

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JONATHAN R. ELAM

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jonathan (Jon) Elam on the occasion of his retirement as General Manager of Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD) after twelve years of stellar service.

Starting in 2005, after a professional career in public works and city management, Mr. Elam was hired as General Manager of TCSD, where he served the residents of Tamalpais Valley and Marin County at large with distinction for a dozen years.

Under his leadership as General Manager, he reinvigorated the refuse collection program and created numerous new programs, including food waste collection and popular collection programs such as e-waste, batteries, printer ink cartridges, eyeglasses and medical disposal, as well as two paper shredding days per year for the TCSD service area. From upgrading park and recreation facilities, to installing new fire safe efforts, to working to ensure our agencies are compliant with EPA regulations, Mr. Elam established a productive track record for getting things done.

Mr. Elam's commitment to environmental stewardship has been a common thread throughout his work and volunteer service. Not only did Mr. Elam serve as the Delegate for the California Climate Registry to the United Nations climate meetings, but he also has participated in a variety of local organizations, including the Carbon Cycle Institute, the San Anselmo Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Marin County Solid Waste JPA Advisory Council. He also served in a number of volunteer roles in the community including his recent role as the president of the Marin Conservation League.

Mr. Elam's professional and civic contributions leave a lasting and positive legacy that will continue to benefit the local residents and regions for years to come. He is a true environmentalist, and I'm sure he will continue to fight the good fight in retirement.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Elam on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his long and exceptional career and outstanding civic engagement.

HONORING FRANK LUCIA'S 107TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to Frank Lucia, a treasured member of our North Jersey community. Frank recently celebrated his 107th birthday, a tremendous milestone in a

very special life. Frank is an outstanding father and a true blessing to our Demarest community. I am sure he and his family had a wonderful time celebrating, dancing, and singing in Italian. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank and wishing him many more years of good health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF MR. GARY SCHNEIDERS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable teacher and citizen from Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Gary Schneiders has taught History, Social Studies, and Economics at Waterloo Columbus Catholic High School for 39 years. Over those 39 years, Mr. Schneiders has made an enormous impact on the lives of his students and members of the community.

Mr. Schneiders's devotion goes beyond the classroom with his annual trip to the hallowed ground of Europe's battlefields. This trip is no European vacation. Students walk the trenches of the Western Front, and explore battlefields with a twelve mile hike one day and twenty mile bike-ride another day. Prior to their departure, students are given reading assignments and must complete a 20 page essay. While in Europe, the students have nightly homework assignments. This annual trip is highly anticipated and one that many Waterloo Columbus students work toward their entire high school career.

The itinerary also includes visits to several American cemeteries and memorials honoring our fallen heroes, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. On the final day, the students visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where they clean the grave markers, plant an American Flag, and lay a rose on the grave of every Iowan. At the end of the day, students lay their final wreath of the trip at Normandy as Taps sounds in the background.

Upon their return to Iowa, the students give presentations to their families, fellow students, and residents of Waterloo and Cedar Falls; with a special invitation extended to the local Veteran community.

Over the past 39 years, Mr. Schneiders has shown his students what cannot be taught in a classroom—the meaning of sacrifice and love of country. Today, we honor his devotion that extends far beyond the classroom and helps to ensure the preservation of American values for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHEILA STEPHENS' RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheila Stephens, who is retiring from public service after 44 years with the City of Keller. Ms. Stephens started working for the city in 1972 as an assistant to the Water Department Manager. At that time, there were only 1,500 residents and 25 people employed by the city. She was appointed by the city council to be city secretary in 1977. During her 39 years in the position, Ms. Stephens demonstrated a level of professionalism and expertise in municipal government that she has exhibited with colleagues in the City of Keller as well as in other municipalities.

During her tenure, the City of Keller's population has grown to over 44,000 people and city staff has expanded to 300 people to serve the needs of the community. In her almost four decades with the city, Ms. Stephens supervised 76 elections, recorded countless meetings, documented 2,900 deaths and 100 births in addition to fulfilling 2,960 open records requests. She has faithfully served under 12 mayors and 12 city managers providing needed continuity and depth. Current Keller Mayor Mark Matthews declared December 30, 2016 as "Sheila Stephens Day" to thank Sheila for the hard work and time she dedicated to her community.

I would like to express my appreciation for the 44 years of exemplary service Sheila Stephens gave to our community and extend best wishes upon her retirement. It is my privilege to represent the residents of Keller in the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. LEE WON SANG

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Reverend Lee Won Sang, a Pastor Emeritus of the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Virginia's 10th District. Throughout his life, Rev. Lee was a respected leader in the community, served with admirer purpose, and placed a strong importance on education.

Rev. Lee was born in Manchuria, China in 1937. He began his higher education and path to service by earning a bachelor's degree in Theology from Keimyung University and a master's degree in Theology from Kyungbuk University. In the early 1970s, he moved to the United States to further his education, where he attended the Dallas Theological Seminary to study the Old Testament. After

• 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.

graduating from that program, he started working for the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, but also was pursuing a Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. After retiring, he went on to receive a Ph.D. from the University of Wales in the U.K. at the age of 72, a true testament to the importance Rev. Lee placed on continuous education and growth.

Outside of his education, Rev. Lee is known for his 23 years of work and leadership at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville, Virginia where I have frequently visited. The congregation has grown to almost 9,000 members at its main location, many of whom are my 10th District constituents. In addition to his work at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Rev. Lee took on many other projects to advance the church globally and help within his community. He founded the Central Missionary Fellowship (CMF) in 1988, which later evolved into SEED International, an organization which helped establish 12 overseas missionary groups. SEED International was the first Korean Missionary organization to become a member of the Mission NEXUS organization. Additionally, Rev. Lee founded Prassion, which is a SEED International affiliate and independent mission organization focused on prayer movement nationally and internationally.

In Washington, D.C., Rev. Lee helped establish the Washington Youth Foundation and even was afforded the opportunity to lead the opening prayer for the 107th U.S. Congress on October 10, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Rev. Lee's years of community service. Today, we honor and celebrate the contributions the Reverend has made not just within the 10th District, but on a global level.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
WONDERFUL COMPANY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and am joined by Mr. MCCARTHY and Mr. COSTA of California, to commend The Wonderful Company for receiving the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's 2016 Corporate Citizenship Award for Best Community Improvement Program.

The Best Community Improvement Program Award honors businesses for the many ways they influence and enhance local communities. Companies from around the world compete for this award, making it an extraordinary acknowledgment of outstanding corporate social responsibility. The Wonderful Company was presented with the esteemed 2016 U.S. Chamber Foundation Corporate Citizenship Award for Best Community Improvement Program.

Since 1979, The Wonderful Company has quickly grown and become known worldwide for its almonds, bottled water, citrus fruits, flower bouquets, pistachios, pomegranates, and wines. However, its legacy does not stop there. Investing nearly \$200 million in education, environmental technologies and sustainability research, and health and wellness

programs, The Wonderful Company has an extensive history of philanthropy and community involvement.

The Seventeenth Annual Chamber of Commerce Corporate Citizenship Awards recognized The Wonderful Company for its work in Lost Hills, California, home of the company's largest pistachio plant, which serves as the economic backbone of the local community. In fact, more than fifty percent of households in Lost Hills have family members who work at the Wonderful Pistachio plant. Always committed to the wellbeing of the local community, The Wonderful Company has made significant investments in Lost Hills, investing more than \$15 million in transportation and infrastructure projects, such as roads and sidewalks, bus shelters, storm drains, and streetlights. It has also rejuvenated the community park with two community centers, two soccer fields, volleyball and basketball courts, playgrounds, and a broad range of community activities and events. The Wonderful Company has also helped build affordable housing, assisted with financing and construction of the town's first sit-down restaurant, and recently received approval from the Kern County Board of Education to open a charter school in the community next fall.

This prestigious honor recognizes the hard work and significant investment made by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and Lynda Resnick, owners of The Wonderful Company. They have dedicated their lives not only to growing a successful and sustainable business, but to improving the lives of so many across the globe, especially those in the communities The Wonderful Company calls home.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join us in congratulating The Wonderful Company for receiving the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's 2016 Corporate Citizenship Award for Best Community Improvement Program. The Wonderful Company's altruistic leadership provides an exceptional example of corporate responsibility and we look forward to their future initiatives that continue to make the world a better place, one community at a time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER
VINCENT BELEZZUOLI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. VALADAO, to honor the life and achievements of Peter Vincent Belezouli. Peter passed away on December 15 at the age of 61. He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, auctioneer, dairyman, and friend to all who knew him.

Peter was born on August 22, 1955 in Tulare, California to Pete and Louise Belezouli. In 1959, the Belezoulis moved to Hanford, California after his father purchased Overland Stockyard. From a young age, Peter worked with his father to learn all aspects of the cattle business. He graduated from Hanford High School in 1973. During his years at Hanford High he was a member of 4-H and FFA, in addition to playing on the basketball

team. It was his father's business partner Hoke Evetts that taught him the art of auctioneering. Following high school, Peter attended College of the Sequoias and graduated from Missouri Auction School as a Colonel in 1974.

Peter took over his father's role at Overland Stockyard following Pete's sudden death in 1983. Peter continued his father's legacy through the passion he put into his work each and every day. Peter became very well known in the dairy cattle, and beef cattle sales industry both locally and throughout the country. He was an innovative businessman, utilizing internet video auction capabilities, allowing buyers from all over the country to participate in auctions held in Hanford.

Peter had a number of hobbies that brought him joy. In his spare time he enjoyed visiting his home in Shell Beach, riding his pontoon boat through Shaver Lake and barbecuing for his many family and friends.

Peter enjoyed giving back to the community he loved so dearly. He frequently used his talents as a skilled auctioneer for local charity groups, including the Kings County Fair and the Fresno Fair. He was also a lifelong member of St. Brigid Catholic Church in Hanford.

Peter is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lisa and their children Julie, Daniel and Douglas, their spouses and three grandsons, Bryson, Korban and Peter.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in honoring the life of Mr. Peter Belezouli. He will be remembered as a man of great character, who valued his family above all else. His presence in the San Joaquin Valley and in the local dairy community will truly be missed. We join his family in honoring his life, service to his community and tremendous legacy he leaves behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VINEYARD AND WINERY AT LOST CREEK

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commend my constituents, Todd and Aimee Henkle, on their victory in the 2017 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. This win not only speaks to the hard work, entrepreneurship and expertise of Todd and Aimee Henkle, but also the growing and transforming Virginia wine industry.

In 1998 the two visited Bordeaux, France for their honeymoon, where they decided that one day they wanted to own their very own winery and vineyard. In 2007, corporate jobs brought them to northern Virginia, and they quickly became very impressed with what DC's Wine County had to offer. In 2012, they had an opportunity to buy a plot of land in Leesburg, between Route 15 and the Potomac River, from an old vineyard owner, and with Todd's business background and Aimee's passion for wine, The Vineyard and Winery at Lost Creek was born.

Since opening five years ago, their hard work has certainly come to fruition. They have been recognized nationally and most recently