

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN FLEMING AND FAMILY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John Fleming, his wife Suzanne, and children John and Andrew, who all tragically died in a plane crash over Lake Erie last December.

John was born December 30, 1970 in Youngstown, Ohio. His wife Suzanne was born September 22, 1970 in Youngstown as well. Both John and Suzanne were 1989 graduates of Boardman High School and high school sweethearts. John graduated magna cum laude from Wake Forest University in 1993 as a CPA and member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. Suzanne graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in social work. They were seventeen year residents of Columbus.

John worked for almost 30 years for the Superior Beverage Group in Columbus and the beverage distribution industry. He was incredibly successful, rising to President and Chief Executive Officer. In addition to his influential leadership in his career, he was a leader in his community. He actively volunteered at nearby charities, and was a yearly supporter of the Dublin Irish Festival. Above all, he was known for being a family man.

His wife Suzanne was a devoted mother and passionate supporter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the leading funder of type 1 diabetes research. Their oldest son John was a sophomore at Oletangy Liberty High School where he excelled academically and was an Ohio sports enthusiast. His younger brother Andrew attended the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus. Like his brother, he too was an avid supporter of sports, and he also participated in Special Olympics. This family will be greatly missed by their family, friends, colleagues, and their community.

I extend my condolences to their family and friends. These wonderful people will be dearly missed.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE "JAY" SMYTH, III

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Mr. Justice "Jay" Smyth, III, who passed away on February 10, 2017 at the age of 62. Jay was a loving father, son, brother, uncle, and husband. To me, he was a dear classmate, colleague, and friend for more than forty years.

Jay attended both undergraduate and law school at the University of Alabama, where he

was involved in the Student Government Association and Theta Chi Fraternity. During his time in school, he was inducted into numerous honor societies such as JASONS Senior Men's Honorary and Delta Theta Phi Legal Honorary.

After graduating from law school in 1980, Jay practiced law in Montgomery, Alabama for nineteen years before moving to Tuscaloosa. Jay was a skilled and thoughtful lawyer who earned tremendous respect from his colleagues. As a true testament to his personality and legal knowledge, Jay was also beloved by his clients; an anomaly for most in the legal community.

Jay was a skilled writer who excelled at telling stories and always took great interest in politics and history. He loved spending time outdoors and grilling out at home. He was a dedicated fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide and greatly enjoyed attending games with his family. Jay was delighted in spending time with his wife and children, whom he loved dearly. Most importantly, he was steadfast in his faith to God and served as a pillar of Christ in his family and his community.

So, to his wife, Rushan, and sons, Justice and Jeff, I want to extend my deepest sympathies. May you take comfort in the warm memories of Jay and the lasting impact he had on so many.

TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Burbank Unified School District as it celebrates its Ninetieth Anniversary.

In 1927, the Burbank Union High School District (BUSD) and the Elementary City School District unified to become the Burbank City School District, which served approximately 1,000 students. The name later changed to Burbank Unified School District to reflect state educational standards.

Today, BUSD's total enrollment is approximately 15,000 students, who attend grades K–12 at three high schools, three middle schools, and eleven elementary schools. The District also has an Alternative Education Program, an Adult Education Program which serves more than 5,000 students, and numerous district child care centers serving preschool or school age children.

The Burbank Unified School District's mission statement reflects its purpose by building partnerships with parents, families, students, and the community and promises the effective use of all available resources to create, provide, and support quality instructional programs, services, and environments. The District strives to ensure that every student develops the skills, knowledge, attitude, and behavior

in order to be a responsible, productive citizen and lifelong learner in a diverse and changing global society.

BUSD is proud to have had seven of its elementary schools named as 2016 Gold Ribbon recipients as well as all three of its middle schools and its comprehensive high schools recognized as California Distinguished Schools. Five elementary schools have earned the distinction of being named 2016 Academic Achievement Award winning schools and four are designated as having Exemplary Arts programs. In addition, the District's continuation high school, Monterey High, has been selected as a state model school, and the Burbank Adult School has been honored as a Program of Excellence by the State of California.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Burbank Unified School District upon the celebration of its Ninetieth Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the past and current School Board Members, Superintendents, Teachers, Administrators and Support Staff of Burbank Unified School District for the outstanding educational opportunities they have provided for the youth of California's 28th Congressional District.

WESTERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY UNITY

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate people in my district coming together to take a stand against bigotry, racism, and acts of hate. On March 7, 2017, members of the Muslim Public Affairs Council met with members of the Jewish community at the Jewish Community Center in Getzville, NY. Both groups sat down together to take a stand against recent threats towards the Jewish community in Western New York.

This act of solidarity is an example of a community coming together despite their different backgrounds and beliefs. This type of collaboration in the face of hate is a model for the rest of the country.

During my recent meeting with the Muslim Public Affairs Council, we discussed the importance of uniting behind our shared American values, such as inclusivity and tolerance. The recent demonstration of unity by members of the Jewish community and the Muslim community demonstrates that despite any differences, we are all Americans and must join together in condemning hateful acts in our community.

For their demonstrated leadership, I commemorate the groups and individuals working to bring unity to Western New York.

• 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.

THE PASSING OF VALERIY
"LARRY" SAVINKIN

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today in recognition of the untimely passing of Valeriy "Larry" Savinkin, a dedicated and well-respected community leader and my congressional field representative who served the residents of the 8th Congressional District of New York with distinction.

Larry Savinkin was born on October 25, 1955, to Igor and Ada Savinkin. He was brother to Viola, husband to Valentina, father to Galina and Vladimir, father-in-law to Vadim and grandfather to Victor.

Before migrating to Brooklyn with his family from Odessa, Ukraine in 1996, Larry was a hardworking business owner where he operated a door-making company and a chain of merchant stores. Larry's commitment, core values and work ethic allowed him to excel in various positions. He was previously employed as a computer programmer, worked for the United States Census Bureau and served as a Community Liaison for former Congressman Bob Turner. More recently, he was a project manager at the Jewish Association for Serving the Aging (JASA), a local community-based organization that serves older adults of all races, religions and economic backgrounds across New York City.

Larry's success and impact in the neighborhoods of Southern Brooklyn and Queens was not limited to his work with my congressional office. For over 20 years, he was involved in several prominent organizations including the September 11 Family Group, the Brighton Beach Business Improvement District, The Holocaust Memorial Committee, Odessa Community of New York, and Brooklyn's Community Planning Board 13. Larry had a magnetic personality and cared about his community immensely, approached his work with urgency, compassion and had a great sense of humor.

I had the privilege of knowing Larry and working with him throughout the years. I recognize that his integrity was above reproach and his competence was extraordinary. I thank his family and friends for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in extending gratitude for Larry Savinkin's public service and his commitment to the people of Brooklyn, he is worthy of the highest praise.

DAY WITHOUT A WOMAN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, across the nation, from every major city to every small town, women are standing in solidarity, and reminding the world of our contributions. On this Day Without A Woman, women are sending a powerful message about the role we play in local communities, in our nation and throughout the globe.

Yet, sadly, on this very same day that women are standing up to end gender dis-

crimination and economic injustice, defend our bodies from governmental intrusion and to choose our own destiny, Republicans are proceeding with legislation to roll back the clock. Congressional Committees are starting to consider legislation eviscerating the Affordable Care Act. Not only would the Republican plan slash Medicaid, harming working women and children, but it defends Planned Parenthood, ultimately depriving millions of women of life-saving health services.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad irony on this Day Without A Woman, when millions of ordinary Americans are standing for women's rights and a more just economy, Congressional Republicans are rushing to deprive millions of women and their families of health services they need to survive. This bill was composed behind closed doors, in secret, and now Republicans are rushing it through the Committee process to avoid scrutiny.

On this Day Without A Woman, we are sending a powerful message. I can only hope my Republican colleagues in Congress are listening. Because, today, women everywhere are saying with one collective voice, we will not be silenced.

HONORING CHIEF ALAN BRAGG: 45
YEARS IN EDUCATIONAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Chief Alan Bragg, who is retiring after serving a distinguished 45 years in educational law enforcement. He is a lifetime member of what I referred to as the Poe-leece. It is an informal organization made up of long-time friends in Texas' law enforcement community. It is an honor to pay tribute to Chief Bragg as he retires on June 30, 2017 as Chief of Police at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Police Department.

Alan Bragg was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was destined to become a Texas Lawman. He attended Midwestern State University and worked for the university's police department at the beginning of his career. In 1981, Chief Bragg moved to Houston to take a position with the Houston Independent School District Police Department.

He gained nine years' experience with Houston ISD, all the while his pursuit to build safer schools grew. This passion led him to accept a job, in 1990, as Spring Independent School District's first ever Chief of Police. He was tasked to create a new police department from scratch. He started his force with 8 officers and it has grown to over 50 sworn officers. He was responsible for nearly 37,000 students, 5,000 employees and 38 campuses. His 21 year leadership and legacy at Spring ISD will not be forgotten.

Chief Bragg obtained additional police training along the way. He is a graduate of the FBI's National Academy 201 class and holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate. Throughout the years, he has assisted and been recognized by numerous boards and organizations. He is a member and past president of the Houston Area Police Chiefs Association, North Harris County Criminal Justice Association,

and he also served on the board of the Texas Association of School District Police.

For over 20 years, he has coordinated the annual "Salute to Law Enforcement" event, an event that was always held close to National Police Week. It allowed folks to meet local law enforcement officers from different agencies, see the resources used to protect them, and provide an overall positive experience between our law enforcement officers and citizens.

Chief Bragg is a dedicated family man, having been married to his wife Judy for 26 years. He met Judy after the 1979 Terrible Tuesday Tornado that hit Wichita Falls. They were both temporarily homeless, and met at church. They are the proud parents of two children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His retirement will provide time for them to serve in their church, travel on mission trips, and spend time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During those years with Spring, Chief Bragg distinguished himself as an educational law enforcement leader. He possesses a wealth of knowledge, and the entire law enforcement community views him with esteem and respect. His department served as a model for other school district police departments to follow.

Not surprisingly, Chief Bragg's impressive leadership and integrity led him to his last career move. In 2012, he accepted the new start up position as Chief of Police for Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. Again, he created another exemplary police force from scratch. For 45 years, he has put on the badge and a gun to protect and serve the folks and communities he loves.

Chief Bragg has been one of the most prominent and important lawman in the 2nd Congressional District, a true Texas hero. He is a remarkable Texan who has achieved extraordinary things in his law enforcement career and for his community. I extend to him my congratulations on his retirement, and commend him for a job well done. I wish him the best of luck in the future as he enters into this new phase of life.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, I missed votes due to unavoidable flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call votes no. 127 and 128.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2017, I missed the vote for H.R. 1362.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 127.