

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ED JOHNSTONE'S COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA REGION OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Johnstone, a community leader engaged on climate change issues in our region. Today, the President is recognizing his efforts by awarding Mr. Johnstone the Champions of Change award.

Mr. Johnstone is a member of the Quinault Indian Nation and serves as their spokesperson on ocean policy and treaty fishing rights. He has done remarkable work explaining how climate change is negatively impacting the ecosystems and fisheries that are central to the traditions, culture, and spiritual beliefs of his tribe, as well as our regional economy.

Mr. Johnstone has helped raise awareness of climate change by co-leading the First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change Symposium at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Climate change is an issue that involves not only preserving our environment. It's also about protecting our economic and national security interests. Climate change is already beginning to negatively impact our state's agriculture and shellfish industries, forests, and salmon habitat. Promoting growth and preserving these industries is essential in retaining and creating new jobs in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I enjoy living in our region because I value the richness of our environment. We know our generation must be responsible stewards of our lands, waters, and of our entire planet for future generations. It's leaders like Mr. Johnstone that are taking that vision and turning it into a reality day in and day out.

It takes great effort and service to earn this prestigious award. On behalf of our region, it is an honor to congratulate Mr. Johnstone on this accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING MANO A MANO FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, an organization in my district that is dedicated to helping immigrants realize their dreams here in the United States. We are a nation of immigrants, but without the work of organizations like Mano a Mano, we are merely a nation that accepts immigrants, rather than one encouraging them to be active, engaged members of the community.

Started out of a small storefront, Mano a Mano has grown over the last decade to help more than 4,300 people per year. With language courses, early education programs, GED tutoring, computer skills training and health education, Mano a Mano has helped countless families and individuals become complete participants in American life.

The beauty of these programs, and what makes Mano a Mano so effective, is how they are tailored to client and community needs. For example, recognizing challenges managing or understanding life with diabetes, Mano a Mano launched an initiative to educate the community on living with a chronic disease and how better to manage it.

The success stories go on and on and on and are too many to enumerate. Let me highlight, however, what I think is a most telling attribute of their success: year after year, Mano a Mano clients often return as volunteers, tutors or educators. Not only are these programs successfully enriching our communities and the lives of their clients, but they also inspire a tradition of giving back, of paying it forward, and of doing for others as Mano a Mano did for them. Such is the cycle—a community of reaching out—where one good turn leads to another and another.

On the eve of the annual gala, I thank Mano a Mano for all that they are and all that they do. I am proud that this organization makes its home in our Tenth District.

HONORING PAUL SPRING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Spring. Paul is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Paul has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Paul has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Paul has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Paul led a construction team in building a picnic area consisting of four cedar tables and an encompassing rubber mulch area at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Spring for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 363

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 110th anniversary of the Boilermakers Local 363 of East St. Louis, Illinois.

By the late 19th century many of the skilled craftsmen who powered the Industrial Revolution were seeking to improve pay and working conditions through the formation of unions. Workers in the boilermaker and iron ship building trades had formed a union in Chicago as had boilermakers in Atlanta. These two organizations would merge in 1893 to form the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders and, on March 22, 1903, Local 363 in East St. Louis, Illinois received its charter.

Over the years the Boilermakers Union would continue to grow and diversify as other related trade unions merged with it. A Helpers Division was added in 1902 and Blacksmiths and Drop Forgers merged in 1954. In 1984, the United Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Workers merged, to be followed, in 1994, by the Stove, Furnace and Allied Appliance Workers. The Metal Polishers, Buffers and Platers would merge in 1996. As a result of these many mergers, the name of the union is now the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

Membership in the union grew in the 20th century as the needs for the skilled labor grew. At the dawn of the century, membership was about 8,500 but had grown to over 350,000 by the end of World War II in the mid-1940s. There are currently 534 members in Local 363.

Local 363 has always realized that its responsibility to its members also extends to those members' community. The list of organizations that have been assisted by the local's support include: the United Way, Special Olympics, the Illinois Cancer Society and the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Boilermakers Local 363 as they celebrate their 110th anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JIM LEEDY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Leedy, a renowned artist who

• 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.

envisioned and fostered the beginning of a thriving arts community and culture in downtown Kansas City. He did this by transforming an undesirable section of Kansas City, Missouri into what is now known as the Crossroads Art District. As an established artist whose work has been exhibited around the world, in over 1,000 one-man shows, he understands the importance of a culture where artists have an integrated community to live, work and showcase their work. Considering those basic necessities, he purchased a building in 1985 and remodeled it to accommodate live/work artist studios and multiple gallery spaces, known as the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center. Today, the Crossroads Art District is home to more than 400 local artists, 100 independent studios, and over 30 galleries. It is one of the most concentrated gallery districts in the nation. On the first Friday of each month, known as "First Friday's", you will find thousands of people visiting the galleries, listening to music and eating at their favorite establishment. It is a uniquely Kansas City environment.

So who is this man that made such a dramatic difference, not only in our community but throughout his artistic career? Born in 1930, Jim Leedy grew up in the clay soils of Virginia and Kentucky. Working with this medium came naturally to him. During the formative time of his career, while attending Columbia University for his art history post-graduate studies, he had the opportunity to meet and listen to the dialogue of established artists in New York City. In 1966 he joined the staff of the Kansas City Art Institute, sharing his artistic skills and working with the administration and faculty to take the Kansas City Art Institute in a new direction. He taught there for over 40 years and mentored thousands of students throughout his career.

As an artist he has been influenced by his life experiences, colleagues, students, friends and family. His daughter, Stephanie Leedy and his granddaughter, Erin Woodworth, now run the Leedy-Voulkos Art Center and continue to showcase both local and international artists. He is an artist in the truest sense, whether he is painting or working with clay. His original artistic renderings with clay can be classified as one of the first Abstract Expressionism ceramic pieces. It was about the material, it was about the clay and creating a non utilitarian piece that would evolve by using the Raku firing technique. A method he learned about in Japan while on leave from the Korean War. His art is about instilling the essence of nature, color, and the continuous experiment and evolution of creativity.

As a Korean Veteran, who served as a military photographer, he had to deal with his war memories and did so through his art. Every war veteran can tell you that war alters and changes your view of life and death. Jim Leedy began experiencing flash backs during the mid 80's and through most of the 90's. Many times through his art he relived the haunting memory of a day in Korea when he jumped into a stream only to see underneath him the rotting corpses and skeletons of the dead. During this time his art focused on the images of that day. It was not until 2000 with his work "The Earth Lies Screaming," that his art conveyed the recurring reality of war through his wall of skeletons and skulls. He reminds us that war brings death. This work was the last of its kind because it put to rest his personal conflict.

Since this period in his life, he continues to experiment with his art. A painting need not be flat, clay need not go through a long firing process. He encourages today's artists and remains a friend to anyone that has an open mind and loves creating.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Jim Leedy and his endless commitment to our artistic community. He is a true role model not only for our artists, but he serves as an example of how we can all live our lives. He comprehended the essential, and with the purchase of his first building, began a slow sprawl that has become the cultural center of Kansas City. Mr. Speaker, his action made a dynamic difference for all of us to enjoy.

RECOGNITION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the upcoming 65th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the bond of friendship between the United States and Israel.

Like the United States, the State of Israel has stood as a beacon of democracy and hope for Jewish immigrants from all over the world. As an immigrant myself, I understand the importance of the democratic freedoms and values that our nation holds dear. The United States and Israel share and embrace those values as the cornerstones of a vibrant democratic society.

I have been fortunate enough to visit Israel and witness the importance of the friendship the U.S. and Israel share. We share the common goals of peace, freedom, security and prosperity for our citizens and for the region. I am pleased to help honor the State of Israel on its 65th birthday I hope all my colleagues and fellow Americans will join me in taking pride in the unique contributions that our Israeli community has made to our nation.

Again, congratulations to Israel and its people all across the world on their 65th independence day.

RETIREMENT PLANNING WEEK

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, April 8–12, 2013, as Retirement Planning Week. This week is held during the national effort to observe Financial Literacy Month. This endeavor promotes the education and awareness of important financial issues and provides Americans with essential retirement planning information.

Comprehensive retirement planning is an important step that will lead Americans into a financially secure future. But, the process can be challenging for consumers which leads many Americans into retirement without an adequate financial plan. We must make this a

national priority and convey to our constituents the value of retirement planning so that more Americans can appropriately prepare for and attain financial security during their retirement years.

Social Security and Medicare face long-term challenges. My constituents depend on Social Security and Medicare for their livelihood. It is important for everyone to think about long-term financial needs, plan for a secure retirement, and create a comprehensive retirement plan. It is vital to have a plan that will leave Americans better prepared and more confident in their financial future.

COMMENDING TAMPA TSA AGENT
JIM FLAHERTY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of a constituent of mine, Mr. Jim Flaherty. An Army veteran, who served over twenty years with the New York Police Department, Mr. Flaherty was driving to his job with the TSA at Tampa International Airport in the early morning hours on March 13th, 2013. He was passed by a speeding car and, minutes later, Mr. Flaherty watched that same car crash into the woods by the side of the road and catch on fire.

Mr. Flaherty stopped his car and, without concern for his own well-being, ran to aid the victim who was unable to escape on her own due to her injuries and the driver's door unable to be opened due to the accident. Along with another passerby, Mr. Flaherty proceeded to pull her out of the passenger-side of the burning vehicle. When it was clear that the injured woman was unable to walk, the two men carried her to safety before the car was consumed by fire. They stayed with her until local first responders arrived on scene. Mr. Flaherty then selflessly continued onto work, demonstrating his commitment to helping others and his official duties.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Flaherty's heroic actions are an example of the best in humanity that all of us should strive for. I applaud his actions and thank him for the bravery that he exhibited that day.

HONORING BENJAMIN KIRTLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Kirtley. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Benjamin