

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana, as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 110th anniversary. First Baptist's leaders and members will be commemorating this milestone with a communal "Unity Circle" around the church and celebration on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The theme for this beautiful event is "Glorifying God for 110 years of Faithfulness."

In 1908, the African American community recognized the need for a Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. Three individuals, Raymond Rankins, Samuel Duncan, and Samuel Clay, called upon Dr. Elijah John Fisher, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago, for support in making this dream a reality. Through their hard work and determination, First Baptist emerged in Gary, with the first services being held in the home of Mr. Rankins. Soon after, participation in the church began to increase, and the first house of worship was constructed at 1617 Washington Street in Gary. After various reconstructions and relocations, First Baptist finally settled in its current location at 626 West 21st Avenue in 1955, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Robert E. Penn, who served as pastor for more than twenty years. Reverend Penn's legacy continues to resonate as a shining example of selfless service and unwavering commitment to the community. Throughout the years, numerous senior pastors have made remarkable contributions to the First Baptist Church of Gary, as well as to the community of Northwest Indiana, and they are worthy of our deepest appreciation. Currently, the senior pastor of First Baptist is Pastor Timothy F. Brown. Pastor Brown has initiated new programs aimed at improving not only the church but the community as well, and his efforts are worthy of the highest praise.

From its modest beginnings, First Baptist Church has emerged as a pillar of the Gary community. Although First Baptist, the oldest African American congregation in the City of Gary, has seen immense growth, not only in the size of its congregation but also in the depth of the services and programs available to its members, the clergy and congregation have remained dedicated to the fundamental ideal of serving God by serving each other.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating church members Mary Bacon, Herman Borders, Gwendolyn Buggs, Tillman Buggs, Columbus Chambers Jr., Mae Fossett, and Michael J. Houston, each of whom has reached their 50th year of membership with the church this year. I also ask that you join me in recognizing 2018 col-

lege and high school graduates 2nd Lt. Adam Franklin Collins, Sidney Puckett, Melody Walker, Victoria Bacon, Ashley Conerly, Destiny R. Harris, Caleb J. Hiller, Blake Dupre Reasoner, and Rashawn Seels, while congratulating Pastor Timothy F. Brown and all church leaders and members of First Baptist Church of Gary on the special occasion of its 110th anniversary. Throughout the years, the clergy and congregation of First Baptist Church have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality and guidance through their service to their community.

HONORING JOHN WILLIAM ROBROCK

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John William Robrock for his lifelong dedication to art education and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Robrock began his teaching career in 1979 and has taught in California, South Dakota, and Wyoming. He has spent the last eighteen years in my district at San Benito High School. Throughout his career, Mr. Robrock inspired countless young students to explore their creative abilities and pursue their artistic goals.

With his support and guidance, Mr. Robrock's students have earned thousands of dollars in scholarships as well as trips to Washington, D.C. and Japan to present their work. Since 1989, his students have participated in the Congressional District Art Competition, five of which won first place awards and displayed their artwork at the U.S. Capitol. This year I was honored to award first place in the Congressional Art Competition for Congressional District 20 to one of his students.

Mr. Robrock has a great ability to inspire and motivate his students in their artistic endeavors. Mr. Robrock has maintained a lifelong commitment to artistic explorations in a wide variety of mediums. This is apparent in his dedication to the art of comic books, and he has even traveled internationally to spread the appreciation of this art form. Moreover, Mr. Robrock maintains a deep love of classical music and opera, and was even willing to stand-in last minute for the University of Wyoming's marching band. As a teacher, Mr. Robrock has coached students in performing arts who went on to win statewide theater competitions. He has also designed parade floats in the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade and banners for the San Benito Writers Group in the Saddle Horse Association of San Benito parade.

Mr. Robrock has dedicated his life to the proliferation of the arts. His four decades of teaching countless college and high school students—both inside and outside my district—are a testament to his dedication to ensuring younger generations appreciate all art

has to offer. His awards, both personal and those of his students, are too numerous to list in full. It is the tireless dedication of art connoisseurs and instructors like Mr. Robrock that ensure our country continues to rightfully treasure the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to add my name to the recognition of John Robrock's accomplishments and passion for the arts. I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors and encourage all of my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and appreciating Mr. Robrock's four decades of public service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT OF CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the two World War II veterans and twenty-three Korean War veterans from Oregon who are visiting their memorials on the National Mall on Friday, June 8, 2018, through Honor Flight of Central Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes, I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

He was right then, of course, Mr. Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty-loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That's why it is my privilege to include their names in the RECORD.

The veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Bill Apgar, Air Force; Bill Jensen, Air Force; Donald Tuter, Air Force; Jim Roppe, Air Force; John Giles, Air Force; Robert Huntington Sr., Air Force; Robert Wolverton Sr., Air Force; Larry Rose, Air Force; Alexander McKenzie, Army; Denny Kane, Army; Fred Hasenoehrl, Army; Jack Donnelly, Army; Lanny Jones, Army; Lester Davis, Army; Michael Craig, Army; Neil Chase, Army; Paul Knox, Army; Ray Davis, Army; Wallace Smith, Army; Arthur Egren Jr., Marine Corps; John Meyer, Marine Corps; Frankie Bowne, Navy; Jim Prentice, Navy; Leonard Zierlin, Navy; and Paul LaFrance, Navy.

These twenty-five heroes join over 200,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the ten guardians traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Fred Beebe, Air Force; Mike Woods, Air Force; Russell Tuter, Air Force; Christine Gittins, Army; Dennis Dorsett, Army; Lee Thorsell, Army; Dane Prevatt, Marine Corps; Duane Wolf, Marine Corps; Clint McAuliffe, Navy; and Jeff Mackey, Navy.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, at the height of the Civil War in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause." Each of us in this chamber and in this nation should be humbled by the courage of these brave veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Central Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

THE ASTRODOME: THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD AND NOW A TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Houston Astros lead their division, Houstonians can't help but look forward to another exciting season of Astros baseball. As the home of the reigning champions, the people of Houston have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to remember.

Today Astros games are played in the beautiful Minute Maid Ballpark, however many of us old timers remember watching the team's first game in the Astrodome in 1965. There was simply nothing else like the Dome. The players would stand in centerfield and try to hit balls straight up to see if they could hit the roof. It was a marvel for both the players and fans. It was the world's first domed stadium, the only stadium in sports to offer luxury suites, and—since everything is bigger in Texas—the largest dome on Earth.

Home to the Houston Astros for three decades, the stadium has seen thousands of people from all over our country. But Mr. Speaker, baseball fans were not the only ones making their way through the iconic Dome's doors. Elvis Presley performed seven times in the stadium, the Battle of the Sexes tennis match was played here, and the world famous Houston Livestock Show and Radio was held in the Dome for many years. Though the Dome has seen its fair share of cowboys, movie stars, and baseball players, perhaps its greatest moment was when it was transformed into a home for over 60,000 refugees fleeing the destruction of Katrina.

The Astrodome is not an abandoned baseball stadium; it is a part of Houston and Texas history. Nicknamed the Eighth wonder of the world, the Dome is a landmark loved by all Houstonians. Just recently it received its fitting designation as a Texas Historic Landmark. Though it has gone its many years without official recognition, the Astrodome has always been admired by those Houstonians and Texans who know its history. Now, the Astrodome takes its proper place in Texas history as an official Texas Historic Landmark.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ANGEL ANDERSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson and her store, The SpiceSuite, on becoming the 2018 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year. This distinction is awarded as part of our 21st annual District of Columbia Small Business Fair, which we are holding today at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor Angel and The SpiceSuite, a store located at 6902 4th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20012 where customers can customize spice blends and find unique products like coconut vanilla infused honey and blueberry sugar. Angel opened The SpiceSuite just two years ago as the manifestation of a dream she did not know she had, and has since cultivated it into a community staple. A D.C. native, Angel graduated from Banneker High School, and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Howard University. After completing her studies, she worked in education for nine years, focusing mainly on underserved communities. Angel began her teaching career at the District's Oak Hill Youth Center, eventually moving on to be a counselor and later an assistant principal at the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School.

The SpiceSuite is an extension of Angel's passion for community service. She operates the store as an avenue to promote other women-owned small businesses by sharing its space with these businesses to launch and sell their products. She has offered this opportunity to over 200 small businesses to date, at no cost to them. Angel continues to employ the various platforms at her disposal to engage the public and advocate for the underserved.

Our fair highlights the importance of small businesses to the District's economy. It provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. small business owners. Small businesses are a crucial lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of the expanding success of small businesses throughout the District. We thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year; the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to small businesses; and, of course, all of the small business participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson, as well as in celebrating small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, small businesses continue to make indispensable contributions to our economies and communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the vote on passage of H.R. 8 (Roll Call No.

238). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on final passage.

This bill is the result of a strong bipartisan process, and includes multiple projects beneficial to Colorado.

HONORING GORDON L. "BOX" BOCHER

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service, scholarship, and contributions of Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, United States Air Force, retired. Specifically, I'd like to recognize his recent essay based upon his experiences during the Vietnam War. A resident of New Jersey, Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher served in the United States Air Force from January of 1968 until June of 1980.

From February of 1972 until February of 1973, Gordon, served in the 16th Special Operations Squadron as a Fire Control Officer (FCO) assigned to fly the AC-130A Gunship. During that year, he flew over 170 combat sorties. He was in-theatre when the armistice was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973. While compiling research for his book and doing speaking tours, Gordon found a great deal of misinformation regarding the last year of the Vietnam War. He felt compelled to tell his story through an informative essay detailing his experiences.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey are tremendously honored to have Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, Ret. as a dedicated member of our community. It is because of his honorable service to our nation, his dedication to his community, and his work to honor the memory of all who served alongside with him, that I rise to recognize his scholarly contributions before the United State House of Representatives.

EMBRACING AUTISM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, transitioning into adulthood from high school to college can be a difficult time for anyone. Balancing things such as what classes to take for your major, meeting new people, and finding time to study can be overwhelming. Now imagine doing all of those things while having autism.

Shaelynn "Shae" Castle was initially diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in elementary school. It wasn't until middle school when she was properly diagnosed with autism. Shae struggled socially and academically, but with the support of her family and the Humble ISD Mosaic Program, she worked hard to learn the skills to advocate for herself.

The Mosaic Program helps people with disabilities from ages 18 to 21 transition from high school to become more independent adults. While attending Mosaic, students have