

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN NANCY GOMEZ-FERNANDEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Captain Nancy Gomez-Fernandez, who has been serving the Miami-Dade community as a law enforcement officer for a number of years.

Captain Gomez-Fernandez began her career in law enforcement in 2001 with the City of Pinecrest Police Department, where she was a member of the School Resource Unit, Field Training Officer, and Honor Guard. In 2007, she became a Sergeant with the newly formed Doral Police Department and helped recruit and process background checks for officers. Captain Gomez-Fernandez quickly rose through the ranks and achieved the promotion of Captain in 2015, which she currently holds.

Captain Gomez-Fernandez's service extends beyond her obligations as a police officer. In 2017, she was awarded the Life Saver Medal for saving the life of an individual who suffered a cardiac attack. This award speaks volumes to the level of dedication she has to serve and protect the people of Doral.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to know Captain Gomez-Fernandez and I greatly admire her service to the community. Her willingness to risk her life on a daily basis to protect and serve the constituents of Doral has made and will continue to make a difference in the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this Friday, March 16, 1968, Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced his candidacy for President of the United States and launched the legendary, whirlwind, wondrous 82-day campaign that captured the imagination of millions and inspired a generation.

Much has been said about Robert F. Kennedy, affectionately known to family and millions of loved ones as "Bobby."

We know of Bobby the brother; we know of Robert the passionate Senator and crusading Attorney General; we know him the tireless and determined champion of civil rights; and, sadly, we know of Robert Francis Kennedy the martyr.

These different sides of Robert Kennedy came into sharp focus during the last 11 and a half weeks of his time on this Earth.

It has been said that a man is a product of his time.

I remember the 1960s; it was a time when America was divided and riven by social unrest and civil upheaval and facing global dangers threatening the post-World War II international order.

But as I reflect back on that time, it is clear that Bobby Kennedy was not just merely a man of his time, but he was a man whose spirit, ideals, beliefs, and moral clarity transcend time and place.

Robert Kennedy stood for equality, dignity, fairness, humanity, empathy, and moral clarity.

Robert Kennedy lived these ideals during a time when they were in short supply in our society.

Robert Kennedy loved America which he knew to be good but could and must be made better.

"What is right, keep it right; what is wrong, make it right."

That pretty much sums up the belief system of Bobby Kennedy.

I think of Robert Kennedy marching with Cesar Chavez, with whom he met almost 50 years ago on this day, as Cesar Chavez was ending his consequential hunger strike in support of migrant farm workers.

When Robert Kennedy announced his candidacy for president—from the same spot in the Senate Caucus Room as had his brother 8 years before—he remarked that he was running "not to oppose any man, but to propose new policies."

Robert Kennedy also provided a roadmap for those of us in public service when he said: "I don't think we have to shoot each other, to beat each other; I think that we can do better in this country."

But, for me, Robert Kennedy's lasting legacy are his contributions advancing equality of opportunity, civil rights, and human dignity for all Americans.

Robert Kennedy's presidential platform emphasized racial equality, economic and social justice, and civic engagement and tolerance.

Robert Kennedy's appeal was universal, and knew no racial bounds because his vision for America included everyone; whites and blacks and browns, rural and urban dwellers, the poor and working and middle-class.

Robert Kennedy's message—of decency, respect, compassion, and humility—appealed to the good in Americans and was in turn embraced by people of goodwill in every region of the country.

Next month, when we mark the 50th anniversary of a terrible day in Memphis when the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was slain, let us remember the words of Robert Kennedy as he broke the news of Dr. King's death to an assembled crowd in an African American neighborhood in Indianapolis:

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love, and wisdom, and compassion toward one another; and a feeling of justice toward those

who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black."

Two months later, on June 4, 1968, Robert Kennedy would himself be felled by an assassin's bullet at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, after winning the California Democratic Primary.

In the days immediately following his assassination, the full measure of the country's loss became apparent.

Over two million people assembled along the train tracks as his funeral cortege made its way from the funeral mass at New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral to Union Station in Washington, D.C. for his interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

When the cortege reached Philadelphia, "estimates of 20,000 people, mostly African-American . . . began to sing 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' with such force that inside, passengers began to weep."

When America lost Bobby Kennedy, it lost a big heart and a guiding hand and a generation of Americans lost its innocence.

The words used to eulogize Robert Kennedy by his brother, the late Senator Edward Kennedy, are as applicable today as they were in the hectic days of his legendary campaign for President:

"My brother need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life; to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it."

The life of Robert Francis "Bobby" Kennedy teaches us at least three important lessons when it comes to the question of justice: Words have power, actions matter, moral courage is indispensable.

Many persons have one of these qualities but much rarer are those who possess two, let alone all three in the abundance and to the degree possessed by Robert Kennedy.

Is it any wonder then that we still revere Bobby Kennedy after all these years and still miss him so much?

The 1968 folk classic, "Abraham, Martin, and John," by Dion and the Belmonts still sums up the feelings of countless millions, here in America and around the world:

Has anybody here seen my old friend Bobby? Can you tell me where he's gone?

I thought I saw him walkin' up over the hill With Abraham, Martin and John.

Has anybody here seen my old friends?

Can you tell me where they've gone?

They freed a lot of people,

But, it seems the good they die young.

You know, I just looked around and they were gone.

The mortal presence of Robert Kennedy may be gone but his immortal spirit lives on and we will always remember those joyous, vibrant, and wondrous 82 days that were his legendary 1968 presidential campaign.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the late Robert Francis Kennedy, the former U.S. Senator from New York and Attorney General of the United States.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE RICHWOODS
GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON
WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A
STATE TITLE

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Peoria, Illinois' Richwoods High School girls basketball team on winning the 2018 Class 3A state title.

Returning to the state title game for the second straight year, the Lady Knights capped off the 35–1 season with a 55–46 win over La-Grange Park Nazareth. In a back and forth game, the fourth quarter proved pivotal with Richwoods going on a 17–0 run to start the quarter. Over the course of the game, the Richwoods' Knights had an amazing team effort on both offense and defense, with Senior Kourtney Crane led the Knights with 19 points.

Richwoods' win is the 1,001st in school history and they will add a fourth Class 3A state title to their trophy case, becoming only the third high school in Illinois history to achieve this milestone. Richwoods' continued success on the hardwood is a testament to the leadership of Coach Todd Hursey and the determination of the young women he coaches.

The Richwoods girls basketball team serves as a reminder to the people of our community that when we believe in ourselves and dedicate our time and effort to the goals that we set, we can achieve even the most daring outcomes. These young women exemplify the strong work ethic rooted in Central Illinois and we could not be prouder. Again, congratulations to Coach Todd Hursey and the Richwoods girls basketball team their remarkable state championship win.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR
FREDERIC C. HOF

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Frederic C. Hof on his retirement from the Atlantic Council. Ambassador Hof has had an impressive career as a diplomat at the United States Department of State, a private sector CEO, and an officer of the United States Army. He is a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient. As a military officer, he served on the commission that investigated the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters at the Beirut International Airport. In 2001, he served as chief of staff on the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Commission, headed by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and was the principal drafter of the Commission's report. During his time at the State Department, Ambassador Hof took the lead in an effort to mediate Syrian-Israeli peace and was given the rank of Ambassador in his capacity as special adviser to the Secretary of State for transition in Syria.

After joining the Atlantic Council, as the leading Syria fellow in the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Ambassador Hof devoted his time to furthering the Syrian cause through

the protection of civilians. As a prolific writer and leader, Ambassador Hof has hosted Syrian experts, activists, political leaders, and humanitarians in high level discussions pertaining to the U.S.-Syria policy and geopolitical implications of the Syrian conflict. Through his efforts, he has led the discussions on securing a stable and legitimate government in Syria and what role the United States should have. After taking on the role of director at the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Ambassador Hof continued his efforts to bring attention to the Syrian conflict and its ongoing destabilization to the region at large.

Mr. Speaker, as the seventh anniversary of the Syrian uprising approaches, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ambassador Hof for his tireless efforts to bring attention to the Syrian conflict and its ongoing destabilization to the region at large. His service to this great nation is deeply appreciated and is a testament to the greatness and opportunity that these United States of America holds for freedom-loving people.

RECOGNIZING DOTTIE JOINER IN
HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Dorothy "Dottie" Joiner, the City Clerk for Everglades City.

Ms. Joiner has been serving Everglades City for twenty-three years and has proved to be loyal, passionate, and driven. She began her career as a purchasing agent, then transitioned into a water billing clerk. In 2002 she was promoted to City Clerk. In her capacity as City Clerk, Dottie oversees the official City records, ranging from the financial statements to the meeting minutes. As such, she is known as the go-to person if an issue needs to be resolved.

Dottie has been crucial in supporting the City in times of crisis. She played a key role in 2005 when Hurricane Wilma destroyed City Hall, resulting in the call for the building to be condemned. She worked tirelessly with the City leadership and myself to showcase the importance of saving the historic building; and was a big part of making sure it happened. More recently, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, she selflessly looked after the wellbeing of the residents of Everglades City, ensuring that necessary resources were there quickly, despite having lost her own home. Dottie's selflessness during this difficult time and the support she has given our community transcends her official responsibilities.

Her dedication to Everglades City extends beyond her responsibilities as the City Clerk. She also serves on the board of the 4th of July Committee, the Betterment Association of the Everglades Area, as well as the Reach Out and Cops Program. Dottie has always placed her community first, even before herself. We are fortunate to have leaders such as Dottie in Everglades City and Florida's 25th Congressional District, and I and my wife Tia are lucky to be able to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know Ms. Joiner and to have the opportunity to acknowl-

edge her remarkable work for Everglades City. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN MEMORIAM: TEXAS STATE
SENATOR JACK OGG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the life and memory of longtime Texas lawmaker and my friend, Jack Ogg of Houston, Texas who recently passed away at the age of 84.

Jack Ogg was a political icon who had a 52-year career in Texas politics and law. He represented the Houston area for 16 years, first as a State Representative and then as a State Senator. His love for the State of Texas and the law prompted him to further serve with a run for Texas Attorney General. After an unsuccessful race, Jack returned to his renowned law practice in Houston.

When I was a criminal court judge in Houston, Senator Ogg practiced in my court.

Jack was also the father of Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg. Kim worked alongside her father at the Ogg Law Firm and remembers her father not only as a great statesman, but a wonderful father who kept his family as his top priority. Kim said her father, "was my closest confidante." Mr. Speaker, when I saw Jack recently at the funeral of our friend, the late Texas Governor Mark White, you could tell he was beaming with pride for Kim and how she was carrying on the Ogg tradition of public service.

Those who served in the legislature alongside Jack said he did what he thought was best for his district and worked inside the rules of the legislature instead of concerning himself with partisan fights. He did what was right and stuck to his principles.

Jack told friends he was proud of authoring the bilingual education act in Texas; the bill to create Metro in Harris County; and a measure re-instating the death penalty in the state. Jack's friend Houston attorney Robert Pelton described Ogg as, "one of the finest human beings I've ever met in my life" who did many good things for the state of Texas.

I admired Jack's adventurous spirit and determination. He suffered from congestive heart failure for many years, but that didn't stop him from being active not only in Houston, but across the globe. Just a few months ago, Mr. Speaker, he took a cruise to Spain and Italy. His family said he was born with an explorer's heart and he traveled to more than 225 countries and islands, and visited all seven continents.

Senator Ogg was born in 1933 during the Depression. His family moved to Houston in the 1950s. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas then worked his way through the University of Houston, where he was twice elected class president. He went to law school at night at South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1962. He lost his beloved wife of more than 50 years, philanthropist Connie Harner Ogg, to cancer in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, those who worked with Jack in the State Legislature and at his law practice