with businesses to create sustainable, meaningful employment. He reduced foreclosures, and used city-owned land to promote affordable green housing. Mayor Rybak has laid the foundation for revitalizing North Minneapolis, and I am confident that our city's future leaders will follow his lead.

Mayor Rybak has also tackled the significant challenges facing Minneapolis schools. He started Minneapolis Promise, which provides young people with free college and career counseling and high-quality summer jobs. Since 2004, the STEP-UP internship program has given real-world job experience to over 18,000 Minneapolis youth. Rybak has led the effort to close one of the nation's widest achievement gaps by connecting schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses to work together for our children's futures. This will be one of the lasting achievements he leaves with Minneapolis, as he continues the fight to close the achievement gap as the next Chief Executive of Generation Next.

Minneapolis will always be indebted to Mayor Rybak. From the balanced books of the city's treasurer, to the youth who can aspire to greater opportunity than their parents, to the residents headed to a secure job after months or years out of work, his achievements have improved Minneapolis and I thank him for his tireless service to our community.

LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lakewood High School for their tremendous compassion and character shown during the floods that happened in the State of Colorado in September. This high school located in Lakewood, Colorado must be acknowledged because they showed incredible spirit and support to other schools around Colorado during a time of emergency.

After winning the Good Morning America Katy Perry contest, the students of Lakewood High School used their moment in the national spotlight to direct national attention towards other students throughout the state affected by the floods. There are countless stories of different student groups and organizations within the school sending supplies, money and support to other students who were in need the most. This is exemplary of the character and compassion the faculty instills in the students at this high school.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Lakewood High School in their display of school spirit for their school and also for the State of Colorado. I am certain the students in this school will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.