

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANTHONY "TONY"
NEAL HUNLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony "Tony" Neal Hunley, who passed away on January 25, 2015, after sixty remarkable years.

Tony devoted his life to public service, including an exemplary thirty-five year career in local law enforcement. His commitment and devotion for the betterment of his community touched countless people. Born in Sacramento, Tony felt a deep connection to his local region.

Tony began his service as a teenager, working in the Civil Air Patrol and the Fairfield High ROTC, as a member of the class of 1972. After graduating from the police academy, he went on to serve his community for a combined thirty-five years, first in the Fairfield Police Department as a police dispatcher, and then as a police officer. He transferred to the Concord Police Department in 1986, a job and a community he was proud to serve until his medical retirement in 2008, and where he was awarded Policeman of the Year.

Tony had a great sense of adventure and enjoyed flying single engine airplanes, riding motorcycles and auto racing. He also found great pleasure in woodworking and golf, and was an avid reader. Most important of all was his family, whom he loved beyond measure.

Tony was a compassionate officer with a great sense of humor, and his upbeat attitude was contagious. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Anthony "Tony" Neal Hunley for his life of service to a grateful community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
PHILLIP LEVINE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Phillip Levine of Fresno, California who recently passed away at the age of 87. He leaves behind his loving family including his wife Frances J. Artley, three sons, Mark, John and Teddy, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Levine was born on January 10, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan, but has called Fresno home since 1958. The son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, Levine was born and raised in industrial Detroit where he began working in the auto factories at the age of 14. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in 1950 and later earned a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Iowa in 1957. After receiving his graduate degree,

he came to California where he began teaching at California State University, Fresno.

He went on to teach at Fresno State for 34 years. It was there that he built a nationally recognized program in Creative Writing that inspired many graduates to become illustrious poets. He retired in 1992 but remained deeply connected to the University. Although Levine held teaching positions at some of the most prestigious universities in the land, including New York University, Columbia University, Princeton and the University of California at Berkeley, he always returned to his home in Fresno.

As a poetry writer, Mr. Levine celebrated working people, and his words both resonated and uplifted them. He wrote more than 21 collections of poetry and in 1995 received the Pulitzer Prize for his poem "The Simple Truth." He won the National Book Award in 1991 for "What work is" and in 2013 he was honored with the Wallace Stevens Award which is given annually to recognize "outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry." In 2011, Mr. Levine was named as the 18th Poet Laureate of the United States, being declared one of America's greatest narrative poets by Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington. While achieving numerous successes and accolades for his work, he consistently maintained that the success of his Fresno State students was one of his biggest rewards.

Mr. Levine was truly an honorable man with a strong commitment to family, friends and his country that will live on in lives of the many people he touched. His passion for writing, education, and his community will be remembered by all who knew him. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saying farewell to Mr. Phillip Levine, a man full of love for life. His genuine character, commitment to family and community will be greatly missed.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor six athletes from Pueblo County who wrestled fearlessly the weekend of February 20th to win state titles in the Class 3A and 4A finals. On the road to their championship, these young men showed grit and determination, overcoming their adversaries on the mat while bringing pride to their respective schools and the county as a whole. To formally acknowledge their distinction and excellence, I stand to recognize:

From Pueblo County High School: Hunter Willits, Chris Sandoval, and Josiah Nava,

From Pueblo South High School: Austin Zuniga,

From Pueblo East High School: Jacob Robles,

And from Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School: Marcus Garcia.

Like many State Championship runs, Pueblo's wrestlers encountered emotional setbacks. After missing weight by one-tenth of a pound, Willits twin brother, Grant, a title favorite, was eliminated from the competition. The team was devastated by the news yet showed tremendous fortitude, rallying to win their three final matches.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize each of these fine athletes. In a sport renowned for the extreme physical and mental conditions the human body is subjected to, these young men have demonstrated tenacity, tireless work ethic, and relentless commitment to success that brings honor to their schools and inspires their communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SUE
LANDSKE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Sue Landske, a former Indiana State Senator and a truly admirable Hoosier.

Sue was a devoted wife to her husband Bill, the loving mother to five children, and grandmother to eight grandchildren. While raising her five children, Sue started her own business before being elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1984. Not only was Sue one of the longest serving state legislators from northwest Indiana, but she was also the second highest ranking member of the Indiana Senate upon her retirement in 2014. Sue was at the forefront of many legislative accomplishments, most specifically the "Lemon Law" that protected consumers against the purchase of defective vehicles, a living-will policy that gave adults medical treatment choices if they were incapacitated, and free tuition at state funded higher education institutions for recipients of the Hoosier Purple Heart award. During her spare time, Sue loved camping with her husband, visiting her children at their military posts around the globe, and spending as much time as she could with her grandchildren.

She also served as a Member of the State Committee of the Indiana Republican Party. That is where we became friends. I always admired Sue's wisdom, candor, and civility. She was an important part of the Party's achievements during the Mitch Daniels years.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of former State Senator Sue Landske. My thoughts and prayers go out to Sue's 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.

and may God comfort those she left behind with His peace and strength.

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VFW POST 6996

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6996. VFW Post 6996 was established in 1965 in Potosi, Missouri. Since then, members of Post 6996 have contributed countless volunteer hours in the Washington County community. Their selfless acts continue to set an admirable example for all.

VFW Post 6996 is comprised of members who have served honorably in foreign wars or overseas operations. These dedicated veterans seek to continue serving the American people and their fellow veterans. This non-profit service organization embodies the spirit of service and generosity by supporting troops currently overseas and ensuring returning veterans have access to health care, counseling, and housing.

For their many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Washington County Memorial VFW Post 6996 in the House of Representatives.

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RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH
WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A POST-
AL STAMP

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bipartisan resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 23, that would honor the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama marches with a commemorative stamp.

I thank the 102 House Members who co-sponsored this resolution and leading sponsors Congressman BYRNE, Congressman HURD, and Congresswoman SEWELL.

The Selma Voting Rights March was a pivotal moment in our history that brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama 50 years ago.

This stamp celebrates the march and reminds us to protect voting rights.

For 125 years the Postal Service has been issuing stamps that celebrate cultural milestones and the unique history of our nation.

Surely the protection of voting rights is a landmark development in our nation's development.

It is my hope that as we remember the struggles of discrimination and inequality we lift our hearts and unite to find bridges to equality and justice.

I ask that all Members unite and join with me in commemorating this critical watershed event.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION
ZERO ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, our communities need to be safer. More than 33,000 Americans die on our roadways each year, yet this is accepted as inevitability. Even more concerning, fatalities of our most vulnerable road users—pedestrians and bicyclists—make up a growing share of those deaths, with pedestrian fatalities increasing 16% from 2009 to 2014. People who die on our streets are disproportionately children, seniors, and people from low income or minority communities.

Communities across the country are recognizing that there is only one number of acceptable deaths on our streets: zero. "Vision Zero" is the goal of eliminating all transportation-related fatalities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists and passengers. Cities from New York to San Diego are implementing interagency Vision Zero plans connecting engineering, education, and enforcement, to reach the goal of ending transportation deaths.

Congress should encourage this innovative approach to transportation safety, and today I'm pleased to introduce the Vision Zero Act of 2015 with my colleague, Representative BUCHANAN. This bill provides local communities of all sizes with funding and best practices to plan and implement a Vision Zero framework. We should no longer accept bicycle and pedestrian fatalities as harsh reality, and this bill gives us the tools to reverse this trend.

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HONORING MS. DORIS GENTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee for the planning and implementation of the first Napa Conference on Human Trafficking. Ms. Gentry saw the need to bring awareness on this important issue, created and led a steering committee made up of the honorable law enforcement officers of Napa County, and has been working hard to bring this conference to fruition.

Human trafficking affects as many as twenty-seven million people worldwide, and as many as eighty percent of the victims of human trafficking are former foster youth, but it is both a global and a local problem. The effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, and governing bodies to promote the observance of Human Trafficking Awareness on March 13th of 2015 represents one of the many examples of the ongoing commitment to raise awareness of and to actively oppose human trafficking.

For Ms. Gentry, philanthropy and volunteerism has been a life-long activity. She has led numerous boards and organizations dedicated to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family, and this

conference is yet another demonstration of her devotion. Ms. Gentry is also a foster mom to one hundred teen boys, and has four children and six grand children of her own.

I am proud to represent a district with principled, community-minded and globally conscious people such as Doris Gentry. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gentry and the Human Trafficking Steering Committee deserve to be recognized and honored here today.

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H.R. 280 AND H.R. 294, REFORMS TO
IMPROVE THE CARE FOR VET-
ERANS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED
SO MUCH FOR OUR NATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 6, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 2, due to inclement weather I was unable to vote on H.R. 280 'Authorizing Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Recoup Bonuses and Awards' and H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act'. If I had been present I would have voted "yes" on the passage of both bills as these reforms would serve to improve the care of our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation. These bills respectively improve the ability of the Veterans Administration to provide for the well being of those who have given so much for this nation, and expand the power of that Department to hold its employees accountable when they fall short of upholding that sacred duty.

Over the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received scrutiny on issues that affect the care and benefits of our Veterans. Congress has taken action, along with the Department's Office of the Inspector General to investigate these wrongdoings. One finding of these investigations was the despicable act of manipulating the Department's appointment system to hide evidence of increased wait times for medical appointments, and the doctoring of medical records to the same effect.

I believe these acts are despicable and the Department of Veterans Affairs must be held accountable. Veterans Affairs employees are placed in positions of special trust and confidence and are charged with the sacred duty of caring for those who have sacrificed for the security of this nation. This bill, H.R. 280, provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs more authority to hold accountable those employees who break faith with this obligation. While employees would be afforded due process prior to being fined for misconduct, the Secretary's decision would be final and could not be appealed to any other agency or court. No system is perfect and no person is perfect. But the American people entrust the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with the responsibility of caring for our Veterans—which is why it is critical to empower that Department's leaders with the authority to hold their employees accountable for their actions.

My District in Jacksonville, Florida is one of the most popular retirement locations for Veterans. So this bill, H.R. 294 the 'Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act', hits very close to home. As our Veterans enter the twilight of their lives, they often find themselves needing