

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Community Alliance in Jacksonville, Florida. During this period of time, the JCA has become a pillar of good works in the community and has enriched the lives of tens of thousands of people who have sought assistance in a plethora of ways. JCA has worked tirelessly fulfilling its mission to enhance the quality of life for those in need regardless of age, religion, race, financial capabilities, and physical and mental abilities.

On April 20, 2013, the family of the Jewish Community Alliance will celebrate its positive impact on our community. Open to people—young and old—the JCA offers classes in fitness, gardening, and art. There are concerts for the young and the young-at-heart. You can learn chess or play sports in a family-friendly atmosphere. Summer days are filled with fun at a variety of youth camps, and kids and parents enjoy scientific discovery challenges together.

The JCA is celebrating a quarter of a century of providing pre-school age children with an enriched start in life and of offering adults and teens ways to improve their health and to partake in enrichment classes.

For the last 25 years the JCA has provided a place that benefits both young and old and has enhanced its participants' lives by allowing them to share intergenerational values. Children attend quality after-school programs that give comfort to their parents, and those with special needs, whether adults or children, are encouraged to reach their full potential with dignity.

JCA has a rich history of making a difference in our Jacksonville community. The faces of the children and those who come to the JCA may change each year, but the mission remains the same—making a difference in the lives of those it touches.

It is my honor to bring this historic commemoration of a quarter century of service to the community to the attention of the United States Congress and to invite Members to join me in extending our appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE NURSES ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 27TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my fellow nurses within the Hos-

pice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) as they celebrate their 27th anniversary. HPNA is the Nation's largest and oldest professional nursing organization and has consistently been a leader in excellence in the field.

Nurses are truly the backbone of our healthcare system. As our Nation ages, we will increasingly depend on the skilled care of hospice and palliative nurses to help our loved ones through difficult times. Their tireless dedication to patient education and care sustains our communities.

Last year I spoke at a briefing on Capitol Hill with hospice and palliative care nurses, families, caregivers, and patients to encourage discussion on this very important, yet often overlooked area.

Palliative care is a patient-centered philosophy that provides quality, compassionate end-of-life care. By honoring informed patient choice, palliative care nurses help make a challenging time a little easier for patients and their loved ones. I hope this topic continues to be part of our professional and personal dialogues.

This is important work and I hope you will join me in recognition of these leaders in aging and long-term care. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to quality nursing. I congratulate my hospice and palliative care nursing colleagues and wish them continued success.

NASHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
HORNETTES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding victory of the Nashville Community High School Hornets girls' basketball team in the recent State Championships.

The Hornets put together an outstanding performance against their division's top ranked team to take the Class 2A State Championship 42–29. I would like to congratulate Coach Wayne Harre, whose efforts over the past 12 seasons as well as those of Nashville High School's coaching staff, teachers and administrators, have brought to fruition the talent of our youth and seen these fine young ladies achieve an outstanding result.

These young ladies: Erica Brown, Madi May, Katy Kosydar, Kiley Pelker, Emily Gill, Shawn Renegarbe, Rachel Reid, Jordi Harre, Hannah Yung, Shayne Harre, Alli Kellerman, Haylee Kania, Jeni Krawiecki and Madison Frerker have represented themselves, their school, and their community with distinction. I look forward to watching their future successes in both their academic and athletic pursuits and wish them all the best in these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Nashville Hornets on a job well done.

IN HONOR OF PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEER NICHOLAS CASTLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Peace Corps Volunteer Nicholas Castle. Nick died on February 7th at a hospital in Chengdu, China after a brief illness. By all accounts, Nick exemplified the best of what both America and Peace Corps has to offer the world. He was a bright young man from Brentwood, California who brought a sense of humor, creativity, and a willingness to say yes to his life.

Service played an important role in the all too brief arc of Nick's life. Growing up in Brentwood, he worked with the city Youth Commissioner to support community service events that raised money for annual scholarships for college-bound students. As an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, Nick was equally as invested in service as the Director of Global Outreach Week, a week of activities demonstrating the actions and benefits students and faculty can have around the world. He also worked with the local Peace Corps campus recruiter to encourage students to apply to serve.

In August 2012, Nick was sworn in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in China where he taught university-level English in Guizhou Province. In his short time there, Nick left a big impression, through the English classes he taught, community office hours he hosted, and ping-pong and badminton games he played. It is no surprise that his students called him "Mr. Sunshine."

I offer my profound condolences to Nick's parents, David and Susan Castle, and to his three brothers. There is no deeper pain for a parent than the loss of a child. But Nick leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that have forever made this world a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AND COURAGE OF
MARGARET "PEGGY SUE"
O'DONNELL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, March 8, is the date of the official dinner of the Grand Marshal of the 16th Annual Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade, and today I rise to recognize the leadership and community service of this year's Parade Grand Marshal, Margaret "Peggy Sue" O'Donnell.

Peggy Sue's first real job was in the microfilm department in the Carbon County Courthouse in Jim Thorpe, where she worked

• 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.

throughout high school and college. For the past 28 years, she has been a package car driver for United Parcel Service. She has received many citations for safe driving—quite a feat since she delivers packages to all of the businesses on Broadway and Race Streets in Jim Thorpe. As her customers (and their dogs) will attest, Peggy Sue is the face of UPS in Jim Thorpe, and her friendly and outgoing personality makes her an outstanding ambassador for her employer and profession in town.

She is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jim Thorpe. She is a charter member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Molly Maguire Division 1, Carbon County, and served as its president from 2008–2009. She has also held other volunteer positions in town and on the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee, including serving as an aide to 2003 Parade Grand Marshal John J. Mulligan.

Her "Fighting Irish spirit" has helped carry her through a courageous bout with cancer. Diagnosed in July 2012, she feels it has been the continuous prayers and support of friends and family that has been the best and most important medicine. Her illness has brought together a community in a positive way that no one could have imagined. She may have lost her voice, but she has never lost her radiant spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I send my highest congratulations to "Peggy Sue" O'Donnell on being named the Grand Marshal of this year's Carbon County St. Patrick's Day Parade, and my thoughts and prayers are with her on this day and always.

LAS VEGAS DANCE TROUPE TO PERFORM IN INAUGURAL PARADE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Las Vegas take pride in the different cultural heritages and traditions that have enriched our community, and contributed to our distinct identity.

Today, I stand to recognize a Las Vegas dance group that truly embodies this spirit, Comparza Morelense.

Rooted in their Mexican heritage, Comparza Morelense is well known throughout Southern Nevada, performing traditional dances and songs at numerous festivals and fairs for the last two years.

This January, Comparza Morelense's hard work and dedication were rewarded with an invitation to perform in the President's Inaugural Parade.

As the only Nevadan group invited to participate in the Parade, this was truly a prestigious honor.

On Inauguration Day, I proudly cheered them on as they represented not only Las Vegas and Nevada, but their rich cultural heritage as well.

Wolf Blitzer, newsman from CNN, also commented that the group with the beautiful costumes from the state of Morelos was the most colorful entry in the parade.

I submit the Las Vegas Sun article, "Las Vegas dance troupe to perform in Inaugural Parade," written by Tovin Lapan on January 10, 2013.

LAS VEGAS DANCE TROUPE TO PERFORM IN INAUGURAL PARADE

(By Tovin Lapan)

In the past two years, the Las Vegas dance troupe Comparza Morelense has quadrupled in size and gone from dancing at birthday parties and first communions to winning multiple parade trophies and performing in November at the Latin Grammys.

Despite the rapid rise in the group's popularity, no one expected the invite that arrived Dec. 20. In fact, some members of the group demanded to see proof the White House had indeed requested they participate in the parade at the 57th presidential inauguration.

"I submitted an application because (the parade organizers) asked us to. I think someone from the campaign saw us last year," said Stephanie Padilla, one of the group's members. "I got the email saying we were invited, and the first thing I did was tell my mom. She called the other dancers, and they didn't believe her. So, we had to show the letter to everyone."

Comparza Morelense started with 11 members in December 2010. The group now counts 40 members, ranging in age from 9 months to 65 years old, among its ranks. About 25 dancers will make the trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Jan. 21 Inaugural Parade.

Jesus Padilla and Maria Garcia, Stephanie's parents and co-founders of the group, started the dance troupe with other family members to help keep alive a tradition from their home, the Mexican state of Morelos.

"We started the group because we would dance after family dinners and parties, but we wanted a more formal way to share the tradition and our culture," Garcia said in Spanish. "We never thought it would lead to performing for the president. I think it reflects the president's interest in all of the races and cultures in the country, and how he seeks participation from all corners."

The Presidential Inaugural Committee is attempting to choose representatives from each state for the parade, and Comparza Morelense is the only invitee from Nevada so far, a committee spokeswoman said. In making its choices, the committee considers the type of performance, reviews videos and weighs how each potential participant would represent U.S. history, diversity and commitment to service.

The elation of inclusion for Comparza Morelense, however, was soon followed by the reality of funding and logistics. * * * fundraiser, featuring food, games, a raffle and dance performance, from 4 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Elegante Banquet Hall, 3020 E. Bonanza Rd.

During a demonstration for media this week, the group's speakers cracked, popped and then conked out more than once. Garcia said Comparza Morelense typically would use a pickup truck and its own sound system during a parade, but for the Inaugural Parade the members would like to hire a DJ with professional equipment or, more traditionally, a live band.

No matter what, Comparza Morelense will make it all work, Garcia said, beaming with a wide smile at the thought of how far the group has come.

"When we started, we only set out to share this dance and piece of our culture with the community," Garcia said. "Now we get to go perform for the president. It's amazing."

Pablo Soriano, a 12-year-old who joined the group just a few months ago and will travel to Washington, dances in a black velvet costume embroidered with images of the sun and Tigger, from Winnie the Pooh.

"I like everything about the dance," Pablo said. "I like the jumping. You get exercise."

You sweat. My mom and dad are from Morelos, and I feel like I'm carrying on the traditions. I also like how there are so many different cultures mixed together."

The dancers are called "Chinelos," and their origin dates to the Spanish conquest of Mexico. The indigenous people were persecuted and not allowed to openly practice their own religion. During Lent and Carnival, emboldened by the ability to wear masks in the festivities, some indigenous people wore costumes mocking the Europeans and danced through the streets. The Chinelos from Morelos, where in the colonial era there were large sugar plantations, are some of the first and most well known.

"The priests didn't let the indigenous people practice their customs, and they had no rights," Garcia said in Spanish. "When they had the chance (at Carnival preceding Lent), they put on costumes and made fun of them."

The costumes are elaborate and take between one and two months to make, Garcia said. The masks are typically light in color and feature a pointy upturned beard, a clear holdover from the dance's roots in imitating Europeans.

The costumes, made from velvet, are embroidered with elaborate designs that reflect the dancer's interests and often meld motifs from politics, religion and both European and Mexican culture. Some are images of indigenous Mexican mythology, many have depictions of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and others feature skulls, dragons, swords and even Disney characters.

The dance is called the "Brinco del Chinelo" (Jump of the Chinelo) and is left open to interpretation by the individual dancer. For the Inaugural Parade, however, Comparza Morelense is planning to do some extra choreography in an effort to present a more unified form for their moment in the national spotlight, Garcia said.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2013, I was unable to vote because of medical reasons and missed rollcall vote No. 55, on passage of S. 47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

I strongly support reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was delayed for far too long. I am pleased that Congress was able to overcome the obstacles that blocked its final passage. VAWA's programs are a critical component of our Nation's effort to reduce violence and care for victims. Reauthorizing VAWA will help Alaska, and the rest of the country, combat the epidemic of abuse and rape that plagues our families and communities.

RECOGNIZING MINNETONKA GIRLS ALPINE SKI TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 4, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Minnetonka High School Girls Alpine Ski Team.