

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere appreciation that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2017 theme, Shaping the Bright Future of America. From September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures and traditions and reflect on the many outstanding contributions our Hispanic brothers and sisters have made throughout our country's history.

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. This year's theme also focuses on our nation's future and the immense impact Hispanic Americans will continue to have on creating a better tomorrow.

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.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND HEROES OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the sixteenth anniver-

sary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and to remember the nearly 3,000 innocent victims killed that day in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

While September 11th is a day shrouded in unspeakable tragedy, it was also a time of unsurpassed courage. Many of the first responders, who heroically rushed to rescue victims, continue to die from exposure to Ground Zero toxins. These firefighters, police officers, and other emergency workers, rely on the Federal government to provide medical care they so desperately need and will require support for years to come.

I am grateful to the men and women of law enforcement, the Armed Forces and our Intelligence Community who work tirelessly every day to keep our country safe. As we celebrate their efforts, we must remain vigilant against terrorists who seek to destroy our country and way of life.

We must never forget the catastrophic events and lives lost on that tragic day in our Nation's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 485 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 2611), I did not cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on this vote.

HONORING ELGIN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY IN ELGIN, ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 16TH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Elgin Fire Department for celebrating its 150th anniversary. Since Elgin's first fire station was established in 1867, it has made an exceptional impact on Elgin and its surrounding communities.

The Elgin Fire Department currently has over 133 sworn firefighters who provide life-saving care to a community of more than 180,000 people. This includes the historic downtown area, two major medical facilities, two college campuses, multiple industrial and office parks, a growing commercial area, and countless homes.

Over the past 150 years, the Elgin Fire Department has been a rich part of Illinois' history. In July 1869, the Elgin Fire Department purchased the James T. Gifford fire engine, which put the Department on the front lines of the Greater Chicago Fire in October 1870. To

this day, the Elgin Fire Department continues to protect the city of Elgin and its neighboring communities as well.

Additionally, the Elgin Fire Department has provided Illinoisans the opportunity to immerse themselves in Elgin history. Since 1987, the fire department has operated a museum looking back on the remarkable work Elgin firefighters have done.

The Elgin Fire Department touches countless lives every day, and has done exceptional work over the last 150 years in the Chicagoland area. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely grateful for their work, and I hope for their continued success in the future.

I honor the Elgin Fire Department in Elgin, Illinois on September 16th.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE GUADALUPE RAMOS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of Jose Guadalupe Ramos, a beloved Vietnam veteran, Purple Heart recipient and veterans' advocate who passed away on September 3, 2017.

Mr. Ramos was born on September 17, 1948, in East Los Angeles, California. He attended Garfield High School and enlisted in the Army in 1965.

Mr. Ramos served bravely in Vietnam from 1967 to 68, where he was an Army medic exposed to the horrors of war while caring for fellow soldiers wounded on the battlefield. He himself was awarded the Purple Heart after being shot in the leg.

When Mr. Ramos returned from Vietnam, he and his fellow veterans were ignored by an American public disillusioned with the Vietnam War. The trauma they witnessed abroad was exacerbated by the disrespect and insults made against Vietnam veterans at the time. Even while suffering from his own mental and physical wounds, Mr. Ramos continued to care for others by working in emergency rooms in Los Angeles County hospitals.

Mr. Ramos' compassion for helping others did not end there. He had a desire to heal the mental wounds that his fellow Vietnam veterans still lived with when they were not given a proper welcome home. Mr. Ramos led an effort to get local, state, and federal governments to honor these heroes with a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." He convinced the State of California to recognize March 30th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. His efforts were a part of getting 38 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Congress to observe Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Mr. Ramos carried this message across the United States by biking multiple times from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. to build support for recognition of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. He also biked through

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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.

Vietnam with veterans from both sides of the conflict to promote healing and peace.

I was blessed to have known Mr. Ramos, and to have worked with him in our community and during his visits to Washington to help Vietnam veterans get the recognition, respect and care that they deserve.

Mr. Ramos alleviated the suffering of his fellow soldiers wounded on the field of battle, he alleviated the suffering of his fellow Angelenos in the emergency rooms of Southern California, and he alleviated the suffering in the hearts and minds of veterans who bore invisible wounds from Vietnam and their return to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Jose Ramos for his courage, character and commitment to supporting his fellow veterans. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Ramos' family and friends for their loss. He was a model citizen and a hero for our community, our state and our nation.

HONORING MR. ROBERT FISHMAN

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bob" Fishman for his decades of leadership at the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut. Bob recently retired as the Executive Director of JFACT after 23 years with the organization, leaving a legacy of strong relationships between Connecticut's civic and faith leaders.

Bob has been a leading advocate for Connecticut's Jewish community. Through JFACT, he maintained close ties with the Jewish communities across Connecticut and ensured all their voices were represented in the organization's work. Those who have worked with Bob know him for his tireless dedication to strengthening our community.

As Executive Director, Bob worked closely with leaders in state government and our federal delegation on a number of issues critical to the Jewish community and Connecticut as a whole. He was instrumental in the creation of the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day at the State Capitol, which ensures that we remember the horror of hatred and genocide and that we educate future generations about its impact on our world. Through the 80s and 90s, Bob worked tirelessly to support the resettlement of refugees from the former Soviet Union and ensured they could begin their American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Fishman has been a dedicated civic and spiritual leader within our state, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today. He serves as a role model for everyone in public service as someone who puts his faith into action to improve our state and our country. I am proud to call him a friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to cleanup and recovery from Hurricane Irma

which greatly impacted my district, I was unable to return to Washington D.C. for this vote on September 12.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 485.

HONORING LARRY POOLE, GILLSVILLE'S MAYOR

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my northeast Georgia neighbor, Mr. Larry Poole. For 24 years, he served as the Mayor of Gillsville, giving both his time and effort to the place that he calls home.

When Larry first became mayor, his mission was to use his role to amplify the voices in his community. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Poole was able to help his friends and neighbors and improve their community through servant leadership.

As Mayor of Gillsville, Larry exemplified such leadership each day, even on the day that he resigned. By choosing to fill a vacant seat on the city council, he put the needs of his community first, giving up his title in order to allow a new leader to add to the vision of Gillsville.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Larry for his dedication to northeast Georgia, and want to wish him the best as he assumes his new role on the city council. Northeast Georgia will always find a friend and leader in Larry Poole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2017 I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 485.

ACKNOWLEDGING RENIE PETERSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my gratitude to Renie Peterson, the Aurora City Councilwoman for Ward II, for her extraordinary work and dedication to the City of Aurora. Her leadership has contributed to many of Aurora's most successful programs and initiatives.

I first met Renie Peterson when we both attended high school almost 50 years ago. In 1969, the City of Aurora was not the incredibly diverse community it is today. Yet, years later as a City Council Member, Renie not only recognized how Aurora has changed since we were growing up here, she fully embraced the "new" Aurora and founded the City of Aurora Global Fest which celebrates the vast array of

different cultures and ethnicities that now make up our great city. Renie was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Chairman's Award for her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community. She has shown throughout her decade of dedicated service as a City of Aurora Council Member her enthusiasm and commitment to better our community.

In addition, as Councilwoman Peterson sought to advance this city to its greatest potential, she served the City of Aurora and Adams County for over twenty years as a Board Member for several intergovernmental groups such as, Adams County Economic Development, Urban Drainage and Flood Control, Sand Creek Regional Greenway, and is the founder of the Aurora Public Schools' Wish List Project.

Mr. Speaker, Councilwoman Renie Peterson has enhanced the quality of life for every resident in the City of Aurora. Her leadership helped make the City of Aurora the great place it is today. I believe that Renie Peterson is among the very best, and I am very grateful for her unyielding dedication to our community.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment which supports expanding access to Naloxone for first responders.

Equipping police officers and EMTs with Naloxone means they can immediately save the life of a person who is overdosing.

Although drug overdose deaths rose by 33 percent in the past five years, states, like Rhode Island, Maryland and Pennsylvania, are experiencing severe shortages of Naloxone. The cost of Naloxone has skyrocketed—rising by thousands of dollars in some cases—and it only has a shelf life of 18 to 24 months.

States have had to find alternate sources of funding, including tapping into emergency funds and cutting state programs, just to keep Naloxone in stock.

Some communities have also had to make extremely tough choices, like rationing funds and deciding how many lives they will save.

We must make additional investments in Naloxone for our first responders in order to stem the rising tide of opioid deaths.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.