

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEACH BLANKET BABYLON

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the world's longest running musical revue that is politically incorrect, brilliant and hilarious. Beach Blanket Babylon has drawn sold-out audiences in its hometown San Francisco for 40 years and isn't showing any signs of slowing down or getting old. The New York Times is right to call Beach Blanket Babylon "no less a part of San Francisco than the Golden Gate Bridge or Coit Tower."

Every performance of Beach Blanket Babylon takes the audience on a fast-paced journey around the world with Snow White on her search for Prince Charming. She encounters an always-changing cast of characters from politics and pop culture. Everybody who is anybody has been on stage: President Barack Obama, the Queen of England, Lady Gaga, Tina Turner, Prince, Hillary Clinton, Justin Bieber, Elvis and da Mayor Willie Brown have all endured sarcastic interpretations of current events.

I fell in love with the show the first time I saw it, in part, of course, because of the outrageous hats. These creations range from a giant heart made of red curls to the Skyline of San Francisco with a growing Transamerica Pyramid to a five tier wedding cake. Balancing those heavy and top-heavy sculptures is no easy task for the performers. They wear braces on their hips and shoulders to distribute the weight. The mechanical hats are so heavy that they are attached to stands that roll on the stage and are hidden in the costumes of the performers.

I was told by a secret source that auditions for Beach Blanket Babylon are "the craziest thing ever." They start out innocent enough: sing a song, say for example Stand by Your Man. Next thing you know, you'll be asked to sing it with a French bulldog accent or the personality of the Wicked Witch from the Wizard of Oz.

The late Steve Silver, with his sense for the absurd and whimsical imagination, was the genius who gave birth to Beach Blanket Babylon in 1974. The show grew out of street performances in North Beach, the famous Italian neighborhood of San Francisco. Since Silver's passing in 1995, his widow Jo Schuman Silver has produced the show and continued his vision and legacy.

In 1983, Beach Blanket Babylon did a command performance for the Queen of England and Prince Phillip at Davies Symphony Hall. In 1988, the de Young Museum presented an exhibition of 15 years of Beach Blanket Babylon hats and costumes. On the 20th anniversary, BBB performed at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House and today, on the 40th anniversary, BBB is giving a special performance at San Francisco City Hall featuring current Mayor Ed Lee, former Mayor Willie Brown, former Secretary of State George Schultz and his wife Charlotte Schultz as Wonder Woman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 40th anniversary of Beach Blanket Babylon, a San

Francisco institution that has sharpened the minds and provided hearty belly laughs for over 6 million fans during 15,000 performances. I have enjoyed the show more than a dozen times and will continue to be a regular at this unique San Francisco theater experience. May it last for at least another 40 years!

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS BANOS DIVINO ESPIRITO SANTO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Banos Portuguese Divino Espírito Santo (Los Banos Portuguese DES) organization on their 100th anniversary.

The story of the Los Banos Portuguese DES Association began more than 700 years ago with the birth of a royal princess. Queen Saint Isabel was born in Aragon, Spain, in 1271. According to legend, a famine seized Portugal in 1292, and she donated generously to her people. Moved by the example of their queen, the Portuguese nobles asked permission to create a festival in honor of these generous acts. Every year on Pentecost Sunday, the Portuguese people collect donations to feed the community. The festa made its way from Western Europe to the Azores and eventually the United States on the proverbial backs of Portuguese Azorean immigrants. The festa is still celebrated today.

In 1904, Azorean Portuguese immigrants founded the Los Banos chapter of the organization which honors Queen Saint Isabel's example—the Irmandade do Divino Espírito Santo 64. The organization was incorporated and later changed its name to Los Banos Portuguese DES Association. The Los Banos Portuguese DES Festa was incorporated in 1914. The festa was originally celebrated in a building that was a community center built in the early 20th century. Several individuals were largely responsible for the rebuilding of the community center and its subsequent revival into a Portuguese Hall.

In 1934, the Los Banos DES purchased the property where the current hall stands today. Several families were involved with building the hall, most notably the Fagundes, Freitas, Parreira, Rosa and Silva families. The community celebrated its first festa there in 1937.

From the 1930s to the 60s the DES Hall was the central venue for many weddings, parties, and church bazaars, as it was the only completed community center in Los Banos for many years. The Los Banos Dairyman's Association held their meetings there until the late 1960s and wrote the minutes of the meetings in Portuguese until 1949. Free food would always be served to the community on days of celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague to join me in recognizing the Los Banos Portuguese Divino Espírito Santo in celebration of the 100th Annual Festa. This community's rich heritage, with its commitment to the ideals of their patron Queen Saint Isabel, has continued for one hundred years.

RECOGNIZING MS. CHRISTINE ZINSER AND HER EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christine Zinser, a constituent of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, and to commend her for being the driving force behind Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia.

In 2011, Ms. Zinser's son Philipp was preparing to graduate from Robinson Secondary School and had made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. She approached the school to request that her son, and other seniors who had decided to enlist, be recognized during the graduation ceremony or any other end of year award event. Unfortunately, the school denied her request even though other students would be recognized for various accomplishments.

Ms. Zinser, along with another parent, Carolyn Kellam, decided to take matters into their own hands. If the school would not recognize their children, they would organize an event to do so. They contacted Braddock District Supervisor John Cook who readily agreed to allow the event to be held in his office. Ms. Zinser then contacted my office to see if she could count on my support and I enthusiastically agreed. Together we held a ceremony on June 9, 2011 in honor of the young men and women who had chosen to enlist in our Armed Forces upon graduation from Robinson Secondary School.

Following that first ceremony, Ms. Zinser doubled her efforts to include enlistees from the entire Northern Virginia region. She continued to lobby the school system, and due directly to her unwavering efforts, many schools now recognize the students who have decided to enlist, including her son's former high school. She partnered with an organization called Our Community Salutes and formed the first parent-established chapter of that organization. Ms. Zinser also assisted with establishing chapters in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Zinser has been featured on television and in newspapers raising awareness and support for our young men and women. In February, 2012, Ms. Zinser was quoted as saying: "I really feel like these kids are a forgotten spoke in the wheel of recognizing our military families. We laud those returning from war, mourn those who have fallen, show unflinching support for the families of active duty military personnel, compassion for those who sustain injuries and immense respect for our veterans. But the young men and women who choose to serve, especially when our nation is at war, go unrecognized."

This year marks the 4th Annual Our Community Salutes ceremony during which we will honor 129 local high school students who have decided to serve our country in uniform. These students will join the 1% of our population who have enlisted, knowing that they may be putting themselves in harm's way to protect and defend our country. It is my honor to join Christine again, as I have each year, and be among the first to say to these young men and women: "Thank you."

Ms. Zinser's son Philipp still serves in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is stationed at Camp Pendleton and is currently deployed to Afghanistan, where he will serve for the foreseeable future. His leadership and professionalism have been recognized, and he has attained the rank of Corporal. I thank him for his service, and pray that he stays safe while serving in a dangerous arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Christine Zinser and in commending her for her tireless efforts to appropriately honor the young people in our community who choose to serve. I also would like to thank Christine's partner, Sandra Coffman, for her unyielding support and dedication. Their commitment to Our Community Salutes and to our young warriors will leave a lasting legacy and is worthy of our highest praise.

#### HIGHWAY 15'S JOINT PORT OF ENTRY PROJECT

#### HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an important transportation project that is currently under construction in my district, the Eighth District of California on Interstate 15 near the Nevada border. The Joint Port of Entry Project, on Interstate 15, is a vital step towards improving the safety and reliability of California's highways while also creating nearly 2,000 jobs. Planning for this project spans more than twenty years.

The first phase of this project will construct the California Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility. This advanced design facility will help protect our roadway infrastructure from overweight vehicles entering California, which leads to the deteriorating lifespan of our highways. The second phase of this project will construct the California Department of Food and Agriculture Inspection Station.

I applaud the California Department of Transportation, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Highway Patrol, California Department of General Services, and the California Department of Finance for their coordinated efforts to bring this project to fruition.

In this final phase of construction, I also wish to recognize the Director of the Department of Transportation, Malcolm Dougherty, P.E., and District Eighth Director Basem E. Muallem, P.E., for their outstanding leadership.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF JIM TOOMEY

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Toomey of Tolland, Connecticut who a few weeks ago stepped aside from a distinguished 42 year career as a Tolland Volunteer Firefighter. When Jim entered the department in 1972, little did he know the role and operations of a small rural

fire department in eastern Connecticut would evolve into a far more demanding mission by the end of his career.

In 1972, Tolland was a small rural community with a small force that focused on the traditional mission of fighting fires. In the years following as Tolland grew and the fire department, in turn, assumed more responsibilities, Jim joined the Dive Team, became an EMT, and after 9/11 integrated new Department of Homeland Security requirements for first responders.

In 2005, Jim became Deputy Chief and served with distinction until his retirement this year. A few weeks ago, an overflow crowd assembled to celebrate Jim's retirement at Maneley's Banquet Center in South Windsor and to shower Jim and his wife Karen, their children and grandchildren with the well-deserved accolades of his amazing career. As someone who worked with Karen in my law practice for 27 years, I saw up close the long hours he devoted to the department and the sacrifice he and his family made to serve his town so diligently and competently.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me and his fellow citizens in thanking Jim for the outstanding example of public service he set, and for all of the people and property he protected and rescued for 42 long years.

#### HONORING CAFÉ LUSH

#### HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Café Lush, and owners Tom Doherty and Sandy Gregory, on the 3rd anniversary of their distinguished local Albuquerque establishment.

Since opening in 2011, Café Lush has developed into a thriving business and popular hotspot for locals. Located in downtown Albuquerque, Café Lush features an exceptional menu that carries nutrient dense organic food and fresh seasonal produce that promotes happy, healthy, and sustainable lifestyles.

The beautiful street corner café, with its vibrant outdoor patio was not always a distinct feature in the neighborhood. In fact, before the establishment of Café Lush many restaurants unsuccessfully tried to establish themselves in the area. The location became known as a frequent site for new restaurants that would eventually close, or go out of business.

Despite this historical precedent, and a struggling economy, Café Lush launched a business model that appealed to the growing demand for locally grown healthy foods. Café Lush's fresh new take on organic ingredients with a New Mexico twist reverberated throughout the community and today the café continues to be wildly successful.

Café Lush's vision and accomplishments are an inspiration for future generations of entrepreneurs and small business owners, and demonstrate the ability of one business to change an entire neighborhood. Located next to two schools, a place of worship, and just a short walk away from the heart of downtown Albuquerque, Café Lush has reinvigorated the area and brought renewed energy to Albuquerque's scenic landscape.

I have no doubt that Café Lush will continue to have great success. Their quality food,

great customer service, and beautiful outdoor patio are what continue to make me a frequent customer. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Café Lush on these accomplishments, their 3rd anniversary and the many more to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENT FROM THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

One member of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is being honored this year for his exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the name of the following award recipient:

2014 Silver Medal of Valor: Assistant Chief Steven R. Godin.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipient, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEXINGTON ARTS & SCIENCE CENTER

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Living Arts and Science Center of Lexington, Kentucky on the groundbreaking of their new facility, the "Lucille Caudill Little Discovery Center."

The Living Arts & Science Center, LASC, was created as a not-for-profit organization in 1968 to provide opportunities for exploration and education in the arts and sciences. Since then, the LASC has become a stimulating force and creative resource for Central Kentuckians. Through dynamic arts and science programming, the LASC has fostered exploration and inspired creativity among children