

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL J. KEENAN

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2017

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael J. Keenan, who is retiring having served the interests of Arizona's working men and women with distinction since the mid-1970s.

Upon graduating from the University of Arizona, Mike attended Georgetown Law School. Not forgetting his working class roots or union family heritage, Mike returned to Arizona to join the union-side law firm then known as Ward and Contreras. Through the years, Mike provided wise counsel to Arizona unions, enabling them to defend the rights of the Arizona workers to fair wages and safe working conditions. He also has represented well various trust funds which provide health insurance and retirement benefits for Arizona union members.

By advancing the interests and protecting the dignity of Arizona union members—often during challenging times—Mike earned a reputation as not only a zealous and highly effective advocate, but also as a highly ethical lawyer. Through his hard work and dedication, Mike immeasurably improved the lives of Arizona working men and women.

It is now time for Mike to enjoy a long retirement with his wife, Becky, his sons Jimmy and Joey, his daughter Katie and his granddaughter Avery. On behalf of our great state's workers, I thank him and wish him all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLACK JANUARY"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 27th anniversary of "Black January" in Azerbaijan, a day that commemorates Azerbaijan's stand against Soviet soldiers for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity over all lands under Azerbaijani jurisdiction, and freedom from communism and dictatorship.

On the evening of January 19, 1990, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium backed by then-President Mikhail Gorbachev declared a state of emergency in response to the growing national independence movement in Azerbaijan. In response to the Azeri people's stand against Soviet aggression, Soviet troops stormed the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku and indiscriminately fired on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. That night, more than 130 people died with over 700 injured, 841 arrested and five going missing.

While Soviet invaders attacked peaceful protestors, they also targeted critical infra-

structure and workers. According to a report by Human Rights Watch entitled Black January in Azerbaijan, "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals." Additionally, the Soviet attack served as an act of intimidation for all then-Soviet countries with independence ambitions. The Human Rights Watch report concluded that, "indeed the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 constitutes an exercise in collective punishment. The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union."

Azerbaijani citizens, however, refused to succumb to Soviet aggression. Instead, the invasion gave new life to their nationalism and fight for true independence. In the days after the invasion, thousands of Azerbaijanis surrounded Communist Party headquarters demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership, the Baku City Council demanded that Soviet troops withdraw from Azeri territories and the legislature in Azerbaijan threatened to call a referendum on secession unless Soviet troops were withdrawn within 48 hours.

Soviet troops eventually withdrew and January 20th became known as "the Day of the Nationwide Sorrow." It would not be for nearly two years, however, before Azerbaijan gained political control from the Soviet Union. In October 1991, Azerbaijan's parliament—the National Assembly—declared its independence.

While Azerbaijan still faces challenges from its neighbors, today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double-digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, and free market reforms led by the energy sector that helps support energy security in Israel and Europe. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tragic events of Black January that precipitated the independent Republic of Azerbaijan and the fall of the USSR.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2017

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on January 13, 2017 regarding S. Con. Res. 3 and S. 84. I had intended to vote "yes" on Roll Call vote 57, "no" on vote 58, and "no" on vote 59.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2017

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House owing to the birth of my

son and missed roll call votes on Wednesday, January 4th and Thursday, January 5th. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 7—Motion to Recommit: Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 8—Final Passage: Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017—NO

Roll Call Vote No. 9—Ordering the Previous Question—NO

Roll Call Vote No. 10—H. Res. 22, rule providing for consideration of HR 26 and H. Res. 11—NO

Roll Call Vote No. 11—Final Passage: Objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 12—Messer of Indiana Amendment No. 2—NO

Roll Call Vote No. 13—Grijalva of Arizona Amendment No. 3—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 14—Castor of Florida Amendment No. 4—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 15—Cicilline of Rhode Island Amendment No. 5—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 16—Conyers of Michigan Amendment No. 6—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 17—Johnson of Georgia Amendment No. 7—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 18—Nadler of New York Amendment No. 9—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 19—McNerney of California Amendment No. 10—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 20—Scott of Virginia Amendment No. 11—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 21—King of Iowa Amendment No. 12—NO

Roll Call Vote No. 22—Motion to Recommit: Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017—YES

Roll Call Vote No. 23—Final Passage: Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017—NO

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TAYLOR

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2017

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant and a dedicated leader of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC), Brigadier General (Retired) Francis Xavier Taylor, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. Brig Gen Taylor came out of retirement in 2014 when the President nominated him to be the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). After nearly 40 years of honorable service to our nation, Under Secretary Taylor will retire again on Friday, January 20, 2017.

Under Secretary Taylor applied his knowledge and experience from his 31 years in the United States Air Force, his service at the U.S. Department of State as an Ambassador for Counterterrorism and head of Diplomatic

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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.

Security, and as Vice President of Security at General Electric. Applying his decades of experience and innovative thinking, Under Secretary Taylor rolled up his sleeves and got to work.

Due to Under Secretary Taylor's leadership, I&A is much further along on its vision of driving information sharing and delivering intelligence and analysis to operators and decision-makers at all levels. One of Under Secretary Taylor's first actions at I&A was to guide the organization through a transformation. He removed internal I&A stovepipes and realigned the organization to ensure DHS-collected information now forms the basis of the majority of I&A production. Under Secretary Taylor also

ordered that finished intelligence include State and local data.

Under Secretary Taylor also worked tirelessly to mature and strengthen the Department's relationship with the state and local fusion centers and make information sharing a priority. In FY2016, 62 percent of I&A's finished intelligence products were disseminated at the SECRET level or below to best serve those who protect our borders, critical infrastructure and communities.

Under Secretary Taylor also took to heart the need to invest in the workforce and address extremely low employee morale. He spent a great deal of his tenure fine-tuning the organization, restructuring and rebalancing the workforce. He drastically reduced the ratio of

supervisors to workers, reducing the amount of bloated management and replacing it with what he called "seed corn"—young, junior people brought in to rejuvenate the organization and help develop a truly homeland-focused workforce.

Our Nation owes this public servant a tremendous debt of gratitude. I wish to thank Under Secretary Taylor for his decades of exceptional service to our country and to wish him and his wife Connie the very best in the days and years ahead. Under Secretary Taylor can now enjoy his three grandchildren Ava, Aaron and Alexander, while taking in some more games under the Golden Dome at Notre Dame.