

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE VOCALESSANCE WITNESS PROGRAM

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of VocalEssence, a Minneapolis-based vocal ensemble of international repute. Through their WITNESS program, they have taught, performed alongside, and serenaded more than 155,000 students throughout the Twin Cities over 26 years.

The WITNESS vision began in 1991 with one school and one teaching artist. It has since grown to more than 40 schools and 9 teaching artists, impacting more than 5,000 students annually. The program provides diverse role models and increased exposure to the arts through performances and classroom workshops. For many students, WITNESS is their first opportunity to receive professional training or perform at a major concert hall. The program celebrates the contributions of African Americans to choral music—a rich history that has led to collaborations with James Earl Jones, Rita Dove, Billy Taylor, and countless others.

This year, WITNESS is hosting the Morehouse College Glee Club. These young men from a Historically Black College are living proof of the world of possibility for students of color. Over 200 young men from six Twin Cities high schools will rehearse and perform alongside some of the brightest Black minds in our country. It is crucial that we celebrate Black culture; when we do, we must include Black youth at the helm. VocalEssence WITNESS does just that.

I commend VocalEssence for the WITNESS program's success in educating, engaging and inspiring students in the Twin Cities. VocalEssence has given our community so much beauty through their music, and they continue to better our future through their top-notch community program WITNESS. I can't wait to see what they accomplish in the future.

**BRUCE DEMOLLI**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Mr. Bruce DeMolli, who was being honored by the Murray Family and the New Jersey Department for Persons with Disabilities at their 46th Annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

Bruce joined the Our Lady of the Highway Knights of Columbus Council 3835 in Little Falls, based at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in 1984 and has been an active member ever since. He was installed as the N.J.

Knights of Columbus State Deputy, becoming the state CEO of the Knights for the next two years.

Bruce became a state officer 10 years ago when he was elected State Warden. He was instrumental in forming two new councils: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Number 11943 in Wayne, New Jersey and the Immaculate Council Number 12211 in Clifton, New Jersey.

From 2004–2006, Bruce served as the Chairman of the Paterson Federation Knights of Columbus. The Paterson Federation is a representation of the Councils in the counties of Morris, Passaic and Sussex. The Federation is dedicated to serving and providing all the councils within its boundaries the assistance needed to help them excel in all areas of Columbianism. In recognition for his faithful service to his church and community, Bruce was honored by Pope Benedict XVI as a Knight of Saint Gregory.

Bruce has been married to his wife, Anna, for more than 40 years and they have one daughter, Bree, and two grandchildren, Tyler and Maya. Bruce's wife serves as director at Diocesan Catholic Charities' La Vida Childcare Centers I & II in Paterson.

The Murray House is a great organization which supports a cause that is near and dear to me and my wife Elsie. They are the longest running group home in the State of New Jersey for adults with developmental disabilities. The fact that they have chosen to honor Bruce at their annual Dinner Dance is only fitting as he is a great servant in the cause of helping others.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of dedicated individuals such as Bruce DeMolli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Bruce's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing his leadership, dedication, and loyalty to serving his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. BRAD JONES FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER IN FEDERAL CIVILIAN SERVICE

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor J. Brad Jones, Director of Continuous Process Improvement at Tobyhanna Army Depot. Brad will be retiring on March 3, 2016 after more than 37 years of service to the Department of the Army and Tobyhanna Army Depot. From the rank of first line supervisor to his most recent service as a Senior Director, Brad has been a key member of Tobyhanna for decades.

Over the course of his career, Brad has made significant contributions to Tobyhanna

Army Depot. His insight and input made him a valued member of each core team that developed and implemented plans to reorganize and modernize the installation as it evolved. In 1991, Brad was a member of the Department of Defense Study Team for the Consolidation of Ground Communications—Electronics, which established the foundation for pivotal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions in 1995. He developed the strategy and tactics to defend Tobyhanna from the threat of closure and resulted in the transfer of U.S. Air Force work from California to Tobyhanna. In 2005, he was Team Leader of the Tobyhanna BRAC group, which resulted in the transfer of Navy and Marine Corps workload from two sites in California to Tobyhanna. Brad helped lead Tobyhanna's effort that resulted in the award of seven Shingo medals for manufacturing excellence and the 2012 Department of Army Lean-Six Sigma Excellence Award. Brad was a team leader in attaining accreditation and the continued certification of Tobyhanna Army Depot under International Standards Organization 9001 for Quality, as well as under Aerospace Standards 9100/9110. These standards of excellence helped Tobyhanna maintain its competitive edge.

Brad was also known for his interpersonal skills with employees, labor officials, and managers. As Director of Personnel and Chief of Management Employee Relations, he was able to streamline processes and cut red tape. As Depot Operations Officer and Chief of Staff, he ensured success of the day-to-day mission and base support operations of the depot, while coordinating the administrative actions of the Tobyhanna Army Depot Command Group and Headquarters.

It is an honor to recognize J. Brad Jones for such an extraordinary career. I am grateful for all of his efforts for the sake of our nation's military. I wish him the best, and may he enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JULIA AARON HUMBLER

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of Mrs. Julia Aaron Humbles, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, her dedicated service is present in New Orleans, Louisiana and Metropolitan Atlanta, for all to see her as an unwavering advocate of justice for the youth, the elderly, the poor and the downtrodden; and

Whereas, this remarkable, positive woman with a beautiful smile gave of herself, her time and her talent; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, she led by example from behind the scenes, and was on the frontline for our

• 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.

nation; she was an original Freedom Rider in the 1960s, an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a Goodwill Ambassador for her community, a charter member of her beloved church, New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church of Decatur, Georgia, and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a wife, a daughter, a friend, a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Mrs. Julia Aaron Humbles for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mrs. Julia Aaron Humbles of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor": Mrs. Julia Aaron Humbles, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 6th day of February, 2016.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAPEL HILL SHOOTING

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, today marks one year since three young Americans were killed for their faith.

On February 10th, 2015, Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha, and Razan Abu-Salha were murdered in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. They were shot and killed because they were Muslim.

Yusor was a graduate of North Carolina State University and planned on enrolling at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, where her husband, Deah, was studying to become a dentist. Razan, Yusor's sister, was a student at NCSU as well. She was only 19 years old.

These murders break my heart. They should be heartbreaking to every American.

The tragedy in Chapel Hill shows us the stark reality of anti-Muslim bigotry: hate speech and scapegoating has real life consequences. Children are bullied in schools, houses of worship are vandalized, and people are killed for the way they dress or how they pray.

Candidates for public office, public officials, and leaders are spewing hatred against American Muslims, calling for Muslim refugees to be banned from entering the country, or for Muslims living here—including some that were born and raised as American—should carry ID cards or register their names in a database. This type of rhetoric is why our young children are afraid to go to school and why people are being killed because of how they look or how they pray.

After the murder, some people in the press argued that it was over a parking dispute. I'm reminded of what Deah's brother, Farris, said:

"I can only accept Deah, Yusor, and Razan's murders as being over a parking dispute, if Rosa Parks's struggle was over a bus seat."

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BUNNY STEINMAN

#### HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bunny Steinman. Bunny was a unique and wonderful soul. Hardworking, fierce, and warm-hearted, she was a pillar of the Florida Democratic Party. Her energy was contagious and if I had to pick one word to describe her, I think "sparkplug" would be most fitting.

She wanted all Democrats to work hard—and led by being an outstanding example, with strength and a big heart. And those who worked with her like I did knew that she would never hesitate to let someone know if she saw them slacking. She pushed everyone to do their best out of love—because she knew that's what our party deserved.

We are all going to miss her—not just her leadership in our party, but also her spirit that encouraged us all to do more for our community and our party. Her contributions to creating a better world for others will last forever.

Bunny took so many people under her wing, and I am honored to be one of them. And it is through all of us that her memory lives on. Our community, the state of Florida, and our nation are better because of Bunny, as are the lives of countless individuals who knew her. I know that is true for me. I would not be where I am or who I am today without her support.

Mr. Speaker, Bunny was a patriot who loved our country, and I was proud to call her my friend. Bunny, may the road rise up to meet you. You will be missed.

#### LARGER THAN LIFE IN MEMORY OF JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and in sorrow of the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, who was truly larger than life. He will go down in history as one of America's greatest Supreme Court Justices. He was a champion for freedom and the Constitution, a great family man and a devout man of faith. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

Larger,  
larger than life  
America's son,  
oh so very bright  
Antonin,  
for all of America you held the night  
As you stood with all of our best in America's light  
Same as all of our Forefathers in sight  
Who shone in liberty's sheen so very bright  
Of something which gleams into the night

Of this our most beloved document seen of this sight

Who'd the United States Constitution recite  
Which built this country,  
not out of luck or by circumstance  
But by the bedrock upon which all of us have advanced

The very foundation upon which all of our freedoms so stand

Of such consequence through the decades which commands

To whether all of the storms,  
and battle all of tyranny in all of its forms  
For no other Nation in this entire world,  
has had such freedoms upon its citizens unfurled

For you Justice Scalia,  
were but the guardian for all of our children  
and their future world

And even your detractors knew you were larger than life,  
while upon you their arguments they hurled  
As you stood there with sword in hand  
With your pen, your wit, your charm, and your mind to take command

All so freedom could stand  
For you had the gift,  
of all of your opponents respect and love as so was this

If only we had more men like you in this world,

who against such divisiveness could rise above like a pearl,  
then we'd have such the bliss

And your greatest love of all,  
was that of your magnificent family we saw  
Of what you left behind,  
to spread out through time  
Your seeds of love to remind,  
that the gift of love and life are oh so very divine

And just like our Forefathers you were a true man of God

For the freedom to worship they stepped upon this very sod

No other country across the world,  
has so been formed out of God  
And your two greatest reads,  
The Bible and The Constitution brought to your soul such glee

To arm you in the battle for all you would need

Now Marshall and all of the greats,  
have another equal for history to so contemplate

Brilliant, Brilliant, Brilliant you were my son in so many ways

Your written opinions and quest for justice,  
disarmed all of those arguments and held them at bay

Indeed it's a very sad day

For America's loss,  
comes at such a high cost

Because such men like you Antonin are larger than life,

and keep all of our freedom's burning bright  
As our world just got little bit darker this night

We pray that America too will follow your light

Supreme,  
at the top,

as into the future upon lips of lawyers and law students,

your name shall never stop  
Rest

Rest my son  
Rise up to heaven Antonin where you so belong

As an Angel in The Army of our Lord so very strong

To watch over us you American song  
And larger than life,

and your memory will ever live on  
God Bless you America's son,

as you did her the day you were born  
Amen