

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMBASSADOR FAITH WHITTLESEY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the late Ambassador Faith Whittlesey, a distinguished public servant and a native of New Jersey. I have also been asked to express the condolences of my colleagues Congressmen DON BEYER, JOAQUIN CASTRO, CHARLIE CRIST, BILL HUIZENGA and ALEX MOONEY as well as Senator BARRASSO, whose lives have all been touched by the work of Ambassador Whittlesey.

Ambassador Whittlesey was the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland for nearly five years during both 1981–1983 and 1985–1988, and during the Reagan Administration she served as the Director of the Office of Public Liaison.

Her many roles in public life included time as the Chairwoman and President of the American Swiss Foundation in New York, and her service as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

During her influential career, Ambassador Whittlesey was a pivotal figure in building and developing Swiss and American relations, both domestically and abroad.

Ambassador Whittlesey was a graduate of Wells College and received her Law Degree from the University of Pennsylvania, earned a Ford Foundation Grant to attend the Academy of International Law in The Hague, The Netherlands.

During her career, she received honors such as the Reagan Revolution Medal of Honor, the Congress of Racial Equality Public Service Award, the Christian Freedom International Freedom Award, the Stratton Prize, and the William Tell Award. A book written by Thomas Carty centered on her career, entitled “Backwards, in High Heels: Faith Whittlesey, Ronald Reagan’s ‘Madam Ambassador’ in Switzerland and the West Wing”. Lastly, the Ambassador had the “Faith Whittlesey rose” named in her legacy.

These awards are a mere testament to Ambassador Whittlesey’s commendable dedication and leadership on behalf of our nation and the Swiss-United States relationship.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost an extraordinary, devoted person in Ambassador Faith Whittlesey. I invite you to join me in thanking her for many contributions to our country.

PHILIP SAHARCHUK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Philip Saharchuk for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Philip Saharchuk is a student at Two Roads Charter School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Philip Saharchuk is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Philip Saharchuk for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JULIA JENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Judge Julia Jent and to wish her well upon her retirement. For her lifetime of service, and truly inspiring career, Judge Jent is worthy of the highest praise. Among her numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana, most impressive is her compassionate and unwavering commitment to our veterans. The Judge will oversee her final Veterans Treatment Court graduation on May 30, 2018, at Woodland Park in Portage, Indiana.

Judge Julia Jent was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1957 when she was adopted by a military family from Texas. At the age of eighteen, she joined the United States Army. It was during her time in the service that she met her husband, Jack Jent, a fellow servicemember. Following their time in the military, the couple eventually moved to Northwest Indiana where they raised four children. After years of working a few different jobs, Julia decided to continue her education. In 1979, she received a Bachelor’s degree from Indiana University Northwest, and in 1982, she earned a law degree from Valparaiso University. Judge Jent worked thirteen years in private practice law, before she was appointed by former Governor Evan Bayh as Judge of the Porter Superior Court to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Judge Mary Harper, in 1997. She was then elected to a six-year term in 1998, and has presided over Porter Superior Court III for the past twenty-one years. In addition to her remarkable career, the Judge gives much of her time and efforts to numerous charitable and civic organizations, and for that she is to be commended.

Presiding as a Superior Court Judge, values such as respect for others, loyalty, and patriotism, instilled during her military service, as

well as her concern for the veterans appearing before her bench, served as the motivation for Judge Jent to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in Porter County. Recognizing many of our veterans struggle with addiction, mental health, and other issues after their time in the service of our nation, Judge Jent knew a more effective solution to address the nonviolent criminal charges veterans faced as defendants was to create a framework based on partnerships to focus on the root problem, rather than incarceration, and the Veterans Treatment Court was established in 2011. This court system allows defendants to participate in programs, including treatment and mentoring, that will meet their individual needs and take one to two years to complete before their record is expunged. The numerous graduates of this program attest to its success, and to it saving their lives, thanks to the dedicated professionals who share Judge Jent’s vision and her compassion and who work together to improve the lives of those in their community.

Personally, I have been blessed by the depth of Marge’s kindness. I first met the Judge in early 1983 when I was an unemployed lawyer beginning to seek my way in the world. From the first time I met her and Jack, I was enveloped in their friendship and constant assistance. I could not have been successful without it. But my story is not unique, but only one of innumerable instances of Judge Julia Jent’s empathy and kindness.

I am honored to call Julia Jent a friend. More importantly, Marge has been a friend to all, and the epitome of a public servant. Hers is a life we should all seek to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in honoring Judge Julia Jent for her outstanding service to the people of Northwest Indiana and to wish her well upon her retirement. Judge Jent’s impact on the region will be witnessed by generations to come, and for her many contributions, she is worthy of our gratitude and admiration.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN BABER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a distinguished World War II veteran, Mr. John Baber, of Bath County, Kentucky.

As a young man, Mr. Baber answered the call and served in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1946. He was stationed in the South Pacific on the USS *Clermont*. Mr. Baber returned home after helping the Allies achieve victory. Upon his return, he finished school.

Mr. Baber married Rene Hornbeck on July 23, 1949. He moved to Platte City, Missouri to work at Texas Eastern. After a long career, he retired in 1986.

Mr. Baber went on to become a member of the Gideons in 1986. He has always been an

• 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.

active member of the community, serving as a Scout Master and being involved in youth baseball. He is an active member of the Owingsville United Methodist Church.

Mr. Baber and other members of the Greatest Generation served their country bravely and are true heroes. Mr. Baber and his fellow men and women in uniform secured our freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Thursday, May 24, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage of H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. This legislation provides our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to protect our freedom at home and abroad, and fully funds the highest pay raise for our troops in the last nine years.

JACOB HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Hernandez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jacob Hernandez received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Hernandez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DR. THOMAS A. KAZEE

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Thomas A. Kazee upon his retirement as the 23rd president of the University of Evansville.

A political scientist by preparation, this Ohio native became the face of UE. While reaffirming its decades-old tradition of world-renowned higher education, Dr. Kazee championed the

role of the modern university and wisely recognized that it must continue to evolve and respond to contemporary challenges.

As creator of the "UE Guarantee," Dr. Kazee boldly defined UE's commitment to its students with emphasis on substantial financial aid, internships, international study, and graduation in four years. He prompted the University to reexamine its career development strategy even after graduation. He led a collaboration with the Indiana University School of Medicine and its crosstown neighbor, the University of Southern Indiana, in a transformational Center for Health Sciences in downtown Evansville. He orchestrated a master plan that led to construction of student townhouses, renovations of key academic buildings, and positioned the stately Lincoln Avenue campus for decades to come.

With profound gratitude for Dr. Kazee's career as an academian, community leader, and outstanding steward of a great university, I join all Hoosiers in extending my best wishes in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WOODY PETTUS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Woodrow "Woody" Pettus was a true Virginia gentleman. For 58 years, he worked at The Homestead, a historic resort nestled in the mountains of beautiful Bath County, Virginia. He was an institution there, known for his knack for remembering faces and names and always greeting guests and friends with a smile.

Woody left this earthly life for his heavenly home on May 16, 2018, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruby Alloway Pettus, as well as two children, Woodrow Houston Pettus and wife Helen, and Lisa Pettus Aguilar, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and special family members. My prayers for peace and comfort are with them as they reflect on their loss and remember the memories they shared with Woody, affectionately known as "Pa" to some.

Woody was born on March 28, 1941, to the late Walter Woodrow Pettus and Nellie Moats Pettus in Warm Springs, Virginia. He started caddying at The Homestead as a teenager, and instantly made an impression on guests and co-workers alike. While he loved the game of golf, he wanted something with more history and decided to move to the stables and work with his father who was one of the senior Livery Drivers. Woody eventually moved on to the Dining Room where he served in a variety of roles, including his most recent position of Maitre d'. In 2003, Golfstyles magazine recognized him as the Maitre d'Hotel of the Year. Last September, Historic Hotels of America honored him as Ambassador of the Year, which is presented to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to a historic hotel for at least 25 years and has shown exemplary hospitality and service to the hotel and its guests. Woody was one of five generations of Pettuses who have worked at The Homestead. He was also a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Warm Springs, where he was baptized as a youth.

The Homestead is a special place for me and my family. Woody was a dear friend and always greeted my family warmly. He and I enjoyed catching up frequently over the years I know this is a sentiment widely shared as evidenced by the outpouring of support for him when his cancer diagnosis was announced and now in his passing. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

The weekend of June 1st, his family, friends, and his beloved "Homestead family" will gather to celebrate his life and pay tribute to his long and vibrant legacy—rich with kindness and a dedication to serving others. It is only fitting that he be celebrated at the place that he loved so dearly by the people he built relationships with over the past six decades.

Woody's presence will be dearly missed in the hallways and dining room of The Homestead, but certainly not forgotten. I know that I will long remember his kind smile and gentle demeanor, just like many others he met over the years. Woody was one in a million, and we are all better for having known him.

He sums it up best himself. When asked what he loves most about what he does, Woody said, "When I can look down the hall leading to the dining room and see some of my guests coming toward me, guests that I've known for years, coming back. That's when I know that my life has not been in vain."

HONORING MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BRITT SLABINSKI

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise to honor Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski, a native of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Yesterday, Mr. Slabinski was awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Authorized by and awarded in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor acknowledges those service members who display unparalleled bravery and a willingness to risk their own lives which clearly and conspicuously distinguishes them above their comrades. Mr. Slabinski is only the 12th living servicemember to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery displayed in Afghanistan.

In the early morning hours of March 4th, 2002, during the mountaintop battle of Takur Ghar, Mr. Slabinski led a reconnaissance team in support of a major coalition offensive against Al-Qaida forces in the valley below. According to the United States Navy, after enemy fire brought down one of his team's helicopters, "without hesitation, then-Senior Chief Slabinski made the selfless and heroic decision to lead the remainder of his element on an immediate and daring rescue back to the mountaintop."

The Navy notes that Mr. Slabinski, "with bullets piercing his clothing, repeatedly charged into deadly fire to personally engage the enemy bunker" before the situation became untenable. With daylight approaching, he maneuvered his team to a more defensible