

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING BLACK JANUARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I want to honor the people of Azerbaijan by recognizing the tragic events of 1990 commonly referred to as "Black January."

Twenty-four years ago yesterday, approximately 26,000 heavily armored Soviet soldiers poured into Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku and, with total indifference to human life, launched an assault on a crowd of peaceful demonstrators. Ultimately 131 civilians were killed by the aggressing Soviets. In addition, over 600 were injured, 841 arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" described the Soviet's approach as though they were attacking "an enemy position intended for military destruction." It states Soviet soldiers fired on clearly marked ambulances, crushed civilians with armored tanks, and used both automatic weapons and bayonets on the civilian population. Many believe that the destruction inflicted on Baku was a warning to other Republics of the Soviet Union in an attempt to stop the dissolution of Communist rule.

Ultimately, the atrocities of Black January united Azerbaijan like never before. The brutal show of force erased any residual hope for a reformed Soviet Union, such that Azerbaijan declared its independence twenty months later.

I thank the Azerbaijan people for their continued friendship with the United States and extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of those who lost their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF AIR FORCE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAY A. WILSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Chief Master Sergeant Jay A. Wilson, United States Air Force for his 26 years of service to our nation and to congratulate him on his announced retirement.

Chief Master Sergeant Wilson is the Mission Director in the Enterprise Operations Squadron, Enterprise Management Operations Center, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Chantilly, Virginia. As the first enlisted member entrusted as a Mission Director, he leads 65 joint military, civilian and contractor teams and manages two separate 24 hour, 7 day a week operations centers that command and control a \$10 billion global network. Wilson also serves as the NRO Air Force Reserve Senior Enlisted Advisor and he mentors over 65 reservists in support of the NRO.

Chief Wilson began his Air Force career in May 1973 entering under the delayed enlistment program. He reported to Lackland AFB, TX for Basic Military Training in September 1973. After serving on Active Duty for nearly four years, he separated from the Air Force in June 1977. In July 1991 Chief Wilson returned to the Air Force, as a Communications/Computer Systems Controller joining the California Air National Guard's 234th Combat Communications Squadron, Hayward Calif. Four years later, a civilian job change brought Chief Wilson to the 231st CCSQ of the Washington D.C. Air National Guard. In May 1999, the 231st CCSQ was activated under Presidential orders for deployment to Bosnia. In November 1999, Chief Wilson transferred to the Air Force Reserve as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) with the Defense Information Services Agency as a Watch Officer in the newly formed Joint Task Force for Computer Network Defense (JTF-CND). In 2002, Chief Wilson transferred to the NRO as a Watch Commander, National Reconnaissance Operations Center (NROC) and in 2010 Chief Wilson became Mission Director in the Enterprise Operations Squadron.

During his service to our nation, Jay has received multiple awards and decorations including: Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with two devices, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' device.

A model citizen-airman, Jay has actively volunteered and held positions in multiple military and veteran affiliated organizations. He served on and trained new recruits for the NRO Honor Guard. He has been an active member of the American Legion and was his local post's Sergeant at Arms and Color Guard lead. He has also served the American Legion at the District level. As a member of the American Legion's 16th District he has served as Sergeant at Arms and Honor Flight Committee Chair. He organizes and officiates for the Manassas Veteran's Day Parade. He served as the Sergeant at Arms for the Potomac Regional Veteran's Council, conducting ceremonies at Quantico. He has routinely taught flag etiquette to the eighth grade class at All Saints Catholic School. He has also been an active member and organizer in the 40 and 8 Society holding the position of the Guard de la Porte at the state and national level. Finally, he has served on the 40 and 8 Society's National Convention Planning Committee and has had the distinct honor of carrying the U.S. flag into and out of the Amphitheater during the Memorial Day Service at the National Cemetery at Arlington.

Chief Master Sergeant Wilson has excelled throughout his distinguished career and I am honored to pay tribute to this Airman. I thank Chief Master Sergeant Jay Wilson, his wife, Gail, and their daughters, Genevieve and

Catherine, for their service to our country. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

DR. POATE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. John M. Poate for his prominent career and service to energy conservation and environmental research. For over fifty years Dr. Poate has been active in research and development in the renewable energy sector. His personal research activities span several areas of solid state physics, materials science and engineering. He led a distinguished research career at Bell Labs where he headed the Silicon Processing Research Department. Since then he has served as Dean at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Chief Technology Officer of a semiconductor capital equipment company, and the vice president of Research and Technology Transfer at the Colorado School of Mines.

Dr. Poate has served on many advisory panels during his career such as NATO, NSF, NRC, DOE and International Universities. He continues his work on the Board of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and chairing the Director's Review Committee for the Physical and Life Sciences of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and Materials Research Society, MRS past-president, and the John Bardeen award winner of the TMS.

To say he is an accomplished research scientist is an understatement. Dr. Poate's dedication and enthusiasm for research is reflected in his authorship of over 300 publications in archival journals as well as 12 patents.

I extend my deepest thanks to Dr. Poate for his service to the science community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to research.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JANIS K. SIMMONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Northwest Florida's Janis K. Simmons upon the occasion of her retirement from the Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Santa Rosa County Extension Office, after more than thirty-two years of dedicated service.

● 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.

A lifelong resident of Florida's First Congressional District, Mrs. Simmons was born to Easter and Bennie Harris and was raised in Chumuckla, Florida. After graduating from Chumuckla High School, she attended Pensacola Junior College and began working for her father's business, Harris Masonry. After gaining valuable experience at Harris Masonry, Mrs. Simmons and her husband, Bobby, established Simmons Masonry, which they successfully operated for ten years.

In 1982, the IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension Office welcomed Mrs. Simmons to its team. Mrs. Simmons served as the Jay Office Secretary for nearly thirty-three years and assisted the office in a myriad of ways. Throughout her career, whether it was through her work with the Santa Rosa Pest Management Association, her assistance with local farmers in processing their applications, bookkeeping, providing financial management, or maintaining permit files and regulations, her diligence never wavered, and she proved to be an invaluable asset to the Santa Rosa County Extension Service.

IFAS employees will forever remember Mrs. Simmons for her willingness to help others and her famous spaghetti meals. As she leaves behind a career that has touched the lives of thousands in Northwest Florida, Mrs. Simmons looks forward to continuing to serve her church, Ebenezer Church, in a greater capacity, gardening, and most of all, spending time with her grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Janis K. Simmons on her retirement and thank her for her service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish her and her husband, Bobby; sons, Steven and Dale; and grandchildren, Lela, Brayden, and Makenna all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable absence from the House floor, I was unable to vote on the bills under consideration Wednesday, January 14, 2015. I would like to submit how I would have voted.

On final passage of H.R. 37, the Promoting Job Creation and Reducing Small Businesses Burdens Act, I would have voted no.

On final passage of H.R. 240, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act and the five amendments offered by the Majority I would have voted no. While I strongly support the underlying bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security, I could not support the bill after the Majority added amendments that would put our nation's security at risk in order to make political points.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER MILLER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jennifer Miller, who

has worked tirelessly both in my personal office and for the Appropriations Committee for the last twenty-five years.

Jennifer returned to her Kentucky roots when she began her career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989 by joining my personal office staff. In 1996, she was asked to join the staff of the Appropriations Committee and since then she has worked diligently for various subcommittees, as well as in the front office. Most recently she has been responsible for the oversight of the intelligence community's budget for the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Jennifer is a dedicated and passionate professional. She knows the Congressional rules and the legislative process better than anyone. She has always been willing to put the Committee first and has sacrificed countless hours, weeks, and years to further enhance the work of the Committee. Nothing better exemplifies her dedication than when in March 2007, Jennifer remained at my side in the Committee hearing room during a mark-up of a supplemental bill for two hours longer than planned, leaving her short on time to catch a flight to Italy—for her wedding! Thankfully she made it to the airport in time, and now has a supportive husband, Pete, as well as a cherished daughter, Emma.

More recently, Jennifer again displayed her true dedication to the Committee during the first several months that I was Chairman, by not only working for the Defense Subcommittee but also in the front office, aiding with the transition process and assembling the current fiscal year's consolidated appropriations bill. To this day she continues to use her indispensable knowledge by assisting other subcommittees through the legislative process and particularly when Committee bills are being debated on the House floor.

I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. However, hopefully just this once, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is gaining traction by hiring Jennifer away from us. I will miss Jennifer's contributions and leadership; but we thank her for her dedication and wish her well in her future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, America is a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation built on the rule of law, and those who enter our country illegally disregard those laws.

Unfortunately, our President does not feel the same way.

Upon discovering he could not get support from Congress, he decided to circumvent the legislative branch through executive action

and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants.

He disregarded the separation of powers that our Founding Fathers laid out for our government, but more importantly he disregarded the American people.

That is why I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to put a stop to this executive overreach, and to tell this President that he is not above the law.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD O. "DICK" DEIGNAN

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an extraordinary Hoosier, Richard O. "Dick" Deignan, who passed away on January 13, 2015. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his and his late wife Joan's leadership and service in my hometown of Munster, Indiana, in the Indianapolis, Indiana community and in other parts of our state.

First, Mr. Deignan was willing to put the welfare of his fellow Americans above his own self interests. His service aboard the USS *Hugh Purvis* as a sailor in the United States Navy remained one of his proudest achievements and an obligation he was happy to undertake to ensure that our nation remained free and his children and grandchildren were afforded the same liberty promised by our Founding Fathers.

Mr. Deignan was an astute businessman and well known in our community, not only as a Burger King franchise owner, but for the way he trained his employees, many of whom were seeking their first job. He sought to hire high-quality employees, train them well and empower them. In doing so, what he really did was help grow responsible members of the community.

Dick built his business from nothing. Starting out, he had very little wealth or other resources. But what he, and so many others who have helped build and maintain this great country had, was a dream and the tireless work ethic to make it reality. He also recognized that what he and Joan built couldn't be done just anywhere in the world. Dick understood, and always promoted, our exceptionalism as the reason the United States had the ability to be the freest, most prosperous nation world history had ever seen, and the greatest force for good on earth.

In his free time, he was a staunch advocate and supporter of the Munster Booster Club, aiding the purchase of athletic and scholastic equipment and supplies for the Munster School System.

As a close friend of the Deignan children, Kerry and Owen, I quickly came to know the entire family, who lived on Chestnut Lane in Munster for years. They were typical of the best of American families, having and practicing the values we often talk about on this very floor.

Joan Deignan was one of the best teachers I had in grade school. And Dick was the very first community leader to support my successful bid for Indiana Secretary of State. They believed in me as a product of a community in which they believed even more.