

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
ROBERT D. REGO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Major General Robert D. Rego on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force following a distinguished 31 year career. A devoted husband and family man, Major General Rego has been an outstanding servant to the United States of America.

The son of a World War II veteran, General Rego began his Air Force service in 1985 as a graduate of the ROTC program at UCLA. His first assignment landed him at Grand Forks AFB as an ICBM officer in the 321st Strategic Missile Wing. During his time at Grand Forks, General Rego ascended to the position of Flight Commander while he and his wife, Tricia, welcomed their first two sons, Jarred and Ethan.

Following his missile service, General Rego transferred into the space field with a posting as a Space Warning Officer at Cheyenne Mountain AFS in my district in Colorado Springs. During his nearly eight years at Cheyenne Mountain, General Rego welcomed his third and final son, Clayton, and he transitioned into the Reserves, working at local defense contractor Trident Data Systems. During these eight years, General Rego completed important assignments in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Italy.

Indeed, the mission in Italy and international events worked to return General Rego to full-time active duty service in 1999. Following a term at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, General Rego returned to Colorado Springs as the Chief of the Space Control Mission Team at Air Force Space Command Headquarters at Peterson AFB. During this assignment, General Rego was deployed forward as an Airborne Mission Commander during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His outstanding efforts saved lives and earned him a Bronze Star.

Following a term at the prestigious Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, General Rego returned to Air Force Space Command for nearly 10 more years that saw him promoted to Brigadier General and Major General before a move to Barksdale AFB to serve as the Vice Commander for Global Strike Command. General Rego's final post has been serving as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB.

Throughout his extraordinary career, General Rego has been a consummate officer, always dedicating time to improving and mentoring his military peers and being willing to place the needs of his country over his own personal desires or comforts.

It is my privilege to honor this outstanding man who rose from very humble beginnings to

achieve greatness. The United States Air Force, and indeed, the whole nation, has been immeasurably improved by the life and service of Major General Robert D. Rego.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2016 THIRD DISTRICT EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I honor eight individuals and businesses from Nebraska receiving the 2016 Third District Excellence in Economic Development Award.

Throughout the 75 counties of the Third District, entrepreneurs and innovators are working hard to grow opportunity in our state.

In May, I called for nominations for individuals, businesses, and organizations which have helped strengthen their communities. All of the nominees have shown they are striving to ensure a strong economic future for Nebraskans.

Aulick Industries in Scottsbluff, owned by the Aulick family for three generations, employs approximately 100 people in welding, fabrication, tire installation, laundry, auto body tech, decal design, and administration. The company is also involved in Scottsbluff Public Schools' Every Child, Every Day, Everywhere initiative with a goal of introducing students to opportunities in manufacturing and technology careers in the region.

Brent Comstock of Auburn has owned BCom Solutions since middle school. His technology business has grown to include computer repairs, IT management, software development, and web design. Brent headquartered BCom Solutions in a previously vacant storefront in Auburn and encourages his staff to give back to the community through nonprofit and community board involvement. He donates thousands of dollars in design and digital marketing services to nonprofits and offers free workshops and consultations for businesses. Brent also provides internships to Peru State College.

Bruning Grocery's commitment to hard work, small-town values, and providing exceptional service and quality products has made the store a cornerstone of Bruning, a community of approximately 280 people. Its competitive prices draw many customers from surrounding towns, encouraging more Nebraskans to shop local. Owned by the Philippi family for more than 40 years, Bruning Grocery serves as a leading food supplier for local events and a major contributor to the vibrancy of Bruning's Main Street.

Chais Meyer of Kearney co-owns 24 Hour Tees, an innovative shirt shop known for its responsiveness to local customers while selling products across the country and around the world. Chais is an advocate for e-com-

merce as a way to grow rural economies. He is also a member of Kearney's Downtown Improvement Board to help advance the future of retail and the community.

Jody Augustyn is the owner of Shanti Yoga by Jody Augustyn, ERYT, based in Loup City and Kearney. In her five years in business, Jody has become known by many as a committed and passionate teacher. In addition to leading her own classes, she also certifies new instructors.

Landmark Snacks, founded in April 2016 by Nebraska natives Chad and Courtney Lottman, is a jerky and meat snacks production facility in Beatrice employing 50 people. In 1994, at the age of 19, the Lottmans started out as grocery store owners and have grown their business to also include C&C Processing in Diller. Landmark Snacks surpassed its three-year growth plan in a matter of months.

Pacha Soap, headquartered in Hastings, is owned by Hastings College graduates Andrew and Abi Vrbas. Founded in 2012, Pacha Soap employs 16 people in the Hastings area and sells handcrafted products throughout the country. For every bar of soap purchased, they give a bar to someone in need. The company also sets up small soap shops in developing nations to encourage entrepreneurship while supporting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) efforts through education and donation.

Sand Creek Post & Beam in Wayne is the leading manufacturer of custom-designed wood barn and barn home kits. This family-owned company employs about 50 Nebraskans and has served thousands of customers in 48 states, helping them design their dream barns. Sand Creek's production plant was destroyed by an EF4 tornado in October 2013, but owners Jule Goeller and Len Dickinson never wavered in their commitment to rebuild. The company operated out of temporary quarters until its grand reopening in summer 2014.

I am proud to recognize these award winners today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR RUSSELL DE
LEON

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Russell de Leon. After 30 years of proudly serving in the United States Army, de Leon will be retiring at the end of July as a Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank attainable for enlisted soldiers in the U.S. Army. CSM de Leon has been stationed around the nation and the globe, and served with great distinction in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since graduating from San Benito High School in 1986, de Leon has made South

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Texas proud. CSM de Leon's work on his final tour—where he was assigned to the Space and Missile Defense Command in Colorado—helped provide critical services to the President, the Department of Defense, and a host of government agencies.

De Leon has earned numerous military decorations, including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and countless other awards and recognitions. His work and record speak for themselves, and I extend to him my sincerest gratitude for his service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor CSM Russell de Leon for his three decades of military service to this nation. I join my colleagues in Congress in wishing him, his wife Eufemia, and their daughter Amanda, the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING PHIL MEMBRERE FOR HIS DEDICATION TO HIS NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND THE FISH FOOD BANKS OF PIERCE COUNTY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Membrere, who will "retire" this year after 14 years as a dedicated volunteer for the FISH Food Banks of Pierce County in Tacoma, WA. Phil is widely recognized at FISH Food Banks as one of the most committed volunteers that the organization has ever seen.

Phil Membrere began serving at FISH Food Banks in 2002 after a serious auto accident forced him to retire from his career as a union truck driver. He used his skills in logistics and transportation to assist FISH with the pick-up and processing of locally donated food and quickly became instrumental to the success of the daily operations.

After years of being counted on by FISH Administrative Staff, Phil spent the last few years helping to lead this organization on day-to-day operations and helping to streamline other administrative processes. His service has been especially impactful at the Southeast Tacoma FISH Food Bank, where he has helped facilitate numerous large donations from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Mr. Speaker, for the past fourteen years, Phil Membrere has been a loyal, full-time volunteer at FISH Food Banks of Pierce County. He has treated his neighbors in need with the compassion, dignity, and respect that they deserve. Phil has taken pride in this role, reporting to his post five days a week and undoubtedly inspiring others to serve their community. The countless local families that he assisted are all stronger, healthier, and have a brighter future because of his service. The contributions of Phil and his fellow volunteers embody the values that make our community and our country a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the leadership and staff at FISH Food Banks of Pierce County, Phil's friends and family, and the greater Tacoma-Pierce County Community in expressing my gratitude today in the United States Congress for Phil Membrere's 14 years

of volunteer service. As the proud Representative of Washington's 6th Congressional District in the House of Representatives, I offer my best wishes for a happy "second" retirement and wish Phil an early happy 70th birthday.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILL HOLMES

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Bill Holmes, a man lovingly referred to as "Mr. Tucson" for his substantial contributions to the people of Southern Arizona.

Bill was born in Yuma, Arizona, where he attended Union High School. After graduation, he toured with the international music group, "Up with People," which aims to bridge cultural barriers and bring people together through music and service.

Through his talents and commitment to service, Bill touched countless lives in Tucson. At the time of his death, he was the managing partner and CEO of Agape Hospice and Palliative Care, helping provide comfort and care to those in their final hours. He previously served as managing partner for CPR2U LLC, a health care education company; senior consultant for Up With People; chief operating officer of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; and community relations manager for Wells Fargo.

Bill gave back to our community in so many ways, evidenced by the many civic organizations to which he lent his time and energy. He was Chairman of the Board of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was involved with the Saguaro Girl Scouts Council, Chicanos Por La Causa, El Rio Foundation, Catholic Community Services, Angel Charities, and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Those who knew Bill or had the chance to meet him know he always had a smile on his face. He was a generous, caring, and vibrant leader of our community. His death will no doubt leave a void for many who loved and knew him, but his legacy will carry on, and his enormous impact on Tucson, the city he loved so dearly, will be felt long into the future.

HONORING MATHILDE FREUND

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mathilde Freund on her 100th birthday.

Mathilde Freund was born in Vienna, Austria in 1916. She married her husband in 1937. Within a few months, Hitler's army entered Vienna, Austria and by August of 1938, Mathilde, her husband, her parents, and all her able bodied relatives quickly fled to Paris, France where they again had to suddenly flee, this time to Lyon, France. Once there, the men in her family all volunteered to fight with the French army in Northern Africa. By 1943 they were back in Lyon, where her husband was eventually captured and deported to Bu-

chenwald where he died days before liberation. Her only brother, Alfred, was taken hostage on August 18, 1944 in Lyon, and then shot along with more than 100 other men at the Lyon Airport less than a week later.

In 1952, Mathilde came to New York with her mother and daughter where she settled on the Upper West Side. Embracing New York, and her new life in the United States, Mathilde earned several degrees and worked for many years as a medical social worker at the Beth Israel Cancer Detection Center and later at the French Hospital until it closed in 1977, when she retired. She lost her own daughter to breast cancer a little over 10 years ago, but is very blessed to have an extremely loving grandson and five great grandchildren.

Mathilde has never forgotten those difficult years between 1938 to 1945, somehow surviving in the forest and stables surrounding Lyon, and she is dedicated to telling her story to grade school and university students in New York City.

She continues to live life to the fullest as she takes classes at Fordham University, and she loves to go to the theater, museums and concerts.

Mathilde has been a vendor at the Upper West Side Green Flea (now known as Grand Bazaar NY) market since it was opened to non-PTA vendors more than 30 years ago. Grand Bazaar NY is run by the PTA of four on-site schools which benefit directly from the revenue. In recognition of her long running service, this Upper West Side market will name Sunday, July 31, 2016 in her honor.

Mathilde Freund will turn 100 years old on August 15, 2016, and I wish her a very happy birthday.

HONORING MS. ROBIN GONZALES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Robin Gonzales, who is retiring after 34 years of service to her community with the Martinez Police Department and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Gonzales began her career in law enforcement as a Cadet with the Martinez Police Department in 1982. She joined the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department as a Dispatcher the following year, before returning to the Martinez Police Department in 1985, where she continued working as a Dispatcher. Ms. Gonzales eventually became a Police Assistant specializing in Evidence and Training, and is known for her professionalism and commitment to serving our community.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Gonzales has maintained strong connections with law enforcement organizations. She has been a member of the International Association of Identification for 30 years, and previously served as the President of the Law Enforcement Association of Property Management. To advance her investigative work, Ms. Gonzales became the first certified Crime Scene Investigator in California. Even with her busy work schedule, Ms. Gonzales finds time to teach classes at Diablo Valley College to encourage girls to study physical sciences.