

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RONALD SYLVESTRI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Saint Joseph's Medical Center located in my district will host its annual Ball on November 3 and has chosen an outstanding slate of honorees for the event. One of those wonderful honorees, Ronald Sylvestri, has been working to improve the community for many years.

Ron was born in Yonkers on September 1, 1942. He attended Yonkers schools and attended C.W. Post College, LIU, graduating with a B.S. degree in Business in 1966. He is a distinguished alumnus and has served as a member of Long Island University's Board of Trustees since 1975. He is a recipient of the University's Chancellor's Award, the C.W. Post President's Medal.

Ron was Senior Vice President/Regional Manager of Hudson Valley Bank, New York City and formerly held high level executive posts with Fleet Bank Investment Group, Barclays Bank of New York and D.B.G. Development Corporation. He was a Charter Member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Governing Boards (CGB) since its founding in 1976. After having served in leadership positions as its Secretary and Vice Chairman, Ron became Chairman of CGB in 2005. Throughout, he led with dedication, tenacity and merit.

At Saint Joseph's, Ron serves as the Vice Chairman of St. Joseph's Health Fund. His extensive knowledge and expertise in banking and finance have been a tremendous asset to Saint Joseph's Medical Center. He has also been Vice Chairman of the Friends of Saint Dominic's Foundation since its formation in 2005 and chaired Saint Dominic's Golf Tournament for the past 25 years. Saint Dominic's dedicated the "Sylvestri Residence" in Rockland County for mentally challenged women in 1998. Ron was inducted into Saint Patrick's Cathedral as a Knight of Malta, American Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in 1982. He was honored with the St. Bartholomew School Distinguished Recognition and Community Service Award in 2001. The New York City Correction Officer's Association gave their Distinguished Service Award to Ron in 2002. He also received the New York Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation Dedicated Dad Award in 2009.

Ron and his wife Donna, whom he founded and chaired the Alzheimer's Golf Tournament for 17 years with, were married in 1972. They have two children, Ronald Jr. (Melissa) and Allyson (John). They are also blessed with four grandchildren; Madison Reagan Sylvestri, Ellie, Jack and Bobby Griffin.

Ron has accomplished a great deal and is most deserving of this warm recognition. Congratulations to him on the occasion.

ON THE TRAGEDY IN THE THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWELVE INNOCENTS LOST IN A SENSELESS MASS SHOOTING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness over the latest mass shooting, which occurred Wednesday evening, November 7, in Thousand Oaks, California when an armed 29-year-old man walked into the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, opened fire, and killed 12 persons, including a 29-year veteran of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department who was on the eve of retirement.

The location of the shooting is especially tragic because the Borderline Bar & Grill was a sanctuary for survivors of last year's Las Vegas mass shooting—which ended the lives of 58 people—to gather and reflect in fellowship and support, following the horror of that night.

I am grateful to all first-responders for their quick work in containing this tragedy, including their valiance in limiting the loss of life.

As has now almost become commonplace, a community will begin the process of mourning those lost, and burying those who perished.

Then, before long, the country will return to life as normal, forgetting what transpired just outside of Los Angeles Wednesday night.

Beyond the horror of last night, Americans from across the nation and from all walks of life must consider that this is the 307th mass shooting event on the 311th day of this calendar year.

It comes less than two weeks after a gunman fueled by hate entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and killed 11 parishioners in what constituted the largest hate crime against Jews in the history of the United States.

Americans are not more mentally-ill than citizens from other countries; we are not independently more prone to gun violence more than citizens from other countries; nor are the movies we watch and the music we listen to more violent than other comparable societies or countries.

The common thread through all of these shootings is the ready, easy access to firearms, ammunition, and weapons of war.

If we are to tackle this problem, we must be clear-eyed about the cause and harbor the resolve to forge a solution.

Congress and leaders throughout the nation must tackle this scourge and stem the tide of gun violence in the country.

If we do not, we are destined to be little more than helpless bystanders, and our citizens will continue to suffer and die.

On October 24, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky, a man fatally shot Maurice E. Stallard,

inside a supermarket, and then killed Vickie Lee Jones, in the parking lot outside.

Both were grandparents.

There was no provocation to the killings, and the suspect was apprehended.

He is white, and his two victims were African American.

He had no connection to either victim, or the supermarket where he committed his murders.

Reports indicate that prior to the shootings, the suspect attempted but failed to enter a nearby black church.

Three of the deadliest mass shootings in American history have occurred within the last year, including one in a church in Sutherland Springs, in my home state of Texas.

In early November of 2017, twenty-six people were killed at First Baptist Church in rural Sutherland Springs, Texas, authorities said.

The church attacker was identified as 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley of New Braunfels, Texas.

Kelley was a former member of the U.S. Air Force charged in military court in 2012 on suspicion of assaulting his spouse and their child.

Kelley received a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 12 months, and was demoted to E-1, or airman basic.

On the day of the attack, Kelley dressed in all-black "tactical-type gear" and was wearing a ballistic vest and was armed with two weapons, a rifle and a handgun.

Kelley purchased the gun he used in the church shooting, a Ruger AR-556 rifle, in April 2016 from an Academy Sports + Outdoors store in San Antonio.

Earlier this year, a 17-year-old student armed with a shotgun and a pistol stormed Santa Fe High School, about 30 miles southeast of Houston, and opened fire in an art class, officials said.

The gunman killed 10 people and wounded at least 10 others, including a school resource officer who was left in critical condition, police said, before surrendering to the officers who confronted him.

Of those killed, eight were students and two were teachers, Santa Fe Independent School District Superintendent Leigh Wall said in a letter to parents.

The mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which occurred in early February, was the eighteenth such mass shooting event in the first month-and-a-half of 2018.

The gunman, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, was believed to have been armed with an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle and multiple magazines.

Six months prior to the Parkland shooting, the FBI was alerted after a YouTube user named "Nikolas Cruz" posted a comment stating "I'm going to be a professional school shooter" on the video site YouTube.

We see that these domestic terrorists have chosen to attack Americans in all facets of our daily lives.

This year alone 328 Americans have died and 1,251 Americans have been injured in mass shootings around the country.

• 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 United States has 46 percent of the global firearms available for public use but only 4 percent of the global population.

Social media has created a new avenue for bullying through cyber bullying thus creating a new set of mental health issues for professionals around the country to diagnose.

I fervently encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a bipartisan agenda to draft legislation aimed at protecting our families and children from the careless possession and usage of guns in this country.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MIKE ENNIS

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, DEVIN NUNES, to recognize Tulare County Supervisor Mike Ennis. This year, Mike is retiring from his position on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors following a career of 12 years of service to his community.

Born and raised in California, Mike has spent 60 years living in the City of Porterville. He attended Porterville High School, Porterville Junior College, and General Motors University of Automotive Management. Taking what he learned at school and college, Mike became an accomplished businessman and worked in the private sector, including for Faggar Buick and GMC.

Mike was elected to represent Tulare County's Fifth Supervisorial District in 2006, and has represented the communities of Springville, Terra Bella, Alpine, Ducor, Camp Nelson, California Hot Springs, Posey, Kennedy Meadows, Ponderosa, and Sequoia Crest. During his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Mike has accrued a long list of accomplishments, including his work to secure funds for a new prison complex and new roads as part of the state's "Safe Routes to Schools" program in our community, as well as establishing the first mental health clinic, Porterville Wellness Center, in the area.

Mike has also been a tireless advocate for enlarging Success Reservoir by widening and raising the spillway. After nearly a decade of delay by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we were proud to work with Mike in leading the community effort to get this critical project back on track. We recently secured full funding from the Army Corps to complete the Success Reservoir Enlargement Project, marking the beginning of the end of this long and storied project, which will bring additional water supplies and recreation opportunities to our community. Mike has also been an active member of the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), traveling to Washington to advocate for critical road, bridge, and infrastructure projects in our community, as well as for commonsense reforms to byzantine Federal transportation policies and programs to help get projects to construction expeditiously. Among his accomplishments with TCAG have been the critical rehabilitations of State Routes 190 and 65, which are key transportation arteries in Tulare County. He also worked with us to reform National Forest management policies to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires

that can threaten the Giant Sequoias, important natural wonders that bring visitors from around the world to Tulare County.

Outside of his work on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Mike is active in the local community, counting himself as a Charter Member of the Springville Siena Sunrise Rotary Club, the co-chair of the Porterville Fair Sales Committee, and a leader in the community's local4-H program for 27 years, not to mention being a past member of the Porterville Noon Rotary.

We have enjoyed working with Mike over the years, and always appreciated his insight, counsel, and advice on the important issues facing Tulare County. As Mike retires, he can rest assured that he has left an indelibly positive mark in our community, and we have been honored to call him a friend. On behalf of a grateful community, we wish Mike, his wife Diane, and their family all the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING GARTON TRACTOR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Garton Tractor for their induction into the Ag Hall of Fame as the 2018 Legend of Agriculture by the National AG Science Center.

Garton Tractor is a 4th generation, family owned business that has been in operation since 1954 in and around the Central Valley, providing agricultural machinery to their customers. They pride themselves on quality product and service and assisting the agricultural industry.

Garton Tractor has nine different locations that range from Ukiah to Merced. The family is also deeply involved in giving back, supporting local charities that work to improve education and the quality of life in their local communities.

Since its official opening over six decades ago, Garton Tractor has thrived in the Central Valley. They have become a bedrock of our local agricultural community. Their service to the farm families has expanded and improved over the years, and we are proud to acknowledge their most recent achievement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Garton Tractor for their significant contributions to agriculture and their induction in the AG Hall of Fame.

HONORING DIWALI

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Diwali, a festival of lights celebrating the Hindu New Year. Originating in India, Diwali is the largest and one of the most important celebrations observed within the Hindu religion. Diwali's festival of lights symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

Diwali festivities include deep cleaning and extensive decorating of office buildings, temples, and homes. The celebration begins by lighting clay lamps in temple windows in honor of Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of prosperity and wealth. Traditional Indian feasts take place with friends and loved ones, during which, sweets and presents are prepared and shared.

The significance of this event is not exclusive to India. Today, where there are Hindus they honor their traditions and observe this important day. Here in Colorado, for example, we have a thriving and growing Hindu community. The Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies located in the City of Littleton and the 6th Congressional District exemplifies this.

It is with great pride that I join all in recognizing President Sudhir Verma and Vice President Sridhar Talanki of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center of the Rockies also known as the Hindu Temple of Colorado, and I wish them and all the Temple's members, well as they celebrate Diwali.

GUN VIOLENCE

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2018

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Americans are still dying from gun violence, in our cities and towns, villages and rural communities.

Despite the fact that 93 Americans are shot and killed, each and every day, this House—controlled by Republicans—have done nothing to stop the violence.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle offer "thoughts and prayers" while doing nothing so they can collect those NRA checks.

Mr. Speaker, how did this happen? How did this House become so beholden to the gun lobby that the death of children fails to inspire us to stand up, speak out and act?

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of 250 Americans—many of whom are children—who've been shot in America. These are Americans that this House, this Congress has failed.

1. Julien Gonzalez, 2
2. Devin Kelly, 16
3. McKinley "Bonnie" Chavous, 3
4. Delmonte Johnson, 19
5. Jordan Martin, 18
6. Jahnae Patterson, 17
7. Earl Young
8. Joshua Campbell, 22
9. Eric Johnson, 22
10. Kendall Brown
11. Andrea Echeverria, 23
12. Bo Li, 14
13. Meigin Lin, 14
14. Lia Lin, 15
15. Kaileigh Lin, 17
16. Kenyate Sparks
17. Juan Espinoza Sr.
18. Donald Norris, 19
19. Malik McCloud, 19
20. Antonio Dixon, 19
21. Kenny Ivory, 17
22. Charles Green
23. Keshonda Monique Maxey, 19
24. Elijah Clayton, 22
25. Nicholas Cox
26. Zack Kempke, 14
27. Pruthvi Raj Kandepi, 25
28. Florence Police Officer Terrence Carraway