

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CAREER OF JAN ALDERTON

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Mr. Jan Alderton, Managing Editor at the Cumberland Times-News, for his incredible career and his retirement after nearly 48 years of journalism.

Jan started at the Cumberland News in 1967 as a proofreader. Eventually, he worked his way through almost every newsroom position. From his coverage of the Maryland General Assembly in the 1970's, to his work as a sports reporter, Jan showed true commitment to his craft, and worked hard to publish the best stories each day.

In 1987, Jan was named Managing Editor of the Times-News for the first time. There, Jan strived to make sure readers of the Times-News had access to breaking stories and the best reporting. His service to the people of Allegany County will be dearly missed.

Local journalism, like that at the Cumberland Times-News, provides a critical service for communities nationwide, highlighting events that aren't covered elsewhere. When it comes to reading hometown news, there's only one place to find it, and that's your hometown paper.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Mr. Jan Alderton, for his dedication to honest reporting and his commitment to the people of Cumberland. Let's wish Jan a happy and healthy retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida as the town celebrates its 90th anniversary. Howey-in-the-Hills is a small town with deep roots in the Florida citrus industry.

Howey-in-the-Hills' rich history began in 1916 with the purchase of 60,000 acres of land in Lake County by William John Howey. With a vision to build a citrus empire, Mr. Howey planted citrus on the majority of his land, and in 1921 he built Florida's first citrus plant. To serve as the commercial hub for the citrus industry, Mr. Howey founded Howey in 1925. A landscape with rolling hills and beautiful lakes, Mr. Howey nicknamed the area 'the Florida Alps' and in 1927 he officially changed the name to Howey-in-the-Hills to better characterize the natural beauty of the community.

Today, Howey-in-the Hills remains a beautiful, scenic small town. Situated on the pictur-

esque shores of Little Lake Harris and dotted with many smaller bodies of water, the town has developed itself into a resort town with the acclaimed Mission Inn Resort and Club. Howey-in-the-Hills is truly a gem worth discovering in Central Florida.

I congratulate Mayor Chris Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem John Ernest, Councilors Joseph Mabry, Ed Conroy, and David Nebel, and most of all, the people that live and work in Howey-in-the-Hills. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Howey-in-the-Hills, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to the Central Florida community.

IN RECOGNITION OF GOLIAD, TEXAS AND CINCO DE MAYO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the upcoming 153rd anniversary of Cinco de Mayo. In May I will join my constituents in Goliad, Texas, to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. The holiday has come to represent a day of celebration of Mexican culture around the world.

Goliad, Texas is the birthplace of the young Mexican general, and the hero of Cinco de Mayo—Ignacio Seguin Zaragoza. He initially studied for priesthood, yet took up arms in defense of his country when Mexico slid into the War of the Reform. As the conflict came to a close in the late 1850s, General Zaragoza joined federalist troops with the legendary Benito Juarez and fought in numerous battles, including the Battle of Calpulalpan, which ended the War of the Reform. His strategic acumen in those four years led to his rapid promotion to general.

After the war, Mexico's European debt suffocated the economy, forcing then Mexican President Benito Juarez to declare a moratorium on debt payments. In retaliation, Spain, England, and France sent their fleets and forced the surrender of Veracruz, Mexico. President Juarez sent one of his generals to Veracruz in response. When that general observed the forces of the great European powers displayed in front of Veracruz, he resigned. President Juarez turned to General Zaragoza to lead the fight.

The Spanish and English withdrew their forces after negotiations with President Juarez, but the French army, arguably the best during that time, marched on to Mexico City. The intent was to conquer Mexico, join forces with the Confederate Army, and attack the Union. However, General Zaragoza stopped this invasion, in Puebla, Mexico.

The Battle of Puebla lasted most of May 5, 1862. Despite a severe imbalance in forces, the Mexican army held. General Zaragoza was lauded on his return. Later, while visiting his own sick troops, he contracted typhoid fever and died on September 8, 1862, at the

young age of 33. He was honored with a state funeral, and three days later, President Benito Juarez declared May 5, or Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday.

Citizens of Goliad maintain a rich cultural heritage, and are fiercely proud of their legacy. Today, festivities center around Zaragoza Plaza, which is located adjacent to the birthplace of Ignacio Seguin Zaragoza. The Texas Legislature has designated this beautiful plaza as the official celebration site for Cinco de Mayo so that future generations may understand its historical significance.

IN HONOR OF WARREN WEINSTEIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic death of Warren Weinstein, a U.S. development worker who was held captive by Al Qaeda from 2011 until 2015.

Last week, we learned that Mr. Weinstein was an accidental victim of a U.S. drone strike that took place in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region in January of this year. This tragedy has deprived a family of their loving husband, father, and grandfather, and it has deprived our country of a tireless champion of human rights and economic development among some of the world's poorest populations.

Warren Weinstein dedicated over 40 years of his life to international development work. Throughout his career, he worked with vulnerable populations throughout Africa and South Asia. He served as Peace Corps country director in Togo and the Ivory Coast. Most recently, he spent 10 years working on economic development projects as an adviser to J.E. Austin Associates, a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor, in Pakistan.

Mr. Weinstein's life and approach to development work showcased the ideals of the institutions that he served: USAID, the Peace Corps, and others. He left the comforts of home and dedicated his career to improving the lives of others in countries that were not his own. He spoke seven languages and immersed himself in the local culture of the countries in which he worked. By all accounts, he had a warm, outgoing personality and a deep commitment to solving some of the world's most difficult problems.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our deepest condolences to Mr. Weinstein's family and friends, especially his wife Elaine, their daughters Alisa and Jennifer, and their families. His legacy will live on in Pakistan, Togo, the Ivory Coast, and the entire range of countries in which he worked, and his service to our country and the world will never be forgotten.

● 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.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CHOW, MINKU LEE, AND HELEN WU MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on being selected to represent the United States in New York City and seven cities in China this summer as part of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

Each year, Carnegie Hall selects the most talented young musicians from across our country to assemble an orchestra which shares music with the world. In 2015, the National Youth Orchestra will consist of 114 members and three of them are from the 18th Congressional District of California which I'm privileged to represent.

Matthew Chow, a violist from Los Altos, Minku Lee, a cellist from Palo Alto, and Helen Wu, a violinist from Saratoga, are three of the nation's finest young musicians selected to play for the National Youth Orchestra. That each of them were selected is a testament to their superb skills. That a Congressional District would produce more than one orchestra member is extraordinary. After training and performing in New York City, Matthew, Minku and Helen will represent the United States this summer, performing in seven cities in China. Each musician is a source of great pride to their families, their schools, their teachers, our entire community and their Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on their extraordinary accomplishments. I congratulate and wish each of them every success as they perform with the National Youth Orchestra in New York City and China, proudly representing the best of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER AND IN HONOR OF FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENT MOLLY LYNCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Lorton Community Action Center and join the Center in honoring this year's Founder's Award recipient, Molly Lynch.

Since 1975, Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) has served the residents of Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington, and other portions of southeast Fairfax County by providing access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through self-sufficiency programs.

LCAC began as an all-volunteer organization, working out of a local school and a

church basement. The organization was founded in response to the needs of low-income families in southeast Fairfax, which was an under-served area. For LCAC's first 15 years, the agency served as a resource for information and collected and distributed food for individuals and families. Today, LCAC has a professional staff of five full-time and five part-time employees, who serve a diverse population of ages and ethnic backgrounds.

LCAC aims to break the cycle of poverty and prevent homelessness through a variety of services and programs. LCAC's food program distributes between eight and ten tons of food every month. Clients who need clothing can shop at Lorton's Attic, LCAC's thrift store. Small grants assist families with utilities, rent, mortgage, medical services, and other essential needs.

When LCAC cannot help directly, it works closely with other agencies and organizations in our area that may be able to provide assistance. Perhaps most important, LCAC helps people achieve self-sufficiency through case management, ESL classes, nutrition classes, pro bono legal services, and tutoring. All this would not have been possible without the dedication of time, talent, and resources by the thousands of community volunteers and supporters.

Molly Lynch served on LCAC's Board from 1981-82 and again from 1991-2003. Mrs. Lynch was a part of the all-volunteer organization that operated out of a small building on Gunston Elementary School property in her early board service, providing a variety of much needed services to families in the Lorton community. When Molly rejoined the board in 1991 she helped LCAC pursue new funding opportunities through participation in the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way giving, and Fairfax County Community Funding Pool grants. In 2011, a generous gift from Molly and her husband, Bill, allowed LCAC to open a 2,000 square-foot pantry that doubled LCAC's space and consolidated food operations from five locations to one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding the staff, volunteers, supporters, and partners of LCAC for 40 years of assistance to the Lorton community's most vulnerable residents and in thanking Molly Lynch for her dedication to helping our neighbors in need.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the FY2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. This legislation will go a long way to help facilities,

such as the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office where thousands of my constituents have their cases managed, in improving their care and treatment of our nation's Veterans. While this is another small step to address the larger problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs, this legislation continues to show The House's dedication to righting this ship. Some important provisions of this bill include:

"Strike force response teams" that would bring in experienced, high-performing managers to implement corrective actions at low-performing facilities and offices

A fully funded request for digital scanning and centralized mail, which will improve speed and accuracy issues

And, this fully funds the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) with a \$163 million increase over FY15, which will allow for more staffing for processing of appeals of claims in Philadelphia and other regional offices

I commend Chairman DENT and his subcommittee for prioritizing care of our Veterans. While South Jersey still has many challenges to be overcome in access to timely care, I am proud to support this bill which continues to fix the system-wide problems within the VA.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that recognizes and celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian American community in the U.S.

Over the past 40 years, Southeast Asian Americans have become an integral part of the social and economic fabric of our country.

They left war-torn nations, tyrannical regimes, and even genocide, to make better lives for themselves and their children.

Today, over 2.5 million Southeast Asian Americans trace their heritage to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

In these four decades, they have contributed to our armed forces, arts, business, and politics.

In fact, I have seen firsthand their enormous impact in my own district of Silicon Valley.

This resolution honors their struggles in coming to America, and thanks them for all they've done—and continue to do—for our country.

H.R. 2028 AND H.R. 2029

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 2028, the FY16 Energy and Water Appropriations Act and H.R. 2029, the FY16 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, because they failed to provide funding for programs that help our veterans, protect the environment, and grow a