

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

In 2005, Congress passed legislation—H.R. 694, preserving the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage.

This law also established a Commission, nominated and appointed by the Secretary of Interior.

At the passage of the original Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act, the membership of the commission was limited to a 3 year term.

The Commission is comprised of 15 members who are recognized experts in historic preservation, anthropology, and folklore.

The Commissioners assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.

The purpose of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission is to assist Federal, State, and local authorities in the development and implementation of a management plan for those land and waters of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

H.R. 3004 would ensure the continued protection and preservation of the history and contributions of the Gullah/Geechee people of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida.

Lastly, the law stated that the Commission should be terminated after 10 years.

H.R. 3004 will extend the authorization of the Gullah/Geechee Commission from “10 years” to “15 years”.

This Black History, the work of the Commission is imperative in facilitating the enhancement and preservation of the Gulla/Geechee cultural heritage.

It also continues to facilitate highlighting the important history of African Americans with Gullah/Geechee heritage.

Indeed, the original Act, H.R. 694 as passed was intended to recognize the seminal contribution of African American Gullah/Geechee made to American culture and history.

These African Americans settled in the coastal states of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

Since its passage, the Act has facilitated efforts in these identified coastal states in interpreting the story and role of the Gullah/Geechee.

Additionally, through the work of the Commission, efforts are now underway to preserve the Gullah/Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music.

Most critically, the Act and extension of the authorization of the tenure of the Commission

will further support the work of continued identification and preservation of sites, gathering of historical data, protection of artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee.

The extension of the work of the Commission under the original Act and this current legislation will yield benefits of education of the general public on the important contribution of the Gullah/Geechee.

Through the educational outreach work alone, our nation will learn about the Heritage Corridor which comprises those lands and waters generally depicted on a map entitled “Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.”

This is just one prime example of the benefit of the original Act and this current extension of the tenure of the Commission, which I rise in support of.

IN RECOGNITION OF PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS JOE RIVERA
MONTES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is my highest honor to recognize Private First Class Joe R. Montes for his courageous service to our great country during World War II. On December 29, 1941, as a very young man, Private Montes answered our nation's call to defend our freedoms after the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor. He valiantly served in the United States Marine Corps enduring multiple battles in the South Pacific. During this time, Private Montes was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the heroic American recapture of the Island of Guam in July 1944. In January 1946, after the formal end of World War II, Private First Class Montes separated from the Marine Corps after four triumphant years of service. His time in service was defined by extraordinary leadership and selfless acts of devotion to his company. On behalf of the men and women of California's 3rd Congressional District, please accept my sincerest gratitude for his dedicated service to our country.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES
AWARENESS WEEK, 2016

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, 2016, from February 21 to February 27.

Invasive species cause widespread damage across the United States. Billions of dollars of damage are caused by animals such as nutria in the South, sea lampreys in the Great Lakes, Asian carp in the Mississippi Basin, and

quagga mussels in the west. We must work together to raise awareness of the economic and environmental damage that invasive species are wreaking on our lands and waters.

In Congress, I along with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California, are co-chairs of the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. This large, bipartisan group of Members of Congress from across the country seeks to bring attention to the danger invasive species pose. We often work together on policies that will reduce the impact of these species.

This week, the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus hosted an informational session in honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week that saw over one dozen groups, ranging from federal agencies to non-government organizations, presenting on the dangers of invasive species and ongoing efforts to control their populations.

On behalf of all residents of Northern Michigan and the United States, I wish to honor the many citizens and organizations who work each day to stop the threat of invasive species to our country. I, along with my colleagues in the House, will continue to work to stop invasive species and bring awareness of this important issue to the American public.

HONORING 100 YEARS SINCE THE
BIRTH OF ARCHIE MOORE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year mark since Archie Moore's birth, one of America's greatest boxers, whose career took him from the ring, to the big screen in Hollywood and to San Diego, where his impact is still felt today as a crusader against the gang and drug culture.

Throughout Archie's life, he competed in 219 boxing matches, winning 185—131 coming by knockout; however, Archie's most important life work came outside the ring, when, in 1957, he founded the Any Body Can (ABC) Youth Foundation. In its 59th year, the ABC Youth Foundation continues to serve low-income students throughout Southeast San Diego, and aims to empower San Diego's inner-city youth with courage and dignity as they confront life's challenges.

Throughout the years, ABC has moved throughout the San Diego area, but its mission remains the same. They offer after school learning programs, where students can do homework and receive tutoring in a comfortable environment; they ensure that students are able to “Bridge the Gap” during school breaks, by providing hands-on educational learning experiences and a meal free of charge; and in honor of Archie, they offer year-round boxing classes, where students can learn self-defense and build self-esteem. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Archie's legacy is alive and well in San Diego—it is seen in

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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.

the thousands of students who have traveled through ABC's door in the past 59 years.

When Archie passed away, he handed the torch on to his son, Billy Moore, who has served as President of the ABC Foundation since 1998. Billy's leadership as President of ABC would make his father proud, as he has presented the ABC Concept in eleven community schools throughout the San Diego region and ensured that students have the opportunity to rise up out of challenging circumstances.

On the occasion of this 100-year anniversary, we remember both the champion he was in the ring and the impact he made out of the ring, by inspiring students to realize that Any Body Can make a difference.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH
NAPLES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ralph Naples, the owner of the Golden Dawn Restaurant in Youngstown, Ohio which has served as a very special place to both locals and travelers.

Mr. Naples was born on June 16th, 1919, in Youngstown, the son of Andrew and Mary Carmen Agnone Naples. He attended The Rayen School and later Youngstown College where he graduated with a degree in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering in 1941.

After university, Ralph enlisted in the U.S. Army. In World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a bombardier and navigator on both the B-17 and the B-29 aircraft, obtaining the rank of lieutenant.

The Golden Dawn Restaurant, established in 1934, was co-owned by Ralph and his brother Carmen after the death of their parents. The "Dawn" became and still is a gathering place for families, fans and students of Youngstown State University and Ursuline High School, but really all are welcome. Ralph was truly a known legend in Youngstown.

Ralph leaves behind his sons, Andrew, Philip, Benedetto, Ralph, and Johnny; daughters Mary, Cathy, Christine, Casseday, and Annie; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is survived by a sister, Antoinette Hudson.

The Naples family will continue to operate the Golden Dawn. Mr. Naples was loved by all those in the community. He was a great man, a gentle man and a great family man. He will be missed by our entire community.

HONORING LAURA ESSERMAN, MD,
MBA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laura Esserman, MD, MBA, of San Francisco, California, in recognition of her receiving the Stanford Graduate School of Business distinguished Earnest C. Arbuckle Award during its annual award ceremony in Stanford,

California, on March 3, 2016. The Arbuckle Award recognizes excellence in the field of management leadership and a commitment to addressing the changing needs of society.

Dr. Esserman is a professor of surgery and radiology, and the director of the Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center at the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She is the founder and innovator-in-chief of the I-SPY TRIALS and I-SPY 2 Programs: two remarkable collaborations between private biotech companies and federal institutes that combine personalized medicine and private trial design to create fast and cost efficient breast cancer treatments. Under Dr. Esserman's deft leadership, the I-SPY 2 program's efficient and groundbreaking success has made it an international model for translational cancer research.

In May 2015, Dr. Esserman was awarded a five-year \$14.1 million grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The award is being used to fund the WISDOM study to investigate whether a personalized approach to breast cancer screening is as effective as annual mammograms. Dr. Esserman has also served as a member of President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Working Group on Advancing Innovation in Drug Development and Evaluation, and has published over 200 works in notable scientific magazines. She received her BA in the History of Science from Harvard University, her MD from Stanford University, and her MBA from Stanford University's School of Business.

Dr. Esserman is no ordinary physician. When she performs a surgery, it is a full-service operation. Dr. Esserman's preparation for surgery begins days before—with singing practice. She takes requests from patients, and holds their hands during anesthesia while singing them to sleep. Dr. Esserman is known for spending hours with her patients during office visits, and even sends personal text messages and returns late night phone calls to answer follow up questions whenever she can.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the hard work and dedication of Dr. Laura Esserman to the City of San Francisco, to her husband, Michael Endicott, to her children, Mansa and Max, and to her patients. She is truly an inspiration to many, including myself, and a most deserving recipient of the Earnest C. Arbuckle Award.

HONORING WAVERLY WOODSON
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as a young soldier in the Korean War, I was honored to follow in the footsteps of many Blacks in the military who exhibited extraordinary heroism and patriotism abroad despite facing discrimination and challenges at home. I would not be where I am today if it were not for my service in the Army. During our annual celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor an unsung hero from West Philadelphia named Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr., who served as a young medic of World War II.

This summer will mark the 72nd anniversary of the historic D-Day invasion of World War II. Nearly three-quarters of a century later, the event is still revered by all Americans as an example of our military's strength and bravery. However, the life-risking efforts of thousands of Black veterans from the war have gone unnoticed.

The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a unit of all-Black soldiers, landed in France ahead of the main invasion force. The battalion's job was to deploy and man an aerial barrage of massive helium-filled balloons to protect the American forces from enemy bomber airplanes. The balloons forced enemy pilots to fly their planes at higher altitudes to avoid becoming entangled and made it harder to effectively aim their bombs.

Among the 320th was Waverly Woodson, who enlisted in the Army on Dec. 15, 1942, during his second year of his pre-medical studies. He did not wait to be called by the draft; rather he decided to sacrifice his career, comfort and life for his country and the world. Woodson's enlistment placed him in the Anti-Artillery Officer Candidate School but he was told upon completion of his training that there was no spot open for him. Instead, he was sent for medic training with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. He was one of five medics aboard a Landing Craft Tank that left England on June 5, 1944, for a ninety-mile journey towards Omaha Beach.

Woodson's voyage on June 6, 1944, was commenced by a violent charge towards the shore. Along with his unit, he valiantly stormed Omaha Beach in the midst of mines, mortar shells and heavy ammunition, with eyes fixed upon the mission of freedom that lay ahead. As a medic, Woodson risked his life to save the crippled and bleeding out American warriors clinging to their last thread of consciousness. He patched and resuscitated dozens if not hundreds of soldiers while he himself was wounded by the shrapnel ripping away at his legs. Woodson's determined efforts directly influenced the result of this battle.

Though he was segregated into a racially organized regiment, he saved the lives of numerous soldiers regardless of their skin color. Woodson would later say, on that day "they didn't care what my skin color was" and obviously he did not care either. He was bonded to his men by the camaraderie that only war can provoke and a steadfast allegiance to defending the greatest country in the world. His dedication broke down racial divides that day, and this is history that truly deserves recognition.

Waverly Woodson Jr. was previously nominated for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it. Instead, he was given the Bronze Star, the fourth-highest military honor. There exists no record of what happened to his nomination for the Medal of Honor. Not one of the thousands of Black soldiers who served in World War II received a Medal of Honor in the immediate wake of the war. Something is detrimentally wrong with that.

However, we can always remedy the mistakes of our past. In 1995, I was honored to bring Woodson and a group of African-American World War II veterans to the floor of the House Chamber and recognize these unsung heroes for their forgotten service. As a veteran myself, I was moved to see that their sacrifice was no longer overlooked but there is more work that we must do.