

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, one of the seminal events in 20th century was the demise of the Soviet Union, which altered the balance of power in the world, most profoundly in Europe and Central Asia. But the event that sparked the tinderbox of democratic uprisings through the sphere of Soviet satellites began in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijanis remember the night that democratic fire was sparked; it was January 20, 1990. The Azeris called it "Black January." At midnight on that fateful night, 26,000 armed Russian troops stormed into Baku with tanks.

The weeks and months prior to Black January had seen a surge in the national independence movement. Hundreds of thousands of Azeris pushed then USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy by publicly marching for independence and territorial integrity.

Some of the emerging democratic groups were projected to win seats in the upcoming Parliamentary elections. Since only Communists could hold government office in a Soviet satellite, Gorbachev moved quickly to put down the independence movement.

Gorbachev declared a state of emergency to repress a growing independence movement. The Soviet heavyhandedness served only to elevate Azeri resolve and passion. Soviet troops, under orders to "restore order," tried dispersing the throngs of peaceful Azeri demonstrators by firing arbitrarily into the crowds on the Baku streets, killing women and children who were among the protesters calling for independence from the Soviet Union.

Over 130 Azeris were killed in the violence of Black January; 611 were injured, nearly 1,000 were arrested, and five were never found.

Human Rights Watch's report "Black January in Azerbaijan," said that, "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals." Human Rights Watch concluded, "The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union."

The standoff between nationalists in Azerbaijan and the Soviet leaders in Moscow escalated into an Azeri threat to hold a referendum on secession unless Soviet troops withdrew in 48 hours. Soviet troops were hampered when Azerbaijani oil tankers blockaded the Baku harbor, keeping Soviet naval vessels at bay.

Soviet forces withdrew, but formal independence would come nearly two years later.

On this day, Azeri patriots stood up for their freedom, sealing the fate of the Soviet empire and forever changing the history of the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me in standing with the people of Azerbaijan today in solitude and gratitude for their passion for independence and remembrance of the lives lost on Black January.

RECOGNITION OF DEAN LESTER'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Dean Lester, on his 20 years of service to the House of Representatives and the people of the United States.

Dean came to Washington, DC in January, 1995 to work for his home state Congresswoman, Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho. He fondly remembers the "united sense to accomplish things" in the first 100 days of that year as the House embarked on a hectic schedule to implement the Contract with America.

Dean must have enjoyed that fast pace, because even when Congress slows down or goes into recess, he maintains a full schedule. Over time, he began working for multiple House offices at once, and he now serves as office and financial administrator to eight different members of Congress. In total, Dean has worked for 20 members of Congress in 20 years.

Dean is an irreplaceable member of every staff on which he serves. He tracks our budgets, manages our office moves, and ensures all of our equipment is working properly; in short, Dean makes sure the trains run on time. He knows every inch of this building and every trick of the trade. When a problem arises, we call Dean and we can always count on him to fix it.

Dean is a mentor and guide not just to younger staff members but to senior staff and members of Congress as well. Through it all, he maintains a sense of humor, an upbeat attitude, and a positive view of what we can accomplish together. He reminds us of why we came here and what an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity it is to serve.

Dean, we could not do our jobs without you. For your tireless work ethic, your dedication to Congress and the people of this great country, and your 20 years of service, we salute you.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S SUE PARDUE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to recognize the

life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Sue Pardue. For decades, Sue was a leader and integral part of the Northwest Florida community, and she will be missed by all who were fortunate to know her.

Sue married her loving husband of more than 42 years, Alvin, in 1972, before moving to Pace, Florida, where they started a family and became an integral part of the Pace community. While raising her five children, Sue also took steps to further her education, receiving bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees from the University of West Florida. Sue used her education and kind-hearted nature serving as a counselor at many institutions in Northwest Florida, including Pace Assembly Ministries, Santa Rosa Correctional Institute, and Pensacola Family Care for Youth, amongst many others.

While raising a family and working as a counselor, Sue also took an active role in many community organizations helping to serve the community that she loved. Sue was deeply devoted to serving the Lord, and she served for many years as head of the Children's Ministries at Pace Assembly of God and the Women's Ministries at Pensacola First Assembly of God, while also holding a position on the church's board. In addition to her service at her church, Sue was deeply involved in many other organizations, including: Concerned Citizens for Gifted Children, Crisis Line Counseling, RSVP Advisory Board, Red Cross, Advisory Board for Children's Home, Advisory Board for Guardian Ad Litem, Pace Water System, Family Promise, Pregnancy Resource Center, and Santa Rosa County Bond Review Board.

To some, Sue will be remembered as a devoted servant of Jesus Christ, working tirelessly to spread His word at her church and throughout Northwest Florida. To others she will be remembered as a highly educated, hard-working, and dedicated counselor. To her family and friends, she will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to Sue's husband, Alvin; her children, Donna, Deniece, Brian, Edwin, and Calvin; her seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and the entire Pardue family.

IN HONOR OF 2015 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BILL ELLIOTT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate racing legend Bill Elliott upon his induction into the sixth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. There is a rhyme that holds true about this inductee, "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville."

• 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.

The Dawsonville, Georgia, native got his first career win at the 1976 Carolina 500 at "The Rock" in Rockingham, North Carolina. In fact, Bill reached victory lane six times at tracks within North Carolina's 8th congressional district.

These wins are just a small part of one of the greatest careers in NASCAR history.

In 1985, Elliott won the first "Winston Million" in NASCAR history by winning three of four races in NASCAR's then "Grand Slam." In that season, he won the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway, the Winston 500 at Talladega Superspeedway, and the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway. He is one of only two drivers in the Winston Million era to ever accomplish this feat and for being the first to accomplish it he was given the nickname "Million Dollar Bill."

In 1988, Elliott earned NASCAR's Winston Cup championship. His win total of 44 ranks him in the top 20 all-time NASCAR Cup Series winners and Elliott also garnered 16 Most Popular Driver Awards during his illustrious career.

It is a true honor to congratulate him on his due induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF 2015 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE WENDELL SCOTT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate racing legend Wendell Scott upon his posthumous induction into the sixth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Wendell Scott was the first African-American to become a full-time competitor in the series and he did this after serving three years in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He started racing in 1947 and experienced immediate success behind the wheel. He gained the respect and admiration of his competitors and fans as they observed his skill as a mechanic, skill as a driver and his exceptional work ethic.

Scott won over 100 races in the next decade at local area tracks. He made his first start in NASCAR's premier series March 4, 1961, at Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 1963, Scott became the first African-American to win a NASCAR premier series event.

Although Scott passed away in 1990, his impact on racing can still be felt today. It is truly an honor to extend these congratulatory remarks for United States Army veteran Wendell Scott for his racing career and his posthumous induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the misleadingly titled "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act."

This deceptively-titled bill does nothing more than dramatically restrict the ability of women to purchase affordable health insurance without forfeiting their constitutionally protected right to buy health coverage that includes reproductive services. Federal policy, including explicit language in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), already prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions. Existing law in the ACA states that any individual who joins a plan that covers abortions will pay an additional fee that goes into a separate account; this was specifically designed to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent on abortions. The fee is only paid by people who knowingly joined a health plan that covers abortions, and any abortion (except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the mother's life) coverage is paid out of those accounts—not by taxpayer dollars.

The ACA also provides that individuals purchasing their health care from the recently established exchanges can, depending on their income, access tax credits and ensure that their health care plan is affordable. This bill would deny women access to the tax credits on their health plans even though the tax credit does not cover any of the cost of plans that include abortion coverage. In other words, women will be denied access to affordable health care if they exercise their right to use their own funds for abortion coverage. This is unacceptable and violates the careful balance established in the ACA. Whether women purchase their insurance through the marketplace exchanges or receive it through their employers, millions of American women would be denied their choice of affordable health care coverage.

A woman's right to choose her own health care is a fundamental one, and the Congress should not tell women how to manage their private health or reproductive care. Sadly, this legislation will do just that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this assault on women. This bill was a mistake the first two times it was proposed, and it remains a mistake today. Instead of attacking a woman's access to health care, we should be focused on accelerating job growth and increasing the paychecks of working Americans.

IN HONOR OF 2015 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE FRED LORENZEN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate racing superstar Fred

Lorenzen upon his induction into the sixth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

The Elmhurst, Illinois, native got his start in NASCAR as a mechanic with the famed Holman-Moody team in 1960, but was elevated to lead driver by the end of that year.

In 1964, Lorenzen began one of the most dominant five race runs in NASCAR history in which he led 1,679 of the possible 1,953 laps. This stretch of lap-leading highlights how dominant Lorenzen was between 1962 and 1967. He won multiple major events during this period such as the Daytona 500, World 600, and the American 500.

Nicknamed the "Elmhurst Express," Lorenzen notched 26 wins on the NASCAR circuit and he reached victory lane five times in the 8th district of North Carolina.

It is an honor to congratulate him on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, once more, Republicans are seeking to limit women's access to safe reproductive health care through H.R. 7, the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." This is a sweeping ban on abortion coverage and another callous attempt to insert Congress into the most personal of conversations between a woman and her physician and I did not vote for it.

Last week marked the 42nd anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*. It is exasperating that we still have to go through this annual charade as Republican leadership tries to force those of us who support women and their reproductive choices to take a "hard vote."

It is not hard for me to stand with the millions of women who depend on access to safe, legal abortion. It is not hard for me to vote against any bill that imposes the will of an intolerant, albeit vocal, minority on our mothers, sisters, and daughters. It is not hard for me to protect freedom of choice, because it is right and it is just.

Instead of bringing up legislation to strengthen our economy or improve our infrastructure, Republican leadership is choosing to focus its efforts on legislation that will trump women's health, override family decisions, and compromise the ability of women and their doctors to deal with reproductive issues. It's a blatant attack on women and it's not hard for me to say that it is wrong.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 39, I was unavoidably detained during the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."