

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING MS. JO ANN FLIRT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Ms. Jo Ann Flirt. Jo Ann was a vibrant member of the Mobile community. To me, Jo Ann was a dear and trusted friend.

Jo Ann attended both undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Alabama, where she went on to teach journalism and public relations. Upon returning to Mobile, she was a founding member and former president of the Press Club of Mobile and a founding member of the Mississippi-Alabama chapter of the Public Relations Society of Alabama.

Jo Ann was known for her immeasurable work ethic. She started two businesses in Mobile, the Public Relations Counsel Inc., an advertising and public relations firm, and the Mobile Record, a daily legal publication with real estate and other civil business news. She also founded a group called Alabamians Behind Local Education with the purpose of peacefully integrating schools in Alabama.

Jo Ann was also a passionate advocate and champion for historic Blakeley State Park, where she served as director for almost fifteen years. It would not be a surprise to see Jo Ann out working on various projects at Blakeley, in addition to her administrative tasks. As a true testament to her character, Jo Ann was regularly called upon to serve in her community and was well known for her determined, caring spirit.

Sadly, Jo Ann passed away on February 2, 2018 at the age of 85. So, to her family and friends who will miss her dearly, I want to extend my deepest sympathies and condolences. May they take comfort in the warm memories of Jo Ann and the lasting impact she had on so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, February 27, 2018, I was not present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

"YES" on roll call vote No. 81 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1222, as amended),

"YES" on roll call vote No. 82 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2422, as amended),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 83 (on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 84 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 748),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 85 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 748),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 86 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 747),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 87 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 747),

"YES" on roll call vote No. 88 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 4296, with instructions),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 89 (on passage of H.R. 4296),

"NO" on roll call vote No. 90 (on agreeing to the Walters Amendment to H.R. 1865), and

"NO" on roll call vote No. 91 (on passage of H.R. 1865).

BILL LOPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my close friend Bill Loper. My brother, sister and I grew up in one of the best neighborhoods a kid could ever grow up in. As youngsters we roamed from one house to another. No matter where we were, we knew we were under the watchful eyes of parents and adults who treated us like their own—the Wehdes, the Driftmiers, the Fisks, and especially, the Lopers. So, as I write this recognition and celebration of Bill's life, I cannot do it in isolation and think of Annie and the other families and my own mom and dad.

As close as we were to all of our neighbors, Bill and Annie and my mom and dad had something special. They all met at the University of Colorado just after WWII, and from that time on were the best of friends and partners. This was due, in no small part, to the kindred spirit that Bill and my dad shared and still share even with Bill's passing.

Dad and Bill were native Coloradans, Bill from Olathe and Dad from Denver. Bill followed in his big brother Bob's footsteps when he enrolled at CU after serving a hitch in the Navy at the end of WWII. My dad followed in his big brother Jack's footsteps, when he enrolled at Boulder. Both studied liberal arts, Dad—Political Science and Bill—Economics. They were friends, classmates and roommates. Both enjoyed politics and were left in their leanings. They were pretty rebellious too and despite Joe McCarthy's "Red Scare" of the late 40's and early 50's, they named their intramural softball team "The Social Science Reds." Bill excelled at everything while at CU, except spelling. According to my dad, Bill's friends had to help him correct his term papers so he could graduate.

After graduation, Bill announced he was moving to Alaska to find his fame and fortune, and follow his brother who had moved up to the Northwest. Apparently he didn't find fame or fortune and wasn't too enamored with his brother, because he returned to Colorado shortly thereafter.

My dad, grandfather, Uncles Mike and Jack, and Aunt Ann knew Bill could build or fix just

about anything and that whatever he worked at or worked on he would master. So, upon returning from Alaska, he joined them in business at Perlmutter & Sons Construction and Prestressed Concrete/Stanly Structures where he was the head of operations. As the head of operations, Bill learned and mastered new products and construction techniques for the next 50 years or so.

Bill, together with the others, helped build much of the West, whether it was roads, bridges, apartments, hotels, offices, warehouses or shopping centers. If there was a construction problem, Bill was the trouble shooter to figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. Bill helped build much of Vail and the Gore Valley, and even the precursor to the building hosting Bill's memorial, the Tivoli. He was also a risk taker, helping to stake and support young entrepreneurial developers and owners like Bob Lazier, the owner and proprietor of the Tivoli. Besides the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Business, Bill also headed up the Air Structure business which built big air bubble structures to cover virtually anything from tennis courts to football fields. He founded Cygnus with his friend and fishing buddy, Tom Obermeyer, which made the precast fascia and cladding for buildings all over the country.

But of greater importance to me, Cassie and Joe, was the way that Bill and Annie treated us, whether it was barbecues in their backyard on Upham Court (where the hamburgers were a little too rare) to badminton, or pool, or tennis or going to football games, or of course, skiing. We all spent countless hours together learning and playing and enjoying each other's company. One time, Bill agreed to teach me how to drive a stick shift over Loveland Pass just after I got my learner's permit. It was snowing and icy and I remember how scared I was; he must have been petrified, but he never showed it.

Annie taught all of us, including my mom and dad, how to ski. When Annie was teaching a class, Bill was always with us and his kids on the slopes. It didn't matter whether it was at Eldora, Winter Park, or Vail. We spent many nights and weekends bunking in the Loper's cabin in Fraser or their condo at the Villa Cortina in Vail.

Bill loved his sports, especially tennis, skiing, and squash. At one time he was one of the best squash players in Denver and was a regular at the downtown YMCA. He loved Bronco football and attended many games with Jerry Shpall and other Bronco fanatics.

Whatever Bill did, he did it to his best ability. One of the things he did best was to encourage people. He loved his children and grandchildren and encouraged them in every way possible. That encouragement and support led Amy, Steve, and Ted to take risks and accomplish things that most people fear to undertake, whether it's starting a business, moving overseas or telemarking down the Mintum Mile.

Bill loved politics. He and my dad were Democratic precinct committeemen in Wheat

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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.

Ridge and had all of us kids out walking precincts for our local candidates at a very early age. Bill participated in so many civic and charitable organizations that are too numerous to list. But suffice it to say, local PTA's, animal protection organizations, rotaries and industry groups benefitted from his leadership.

Bill had a wry sense of humor and could find something funny in just about everything and every situation (with the possible exception of the Trump Administration). He had many sayings but one that stands out for me is, "If you do somebody a favor, you can be sure they will remember it . . . the next time they need another favor." Despite the sardonic humor, you can bet that Bill did favors for just about everyone, whether it was teaching somebody like me to drive over an icy pass or helping a young ski bum build his first hotel.

I talked to Annie and Bill a couple of weeks before Bill passed away. As always, they both expressed interest in how I was doing, what it was like these days with Donald Trump in office and how my family was doing. Bill continued to encourage me to do my best for my constituents, no matter their means, and make sure that they had a voice in Washington. Bill was always concerned about the success of the little guy or the hardworking family down the street.

Bill was one of the nicest, smartest, most generous men I've ever known. In that regard, he and my dad were not only kindred spirits, but twin brothers. Bill was like a second dad to me, Cassie, and Joe, and he will be sorely missed. As my dad so succinctly put it, "Bill worked hard. He played hard. And he kept faith with himself." Bill lived a good life and was loved by anybody and everybody who knew him.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL MILONE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Michael Milone and recognize his longtime service as Cheshire Town Manager. Michael will retire this coming June, and the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is honoring Michael at its awards dinner in my hometown of Cheshire, Connecticut for his service to our community over the past three decades.

A longtime Cheshire resident and public servant, Michael joined the town's government finance department thirty years ago, and his expertise in financial management has proven invaluable to our town and its elected leaders. He stepped up to become Town Manager almost twenty years ago, and his long-term vision has supported Cheshire's success and ability to embrace the future. As a Town Councilor myself from 2005 to 2008, I had the pleasure of working closely with Michael, and I can testify to his dedication to the public, commitment to fiscal prudence, and knack for solving problems creatively.

Michael's leadership and accomplishments have not gone unnoticed in Cheshire—or outside our town. Money Magazine and Con-

necticut Magazine regularly laud Cheshire as one of America's best small towns. Although our state has faced its share of economic challenges, under Michael's commitment to fiscal responsibility, Cheshire has maintained a top credit rating from national rating agencies. Michael has also shared his time and expertise with the next generation of leaders as a lecturer at the University of New Haven. Michael's legacy for our town will live on well after his retirement, and his commitment to responsible leadership sets a tremendous example for our town's—not to mention our state's and country's—future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Milone has exemplified the best of what public servants bring to their roles. It is fitting and proper that we honor Michael here today, and I consider myself lucky to count Michael as a friend and mentor.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RON CARSON

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise, on behalf of Congressman MORGAN GRIFFITH and myself, to recognize the achievements of Ron Carson who has made the plight of tens of thousands of disabled coal miners a central part of his life's work. Through his decades of work directing three black lung clinics in Southwest Virginia, and tireless advocacy efforts across the coal fields of this country, he offered help and hope to miners whose lungs were irreversibly scarred with the scourge of black lung disease.

Ron was born in Pennington Gap, Virginia during segregation. He attended a one-room primary school on land that his great-grandmother, Rachael Scott, had donated in 1939 for education of black children in Lee County. Ron and his wife Jill, a Member of the Town Council in Pennington Gap, founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in that same brick school house, which now preserves the life stories, history, heritage, culture and events of African Americans in Southwest Virginia. Although segregated in housing and schools, African Americans found a measure of inclusion in Central Appalachia, where they were able to work free from the harsh conditions in the Deep South, and many received equal pay for their work mining coal.

Ron worked for Westmoreland Coal Co. in Appalachia, Virginia as did his stepfather. His grandfather and great-grandfather both worked for many years for Blue Diamond Coal in Bonny Blue, Virginia. Ron later attended the Massachusetts School of Pharmacy, and in 1990 returned as an outreach worker in the black lung clinic operating out of the St. Charles Community Health Clinic. For the past 20 years he has served as the director of three black lung clinics which are now part of Stone Mountain Health Services. In addition to helping miners secure diagnostic tests, treatment and benefits counseling, Ron led an effort to develop what is now the largest program for non-lawyers to successfully advocate for black lung benefits before the U.S. Department of Labor.

There are very few attorneys who represent miners filing claims for black lung benefits. And, coal miners proceeding pro se are no match for the expert legal and medical resources that coal companies and insurers dedicate to each case. Ron and his team have worked to fill this void by providing training for clinics, doctors, lawyers and lay representatives in all 15 coal producing states. The lay advocates working for the Stone Mountain clinics have helped miners win over 2,000 black lung claims in the past 17 years.

In recent years, Ron documented how miners with progressive massive fibrosis (PMF), the most advanced form of black lung disease, have flooded the clinics in southwestern Virginia. Working with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), he recently co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association which verified an epidemic of this lethal form of the disease in Central Appalachia and helped to elevate national awareness. "Mining disasters get monuments, meanwhile black lung deaths get tombstones. And I've seen many a tombstone in the last 28 years from black lung," he noted.

At a roundtable Ron organized in Wise, Virginia, disabled miners, physicians and lawyers explained how the current black lung adjudication process keeps justice out of reach for far too many deserving miners and survivors.

Ron Carson has been accessible to Members of Congress and provided wise counsel, as well as compassionate and enduring service to his community. He has been recognized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and his peers in the black lung community. On behalf of our colleagues in the House of Representatives, Congressman GRIFFITH and I extend our appreciation for Ron's service to those in need.

TRIBUTE TO ISABEL LATHRUM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Isabel Lathrum of Winterset, Iowa, on the very special occasion of her 102nd birthday on February 26, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Isabel's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Isabel has lived through nineteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Isabel in the United States Congress and I'm proud to recognize her today on this momentous occasion. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and in wishing her nothing but continued happiness.