

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities. The roots of this historic Act date back to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It began in towns and cities across the United States. It began with parents, families and friends of those living with disabilities challenging the societal barriers that excluded their fellow Americans from fair employment, access to public services and deserved accommodations.

Over the decades, the disability rights movement continued to grow and gain momentum. When ADA was enacted on July 26, 1990, it was regarded as a momentous bill that would break down barriers to education, employment and technology—and it has not disappointed. The Americans with Disabilities Act has markedly increased the quality of life for the over 55 million people living with a disability in the United States today. The ADA is viewed as responsible for a 75% increase in access to public facilities and transportation services for people with disabilities. In fact, over 20 cities across the United States including Boston, Massachusetts now use rail systems that are accessible to people with disabilities.

The ADA has also given greater voice to those faced with mental and physical challenges. This law requires that people with disabilities be given access to a right that every American is constitutionally guaranteed, the right to vote. Between 1996 and 2004, implementation of the ADA increased voter turnout amongst the men and women with disabilities by 10% compared to an overall increase of only 2%.

While a significant disparity in income and poverty rates remains for those living with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act was a historic stepping stone that has decidedly improved the lives of millions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in recognizing the importance of this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED WILLIAM H. "COTTON" BYROM

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved William H. "Cotton" Byrom. Cotton was a friend and a lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast, a successful business owner, and a leader in civil society. All of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Born and raised in Milton, Florida, Cotton graduated from Milton High School in the midst of World War II, and, at the age of 17, he answered the call of duty, serving with honor and distinction in the Navy during the war. Following his military service, Cotton attended Florida State University, cementing a passion for FSU football that would continue for the rest of his life. At FSU, Cotton displayed the leadership skills that would come to be a hallmark of his service to Northwest Florida, serving as founding president of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

After receiving his degree in finance, Cotton returned to his beloved Milton, starting the Byrom Insurance/Real Estate Agency, which he led for nearly four decades. Despite the rigors of running a successful small business, Cotton was also dedicated to serving the people of Milton, and this commitment to service saw him elected to various important positions. Among the many offices he held, Cotton served as Mayor of Milton, City Police Director, and City Judge, and he also served a term in the Florida Legislature. Cotton also served in many other capacities, including more than 30 years on the Board of Directors for SunTrust Bank, nearly 20 years as Chairman of the Santa Rosa Beach Administration, and more than a decade as Santa Rosa County Civil Defense Director. In addition, Cotton was a member of the "Coffee Crew," which gathered at 9:00 a.m. each morning in Milton to discuss politics and current affairs. When I attended, I always enjoyed visiting with Cotton and was deeply humbled to receive his counsel and guidance.

Cotton was also a deeply religious man and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church. In fact, as a child, Cotton began saving the money that he earned to help rebuild the church following a fire that destroyed the church in 1932.

To some, Cotton Byrom will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and patriot, who answered the call during one of our Nation's toughest hours and came back home to continue leading and serving the people of Northwest Florida; to others he will be remembered as a successful businessman and civic leader; to his friends and family he will best be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life and legacy of William H. "Cotton" Byrom. My wife Vicki and I send our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Geraldine "Geri" Byrom; four daughters: Priscilla (Pete) Sanstead, Barbara (Terry) Johnson, Jennifer (Alan) Byrom; Julie (Guy) Byrom; grandchildren: Betsy Cooley, Leslie (Josh) Sparr, Tyler Sparr, Caroline Sanstead, and Gracie Stewart; great-grandchildren: Sarah Cooley, Brooke Baker, William Baker, Ben White and Jayden White; stepchildren, Matt (Tonya) Lawrence and Laura (Shaine) Garrison; step-grandchildren: Seth Lawrence, Grant Garrison, Colin Garrison and Emma Garrison; nephew, Jack (Betty) Williamson; special relative, Paul (Laurie) Green; and the entire Byrom family.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MORRISON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Morrison of Creston, Iowa for being named the Class 3A Region 2 Coach of the Year by the Iowa Football Coaches Association.

With a record of 10–3 the Panthers finished the season second place in their district, earning their first berth to the class 3A state football playoffs after beating first place Dallas Center-Grimes in the district championship. Coach Morrison displayed a knack for leading these young men and rallying them around a single goal. Although they fell short of the ultimate goal, this team, and their coaching staff, had an excellent season and deserve to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I stand here today and recognize Coach Morrison for his accomplishments. It is role models like Brian that help mold our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

SPECIAL ORDER ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleagues, Congressmen VARGAS and COLLINS in this Special Order regarding international religious freedom.

As the daughter of Assyrian and Armenian immigrants who fled the slaughter of Middle East Christians in the early 1900's, the importance of religious freedom is interwoven into the history of my family.

• 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.

I remember vividly the stories my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles told me of what they faced; how they fled; about the family members murdered; of Churches being burned; and all because they were Christians. Tragically, we are witnessing history repeating itself today in the Middle East.

Violence and instability has once again placed Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East in exceptional peril, a population which has already dwindled considerably in Iraq and Syria.

There is a systematic extermination of the world's oldest Christian communities taking place. First it was Al Qaeda when the U.S. invaded Iraq. Today it is the barbarians of ISIS who are responsible for horrific acts, including torture, murder and displacement of thousands, many with whom I share the same ethnic background.

From the founding of our nation, religious freedom has been a pillar of our democracy and it remains a cornerstone of our democracy and a value we espouse to peoples around the world.

The situation for religious minorities in the Middle East remains particularly desperate and many are losing hope. As a maelstrom of violence and religious persecution ravages this part of the world, we can and must lead.

First, there is a desperate need for humanitarian aid for the displaced inside and outside established refugee camps.

Second, the United States should provide adequate safety for the few remaining religious minority communities in Syria and Iraq.

Third, we should ease the bureaucratic burdens which hold up immigration applications for religious minorities who wish to seek refuge in the United States. Today they are made to wait years due to our tedious refugee processing through the State Department and Department of Homeland Security.

Religious leaders across ecumenical lines have come together and firmly stated their support for religious freedom. Pope Francis said in January, "... Freedom of religion and freedom of expression are both fundamental human rights."

The United States must step up, lead by example, and make good on our belief that religious freedom is a precious one.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH LENTS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ralph Lents of Greenfield, Iowa for being selected as Adair County's 2015 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Ralph's 4-H career started off quickly when he joined the Eureka Eagles showing cattle and hogs and participating in livestock judging. His leadership abilities were evident as he served as club treasurer, vice president, and was elected boys county 4-H president in 1968. He enjoyed attending the Adair-Union 4-H Winter Camp at Madrid, the State 4-H Conservation Camp and the State 4-H Conference. Ralph was a member of one of the top livestock judging teams at the Adair County Fair and later coached a team competing at

the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City. Ralph received the Danforth leadership award as a senior 4-H'er.

Ralph served three four-year terms on the Adair County Extension Council: four years as chairman, and eight years as treasurer. He served on the Adams County Extension Council for four years, the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils Board of Directors, and represented southwest Iowa on several state Extension Committees. Ralph was club leader of the Way Out Walnuts for eight years, continuing in that role after his daughter, Katie, had graduated. He continues to serve as county fair beef superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and recognize Ralph for his many years of service and dedication. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Ralph for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING PIKEVILLE INDEPENDENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pikeville Independent School District in celebration of 100 years of education and service in the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky.

Pikeville Independent Schools have attained notable achievements across the board, including accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for Pikeville Elementary and High Schools. The educators in this school system go the extra mile to prepare students for the next level, earning an impressive second place ranking in the state for college and career readiness. Currently, at the high school, 45% of junior and seniors are taking one or more dual credit courses through the University of Pikeville and annual National Merit semi-finalists. Juniors at Pikeville High also consistently rank among Kentucky's top ten districts for ACT composite scores. Not only are individual students succeeding, but the entire student body of each class is raising the bar for achievement. Pikeville High and Junior High Schools have earned recognition as schools of distinction, while also ranking among the top ten in the state for KPREP scores as a district. The founders of this private school district clearly laid firm cornerstones that continue to support the success of its students in its centennial year of education.

Today, every Pikeville Panther has access to new, innovative opportunities like state-of-the-art science labs and online courses, as well as basic support like tutoring and full time teachers for humanities in every school. However, educators are often faced with helping students through far more daunting challenges than tests and essays in the classroom. At Pikeville Independent, students are taught the value of respect and growth in every area of student life, from academics to extra-curricular

activities, thereby inspiring the development of a well-rounded student with a good moral compass. With an average attendance rate surpassing 95%, parents and students clearly understand the importance of education in the new global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating 100 years of educational achievement in the heart of coal country. When our students succeed, the future of this great Nation gets much brighter. Congratulations to Pikeville Independent Schools. Go Panthers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHILIPP MISSFELDER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philipp Missfelder, a member of the German parliament who passed away unexpectedly on July 13, 2015, after suffering from an apparent pulmonary embolism. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, Ann-Christin, and their two daughters.

Born on August 25, 1979, Mr. Missfelder dedicated his life to public service. After receiving a degree in history from the Technical University of Berlin, Mr. Missfelder rooted his commitment to public service in conservative principles. He served as a member of Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, since 2005 and then became the foreign policy spokesman of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats in 2009.

Mr. Missfelder was a dynamic foreign policy expert and respected leader committed to improving international relations and Germany's transatlantic ties. He garnered a reputation from his colleagues for being a champion of pro-life policy and for his strong support of our common ally, Israel.

When I first met Mr. Missfelder, I was immediately struck by his outgoing and friendly personality, genuine nature, passion for his beliefs, and his desire to serve the citizens of Germany. It was with deep sadness that I learned of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Philipp Missfelder for his public service to Germany, his commitment to democratic values, and the example he set for other public officials around the world.

TRIBUTE TO AARON DEMORY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Aaron Demory of North Liberty, Iowa, for receiving the 2015 Youth Human Rights Award for his volunteer work in Guatemala.

Each year the Iowa City Human Rights Commission recognizes youth who demonstrate passion and commitment towards bettering society through their service to others with a Youth Human Rights Award.

Aaron Demory was granted this prestigious award for voluntarily traveling to Guatemala to