

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LATE LAVELL EDWARDS

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor legendary BYU football coach LaVell Edwards, who passed away December 29, 2016 at the age of 86.

During the 29 years he coached at Brigham Young University, Edwards transformed a team that had never been ranked or invited to a bowl game into a perpetual force in college football.

Best remembered for leading his team to a national championship in 1984, Edwards also racked up an impressive 257–103 win/loss record. His team won 20 conference championships and qualified for 22 bowl game appearances.

LaVell Edwards touched countless lives, including mine, in a profound and positive way. I feel so fortunate to be among the many young men Coach Edwards influenced and molded during his storied career at BYU. My life is forever changed by my experience as a place kicker on his team.

Upon retiring from BYU in 2000, Edwards and his wife Patti served a mission for the LDS Church in New York, where, in addition to his missionary role, Edwards was invited to put his talents to work coaching football to Harlem youth.

Coach Edwards leaves behind a legacy of success on the field and off. He was a man of integrity whose example his players all wanted to emulate. He is survived by his wife Patti and three children. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID DRINKARD

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a very special person and dear friend of mine, David Drinkard.

David was a former art teacher at Warren High School in Warren, Texas and a renowned wildlife painter. We have been friends since attending Forest Park High School and Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas. He was an expert at painting God's beautiful creations in nature. There is nothing prettier than a "David Drinkard sky." His paintings hang in homes, businesses and galleries all over, including my own home and dental office.

David was a devout Christian, a loyal husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a strong conservative and an active conservationist, donating many paintings for auction to the Coastal Conservation

Association and other groups to help raise funds for conservation projects and causes. He was an excellent hunter and probably ranked as one of the best fishermen with whom I ever had the privilege of casting a lure.

I am honored to have one of his paintings prominently displayed in my congressional office in Washington. It depicts David and me catching speckled trout on Sabine Lake in Texas. Some of my children and I even took art lessons from him in his hometown of Warren years ago. David Drinkard has a very special place in our hearts and we will miss him dearly.

David passed away on December 26, 2016. His wife Beverly and family will continue to be in our prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AVALOS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Avalos for eight years of exemplary service on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. John has demonstrated remarkable leadership and collaboration in his efforts to improve the quality of life for all San Francisco residents and particularly those in District 11. He has been a tireless champion of affordable housing, social services, infrastructure and clean energy.

Representing District 11, one of San Francisco's most vibrant and diverse districts, John began his work on the board in 2008 at the height of the Great Recession. He served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee leading San Francisco through the daunting process of closing a billion dollar budget hole while saving jobs and essential services for seniors and children. His commitment to jobs didn't stop with those early years. One of his recent pieces of legislation provided thousands of living wage jobs to San Francisco residents, earning him the reputation as a protector of working-class families.

John also introduced legislation protecting tenants of foreclosed properties and providing rental assistance for low-income families. His bill creating a real estate transfer tax has brought in \$50 million in annual city revenue.

In his current role as the Chair of the Transportation Authority, Supervisor Avalos oversees the analysis, design and funding for long-term transportation planning for the city. In the City challenged by ever-increasing traffic congestion, John understands the impact on the quality of life and the necessity to create solutions. He is a staunch advocate of alternative modes of transportation and introduced the strongest employee bike access law in the country, the Bicycle Access and Safety Ordinance. It allows employees to bring their bikes into the office, creating an opportunity for thousands of people to ride their bicycles to

work easing congestion, cutting emissions, improving air quality, and maximizing public transportation.

It was at John's urging that the Employees' Retirement System divested almost \$600 million in holdings from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. He authored Citizens United Measure Prop G, a policy opposing corporate personhood which was overwhelmingly approved by voters. He has taken on financial fraud, launching an investigation in 2013 into the London InterBank Offered Rate fraud scandal and its impact on San Francisco.

Supervisor Avalos has been a fighter for justice, equality and fairness. As a third generation Mexican-American, one of seven siblings, and one of the first generation in his family to attend college, you can trace John's drive and ambition back to his early years. He moved to San Francisco in 1989 and immersed himself in education, organizing and protecting the rights of others. He earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University and began his career as a counselor through the San Francisco Conservation Corps and the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club. He then worked for Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth and for the Justice for Janitors Campaign of the Service Employees International Union.

During his time on the board of supervisors, John continued his work with many outstanding community groups in District 11 such as the OMI Community Collaborative, Excelsior Collaborative, Communities United for Health and Justice, and Coleman Advocates. He firmly believes that real change starts at a grassroots level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Supervisor John Avalos for his outstanding public service to the residents of San Francisco, in his district and beyond. This champion of the people may leave San Francisco City Hall, but he will no doubt continue to shape life in the City for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call vote 3 on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES "JIM" HOWARD SHAW

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of James "Jim"

● 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.

Howard Shaw, a remarkable Texan who passed away on December 27, 2016 after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Jim's family has deep roots in Fort Worth, having moved there to open Shaw Brothers' Dairy in the late 1800s. Jim was born on September 12, 1950 to Bill and Betty Shaw. He attended Paschal High School where he was a stand-out track athlete, earning himself a scholarship to Louisiana Tech University. Jim hung up his cleats for law school at Texas Tech and began practicing law in 1975, briefly as a prosecutor and then in private practice as a defense attorney—a role he continued through the final months of his life.

Over his 41 years as a defense attorney, Jim earned the reputation of being a staunch protector of his clients' rights, representing each within the full bounds of the law. His colleagues recall that he would often get hired on a Sunday, pick a jury on Monday, and earn a favorable outcome by the end of the week. Jim loved the art of trying a case. Anyone who watched him in action would agree he was a master of his craft, making lasting friendships and inspiring his peers along the way.

When not in the courtroom, Jim could be found on the golf course at Colonial Country Club, behind home plate cheering on the Texas Rangers, or on a patio somewhere enjoying Mexican food. However, more than anything, Jim loved his family and spending genuine time with them. He is survived by his wife Carol; children James Shaw Jr., Ben Shaw, Tim Shaw, and his stepchildren Steven Prewitt and Aimee Plummer; 11 grandchildren; and his brothers Bill Shaw, David Shaw and Greg Shaw.

Jim Shaw's death leaves a great hole in the hearts of many, but his passion for the law and his kind heart will be felt for generations to come. Fort Worth was lucky to have him and is a better city because of his devotion to justice. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Jim Shaw. May he rest in peace.

HONORING KAREN ERVIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Karen Ervin who served on the Pacifica City Council for four years, including 2015 as the mayor of this picturesque coastal town of about 40,000 residents. As a Pacifica native and lifelong resident, Karen understands and feels the pulse of her town. Even before her time on the council, she always volunteered and gave back to the community. It has been my privilege to work with Karen and to call her a friend.

During her term on the council, Karen served as the liaison to the Economic Development Committee, the Beautification Committee, Pacifica School Volunteers, Emergency Preparedness Task Force, and the Pacifica Resource Center. She also served as a member of the C/CAG Legislative Committee and the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, an Association of Bay Area Governments delegate, and a member of the San Mateo County Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force.

One of her top priorities was to improve the fiscal health of the city. Her experience on the

Financing City Services Task Force helped her tackle the difficult task of balancing the budget and making it possible to fund numerous projects such as the acquisition of a property to finish the Devil's Slide Trail, the Pacifica Resource Center and the Pacifica Beach Coalition. An ERAF reserve fund was also essential in responding to severe damage Pacifica suffered during El Nino storms in the winter of 2015, damage that drew worldwide attention.

Karen loves her hometown and pursues every opportunity to improve the quality of life of all residents. She has been one of the main drivers to create a beautiful downtown along Palmetto Boulevard and to let the world know that Pacifica is a wonderful place to live, work, play, eat and thrive.

As in every small town, city council members serve because they are dedicated to public service. It requires countless hours of meetings, homework and visits in the community for very little compensation. Karen has always managed to make time for her council duties despite her very demanding full-time job as a Senior Research Associate and Project Manager at Genentech in South San Francisco where she has worked for 15 years. Her experience, work ethic and resourcefulness have continually benefited her colleagues and all residents of Pacifica.

On a sunny August Day in 2015 while Karen was mayor, traffic came to a standstill on Highway 1, Pacifica's major thoroughfare, for the entire day. Two car accidents and major roadwork by Caltrans brought out the worst in motorists who were stranded for hours. They crashed the city's Nextdoor page and jammed phone lines. Feeling her constituents' pain, Karen fielded calls on her cell phone and gave advice and updates from her personal Facebook page. She effectively became the communications center and traffic officer.

Before joining the city council, Karen volunteered her time and energy on PTO Boards and in classrooms for 15 years. She was one of the individuals starting the Ingrid B. Lacy and Terra Nova Crab Feeds supporting the schools' PTOs and Booster clubs. From 2006 to 2010, she served on the Pacifica School District Governing Board, and for the last five years she served on the Board of Directors of Pacificans Care, a non-profit that is essential in supporting social services organizations in the community. Karen is a member of the American Association of University Women and the co-chair of Tech Trek in Pacifica which sends three third grade girls to Stanford to experience college life. Somehow she still manages to find enough time to continue her volunteer work with the Pacifica Beach Coalition. You can often find her cleaning up beaches, trails or creeks.

Karen's family moved to Pacifica in 1965. She grew up in the back of Linda Mar Valley and attended Oddstead Elementary School, Ortega Middle School and Terra Nova High School. She earned her BS in Microbiology and Genetic Engineering from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

She married another Pacifica native, Mike Ervin, and they raised two now-grown children, Zach and Aly. After retiring from the council, Karen is looking forward to spending more time with her family and friends, and running and hiking with her two dogs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House to join me in recognizing the contribu-

tions outgoing City Councilmember and former Mayor Karen Ervin has made to her beloved home town, Pacifica. The residents are very fortunate that she continually dedicated her passion and skills to improving the lives of all Pacificans.

HONORING DONALD J. HELLMANN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Donald "Don" J. Hellmann. Don is retiring from his position as the Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs in the National Park Service after 22 years of communicating the mission and goals of the National Park Service to Congress and working closely with our members and staff to advance the Service's legislative priorities. Don's vast knowledge of environmental law and policy, his expertise in drafting National Park Service legislation, and his exemplary dedication to public service will be greatly missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Don joined the National Park Service in 1994 as the Deputy Assistant Director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs. He led a staff of legislative specialists in developing National Park Service legislation, advised National Park Service leadership on pending legislation, and served as a liaison with members of Congress on legislation affecting the National Park Service. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Director in 2009 by Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

Over the course of his career, Don drafted hundreds of bills and amendments affecting national parks, national heritage areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails that were ultimately enacted by Congress. He was instrumental in crafting all the major park-related legislative packages of the last two decades, including the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333), the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-391), the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229), the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), and Title XXX of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (P.L. 113-291).

Don also played a key role in the reorganization and transfer of National Park System-wide laws from title 16 to title 54 of the United States Code, enacted in 2014 (P.L. 113-287) which has made the drafting of park-related legislation significantly more streamlined. Most recently, he was the principal author of the legislative proposal, the National Park Service Centennial Act, that President Obama sent to Congress in 2015. Legislation based on that proposal passed the House on December 6.

Prior to working for the National Park Service, Don was Vice President for Conservation at The Wilderness Society, where he directed the conservation advocacy program and coordinated the litigation agenda of the organization. Before assuming this position, Don served as Legislative Counsel for the society. Don joined The Wilderness Society's staff in 1988.