

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS

#### HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the many first responders to the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001, as well as to recognize that this September will be the 15th anniversary of that national tragedy.

That day was a time of intense panic and immense sorrow for all Americans, with many losing friends, family, and loved ones. Yet in spite of all of this, our brave first responders from our police services, our fire fighters, and emergency medical services went above and beyond the call of duty to save the lives of their fellow citizens, so that they could go home to their families and friends.

These amazing men and women faced this terror attack with the greatest courage and conviction anyone could exhibit. The valor and fortitude which they showed is beyond expression, with many giving their lives so that their fellow Americans could live. However, many of those who endured and survived are still suffering from the ordeal, with many experiencing PTSD, depression, and physical ailments. These men and women represent the very best of our nation. We should all strive to live up to their extraordinary example.

It is important that we do whatever we can for these heroes, and as such I would like to thank the Hylton Performing Arts Center for their event entitled "Helping First Responders Find Hope, Healing and Resilience" which will be held in Manassas on September 10th, 2016. Through events like this, caring Americans are helping raise awareness to these unfortunate conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring some of the bravest of our nation's heroes, and to thank them for all that they did during our country's most desperate hour. May God bless them, and all those whose lives were affected by this day.

### HONORING THE PEDROZO FAMILY

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Pedrozo Family. The Pedrozo's have deep rooted ties to public service in Merced County and are known for their tireless efforts on behalf of the community. They are being honored by Catholic Charities of Merced in appreciation of their service to the Valley.

The late Joe and Barbra Pedrozo raised their six children on the family's dairy farm.

They instilled the importance of faith and serving others in their children. Those guiding words have shaped the Pedrozo family. They have been actively involved in Our Lady of Mercy School, St. Patrick's Parish and Sacred Heart Churches, among many other local causes.

Joe is a local business owner and was a volunteer coach for Our Lady of Mercy School sports and City Leagues for 25 years. He gave classes to vocational instruction students at the Juvenile Hall for Merced County Office of Education. Diana has also been an active member of the community, having served as the Executive Director of the Merced County Farm Bureau and as a member of the Merced County California Women for Agriculture.

John and Kelly Pedrozo are parents to two sons and a daughter, 6 grandsons and one granddaughter due this fall. John is a proud graduate of Our Lady of Mercy. He has been on the Merced County Board of Supervisors for twelve years. In this role he has served as an advocate for farmers and Merced County's most underserved. John previously served on the Our Lady of Mercy School Board and the Merced Union High School District Board of Trustees. Kelly worked for Merced County Child Support Services for 30 years. Kelly and John have been supporters of 4-H, St. Patrick's Parish and OLM School.

Ted and Juanita Pedrozo have been married for 35 years, are parents to four children, grandparents to one grandson and another grandson is due in October. Ted and John have a catering business known throughout Merced County for providing food for local charitable and non-profit organizations. Juanita is a teacher and school administrator, serving in this role for 36 years. Ted and Juanita are active members of St. Patrick's Parish and supporters of Our Lady Of Mercy School and local 4-H programs.

Judy (Pedrozo) and Harry Blackburn have been married for 24 years. Judy was a teacher and currently serves as Principal at Our Lady of Mercy School. Harry has worked for a private company for 24 years and is a store manager. Judy serves on the Fresno Diocesan School Board. Judy and Harry are active members of St. Patrick and strong supporters of Our Lady of Mercy School.

Josh and Heidi Pedrozo are continuing the tradition of service in the Pedrozo Family. Josh is a teacher at Merced High School and has been a Merced City Councilman for eight years. Heidi assisted the people of the 16th district while serving as a representative in my office, as well as the office of Congressman Dennis Cardoza. Heidi is currently a teacher at El Capitan High School. Their son Owen is a student at Our Lady of Mercy and they are expecting a daughter this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great contributions of the Pedrozo Family. Their contributions will have a lasting impact on the community for years to come. I congratulate the Pedrozo's for this honor and ask that you join me in wishing them continued success.

### TRIBUTE TO ANGELA CONNOLLY

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Polk County (Iowa) Supervisor Angela Connolly for being honored as a 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipient by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

Angela Connolly, a native Iowan, was born to second-generation Italian immigrants and cultivated a strong work ethic at her parents' small Italian restaurant. She attended college in Kansas, returning to Iowa and marrying her husband, Tom, raising three children and overseeing the development of the next generation with four grandchildren.

Ms. Connolly began her career in the Polk County Public Works Department, working for nearly 20 years before being elected a Polk County Supervisor in 1998. She is only one of three female Supervisors ever elected in over 150 years to the Polk County Board of Supervisors and still serves in that post today.

"Community engagement" is the key phrase for Ms. Connolly. Evidenced by her dedication to civic activities, she currently serves as Co-Chairman of The Tomorrow Plan and is Tri-Chairman for Capital Crossroads: A Vision for Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa as well as Chairman for Rebuilding Together. She aptly represents the Polk County Board of Supervisors on a long list of boards and commissions.

Ms. Connolly has played a leadership role in many significant efforts to improve the lives of area residents. She advocates for mental health issues, domestic violence victims, homeless challenges, and most visibly in recent months, the efforts to stop hunger in Polk County. She is a proponent of the Des Moines downtown revitalization efforts as well as updating the historical Polk County Courthouse complex. She never stops and works tirelessly for all Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela Connolly in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angela Connolly on receiving this esteemed designation and in wishing Ms. Connolly a long and successful career.

### IN RECOGNITION OF CYRUS JONES

#### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cyrus Jones, head coach of Lincoln

• 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.

University's men's and women's track and field from 1974 to 2010, on his retirement.

Coach Jones led the track and field team at Lincoln to 15 NCAA Division III championships. The men's team won 11 national titles during his tenure, and the women's team won 4 NCAA championships. He also coached more than 300 All American athletes. Coach Jones has been honored as a six-time recipient of the Division III National Coach of the Year Award, the Mid East Region Track Coach of the Year, the Linback Teaching Award, the Outstanding Men of America Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the top 100 sports figures in the Philadelphia region in the last 100 years by the Philadelphia Tribune and an honorary official during the Penn Relays in 2002. In 2007 Coach Jones was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Jones on an illustrious career at Lincoln University and wish him the best in his retirement.

SYLVIA BROCKNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sylvia Brockner for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

An avid author and environmentalist, Sylvia Brockner has led the Evergreen area preservation movement for more than forty years. Her works culminate in her published book, entitled *Birds in our Evergreen World*. In 1968, Sylvia and her late husband founded the Evergreen Naturalists which has since evolved to the Evergreen Audubon and Nature Center.

Sylvia helped Jefferson County Open Space acquire 319 acres for what would become the Lair O' Bear Open Space Park in 1987, opening to the public in 1991. Sylvia also was a founding member of the Mountain Area Land Trust in 1993, which helped to preserve thousands of acres of open lands within 50 miles of Evergreen. Sylvia's long time role as an advocate for animals and plants has been influential to the community, as evidence of her being honored with the Evergreen Area Community Service Award and Evergreen Audubon Founders' Award. At age 97, Sylvia continues to pursue writing and illustration in her weekly column for the Canyon Courier.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sylvia Brockner for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING M. SMITH COFFMAN  
FOR HER INSPIRATIONAL POEM,  
GHOSTS OF THE PAST

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize M. Smith Coffman for her powerful poem and kind words of inspiration to many. While the poem is meant to move and

inspire our service members and veterans in times of need, I believe everyone should experience it. I intend for everyone to procure some good fortune and hope from her message.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

The fog shrouded, silent vale,  
comes to life before my trail.  
Ghosts of the past, ride in the predawn mist,  
in their stirring I am by angels kissed.

Here, the plan of war was born,  
and there, soldiers' lives were torn.  
Brave warriors on snorting, restless steeds,  
our heroes against men of evil deeds.

See Lexington and Concord's men of pride.  
Rebs and Yanks who at Chickamauga died.  
See the tired, straggling wagon train,  
faces parched by sun, in battle's strain.

Indians silently move their camps,  
past sod houses lit by dim oil lamps.  
I see the brave men from the Alamo,  
as on, and on, and on they go.

Oh, ancient rocks, you saw it all,  
you saw where gallant man did fall.  
You echoed the shot, felt the glance of spear,  
the price for freedom, we hold dear.

Our troops who fell on foreign soils,  
they the victors, won the spoils.  
There were those from the sky  
and from the sea,

They gave of themselves to keep us free.  
Their souls, at last, are at home,  
no more foreign lands to roam.

All are soothed in the mist,  
as o'er their separate paths they twist.  
Their laughter softly echoes from the rills,  
and across the windswept, rugged hills.  
Mingling, they have enemies no more,  
here at home or foreign shore.

In cadence, I heard them say,

"Let not our sons go this way.

Alas the new born cries at birth,  
but men must know of joy on earth.

Oh, that we could right the wrong,  
Oh, that we could leave but song."

Oh Lord, many of our brave, gallant men of  
pride,

put their lives upon the line, fought and  
died.

Men with bodies and emotions torn,  
this great loss we all should mourn.  
I stand and salute you, one and all.  
You went through hell, for country's call.

Dear Lord, I pray their pain relive,  
give them strength and hope, and ease.

They should receive the best of care,  
For Freedom's Cause They did not bend,  
they pledged their allegiance to the flag  
until the end.

"Children, Listen," the midst does sing.

"We know not what this day or the years  
will bring.

Stand brave and strong for liberty's call.

Your country needs you one and all.

Give thanks for all that was and is.

and for the heroes who lived, and live.

Give thanks for freedom that was not lost.

Give thanks to those who paid the cost."

The mist soon melted into the morning sun.  
THEY ARE OUR HEART'S BLOOD  
THEY ARE NOT GONE.

These brave men and women did not live or  
die in vain.

Our flag unfurled we will sustain.

IN GOD WE TRUST

AMEN

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing M. Smith Coffman for her encouraging words.

MS. THAO NHI DO RECEIVES  
PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thao Nhi Do of Houston, TX for receiving a Fulbright award for teaching English in Taiwan during the 2015 through 2016 academic year.

Each year the Fulbright Program grants students with the opportunity to study, research or teach English abroad in an effort to internationalize communities and campuses around the world. Fulbright scholars focus on the conditions and challenges differing regions face, as well as building valuable U.S. relationships. Thao graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2011 from Clear Brook High School and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University. As a Fulbright participant, she helped teach English in Taiwan.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Thao Nhi Do for receiving this Fulbright award. Keep up the great work.

IN RECOGNITION OF DUDLEY  
BROWN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2016*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dudley Brown, a Plymouth, Massachusetts native who passed away on September 24, 2015 at the age of 88.

A man truly devoted to the service of his country, Mr. Brown spent his life working to honor America both in and out of uniform. Mr. Brown, who served from 1944 to 1947 in World War II and from 1950 to 1952 in the Korean war, was not content to sit back and rest upon his return to civilian life.

Balancing his career as a market researcher and salesman around the country for three decades, Mr. Brown sustained a lifelong passion for studying the genealogy of his family and the history of this country. As a direct descendant to William Brewster, one of the original Mayflower pilgrims and a respected religious leader within Plymouth County, Mr. Brown was a proud member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. In 2014, Mr. Brown received an award for 20 years of membership with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and also acted with admirable integrity as a Private 1st Class within Boston's Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

In addition to his passion for family and American history, Mr. Brown was also an avid tennis player and enjoyed speed skating, biking and racing motorcycles as a young man. He is survived by his loving partner, three children, and four grandchildren. Known for his sense of humor and good cheer, Mr. Brown is sorely missed by his family and many friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dudley Brown's many achievements on the anniversary of his passing. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his life and his service.