

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CEN- TER HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William J. Brodsky, Linda Johnson Rice and J.B. Pritzker, this year's Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center Humanitarian Awards Dinner honorees. Mr. Brodsky, Ms. Rice and Mr. Pritzker embody what is best about the humanitarian spirit in our community.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center has, for 32 years, worked to ensure that we will never forget the unspeakable evil of the Holocaust, and that the world works diligently to prevent such evil in the future. The Museum & Education Center has educated countless students, young and old, on the perils of hate and discrimination, and since its new building opened in 2009, the center has stepped to the forefront of global Holocaust studies.

Each year, the Museum and Education Center recognizes the civic leadership of a select few, and this year's honorees are an outstanding and impressive group, with deep roots in the community and long records of service.

William J. Brodsky is the Chairman and CEO of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and in more than 15 years in his position, he has successfully guided the company through turbulent economic times and done much on behalf of the Chicagoland community. He is being honored this year for his outstanding commitment to the ideals of promoting human rights and defeating hate through education. His support for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center has furthered its greater mission and helped elevate the center on a global stage.

Linda Johnson Rice has served as the Chairman of Johnson Publishing since 2010 and before that as CEO beginning in 1987. Throughout her tremendous career, she has maintained a dedication to the causes of women, minorities and, especially, children. Her parents instilled in her beliefs in education and improving society, and she has applied those beliefs to the Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Her continued support of the Museum and Education Center's goal of combating hate, prejudice and indifference is a true inspiration. The side of equal, global human rights is stronger with her as an ally.

My friend J.B. Pritzker, whom I've known for more than 20 years, is a titan not only of industry, but philanthropy. Through the Pritzker Family Foundation and his work as Chairman of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, J.B. has led international efforts to empower the world's children. He spearheaded the efforts to fund and build the Illinois

Holocaust Museum and Education Center. His tireless work on behalf of survivors and in the cause of ending genocide has accomplished remarkable good. The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center would not be what it is today without J.B. Pritzker's efforts. I can think of no one more deserving of the inaugural Survivors Legacy Award. I'm proud to call J.B. a friend, and I'm pleased to see his commitment recognized.

At a time when Congressional gridlock has prevented critical work from being accomplished, seeing people like these three, with deep senses of civic duty, step up and take the lead on important issues is something we can all be thankful for. I congratulate Mr. Brodsky, Ms. Rice and Mr. Pritzker on their awards and wish them continued success. I look forward to following their future philanthropic endeavors.

TEXAS HIGHWAYS OASIS—BUC- EE'S

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, proud Texans naturally believe everything is bigger and better in Texas—because it is. Texas has the nation's biggest and longest highway system with nearly 80,000 miles of Texas highways. It is 880 miles from the Louisiana border to the New Mexico border and 500 miles from the Oklahoma border to the Mexican border. As Texas travelers are packing up and headed out across the great Lone Star State, odds are, they will make a pit stop at a Texas phenomenon—a convenience store called Buc-ee's.

In 1982, Arch "Beaver" Aplin, founder and CEO of Buc-ee's, along with his business partner, Don Wasek, opened their first store in Lake Jackson, Texas. Super size dreams, determination and hard work proved successful for this duo; they now own 27 stores and employee over 1,000 Texans.

At a Buc-ee's, you can always spot an Aggie, either from their personalized license plate, their maroon pick-ups adorned with A&M stickers, or the ring—don't forget the ring! Aplin himself is a proud Aggie. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1980 with a degree in construction science. At the age of 22, newly graduated Aplin began working for the family-owned construction business. Two months later, he got the idea to open the Lake Jackson convenience store. The rich heritage of tradition that sets Texas A&M apart from all the rest is evident in Aplin's approach to owning a convenience store.

Like camels in a caravan, motorists follow the famous billboards to find their own road trip oasis. Buc-ee's are well known for their large and very clean restroom facilities, which earned them the "2012 Cleanest Restroom in America" Award—no wonder the women folk

fancy stopping at Buc-ee's. There is something for the entire brood to enjoy from Beaver Nuggets, breakfast tacos, Bar-B-Que, beef jerky and fudge to T-shirts and Texas proud merchandise—even deer feeders and deer stands for sportsmen.

Nowhere else on earth, but Texas, can you find a gas station bigger than a football field! I am not making this up. They have 5 flagship stores open 24 hours a day located in New Braunfels, Luling, Madisonville, Bastrop and Wharton. These stores are bigger than the average Buc-ee's—maybe we should nickname them the 8th Wonder of the World.

It is truly an honor to recognize this Texas-owned business; not only for its standing as one of the top convenience stores in the State of Texas, but for the great services that it provides to the citizens of our great State. The employees are happy, Texas friendly, and helpful. On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I commend all Buc-ee's employees on a job well done, not only in our community, but throughout Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS SHOULD APPLY TO ALL FED- ERAL ELECTIONS

**HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides the full protection of federal election law to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands. The people of these areas deserve to have their elections protected by the same laws that safeguard elections and voters everywhere else in our Nation.

Because of various anomalies federal election laws do not always apply in the territories as in the states. There are gaps in application from one territory to the next. My legislation simply closes those gaps, so that the laws that govern federal elections apply in the same way throughout our country.

The result will be that voters in the territories will be protected from intimidation, threats, and coercion, when they cast their ballots in federal elections—just as voters are protected in the rest of America.

The result will be that the manipulation of elections for federal office by public officials will be illegal—just as in the rest of America.

By extending federal election law, as it does, my bill makes clear that aliens are prohibited from voting and extends the penalties of fine and imprisonment that apply in the rest of our country.

• 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.

By extending federal election law, as it does, my bill makes sure that persons employed in federal or territorial government offices are barred from using their official authority to interfere with the nomination or election process for any federal office and penalizes those who do.

By extending federal election law, as it does, my bill gives voters assurance that their votes will not be diluted with votes cast by persons using false information to register or identify themselves at the polling place, just as federal law assures voters in the rest of America.

My bill simply adds the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. territories to those parts of the law where we are not included, in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, for example, and in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

Each and every Member of Congress from each and every State abides by and is protected by these same laws. I believe that Members of Congress from the non-State areas and their constituents must abide by the same standards and deserve these same safeguards in their elections for federal office.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING FORMER MONROE
COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY
STEELE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to note the recent passing of a longtime community leader and public servant, former Monroe County Commissioner Jerry Steele. Commissioner Steele was 85.

A lifelong resident of Beatrice, Alabama, Commissioner Steele graduated from Beatrice High School in 1946. He only left for a few years to attend Auburn University from which he graduated in 1951. Jerry loved Beatrice so much that he often told his friends, "If you need me, you can always find me in Beatrice. I never intended to move until I move to the cemetery."

Jerry's love for Monroe County was demonstrated in his many contributions to the community. A supporter of local education, he founded Monroe Academy in 1970, and served as Board Chairman for eight years.

He was a dedicated member of the business community as well. He organized F. S. Steele Timber Company and later Hines, Steele and Steele, Inc. in 1969. He was Vice-President of Peoples Exchange Bank and a former member of the Alabama Cattleman's Association.

He was first elected to public office in the 1950's when he served on the Beatrice City Council. In 1964, he was elected to the Monroe County Commission, a position he held for 24 years. While a commissioner, he earned a reputation as an honest and dependable leader and a devoted shepherd of the people's business. He also had a well-known sense of humor. According to the Monroe Journal, Jerry possessed a wit that seems particularly appropriate in today's political climate. He once said, "I'm telling you the sorriest administrator of money is a government office, and that includes us."

Jerry was a Charter member of the Beatrice Community Church and a member of the Beatrice Baptist Church. He taught Sunday School, served as a Deacon, and held many other offices in each church throughout the years.

An avid sportsman, Jerry loved hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren, who were the joys of his life.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Patricia; their two sons, David and Harvel; their seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and their many relatives. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCING THE INVASIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE PREVENTION ACT OF 2013

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act. This legislation significantly strengthens the ability of federal regulators to make rapid, science-based decisions on whether non-native fish or wildlife species pose a risk to ecosystems within the United States and cause economic damage or threaten public health.

Invasive species are a persistent and costly thorn in the side of the American taxpayer. In Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, the federal budget allocated approximately \$120 million to control the Asian carp. Meanwhile the U.S. is spending tens of millions more dollars to control other invaders, such as wetland-destroying nutria and two python species established in south Florida.

Yet, federal regulators are frequently slow to respond to emerging threats. Invasive species are currently regulated by the Lacey Act, a 112-year-old law that gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) only limited power to declare non-native animals as "injurious" and prohibit their importation and interstate sales. In fact, it takes the FWS an average of four years to officially list a species as injurious and take appropriate action. Experts and interested parties repeatedly describe this regulatory approach as reactive and ineffective.

Alternatively, the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act would give the FWS streamlined authority to prevent invasions using modern scientific approaches. The bill also creates a category of "Injurious II" species, which are not suited as private pets or aquarium species, but can be held safely by qualified zoos, aquaria, research facilities and other institutions without any need for a Federal permit. This exemption is broader than current law, which requires a Federal permit for transactions in all listed species, a requirement that is becoming unworkable as more animals are listed.

We must take critical steps now to prevent the next Asian carp, Burmese python, or red lionfish crisis. These destructive invaders will continue to come into our country via globalized trade until Congress steps in to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. This is important legislation to help protect women and families from domestic violence. I have long championed the rights of crime victims, especially women. So I am glad we are passing this legislation today, and that it will soon become law. This will ensure we continue our efforts to address the issue of violence against women from a variety of angles, including prevention, intervention, and prosecution.

Today I want to address specific aspects of Title XII of this Act, entitled "Trafficking Victims Protection."

Human trafficking is an egregious offense against human dignity that oppresses tens of millions of people around the world, and disproportionately victimizes women and girls. But even those jarring statistics can obscure the depressing reality: the harm of trafficking is probably most clearly seen in the eyes of a girl who is being robbed of her freedom, her youth, and her hope for the unjust benefit of someone else.

As Chairman of the Committee of primary jurisdiction for the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the three subsequent reauthorization statutes, I am proud of the strong, bipartisan role that the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Congress have played in the global fight against modern-day slavery over the past 13 years.

Title XII of the bill before us today extends and amends those anti-trafficking authorities with language that was not considered under regular order by House committees. I rise to register my concern with certain sections that normally would fall within Foreign Affairs jurisdiction, because I do not want that language to harm the important work already being done by the Department of State, and particularly its Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, known as the "TIP Office."

While our limited resources must be put to their best uses, I don't understand why the Senate has slashed funding for the TIP Office, in contrast to the funding increases elsewhere in Title XII. That is a mistake. I just hope it is not a mistake that is fatal to the integrity and vitality of anti-trafficking efforts at the Department of State. Within State, the TIP Office has been the Congressionally-authorized anchor that has kept trafficking advocacy and the annual tier rankings from being subordinated to the usual pressures of bilateral diplomacy. That is, the frequent temptation for the State Department to compromise our human trafficking concerns for interests perceived, and often misperceived, as being more important than pressing another country on this crime against humanity. This bill weakens the hand of the TIP Office.

Section 1201 of the bill directs the regional bureaus at the State Department to develop annual, country-specific anti-trafficking goals and objectives in cooperation with the TIP Office. With its deep expertise in implementing and assessing interventions to combat modern