

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
FREMONT/LOPEZ ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL'S MARIACHI LOS
TORITOS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a group of talented young musicians from my district who recently traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of a select group of students, and performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

Fremont/Lopez Elementary School in Stockton is one of twenty-seven schools in the State of California to partner with the Kennedy Center's Turnaround Arts program, which aims to boost arts education, increasing opportunities for student success. Thanks to the Turnaround Arts program, in 2014, Fremont/Lopez Elementary School offered visual arts, music, dance, and drama classes to its students, and even started a mariachi band.

The Mariachi Los Toritos band was one of four California partners invited to perform at the Turnaround Arts Talent Show at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. However, this isn't the band's first performance in our Nation's Capital. In 2016, Mariachi Los Toritos was invited to the White House for a special workshop hosted by former First Lady Michelle Obama before going on to perform at the talent show.

Through the Turnaround Arts program, Mariachi Los Toritos has also had the opportunity to receive mentorship from successful musical artists, including Smokey Robinson and Russell Simmons.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Fremont/Lopez Elementary School Mariachi Los Toritos for highlighting the importance of arts education and showcasing their impressive musical talents in our Nation's Capital.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIVE
DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN
WEST

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Native Daughters of the Golden West as they celebrate their 132nd year of existence.

In 1886, in the historic mining city of Jackson, California, 20 women met in Pioneer Hall, lead by Lilly O'Reichling, to form an Order of California-born women, united in their love for the Golden State.

Founded under the principles of love of their home, veneration of the pioneers of California,

and a deep faith in the existence of God, the Native Daughters of the Golden West is one of the oldest associations of California born leaders. Their mission is centered on preserving our State's rich history and improving the quality of life through education and community service.

The organization has since grown to over 4,500 members, with 80 parlors throughout the State. Their work continues to leave a strong legacy of charity and community building, through providing assistance in areas included, but not limited to, children's health and education, veteran welfare projects, community and church events, mission restoration, and the protection of our diverse natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in honoring the Native Daughters of the Golden West on this impressive milestone and for their dedication to preserving and improving our way of life in California.

RECOGNIZING SEAN O'GORMAN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless actions of Sean O'Gorman, a firefighter from Oswego, New York whose quick actions saved the lives of three girls in North Carolina.

On April 26, 2018, while on vacation with his family in North Carolina, Mr. O'Gorman witnessed three girls in distress after being caught in a rip current. The girls' father tried to reach them on a surfboard, but the rip current was too strong, and he was not able to make it. Luckily, Mr. O'Gorman immediately leaped into action.

Exhibiting consummate professionalism, Mr. O'Gorman entered the water to save the girls in distress. Mr. O'Gorman had recently attended Swift Water Rescue training in Auburn New York, where he had received training to prepare for this type of emergency. Using the aggressive swim, forceful crawl stroke he learned in training, O'Gorman managed to reach the girls in the rip current, where the father had been unable to reach. He managed to successfully retrieve the girls from the water, saving their lives. By the time the Emerald Isle Fire Department arrived, Mr. O'Gorman already had everyone out of the water and safe.

Mr. O'Gorman, a firefighter with the Oswego Fire Department, heroically saved the lives of three girls from a deadly rip current at Emerald Isle. His quick thinking and heroic actions stem from his training as a first responder. Our first responders are often called to dangerous and dire situations that threaten life. Just as he does every single day, Mr. O'Gorman did everything in his power to help those in need. It is my honor to recognize him and to offer thanks, praise, and a deep debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on May 17, 2018, I unintentionally voted No on the Foxx amendment to H.R. 2. I am fully committed to reforming the sugar program and increasing access to the world market for our food manufacturers and lowering food costs for all Americans.

HONORING THE 28TH ANNUAL D.C.
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day Week, May 22nd to 28th, the District of Columbia celebrates the 28th annual D.C. Black Pride with its theme, "Communities Together Building Communities."

The multi-day festival begins May 22nd with the D.C. Black Pride Awards Reception at The Park at 14th Street and concludes May 28th with a Legendary Meatloaf Apocalypse Chapter X at the Stadium Club. In between, D.C. Black Pride includes community town halls, educational workshops, a poetry slam hosted by Mary Bowman, an interfaith worship service and various social events, including breakfast, brunch, dinner and happy hours. Various performances by musicians, dancers and artists enliven the festival. Monday, the festival's penultimate day, culminates in the main event, a Cultural Arts and Wellness Exposition, sponsored by Daryl Wilson Promotions and D.C. Black Pride at Fort Dupont Park.

The D.C. Black Pride festival commenced my first year in Congress on Sunday, May 26, 1991, at Banneker Field on Georgia Avenue, across the street from Howard University. I have watched it mature from an ad hoc event to what is now widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. It now draws more than 42,000 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe and the Americas to our nation's capital.

D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. I commend Paloma Afework, Ralph Ferguson, Shannon Garcon, Glade Knight, and Reginald Shaw-Richardson, the volunteer Advisory Board that assists Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., C. Hawkins, Genise Chambers-Woods and Kenya Hutton with the coordination, planning, and execution of D.C. Black Pride. I also take pride in noting that this year, Earl continues his service into a third decade of involvement with both D.C. Black Pride and the Black Pride Movement around the globe.

• 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.

As Black Pride comes to town, I take this opportunity to inform the celebrants and to remind my colleagues of the limitations Congress has placed on the District of Columbia. Despite paying more federal taxes than 22 states and paying the highest per capita federal taxes in the United States, D.C. residents still have no full voting representation in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 28th annual D.C. Black Pride celebration.

COMMEMORATING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK DECISION IN *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which overturned the doctrine of "separate but equal" that had been the law of the land since 1896 when the Supreme Court decided *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court declared that separate public schools for black and white Americans were unconstitutional.

This unanimous decision sparked the movement toward desegregation of American institutions and paved the way for the civil rights movement.

On the anniversary of this landmark decision, it is appropriate that we pay tribute to our ancestors who endured and lived through those days of crisis and challenge so that we could enjoy the right to vote, the right to equal protection of the law, and to enjoy the blessings of liberties.

These efforts should not go unrecognized.

This historic case originated in Topeka, Kansas, and involved a black third-grader named Linda Brown, who had to walk one mile through a railroad switchyard to get to her black elementary school, even though a white elementary school was only seven blocks away.

Linda's father, Oliver Brown, tried to enroll her in the white elementary school, but the principal of the school refused.

Mr. Brown went to McKinley Burnett, the head of Topeka's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and asked for help.

The NAACP got other black parents to join in to a complaint and in 1951 the NAACP requested an injunction that would forbid the segregation of Topeka's public schools.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas heard Oliver Brown's case but refused to overrule the precedent of *Plessy v. Ferguson* which allowed separate but equal school systems for blacks and whites.

The case was taken to the Supreme Court on October 1, 1951 and set up one of the landmark cases in the history of the American justice system.

It was the arguments presented by the NAACP on Mr. Brown's that won the day.

On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren read the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court:

"We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does. . . . We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

With those few words more than a century of racial discrimination and separation were dealt a great blow.

It is up to us to preserve the hard won gains of those who led the fight and won the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE "LARRY" PARRY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Lawrence "Larry" Parry who passed away on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

Mr. Parry served his nation proudly as a U.S. Army Mechanic. In 1941, Mr. Parry was stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, when Japanese forces launched a surprise aerial attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Mr. Parry played an integral role in the defense of Pearl Harbor, tasked with supplying ammunition to troops around the island.

Mr. Parry's experience at Pearl Harbor changed his life forever. After the war, Mr. Parry became an ambassador of The Greatest Generation Foundation, working day in and day out to ensure that the lives of our nation's veterans are honored and memorialized. Mr. Parry returned to Pearl Harbor in 2016, with one hundred other survivors, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attacks.

Mr. Parry was predeceased by his son Frederick. Frederick "Fred" Parry served in the U.S. Army like his father, and passed away in January at the age of 67. A veteran, Fred was awarded a Purple Heart for his service in Korea. Mr. Parry is survived by his daughter, Susan Acker, his grandchildren, and his great grandson, Liam "Bug Boy" Roland.

Mr. Parry has been justly recognized for his career of service. Last December seventh, he traveled to Washington to meet President Trump, and will be introduced into the New York State Senate's Veterans hall of fame.

Lawrence Parry lived a life of fantastic and selfless service, always putting the interests of our great nation first, even in our darkest moments. For his tremendous efforts to defend our nation, honor our brave veterans, and for making our community a better place, it is my distinct privilege today to honor a great American, Lawrence Parry.

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2372, the VA MISSION Act because the bill falls short in fulfilling our commitment to veterans. Though this legislation contains many positive provisions to support our veterans and their caregivers, on balance it is a short-sighted approach that does not adequately provide for the long-term needs of those who have honorably served our country. The bill subjects funding for VA programming to the nondefense discretionary caps, which leaves it vulnerable to being underfunded or being funded at the expense of other critical programs in the future. Our veterans and the VA need certainty; this bill does not provide it.

Additionally, I am concerned that this bill represents a concerted effort to shift resources away from VA care and instead rely disproportionately on private providers. I support veterans having the flexibility to receive expedited treatment for acute health issues outside the VA if timely care is not available at a VA facility, but veterans often have unique care needs that are best served by dedicated VA providers. Instead of making critical, lasting investments to make sure veterans receive the best possible care, this bill puts future services at risk of significant cuts by relying on funding that may fall captive to political agendas.

I am glad this bill expands benefits to all caregivers, and I appreciate the effort to ensure veterans do not have difficulty accessing care. But I cannot support a bill that brings uncertainty because it fails to provide for the needs of our nation's veterans in the future. I urge my colleagues to advance legislation that would provide long-term stable funding and support for the Veterans Administration and our veterans.

HONORING LTC JOEY ERRINGTON

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2018

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Lieutenant Colonel Joey L. Errington's change of command and pending retirement from the United States Army I want to recognize him and his family on their nearly 30 years of service to the Nation. Originally from Rush City, Minnesota LTC Errington enlisted in 1989 as a 13B, Cannon Crewman. He was selected for the Green to Gold Program at Clemson University and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1997.

He is a graduate of the Field Artillery Basic Course, the Field Artillery Career Course at Fort Sill, OK, and the Command and General's Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Education from Clemson University and a Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership from Webster University.

During his tenure led our soldiers at echelon from the platoon to Battalion. LTC Errington is