

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DEVIN RICH AND  
KIERSTEN BARE FROM KALISPELL

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor siblings Devin Rich and Kiersten Bare of Kalispell for helping victims of the Woolsey and Camp fires recover from the devastation.

A graduate of Flathead High School, Devin lives in Marina del Rey, California. While the nearby Woolsey Fire roared in early November, he volunteered to help with the support efforts. Wearing protective gear and working in difficult circumstances, Devin helped victims of the fire search through the ash and rubble where their homes stood to salvage items dear to them.

Driven by her compassion for animals, Kiersten, who lives in Kalispell, worked to reunite lost pets with their owners. Kiersten spent hours online studying photos of the displaced animals to identify potential matches to help pet owners in their search.

The Woolsey and Camp fires devastated California this year, claiming nearly 90 lives and destroying more than 14,000 homes. Devin and Kiersten are among the generous Americans who answered the call to serve others in their time of need. I commend all the firefighters, first responders, support workers, and volunteers who saved lives and helped those impacted by these catastrophic fires.

Mr. Speaker, for their compassion for the victims of California's disastrous Woolsey and Camp fires and their commitment to helping in the recovery, I recognize Devin Rich and Kiersten Bare for their spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISOR RANDY  
HANVELT

### HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Hanvelt for his devoted service as a Tuolumne County Supervisor.

Supervisor Hanvelt was first elected to serve the 2nd District of Tuolumne County in 2010 and has worked incessantly on behalf of his constituents ever since.

In his years of service, Randy Hanvelt has transformed the job of a County Supervisor. He has relentlessly pursued a better way of life for the residents of Tuolumne County; never missing an opportunity to share his message, express his passion, and inspire others to advocate for rural issues.

In addition to serving on more than a dozen regional committees and commissions, Supervisor Hanvelt was elected Second Vice Chair to the Rural County Representatives of Cali-

fornia in December 2016. He served as both the Second and First Vice Chairs during his tenure as Tuolumne County Supervisor. In July 2018, Supervisor Hanvelt was appointed chair of the National Association of Counties' Public Lands Policy Steering Committee. In 2017, the California Forestry Association awarded Randy the title of "Conservationist of the Year."

Supervisor Hanvelt has worked tirelessly on behalf of his district and the entirety of Tuolumne County. He has advocated locally and nationally for full funding of Payments in Lieu of Taxes, the Secure Rural Schools Program, and Forest Health projects, including Rim Fire Recovery and the County's Master Stewardship Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Randy has also been an instrumental leader in developing programs and securing funding to eradicate dead and hazardous trees.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt has truly been at the forefront in making Tuolumne County a more prosperous place. He has set a new standard for local leaders and his service to the community is incomparable.

IN APPRECIATION OF PAUL  
THOMPSON UPON HIS RETIRE-  
MENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation of Mr. Paul Thompson upon his retirement from the Government Accountability Office.

Over the past four decades, Mr. Thompson has worked on a diverse range of issues in the Legislative and Executive Branches. Mr. Thompson began his federal career in 1977, as a staff member to the then-U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. He then joined the Department of Energy's Office of General Counsel in 1980 as a Law Clerk. In 1982, he left the Department of Energy and joined the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) as an Attorney-Advisor. In 1987, Mr. Thompson took a position in the private sector, but, just three years later, he began working at what we now know as the Government Accountability Office. But in 1991, it was called the General Accounting Office.

Over the past 27 years, Mr. Thompson has helped GAO carry out its core mission of supporting Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people. In my capacity as the top Democrat on the Committee on Homeland Security Committee, I have found him to be a reliable resource to our staff in our efforts to carry out vigorous oversight and appreciate

his personal commitment to providing staff with valuable insights and information.

Mr. Speaker, you may be wondering whether Mr. Thompson and I are related. We are not related, but we share a commitment to accountability and oversight.

We thank Mr. Thompson for his service to our country and wish him the very best.

PASSING OF RON BARTOLI

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, northern California lost a great leader, visionary, family man and true patriot in Ron Bartoli.

Ron's success as a businessman included building a thriving international company. His passion for the U.S. Air Force and its critical missions, and the men and women serving at BEALE AFB was relentless and sincere. Much of the success and growth of missions at BEALE AFB since 1986 can be attributed to Ron's efforts.

Ron loved people and he spent quality time with everyone he came to know. He was an accomplished pilot, sport fisherman and he loved to play golf. He was a longtime Board Member and past Board Chair at Sierra Central Credit Union.

IT IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN  
SANCTIONS TO REVERSE IRAN'S  
EXPANSIONISM

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, across the Middle East today, armed thugs backed by Iran are entrenching themselves in local communities, undermining democratic aspirations, and stockpiling weapons in preparation for war against America's allies. Sadly, it's nothing new. For more than a decade, Iran has constructed a formidable array of foreign legions that exploit corruption and instability to subjugate millions to Tehran's will. In response, the President has rightly restored sanctions on the Islamic Republic and prioritized confronting its regional activity. But to reverse the gains Iran and its proxies have made over recent years, America and its allies must go beyond sanctions.

Sanctions are designed to deny resources to Iran that are used to support terrorism, develop nuclear weapons, and conduct human rights abuses at home. We know this strategy has had some success in the past stalling Iran's efforts and forcing Tehran to come to the bargaining table. The Obama Administration, however, gave away the farm to the Mullahs, removing many of the sanctions that

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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.

brought Tehran to heel and opening the door for Russia, China, and the Europeans to do business in Iran. Obama also ceded physical territory to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its proxies by not contesting their growing activity in Syria and Yemen and withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq. The resulting instability led to ISIS's rise and a secure land route from Tehran to Beirut from which the IRGC could move recruits and weapons to Israel's borders. These policies of appeasement have created a powder keg that could erupt into regional war.

At a recent hearing before my subcommittee, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department, Amb. Nathan Sales, testified that Iran spends \$1 billion-per-year funding its various terrorist proxies in the Middle East. This sum pales in comparison to how much we spend to deploy forces to the region, assist allies, conduct diplomacy, and gather intelligence. Yet, Iran is gaining ground. How is this possible? For one reason, Iran's march of terror is cheap and adaptive, using low-cost arms, violent coercion, disinformation, and crime to operate. Meanwhile, we chose to play by the rules and attempt to rebuild what Iran and other terrorists destroy. It's far cheaper and easier to destroy than to build. And unlike our efforts during the early Cold War, in the Middle East we are attempting to build or reinforce institutions that either never existed or are plagued with corruption.

But this doesn't mean American taxpayer dollars are spent in vain. For example, few would argue that the U.S.'s largest foreign assistance program, \$3.8 billion-per-year in military financing to Israel, is money wasted. Rather, that money ensures Israel holds a military edge over Iran and its terrorist allies thus preventing the Mullahs from ever achieving one of their core objectives: the extermination of Israel. Just weeks ago, Palestinian terrorists backed by Iran, fired dozens of rockets into Israel. 120 of those rockets were intercepted by Iron Dome, a missile defense system paid for and jointly developed through American assistance. Moreover, the Israelis are not sitting idly by as Iran masses forces on its northern borders. Since 2013, Israeli warplanes and missiles, subsidized by U.S. taxpayers, have struck dozens of Iranian and Hezbollah convoys transporting weapons to Lebanon or the Golan Heights.

Action by Israel is effective but limited. For example, recent reports indicate the IRGC is utilizing the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria to position ballistic missiles that can target Israel, Saudi Arabia, and our forces in the region. Finding and striking these missiles is an enormous challenge for Israel and could have ramifications for Americans stationed in those countries. Instead, it is up to America to contest Iran's grip on these arenas by empowering local actors and demonstrating American resolve.

So far, however, the State Department has done the opposite by resisting Congressional efforts to designate Iran's most lethal Iraqi proxies, such as Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, and shutting the American consulate in Basra, Iraq. Such action demonstrates to Iran that it need only threaten an American diplomatic post and the U.S. will retreat, ceding more space for them and their proxies. Tragically in the case of Basra, we are abandoning Iraqis who courageously took to the streets to protest Iran's

meddling in their country. Simultaneously U.S. forces in Syria are trying to prevent a war between our Kurdish and Turkish allies that has allowed ISIS to survive and Iranian weapon shipments to pass by unmolested.

Only when we tackle these local challenges can we dislodge Iran. To do so requires us to make hard choices and strategies with potentially more costs. But if countering Iran's expansionism is truly our objective, we must show commitment to partners on the ground that we are willing to confront Iran alongside them. Until then a storm is gathering that will inevitably pull Americans back into a long and difficult war.

And that's just the way it is.

#### IN HONOR OF MR. RICHARD L. CLEMENS' LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dedicated community leader and public servant of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. In life, Mr. Richard L. Clemens demonstrated tremendous compassion, bravery, and selflessness through his commitment to family and civil service.

Mr. Clemens was born to Ruby Weber Clemens and John R. "Jack" Clemens on April 4, 1945 in Marshall, Missouri. A former graduate of Marshall High School, Mr. Clemens would go on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Missouri Valley College in 1967. Through his newly acquired degree, he would go on to serve as an auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture Inspector General, where shortly thereafter he would meet his wife and lifelong partner, Nellie. Born and raised in Marshall, Mr. Clemens was well-known to the people of his hometown as many were his friends, neighbors, and members of his congregation.

When called upon, Mr. Clemens stood tall and proud to serve his country during the Vietnam War in 1968, and again in 1969. His service to our country didn't end there, as he continued to show pride and dedication to assisting his brothers in arms by serving as a member and officer of the American Legion Post No. 191 and as the Senior Vice-Commander of the V.F.W. Post No. 2646.

Mr. Clemens had many goals in life apart from serving our country and the people as an auditor. From 1975 to his retirement, he owned and operated Clemens Circle C Farm while holding various organizational and local governmental positions. His interests and determination led him to hold many positions such as Chairman of the Saline County Republican Central Committee, President of the Saline County Fair Board, and the Saline County Extension Council. Furthermore, his dream of serving his community in an elected position was fulfilled in 2016, when he was elected the Saline County Northern District Commissioner. These notable positions are only a few of the many roles Mr. Clemens has held within the community, yet they illustrate his unremitting passion and devotion for the people and community he represented.

He is preceded in death by his parents and the love of his life, Nellie. He is survived by

his two daughters, Anna Clemens Gass and Rebecca Clemens; his four grandchildren, Abigail, Vivian, Simeon, and Lilian; his brother, George Clemens; and his nieces, nephews, and cousins. Though he is dearly missed, his legacy of love, respect, and high esteem by his family, peers, and community remain. Mr. Clemens is revered for his impressive leadership, his lively personality, and commitment to his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the memory and life of Mr. Richard L. Clemens. His upstanding contributions and service to the Marshall community and our country are beyond worthy of this commemoration. It is with great respect that I urge all my colleagues and fellow citizens across the country to join me in showing our appreciation to Mr. Clemens and sending our deepest condolences for his family, friends, and community.

#### HONORING BRUCE MACRAE

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Long Beach, California legend, Bruce MacRae. Bruce is a longtime employee of the United Parcel Service (UPS) and is currently Vice President of State Government Affairs for California and the Western Region of the United States. In this role is where our lives originally intersected. My relationship with Bruce has kept me grounded during my time in elected office and his friendship is one that will continue (even though our days of smoking cigars are less frequent).

Bruce grew up in Long Beach and graduated from Wilson High School. He started his career with UPS in the area, at the Anaheim package facility in 1979. Bruce rose through the ranks as a driver and took on a management position in 1987 which was the catalyst to his success as a Government Relations executive.

As a result of Bruce's professional success and his free loving personality, philanthropy has been a natural pursuit. Bruce is a Long Beach City College Board member, Long Beach Police Foundation president, and generous donor to the Long Beach City College's athletic department. These accolades along with his big personality donned him the title of "Legend" in a Long Beach Post article in 2015.

As with any life there are ups and downs. In 2015, Bruce suffered a heart attack while in Phoenix for work. It was a grounding experience for everyone that knows and cares about Bruce. At that moment, we all truly realized how much Bruce means to the Long Beach community and the level of respect that people have for him. As you would expect from someone of Bruce's character, he recovered from open heart surgery seamlessly.

I am proud to call Bruce a friend and I am grateful for his companionship throughout my years in public service. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Bruce MacRae for his contributions to Southern California, our state, and nation.