

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BLAKE VANDEVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blake Vandever. Blake is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blake has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blake has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Blake has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blake Vandever for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING UZBEKISTAN ON 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

2016 marked the 25th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, it has been my privilege to work closely with the government of Uzbekistan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Uzbekistan for the great progress it has made on its march to democracy, and I especially commend Uzbekistan on its recent presidential election as well as Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his victory. In an act that demonstrated Uzbekistan's commitment to a transparent process, Uzbekistan invited about 300 international observers, including a full-scale election observation

team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to monitor the election, which was held on December 4, 2016 upon the passing of the late President Islam Karimov who served as Uzbekistan's president since independence. While every government, including the United States, has room for improvement, I am pleased that Uzbekistan's first election upon the passing of President Karimov was carried out peacefully and in accordance with Uzbekistan's constitution.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States until now, Uzbekistan and the United States have built a broad-based relationship. During U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan provided the use of a military base to serve as a hub for combat and humanitarian missions and, later, permitted the U.S. to move equipment and supplies through Uzbekistan to Afghanistan in support of U.S. troops. In the past 25 years, our relationship has also grown in other ways, including economically, politically, and strategically.

In fact, Uzbekistan and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations including the United Nations and the OSCE, as well as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Uzbekistan is an observer to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has attracted investment from Caterpillar, Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and so on.

From firsthand experience, I know Uzbekistan's accomplishments have been fast-paced, and I have recognized those accomplishments in the Congressional Record for historical purposes. As Uzbekistan continues to excel, I am reminded of these words from the late President Karimov who said that the people of Uzbekistan are “a creative people who deeply realize their identity, take pride of the fact that they live on sacred land and are the descendants of great ancestors, capable to subdue any peaks.”

Uzbekistan is a land more than 2,500 years old. Its history is rich and deep, spanning far beyond its brief encounter with the Soviet Union. Its leaders—then and now—have sought for security and stability at home and abroad. And so, I wish President Mirziyoyev well as he assumes his duties. I have every reason to believe he will succeed for and on behalf of the people of Uzbekistan who have put their hope in him, especially the youth and women, who showed up at the polls to support his candidacy.

I thank my dear friends including Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov who previously served as Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the United States, and Senator Sodiq Safoyev who once served as Foreign Minister as well as former Ambassador to the United States and currently as Chairman of the Foreign Political Affairs Committee of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I commend them for their hard work in developing stronger U.S.-Uzbekistan relations, and for dedicating their lives in service to their country.

I also commend Uzbekistan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Bakhtiyar Gulyamov, and Uzbekistan's former Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Ilhom Nematov, as well as the many other leaders in Uzbekistan who have contributed to building an independent nation.

I join with the people of Uzbekistan in celebrating 25 years of independence, and it

is my sincere hope that Uzbekistan, like all freedom-loving nations, will hold these truths to be self-evident—“that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

EPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the EPS Improvement Act of 2017. Michigan is a success story for clean energy job growth. For many years, the press reported on Detroit's urban decline and the lights literally going out. While this may have been true in the past, Detroit has been making a comeback.

After generations of urban flight, the population of Detroit is rising. Along with that growth has come revitalization. All across town, the lights are coming back on. The LED project cost \$185 million and was paid for by the city and the state. The Public Lighting Authority of Detroit, also received support from the Obama Administration with Department of Energy advising local officials on how to brighten up the city.

Investments by the Obama Administration in energy-efficient lighting has reduced costs across the industry, making LEDS feasible for a city like Detroit. Only three years ago, nearly half of the 88,000 streetlights in the city were out of commission.

This major infrastructure project in my city of Detroit, created not only smart urban design to an aging city, but it brought jobs. City officials told me that since 2014, using Federal Department of Transportation funding, Detroit has added buses, hired dozens of drivers and increased ridership by approximately 100,000 a week. Like the streetlights that are now on across the city, buses restore the fabric of the streets and re-establish a semblance of normalcy.

Mr. Speaker, infrastructure projects like the LED project in Detroit and the transportation funding for buses are what we need to get America back to work. These funded projects have a ripple effect on the community and not only rejuvenate it but put people back to work.

I support H.R. 518 and more projects that support clean energy growth.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNUAL “HEALTH FOR HUMANITY YOGATHON”

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh's tenth

• 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.

annual "Health for Humanity Yogathon" or "Surya Namaskar Yajna." Surya Namaskar integrates simple yoga postures in 10-steps that, along with teaching easy breathing techniques, can provide immense health benefits to both the body and the mind.

Each year, Hindus worldwide celebrate January 14th as Makar Sankranti—a day that marks the change of season as the sun enters the sign of Capricorn or Makar. To mark this occasion, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh has organized the "Yoga for Health, Health for Humanity" Yogathon from January 14, 2017–January 29, 2017. The 16-day event will raise awareness about yoga and its advantages in achieving a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh is a voluntary, non-profit, social and cultural organization, which aims at preserving and passing on the Hindu heritage and cultural values to the next generation of Hindus and raise awareness around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th annual Health for Humanity Yogathon.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM G. FRAHER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Chief William G. Fraher as he prepares for his retirement today as Chief of Police from the Paterson Police Department.

Chief William Fraher is an Alumnus of Rutgers University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Government. Chief Fraher then went on to receive his Master's Degree from Rutgers University in Public Policy Analysis. He is also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Police Honor Society.

Chief Fraher was appointed to the Paterson Police Department in January of 1975. He has served my hometown of Paterson for over 42 years.

It came with no surprise that on February 1, 2012 William G. Fraher was appointed Acting Chief of Police for the City of Paterson, where he has lead the men and women of the Paterson Police Department in the third largest city in the State of New Jersey. Chief Fraher makes it a point to work with the Police Director, Administration and community activists to make the City of Paterson more safe and secure.

Under Chief Fraher, the Paterson Police Department became the largest accredited municipal agency. His dedication to the job and the city has resulted in numerous accomplishments, including being a founding partner in the development of CORESTAT, a law enforcement partnership within the Passaic River corridor, which includes police departments from Bergen County, Hudson County, Passaic County, Essex County, and the NJ State Police. His presentations at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have encompassed numerous affiliations with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), American Society of Criminology (ACS), and the Integrated Justice Information Systems In-

stitute (IJS). Currently, Chief Fraher is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Today, I take pride in recognizing and commemorating the achievements of an extraordinary individual. Chief William G. Fraher is a man of exceptional character and is truly deserving of this esteemed acknowledgement. Chief Fraher is very well respected by all law enforcement officials throughout the tri-state area and beyond. I am forever grateful for the service, dedication, and the security Chief Fraher has provided to my hometown of Paterson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Chief William G. Fraher's years of service, dedication, and excellence to the City of Paterson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 60 and 61 on Monday, January 23, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 60 and 61.

HONORING GARETT OLSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Olson. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Garrett contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Garrett sorted the clothing inventory and the restored the drop-off shed at the Better Living Center in Macon, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Olson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MITCH MORRISSEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mitch Morrissey as he completes his tenure as the

Denver District Attorney. I would also like to thank Mitch's wife, Maggie, for lending her husband to the Denver community for so many years. During his time in office, Mitch made it his mission to protect the public, advocate for victims of crime, and respect the rights of the accused. He worked tirelessly to promote stronger relations between law enforcement and the Denver community.

For 11 years, Mitch has been the chief prosecutor for the Second Judicial District. Prior to his election, he worked in the Denver District Attorney's office for 20 years, 10 of which he served as the Chief Deputy D.A. In his role as D.A., Mitch was responsible for thousands of felony and misdemeanor prosecutions each year, supervising over 70 attorneys and 120 staff members, all while prioritizing victims' needs. Mitch led an invaluable team of Victim Advocates with a particular focus on those in under-served areas and communities. He is nationally known for his expertise in DNA technology, applying it in criminal prosecutions and working to ensure DNA science is admissible in our courtrooms. In addition, Mitch's relationship with and support for Colorado's law enforcement community has been exceptional. Thanks to his hard work, Mitch is also the recipient of numerous awards, including "Prosecutor of the Year," by the Colorado District Attorneys Council and the "Patriot Award," by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Mitch is also a true son of Colorado. He is a Denver native, a graduate of the University of Denver College of Law, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Mullen High School.

I congratulate Mitch for his achievements. I applaud his dedication, leadership, and commitment to justice for Colorado's citizens. I am proud of the work he has accomplished and wish him all the success and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness I was unable to vote on the following: Roll call No. 60 Roll call No. 61

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR SONNY PERDUE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, President Donald Trump selected former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to be Secretary of Agriculture.

President Trump correctly announced that, "From growing up on a farm to being governor of a big agriculture state, he has spent his whole life understanding and solving the challenges our farmers face, and he is going to deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land."

I am confident that Governor Perdue will be a positive advocate for the agricultural community. The dynamic agriculture industry of