

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT PAUL ROBERTS

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Paul Roberts, born August 22, 1922 in Lexington, Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts graduated from Lexington High School in 1941 and attended the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1941 through 1942 when the nation was swept into World War II.

About one year after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Roberts entered active duty in the U.S. Army on December 5, 1942. Roberts served in the 84th Infantry Division/9th Army Company. He served in Holland, Belgium, and Germany, including battles and campaigns in the Rhineland. He landed in Omaha Beach in the fall of 1944.

Mr. Roberts returned home on the Queen Elizabeth II and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1946 in Ft. McPherson, Georgia. Upon his return, he worked as a farmer and a brick and stone mason, helping to build many homes, schools, and churches in West Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts is a decorated veteran, having earned the World War II Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and a Bronze Star American Service Medal.

Mr. Roberts is married to Betty Wood. They have six children, eleven grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, and a loving church family.

Madam Speaker, I commend this great American on another year lived. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and thanking him for his service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING KENNICE ALEX OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Kennice Alex in 40 years of service to the California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles Communications Center.

“Wow! Thank You!” & “There she goes!” These are just a few expressions Kennice Alex hears from her co-workers on a daily basis. But before you can truly understand these expressions, you must first hear the many accomplishments of a woman who began her career with the California Highway Patrol 40 years ago.

Kennice is a native of Los Angeles, California. She was born on September 26th, and

has raised two amazing daughters: Tiffany and Brittany. While doing so, she was able to nurture and love three additional children, and is currently assisting in raising her grandson, all within Los Angeles. In addition to spending time with her family, Kennice enjoys many activities such: Water Aerobics, Zumba, and AARP Soul Steppers. Not only has she volunteered at different food banks in Los Angeles, she has also worked with the Lakers organization, helping feed the homeless on Thanksgiving Day. Her volunteer work does not stop there. She has donated items and worked with the Dream Center assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina; recruited coworkers, dubbed “Chippies Angeles,” to donate items at the Louis Dantzler Preparatory Academy Middle School; and raised money for breast cancer patients at the City of Hope.

Kennice began her career with the California Highway Patrol on July 23, 1979. At work, Kennice is well-respected and referred to as “Ms. Kennice”. She was part of the last training class to work on cards and one of the first to work on computers, as Los Angeles Communications Center served as the Pilot for CHP going live on Computer Aided Dispatch. During her tenure, Kennice served as a union representative for 26 years. While in this position, she attended numerous meetings in Sacramento with state legislators to discuss allocating funds for programs in public safety and 911 issues. During the many incidents Kennice has worked over the years, the 1199 Officer-involved shooting of Officers Martinez and Szabo is one she will never forget. While on duty, Kennice received the call for help from the Officers, and immediately began to work diligently to ensure both Officers received immediate assistance from all field personnel and allied agencies. Unbeknownst to Kennice and her beat partner, the outcome of this incident would leave Officer Martinez fatally wounded and Officer Szabo severely injured. Kennice remained calm and professional under the most stressful situation a dispatcher can ever face. Throughout her career, she has also worked numerous events such as the 1984 Olympics, the 1991 LA Riots, the Northridge Earthquake, the OJ Simpson Pursuit and trial, the 2000 Democratic National Convention, and the Y2K changeover, just to name a few.

Throughout the years, Ms. Kennice has beenvolently and continuously met the needs of her peers. She was one of the main coordinators in creating the Relaxation room at our Communications Center, where she continues to maintain and purchase supplies. She generated “Team CHP” where she and coworkers help raise awareness and funds by participating in charity events such as the Revlon Breast Cancer Walk, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and several Chips for Kids toy drives.

Ms. Kennice has not only dedicated her time and talent but has given us 40 illustrious years of hard work and dedication to the community and the California Highway Patrol.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH AMERICAN GAY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ALLIANCE GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to celebrate the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series this year being held in Kansas City, Missouri. On behalf of myself and Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District, we are honored and overjoyed to have been selected as the 2019 host of the Gay Softball World Series.

In 1977, teams of athletes from New York and San Francisco, met to form the organization that would become NAGAAA and organize the inaugural Gay Softball World Series. Today, over four decades later, the NAGAAA is an international sports organization committed to providing and promoting opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities to participate in amateur athletics across the United States and Canada. In 2019, more than one thousand NAGAAA teams competed across seven divisions of play in forty-six cities throughout North America. The organization is focused on creating a safe and inclusive environment where its athletes can compete and be themselves.

Kansas City has a longstanding tradition of LGBTQ+ activism and advocacy, which was kindled in 1966 when the city hosted the National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations. After the conference, the city became a leader on the national stage for the movement for LGBTQ+ civil rights, spearheaded by the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom. The Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom was committed to “improving the legal, social, and economic status” of members of the LGBTQ+ community while providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ Kansas Citians to live freely. In the face of discrimination and inequality, LGBTQ+ individuals found refuge and community in Kansas City.

Kansas City, with its history of championing LGBTQ+ rights and culture, is extremely proud that the NAGAAA selected us to host the Gay Softball World Series this year. Today, Kansas City continues to be a metropolis of LGBTQ+ culture nationwide. Through cornerstone institutions such as the Kansas City Center for Inclusion, Empowering Queer Activists and Leaders (EQUAL), and the Mid-America Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, to name a few, the city fosters a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for the uplifting of LGBTQ+ individuals. LGBTQ+ arts thrive in Kansas City as well via the Heartland Men’s Chorus, performances at Hamburger Mary’s and Missie B’s, and at the annual KC LGBT Film Festival. In April, the AIDS Walk of Kansas City is held to raise awareness for the disease, and in June, the entire city celebrates

● 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.

Pride. As a proud host of the Gay Softball World Series, Kansas City looks forward to continuing its rich history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance for their admirable work with the LGBTQ+ community nationwide and celebrating the 2019 Gay Softball World Series in Kansas City. We are indebted to the NAGAAA which has changed the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals for the past forty-two years and left an indelible mark on our country and communities.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE, ON ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Springfield, Tennessee, in honor of its 200th anniversary. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, located just north of Nashville and just south of the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

With a little over 16,000 citizens, Springfield has regularly demonstrated exactly what it means to be a tight-knit community. This town is built on a solid foundation of hard work, agricultural acumen, and family values, and it has continued to show these unwavering attributes over the course of its long history.

Although Springfield was not incorporated until 1819, the first General Assembly of Tennessee gave a county seat identified as Springfield to Robertson County in 1796. Two years later, in 1798, the town was established under this name.

Since the early eighteenth century, agriculture has played a large role in Springfield's development, and it continues to provide many employment opportunities for its citizens. Thanks to its rich soil, Springfield thrives in the production of hay, corn, and wheat, but is best known for its production of tobacco. In fact, in 1928, Springfield was labeled as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco."

I hope that my House colleagues will join me in celebrating this bicentennial achievement of Springfield, Tennessee. The town and its residents have continued to show the strong faith and values of Tennessee since the days when its first courthouse was built of hand-hewn logs. I wish Springfield and its citizens much prosperity and happiness over its next 200 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING DOUG GIBSON AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to name Doug Gibson, of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for his 23 years of leadership as the Executive Di-

rector and Principal Scientist of Nature Collective, formerly known as San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Residents of North County may remember that, not so long ago, our beautiful lagoons and river valleys were not valued for their biodiversity and were threatened by development and pollution. Their outlets to the ocean were blocked and invasive plant species were growing out of control. Few fish or invertebrates could survive in the murky waters. Today, they have largely been restored to their natural states. They provide critical habitats for native plants and animals as well as wetlands for migrating birds.

It has taken years of stable leadership, hard work, and a shared commitment by professionals, local citizens, elected officials, and supportive organizations to restore the ten beautiful wetlands in North County San Diego and South Orange County. They enhance our coastline—from the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon in the south—to the San Juan Creek in the North.

Under Gibson's leadership, the Nature Collective is guiding to completion the \$120 million restoration of the 1,000-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Forty miles of streams have been restored. An annual breaching of the inlet has been established to keep the lagoon healthy. More than three thousand school children in the Nature Collective's nationally recognized school program receive field trips throughout the Escondido watershed. Walkers and joggers can access seven miles of trails from Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Rancho Santa Fe, and new trail connections are coming soon.

Gibson's contribution goes beyond the San Elijo Lagoon. For decades, he has collaborated on the planning of large restoration projects in seven north San Diego County watersheds, including Buena Vista Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit. He has chaired the San Diego County Wetlands Task Force and chaired five coastal counties for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

There is no doubt that Gibson's dedication to protecting our environment has improved the quality of life for families in Southern California and uplifted our communities. I am deeply grateful for his hard work, and I am proud to recognize him as the Constituent of the Month.

HONORING VIOLET BARTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Violet Barton, a doctoral candidate at UC Merced who has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. While receiving this highly competitive scholarship, Violet lived in El Salvador to research the socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequality present in the country.

During her time in El Salvador, Violet connected closely to her culture as a Latina woman and worked towards uplifting the community. Violet spearheaded the creation of the first ever indigenous Nahuatl spiritual guide leadership program and coordinated with oth-

ers to identify and train future spiritual leaders. She has also recently completed her level four Nahuatl language training at the University of Central America, furthering her understanding and study of the culture.

Violet's passion for her research and the communities she serves has distinguished her as a true pioneer in her field. During her year abroad, Violet was selected to serve as a panelist at the annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in Boston, where she presented some of her ongoing research findings. In addition to the Fulbright Scholarship, Violet received the coveted UC Merced Miguel Velez Scholarship alongside a \$10,000 fellowship from the UC Office of Multi Campus Research Programs.

While earning these countless honors for her academic excellence, Violet has distinguished herself as a student leader who works tirelessly to better the lives of her community. Violet received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2018, the UC Merced Social Justice Award in 2017 and 2018, and during that same timeframe, was nominated for UC Merced's Outstanding Student Leadership for three consecutive years.

Violet's successes do not stop at her professional and academic achievements. Violet and her daughter, Danielle Bermudez, made Fulbright history as the first mother and daughter to receive the Fulbright Scholarship as graduate students during the program's 72-year history. Together, they exemplify the pioneering spirit of UC Merced and the diversity that embodies California's San Joaquin Valley.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Violet Barton for her outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to her community. I join Violet and her family as they celebrate her incredible accomplishments and wish her the best as she completes her PhD at UC Merced.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANKLIN AUGUSTUS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus, a stunt pilot and avid flyer. Mr. Augustus passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 69.

Mr. Augustus was an acrobatic air show pilot and a member of a New Orleans-based group that honored the Tuskegee Airmen. A licensed pilot who had been flying since the age of 19, he once described himself as the "world's only black civilian air-show acrobatic pilot" in a 1988 Times-Picayune Newspaper article. Mr. Augustus performed hundreds of daredevil aerial maneuvers at shows and often visited schools to speak with young students to encourage them to explore aviation.

In addition to being a stunt pilot and avid flyer, Mr. Augustus was a longtime community activist, a U.S. Army veteran, the president of the Lake Charles Tuskegee Airmen Chapter and a Reserve Deputy for the New Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Augustus was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to