

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## RECOGNIZING POLISH HERITAGE DAY

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the fourth annual Polish Heritage Day in Michigan City, Indiana. In honor of this special occasion, a commemorative event, the Polish Heritage Festival, will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2015, at the International Friendship Gardens in Michigan City.

During the inaugural festival in 2012, Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer proclaimed the 15th of September as Polish Heritage Day to honor and recognize the contributions made by Polish-American members of the local community.

The Polish Heritage Festival commences with a Polish-English mass in the Symphony Garden. Festivities continue with a performance by Wesoly Lud, a Polish folk dance ensemble, which includes regional costumes made in Poland. Each dance performance by the Chicago troupe incorporates ornate, custom aprons and headdresses for the ladies and embroidered vests and traditional hats for the men. The event also includes savory Polish food from Cavalier Inn of Hammond and Polish baked confectionaries from Bakers Dozen of South Bend.

A special honor, the Polish Ambassador Award, is presented during the festival to bestow recognition and respect on a deserving individual who has acted as an influential promoter of Polish heritage and culture.

For the past three years, the Polish Heritage Festival has applied proceeds from the event to local scholarships and soup kitchens, and also for the restoration of the Polish Garden at the International Friendship Gardens.

The Polish community has had an immense impact on life in Northwest Indiana, through its religious presence, as in the blessing of baskets prior to the Easter holiday and day-long weddings culminating with polka music and large dinners. Traditional Polish cuisine handed down from generation to generation, including pierogi, kielbasa, and paczki, is popular dining fare within the region due to the vast influence of Polish culture throughout Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the fourth annual Polish Heritage Day in Michigan City, Indiana. Members of the Polish community have played an important role in enhancing the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana, and for that, they are to be commended.

## HONORING RICH SCHLESIGER

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement to honor the memory of Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Corporal Rich Schlesiger, who passed away on September 7, 2015. A native of Humboldt County, California, Mr. Schlesiger began his law enforcement career in the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office in 1991. He was hired by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff in 1995 and worked in the Hoopa area for a year before being reassigned to Main Station Patrol Operations in Eureka.

Mr. Schlesiger served as bailiff for Humboldt County Superior Court beginning in 1999, and become a rotational detective in 2001. In 2005, Mr. Schlesiger was promoted to permanent investigator. Between 2005 and 2013 he investigated several high-profile homicide cases which resulted in successful prosecutions.

In 2013, Mr. Schlesiger accepted a position as Eel River deputy, working with the Bear River Band of Rhonerville Rancheria and the community of Loleta, and earned the respect and gratitude of many of the area's citizens. He was promoted to the rank of sheriff's corporal in 2014. Through his career, Mr. Schlesiger also served with distinction as a SWAT team member.

Mr. Schlesiger was forced to retire due to illness on December 30, 2014, and passed away less than a year afterward. His many contributions to law enforcement and public safety will be remembered for years to come. It is with deep respect that we mourn the passing of Mr. Rich Schlesiger and extend condolences to his family. His presence will be sorely missed.

## RECOGNIZING THE Denco AREA 9-1-1 DISTRICT

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denco Area 9-1-1 District as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Previously known as the Denton County Area Emergency Communication District, Denco was authorized by the Texas Legislature, established in Denton County through local election on August 25, 1987 with the strong support of county and local officials, and commenced operation on August 18, 1990.

Denco established the first emergency response telecommunications system with 9-1-1 service for Denton County. This vital organization has provided ground-breaking service for North Texas citizens by delivering efficient

and effective response for those caught in emergency situations. They also have provided annual educational programs to 68,000+ school-aged children regarding the proper use of a 9-1-1 call.

As a leader in emergency assistance, Denco is to be commended for their numerous accomplishments and enhancements to their infrastructure and service capability over the years. They were the first district in Texas to provide a 24/7 response program.

I am honored to join Denco in celebrating this important milestone, a significant achievement in their history as well as an event to be noted and appreciated by the communities they serve. As a worthwhile organization committed to ensuring the safety of Denton County residents, I am proud to represent the Denco Area 9-1-1 District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## HONORING THE SERVICE OF AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN JACQY RAMSEY

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Jacqy Ramsey, for his service to our nation in the United States Air Force.

Jacqy enlisted in the Air Force in May 1966 and reported for Basic Military Training (BMT) at Lackland AFB, TX. Following BMT, he completed Pneudraulic Repairman Course and was the Honor Graduate of Aircraft Pneudraulic Repair Tech School. In August 1966 he reported to 36th Troop Carrier Squadron (TAC) at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Senior Airman Ramsey distinguished himself amongst his peers as a Pneudraulics Repairman in the 36 TAC. On 13 February 1967, en route to Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, the C-130 on which Ramsey was a passenger experienced landing gear failure when the left main landing gear failed to extend. All efforts by the flight and maintenance crews failed to extend the landing gear. He discerned the problem, left his seat, and went to the aid of the flight crew. Due to his experience and knowledge of the gear system, he skillfully released the emergency release handle, lowered the landing gear, and locked it in place. His quick thinking and knowledge allowed the aircraft to make a safe landing.

His personal awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force in May 1972, Senior Airman Ramsey went on to work for IBM for 30 years.

A handyman and inventor, Senior Airman Ramsey built his own home, is skilled in construction, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical work. He also designed and built from scratch

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a wood boiler system that heats and provides hot water for his home. To fuel it, he built a large wood splitter that can split logs up to 2 feet in diameter. As a grandfather, he taught his grandsons how to work and drive heavy equipment.

Jacqy excelled while in the Air Force as well as during his career at IBM and I am honored to pay tribute to this Veteran. I know that Jacqy's wife, Arlene; his daughters Amy Manuel, 44; Emilee Haskins, 42; Jackie Sherer, 40; and Bridget Sibley, 40; his grandchildren; Miranda Updegraff, 22; Chandler Manuel, 19; Coleman Manuel, 18; Conner Manuel, 16; Cymon Manuel, 13; Merrit Manuel, 10; Nathanael Haskins, 18; Samuel Haskins, 14; Emma Haskins, 12; Meredith Haskins, 11; Eli Haskins, 6; Ben Haskins, 3; Zachary Sherer, 15; Moriah Sherer, 13; Xander Sherer, 9; Logan Sibley, 15; and Raegan Sibley, 4; and great-grandson Emmett Updegraff, 1, are all proud of Jacqy. I am thankful and proud of all of our Veterans like Jacqy who have selflessly given so much in service to our great nation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGMA NU'S BETA THETA CHAPTER AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I along with my Alabama colleague, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Beta Theta chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. The Beta Theta chapter is located on-campus at Auburn University in our home state of Alabama.

Sigma Nu Fraternity was founded on January 1, 1869, on the campus of Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. The Beta Theta chapter of Sigma Nu was chartered by the High Council on September 18, 1890, and is the 27th charter granted by the High Council. The chapter has been continuously operating on Auburn's campus since that day.

For the last 125 years, members of Auburn's Sigma Nu fraternity have made a lasting impact on their city, state, and country. Sigma Nu members have served in our nation's military to protect freedom at home and abroad in every war since 1890. Members of the fraternity have been leaders in business, medicine, law, politics, and community service.

The Knights of Sigma Nu Fraternity at Auburn have also made a lasting impact on their campus. From community service to leadership roles in student organizations, Sigma Nu has contributed to the betterment and well-being of Auburn University.

Most importantly, the men of the Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Nu have a proud history of upholding their guiding ethical values of love, honor, and truth over the last 125 years.

So Mr. Speaker, Congressman ROGERS and I are proud to recognize the Beta Theta Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and we look forward to their continued positive impact at Auburn University and throughout our great nation.

RECOGNIZING JIM A. COFFEY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim A. Coffey who is retiring after 30+ years of dedicated public service with the University of North Texas Police Department. Promoted to captain in 2007, Coffey has served within the UNT Police Department in multiple capacities. He is recognized as a consummate law enforcement professional, an event management expert, a public speaker regarding crime prevention and esteemed mentor to aspiring police officers. Coffey is an integral part of the university community and widely known by students and professors for his passion and dedication for his job.

As an alumnus of UNT, Coffey has come full circle, beginning his tenure as a part-time student and transitioning into a full-time staff member in the police department. As he progressed through the ranks from Communications Officer to Support Service Division Captain, he made a positive impact on his colleagues and will leave a lasting legacy on the UNT campus. His résumé boasts numerous awards, honors and positions of leadership, including UNT Police Department Certificate of Merit, UNT Staff Council Chair, Leadership Denton graduate, Officer of the Year in 1988, and Excellence in Public Service Award in 2003.

I and my staff appreciate the assistance and support we have received from Captain Coffey over many years of working with UNT. I am honored to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I gladly join the UNT administration, faculty and his police department colleagues in celebrating Captain Jim Coffey's excellent service and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING JEFF PATTISON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET ASSISTANT AT THE NH STATE HOUSE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Jeff Pattison on his retirement after 32 years in the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant at the New Hampshire State House, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Mr. Pattison's continuous progression within the Legislative Budget Assistant's Office during his time as a public servant exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to providing lawmakers with the necessary resources for crafting a budget. The hours he spent volunteering his time as a member of the Laconia Parks and Recreation Commission have also been invaluable, and his leadership will be sorely missed within the Laconia community.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. Pattison on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART HOSPITAL IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 10, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. For a century, the dedicated doctors, nurses, health care professionals, and staff of Sacred Heart have provided world-class services to residents of Northwest Florida, saving countless lives and serving as an integral part of the Northwest Florida community.

Sacred Heart Hospital, which opened its doors on August 31, 1915, is rooted in its founding as a partnership between local citizens and the Daughters of Charity. Its original mission to provide compassionate care to all in the community continues to serve as the hallmark of its success. In the hospital's first location, on Twelfth Avenue, a group of dedicated professionals staffed a 125 bed facility. Despite facing myriad challenges—ranging from hurricanes, a flu epidemic, the Great Depression, and both World Wars—Sacred Heart never wavered in its commitment to excellence, providing unparalleled care to Northwest Florida residents. During the Great Depression, the hospital often served patients who had no other means to cover medical services, and Sacred Heart's school of nursing, located next door to the original facility, trained more than 700 nurses to help serve the community.

In the 1960s, when a growing community brought increased need for expanded health care services, Sacred Heart was there to answer the call. After assiduous planning, Sacred Heart moved to its current location on Ninth Avenue on March 13, 1965. In addition to expanding the hospital's overall capacity, Sacred Heart also built a series of units to provide specialized care to the community. Shortly after opening its new facility, Sacred Heart Children's Hospital was established in 1969, serving as the sole facility in Northwest Florida wholly dedicated to the treatment of infants and children. That same year, the hospital opened a coronary care unit, carrying out its first open heart surgery in 1972, and in the 1980s the hospital expanded further, opening a pediatric intensive care unit, family care centers, the Sacred Heart Surgical Center, and the Ann L. Baroco Center for Breast Health. In subsequent years, the hospital continued to grow, adding a new MRI facility, heart-catheterization facility, outpatient diagnostic center, outpatient surgery facilities, and the James H. Baroco Cancer Care Center, as well as the new Children's Hospital, Women's Hospital, Regional Heart and Vascular Institute, the Nemours Children's Clinic, and the Sacred Heart Cancer Clinic.

To help mark the growth of the hospital, from its humble beginnings to a truly regional network, the hospital officially renamed itself Sacred Heart Health System in 1996. This change accurately reflects the care that Sacred Heart provides throughout both Northwest Florida and South Alabama. Today, Sacred Heart's health network provides care at all stages of life—from award-winning pediatric