

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2016 theme, Hispanic Americans: Embracing, Enriching, and Enabling America. From September 15, 2016, through October 15, 2016, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and honor the many outstanding contributions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins each year on September 15, recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the tremendous impact Hispanic Americans have had within their communities and throughout our nation. The tireless efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans have resulted in a better America.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of our society.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to once again join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and will continue to play a major role in enriching the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of our respect and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF GAM GRAPHICS AND MARKETING'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate GAM Graphics and Marketing in Sterling, Virginia who celebrated their 40th anniversary this July. Opened by Charles Grant in 1976, GAM Graphics and Marketing provides quality printing and commercial serv-

ices to countless citizens throughout our great Commonwealth.

GAM was founded in the 1970s with the mission of teaching marketable job skills to students. Originally the printing was done by the students, mainly serving churches and mission groups; however commercial requests started in 1976. Within five years GAM was producing print products ranging from business cards to full-bound books and bulk mailings. GAM is a company run with compassion and a focus on providing excellent quality and service to their clients. In 1985, Nathaniel Grant took the reins at GAM and with his leadership the company continued to grow. Nathaniel and his sister Faith purchased the company from their parents in 1996. Under the guidance of Nathaniel and Faith, GAM modernized and the company continued to grow without any adverse effect on their excellent quality and service.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in sending our most sincere appreciation to a company that has given so much to their neighbors. The Grant Family and the staff of GAM Graphics and Marketing serve as an example to all. On behalf of Virginia's 10th Congressional District I wish them continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF 90 YEARS OF TOLEDO BLADE OWNERSHIP BY THE BLOCK FAMILY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2016

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, ninety years ago, Paul Block, Sr. took charge of the Toledo Blade and the Block family has led the esteemed daily ever since. The Blade has been an institution of Northwest Ohio since 1835, but the steady guiding hand of the Blocks has led the newspaper to new heights over the past nine decades.

The Toledo Blade has resided at the same location since shortly after Block Sr. purchased the downtown Toledo site in 1927 for \$4.5 million. The day the building opened, Calvin Coolidge pressed a gold key from Washington to start the new presses. Throughout the ups and downs in the city and region, the Blade has been there to report the news and keep its readers informed.

The success of the Blade would not be possible without the support and vision of the Block family. They have led the paper through revolutionary advancements in how the news is reported and distributed. That includes using technology like the Internet and social media to spread the stories of the day.

The current leadership of John Robinson Block as Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the Blade and Allan Block as Chairman of Block Communications has served the paper well into the 21st century as the daily still boasts a circulation of 120,000 readers. Along with

print editions, readership is at an all-time high with countless others consuming the news through the website, apps, and on other platforms.

Mr. Speaker, ninety years of media leadership from one family is very admirable, and it should be celebrated. I'd like to recognize the Block family for their leadership of a great Ohio institution, the Toledo Blade.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLUEMONT CONCERT SERIES' 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bluemont Concert Series as it proudly celebrates 40 years of providing high-quality concerts and cultural events in localities throughout northwestern and central Virginia. Originally, the organization received its name from its hometown of Bluemont in Loudoun County, Virginia. Since 1976, Bluemont has presented over 9,300 events fostering a sense of community in the Commonwealth through its presentations of art and culture. This extraordinary concert series has entertained audiences of over three million people including schools, health care facilities, assisted living centers, and nursing homes. This is an important milestone for this wonderful organization.

Cultivating a cultural and artistic presence in Virginia's 10th Congressional District is important to the overall health of our community. It is organizations such as the Bluemont Concert Series that allow us to enjoy a broad range of diverse experiences that would be otherwise inaccessible. The mission of Bluemont, providing family-oriented and affordable events, has given residents in Virginia the opportunity to enjoy music, song, poetry, and storytelling. The concert series has presented a wide range of musical genres including bluegrass, Hawaiian swing, folk, jazz, rock and roll, classical flute and Caribbean steel bands; which has helped to strengthen the cultural spirit within our community.

Over the years, Bluemont has reached lives, not only through its concert series, but also through its school programs and its Artists-in-Education initiative. Bluemont's Outreach Program offers quality entertainment at no charge to appreciative audiences in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Its outstanding work has earned Bluemont many accolades and awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Alliance for Arts Education. The Bluemont Concert Series has provided a valuable service to community and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Bluemont Concert Series on 40 years of serving the great Commonwealth of Virginia. I wish Bluemont all the best in its future endeavors.

• 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 RECENT ADOPTED RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 19, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on August 9, 2016 I had a conversation with my good friend and Knoxville Attorney James M. Crain.

Mr. Crain and I had the opportunity to discuss the federal edict announcing that every public school in America is to allow students to use whichever bathroom they choose.

During our conversation Mr. Crain discussed a resolution adopted by the West Knoxville/Knox County Republican Club offered by Mr. Crain.

Newscom published an opinion editorial titled, "A Bathroom of One's Own," that is consistent with the adopted resolution.

This article is well reasoned and is consistent with the views of many of the people from my District in East Tennessee.

I think most people are tired of all the publicity on this issue and wish we could get back to a time when sexual preference was kept purely private.

I also believe that the Federal government should have very limited power over the decisions State and local governments make about their schools. This has long been my position.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the resolution adopted by the West Knoxville/Knox County Republican Club and the article that ran in *The Weekly Standard* on June 7, 2016.

A BATHROOM OF ONE'S OWN—NEWSCOM

Two weeks ago the Obama administration issued a federal edict decreeing that every public school in America allow students to use whichever bathroom they choose, under pain of lawsuit and/or loss of federal funding.

Less than a week after that, New York City's Commission on Human Rights issued its own edict, declaring that anyone under the city's rule who refused to use the preferred gender pronouns in dealing with transgender individuals—he, she, "xe," or "hir"—would be guilty of harassment and subject to penalties up to \$125,000 for the first infraction and \$250,000 "for violations that are the result of willful, wanton, or malicious conduct." As law professor Eugene Volokh noted, the use of the term "harassment" is important, because it means that employers and businesses are responsible not just for their own behavior but for the behavior of their employees and customers.

And New York is, if you can imagine it, behind the times. Out in Oregon, Leo Spell, a fifth-grade teacher in the Gresham-Barlow school district, decided she was transgender. (Soell made this decision public only after receiving tenure.) Soell's transition took the form of insisting that she was neither male nor female and demanding that her colleagues refer to her as "they." When other teachers continued to call Soell "she" and "her" and "Miss Soell," Soell filed a harassment complaint. The school district settled with them for \$60,000 and promised to initiate a sweeping set of transgender reforms. To hammer home the power dynamic, the school district claimed, in the statement accompanying the payout, that it was quite "pleased" with the outcome.

If you think that's depressing, it could all ways be worse. In Canada, the minister of

justice recently introduced legislation banning discrimination based on "gender identity" and "gender expression," which could join previous legislation criminalizing anti-trans "hate propaganda." Should the bill pass, you could do up to two years, hard time, if you think the wrong thoughts or say the wrong words.

If this all seems like an inordinate amount of heavy artillery for an infinitesimally tiny issue, that's actually the point. Much as fights in academia are so bitter because the stakes are so small, transgender activists are crushingly authoritarian because the justice of their cause is so uncertain. What the trans project lacks in moral and logical clarity, it hopes to overcome with vehemence and intimidation.

The confusion is abundant. If you tell a transgender activist that gender is determined biologically, through chromosomal composition, they reply, Well, what about people with Klinefelter (XXY) syndrome? But even with Klinefelter's chromosomal anomalies, only a very small proportion of persons will fall into a category of "intersex." As National Review's Celina Durgin points out, arguments about the tiny, tiny sliver of the population who are biologically considered "intersex" actually run counter to transgender ideology, which places "gender identity"—a self-discovered concept—on a separate plane above mere biology. In other words, if being biologically XX is irrelevant to whether or not you are a girl, then why should it matter if you're XXY? Resorting to arguments about the intersexed is actually an admission of the primacy of biology.

Or consider "gender fluidity," another pillar of the transgender project. According to this precept, some people may be one gender on Monday and another on Tuesday. Who can say which is which, or who is when? Not you. The individual is what he/she/they/xe/hir says at any given moment.

And once you've divorced gender from biology and agreed that someone who is chromosomally XY can be a woman, you have no valid reason to object if, the next day, she says she is a man again. If you sign on for transgenderism, you're signing on for gender fluidity, too.

It doesn't stop there, of course. Once you shoot past gender fluidity and the nongendered "theys" like Leo Soell and "pangenders" (who claim to be everything rolled into one), there's a whole other universe of gender identities out there. For instance, "otherkin."

What are "otherkin"? Otherkin is the gender identity of people who believe that they are nonhuman. Last summer Vice.com profiled a fellow who identifies as a fox. Some identify as dogs. Some as lions. Some as dragons. Some otherkin even go through body-modifications to make their physical selves look more like their otherkin identity.

The otherkin aren't officially part of the LGBTTTQIIAAP alliance yet. But just wait. They're coming. Because to deny them their place at the table—to deny that a human person can be not just an animal, but a creature that does not even exist in the real world—is to put the entire transgender project in jeopardy. Because transgender theory, which posits that the self is infinitely plastic, cannot survive a single limiting precept.

Fortunately, we are not yet fighting over the rights of otherkin unicorns. In the here-and-now, we merely have wars over public bathroom and school locker room accommodations. This may seem like a small-scale concern. The Census Bureau and the New York Times tried to estimate the number of transgendered persons in the United States

last year and came up with a figure somewhere between 21,000 and 90,000. Or, to put it another way, transgenders probably make up between 0.007 percent and 0.029 percent of the American population. When you're dealing with fractions this small, it's hard to be precise.

But because virtue-signaling is the highest form of morality in modern America, the full force of the federal government is being brought to bear on transgender bathroom rights, not only through Obama's federal edict, but through the Obama Justice Department's fight against the state of North Carolina.

In March, the elected officials of North Carolina voted on and passed a piece of legislation, HB-2, which was designed to stop the forced march toward mandating that people must be free to use whatever bathroom they desire. (It is instructive to note that the initiatives pushing the transgender agenda are almost never enacted legislatively; they are often rammed through bureaucracies and commissions or accomplished by executive fiat.)

HB-2 was not a perfect piece of legislation. But the reaction to it was illuminating. The *Charlotte Observer's* editorial board proclaimed, "Yes, the thought of male genitalia in girls' locker rooms—and vice versa—might be distressing to some. But the battle for equality has always been in part about overcoming discomfort . . ."

Which brings us to the final bit of confusion in the transgender project. At the heart of the bathroom issue is a simple question: Is there a valid reason for separate facilities for men and women? Is there any rational justification for having separate bathrooms, or locker rooms, or changing rooms, for men and boys on the one hand, and women and girls on the other?

The trans argument, per the *Charlotte Observer*, is essentially "no." By their logic, if women just need to get over their discomfort at seeing naked men next to them, then there's no reasonable explanation for why women could want their own facilities.

Except that this would mean there is no reasonable explanation for why someone who is transgender should prefer one set of facilities over another. If biologically born women need to "overcome discomfort" about having naked men around them, why shouldn't a biological man who identifies as a woman not similarly have to overcome his discomfort at being around other naked men?

The logical paradox of the transgender bathroom war is that it insists that the type of gender and genitalia in a public facility is completely irrelevant—except to the transgendered, for whom it is of supreme importance.

At the end of the day, if you're not in favor of unisex facilities for all—one bathroom for everyone to use—then the transgender case falls apart. Because the transgender project tacitly admits that there are reasons of privacy, modesty, and prudence for segregating the sexes. It merely wishes to trump these concerns from the vast majority for the special pleading of a small, powerful, and illiberal group.

It is the very definition of the tyranny of the minority.

RESOLUTION

THE WEST KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY
REPUBLICAN CLUB

Whereas, Persons who assert a "gender identity" other than their sex are claiming a right to utilize rest room facilities, locker rooms and associated showers with persons of the opposite sex; and

Whereas, No such right has existed in the history of mankind; and