

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE HELEN SHORES LEE

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 6, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Judge Helen Shores Lee, who passed away on July 2, 2018, at the age of 77. Judge Lee was the first black woman to serve as a judge on the Jefferson County Circuit Court, and was a daughter of the prominent civil rights attorney Authur Shores. Throughout her life, Judge Lee put her family and her community first. Her contributions as a public servant and advocate for equal justice will not be forgotten.

On May 3, 1941, Judge Lee was born in Birmingham, Alabama, a city which would become the beating heart of the civil rights movement. Born to parents Arthur Shores and Theodora Warren Shores, Judge Lee grew up with her younger sister Barbara in Birmingham's historic Smithfield neighborhood, an area that was at the forefront of Birmingham's struggle for equal rights. Home to black leaders including A.G. Gaston and Peter Hall, Smithfield became known as "dynamite hill" because houses in the neighborhood were bombed so frequently by the Klu Klux Klan.

Judge Lee's home was no exception. Because of her father's role as a prominent attorney in the civil rights movement, Judge Lee's family was regularly targeted. During one two-week period during the summer of 1963, her home was bombed twice, injuring Judge Lee's mother and killing their pet.

But Judge Lee's father refused to give up on his fight for equality. As an attorney, he worked for Autherine Lucy in her effort to desegregate the University of Alabama. Later he helped secure admission for Vivian Malone and James Hood, who successfully desegregated the school.

Despite violent threats against her home, her family, and her neighborhood, Judge Lee pursued her education. Judge Lee graduated from A.H. Parker High School and then attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, to earn her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Judge Lee then went on to earn her Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California.

After graduating from Fisk University, Judge Lee married the love of her life, Robert Lee, Sr., and started a family with her new husband in California. For 55 years, until Judge Lee's passing, the couple remained happily married.

Judge Lee practiced as a clinical psychologist for several years before following in her father's footsteps and becoming an attorney. With a law degree from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Judge Lee joined her father's firm in 1988.

From 1996 to 2000, Judge Lee served as a member of the Alabama State Ethics Commission. During her last two years on the Commission she served as the Commission's chairwoman.

After 16 years of working with her father's firm, Judge Lee was appointed Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial Court of Alabama by Governor Don Siegelman. Assuming the bench in 2003, Judge Lee became the first black woman to serve in the Civil Division of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County.

As a Circuit Judge, Judge Lee continued her commitment to community service, pushing herself and those around her to give their time to promote the welfare of the Birmingham community. For her tireless work, Judge Lee was recognized by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Central Alabama with the Jeana P. Hosch Woman of Valor award in 2013.

Judge Lee is preceded in death by her father Arthur Shores and mother Theodora Warren Shores. She leaves to cherish her memories her devoted husband of 55 years Robert Lee, Sr., her loving children, Robert Lee, Jr., Arthur Shores Lee (Vera), and Keisha Lee, her five beautiful grandchildren, Vincent, Ashely, Trenton, Trevon, and Leigh, her sister Barbara Shores, niece Danielle, nephew Damien, and a host of many cousins and special friends.

On a personal note, Judge Lee was a true inspiration to me. Her keen intellect, calming influence, and fierce determination made her a role model and mentor to many. I am so grateful for her friendship and counsel over the years. I know that I serve in Congress today as Alabama's first black Congresswoman because of amazing black women like Judge Lee who paved the way. Her extraordinary legacy will continue to live on in the many people she impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and contributions of Judge Helen Shores Lee. She was a community leader and a Birmingham treasure whose community service and whose fight for justice touched countless lives.

WISHING MICHAEL MCHUGH A SPEEDY AND COMPLETE VICTORY IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST CANCER

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 6, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes, prayers, and hopes for a speedy and complete victory to Michael McHugh in his battle against cancer.

Michael McHugh previously worked in my Houston Office as an intern where he made significant contributions to our efforts to serve

the residents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

Raised in Friendswood, Texas and educated at the University of Houston, Michael McHugh earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and played an active role in several civic organizations and volunteer groups in the Houston area.

Those of us who know Michael well know his dedication to democratic ideals and his commitment to fighting injustice.

That dedication and commitment will serve Michael well during this most challenging and difficult chapter in his life.

Michael McHugh lives the quote of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

As a breast cancer survivor, I know how shocking, overwhelming, and unexpected a cancer diagnosis can be.

I know how easy it is for anxiety, anger, and depression to creep in as you adjust to life after the diagnosis.

However, as Lance Armstrong said "we have two options, medically and emotionally: give up or fight like hell."

Michael is a fighter.

As a Congresswoman who is also a survivor, I have and will continue to support funding medical research designed to cure cancer.

It is my hope that Michael McHugh will win his fight against cancer and will enjoy many more years with his loving family and friends and continue his history of service to our community and nation.

It is my prayer that Michael's battle against cancer will one day be a footnote in the book of his life, just another battle that he fought and won.

As the later ESPN broadcaster, Stuart Scott, stated, "you beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live."

HONORING IVAN DRACH

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 6, 2018*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague and fellow co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, Rep. BRIAN FITZPATRICK, to honor the dignified and illustrious life of Ukrainian democratic leader, Ivan Drach. A poet, author, politician, and lover of liberty for Ukraine, Ivan was a true leader who brought forward the edge of freedom for his nation. On June 19, Ivan passed away in Kyiv at the age of 81.

He first gained prominence with his poem, "Knife in the Sun," and then later in 1988 helped found and led the "Popular Movement for Ukraine," popularly known as Rukh. After his election to the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada in 1990, he worked tirelessly to shine a light on wicked crimes of Russian-

• 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.

imposed communism, as well as to find commonality between all of Ukraine's ethnicities.

It is during these times that we look to his example of humble, yet powerful leadership. May we remember his sacrifice, and find inspiration in his unflagging commitment to a free and open Ukraine, and his pursuit for liberty.

IVAN DRACH—GIANT OF UKRAINE'S  
INDEPENDENCE

Ivan Drach, a giant in Ukraine's movement to independence, died June 19 in a Kyiv hospital at the age of 81.

Drach, a long-time member of the Writer's Union of Ukraine, was a respected and award-winning poet and screenwriter. With his poem "Knife in the Sun," he first came into national prominence during "The Thaw"—a brief period of political and cultural liberalization under then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Twenty years later, Drach again came to national and international prominence as a political activist during the Soviet Union's Perestroika period in the late 1980s and then during the early years of Ukraine's independence. The numbers of young men from Ukraine lost in the Soviet Union's war in Afghanistan and the handling of the Chernobyl explosion led to Ukraine's civil society becoming restless with directives from what was euphemistically known as "the center" (Moscow) and were increasingly distrustful of leaders in the Kremlin.

In what began in late 1988 as an initiative of the Writer's Union of Ukraine, a year later had become a national movement. In September 1989, at the founding congress of the "Popular Movement of Ukraine" (Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy), a grassroots opposition movement known worldwide simply as "Rukh," Drach was elected chairman and an Mykhailo Horyn, a political dissident who had survived the Soviet Gulag, was elected head of Rukh's secretariat. The pair combined focused vision with determined leadership and guided the organization, and civil society, through a tumultuous period in history.

As Rukh's membership grew throughout Ukraine other prominent dissidents, as well as representatives of major ethnic and religious groups in Ukraine assumed leadership roles. However, Drach, although often understated in his actions, was the recognized leader. With the sensibility of a writer, Drach was eloquent in his expression of Rukh's goals and ideals, particularly emphasizing the inclusivity of Rukh. He always spoke in terms of "people of Ukraine," and not "the Ukrainian people."

A recognized tool in the USSR's system of authoritarian governance was routinely to create friction between nationalities in order to weaken opposition. In contrast, Drach and Rukh recognized and spoke to the common interests of all citizens of Ukraine—Ukrainians, Russians, Poles, Jews, Tatars, and others. At the founding congress of Rukh, reflecting upon the principles of Rukh, Drach underscored the importance of multi-ethnic respect within Ukraine stating, "Jews should live better and feel more comfortable in Ukraine than in Moscow, Leningrad, New York, Tel-Aviv, and Jerusalem." While at the helm of Rukh, he actively supported the decision by Rukh's Council of Nationalities to help fund the gathering of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, the first to be held in Crimea since the group's mass deportation by Stalin in 1944.

In March 4, 1990, in the first politically contested elections in Soviet Ukraine, 111 candidates, including Drach and others from the Democratic Bloc, a political coalition that included the Helsinki Watch Group, and the Green Party, as well as Rukh, were elect-

ed to the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament), breaking the Communist Party's monopoly on political power.

The day after the election, March 5, Drach and other leaders of Rukh, a number of whom, like Drach, were members of the Communist Party, drafted and signed a statement calling for Ukrainian independence, denouncing the Communist Party and calling on the Communist Party to take responsibility for the 1932-33 genocidal famine (the Holodomor), deportations, repressions, the policy of Russification, economic decline and ecological disasters.

In early August, 1991, Drach received international attention at the time President George H.W. Bush came to Kyiv to deliver a speech to the Verkhovna Rada in which he cautioned Ukraine against "suicidal nationalism." (Later named the "Chicken Kiev" speech by the late New York Times columnist Bill Safire).

Before President Bush arrived in Ukraine from Moscow, at a Rukh rally in central Kyiv, Drach surprised the crowd and the media by anticipating Bush's message and repudiating it in advance. "I am afraid that Bush has come here as a messenger for the center . . . We are not a sample of Soviet culture . . . Our culture is the culture of Ukraine, the culture of Ukrainians, Russians who live in Ukraine, Jews, Poles. Ukraine will become independent despite the center. Like the United States that cast off the British Empire, Ukraine will cast off Moscow's Soviet Empire."

One of Drach's most important contributions was his role during the week between August 19, 1991, and August 24, 1991. In response to a coup in Moscow during the early morning hours of August 19, under the direction of Drach, Rukh immediately issued a statement condemning the leaders of the coup and the effort to return the USSR to hardline Communism, away from glasnost and perestroika. Rukh feared a reverse in the course of freedom that had been advanced. Rukh called for a special session of the Verkhovna Rada to be held immediately in order that a strategy be developed to distance Ukraine from the coup in Moscow. Behind the scenes, the leaders of Rukh pressured the members of the Communist majority in parliament to agree to a vote for Ukraine's independence on August 24, the date of the special session. Then, by an almost unanimous vote, parliamentarians passed Ukraine's Declaration of Independence conditioning the declaration upon the vote of the people of Ukraine in a national referendum that was held on December 1, 1991. Ukraine was the only republic of the Soviet Union to condition its independence on a vote of the people.

Drach continued to lead Rukh until the autumn of 1992, and continued to serve in the Verkhovna Rada through several more election cycles.

Born on October 17, 1936, in Enlightens, Kyiv Oblast, Ukrainian SSR, Ivan Fedorovich Drach is survived by his wife Mariya and daughter Maryana, who is the Director of the Ukrainian Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague. His son Maksym, who had worked as a member of a medical team during the aftermath of Chernobyl, and later suffered health consequences as a result, passed away in 2009 at the age of 44.

Although offered a prominent state burial, Drach declined and was buried in his native village, next to his parents and his son.

—Robert A. McConnell, Co-Founder of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

RECOGNIZING JULIE AND BUCK WATERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 6, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Julie and Buck Waters, the Eighth Annual Hylton Performing Arts Center Awards Gala honorees, for their endless contributions to expanding the reach of the arts in the Greater Prince William County area.

In recognition of the arts being the heart of a civilized society, net proceeds from the annual gala benefit the Hylton Center's many artistic performances, arts education programs, veterans art and outreach initiatives, and the Hylton Center's Endowment. These programs help to ensure the continuation of artistic excellence in performances as well as the accessibility to quality artistic programs.

Over the short, storied history of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, a series of milestones have been reached due to the support and enthusiasm of Julie and Buck Waters. Through their personal philanthropy and volunteerism, Julie and Buck Waters have demonstrated steadfast leadership and commitment to Prince William County, George Mason University, and the Hylton Center. Their dedication has helped the Hylton Center sustain the entertainment, education, and enrichment of Northern Virginia by providing diverse and accessible arts experiences in state-of-the-art venues.

As a member of the first fundraising committee to build the Hylton Center, Buck Waters serves as a member of the George Mason University Prince William Campus Advisory Board. In addition, he is a former chairman of the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Prince William & Manassas Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Potomac Business Committee for the Arts.

Julie Waters is a past recipient of the Kathleen K. Seefeldt Award for the Arts Excellence-Outstanding Volunteer award for her work helping to implement a program to bring children from the area's public school systems to the Hylton Center for performances as a way to expose them to the arts. Julie currently serves on the Hylton Center's Campaign Committee, as the chairman of the Water's Foundation, and as secretary of the Manassas Ballet Theatre.

As avid art enthusiasts, Mr. and Mrs. Waters supported the launch of the new Hylton Center EXTRA! Series. As Leonardo da Vinci once said, "Art is never finished, only abandoned." We can take great comfort in knowing that with the support of Julie and Buck Waters as well as other great benefactors of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, art will never be abandoned in Prince William County. In an effort to continue the advancement of the Hylton Center, Julie and Buck Waters generously named the Practice Room Suite Anteroom within the new Education and Rehearsal Wing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Eighth Annual Hylton Performing Arts Awards Gala honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Waters, for their tireless stewardship of the arts in Greater Prince William County.