

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN CHRIS D.  
JANKE

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a true American leader and patriot, Captain Chris D. Janke, on the momentous occasion of his retirement after 27 years of honorable service in the United States Navy. In March 2015, Captain Janke assumed his duties as commanding officer of Naval Base Ventura County, California. With great distinction, he dutifully oversaw a diverse installation that supported more than 100 tenant commands with a base population of more than 19,000 personnel, as well as 11 deployable commands and three warfare centers.

Captain Janke's career at Naval Base Ventura County was underscored by exemplary leadership, perceptive planning, and focus on both mission execution and community engagement. These efforts were clearly demonstrated by Captain Janke's remarkable command of major aviation, shore, and port facilities, comprised of three primary sites: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island. His leadership of Naval Base Ventura County supported numerous tenants—including the renowned Naval Construction Group ONE—who carried out missions for the security and the safety of our nation.

Naval Base Ventura County is home to three runways and the only deep water military port between San Diego, California, and Kitsap County, Washington. Captain Janke directed the day-to-day operations of a 1,000-person organization providing comprehensive support services to the Fleet, Fighter, and Family. He brilliantly directed diverse installation programs, including fleet support operations, facilities maintenance and construction, utilities, environmental stewardship, housing, childcare, recreation, safety, resource management, protocol, public affairs, family support service, and IT technology management.

His visionary leadership was key to the successful execution of 104,237 tower and 26,105 flight operations per annum, supporting 35 different series of aircraft. The air terminal launched and recovered 3,631 flights, processed 42,817 passengers and moved over 2.7 million pounds of cargo and baggage. The port adeptly supported over 1410 tenants and 91 visiting ship movements—handling tons of military cargo in support of major joint operations and military exercises per annum. During his tour, Naval Base Ventura County hosted multiple visits from the Littoral Combat Ships and quickly became a major port of choice for visiting warships and other platforms in support of the Navy's worldwide mission.

Naval Base Ventura County plays a critically important role in our national defense, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

This is in large part due to Captain Janke, and this is a profound testament to his outstanding leadership. For these reasons, on the occasion of his retirement, I am pleased to join a grateful community to extend my most sincere congratulations and appreciation for his countless contributions to Ventura County, and our nation as a whole.

COMMEMORATING THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, June 6, marks the 74th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

This joint undertaking to liberate the continent of Europe from the clutches of an evil and aggressor enemy was the first and most emphatic demonstration of the invincible strength of democratic nations when acting collectively.

For nearly seventy years, from April 4, 1949 to January 20, 2017, peace in Europe has been secured and no adversary, not the old Soviet Union or the contemporary Russian Federation, has dared to risk war by attacking a European ally of the United States because every American president has made clear that the United States is committed to Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty which holds that an attack on any NATO member is regarded as an attack on all of them.

Mr. Speaker, "Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin.

With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France.

They just did not know when or where.

So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery.

Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France.

And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way onto and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War.

And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace.

With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

"They will need Thy blessings.

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

"They fight not for the lust of conquest.

"They fight to end conquest.

"They fight to liberate.

"They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

"They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home."

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high; U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians.

German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

● 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.

But the operation was a success.

More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them came the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and said to them that they were about to embark upon a "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world" were upon them.

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, fully justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in their courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg.

There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

It is equally fitting and proper that we never forget D-Day and that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the light of freedom would never be extinguished in the world.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GORDON WALTER SONDKER

### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, we lost a beloved Southwest Washington resident and Navy veteran this past month. Gordon Walter Sondker passed away on May 13th at the age of 91, leaving a legacy his family will carry on for generations.

Born on February 10, 1927, in Holton, Kansas, Gordon lived his life full of passion and

pride for his community and country. Gordon served in the Navy and was very active in the Monticello Lions Club and Toastmasters. He was also a founding member of the Southwest Washington Canoe Club. Gordon and his wife, Barbara, were also very involved in their community and gave back whenever they had the opportunity. Gordon was also involved with the Longview Community Church, American Field Service, Kelso Methodist Church and the Columbia Theatre Guild.

To say Gordon dedicated his life to helping others and working to better his community would be an understatement. Gordon was an exceptional example of what it means to be an American patriot, and he will be missed by everyone who was blessed to know him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233 on June 5, 2018. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call vote 231, Yea on Roll Call vote 232, and Yea on Roll Call vote 233.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 175th Anniversary of the Independence Fire Department in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent.

Throughout the first half of the 18th Century, Independence, Missouri was a prospering village on the cusp of achieving the noteworthy status of an industrialized community. As people planted their roots and a community flourished, there emerged an evident need to protect what they had established. In 1843, community members petitioned the state legislature, and the 12th General Assembly of Missouri approved the establishment of a volunteer fire department known as the "Independence Fire Company".

At that time, it is my understanding that these volunteers carved out an indelible mark of innovation in the community, with a manpowered wooden engine and buckets of water to put out fires as their only tools. In August of 1894, the Independence Fire Company transitioned from a volunteer based organization to a professionally paid department. Furthermore, it gives me great pride to know just how far this company has come over the years.

By the end of the 1950's, the department boasted the employment of more than 100 firemen, nearly five times the amount the company had at the beginning of the decade. Furthermore, with eight stations total, the department expanded its protection of a population

of 16,000 to nearly 100,000 citizens. This period of rapid expansion was initiated by the Missouri Inspection Bureau; however, it is my belief that these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of each and every individual within the department.

Today, the department encompasses 10 fire stations, 165 firefighters, and an area of 78 square miles. Under the current leadership of the Fire Chief Douglas Short, the Independence Fire Department remains an institution that protects and serves the community. Just as those who established the company 175 years ago, they maintain the same selfless sacrifice regarding the protection of countless lives and the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the Independence Fire Department for their 175 years of dedicated service to the community. Let us join in recognizing the bravery of the men and women, past and present, who have honorably served the community and preserved the integrity and excellence of this establishment.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING DARLENE QUICHOCHO AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE JANE WHA- YOUNG KIM AWARD FOR TEACH- ING EXCELLENCE

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2018*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Darlene Quichocho as the recipient of the first Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence sponsored by the Jane Wha-Young Kim Foundation. Darlene currently teaches English and Speech and Drama at George Washington High School in Guam.

The Jane Wha-Young Kim Award for Teaching Excellence was established in 2017 to recognize one full-time middle or high school teacher on Guam who models excellence as a teaching professional. Darlene was chosen for her effective use of instructional practices and materials, her ability to inspire, enable, and assist students to achieve their full potential. She was also recognized for encouraging community engagement and service by students.

Darlene was chosen unanimously by a selection committee, made up of Jane Wha-Young Kim's family and prominent members of the education community on island. Darlene was chosen from among nine outstanding nominees based on her exemplary teaching record at the George Washington High School, her strong support for various extracurricular activities, and her exceptionally positive impact on her students, colleagues, and community. The award was presented to Darlene on Monday, April 23, 2018 at George Washington High School.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Darlene, her family, and school community on this accomplishment. I look forward to her continued success and future contributions to our island.