

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTIN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Linda Martin, a finalist for the 2014 School Counselor of the Year award. This distinguished award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors school counselors “who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to students, the school community, and the school counseling profession.”

Mrs. Martin has led the Comprehensive Guidance Program at Palm Lake Elementary School for 20 years. As an innovative teacher, she founded the Kids Who Care program to serve Palm Lake Elementary, the Orlando community and Nkomo Primary School, a sister school in South Africa. Her classroom lessons cover a wide range of topics including character development and leadership.

Mrs. Martin’s remarkable service has also been recognized on the county and state levels. In 2012, she was named Orange County School Counselor of the Year, and, in 2013, was awarded Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association.

School counselors play an invaluable role in students’ academic and personal development, teaching important life skills and compelling them to strive toward their goals. It is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Martin for her exemplary dedication to the students of Palm Lake Elementary.

RECOGNIZING WTOC OF SAVANNAH’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize WTOC-TV of Savannah, which celebrates its 60th anniversary on February 14, 2014. WTOC provides our community with up-to-the-minute, accurate news.

WTOC, or Welcome To Our City, went on the air on February 14, 1954, making it the first television station in Savannah. WTOC began as a radio station, WTOC-AM 1290, in October of 1929 and added an FM station in 1946. As WTOC-FM was a CBS Radio affiliate, WTOC-TV affiliated with CBS as well and has been with the network ever since.

WTOC has been a leader in Savannah area news, topping the Nielson ratings almost every year since its inception. The station won both an Emmy and an Edward R. Murrow award in 2003. Many of its individual reporters have earned major awards for their stories and editing, including an Emmy for a 2006 story about 3rd Infantry Division fighters in Iraq. WTOC

lives up to its slogan as “The Southeast News Leader.”

From hard-hitting local news to Emmy-winning sports coverage, WTOC-TV has set the standard for local news in Savannah for the past 60 years. I am proud to support WTOC-TV while they celebrate this milestone in their history. My thoughts are with them during this special time.

COMMENDING THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT’S STEPS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for the actions his government is taking to combat anti-Semitism. Under his leadership, Hungary has stressed a “zero tolerance policy” toward anti-Semitic attitudes, and has focused on law enforcement and legal measures, Holocaust education and remembrance, and support for Jewish cultural renaissance in Hungary.

Measures implemented by Prime Minister Orbán and his government, including the 50 percent pension increase to Holocaust survivors and the agreement on compensation of Holocaust survivors living in foreign countries, are only two of the numerous actions Hungarians are taking to ensure that those who have suffered have a dignified retirement.

We must never forget the terrible atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. I want to remind my colleagues that steps can be taken to aid the painful memories and create awareness of these past events. Prime Minister Orbán is taking a leading role in the battle against anti-Semitic voices in Europe and throughout the world. Later this year, Hungary will inaugurate a memorial site to commemorate the child victims of the Holocaust. In addition, Hungary is investing resources to include Holocaust Remembrance Day in public schools and is recognizing the people who helped save Jewish lives during that time period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing in solidarity with those that have been oppressed and to continue to shine light on this dark history to ensure that it doesn’t happen again. I am honored to pay tribute to Prime Minister Orbán and his government for their continued service to the people of Hungary on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these remarkable efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation and deep respect that I rise today to recognize the contributions of the United States Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1. For their courage while facing danger head on and their willingness to defend our nation’s military, these brave individuals are to be commended.

In 1944, recognizing the need for early warning radar and aircraft to assist in protecting the United States Naval Fleet from attack by identifying ships and low flying aircraft, the United States Navy launched its first program to help minimize the impact on service members and operations. The initial program would evolve, and in June 1952, led to the establishment of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1, first located at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, in the then Territory of Hawaii. Soon after, a permanent detachment of VW-1 was established in the Western Pacific, where it provided heavy airborne early warning coverage and participated in the Korean War. Following its relocation to the Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, in 1957, VW-1 began to take on additional responsibilities, and in 1961, was tasked with weather reconnaissance. This increased focus on identifying hazardous weather conditions included the addition of six meteorologists and eighteen aerographers, as well as new technological equipment. During 1961 alone, VW-1 flew more than 1,000 hours of weather reconnaissance, thus identifying the squadron as the “Typhoon Trackers.”

Through their valiant efforts, VW-1 provided airborne early warning support and protection for the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the Vietnam War, from 1964 through 1971. Their mission was to fly north of the DMZ in the Gulf of Tonkin, providing airborne protection for the Seventh Fleet, which was operating below the DMZ. They were tasked with warning the Seventh Fleet against enemy attacks and dangerous storms, in addition to providing radar surveillance for air strikes over North Vietnam. From 1964 through 1967, VW-1 operated out of bases in the Republic of the Philippines for an extended airborne mission time of eighteen hours. Often times these missions were extended beyond the aircraft’s fuel range, requiring them to refuel at Da Nang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam before returning to their base in the Philippines. In late 1967, a detachment was established at Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam but later moved to Da Nang Air Base in an effort to shorten the mission time to twelve hours.

From its establishment in June 1952 until July 1971, when the unit was absorbed into

● 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.

VQ-1, VW-1 completed its mission with an astonishing nineteen years of accident-free flight, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW-1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individual aircrew members have received more than 1,200 Air Medals, and the unit also includes two Purple Heart recipients, whose injuries were sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW-1. The squadron represented an important part of the United States Military, and its gallant members are a true example of unwavering patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation and their fellow service members.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF VERA MACDONALD TO THE WESTPORT COMMUNITY AND GRAYS HARBOR REGION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Verna MacDonald, who has dedicated herself to enriching her fellow citizens through her affiliations with the Westport Senior House, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3057, the American Legion Post #140 Lady Auxiliary, the Westport and Grayland area Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Coastal Harvest food distribution warehouse.

Verna MacDonald first moved to Westport with her husband Donald MacDonald in 1986. The unexpected passing of her husband in 1999 inspired her to get out and interact with her community. She has since been recognized as the “Grandma” of the city of Westport. It is difficult to find a person within the community that has not heard of the service Ms. MacDonald has provided. Her positive disposition and can-do attitude is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. MacDonald has displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through her varied volunteer activities. One of her most notable contributions to the Westport community has been her engagement with the Westport Senior House. Starting as secretary, Ms. MacDonald dedicated years to improving the building and providing meals and resources to its residents. One of her many accomplishments was securing a grant to fund a new handicapped access ramp named for her late husband. Later, as director, she worked to transform the Senior House into a certified Red Cross Emergency Shelter, equipped with cots, bedding, emergency food supplies and even a generator. Ms. MacDonald didn’t stop there; she spearheaded the Westport Freedom Walk in 2006 to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack, has organized a holiday gift donation program serving the senior citizens in Grays Harbor and northern Pacific counties, and volunteers at Coastal Harvest Food Bank. Ms. MacDonald’s work is boundless, and her retirement does not appear to have decreased her commitment to serving those in need.

As I close, I say with pride that our region is a better place thanks to the dedicated and selfless service of Verna MacDonald. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the Westport community for years to come. I am pleased to recognize this service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York.

On September 9, 1864, the anti-slavery newspaper The Liberator included a call for the convention. Frederick Douglass, a writer, statesman and leader of the Abolition Movement, annotated an “Address to the People of the United States.” In his address to the people, Frederick Douglass explains, “No notice should be taken of the color of men; but justice, wisdom, and humanity should weigh alone, and be all-controlling.”

The National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States convened on October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of 1864 in Syracuse, New York.

In October of 1864, Frederick Douglass came to Syracuse to discuss the state of the ex-slave following the Civil War. Douglass served as convention president, which drew nearly 150 delegates from all across the nation. During the meeting, the delegates crafted a document modeled after the Declaration of Independence, entitled “Declarations of Rights and Wrongs”, which was read during the Convention in Syracuse.

Central New York has a rich connection in history to the Abolition Movement. From Harriet Tubman and her tireless devotion to the cause, to Frederick Douglass with his Address to the People of the United States and “Declaration of Rights and Wrongs,” Central New York and the City of Syracuse have continued to lead the charge for equality.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York. Let us never grow old or weary of the struggle that our predecessors led, and let us work every day to uphold the values that Frederick Douglass and so many others demanded us to do at the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EMERGENCY WATER DELIVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3964) to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3964, a bill that undermines long-standing local, state, and Federal agreements on the California water supply and creates a dangerous precedent for similar Congressional overreach in other states.

As the Governor of California said, this bill “falsely suggests the promise of water relief when that is simply not possible given the scarcity of water supplies.” Instead, it picks winners and losers, prioritizing some interests above others and disrupting years of collaboration to balance water needs.

The President has directed his Administration to work with California and local jurisdictions to provide information, flexibility in federal law, and emergency grant assistance to respond to the drought. Congress should not act unilaterally to preempt the efforts the State has already undertaken to respond to this disaster.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,258,482,479,004.37. We’ve added \$6,631,605,430,091.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE RUSSELL HOUSE FOR ITS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Russell House for its 20 years of service to South Central Missouri. Since its founding in 1994, the Russell House has provided a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. In addition to shelter, the Russell House provides a wide range of free services to both residents and non-resident families as they transition to a life free of abuse. The Russell House also educates the community on preventing violence and intervention.