

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY IN HOBART, INDIANA, THE HOBART HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND THE HOBART GARDEN CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Carnegie Library in Hobart, Indiana, the 50th anniversary of the Hobart Historical Society, and the 85th anniversary of the Hobart Garden Club. In honor of these momentous occasions, the Hobart Historical Society hosted a centennial celebration on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. During the celebration, a dedication ceremony took place for the Blue Star Memorial Garden, which was planted in honor of the men and women who have served or are currently serving in our nation's armed forces.

The Carnegie Library was erected in 1915 with the aid of philanthropist and businessman Andrew Carnegie. Over the course of 46 years, Carnegie built 1,689 libraries across the United States, 164 of which were constructed in Indiana. The Hobart location remained a library until 1968, at which time it became a museum, serving as a hub for the Hobart Historical Society's preservation efforts. In 1982, the library-turned-museum was registered as a National Historic Landmark.

The Hobart Historical Society, which was originally established 50 years ago, continues to educate, promote, and preserve the past for future generations. Not only does the society preserve the Carnegie Library and educate citizens about the rich history of the area, it also assists members of the community with genealogical research and planning events. Throughout the years, the historical society has given countless tours of the museum, continually engaging all members of the community.

For 85 years, the Hobart Garden Club has actively educated and engaged Northwest Indiana residents who have an interest in gardening, landscape design, horticultural improvement, and youth education. The club is known for their efforts to protect and conserve the natural resources of Northwest Indiana. For their remarkable efforts to promote environmental responsibility and education among members of the community, young and old, the Hobart Garden Club is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the Hobart Historical Society on its 50th anniversary and the Hobart Garden Club on its 85th anniversary, and in congratulating the members of the community on the centennial anniversary of the Carnegie Library. The pas-

sionate dedication and service of the members of these organizations is to be commended, and Northwest Indiana is both grateful and proud to have had their support for so many years.

RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS IN THE SUNY BUFFALO STATE CHALLENGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and acknowledge, my alma mater, SUNY Buffalo State. On June 29th, the university hosted the 5th annual Buffalo State Challenge awards luncheon, in Assembly Hall of the Campbell Student Union. The Buffalo State Challenge program serves high school students from public schools in Buffalo, throughout their four years of high school. This college prep initiative inspires success through the process of goal setting, to effect higher academic achievement and ultimately graduation from high school. This year's luncheon recognized the success of Buffalo State Challenge participants past and present.

At its height, the Buffalo State Challenge served more than 125 high school students, most of them from McKinley High School, in my hometown of Buffalo, NY. The program challenges students to graduate from high school with an 85 or higher average. Those who do so, with requisite SAT scores, are awarded a scholarship for four consecutive years of enrollment at the college. Participants from McKinley's class of 2015 represent the second consecutive graduating cohort since the program's inception in 2010. This year's awards luncheon also recognized the successes of previous participants in a feature titled "Where are they now?" This segment highlighted the successful outcomes of students who have entered college and the world of work since graduating from high school. Many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings were in attendance to celebrate this year's honorees.

The luncheon also included the presence of special guests such as the President of SUNY Buffalo State, Dr. Katherine S. Conway-Turner and Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Hal D. Payne. Additionally key representatives from campus offices such as: Enrollment Management, Admissions, the Alumni Affairs Office, the Dean of Students, the Upward Bound Program, the Student Support Services Program, and Government Relations.

As the Representative of the 26th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize the ongoing contributions of SUNY Buffalo State in cultivating a brighter future for high school stu-

dents, through the continued success of the Buffalo State Challenge program. Please help me in congratulating this year's award recipients: Odalys Oritz, Ali Alshuaibi, Johnny Jackson, Destiny Simmons, Crystal Lewis McClary, Kyra King, Tionna Colbert, Tymon Turner, Kayla Cheney, Asia Lindsey, Jonathan Waller, Alaysia McKinnis, Tarlisa Bolden, Emery Campfield, Jordy Richiez, Ahmed Abdo and Carlton Bess. To all of these outstanding students: congratulations on your successful participation in the Buffalo State Challenge Program and best wishes for success as you continue to pursue your educational, professional and personal goals.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BILL AND BARBARA KEITH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bill and Barbara Keith, who celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on June 29th.

When Bill and Barbara were married in 1945, Bill had just returned from World War II. Barbara describes their two year courtship as a simple one that started when Bill was on leave from the Navy in 1943. They would go bowling, go to see a movie, or go out for dinner. For two years, they continued to write to each other until Bill was discharged in March of 1945. They were married in Scituate and lived in Boston until 1952 when the couple moved to Bill's childhood home in Marshfield.

Bill and Barbara soon began to grow their family. Bill—hard-working, dedicated, and quiet—held four jobs in order to support the family. This included being head custodian for over 20 years at Martinson Elementary School as well as custodian at Ventress Library and Trinity Episcopal Church. He was also a machinist at the Hingham Naval Ammunition Depot. Barbara became known in the community as the person to call if a child needed a place to stay during a family emergency. She started Steeple Preschool at Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshfield Hills with one of her friends. Over the years, Bill and Barbara's family has grown to include six children, two foster children, twenty grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bill and Barbara Keith on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing them and their family many more years of happiness.

• 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.

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. JIM AND BETTY HELD'S OWNERSHIP OF THE STONE HILL WINERY COMPANY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Betty Held's ownership of the Stone Hill Winery Company. Stone Hill Winery continues to be one of Missouri's most pre-eminent businesses, and has received numerous accolades throughout the Helds' 50 years of ownership. Today, the winery farms seven vineyards and purchases grapes from five independent growers in the state; thus, producing more than 250,000 gallons of Missouri grown wine and contributing over \$7 million to the state's economy each year.

The story of the Stone Hill Wine Company begins in 1847, when it was founded by Mr. Michael Poeschel. The winery quickly grew in popularity and size, and soon became the second largest winery in the United States. In the 1880's, Stone Hill's thriving business allowed Missouri to become the leading wine producing state in the nation. On December 28, 1901 an ornately decorated bottle of Stone Hill Wine Company "Pearl of Missouri" Extra Dry Champagne was used to christen the first USS *Missouri*, Battleship (BB-11).

Unfortunately, prohibition would soon take a hit on the state's wine production and Stone Hill; killing the thriving industry in Missouri. This despair would not last long. In 1961, after returning home from his service in the Navy, Jim Held planted a four acre vineyard of catwaba grapes near Hermann, Missouri. Only four years later, Jim was asked by the then current owner of Stone Hill to reopen a winery on the property, and on July 5, 1965, the Held's officially reopened the Stone Hill Winery.

Since its reopening, the winery has restored the wine industry in Missouri. In 1969, Stone Hill Winery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several years later, the Held's traveled to Washington, D.C. in 1982 to receive the award for Missouri's Small Business of the Year, presented by President Ronald Reagan. The awards did not end there, as the Held's received Hall of Fame recognition from the Missouri Division of Tourism and the Pioneer Award from the Missouri Grape and Wine Program. Additionally, the winery has been awarded the Missouri's Governor's Cup on nine occasions for producing the best wine in Missouri and has received three C.V. Riley Awards for the Best Missouri Norton, the official state grape of Missouri. In 2014, in honor of his accomplishments and revival of the Missouri Wine Industry, Jim was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

The Helds have come a long way since first reopening the Stone Hill Winery with only \$1,500 to their name. Jim and Betty's hard work and dedication have not only afforded enjoyment for Missourians, but provided jobs across the state. Their award-winning winery has proven to be a staple to Missouri, and its wines continue to be enjoyed by individuals across the United States.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Held for the accomplishments throughout the years and celebrating their 50th Anniversary as owners of the Stone Hill Winery.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE WALDROP'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Elaine Waldrop, a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs' Congressional Liaison Service on the occasion of her retirement. Elaine has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. She has served for more than 25 years and her career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion. As Elaine embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions she has made to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send her my best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors, and may her life be filled with health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW C. WIKTOROWICZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Andrew C. Wiktorowicz, an outstanding leader and representative of the California Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). During Mr. Wiktorowicz's two terms as Chairman of California's ESGR, his extensive expertise and unwavering leadership forwarded the organization's mission of promoting supportive work environments for servicemembers through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities.

Mr. Wiktorowicz's exceptional leadership was instrumental in combining the Northern and Southern California committees into a single California Committee for the ESGR. Mr. Wiktorowicz managed a seamless transition and successfully integrated both regions to create the largest ESGR Committee in the United States. Under Mr. Wiktorowicz's direction, the California ESGR served an estimated 63,000 members of the National Guard Reserves and additionally supported over 600 military and employer events annually. Additionally, Mr. Wiktorowicz developed and implemented the highly effective Employment Initiative Program supporting over 5,000 Citizen Warriors and resulting in over 500 successful hires.

During Mr. Wiktorowicz's tenure, over 14,000 employers signed the ESGR Statement of Support and over 5,000 supervisors received the Employer Support Patriot Award. His selfless dedication to the committee and service members distinguished the ESGR as the premier military and employer volunteer establishment in the State of California. Mr. Wiktorowicz's efforts have been recognized nationally because of his strong Ombudsman Program, which effectively supports all California Guard and Reservists.

Mr. Wiktorowicz has been an amazing asset to both Ventura County and the State of California. Through his efforts on behalf of servicemembers and the working community, he has created an organization that for many is the backbone of their tenure in the California Guard and Reserves.

For these reasons, I would like to graciously thank Mr. Wiktorowicz for his steadfast commitment and dedication as the Chairman of the State of California's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Mr. Wiktorowicz's work with the ESGR will continue to positively shape the experience for future generations of the California Guard and Reserves.

HONORING NEWLY NATURALIZED AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2015. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The oath ceremony was a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2015, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Guillermina Cornejo Campos, Emmanuel Thierry Mentor, Ruth Elizabeth Gallegos Pecina, Beatrice Nyambura Macharia, Geoffrey Macharia Gakuya, Javeed Ali Khan, Vika Priscilia Boentaram, Mateusz Dembowski, Srinivasa Rao Ayinampudi, Jacqueline Zumazuma, Viviana Pacheco, Fatma Dafallah Widaatallah, Dorothy Wanjiru Njiru, Emilia Robles de Navarro, Erlinda Dimaala Miranda, Juan Andres Bermudez Aguirre, Karen Yanin Hernandez, Jose Abonce Belmonte, Fayzeh Mahmoud Altaweel, Priya Phani Ayinampudi, Maria Beatriz Becerra, Aaditya Ganapathy