

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JAMES J. CASION, CEO  
OF BAKER VICTORY SERVICES,  
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend and colleague James J. Casion as he retires from an impressive and fulfilling career of service. Jim's body of work unquestionably has improved the lives of those among us in need of special services, especially the mentally and physically disabled.

Since 1995, Jim has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Baker Victory Services, an organization that evolved from Father Nelson Baker's extensive social services programs. Today, Baker Victory provides extensive social services including adoption, residential, educational, outpatient, and services for the developmentally disabled. The organization is recognized as a leading institution in the field of behavioral health.

Jim's impact on Baker Victory Services and its predecessor organizations is commendable and noteworthy, as he has served in the Associate or Executive capacity since 1980. His comprehensive knowledge of the institution and its many facilities, built throughout his career, provides him with intimate knowledge of the challenges and best practices in his field.

Jim's passion for providing care and dignity extends into the classroom. His personal educational background includes an associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Orange County Community College, and three degrees and certificates from the University at Buffalo—a bachelor's degree in psychology, a Master's degree in Counseling, and completed a course of Special Study in Community Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling. To share his passion and expertise with students of the field, Jim has taught courses serving as an Adjunct Professor at the Canisius College Graduate School of Education, Trocaire College and Erie Community College.

In addition to his work at Baker Victory, Jim has served on countless boards dedicated to improving care in our community and our nation. Some of his past and present appointments and memberships include the Canisius College Graduate School of Education, the Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families, the Coalition for New York State Children's Mental Health Services, the Child Welfare League of America, Care Management Coalition, Quality Behavioral Health, the National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, the Trauma Informed Community Initiative, and Dopkins and Company.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to honor my friend Jim Casion and congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement. His

selfless work and compassion is inspiring and I admire his mission to provide all people with quality care so they may lead dignified, fulfilling lives. I am so grateful for his work, and sincerely wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING MS. ANNE M. ELLIS'  
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO  
THE AMERICAN CONCRETE IN-  
STITUTE

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne M. Ellis for her volunteer leadership to the American Concrete Institute (ACI), headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI, an organization whose work is fundamental to our nation's critical infrastructure and key to our economic competitiveness. As a Member of Congress, I am privileged and honored to recognize Ms. Ellis for her leadership and lifelong commitment to this organization and to advancing the knowledge of concrete in the United States and abroad.

ACI has been the pioneer in all concrete-related fields: research and development, structural design, architectural design, construction, and product manufacture. With 99 chapters, 65 student chapters, and nearly 20,000 members spanning over 120 countries, ACI provides knowledge and information for the best uses of concrete. Through a host of activities including continuing education, certification, seminars, publications, and conventions, ACI plays an active and vital role in the concrete industry. Core to ACI is the development of codes and standards, adopted for reference in building codes impacting potentially every concrete project in the United States. Additionally, there are some 21 countries worldwide that base part or all of their national building codes on the ACI's 318 Structural Concrete Building Code provisions.

Ms. Ellis will complete her term, as the 90th President of ACI, at ACI's Spring Convention in Reno. Her Presidency was notable for the many accomplishments typified by the new ACI motto: Always Advancing that launched during her term. Her term also bore witness to a new ACI logo, a new ACI website translatable into 70 languages, and the formation of the following ACI committees: Education, Technical and Certification Committee (ETC); International Project Awards Committee (IPAC); Codes & Standards Advisory Committee; as well as launching the Global Chapter Roundtable. These concrete actions support ACI's new strategic plan that sets it on a course for global leadership in the 21st century.

Anne Ellis' service to ACI began long before her presidency. Ms. Ellis has served on ACI's Board of Direction, the Board of the ACI Foundation, as well as numerous other Board and

Technical committees. Working with ACI colleagues, Ms. Ellis helped institute free ACI student e-membership, facilitate ACI's entry into social networking, and establish the Collegiate Concrete Council, the Student and Young Professionals Activities Committee and Sustainability Committees. She was named an ACI Fellow in 2008. Not surprisingly, she has been named by "Concrete Construction" as one of the most influential people in the concrete industry.

Currently, Ms. Ellis is Vice President of Global & Government Initiatives for AECOM, an \$8-billion global provider of professional technical and management support services. In this role, Ms. Ellis drives business-critical initiatives and engages in policy, legislative and regulatory issues affecting AECOM and the clients and markets the company serves. Additionally, Ms. Ellis oversees the day-to-day operations of the AECOM Global Advisory Board, comprised of prominent global leaders who are external to AECOM and highly accomplished in business and geopolitics.

Prior to joining AECOM, Ms. Ellis represented the Portland Cement Association and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. On behalf of these industries, she advocated for technical guidelines incorporated into landmark legislation that supported the development and construction of environmentally sustainable building designs. She represented the industries in the development of construction trade and supervisor training and certification programs—now standard in master specifications, with hundreds of thousands certified. Additionally, Ms. Ellis was a structural engineering project manager for numerous noteworthy entertainment, institutional and commercial building projects while at Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas; Martin, Cagley & Middlebrook; Dewberry & Davis; and Ehler/Bryan. Throughout her career, Ms. Ellis taught a variety of classes to undergraduate students, including reinforced concrete design, and continuing education classes to practicing engineers, preparing hundreds of engineers for successful completion of the FE and PE exams.

Ms. Ellis is a 2013 inductee into the Virginia Tech Academy of Engineering Excellence, an elite group composed of only 119 people out of its more than 60,000 living alumni. She is a 2007 inductee into the Virginia Tech Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni. She has completed terms on the Virginia Tech College of Engineering Advisory Board and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board, including a term as Chair.

Ms. Ellis serves on the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC), as an appointee of the Secretary of Commerce. ETTAC provides private-sector advice to 19 federal departments and agencies on federal trade policies and programs concerning the environmental technologies industry.

Ms. Ellis is active in several business and professional organizations. She is a member

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and served as ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition judge in 2004, 2005, and 2012. She was named an ASCE Fellow in 2013. The author of numerous articles and co-author of the "Concrete Design and Construction" section in the Fifth Edition of the Standard Handbook for Civil Engineers, Ms. Ellis is a frequent speaker at universities, professional societies, and industry forums. She received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, and has been a professional engineer since 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Anne M. Ellis' leadership and service to the American Concrete Institute.

IN HONOR OF MASTER TROOPER  
ROBERT M. HUNT

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Trooper Robert M. Hunt of North Carolina's State Highway Patrol and thank him for his heroic actions during the snow storm that hit the Southeast.

On February 12, 2014 North Carolina was hit by a dangerous winter storm that obstructed our roadways and threatened the safety of commuters and all North Carolinians. Despite the dangerous conditions, Trooper Hunt remained committed to his duty to keep our highways and our travelers safe.

As a state trooper, Trooper Hunt heroically stands in harm's way and commits his life to the safety of others every single day. We are fortunate to have brave men and women like Trooper Hunt who dedicate and risk their lives for our well-being and security.

Mr. Speaker, Trooper Hunt is a proven leader in our community. I applaud him for his bravery during this hazardous snow storm, and I thank him for his heroic and selfless actions.

HONORING DEMOLAY  
INTERNATIONAL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize DeMolay International, a youth service organization based out of Missouri's 6th Congressional District, on celebrating its 95th Anniversary.

DeMolay International is an outstanding leadership and philanthropic organization. Since Frank Sherman Land, a business leader and community volunteer, started DeMolay International in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 18, 1919, the organization has grown exponentially. The innovative and charitable work conducted by the organization now touches the lives of millions in all fifty states, as well as, Washington, DC, Canada, Brazil, Uruguay, The Philippines, Australia, Italy, Romania and Serbia. Frank Sherman Land believed in working with others and creating

strong bonds that will last a life time. DeMolay International is sponsored by and works closely with The Masons, which are a philanthropic fraternal organization that brings men together to make better communities through charitable work. Throughout history, DeMolay International has stayed true to its seven values of love of family, respect for other people's beliefs, courtesy towards all, brotherhood, honoring one's promises, cleanness in thought word and deed, and love of country. The men who serve in this organization vow to practice and live their lives by these core beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing DeMolay International for their many contributions to Kansas City and their dedication to service.

HONORING THE TONASKET UNITED  
STATES ARMED FORCES LEGACY  
SITE

### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those whose vision and hard work have made the United States Armed Forces Legacy Site in Tonasket, Washington, a reality. This site is a touching tribute to the legacy of all of America's veterans—past, present, and future.

In 2006, local veterans George Frank, Roger Castelda, and Ted Huber formed the U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Association in this rural community with the commendable mission of providing a place for veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces to be honored, offering a service office for veterans and their families, and presenting a military library for the use and enjoyment of all.

Originally designed by local artist Brad Hughes, the United States Armed Forces Legacy Site was completed on May 18, 2013 in conjunction with the city of Tonasket and with the hard work of many in the community. This inspirational site includes a wall for over 1,000 veterans' plaques, five basalt columns to honor each service branch, a library consisting of the history and wars of the Armed Forces, and a touching mural acknowledging America's military history.

I am pleased to see that the U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Association was named Non-profit Association of the year for 2012 by the Tonasket Chamber of Commerce and named as the best park/playground by the Omak Chronicle.

Through the efforts of numerous volunteers and donors, the United States Armed Forces Legacy Site has been a tremendous success and truly honors those who protect and preserve the values that shaped the character of our nation. I applaud all of those who made the site what it is today and look forward to future generations being able to show their respect to our America heroes.

CONGRATULATING DONALD C.  
ROBINETT

### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Donald C. Robinett, or "Robby" as he is endearingly referred to by his colleagues, on the occasion of his 97th birthday. It is with great enthusiasm that I join his family and friends in celebrating this milestone and the life of Mr. Robinett, a World War II veteran and among the last of the Pearl Harbor veterans living in Ventura County.

Born in Oxnard, California and now a resident of Oak View, California, Mr. Robinett served in the United States Navy from 1935 to 1945 and served on the USS *Tracy* for over five decades.

On that fateful day of December 7, 1941, Mr. Robinett was below deck when the first bombs hit. His experiences and flashbacks of the events that unfolded that tragic morning aboard the USS *Tracy* remain intact. For over 72 years, the vivid memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor still remain with Mr. Robinett. His courage, bravery, and service during one of our Nation's most historic moments, are an example of the characteristics that define the people that have come to be known as the Greatest Generation.

Honorably discharged on September 1, 1945, Mr. Robinett's career includes 10 years in the Navy and even without a day of leave, he was able to marry Eunice Hegna in Las Vegas in 1945. Donald and Eunice had 8 children.

I want to sincerely thank Mr. Robinett for his service and recognize his unwavering commitment, not only to our country, but to the freedoms and liberties that we hold so dear today. As a country and as people united, we will be forever grateful.

It is my honor to offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Robinett on this special occasion. I wish him a very happy birthday and many more years of continued health and happiness.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE THERAPY CHOIRS OF MICHIGAN'S ANNUAL "CAPITOL CONCERT" DURING MICHIGAN THERAPY CHOIR AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2014*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Therapy Choirs of Michigan, a nonprofit organization based in Farmington Hills. This year, the Therapy Choirs of Michigan is preparing for its fifteenth annual "Capitol Concert" in Lansing, a remarkable achievement and great milestone in its history.

Created in 1998 by Len McCulloch, Therapy Choirs of Michigan was founded with a mission of bringing together members of the community affected by similar disabilities and challenges to provide them with opportunities support each other through artistic vocal expression. While providing the public with entertainment, Therapy Choirs of Michigan seeks to