

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF GEORGE TOUART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's George Touart who passed away on January 24, 2014, after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his long career in public service, George Touart mentored and inspired many individuals throughout Escambia County, Florida. The loss of a passionate and hardworking man is truly felt among the Northwest Florida community for which he cared so deeply.

George graduated Pensacola High School in 1966. At the University of Southern Mississippi, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Community and Regional Planning and was an active member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. He then received his Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. Before returning home to Florida, George served as a city councilman in Pascagoula, Mississippi, a public information officer for the Mississippi State Highway Department, and as county administrator for two Mississippi counties.

In April 2002, the Escambia County Board of Commissioners appointed George as the Escambia County Administrator. He served in this capacity until December 2007 and then later served as the Interim County Administrator from December 2012 to January 2014. It was during George's role as County Administrator of Escambia County that his admirable dedication proved instrumental in helping the citizens of Northwest Florida recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Under George's unwavering and efficient leadership in working with both FEMA and the State of Florida, repairs were made to infrastructure, communication was restored, and grants were obtained, all contributing to the county's overall recovery. His hard work garnered national recognition for Escambia County by FEMA. Not only did George exhibit great strength in a time of adversity, but he also provided personal comfort and reassurance to many affected citizens of the community.

During his tenure in office, George also worked with the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce to bring several economic initiatives to Escambia County, such as Navy Federal Credit Union Expansion, Project Evergreen, and Project Pearl. He can also be credited for completing the Escambia County Jail transition under budget as well as negotiating the Interlocal Agreement between Escambia County and the City of Pensacola.

Resonating from within, George had a true sense of community and civic duty. Aside from his leadership with the county, he was involved in a myriad of civic organizations throughout his life, including: Conquistadores,

the Masonic Lodge and the Hadji Shrine, Five Flags Rotary, Irish Politician's Club, Moss Point Young Men's Business Club, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Escambia County, and Baptist Hospital Board of Directors. Additionally, George was a member of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing, fishing, and hunting. Those whose lives were touched by George mourn the loss of a devoted man with an unwavering commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of George Touart. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our sincerest condolences and prayers to his wife, Barbara; sons, Matthew and Jacob; daughters, Christy and Amber; seven grandchildren, Meagan, Zackary, Brennan, Ivey, Jack, Mylah, and Carter; and parents, Clyde and Mary. He will truly be missed.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWMAN-COWETA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 2013

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Coweta County Board of Commissioners and to congratulate the members for receiving the 2013 Prosperity Award. This award—presented by the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce—honors contributions the commissioners have made toward promoting prosperity in their community. Since 2007 this award has been presented in recognition of 30 different companies and organizations that have made a similar outstanding impact.

The Coweta County Commissioners have demonstrated a clear and enduring commitment to protecting small businesses and encouraging economic growth—most recently through their decision to eliminate impact fees on development in the county. These commissioners are critical to the economic growth in their area and have shown a great lasting commitment to promote the prosperity and betterment of their community. I am proud to have the opportunity to stand before you today to highlight the achievements of my fellow Georgians and to congratulate them on earning the 2013 Prosperity Award.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to the hard working people of the Coweta County Board for their leadership role in the community, and congratulate them on receiving the 2013 Prosperity Award.

HONORING AARON DARRAH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Darrah. Aaron 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 362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron 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, Aaron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 7, an unnecessary and intrusive bill that represents a short-sighted attack on the rights of women and families, and undermines access to insurance that covers comprehensive women's health care.

H.R. 7 would diminish meaningful access to healthcare for millions of lower and middle income families by denying them tax credits if the insurance plan they choose through the Health Insurance Marketplaces includes coverage for abortion services. Removing these tax breaks for the most vulnerable members of our society is not only dangerous, it is heartless, and it will return a constitutionally-protected medical procedure to its dark back-alley days. If enacted, this change will likely lead insurers to remove coverage for abortion services from all plans offered in the marketplaces, thus denying access to this coverage for women who wish to purchase such coverage out of their own pockets. Rather than offering real solutions to the problems our nation faces, the other side of the aisle only offers a return to the fights over social issues of the past.

Republicans claim that H.R. 7 merely codifies the Hyde Amendment, a provision prohibiting the use of federal funds for most abortion services, but Title I of the bill actually includes

• 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.

numerous vague provisions that may in some cases modify and expand the funding restrictions relating to abortion currently included in annual appropriations bills. Besides, the Hyde Amendment has been passed every single year for nearly forty years—we already have a law prohibiting the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, we don't need another one.

This legislation threatens women's health by denying access to comprehensive women's health care that includes abortion. That is why I vehemently oppose H.R. 7.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall Votes 24 and 25. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize National School Choice Week. Designated from January 27–31, 2014, National School Choice Week serves to raise public awareness of the importance of making educational opportunities available to all students.

No student should have a darker future or a limited educational horizon based upon the neighborhood they call home. Every student should have access to their own American dream, and the key to their dream is a quality education.

I have advocated for educational reform and expansion of educational opportunity to all throughout my years of service in the Florida State Legislature and in the U.S. Congress. I have advanced initiatives that include home schooling, building a Florida online high school, creating magnet programs, establishing charter schools, and establishing scholarships that allow students from failing schools to attend high performing schools. I believe that good educational policy provides choices to families and local educators who understand the unique needs of their children and students. Through providing choice, educational quality increases, which will ensure that all students are able to excel in their academics and rise to meet their full potential.

I am pleased to recognize National School Choice Week.

HONORING JIM CACCIOTTOLO,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CHICAGOLAND

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Cacciottolo, who was sworn in Jan-

uary 25 as the new President of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland. Mr. Cacciottolo, a resident of Chicago's Bridgeport community, previously served on the organization's board of directors for the last 16 years.

Mr. Cacciottolo grew up in Chicago's Archer Heights and Garfield Ridge communities on the city's Southwest Side. He worked for the City of Chicago for 25 years before retiring in 2008. When he retired, Mr. Cacciottolo was the chief operating engineer for the Chicago Police Department, overseeing nearly 100 buildings and facilities for the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago Fire Department and other City of Chicago properties. He currently serves as a chief engineer in the private sector, helping to oversee the operations for the buildings that make up the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago.

Mr. Cacciottolo is the proud father of two grown children, Kristin and Anthony.

As president of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland, Mr. Cacciottolo will lead a not-for-profit fraternal organization comprised of more than 800 men and women in leadership positions within the field of power engineering and real estate asset management. For over 90 years, the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland has brought educational services, information and camaraderie to its members through the publication of "The Chief Engineer" magazine, educational meetings and social gatherings throughout the Chicago area. The organization's motto: "Anything that can be done, can be done better."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Cacciottolo, whose commitment to public service and dedication to his profession will serve him well in his new role as President of the Chief Engineers Association of Chicagoland. His expertise and knowledge as a chief engineer will be a tremendous benefit and resource for other chief engineers throughout Northeastern Illinois.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM K. LACEY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant First Class William K. Lacey, or Kelly, as his family wants him to be remembered, who was killed in action on January 4, 2014 after a rocket propelled grenade attack by insurgents hit his unit in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, stepmother, two daughters, three step daughters and many friends.

Born at Eglin Air Force Base where his father, Master Sergeant John H. Lacey, was stationed, Kelly spent most of his childhood in Florida. He attended Niceville High School before joining the Army in 2003. While in the Army, he attended Meridian Community College and received an Associate Degree. Sergeant First Class Lacey was assigned to the F Company, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Kelly was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, and he had already completed

three previous deployments to Iraq: the first a 5 month deployment, the second a 14 month deployment and the other a year-long deployment. From April 2011 until March 2012, Kelly served in Afghanistan.

From his earliest time in the Army, Sergeant First Class Lacey was considered a great soldier. Over his career he earned more than a dozen honors including three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, three Army Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Star and two Iraq Campaign Medals with Bronze Service Stars. For his bravery in action, Sergeant First Class Lacey was awarded a Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device "V", two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart posthumously.

We remember Kelly and offer our deepest condolences and prayers to his family. Everyone in our great nation owes Sergeant First Class Lacey and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my colleagues and all Americans to remember Kelly and the many others who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms and all that we value as a nation.

MCKINNEY, "AMERICA'S CRAPE MYRTLE CITY"

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to elevate and preserve the beauty and appeal of one of the fastest growing cities in North Texas, McKinney.

Established in 1998, the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation began with the vision of showcasing the premier flowering plant of the south, the crape myrtle, throughout our community in a deliberate and meaningful manner. After the foundation gained official 501(c)(3) status, the foundation in partnership with the City of McKinney established the World Collection Park to feature every variety of crape myrtle on seven acres of city parkland. The World Collection Park officially opened for enjoyment in 2011, and as of 2013, nearly 22,000 crape myrtles have been planted by the foundation, City of McKinney, and other partners.

Not only does the Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney Foundation serve as an agent to enhance the aesthetics of the city, it has established programs, such as an annual Run the Trails of McKinney Fun Run and "McKinney Crape Myrtles and Me—Watch Us Grow!" an annual science and art contest for McKinney ISD elementary schools, to further involve the community in its city's development.

I commend the City of McKinney on their time, energy, and efforts in making McKinney a better place to live for my fellow Texans. Promoting a higher quality of life is something we simply can't put a price on. That's why I support the City of McKinney to officially register as "America's Crape Myrtle City" and