

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## COMBATING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, our nation's armed forces are the best in the world, but I rise today to speak against a form of cancer spreading within the ranks that is compromising the integrity of our armed forces.

For 25 years, Congress has pressured the Department of Defense to take bold action against sexual assault among our service men and women, and for 25 years, we've heard the same promises. In hearing after hearing, they've offered the results of study after study; told us about their zero tolerance policy; created task forces; and promised to prioritize this issue within the chain of command.

Despite these promises, sexual assault in the military is at an all-time high and rising. According to the Defense Department, there were more than 70 assaults per day in 2012, an estimated 26,000 total and a 30 percent increase over two years. Worse, only three percent of estimated sexual assaults in the military in 2012 were prosecuted. Countless service members continue to have little faith in the military justice system, and countless more suffer in silence for fear of retaliation.

The existing military justice system has clearly demonstrated its inability to solve this problem. As the civilian institution tasked with military oversight, it is incumbent upon Congress to act.

The amendment offered by my colleague, Representative SPEIER, is an effective and meaningful solution. This amendment is modeled on legislation, the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act (STOP Act), which I'm proud to cosponsor.

The STOP Act rightfully removes the sexual assault response process from the military chain of command and replaces it with an accountable, civilian-controlled oversight office. It ensures that trained, impartial prosecutors respond to allegations of sexual assault, not higher ranking commanders with a potential bone to pick.

It provides victims with real access to justice, via an objective response system. And it means no more fear of retaliation, lost promotion, re-victimization, and pushback. Sexual assault is a scourge that weakens our military and our nation and has absolutely no place in society. I encourage my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to support this sensible amendment.

## TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN D. WROTH

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wroth's recent retirement from a distinguished military career in the United States Air Force. His service to our nation is one of honor and devotion, to which the people of West Virginia and the United States of America owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, John Wroth received his bachelor's degree from the University of Charleston in 1987 and began serving his country in 1989, the year he received his commission from the United States Air Force Officer Training School. He has led unit deployments to Europe, the Pacific and Southwest Asia and, as a graduate of the elite Air Force Weapons School, he led as mission commander on the first night of Operation ALIED FORCE in the Balkan Peninsula and served as the Master Air Attack Plan Team Chief in support of both Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Wroth has served as a unit scheduler, standardization/evaluation officer, tactics and training instructor, flight commander, platform instructor and lead electronic warfare instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weapons School.

Lieutenant Colonel Wroth has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his service to our nation: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the NATO Medal. Furthermore, Wroth led the Air Force ROTC at Duke University to a number one rating for all small detachments.

Currently, Lieutenant Colonel Wroth is Chief, Nuclear Operations Branch serving on the Nuclear Command and Control System, and is the primary liaison to the Department of Homeland Security and the White House Military Office.

In addition to his devoted service to our country, Wroth also managed to raise a wonderful family with his wife, Lydia. Together they have four children, Ian, Sarah, Jacob, and Dylan.

Mr. Speaker, the exemplary service of Lieutenant Colonel John D. Wroth is deserving of the utmost respect. His dedication to country and family is a model for all of us, and I am proud to call him a fellow West Virginian.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PETE VONACHEN

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Harold "Pete" Vonachen, an American veteran from Illinois, who passed away on Monday, June 10th, 2013 at the age of 87. Pete was best known as "Mr. Baseball" around Peoria, and as a dedicated community leader and philanthropist. His loss will be felt throughout the community.

Pete Vonachen, who graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a Bachelor of Science in business administration, started out in the restaurant business, opening Vonachen's Junction in 1955. He carried over many of the same philosophies from his restaurant days to his other businesses, including a recognition of the importance of people. Pete treated everyone as a friend, regardless of whether you were a coworker, customer, or competitor.

As his name and reputation grew, Pete purchased the Peoria Suns Minor League baseball franchise in 1985, later changing the name to the Peoria Chiefs, a tribute to Peoria's last baseball team. With the help of his close friend the great baseball broadcaster Harry Caray, he was able to reach an affiliation agreement with the Chicago Cubs. Under Pete's leadership, the once struggling franchise became the first Midwest League team to draw more than 200,000 fans in one season.

Pete Vonachen also served his community in many roles, including as the Director of the Peoria Cerebral Palsy Board, a member of OSF St. Francis Medical Advisory Board, the Chairman of the Children's Hospital of Illinois Medical Center, a Peoria Park District trustee, the Director of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Peoria Rotary Club, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I am forever grateful for Pete's contributions as a serviceman and leader in his community, and am deeply saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to his wife Donna, the rest of the Vonachen family, and the entire Peoria community.

## CONGRATULATING TERRY AND ROSY BROMELL

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate and congratulate Terry and Rosy Bromell on the occasion of their 50th

• 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.

wedding anniversary, which they will celebrate with their loved ones on June 15. Mr. and Mrs. Bromell have led incredible lives, truly worthy of this distinction.

Terry and Rosy are the parents of four wonderful children: Alicia Lowther, Teena Doxley, Ty Bromell, and Rose Marie Dillon. They are also blessed with seven grandchildren: Ric Lowther, Jonah Doxey, Sarah Doxey, Erin Dillon, Ruth Dillon, Vivian Dillon, and Ellie Bromell.

Both graduates of Louisiana Tech University, Terry and Rosy are well-known and appreciated in the North Louisiana area. In 1983, the couple opened their family-owned and independently operated insurance agency, Bromell Agency, Inc. For the past 30 years, the Bromells have benefitted both Ruston and Shreveport families and businesses with their commitment to service, as well as their active involvement and leadership in the Chamber of Commerce, local bureaus, boards, and 4H programs, and various charitable organizations in the community.

As the Bromell family and friends prepare to join together to honor Terry and Rosy Bromell, this couple continues to exemplify admirable dedication to serving our region. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Terry and Rosy Bromell on this very special 50th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS AS CHAMPIONS OF THE SOUTHERN PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE'S PRESIDENT'S CUP

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pensacola Ice Flyers for their recent victory in the Southern Professional Hockey League's President's Cup Championship series and offer my congratulations to the team members, owners, coaching staff, and front office staff:

Team members, Steve Bergin; Dan Buccella; Jordan Chong; Joe Caveney; Brent Clarke; Brad Cooper; Ron Cramer; John Dunbar; Nick Dupuis; Gerry Festa; Jeremy Gates; Mitchell Good; Patrick Knowlton; Kevin Kozlowski; Justin MacDonald; Mike MacIntyre; Ross MacKinnon; Ryan Salvis; Tyler Soehner; and Brandon Vossberg; Owners, Greg Harris; and Tim Kerr; Coach, Gary Graham; Equipment Manager, Mark "Bonez" Bradtmueller; Athletic Trainer, Jen Lorenzo; and front office staff, Tina Burnham; Patrick Casey; Kayleigh Kerr; Josh Kersh; Willa Licata; Chuck McCartney; and Brittany Tindell.

The Pensacola Ice Flyers were founded in 2009 and named to honor Pensacola's long and proud history as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation." From the beginning, the Ice Flyers have been strong competitors in the Southern Professional Hockey League, SPHL, making it to playoffs in each year of their existence. Last season, the Ice Flyers made it all the way to the championship series, before narrowly losing in the final game.

After coming agonizingly close to victory last season, the Ice Flyers entered into the 2012–13 season with only one goal: to win it all. The

Ice Flyers enjoyed a successful regular season, finishing with the third best record in the league. The team also enjoyed tremendous support from the Pensacola community, drawing more than 100,000 fans to their home games this season.

The President's Cup series between the Ice Flyers and the Huntsville Havoc was a closely contested affair. In the first game, the Ice Flyers prevailed at home in overtime 2–1; however, the Havoc fought back just three days later to claim a series tying 2–1 victory, sending the series back to Pensacola for a third and final game.

A passionate crowd of nearly 4,700 fans showed up at the Pensacola Bay Center to watch as the Ice Flyers faced the Havoc in the third and final game of the President's Cup series on April 14, 2013. The Ice Flyers took an early lead after just two minutes and seven seconds of play, and they never looked back en route to a 2–0 shutout victory to claim the crown and bring the President's Cup to Pensacola. With their victory, the Ice Flyers became just the third professional hockey team from Florida to capture a championship, and they became the first team from Pensacola to bring a professional sports trophy to the area.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the players, coaches, staff, and fans of the Pensacola Ice Flyers for their championship winning season. The entire Northwest Florida area looks forward to many more winning seasons to come.

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES CENTURY GROUP INC. AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2013 LANTERN AWARDS

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 2013*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Century Group Inc. as the Southwest Louisiana Region recipient of the 2013 Lantern Awards.

The Lantern Award provides an opportunity to salute manufacturers for their outstanding contributions to the Louisiana economy and to their communities. Recipients are selected on the basis of their contributions over a period of time to the betterment of their communities, growth in the number of employees, and expansion of their facilities.

The Century Group Inc. started out as one man, Alma Como, who built a wooden cast to create concrete steps in 1942. Today, Century Group is the leading manufacturer of precast concrete steps, concrete railroad grade crossings, railroad spill collection systems and other precise concrete products in North America.

During the first 30 years, Century Group Inc. set up seven manufacturing locations servicing home building material dealers in 27 states. In the mid 1960's the Century Group Inc. entered the railroad market providing services to industry along the Louisiana-Texas Gulf Coast. By the late 1970's, it had established a precast division which served state Department of Transportations, municipalities, military facilities, heavy industry, harbors, and general contractors.

With over 59 years of experience in the precast concrete manufacturing railroad and industrial construction industry, Century Group Inc. continues its legacy of innovation and superior service. It is due to the efforts of businesses and individuals like the Century Group Inc. that Louisiana continues to grow and prosper economically.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friends and colleagues in the New Jersey delegation for organizing this tribute to the late Senator Frank Lautenberg.

This is a personal loss as well as a loss for New Jersey and for this Nation. I don't think there has been, nor do I think there will ever be, anybody quite like Frank Lautenberg in the United States Senate.

What stands out to so many about Frank is that he never forgot his humble beginnings. He was the son of immigrants who was born and raised among the silk mills of Paterson. His father died while he was serving in the Second World War—and "serve" is the right word. He saw service as his duty, as his life—serving other people, never forgetting the common person and the common good. The GI Bill sent him to Columbia University, and he always felt grateful for that and felt a need to pay back.

Much has been said in recent days about Frank's successful business career. And it certainly was a success. The qualities that drove Frank to be a successful businessman also made him an exemplary legislator. Frank was dogged; he was persistent. His colleagues in the Senate would sometimes laugh or smile about that—"Here comes Frank again to try to twist our arms." Frank did his homework; he knew what he was talking about, and he just kept fighting for equality of opportunity, for fairness, for safety, for ever-expanding access to the American Dream.

Frank's legislative legacy will remain relevant for generations to come. He fought tirelessly to keep trains and buses safe, to promote public health, to safeguard chemical plants, to keep cigarettes out of airplanes, and so much more. But what stands out in my mind is what Frank did to prevent drunk driving. As part of his transportation work, Frank established limits on blood alcohol levels and raised the drinking age. Today, you could fill several football stadiums with people who are alive only because of Frank Lautenberg—and not one of them knows who they are.

Throughout his time in the Senate, Frank was always thinking about the ordinary person. He never forgot that they were the people who had sent him to serve, he never stopped fighting, and the people of New Jersey knew that. They knew they had somebody in the Senate who was looking out for them.

Frank and I worked on a number of important issues together. From strengthening and securing our rail system to combating bullying with the Tyler Clementi bill, I always relished the opportunity to work with such a premier