

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CARLOS ELIAS

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Carlos Elias on his retirement after 36 years of service to the federal government, 17 years of which were with the Architect of the Capitol.

Carlos started his federal career in 1980 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from the University of Puerto Rico. Carlos joined the Architect of the Capitol in 1999 as the Deputy Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Building, and in 2001 was appointed to the position of Superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Building and the Capitol Visitor Center.

As Superintendent, Mr. Elias oversees 1.5 million gross square feet and manages 250 employees. In addition to maintenance functions, he is responsible for repairs, modernization, improvements, conservation, preservation, and new construction activities.

He also served as lead coordinator for the last four Presidential Inaugurations and he is responsible for the construction of the Inaugural platform, installation of the sound system, security fencing, and all other supporting infrastructure.

Mr. Elias is overseeing the \$60 million U.S. Dome Restoration Project, the first since 1959. Due to age and weather, the Dome had more than 1,000 cracks and deficiencies. The project was awarded in November 2013 and, with Mr. Elias' management, we expect it to be completed before the Presidential Inauguration—on time and under budget.

Our subcommittee has come to depend on Carlos and his team for their exceptional customer service and reliability. In addition, Carlos has provided us with invaluable guidance and analysis throughout the years.

Carlos' retirement constitutes a profound loss for the institution. He will not be easily replaced and will be sorely missed. We wish him and his wife, Ana, all the best in this next phase of their lives.

HONORING 20 WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM OREGON FOR THEIR HONOR FLIGHT TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial today in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and

country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

This particular Honor Flight brings us 20 World War II veterans from 13 cities and towns in Oregon representing every branch of the military. Infantrymen, mechanics, operators, cutters, flight crew, pilots, seamen . . . each of these brave Americans deserves our everlasting thanks for their contributions to the war effort, and for their sacrifice on behalf of our liberty.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Robert Kukuska, Army; Arthur Lyons, Army; Walter Young, Army; Cecil Coleman, Army Air Force; Michael W. Foree, Army Air Force; Carl Maier, Army Air Force; Gordon Halsten, Coast Guard; Robert Bennett, Marines; Earl Giggers, Merchant Marines; Jack Alsup, Navy; Oral Fitts, Navy; John Hilderbrand, Navy; Robert Lazzarini, Navy; Virgil Luksan, Navy; James Smith, Navy; Howard Winegarden, Navy; Verl Middlesworth, Navy; Eugene Wellman, Navy Reserve; Wayne Harris, Navy Seabees; and Howard Graul, Navy Seabees.

These 20 heroes join the estimated 20,000–25,000 veterans who will travel to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the more than 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of the Bend Heroes Foundation and Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

RECOGNIZING BRECHBILL & HELMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darrell Brechbill, John Helman, and Linda Brechbill on the occasion of their 50th year in business and well-deserved retirements.

Brechbill and Helman Construction Company began in 1966 in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and subsequently has grown to become a premier design-build commercial construction company serving a large portion of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Throughout their 50 years of business, Darrell, John, and Linda have remained actively involved in the projects and business, which has enabled the company to make many of its impressive contributions.

I would be remiss to not also highlight the great work these owners have done to positively impact their community. Both Darrell and John have served on the boards of local non-profit organizations, and their quality of work can be seen in the hotels, office buildings, restaurants, supermarkets, warehouses, and manufacturing buildings they built within their community.

I am honored to recognize and congratulate Darrell, John, and Linda on their 50 years of building up not only their business but also communities. They exemplify the true American Dream, building something from nothing, and I wish them the absolute best on their hard-earned retirements.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Nurses Week and to graciously thank the hardworking nurses residing and practicing in the First District of Iowa.

Every day, nurses provide compassionate, quality care to patients across the country. As the largest workforce in the healthcare sector, nurses are often the first line of defense in prevention and treatment to patients. I am confident nurses will continue to do an admirable job promoting safe public health practices among the communities in the First District. From schools to hospitals to long term care, these hardworking men and women provide compassionate care to those in need.

I urge my colleagues to continue to support nurses as they dedicate their lives to the well-being of others. Nurses deserve our recognition for their contributions to healthcare and I am proud to stand before you today and offer my thanks for their sacrifices.

HONORING MR. BILL "BULLDOG" CUNNINGHAM

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, longtime East Dallas constituent, Bill L. "Bulldog" Cunningham passed away on April 24, 2016, after a courageous fight with prostate cancer.

Born on May 3, 1921, Bulldog grew up in East Dallas. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1949 and was a star on the football team. He went to play football at Midwestern State University, but withdrew after one year to join the United States Marine Corps. During his service, he was wounded three times. And awarded the Purple Heart. After leaving Korea, he served the rest

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of his time as a drill instructor at Camp Pendleton.

After returning to Dallas, he married his sweetheart, Mina, in 1954. They were blessed with four boys, Gregory, Vickers, William, and Michael. He is survived by Mina, his four sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson. It was rare to see Bulldog or Mina separately. Their marriage of over 60 years was an example of a life-long love. The Cunninghams are a very close-knit family.

Bulldog made a life-long passion out of his chosen profession of insurance. He based his insurance company in East Dallas. He was a member of the Million Dollar Round Table. In the last year of his life, he was still a national top 10 percent producer for Safeco Insurance.

Bulldog was an active political volunteer, along with his wife, Mina. He was very active in the Dallas community, including the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce, in which he was instrumental in their annual Economic Summit, investing a lot of time in building the event, Habitat for Humanity, City of Dallas Planning & Zoning Commission, and numerous other organizations and city boards and commissions. He was inducted into the Woodrow Wilson High School Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mr. Cunningham will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and the East Dallas community. We have lost a patriotic, hard-working businessman who was the example of who we should all strive to be. My condolences to Mina and the rest of the Cunningham family. Melissa and I are praying for God's comfort on you during this time of loss.

HONORING WEST VIRGINIA'S ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT AND VETERANS

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who sacrificed so much for the freedoms we hold so dear. Those who serve this great country deserve not only our respect but our deepest gratitude. I stand here today to honor West Virginia's veterans who are visiting Washington, D.C., with the Always Free Honor Flight on May 18, 2016. These veterans served honorably in times of war and times of peace, and they deserve to be recognized and thanked for their service to our nation and their efforts to secure the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

As a country we must never forget the costs of war, the costs to the families of our service men and women, and the costs of protecting our freedom, especially when there are so many in this world who seek to destroy our way of life. I want to thank all those who came with this Honor Flight, and I extend my sincerest appreciation for what they have done for West Virginia and for this country.

SACRAMENTO CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT IS SELECTED TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT'S E-STAR AWARD

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to the Sacramento Center for International Trade Development and the Los Rios Community College District for being awarded the "E-Star" award from the United States Department of Commerce, which recognizes excellence in export assistance.

The Sacramento Center for International Trade Development is a prominent part of the drive to increase exports from the Sacramento region. The program, which is administered through the Los Rios Community College District, is a longstanding force for global competitiveness in our area.

For more than two decades, the Center has provided export services and programs that serve to enhance the effectiveness and profitability of Northern California businesses. The Center's relationship with the Department of Commerce provides Sacramento area businesses with a unique edge, helping to contribute to the growing economy in our region. The Center provides critical support to our local businesses, and deserves this important recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Sacramento Center for International Trade Development and the Los Rios Community College District for their work to support Northern California. Please join me in congratulating them on this significant achievement.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOHN J. LINDSAY

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel John J. Lindsay for dedicating 28 years of honorable service to the United States Army. John and his family's devotion, sacrifice, and commitment to the Nation is worthy of praise and recognition.

A native of New York, John was commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1988. He is a combat proven leader and a highly skilled AH-64D Apache attack helicopter pilot. John is a true professional and scholar, earning a Bachelor of Science in National Security from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science in Human Resources from Central Michigan University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Joint Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College Fellowship Program.

Upon entrance into the Armed Forces, Colonel Lindsay attended the aviation officer basic course and initial entry rotary wing flight training at Fort Rucker in the 2nd Congressional District of Alabama that I proudly represent. Throughout John's career in Army aviation, he served in a range of assignments from the

platoon level to the Department of the Army headquarters staff. His initial assignment was as an aeroscout platoon leader in the Republic of Korea with the 5-501st Attack Helicopter Battalion, 17th Aviation Brigade. He continued to his second overseas assignment in Wiesbaden, Germany with 5-6 Cavalry Squadron, 12th Aviation Brigade. During his tenure with the 12th Aviation Brigade, he served as squadron liaison officer and squadron adjutant. He later served as the assistant squadron operations officer and headquarters troop Commander in 6-6 Cavalry Squadron, based in Illesheim, Germany.

Upon completion of his overseas tour in Germany, he returned to the U.S. and served in multiple duty assignments from the National Training Center (NTC) at Ft. Irwin, CA to the U.S. Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, VA. Later in his career, John returned to the 11th Aviation Regiment and served during the initial invasion of Iraq. The Army selected John to command 1-14th Aviation Battalion at Ft. Rucker, AL, where he completed the AH-64D Instructor Pilot course and assumed responsibility of all attack and reconnaissance flight training for the Army. After command, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command where he served as the aviation branch chief and later as the chief of maneuver, fires and effects division.

Upon promotion to Colonel, Colonel Lindsay attended the U.S. Army War College Fellowship at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D.C., and subsequently deployed as the director of the Joint Operations Center (JOC) to U.S. Forces Iraq. In his most recent assignments, he served as a senior advisor to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and also as the director of army aviation for the Army's G 3/5/7. John was instrumental in the formulation of the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI), which optimizes the operational capability, deployment and lethality, and deployment in Army Aviation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a sincere pleasure to have worked with Colonel John J. Lindsay over the last three years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending John for his service to the United States of America. We wish him, his lovely wife Virginia, and their three children, Ian, Emma, and Kevin all the best as they depart the United States Army and continue on their wonderful journey.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week occurring last week and to graciously thank all the hardworking educators in the First District of Iowa.

Every day, teachers rise and face the challenge of preparing today's youth to be the leaders of tomorrow. Our teachers are at the forefront of shaping young minds, recognizing potential, and encouraging their success.

Across the country, teachers are empowering students with the necessary skills to achieve their dreams and become the next generation of leaders of the United States.