

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to act and pass much needed supplemental appropriations to help victims of the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented destruction to the Texas Gulf Coast, dropping a record 52 inches of rain and causing catastrophic flooding in Houston and all along the Gulf Coast.

Earlier this week, a report released by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Episcopal Health Foundation found that one in nine Texas Gulf Coast residents remain displaced, three months after Harvey's landfall. Four in ten Texas Gulf Coast residents report sustained damage to their homes and nearly half of affected Texas Gulf Coast residents said they are not receiving the help they need to recover from the hurricane.

To date the federal government has provided \$10 billion in aid to Harvey victims in Texas, mostly advance payments through the National Flood Insurance Program. However, far more federal aid is needed to rebuild Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Gulf Coast.

After Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi, and Hurricane Sandy impacted New York and New Jersey, Congress responded by passing substantial disaster supplemental bills. In 2013, Congress provided over \$50 billion for recovery and rebuilding efforts as a result of Sandy, and \$120 billion to rebuild New Orleans and surrounding areas.

I cannot and will not vote for a continuing resolution until House leadership puts disaster relief front and center and passes a substantial supplemental disaster bill that will help Texans fully recover from Harvey's destruction and prepare the Texas Gulf Coast before the next major storm strikes.

We cannot continue to kick-the-can down the road while thousands of families in Texas and other parts of our country continue to suffer, months after these terrible storms made landfall.

I urge my colleagues, regardless of state and party, to join me in standing up for disaster victims and calling on House leadership to pass a substantial emergency supplemental.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY KOWALSKI

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Staten Island's Mary Kowalski.

On December 18, 1917, Mary Kowalski was born to joyous parents, Thomas and Nellie. A lifelong resident of Elm Park, Staten Island, Mary grew up in a loving household with two brothers and three sisters. She attended Saint Adalbert School and Ralph R. McKee High School. Several years after graduation, she received a job at the Procter and Gamble factory in the Port Ivory neighborhood where she worked for 36 years until her retirement. Before and after retirement, however, Mary loved to travel the world by land, air, or sea. As a devout Catholic, one of her favorite vacations was her holiday to the Vatican, a visit that she treasures to this day.

Mary is also an avid television viewer. She loves watching Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, The Bachelor, The Bachelorette, and Dancing with the Stars. Moreover, she is a massive sports fan. She loves watching NFL games, as well as her beloved Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Even though she wishes they would play better, she still loves to watch the Mets too. I certainly hope that this birthday wish is granted when baseball season starts again next year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mary Kowalski a very happy 100th birthday. Her love for her friends, family, community, and church knows no bounds. I am immensely proud to have her as a constituent, and I hope that her 100th year is the best one yet.

RECOGNITION OF CAITRÍONA PERRY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Caitriona Perry has been the Washington Correspondent for RTÉ, Ireland's public broadcaster, since 2013. She will soon be leaving D.C. to take up a new role as co-anchor of Six-One, the main evening news in Ireland.

As the paragon of 21st century multi-media journalism, Caitriona has provided high quality coverage and commentary on the many facets of American life via television, radio, and online content. She has provided live updates to bulletins throughout the day and night from Washington and from major events throughout the United States and overseas, including the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake, the Oscars, and the Papal visit to Cuba.

Caitriona has been featured in, shot, edited, and produced everything from radio reports on

the political happenings of the day, through television packages on the 2016 election to full programs on the Irish in the White House, the Irish in Canada, and the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. She has reported on humanitarian and political stories from throughout Europe, from Australia, Canada and from the UK.

She grew up in Knocklyon, Dublin attending Sancta Maria College before receiving a First Class Honours degree in Journalism and a Masters in International Relations from Dublin City University. Prior to joining RTÉ, Caitriona has been with the Irish national radio stations, Today FM and Newstalk.

A proud Irishwoman, Caitriona has strongly contributed to Ireland's links with the United States. She has hosted, contributed to and compered various Irish-American events throughout the country on behalf of the Ireland Fund and the Irish Network amongst others. Caitriona also founded the DCU Alumni Chapter in Washington, D.C.

Most recently, she fulfilled a life-long ambition when she penned her first book, "In America: Tales from Trump Country", published by Gill. A bestseller, "In America" was nominated for an Irish Book Award in November 2017.

In acknowledgement of her many achievements Caitriona was named a DCU Distinguished Alumni in 2015. She has also won several awards for her journalism, including multiple National Justice Media Awards for her television work and a PPI National Radio Award for her radio news reporting.

During her time in the United States, Caitriona has done meaningful work to shed a spotlight on modern U.S.-Ireland relations. Through her work, she has highlighted important issues, and informed audiences in both America and Ireland. Caitriona will be greatly missed in Washington, D.C. I am grateful for her efforts and know that she will continue to make a meaningful impact in her new role.

HONORING USC PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JANICE TRAMEL

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to echo the praise heaped on my friend and mentor, Janice V. Tramel, over the past weekend at a surprise ceremony held by the University of Southern California (USC) honoring her 40 years of service to her patients, to nursing and to the profession of Physician Assistant (PA). She was instrumental in my own training as a Physician Assistant, first as a professor, then as a mentor, and eventually as a close friend.

A California native, Mrs. Tramel completed both a vocational nursing and registered nursing program prior to graduating from the USC Primary Care Physician Assistant Program in

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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.

1977 and joining the faculty two years later. Having learned under her, I later felt very proud to become her colleague on the PA faculty. As Director of Clinical Education from July 2013 through May 2017, she oversaw the clinical curriculum, clinical site development and student placements. She now holds PA-C Emeritus status.

Her passion as an educator has benefitted generations of students, not just locally but at the state and national levels.

She has served as a curriculum consultant, visiting lecturer, site visitor for the Accreditation Review Commission on Education of the Physician Assistant, and grant reviewer with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions. She was a gubernatorial appointee to the State of California Physician Assistant Committee, now known as the PA Board, from 1982 to 1992, serving as Committee Chair from 1987. But she has always returned to work with and for the underserved communities of Los Angeles.

Her specialties include family medicine, adolescent medicine, women's health, occupational health, as well as quality assurance and utilization review. Her research interests include evaluation of student performance, faculty development, learning styles, educational methodology and technology and standardized testing. In May 2012, she was inducted into the Pi Alpha National Honor Society for Physician Assistants. Not content to serve others in her professional life, she has been an active volunteer with disadvantaged young adults, community health and geriatric wellness programs.

I salute Janice Tramel for her lifelong commitment to serving and uplifting others, and for four decades of working to provide outstanding health care and train succeeding generations of care providers.

**HONORING ANTHONY P. RESCIGNO,
PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER
NEW HAVEN CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCER, ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Ms. DELAUBRO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to extend their congratulations to an outstanding member of our community, and my dear friend, Anthony P. Rescigno, as he marks his retirement as President of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. For nearly two decades, Tony has led the Chamber with a unique combination of dedication and innovation, ensuring it has been a strong voice on behalf of and invaluable resource for its members.

Tony's professional career has spanned both the private and public sectors. After graduating from the University of New Haven, he began a remarkable career at Plasticrete in Hamden, Connecticut which would eventually culminate in he and twelve other employees purchasing the company and later creating a subsidiary, Plasticrete Distributors where he served as President. Tony entered public life in 1989 when he was elected First Selectman

of North Haven, a position which he held for more than a decade. It was when he left public office that he took the reins at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce has strived to help businesses of all sizes and focus throughout the region to build on their success. Under Tony's direction, the Chamber sought to expand that mission through advocacy, education and networking. The Leadership Center, home to both Leadership Greater New Haven and Executive Orientation, offers aspiring community leaders and business executives a series of practical, hands-on training programs in professional development and education in social and economic issues. Understanding that attracting and retaining young, energetic professionals is vital to the growth and success of New Haven, PULSE is a group for local young professionals, ages 21–40, with a mission of connecting its members with each other and with the community through social and professional networking events, educational seminars and community service projects. The Chamber has also renewed its focus on advocating for its members with local, state, and national officials, as well as providing strategic business development planning and other resources.

For the last seventeen years, Tony's leadership has strengthened the Chamber's involvement in economic development across the region, encouraged the development of young professionals and entrepreneurs, and created invaluable partnership and networking opportunities for its members. While his daily presence will most certainly be missed, his vision and good work has left a legacy on which the Chamber can continue to build for many years to come.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend a personal note of thanks to Tony for his many years of friendship. Whether as President of the Chamber, First Selectman of North Haven, or business leader, Tony has always been a willing partner in helping to move our communities forward.

For his lifetime of invaluable contributions to Greater New Haven, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to Tony as he celebrates his retirement. I wish him and his wife, Lynne, all the best for many more years of health and happiness as they enjoy this next chapter of their lives.

**CONGRATULATING MAJOR JASON
LEE SCHENCK UPON HIS GRAD-
UATION AS AN AIR FORCE LEG-
ISLATIVE FELLOW**

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Major Jason Lee Schenck for his successful tenure as an Air Force Legislative Fellow in my office.

For the past year, Major Schenck has been a diligent, valued member of my staff. In my capacity as Chairwoman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have come to rely on his advice and counsel on issues affecting the military. Major Schenck's insight,

intellect and ability to clearly communicate complex issues were invaluable assets during his tenure on Capitol Hill.

While serving in my office, Major Schenck met and married Navy Commander Josephine C. Nguyen, MD, who was serving as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow to Congressman KEVIN BRADY (TX-08).

Prior to his time on Capitol Hill, Major Jason Lee Schenck served as the Commander, 48th Comptroller Squadron and the 48th Fighter Wing Staff Agencies, Royal Air Force Lakenheath in the United Kingdom. While stationed in the U.K., Major Schenck was responsible for managing a \$215 million annual budget, overseeing pay services for over 6,400 personnel, and providing full spectrum financial management services in support of United States Air Forces in Europe's largest fighter wing.

Major Schenck is from Phillipsburg, New Jersey and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1996. After earning a Bachelor of Science, Business & Management, cum laude, from the University of Maryland, he received his commission in 2004 through the Air Force Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Major Schenck's presence in my office will be missed by not only me, but by his coworkers as well. Please join me in thanking Major Schenck for his service, and in wishing him well in his new endeavor.

HONORING MR. RON PINCIARO

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LARSON, Congressman JOE COURTNEY, Congresswoman ROSA DELAUBRO, and Congressman JIM HIMES, rise today to honor Ron Pinciaro upon his retirement after serving as Executive Director of CT Against Gun Violence for 16 years. Ron's leadership has been instrumental in advancing common sense policies that save lives and have made Connecticut one of the leading states in the fight to stop the tragedy of gun violence.

During his years of leadership, Ron has been a tireless advocate for ensuring all people have the right to live free from violence. Thanks in no small part to his work, Connecticut is a leader in gun violence prevention policy, and our state is recognized as having the second strongest gun safety laws. In fact, gun deaths in Connecticut have declined by 28 percent since 2010, and leading academic researchers on violence have attributed Connecticut's decline in violence to smart policies. For instance, Ron's work with the Connecticut General Assembly helped ensure the passage of our state's prohibition on those under restraining orders for domestic violence from possessing firearms, reporting requirement for lost or stolen firearms, and long gun permit requirement. The organization has also ensured that policy discussions incorporate the problems faced by all Connecticut communities, rural, suburban, and urban, because all people have the right to live free from violence.

What's more, under Ron's leadership, CT Against Gun Violence has ensured gun violence prevention activists address gun suicides. Guns are used in nearly half of suicides