

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING REMARKS OF RABBI DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement from Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach, and the representative of the Jewish community at the City of Chesapeake's civic occasions.

CONSIDER "DAY OF CARING" TO HONOR BEACH VICTIMS

(By Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman)

At this trying and beclouded time of grief and sorrow, we gradually and painfully come to grips with the enormity of our losses diminishing us all as well as our newly discovered vulnerabilities. Our beloved Virginia Beach and the entire Hampton Roads community lost its beautiful but dangerously blinding innocence on that fateful Friday afternoon. How could we imagine that the mass shootings in other regions would not reach us too? Truth to be told no one is insulated and immune in the wide American landscape. What happens around us near and far is bound to affect us at home. However, we are obligated to protect ourselves as best as we can given whatever limitations we face.

We are called upon now to pick up together the shattered pieces of a complex and confounding reality to reemerge rededicated and reenergized to make our threatened world, inwardly and outwardly, a safer home and better place for one and all. Our fallen 12 heroes who so callously and cowardly were taken from their loving families, co-workers, neighbors, friends and all of us, deserve no less. For their cherished memories' sake and our very survival and future let us engage more than ever with those around us, particularly the ones we deem to be beyond our intimate circle of close associates.

We acknowledge that the social phenomenon of alienation is a hallmark of our challenging times. Pleasant surprises do await us when willing to reach out beyond the familiar and engage others in simple but far-reaching acts of human interaction that hitherto we regarded as too threatening and non-consequential. There is much to be learned, gained and prevented by exercising our extraordinary ability of ordinary communication in our wonderfully diverse human environment in Hampton Roads in which too many may feel lonely, unnoticed and undervalued.

So called "strangers" cease to be strangers once we encounter and appreciate our common humanity and shared American dream in which we all have a critical stake. The Bible wisely instructs us that a celebration is not complete without including the strangers in our midst so they may transform their status, claiming their rightful place in society and in our hearts. Spreading more and more conscious but random acts of kindness and goodness in our shared garden of life and civic exchange, is bound to grow beneficial returns in kind. At times a reas-

suring smile and a generous act on the road and in the office can go a long way and even stymie road and office rage.

Our democratic and educational institutions on all levels demand our involvement and support that necessary change should occur. Surely prudent and common-sense gun control legislation along with an accountable and responsible mental health system are on the agenda. Are we waiting for more mass shootings' tragedies, oceans of tears and cries of family survivors of different languages and geographies, and heart-wrenching memorial services to propel us into action? Ought we not teach, beginning at one's home, that each finite human life is of infinite worth, and each of us is an entire, irreplaceable universe of purpose and meaning reflecting the Most High? We are witnesses to what irreparable damage can be done by a few minutes of unchecked madness and unrelenting evil, using weapons of mass destruction equipped with silencers. Let us not allow a corrosive culture of death to replace a promising culture of life.

It would be advantageous for our entire nation to take a day out for national soul-searching and resolve to delve into issues that should be paramount on our American agenda. A day in which we engage in discussions and activities toward healing our nation, creating a "National Day of Caring" that would create a ripple effect. The slogan "VB Strong" has joined us to the sorrowful and hurting family of previously affected communities, even as we pray and plan that our Virginia Beach is the last in such an unenviable category of suffering. I suggest that we be better served by the slogan, "VB Cares," which is ultimately the source of authentic strength. What befalls us will surely not define us, but we cannot deny it. It may yet refine us to become more compassionate, considerate and connected with each other. My 99-year-old mom, a Polish Holocaust survivor, called me from Israel that dark day, asking, "What's happening to America?"

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach. He represents the Jewish community at the city of Chesapeake's civic occasions.

SALT LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARD

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, public health departments have long provided a line of first defense, protecting the well-being of local communities. From monitoring air and water, to inspecting food safety in restaurants, to offering life-saving vaccines, public health department employees serve tirelessly. Utah's largest public health department is now getting well-deserved national recognition for its service.

The Salt Lake County Health Department has been honored as "Health Department of

the Year" by the voice of the nation's nearly 3,000 local government health departments—the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Judges scored award applicants on their innovation and creativity, implementation, impact in the community and engagement of community and diverse partners.

The Salt Lake County Health Department stood out on several fronts, including its response to the county's hepatitis A outbreak from 2017 to 2019; innovative use of real-time public health data; and a new public health center in downtown Salt Lake City that features co-located clinical services provided by Community Health Centers, Inc.

The award comes the same year that the health department celebrates the 50th anniversary of its current form as a combined city-county health department, its 120th anniversary as a county agency and its 170th anniversary of providing public health services to the Salt Lake Valley.

Utahns can go about their daily lives, secure in the knowledge that behind the scenes, public health department professionals are on the job. Whether it is designing innovative programs to improve air quality or providing flu vaccines to prevent illness, the Salt Lake County Health Department is an important partner in keeping Utahns safe, healthy and able to enjoy an excellent quality of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF KIMBERLY ISMAIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kimberly Ismail, winner of the Volunteer of the Year Governor's Service Award. Her service to the Dearborn community is worthy of commendation.

Kimberly Ismail is employed by Dearborn Public Schools and has inspired her fellow staff everyday with her kindness and drive to help others in every way that she can. Ms. Ismail chairs the Dearborn City Beautiful Commission, which promotes beautification efforts and improvement of the appearance of the City of Dearborn. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Dearborn Symphony and as Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

Ms. Ismail is known among her colleagues for her selfless dedication in her service to others. For years, she has organized the Forgotten Harvest hunger walk and was the first to introduce the "Arrive Alive" anti-distracted driving campaign in Michigan. During the school year, Ms. Ismail helps provide the school supplies that local children need to succeed. She has also taken the lead in helping new refugees gain access to food and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

other community resources and during the holidays she can be found organizing food and gift drives for the less fortunate. The designation of Michigan Volunteer of the Year is well deserved. Her passion for volunteerism, patience, kindness, and devotion to the community is inspiring to all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kimberly Ismail and her lifelong commitment to the Dearborn community. Ms. Ismail has positively impacted countless lives in the City of Dearborn as well as across the state of Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF ROCCO LONGO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Rocco Longo, who served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than four decades as a public servant.

A resident of Duxbury, Rocco Longo spent his entire life in Massachusetts. Rocco served as Billerica's town manager for three years before accepting the town manager position in Marshfield. His retirement as Marshfield's town manager wrapped up a four-decade career serving in municipal government. In 2018, Rocco was awarded the Joseph Moakley Public Service Award from Bridgewater State University.

Following his retirement, Rocco never truly stopped working. He served in multiple interim positions as well as serving as an instructor in a local government leadership certification program at Suffolk University. In these roles, he is remembered as a great friend who had a talent for bringing people together. He was a calming force in times of trouble, and never failed to lift the spirits of those he worked with.

Rocco Longo led a life dedicated to local government, his community, and his family. He not only excelled in his work, but he was a loving husband to his wife Colleen and father to his children Parker and Tyler. He will be dearly missed in my home state.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Rocco Longo. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to his family, his local community, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Charles Smith, a man who has dedicated his life to the betterment of the public education system in the great state of Missouri. Mr. Smith is retiring after six years as President of the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA), six years as Vice-President of the same organization, and decades as a public-school teacher. He leaves behind a legacy of magnanimous leadership and a passion for public service, which will continue to impact the lives of young people throughout Missouri.

As Mr. Smith retires from his position as President of the Missouri National Education Association, he will be greatly missed by his peers and colleagues. In this role, he oversaw 35,000 members, while serving as the official spokesperson for the organization, as well as acting as a liaison between local and national leaders. Upon graduation from Northwest Missouri State University, his extensive career began in Kansas City's Center School District. He spent twenty-seven years there, teaching communication arts and advising the journalism program, eventually becoming the chair of the department. Mr. Smith directly impacted the lives of thousands of students throughout his tenure in the Center School District, instilling in young people ambition to pursue their dreams. George Washington Carver once said, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Mr. Smith's work in education has truly brought that precious freedom to the youth of Missouri through a lifetime of dedicated service and steadfast commitment.

Mr. Charles Smith has a passion for social justice and bettering the lives of others, which is evident by the time he has spent as an activist for the African-American community. He served as the first Vice President of the Missouri NAACP for fourteen years, later becoming the organization's President for the next six. He spent time as the National Chairman of the NEA Black Caucus where he advocated for over 400,000 African-American teachers, education support professionals, college students, retired members, and administrators. He has worked to create an inclusive community in which all people are afforded equal rights and opportunities. Mr. Smith's commitment to advocating for the African-American community in Missouri not only speaks volumes to his meritorious character, but also reflects the legacy he leaves behind, as an educator, activist, and proponent of necessary change.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Charles Smith on his retirement, as he has gone above and beyond the duty of a citizen to give back to his community time and time again. He leaves behind a legacy of great leadership, as his accomplishments continue to grow and touch every corner of our community. He will be greatly missed by his peers, colleagues, and the community that has benefited from Mr. Smith's leadership. I am proud to recognize this exceptional civil servant for the work he has done and the lives he has touched within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSH SYRJAMAKI

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the decades-long service of Mr. Josh Syrjamaki and to congratulate him upon his retirement from Congressional service. A native

of the Iron Range of Minnesota, Josh dedicated himself to bettering his neighbors' lives, both in his home state and across the country. His tenure in government began over 25 years ago, as a Committee Clerk in the Minnesota State Senate, and continued through prominent roles in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

A public servant of the highest order, Josh was a listener whose finger always rested firmly on the pulse of his office's constituents. As a senior aide to the late Senator Paul Wellstone, Mr. Syrjamaki visited every corner of Minnesota, hearing the stories, dreams, and concerns of everyday citizens. His collaborative approach to government continued in his work as Representative Tim Walz's Chief of Staff, where he met with farmers, businesspeople, and local leaders across Minnesota's first district, determined to affect meaningful change and to build a stronger community. This, Madam Speaker, is what representational government is all about.

Mr. Syrjamaki selflessly advocated on behalf of the American people, forcefully supporting needed improvements for our nation's brave veterans. As a National Coordinator for the United Steelworkers Union, Josh organized grassroots campaigns to ensure that laborers received fair wages and job security. In his last months as a Congressional staffer, Josh joined me in structuring my office and developing key strategies to best serve the people of Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District.

Above all, Mr. Syrjamaki always believed, "We all do better, when we all do better." That collectively, people can unite to cultivate a brighter tomorrow. His ability to strategically motivate and inspire fellow citizens produced decades of leadership that improved schools, bettered working conditions, improved the lives of our nation's veterans, and expanded access to health care.

While his tenure in the federal government ended this past March, Josh's unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens continues today in Minnesota. As the Chief of Staff in the State's Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Syrjamaki wields his belief in every person's potential to establish a reformed correctional system that focuses on education, sharply reducing the likelihood that an inmate will reoffend, and producing a more vibrant society.

I am joined by my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives, countless former staff members, and citizens across the great State of Minnesota in expressing my sincere appreciation for Josh's tireless service to this country. I look forward to witnessing his continued success and wish him well on his Congressional retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD, IL

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Village of Lombard, and to celebrate its beginnings and the important contributions made by its citizens over its long and vibrant history.