

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELLE GROVE PLANTATION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Belle Grove Plantation, a museum of an extraordinary historic house located near Middletown, in the part of the 10th Congressional District of Virginia that includes the northern Shenandoah Valley.

The remarkable history of this home begins in 1732, with the settlement of the family of Jost Hite, one of 16 German immigrant families, on land they obtained in two land grants. Jost Hite's grandson, Isaac Hite, Jr., served as Lieutenant with the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1783, he married Nelly Conway Madison, sister of a future President of the United States, and received 483 acres from his father, on which they built the Belle Grove Manor House from limestone quarried on the property. Isaac Hite, Jr. was eventually commissioned as Major in the Frederick County Militia by Governor Patrick Henry in 1785. Major Hite was evidently a highly successful farmer and entrepreneur who expanded the grain and livestock plantation to 7,500 acres and also successfully operated a general store, a grist-mill, a saw-mill and a large distillery. However, it is also self-evident that, without the labors of the many slaves who lived on the plantation, Major Hite would not have had this success. Family records compiled by the staff of Belle Grove Plantation indicate that the Hite family owned 276 slaves who worked in a variety of capacities at Belle Grove between 1783 and 1851.

Shortly before the Civil War, Belle Grove was sold to a person outside of the family and during the war, it was seldom without a military tenant and its grounds were hardly ever without an army. Belle Grove was most notably used as a headquarters by Union General Phillip Sheridan during the Civil War Valley Campaign of 1864 and it was centrally located during the pivotal Battle of Cedar Creek. After a successful surprise attack by Confederate General Jubal Early during the early morning hours of October 19, 1864, General Sheridan regained the territory later in the day, thus securing the strategically critical Shenandoah Valley for the Union and significantly boosting President Abraham Lincoln's chances of being reelected.

I am honored to represent a Congressional District with historical places such as Belle Grove Plantation that are essential to the telling of the story of our nation. Fifty years ago, on August 13, 1967, Belle Grove was dedicated as a museum and today, it is a National Historic Landmark, a Virginia Historic Landmark, and a historic property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is also the most significant structure in the Cedar Creek

and Belle Grove National Historic Park, a partnership park comprised of private landowners, county governments and nonprofit organizations that was established by Congress under the leadership of my predecessor, Congressman Frank Wolf, and authorized by the National Park Service on December 19, 2002. Through the many interpretive programs it offers, Belle Grove Plantation serves the people of the Commonwealth and our nation as an educational center that helps Americans of all ages establish a stronger sense of our own identity through a better understanding of our past. The entire operation of the museum is funded by private contributions since it receives no government funding and is not a recipient of a regularly scheduled contribution from the National Trust. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking Belle Grove Plantation Executive Director Kristen Laise and her staff and volunteers, as well as the members of its Board of Directors, for their extraordinary purposefulness, ingenuity and resourcefulness in preserving Belle Grove Plantation as a special place to learn about the history, culture and economy of the northern Shenandoah Valley during the 18th and 19th Centuries.

NATIONAL GRANGE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say congratulations to the National Grange on 150 years of service to rural America, and to thank Susan Noah, President of the Oregon State Grange, and her husband, Mark, for their continued leadership in my home state.

In Oregon, we understand how important it is to support our rural communities. The National Grange has been a steadfast partner in this effort. With over 167 Granges and 5,000 fraternal members in Oregon—and several thousand affiliate members—the National Grange is a strong advocate for rural communities in our great state of Oregon and across the country.

The Grange has been essential in the development of rural America during three centuries: during the 19th Century, they advocated for legislative protection for farmers through the Granger Laws; in the 20th Century, they promoted research and education to improve agriculture through the Cooperative Extension Service and Land Grant Colleges while working to expand mail delivery and electricity to rural areas; and in the 21st Century, they have encouraged the expansion of broadband internet service.

The Grange has provided a megaphone for the voice of rural communities throughout the country. The effort of this organization to bring people from across the country and across the political spectrum together in support of rural America is truly inspiring.

Being a champion for rural America is an endeavor that transcends party lines and benefits all Americans, not just those living in rural communities. The Grange has led the effort in this, with an emphasis on service to the local community and volunteerism to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of rural America.

On behalf of rural communities in Oregon and across the country, and the entire United States Congress, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Grange on 150 years of unwavering service to rural America.

IN HONOR OF FIRST NIGHT WINCHESTER

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize First Night Winchester which, for 31 years, has provided the residents of the Northern Shenandoah Valley a wonderful way to celebrate New Year's Eve. In 1986, Winchester community leader Kathy Nerangis asked other leaders to join her in creating a family-friendly, non-alcoholic event, where people could congregate to enjoy live performing arts and each other's company, as an alternative way of welcoming in the New Year.

First Night Winchester held its inaugural event on December 31, 1987 in Old Town Winchester, attracting 1,800 people. Since then, it has become a time-honored tradition for many individuals and families to make their way down to the center of town to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and good tidings of those who congregate for the special occasion. After three decades, those who, as children, enjoyed First Night Winchester with their families, are now bringing their own children to celebrate and the number of participants has, on occasion, reached 10,000.

Throughout the day, rides are offered on the Shenandoah Valley Gas and Steam Engines, the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum is open for visits, face painting is offered at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and a live performance of ice sculpting is taking place on the Old Town Walking Mall for everyone's enjoyment. Throughout the evening, the many downtown Winchester churches and the Handley Public Library house a diverse assortment of performers, including jugglers, gospel singers, comedians, classical pianists and neo-classical guitarists, magicians and blue grass and Delta blues musicians. The evening ends with the ushering in of the New Year as all gather to join in the countdown of the official "Apple Drop" and enjoy the spectacular fireworks that follow.

Despite the enrichment to the quality of life that the more than 200 First Night events provided in the past, First Night Winchester is one of only 36 cities that continue this tradition, making it the 5th oldest in the nation. Mr.

• 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.

Speaker, I ask you to join our colleagues and me, in honoring and thanking the visionary leaders of First Night Winchester, whose steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life of their northern Shenandoah Valley community has resulted in three decades of one of the best First Night experiences in the nation and in wishing the wonderful board of directors, staff and volunteers of the event, many more years of success in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT STRUCTURE FOR THE MASON AND PARTNERS HEALTH CARE CLINIC

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the award-winning Mason and Partners (MAP) health care clinic and to congratulate George Mason University School of Nursing and its partners on the establishment of a permanent MAP Clinic in Manassas Park, Virginia. The clinic provides residents of medically underserved areas with a variety of health care services, including physicals, screenings, health care counseling and acute primary care treatment while, at the same time, offering George Mason University nursing students and those in related studies the invaluable practical experience of treating and counseling patients who utilize the clinic.

George Mason launched its first MAP clinic in 2013, originally offering its services at the Manassas Park Community Center. Since then, the operation has expanded to three Northern Virginia sites while also broadening the services it provides. The clinic strives to serve as a bridge for patients with no access to healthcare until they are able to arrange for more formal healthcare coverage for themselves.

The MAP clinic program has greatly benefited a significant variety of George Mason students. By offering an active learning lab, nursing and health and human services students are able to receive real-life experience working on interprofessional teams, a learning opportunity that is not available to many students across the nation. These clinical opportunities have been so well-received that the federal government's Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) has made two awards totaling \$2 million to support the education of George Mason University School of Nursing students in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in celebrating with you and our colleagues the establishment of the first permanent structure of the MAP clinic in Manassas Park, Virginia. In addition, I ask that you join me in congratulating the George Mason University School of Nursing and its partners, Dr. Allison Ansher of the Prince William Health District, the Parks and Recreation and Education Departments of the City of Manassas Park, the city's Community Development Office and interim director Calvin O'Dell, the Potomac Health Foundation and the students and faculty of George Mason's College of Health and Human Services, for the extraordinary success of this visionary, nurse-led program and in wishing them all the best in their future collaborative endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SHERANDO HIGH SCHOOL AND 25 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Frederick County's Sherando High School, an excellent high school in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, while the school community is celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

The school slogan, "where one person can make a difference," summarizes the caring, respectful culture that has been created at Sherando High School during those 25 years. Central to this special culture are the guiding words of the Mission for the staff, wherein they accept responsibility for providing "a safe and supportive environment that encourages intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth" and "a positive educational atmosphere which will encourage students to maximize their learning opportunities." The Sherando community is proud of the fact that the entire community supports students with learning differences and that these students are encouraged to be an important part of the school and to benefit from the daily educational and social activities of the school. This caring attitude also extends to other students, including those struggling with severe depression. Hundreds of members of the Sherando community have participated in Out of the Darkness walks, raising funds for suicide prevention programs.

Another important aspect of Sherando High School's culture is summed up in the third sentence of the staff mission statement: "We will promote the active participation of parents and the community in the educational process." This welcoming attitude of the school has provided the community the opportunity to cheer on Sherando students in a variety of pursuits, including dramatic productions, D.E.C.A and FFA activities, choir concerts, The Widget Cup, a design/build interscholastic competition that shows off the talents of Career and Technical Education students, and the marching band, which recently took first place in General Effect, Drum Major, and Color Guard disciplines at the CD Hylton High School Regional Marching Band Competition in Woodbridge, Virginia.

The motto of the school, "Once a warrior, always a warrior" certainly rings true in the area of athletics, where community residents and alumni get caught up with Sherando football and other athletics, and even travel long distances to see their athletes compete at regionals and at state championships. And at the very event that took place on October 7, 2017, several athletes from the past were recognized as the first inductees into the Sherando Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Tyler Gaines, Kelley Washington, Emily Budnyk-Putt, Robyn Ritter-Browne, Zach Franz, Pepper Martin, and Jason Barbe for this special recognition.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in congratulating Principal John Nelson, his dedicated faculty and staff and the entire Sherando High School community, on 25 years of extraordinary success and in wishing them a continuation of this success in the years to come.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN VIRGINIA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement personnel who have recently been honored by the 12th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner that took place in Clarke County, for their invaluable service and commitment to our communities. Therefore I include in the RECORD the following excerpts from a speech delivered by Mr. Jim Wink, the founder of the Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association, which sponsored the dinner.

NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION CENTER

OFFICER BENJAMIN MACE

Officer Mace was selected to be recognized for his exceptional performance of duty last February. Officer Mace observed an inmate not acting in a normal fashion and after further observation he noticed the inmate had a bedsheet tied around his neck and an additional knot and loop tied around his feet in order to pull the device tighter. After notifying Officer Keister of the situation, officer Mace entered the inmate's cell and used his 911 knife to cut the sheet from the inmate's neck. Officer Mace's response to this critical situation was highly professional and reflects great credit upon them, the Regional Detention Center and our profession.

Officer Mace, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

BERRYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICER JOSEPH SHOREMOUNT

Officer Shoremount has been a member of the Berryville Police Department since 2015 and has quickly become a familiar face with many members of the community, especially the downtown business owners. Joe makes it a point to take the time to contact the community in a meaningful way, and has even been known to keep a football in his trunk for an occasional pickup game of football in Rose Hill Park.

Joe has been instrumental in orchestrating several community engagement events to include national night out activities, wellness and safety fairs at the Mary Hardesty House, and holiday toy collections for under-served children in the area. For Joe, being a police officer in a small town involves much more than taking reports and writing tickets. He strives to look for ways to be proactive in dealing with community concerns while representing the department in a professional and empathetic manner.

Officer Shoremount, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

CLARKE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

The Clarke County Sheriffs Office has nominated several employees that support their officers and security efforts. The first is Mr. Robert Wilkerson. Robert is a communications specialist. He has been employed at this office since 2001. During his tenure, he has been called on numerous occasions to fill in, work over his assigned shifts, and report for work on short notice. Bob has demonstrated the ability to work under extreme stress. His professionalism is appreciated by all. He mentors less experienced staff and is always approachable. We truly appreciate Bob for his numerous accomplishments and his loyalty. Mr. Wilkerson, thank you for your outstanding support to those who protect us.