

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF TORT LAW'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the American Museum of Tort Law, located in Winsted, CT, which celebrated its second anniversary on September 25, 2017. In honor of its history and continued importance as a national educational institution, I would like to commemorate the museum and celebrate this milestone.

Since its founding by Ralph Nader, the American Museum of Tort Law has attracted national acclaim from media outlets including Politico, the New Yorker, the Boston Globe and the Washington Post. Its vital importance to our citizenry has been recognized by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Thousands of people have attended the museum and have come away educated, entertained, and impressed by its presentation.

The mission of this unique institution is to educate, inform, and inspire Americans about their legal system, with a focus on the right of trial by jury and the benefits of tort law. Through school group visits, self-guided tours, quality curated programing, and its website, the museum has shown true dedication towards the fostering of greater civic knowledge and awareness.

Moving forward, the museum has an ambitious plan to expand, including not just on-site operations, but broadening its reach by traveling across the country and becoming a resource for practitioners, judges, and legal scholars.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to personally visit the American Museum of Tort Law. As a former history teacher, I can attest to the tremendous value this museum provides through the details and historical context that brings to life the law and justice. Tort law has improved the lives of so many and this museum tells that story.

I am proud to have such an exciting and important institution located in my district. Congratulations to the American Museum of Tort Law on celebrating its second anniversary. May it continue to educate and inspire for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF LTC JOSEPH McGRATH AND HIS INDUCTION INTO THE WISCONSIN MILITARY ACADEMY HALL OF FAME

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize LTC Joseph McGrath

for his induction into the Wisconsin Military Academy Hall of Fame. LTC McGrath's long and distinguished career is highlighted by the numerous accolades and successes he achieved during his service in the United States Army and Wisconsin Army National Guard.

LTC McGrath has been an integral factor in protecting America's security interests here at home, while also spreading peace around the world. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, LTC McGrath deployed to Nicaragua to help ensure the security of the Nicaraguan President and establish the future success of the joint Wisconsin-Nicaragua partnership.

In 2004, LTC McGrath was deployed to Afghanistan to direct operations in support of the Kandak ETT comprised of American and Coalition partners. LTC McGrath was also instrumental in providing direct liaison with the UN Ballot Counting teams, while also coordinating physical security for the provincial ballot collection compound during the Afghan Presidential election.

Upon his return to the United States, LTC McGrath's leadership led to the creation of the Warrant Officer Candidate School at the 426th Regiment, a fiscally responsible move that brought greater strength and security to Wisconsin.

LTC McGrath received the Bronze Star, among many other awards, for his honorable service and dedication to our country. LTC McGrath's commitment and courage have left a profound impact on the men and women he led and served with across the world, as well as continued security of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending LTC Joseph McGrath for his dedicated military service and congratulate his induction into the Wisconsin Military Academy Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHEAST POLK WRESTLING TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southeast Polk Wrestling team for winning the Iowa High School 3A State Wrestling Team Championship and the Class 3A State Wrestling Dual Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Wrestlers: Mark Ames, Cam Baarda, Gavin Babcock, Zach Barnes, Josh Barron, Levi Brand, Thaddeus Breitsprecker, Adam Brown, Gabe Christenson, Cade DeVos, Grant Dishinger, Devin Harmison, Nate Lendt, Gauge Perrien, Nathan Robillard, Joe Rowland, Sawyer Shaw, Ryan Strickland, Brady Wenner, Cody Wonderlich

Head Coach: Jason Christenson

Coaches: Jessman Smith, Jeff Evans, Jake Helvey, Jesse Smith, Eric Morrow, Pat Wilson, Tom Koch, Jeremy Dove, Grant Schmidt

Mr. Speaker, by winning two championships at this year's state tournament, this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, commitment, and determination. I am honored to represent each of them in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER—BARBARA BECKWORTH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Beckworth, a community activist in Dixon, California, and small business owner with a heart of service and a strong desire to help others. She has been involved in nearly every organization and club in the Dixon area and has served in many leadership roles.

Barbara's commitment and love for her community as a leader is reflected by her involvement in several committees and organizations. She was past Chair and Member of the Governmental Affairs Committee where she continues to moderate the candidate's forums, she sits on several scholarship committees for the students at Dixon High School, and she's also served as past president for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Dixon Downtown Business Association. Her desire to make Dixon a better place didn't stop there. She also is past president of Lamtown USA and is involved every year in the annual Dixon May Fair Parade.

Barbara is a true civic leader. There are many words to describe Barbara: graceful, elegant, beautiful, but most of all she is simply the nicest person one would ever meet. She was honored with the Dixon Citizen of the Year in 1989 and is considered an icon in Dixon who is loved by all who know her. Barbara is also known for her beloved dress shop that was in Downtown Dixon for many years.

TRIBUTE TO RDG PLANNING & DESIGN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines, Iowa for

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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.

being named one of the 2016 Businesses of the Year at the Des Moines East and South Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony earlier this year.

The Business of the Year award celebrates a local business that is dedicated to serving their community. RDG Planning and Design has helped to design numerous buildings, landscapes and interiors across the Midwest, but the company's dedication extends beyond their office walls. Their employees help embody one of the company's core principles of giving back to the community. From schools to churches, neighborhood associations to charities and non-profits, you'll find RDG employees devoting their time to making their communities a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Iowa businesses like RDG Planning and Design in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them for this outstanding recognition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—BARBARA COTTER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara (Babs) Cotter of Yuba City, California, who exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and possesses a deep desire to help others in the community.

Barbara Cotter, a retired educator dedicated her entire career doing what she loved best; making a difference in the lives of elementary school children. Her career spanned over a period of 38 years; 33 in the Yuba City Unified School District. As an elementary school teacher, she was inspiring, beloved, and revered by her students and fellow teachers alike.

In 1986, after surviving a life threatening medical diagnosis, she had an overwhelming desire to give back to a community that helped her through her recovery. She became a Reach to Recover coordinator, and eventually a board member for the American Cancer Society. Barbara's heart of service didn't stop there, she also volunteered for the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, the State Convention Planning Board for Philanthropic Educational Organization, Middle Mountain Foundation, and Girls on the Run.

In 2009, Barbara Cotter was honored with the Caroline S. Ringler Perpetual Service Award for outstanding service to the Museum and has been appointed to a lifetime position on the Museum Commission.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for

Roll Call vote 591 on Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 591.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER
SERGEANT PAUL CONTRERAS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative ROBERT WITTMAN, rise today to recognize the twenty-five years that Master Sergeant Paul Contreras has served in the United States Marine Corps. MSgt Contreras is a true patriot who has significantly contributed to the defense of our Nation. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April, 1992 and was assigned to Recruit Training Center, San Diego, CA. He subsequently attended Marine Combat Training before being transferred to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA where he trained as a Packaging Specialist. Lance Corporal Contreras' first assignment was to Supply Company, 1st Supply Battalion, 1st Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, CA. Within his first month of this assignment, LCpl Contreras volunteered to deploy in support of OPERATION RESTORE HOPE in Mogadishu, Somalia. Upon completion of this deployment, he was selected to attend Marine Security Guard training, transferring to Marine Security Guard Battalion, Quantico, VA. Upon graduation from this rigorous course, LCpl Contreras' first assignment was to U.S. Embassy Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In July 1995 Cpl Contreras was transferred to U.S. Embassy Santiago, Chile for his second post.

Upon departure from Chile, Sergeant Contreras served with 1st Supply Battalion until early 1998 when he began the process of applying for the Marine Corps' Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence (CI/HUMINT) occupational specialty. Staff Sergeant Contreras was competitively selected to train as a CI/HUMINT Marine, attending school from January to June, 1999. SSgt Contreras' first assignment was with 1st CI/HUMINT Company where he served until being selected to deploy with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this deployment, SSgt Contreras participated in recovery efforts following the bombing of the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen. In 2000, SSgt Contreras returned to 1st CI/HUMINT Company where he served until June, 2001 before being reassigned to 2nd CI/HUMINT Company, Camp Lejeune, NC. During this assignment, SSgt Contreras supported various exercises including BATTLE GRIFFIN in 2002, and deployed in support of combat operations to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2002 and Babil, Iraq in 2004.

In 2006, Gunnery Sergeant Contreras completed his active service to pursue a civilian career but remained committed to the Marine Corps, joining the Select Marine Corps Reserve later that year. His first reserve assignment was with the Marine Forces Pacific G2X office. From 2006 to 2008 Master Sergeant Contreras supported exercises and operational requirements for Marine Forces Pacific. During this same time, MSgt Contreras was a part owner of a small defense contracting company dedicated to the further development and

training of Department of Defense CI/HUMINT professionals prior to their deployments into Iraq and Afghanistan. In the fall of 2008, Master Sergeant Contreras returned to the CI/HUMINT school to provide support to the training staff. His next assignment in March 2009 was with Marine Forces Command G2X office. Due to his excellent reputation, MSgt Contreras was requested by name to mobilize with Marine Forces Europe from November 2011 until August 2013 where he served as Counterintelligence Operations Chief. He returned to the United States for assignment to Intelligence Support Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve in Quantico, VA. In his civilian career, MSgt Contreras also joined the Defense Intelligence Agency's Counterespionage Division. He remained on Marine Reserve duty with Bravo Company until November 2014, upon which time he transferred to Individual Ready Reserve Status intending to retire. Recognizing the immeasurable contribution that MSgt Contreras had made to the CI/HUMINT profession, the senior leadership of Intelligence Support Battalion compelled MSgt Contreras to consider withdrawing his retirement request in order to serve one final tour with the Battalion and in February 2016 MSgt Contreras returned to Bravo Company. He subsequently participated in a US Army exercise at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and served as both Company CI/HUMINT Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor until his retirement in November of 2017. During this same time, MSgt Contreras was hired by the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity in the Office of the Counterintelligence Coordinating Authority where he is able to continue to support his beloved Corps by influencing the development and direction of counterintelligence activities for the Marine Corps into the future.

Mr. Speaker, few can match the dedication and Esprit de Corps that Paul Contreras has displayed over his twenty-five years of service to Corps and country. We wish Paul continued success in his future endeavors. Many thanks to Master Sergeant Contreras. Our Nation has benefited from his outstanding leadership.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—BALJINDER DHILLON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Baljinder Dhillon of Yuba City, California, who has dedicated her life to education. She currently serves as the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools. Her career began as a fifth-grade teacher at Tierra Buena Elementary School in the Yuba City Unified School District. After earning her master's degree she moved into administration, serving as the assistant principal at Tierra Buena and Barry elementary schools. She later became the principal at Rio Del Oro Elementary in the Plumas Lake Elementary School District.

Dr. Dhillon is dedicated to finding ways to fund programs that benefit teachers, staff and students. She is credited with authorizing cost-saving measures for the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools office by becoming more energy efficient, she's authored proposals to fund the California Classified School Employee Teacher Credentialing Grant and