

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF REVEREND
PHARIS D. EVANS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to recognize and honor Reverend Pharis D. Evans and to wish him well upon his retirement as Pastor of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. For his 56 years of service and devotion to his congregation and to the community in Gary and beyond, Reverend Evans is to be highly commended. In his honor, two special worship services are being held at the church on Sunday, October 8, 2017 and October 15, 2017. In addition, a celebratory retirement banquet will take place at the Gary Genesis Convention Center on Friday, October 13, 2017.

Pharis Evans graduated from Haywood High School in Brownsville, Tennessee. As a young boy, his passion for theology grew from the church services he attended, and he knew early on that he was destined to be a preacher. He studied theology at Chicago Baptist Institute and continued his studies at Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting. It was on the first Sunday in April 1961, when Pharis D. Evans was first selected to lead Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church. For the past 55 years, he has administered spiritual guidance to a congregation that presently serves more than 800 parishioners. Pastor Evans's impact through his spiritual teaching has been immeasurable, and those he has mentored can all attest to his generous nature. Throughout the years, he has been a tireless advocate for his church and the community. Since 1963, Pastor Evans has coordinated and maintained Radio Broadcast Outreach Ministry. From 2009 to the present, he has also served as "Spiritual Advisor" for the Baptist Ministers Conference of Gary and Vicinity, and in 2008, he was awarded the prestigious community service Drum Major Award by the Gary Frontiers Service Club. Additionally, Pastor Evans has served as President and Vice President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention for the state of Indiana and been a chaplain for the Gary Police Department. A passionate and proven leader, Pastor Evans has provided counsel for many young ministers in search of guidance and direction. For his selfless devotion to aiding those in need of spiritual guidance, Pastor Evans is to be commended.

Reverend Evans's exceptional dedication to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his wonderful family. He and his beloved late wife, Ann, raised five wonderful children (one deceased). Reverend Evans is also a devoted grandfather and great-grandfather.

I am privileged to call Pastor Evans my friend. More importantly, Reverend Pharis D.

Evans has been a friend to all, the epitome of what we consider a Man of God. He is a man of service who has led a life we should all seek to emulate. His vision, his work, and his spirit have provided all of us with a guide to an improved and gentler future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Pastor Evans on his retirement as Pastor of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church. His fifty-six years of complete dedication, leadership, and selfless service to others is truly inspiring. I ask that you join me in congratulating him and wishing him well upon his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2ND ANNUAL
NICK'S RIDE FOR HEAL

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2nd annual Nick's Ride for the Heroin Epidemic Action League (HEAL) of Cayuga County.

The Heroin Epidemic Action League is a local organization in Cayuga County whose mission is to promote awareness of the deadly dangers of heroin and drug addiction. In its second year, Nick's Ride for HEAL honors the life of Nick Campagnola, who lost his struggle with heroin addiction in December 2015 at the young age of 20.

The motorcycle ride and block party supports the important efforts of HEAL, including providing a meeting space for those struggling with addiction, funding Nick's Underdog Scholarships, and supporting other organizations with complementary missions.

I am proud to recognize the important efforts of the Heroin Epidemic Action League of Cayuga County to combat the heroin and synthetic drug epidemic that is plaguing Central New York and the rest of the country. By remembering Nick Campagnola with this outstanding community event, it is my hope that we can one day put an end to this deadly epidemic.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BOWDEN
CENTER DEDICATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Bowden Center in Keller, Texas on Sunday, August 20, 2017. This space was generously donated by Don Bowden and the late Linda Bowden, and

now is operated by the Greater Keller Women's Club Foundation. The Bowden Center is an event space that will allow local charities and schools to hold functions, as well as host weddings and other social gatherings.

All profits from the Bowden Center will go to the Greater Keller Women's Club Foundation, which will direct the funds back into the community through charities the club supports. Through the generosity of the Bowdens, the Greater Keller Women's Club Foundation will have sustained opportunities to enrich the Keller community.

This building and its dedication pay tribute to Linda Bowden, a very special leader in our Keller community, who passed away in May 2017. This building honors her legacy, and furthers her life work of giving back to others. From her years at the PTA to this year, she never stopped seeking out ways to help others. The dedication of this space is a fitting tribute to thank Linda Bowden for her generosity, not just with the new Bowden Center, but all she did for the people in Keller, Texas. We are grateful to Don and Linda Bowden, and look forward to using this space to honor their spirit of generosity and further support the good work achieved by the Greater Keller Women's Club Foundation.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. St. Joseph's Catholic Church is the oldest Catholic parish in the city of Hamilton, Ohio and has served as a uniting force in the community since its founding. In the 1800s, Ohio was home to many German and British Catholics who sought refuge in America after having fled religious persecution in Europe. Due to differences in their national origin and their language, English and German Catholics attended separate services. At the time of its founding in 1867, the church was known as a "German Catholic Church," but through shared faith and the passing of time, these differences faded.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church continues to be a pillar of the community as a school, community center, and as a place of worship. Today, St. Joseph's Catholic Church stands as a testament to the uniting power of faith in our communities both historically and in the present. I applaud St. Joseph's Catholic Church for its 150 years of service to Hamilton, Ohio.

• 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.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
FOR DR. VIDYA KORA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana, which will host its 36th Annual Gala on Saturday, September 9, 2017, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana. The Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana has always been an outstanding asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana while focusing on compassion for others, improving patient care, and lighting the way for change.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Indian Medical Association will present the Lifetime Achievement Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, and my good friend, Dr. Vidya Kora. For his outstanding contributions to his community, he is to be commended.

As a young boy in India, Vidya Kora's passion for his field emerged, leading him toward a lifetime of service in the medical community. It was after completing his studies at Gandhi Medical School in Hyderabad, India, in 1978, that Dr. Kora came to the United States. He completed his internship at Edgewater Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, followed by his residency in internal medicine at Chicago's Cook County Hospital. Dr. Kora was selected to serve as chief resident from January to July of 1986. Upon completion, he joined the team at the Marion VA Medical Center in Marion, Illinois, where he served our nation's veterans.

Dr. Kora's remarkable résumé reflects not only his profession but also his devotion to public service. As a member of the Indiana Medical Association, he has served on its Commission on Legislation, as both Vice-Speaker and Speaker of its House of Delegates, and as the President of the Indiana State Medical Association from 2006 to 2007. He is also a current delegate to the American Medical Association. A tireless advocate for the improvement of his community, Dr. Kora is also a board member for Unity Foundation of LaPorte County and chairs the Northern Indiana Regional Board of the Franciscan Alliance. He has further served the residents of Michigan City and LaPorte County in numerous capacities. He has been a board member for the Michigan City Area Schools and served two terms as LaPorte County Coroner, while also completing two terms as LaPorte County Democratic Chairman. Dr. Kora has continued to seek an improved quality of life for his community while in his second term as LaPorte County Commissioner. As a public servant, Dr. Kora has always sought the betterment of our nation's health care system, so it is no surprise that he is also very active in the American Medical Association and Board of Indiana Medicine's political action committees.

Dr. Kora's passion for medicine and commitment to the people he serves is exceeded only by his devotion to his wonderful family. Dr. Kora and his loving wife, Sudha, have one daughter, Shilpa, and one son, Rishi, both of whom are physicians specializing in internal

medicine and have made their parents very proud as they follow in their father's footsteps.

Dr. Kora is committed to his family, to improving the lives of the patients he treats, and serving selflessly to enhance the quality of life of all those who live in Northwest Indiana. His is a life we should all seek to emulate. It is an honor to call Dr. Vidya Kora my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana, as well as this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Vidya Kora, for their outstanding contributions to the medical field, as well as to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

IN HONOR OF SIRVART
HOVNANIAN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SAINT STEPANOS ARMENIAN AP-
OSTOLIC CHURCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Sirvart Hovnanian as she is honored by Saint Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church in Elberon, New Jersey with an award to be presented by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. I would also like to join with the Saint Stepanos parish in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the church and marking the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Armenian parish in Elberon.

The Saint Mary Church parish in Elberon began 60 years ago, with 25 members worshipping during summer services. As the Armenian population in the area continued to grow, Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian saw a need for a larger and rejuvenated place of worship. Born of the vision and philanthropic support of the Hovnanians, Saint Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church stands on the site of the former Saint Mary Church. Saint Stepanos was consecrated on June 14, 1987 and the church hall was named "Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian Hall" in honor of the benefactors.

Sirvart Hovnanian is a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and carries on the philanthropic spirit she shared with her husband. Sirvart, along with her late husband, has always recognized the meaning of generosity and has spent her life working to make a difference in the world. An esteemed member of the Armenian community and a passionate philanthropist, Sirvart has been a supporter and partner in the many charitable endeavors undertaken along with her late husband, including the establishment of The Fund for Armenian Relief following the country's 1988 earthquake, the building of the Alton A. Hovnanian Emergency Care Center at River-view Medical Center, and the donation of the K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Saint

Stepanos Armenian Apostolic Church, the Armenian parish of Elberon and Sirvart Hovnanian for their continued support of the Armenian people and culture. I know that I join with all who know Sirvart in expressing my sincere gratitude for her warm and giving nature and her immeasurable contributions to our community.

HONORING MS. DOROTHY SHIELDS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of Ms. Dorothy Shields who was a tireless advocate for the community of Red Hook, Brooklyn.

As a resident and community advocate, Ms. Shields played numerous roles in bettering the lives of Red Hook's citizens. As Resident Association President of Red Hook Houses East for 37 years, she was a voice for tenants' rights and many of the most vulnerable community members. As an advocate for community development and job creation, Ms. Shields was instrumental in luring new businesses to Red Hook.

Ms. Shields was also a dedicated public servant who spent time working for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) as a community service aide and for the New York City Board of Education as a paraprofessional.

The mother of six children, all of whom attended school in Red Hook, Ms. Shields passed along values of public service to her children, who went on to work in city services including NYCHA and the New York City Police Department. We mourn her passing and cherish her legacy.

HONORING COACH ROBERT
HUGHES' NAISMITH MEMORIAL
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME IN-
DUCTION

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert Hughes, local Fort Worth legend, for helping to bridge the divide of the segregated college basketball community in Texas and for his commitment to developing all-star athletes on and off the court.

Robert Hughes was born May 15, 1928 as the youngest of five brothers. A phenomenal man who served our country during the Korean War, Coach Hughes is widely recognized for his successful basketball career. Hughes played college basketball at Texas Southern University. In 1955, he was drafted to the Boston Celtics, but instead played for the Harlem Magicians. During his time with the Harlem Magicians, Coach Hughes ruptured his Achilles tendon and began his legendary coaching career.

From 1958 to 1973, Hughes coached the then-segregated Fort Worth I.M. Terrell High School basketball team, with an astonishing record of 378–84. The I.M. Terrell team played in the Prairie View Interscholastic League