

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD AND TEAM PLAYER AWARD

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I rise today to congratulate and recognize the outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award and Team Player Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose work, which is often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, teamwork, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished many great things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided 350 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Keith S. Brown, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Pamela L. Brown, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mona S. Burnett, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Ed Cassidy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mark Dobbins, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Daniel S. Hall, Office of the Clerk.

Patrick A. Hirsch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Araceli Jennings, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Tara A. Kelley, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Timothy Magruder, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Charles E. Powell, Jr., Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Robin Richter, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Randy Rogerson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

David Tonizzo, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate the House employees receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to an employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty for their organization throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Melissa K. Franger and John F. Looney, III, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Kevin Hanrahan, Office of the Clerk.

Michael A. Howard, Office of Inspector General.

David E. McKittrick, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

And finally, we recognize and congratulate several House employees being presented the Team Player Award. This award recognizes the value the House Officers and Inspector General place on working collaboratively across House organizations to strengthen and protect the U.S. House of Representatives. These awardees have demonstrated a collaborative attitude, commitment to achieving team objectives, respect and support of their teammates, and dedication to the betterment of House operations. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this notable award.

Alison M. Trulock, Office of the Clerk.

Kevin C. Cornell and Donna K. Wolfgang, Office of Inspector General.

James J. Kaelin, Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Kevin N. Chambers, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRITING ON AMERICA

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Viet Bao Daily News' 15th Anniversary of the Writing on America Essay Contest and its subsequent annual Awards program. Viet Bao Daily News established the Writing on America Essay Contest in 2000 with the simple mission of creating an opportunity for members of the Vietnamese community to share their individual experiences.

Since its creation, the competition has become an annual grand award celebration and a uniting chronicle sharing inspirational stories from members of the Vietnamese community. The initial objective of the competition was to preserve the Vietnamese language and cultural values. However, the impact exceeded Viet Bao's initial expectation. The tens of thousands of entries over the years have become more than just an anthology of shared, collective philosophical values—but a historical record helping to preserve the Vietnamese community's history across a broad spectrum ranging from tragedy to triumph.

I would like to congratulate all of the participants in the essay competition for sharing their varied stories of life and legacy, as well as congratulate all of the winners past and present. They have all contributed a multitude of inspirational stories that document and share with the whole community their experiences and journey to assimilate in American society.

I also want to congratulate and applaud Viet Bao Daily News for the success of their writing competition, not just for the community service the program brings to the Vietnamese community, but for what it contributes to the rich tapestry of our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF KOUTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound admiration that I recognize the town of Kouts, Indiana, as it marks its 150th anniversary. In celebration of this special occasion, festivities were held in Kouts on August 22, 2015, which included a parade and commemoration ceremony coinciding with the town's annual Porkfest and the historic Aukiki Festival.

An idyllic sanctuary for rural life, Kouts has become the thriving community it is today due to one noble trait: perseverance. In 1865, when surveyors of the nearby Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Saint Louis railroad sought lodging, they were denied at the first home they

• 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.

came to and wandered onward to be accepted with hospitality at the second, where the Kouts family lived. Henceforth, the family name was given to the area as it expanded from the Kouts train station and was built into a prospering community by the surveyors. The village applied for incorporation three times, failing twice before Kouts' patience was rewarded in 1921, the same year electricity spread to the area.

Kouts has always been a town of industry, not in the sense of material production, but in the sense that the people of Kouts have always toiled with conviction and tenacity to create the lives they envision for themselves and to lift up their community as a civil microcosm worthy of respect.

It is a testament to the quality of the people of Kouts and their interest in supporting each member of the community that Blake Benson, an eighth grader at Kouts Middle School, has assumed the role of President of the town's Sesquicentennial Committee, performing the duties of his office with pride. In collaboration with his Committee, Blake has organized the joyous commemoration of this special day in Kouts history. For their devotion to their town's history and prosperity, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Benson, the Kouts Sesquicentennial Committee, and Kouts Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the 150th anniversary of the town of Kouts. The town's long history of harmonious cohabitations is inspiring and is worthy of our admiration.

HONORING ROBERT FISHER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robert Fisher, who passed away on July 17 in Fairfax, California, at the age of 68. A nearly-lifelong Marin resident and community leader, he will be remembered for his unyielding efforts to better lives in Marin City and beyond.

From an early age, Mr. Fisher cared deeply about others. He moved to Marin City a year after his birth, and attended high school and college in the North Bay. He first ran for office at the age of 23, serving on the Sausalito-Marin City School District board and later, for the Marin City Community Services District board. He also worked as a student counselor at his alma mater, the College of Marin, and became an engineer by profession.

Mr. Fisher's efforts will continue to impact lives long after his passing. He was involved with the Marin City Health and Wellness Center, Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. School, and the recently-opened Rocky Graham Park. A new community center for Marin City—one of his dreams—has begun the planning process.

Robert Fisher's lifetime dedication to public service exemplifies an inspirational spirit of generosity and a model for others to follow. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and express our deepest condolences to his wife, Agnes, his sister, Lue Ann, and his children.

EDITH GATES BRADY—100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, Edith's parents were William Earl and Marsha Susan Gates. She has one younger brother, Billy Duane, who resides in Texas.

Edith was born at 4:00 p.m. September 4, 1915, in the country outside of Peach Orchard, AR.

She moved from Peach Orchard, Arkansas to Michigan in 1925 at age 10. She graduated as Salutatorian from John J. Pershing High School.

She was married to Loyd Elvin Brady in the midst of the Great Depression on October 28, 1934, at the Hazel Park Baptist Tabernacle, Hazel Park, MI in a wedding dress costing \$13. She had 6 children, Roger Bryan, Kay Linda, Loyd (Bud) Elvin II, Dan Gregory, Robert Franklin and Kirk Allyn.

As the wife of a city manager she resided, entertained and attended public/political functions in Hazel Park, MI, Trinidad, CO, The Dalles, OR, Monrovia, CA and Santa Clara, CA, before her husband retired to raise cattle at the Sugarbush Ranch in Success, AR in 1963.

She has 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

She was baptized into the Christian faith as a child and has been a member of the Success Baptist Church in Success, AR since 1963.

She became Deputy Treasurer of Western Clay County, Arkansas in 1968, in which capacity she served for 16 years.

Edith has family traveling from California, Texas, Georgia, and Michigan for the centennial celebration.

She loves celebrating events with her family, recollecting amusing stories/life lessons, following political commentary, reading western novels, and cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals.

She plans to wear high heels to her 100th birthday celebration.

HONORING THE INTERAGENCY CO-OPERATION THAT SAVED A LIFE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Whatcom County Fire District 5, Whatcom County Sheriff's Department, Airlift Northwest, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for working together to save the life of Hugh Graham, a Point Roberts visitor who went into cardiac arrest at the Port of Entry.

Early on June 7, Hugh and his friend Andy MacLean arrived in Point Roberts, having planned a bike ride. Immediately after passing through the Port of Entry on Tyee Drive, Hugh collapsed. Customs Agents began performing CPR, while a cardiac arrest call went out to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Department and Whatcom County Fire District 5.

The first responders worked on resuscitating Hugh using defibrillation and medication until he was stable. Hugh was then transported in an Airlift Northwest helicopter to PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham. The strong relationship between the CBP, Airlift Northwest, Fire District 5 and the Sheriff's Department was essential in ensuring the best possible outcome for Hugh, who has since returned home to fully recover.

Many thanks go to:

Whatcom County Fire District 5 personnel:

Jerry Aguiar, Ben Boyko, Christian Craig, Jeff Finlay, Ryan Greene, Mark Puustelli, Fadi Samaha, John Shields, Kristy Steinberger, Christina Tersakian, Scott Van Den Boogaard, Kyle Whiteman

Whatcom County Sheriff Deputies:

Tom McCarthy, Jayson Loreen

Airlift Northwest members:

Bonita Haggith, Rose Goure, Rick Rathbun
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agents:

Larry Tingley, Eddie Proctor, Timothy Johnson, Denton Glaser, Andrew Giles, Merritt Washburn, Christopher Barron, Robert Carter, Detlef Goellner

This situation is a great example of how our community benefits when agencies work together at all levels. I am thankful that these men and women are hard at work every single day to keep us safe and secure.

HONORING MOTHER VIRGINIA OLIVER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and profound admiration that I congratulate Mother Virginia Oliver, a longtime resident of East Chicago, Indiana, on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which she celebrated on August 31, 2015. Virginia was honored by family and friends at a very special Celebration of 100 Years of Life, which featured a commemorative luncheon. The following day, she was recognized during a special reception at her church, Greater First Baptist Church in East Chicago.

Mother Virginia Oliver arrived in East Chicago nearly seventy years ago, when she and her loving husband, the late Robert Oliver, relocated to Northwest Indiana in the mid-1940's to build a life together. Upon their arrival in the city, the couple resided in an apartment above the JPL Furniture Store located in the section of East Chicago known as the Harbor. It was during this time that Mr. and Mrs. Oliver welcomed two children, Robert and Sheryl, both proud graduates of East Chicago Roosevelt High School.

In 1953, Virginia and Robert purchased a home in the Calumet section of the city, where Virginia continues to reside. It was in this home that Mother Oliver raised her children. During this time, Virginia was fully involved in her children's educations and was an active member of the parent-teacher association.

While Mother Oliver was focused on raising her children, throughout her life she was also well known in the community as a skilled seamstress and beautician. After her children were grown, Virginia continued to serve her