

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEBBIE MERRILL

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Debbie Merrill on her retirement. A committed public servant, Ms. Merrill faithfully worked to represent her constituents and our country on Capitol Hill for over 43 years.

Ms. Merrill learned the value of public service at an early age. Her father, a Native American from the Sioux tribe, served our country in the U.S. Army. After his honorable discharge, he attended college with help from the G.I. Bill. He later served in the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee as a career staffer. Debbie credits the federal help of the G.I. Bill with providing her family a path to success, saying that her career choice was a way for her to "give back to the country that gave [her] family so much."

Over the course of Ms. Merrill's notable career, she worked for five Democratic Congressmen. In 1974, she was hired for her first job in Congress as a legislative assistant to Congressman Clement Zablocki of Wisconsin. She went on to work for Congressmen Nicholas Mavroules and Marty Meehan of Massachusetts. In 1994, she joined Congressman Sam Farr's office as Legislative Director. Among her many efforts on behalf of the people of California's 20th congressional district, she was instrumental in establishing in Marina the country's first joint-from-inception Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs clinic; supporting the opening of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery; and creating Team Monterey, a collaborative team environment for local defense and national security entities as they seek federal investment. Ms. Merrill served in Congressman Farr's office for over 20 years, until his retirement. She proudly joined my staff after I was sworn in this past January, and swiftly got my office off the ground. Her presence proved invaluable as she led our junior staffers in her capable hands, ensuring that once she retired, I was left with a knowledgeable and strong legislative team. Her background on defense, veterans, transportation, and housing issues was exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Debbie Merrill for all she has done to serve the people of the central coast of California, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, and to serve our country. I wish her the very best in her retirement and in all her future endeavors.

HONORING JACOB BRIAN AHART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Brian Ahart.

Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Brian Ahart for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 106TH
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 106th National Day of Taiwan on October 10, 2017.

For decades, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a fruitful partnership that continues to this day. Taiwan is the United States' 10th largest trading partner and 8th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products, which has direct ties to Hoosier. Recently, Taiwan's Agriculture Goodwill Trade Mission to Washington, D.C. and my home state of Indiana culminated in a \$2.8 billion procurement agreement between Taiwan and U.S. grain producers. I applaud the mission's success and look forward to continued collaboration with Taiwan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S CAR-
DIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month and to honor the memory of one of my constituents who lost his life far too early to a truly devastating condition.

Pediatric cardiomyopathy, a chronic and degenerative disease of the heart muscle, is the leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest in children. My constituent, Kyle John Rymiszewski, was diagnosed at birth with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which thickens the heart muscle and restricts blood flow around the body. He

courageously fought it for years until his heart of gold stopped beating at the young age of fifteen. In memory of their son, Kyle's parents, Ken Rymiszewski and Aimee Cowher, founded the Kyle John Rymiszewski Foundation to increase awareness of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and to fund critically needed research to improve treatment outcomes. Other organizations like the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation also further this work and help families care for children with cardiomyopathy. I commend these organizations for their tireless work to give our children a better chance at life.

It is important that we recognize Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month and continue to spread awareness about this disease. Over forty percent of children diagnosed with cardiomyopathy will either die or undergo a heart transplant within the first two years of their diagnosis. Despite this, little is known about the causes of this disease and there currently is no cure for it. Although patients with the four different types of cardiomyopathy have varying symptoms, each case poses major challenges and dangers. During this month and beyond, we must commit to spreading information and resources to help identify at-risk children and avoid preventable tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in spreading awareness of this disease and supporting children like Kyle who suffer from pediatric cardiomyopathy.

RECOGNIZING HON. KEITH
FUDENNA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Congressman RO KHANNA, I rise to recognize the Honorable Keith H. Fudenna on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of serving as a judicial officer at the Fremont Hall of Justice.

Keith comes from a family that is dedicated to service. His father, Harold Fudenna, worked with U.S. intelligence forces in the South Pacific. Harold intercepted the message that exposed the location of Admiral Yamamoto, the Japanese military officer who planned the Pearl Harbor attack.

Following in his father's footsteps, Keith graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1971. He continued pursuing his education at the University of California, Hastings College of Law and earned his juris doctorate in 1974.

Keith was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1974, marking the beginning of his service to the community through both the public and private sectors. He began work at the Fremont City Attorney's Office before transitioning to private practice from 1981 to 1990.

• 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.

After his time in private practice he became a Court Commissioner for the Fremont-Newark-Union City Municipal Court for seven years. In 1997, he was appointed Judge of the Municipal Court by Governor Pete Wilson. Keith was the first Asian American judge to serve on the Fremont-Newark-Union City Municipal Court.

Following his appointment, he was elected judge of the Superior Court of California. During his time as a Superior Court judge he has handled a variety of assignments, including criminal trials and arraignments.

Throughout his life, Keith has actively served his community outside of the courtroom. He has worked on the Board of Managers for the Fremont-Newark YMCA, the Board of Directors for the National Japanese American Historical Society, and as a member of the California State Bar Committee on Ethnic Minority Relations.

Keith Fudenna has served Alameda County and our country selflessly for more than 40 years. We congratulate Keith on a long and successful career, and we wish him health and happiness in retirement.

HONORING BYRON JAMES ARNOLD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Byron James Arnold. Byron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Byron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Byron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Byron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Byron rebuilt and replaced an entrance sign to Our Lady of Mercy Country Home in Liberty, Missouri, that had been damaged in a car accident.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Byron James Arnold for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes Monday, October 2, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 544 and 545.

HONORING ARMY VETERAN
CHARLES DIETRICH ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor decorated Army veteran Charles LeRoy Dietrich of Pekin, Illinois, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Dietrich was inducted into the U.S. Army on February 15, 1946 at Ft. Sheridan in Chicago, Illinois at the age of 18. After attending basic training at Fort Eustis, Virginia, he was assigned to Fort Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming for specialized training as a railroad brakeman. Mr. Dietrich was honorably discharged in August 1946, then reenlisted and was promoted to the rank of Private First Class. After receiving security clearance, Mr. Dietrich was assigned to the military police and security details at Los Alamos, New Mexico. While there, he was promoted to the rank of T4 Sergeant and was presented with a World War II Victory Medal for his service. Mr. Dietrich was honorably discharged in September 1947.

The dedicated military service of veterans such as Charles Dietrich makes me especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again honor Army veteran Charles Dietrich for his extraordinary military service during World War II and wish him a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. FLINT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Mitchell Flint—a beloved husband, father, and former U.S. Navy fighter pilot—who passed away on September 16, 2017, at the age of 94.

Mitchell Flint was born on June 27, 1923, in Kansas City, Missouri, and attended Westport High School, where he took part in the school's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, graduating with honors. His father, Harry, was also a decorated U.S. fighter during World War I and introduced Mitchell to his lifelong love of flying.

Mitchell enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 to serve as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy's World War II effort. He served on the aircraft carrier USS *Wasp* under the command of Admiral John S. McCain Sr. and earned three Air Medals and eight Navy Unit Commendations. After six years of service in the U.S. Navy, he continued flying for sixteen years in the United States Navy Reserve, ultimately achieving the rank of Commander.

Inspired by his Jewish heritage and the plight of Europe's Holocaust survivors, Mitchell then volunteered as an American fighter pilot in Israel's first aviation unit that fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. He was one of the founding members of the Israeli Air Force's first fighter squadron and helped train Israel's first military pilots. In 1949, he flew in Israel's

First Independence Day Parade and for the first time Israel's entire fighter squadron of 12 fighter planes got in the sky at the same time, led by future Israeli President Ezer Weizman. Mitchell pulled up the rear and was the last plane from his squadron to fly over that day. Prophetically, Mitchell was the last living pilot of that group of flyers.

After his military service, Mitchell moved to Los Angeles, attended law school at UCLA, and became an attorney while continuing to fly. He practiced law for nearly 60 years and was the President of the Hollywood Bar Association. At the age of 90, Mitchell was honored by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during ceremonies recognizing the 65th anniversary of the birth of Israel.

Mitchell is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joyce, and sons, Michael and Guy, whom I hope take comfort in the way Mitchell lived his life as a patriotic, selfless and caring Veteran who served his nation and its ally, Israel. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM PRO BONO PROGRAM 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program as they celebrate 25 years of service to our veterans community.

Since 1992, the Veterans Consortium has provided over \$100 million in pro bono services working on five thousand individual cases.

As our veterans return home from military service, it is critical they receive the benefits and care they deserve and need. The tireless efforts of the Veterans Consortium representing veterans at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is an essential aspect of our promise to support service members as they transition to civilian life.

As the Ranking Member of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, I commend the member attorneys of the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program for their generosity and unwavering commitment.

HONORING RYAN DECAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan DeCamp. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan is the 350th Eagle Scout in his troop's history.