

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAURINE WILLIAMSON CAIN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Maurine Williamson Cain of Rockwall who passed away June 19 at the age of 95. Maurine was a faithful church member; dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother; a crucial member of the Rockwall community in her role as an educator; and a dear friend of mine.

The youngest of five children, Maurine was born May 27, 1919 in Forney, Texas to two loving parents—Jim and Grace Williamson. She grew up in Chisholm and Rockwall and enjoyed an active and involved family life.

After Maurine graduated from Rockwall High School in 1936, her brother Clifford and his wife Elva helped Maurine with her first step into higher education. She studied two years at Texas Military College in Terrell, Texas and continued her education at East Texas State Teachers College (known today as Texas A&M University—Commerce) where she earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. She then began her 38-year career as an educator at Scurry Rosser High School and Quinlan High School.

On June 8, 1941, Maurine married Ted Cain in Holdenville, Oklahoma. The couple celebrated the birth of their son, Dewayne, as well as the births of two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren over the course of their 70-year marriage before Ted passed away in 2012.

One year after their marriage, Ted left Texas to serve overseas in World War II. At home, Maurine worked at the defense plant in Garland and began teaching in a one-room school known as Locust Grove Community School. She taught all seven grades by herself and also served as school janitor, cook, and nurse. Maurine spent the last 34 years of her career in education teaching various grade levels at Rockwall Elementary School and Dobbs Elementary School before retiring in 1987.

In honor of Maurine's dedication to educating the children of the Rockwall Community, on October 17, 1999 the Rockwall Independent School District named and dedicated Cain Middle School in her honor. Maurine enjoyed being involved with the school and attended many pep rallies, awards ceremonies, and other school events.

In addition to her involvement with the Rockwall school system, Maurine maintained close relationships with her church family at the First Baptist Church of Rockwall and its Ruth Sunday School class. She was also a member of Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Chi, and the Texas State Teachers Association.

Maurine is survived by her son, Dewayne Cain, and his wife, Ann Atkins Cain; her granddaughter, Amy Cain Cox, and her hus-

band, Wendell Cox; her grandson, Chris Cain, and his fiancée, Ami Wester; and three grandchildren, Jackson, Johnny, and Annie Cox.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Maurine Williamson Cain and the positive impact she had upon her community. She was a woman of faith and family who believed "you never stand taller than when you stoop to help a child." I believe we can all learn from her example.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC). Headquartered in Elizabethtown, KY, ECTC will celebrate 50 years of educational excellence and service to Kentuckians during the 2014–2015 school year.

For five decades, ECTC has enriched the lives of its students by providing access to quality and affordable academic, technical and community education programs. By partnering with the public, these efforts have been felt by the community as well.

From 355 enrolled students in 1964, to 7,000 today—it is clear that ECTC has blossomed into a strong institution of learning. With four campuses and additional extended campus sites, ECTC directly serves 12 counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

To everyone at ECTC—your commitment to the education of future leaders is commendable and I hope you are very proud of this achievement. I join with all of Kentucky's Second District in congratulating everyone at ECTC on reaching this milestone and wish you many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING PADRÓN CIGARS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Padrón family on the 50th anniversary of Padrón Cigars founding. Padrón Cigars is a landmark institution in the Miami community, and is well-deserving of recognition.

Mr. Jose Orlando Padrón arrived in Miami in 1962 from Cuba. He was thirty-six years old and soon began work as a carpenter, after receiving a small hammer from a friend. With

that hammer he worked day and night in order to establish himself, and not live off government assistance. He toiled for months with the goal of opening his own cigar factory, so that he could produce cigars just like the ones he used to smoke in Cuba. After managing to save \$600 he was able to open Padrón Cigars on September 8, 1964 in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami.

Mr. Padrón began by using tobacco from Connecticut. However, in order to meet demand he opened a factory in Nicaragua in 1970. Political turmoil at the time led to the burning of their factory in 1978, but it was restored in 1979. Further issues arose in 1985, which forced him to shift production to Honduras. However, today his company continues to thrive, and is back to manufacturing its award-winning cigars in Nicaragua. Padrón's cigars are continuously rated as one of the best cigars in the world, and have won yearly awards for their exceptional quality. Mr. Padrón himself has been inducted into Cigar Aficionado's Hall of Fame.

On a more personal level, I have known the Padrón family for many years. Jose and my father were very good friends, and the family has since become very close friends of mine. They are truly one of the most exceptional, loyal, trustworthy, and caring friends I have and I cherish our families continued friendship. It is a privilege to know Jose, his children, and the rest of the Padrón family. In addition, they have been devoted to their company, their employees, and the Miami community since its inception. Today, the Padrón family's dedication has made Padrón Cigars an irreplaceable company for South Florida, and their family has become a treasure for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Padrón Cigars, and the entire Padrón family, as they celebrate this milestone. I am certain that we can all look forward to many more years of outstanding cigars, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT WILLIAM R. CHARETTE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medal of Honor Recipient, Master Chief Hospital Corpsman William R. Charette, for his commendable service in the Korean War.

William Charette was born in Ludington, Michigan. He stayed in Michigan until he signed with the U.S. Navy on January 11, 1951. Charette served in the United States Navy from 1951–1977. During his years of service, William Charette served in Korea, where he was a part of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Marines.

On March 27, 1953, Charette was serving near Panmunjom, Korea, when his company

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was attacked by enemy troops. Charette worked quickly to treat his fellow soldiers as best he could. While treating one soldier, a grenade landed near them, and Charette threw himself on top of the other soldier in an effort to absorb the blast. Although the blast destroyed Charette's medical kit he continued to treat soldiers by tearing off pieces of his uniform to help treat wounds. At one point, a soldier was so badly wounded that he was unable to move on his own accord. Charette stood up in the trench and lifted the man and carried him through enemy fire to safety. For his actions, William Charette was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Dwight D. Eisenhower on January 12, 1954.

William Charette stands as a shining example of bravery and determination that all Americans strive toward. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Master Chief Hospital Corpsman William Charette for his service to the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE
ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT J.
GRABER, SR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the passing of a legislator, colleague and friend, the Honorable Vincent J. Graber, Sr., who passed away on July 2, 2014.

Vince Graber was a public servant of the highest caliber and during his career was among the most effective lawmakers in the nation. Following his service on the West Seneca Town Board, Vince was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1974, displacing a Republican incumbent who, after election to the state senate, would go on to be a close friend, colleague and ally within the powerful Western New York legislative delegation. In time, Vince rose to chair the Assembly's Transportation Committee; this is where he made his most significant mark.

Vince led the way in New York and in the nation in authoring legislation designed to make it safer to be a passenger in a motor vehicle in the state of New York. From landmark legislation mandating the use of safety seats for children to authorship of the first-in-the-nation mandatory seat belt law, to legislation combating and reducing incidences of DWI, Vince Graber was a leader in transportation policymaking in the United States for better than a generation. It is not hyperbole to suggest that a great many Americans—thousands, to be sure—are alive today because of Vince's good work.

Vince eventually rose to leadership in the State Assembly, ending his career as Speaker Pro Tempore, where he presided over the daily sessions of the Assembly. In so doing, Vince encouraged and facilitated an orderly and urbane atmosphere within the Assembly chamber, a sometimes difficult task in a legislative body known for occasionally raucous debate.

I never served in the State Assembly with Vince, as his service predated my own service

in that legislative body by a few years. But I came to know Vince well, first as a local elected official, and later as Vince would visit my office as a government relations official following his years of public service. Vince Graber was always knowledgeable and always prepared, and gave those to whom he was responsible—his family, his constituents and, later, his clients—the very best he had to offer.

The son of the late Howard and Eileen Graber, Vince was a United States Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and was the recipient of countless honors and awards throughout his long career. Vince leaves behind a large and loving extended family, including his wife Patricia, their ten children and their own families.

Mr. Speaker, our community, our state and, yes, this nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Vince Graber. His skill and his vision made New York a safer place for motorists, passengers and pedestrians. I was honored to call Vince Graber my friend, and I am similarly honored to remember and commemorate his many contributions here today.

TRIBUTE TO PETE GIANOPULOS

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teacher, soldier, public servant, and community leader who for 90 years has lived and breathed the city of Taft, California. Born and raised in Taft, Pete Gianopulos has become well-known throughout the city as a passionate American and an active member of his community.

When the foundation of American resolve was tested by the Second World War, Pete answered the call of duty and served honorably with occupational forces near Hiro, Kure, and Hiroshima, Japan as part of the 41st Infantry Division in the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. When he returned from the war, Pete completed undergraduate and graduate studies at Taft College and Fresno State College before continuing his graduate work at UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Bakersfield, and Fresno State. Upon returning to Taft, Pete began teaching at Lincoln Junior High School, and continued his educational career for 35 years as an Industrial Arts teacher, a counselor, and the Director of Guidance for the Taft Union High School District. Though he retired from teaching in 1986 after 36 years, his service to the education community only represents a portion of his public service.

Pete has served in multiple positions at local levels of government, including the Oildorado Committee, the Kern County Water District, the Kern View Community Mental Health Center Committee, the State of California Resource Agency, and the Department of Water Resources. Notably, he served on the Taft City Council in 1961, where only one year later, Pete Gianopulos became Taft's mayor, and served as such through 1966.

Today, Pete continues to serve as an active member of the community. As the founder,

host and producer of "Taft Heritage," a local television program supported by the West Kern Oil Museum and Taft High School, and an active writer for his column in the local paper titled "Remember When," Pete champions the message that there is always something to learn from the rich history of the city of Taft.

Pete's dedication and service to Taft has not gone unnoticed and next month, the Taft City Council will proclaim August 23, 2014 as "Pete Gianopulos Day." On that day, it is my hope that all the residents of Taft look to this man's history as a source of inspiration for what it means to be a citizen of the people. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Pete Gianopulos a very happy 90th birthday, and thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the city of Taft.

HONORING KYLE MATTHEW OTA,
EAGLE SCOUT, BOY SCOUT
TROOP 611, SAN JOSE BUDDHIST
CHURCH BETSUIN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Kyle Matthew Ota, a member of Boy Scout Troop 611 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and one of my constituents, on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in April of 2014.

Kyle, the son of Pat and Dorothy Ota, began his scouting career as a member of Cub Scout Pack 611 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, where he earned the Metta and Sangha awards, as well as the Arrow of Light. Rising through the ranks, Kyle served as patrol leader, troop quartermaster, dharma scribe, troop scribe, senior patrol leader, and den chief.

Kyle's Eagle Scout project reflects his longstanding commitment to the people of San Jose, and the residents of Japantown in particular. Yu-Ai Kai, a stellar community-based organization that promotes healthy aging, independent living, and high quality of life, provides multi-lingual community services, social interaction, and a sense of belonging to our elderly citizens. Seniors and their families frequently pass in front of Yu-Ai Kai's Akiyama Senior Wellness Center on Jackson Street while traversing beautiful Japantown, so Kyle constructed an outdoor bulletin board in front of the building. This board displays flyers, schedules, and other information that allows seniors to better understand and utilize the Akiyama's many life-improving offerings.

Kyle was a scholar-athlete at St. Francis High School in Mountain View, where he participated in varsity track and intramurals, earned entry into the honor roll and National Honor Society, and was awarded tuition assistance by the California Scholarship Federation. Kyle now attends San Diego State University, where the dedication to community service instilled in him by scouting continues to make his parents—and all of us in California's 19th District—very proud.