

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE LABOR COUNCIL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Since 1894, the Labor Council has been a force of good in the Wyoming Valley, championing the rights and interests of workers in the area. The milestone will be celebrated along with the 120th anniversary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council at a special event on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

In the early evening of September 28, 1894, John Casey and Daniel Shovlin of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Pat O'Neil and John Gibbon of the Stone Cutters Union, Amos Ayers of the Carpenters Union, and David Grover of the Painters Union met in a stone-cutting yard on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania before seeking shelter from the rain under the South Street Bridge. These visionary men discussed forming a central labor union to unite laborers from across the city to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment from their employers. It was under that bridge that the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union was born.

By 1899, 118 local unions counted themselves as members of the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union, and as many as 300 delegates regularly attended meetings. To accommodate their ever-growing membership, John Casey (who would go on to represent the region in the U.S. House as a pro-labor legislator) and John Mullery created the Building Trades Council as a subcommittee of the Central Labor Union. The Union supported historic movements such as the 1900 and the 1902 anthracite strikes where they assisted John Marshall in organizing the United Mine Workers of America. Throughout the 20th Century, the Council supported movements large and small in the region to reflect the best interests of workers across a variety of industries. In the mid-1950s, the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union became officially known as the Labor Council.

Today, the Labor Council operates out of a former church in Wilkes-Barre. There are 47 locals affiliated with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, representing both private and public sector occupations. The Council holds an annual Labor Day festival in Kirby Park and continues to support community-wide charitable campaigns.

It is an honor to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Its hard work and dedication to protecting the rights of workers in Northeastern Pennsylvania has been remarkable. I wish its leaders and members the best as they con-

tinue to advocate on behalf of our workers for years to come.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN G. OTT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Kathleen G. Ott for her years of dedicated service to Congress in her role as the Director of Congressional Relations for the Library of Congress. In 2008, Dr. James Billington, former Librarian of Congress, recognized Kathy's talents and appointed her to her esteemed position as Director of Congressional Relations.

Kathy devoted more than a decade of her career to building strong relationships between the Library of Congress and Members of Congress and their staffs. Throughout her tenure with the library, she built bipartisan support with the Committee on House Administration for many library initiatives.

In 2009, she fostered the forming of the Library of Congress Caucus and a few years later assisted in creating the library's Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series. Kathy has played an integral role in developing the congressional relations office at the library and ensuring Member involvement in numerous library events.

I am grateful for her efforts to promote the work of the library and ensure that the work of Congress remains at the forefront of their mission.

HONORING KATHY OTT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Ott, the Director of the Congressional Relations Office of the Library of Congress. Kathy is retiring after serving more than 11 years under two Librarians of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, and Dr. Carla D. Hayden.

During her time at the Library, through three Presidential administrations, seven Congresses, and five chairs of the House Administration Committee, Kathy has worked in building bipartisan support that recognizes the essential contribution that the Library makes to our national life, and to the work of Congress.

In 2009 she helped put together the Library of Congress Caucus. In a "Dear Colleague" letter inviting Members to join, former Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL) and Representative EARL BLUMENHAUER (D-OR) wrote that "the purpose of establishing a Library of Congress Congressional Caucus is to draw members' attention to the nation's library and

its unparalleled collections and knowledgeable curators and to encourage further use of these extraordinary resources."

Kathy was instrumental in starting the Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series, which recently held its 45th dinner, and has helped coordinate, during her tenure, Congressional participation in the awarding of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

I thank Kathy for her service as Director of the Congressional Relations Office and for her work to serve Congress and to strengthen the relationship between the Legislative Branch and its library.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LifeChoices Health Network's 30th anniversary.

Thirty years ago, LifeChoices began as a small neighborhood effort to help women whose babies were at risk. Today, LifeChoices serves women throughout southwest Missouri and the four-state area by offering at-risk women free education and medical services. These services include education programs, sexually transmitted infection testing, and early pregnancy care that is needed to ensure that moms and their babies are healthy.

Over the past thirty years, LifeChoices has achieved many milestones. Over 3,800 individuals have received free and confidential services, and they have provided nearly 16,000 ultrasounds. To date, LifeChoices training programs have allowed 163 clinics to implement STI services. Additionally, they have had nearly 10,000 students from area public and private schools participate in their connection institute programs.

LifeChoices has received national and international recognition for their commitment to helping other clinics across this nation and the world.

Madam Speaker, the work of the LifeChoices Health Network is vital to ensuring at-risk women and their babies receive the care that they need at no cost to them. I give them my congratulations on a successful thirty years and wish them the very best in the many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call votes No.

• 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.

542 and No. 543. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 542, and NAY on Roll Call No. 543.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF FRANK B. WASHINGTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank B. Washington in honor of his 90th birthday.

Frank B. Washington was born on September 5, 1929 in Estill, South Carolina. He was raised in Columbia, South Carolina, in the Waverly and Allen Benedict Court communities. Frank attended public schools in Richland School District One, graduating from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1945. A 1949 graduate of Allen University with a degree in Psychology, he later pursued graduate studies at my alma mater, South Carolina State University as well as Catholic University and Bradley University.

Frank began his professional career at the South Carolina Department of Education in 1951, serving as the state's Speech Therapist. He served in various roles including State Supervisor and Chief Supervisor of the Audit Division where he became the first African American to hold an administrative role within the department. Frank retired in June 1986 after an illustrious 35 years of service.

Devoted to advancing social justice, Frank joined the Columbia Chapter of the NAACP, and was elected President in 1970, a position he held for sixteen years. Frank held multiple leadership roles within the NAACP including State Vice President for eight years and a member of the National NAACP Board of Directors for four years. His leadership within the NAACP was critical during the civil rights movement and resulted in the advancement of equal opportunity and access.

Frank was directly involved in the court decisions that reapportioned the South Carolina Legislature leading to the first three African Americans being elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1970. Also, he participated in the federal lawsuit that created the 42-1 districting plan for the City Council of Columbia, South Carolina allowing the election of two African Americans to the City Council.

The morals and values that are the foundation of his life are rooted in Frank's faith in God. Since 1965, he has been a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where he has been a member of the Vestry, and served as Senior Warden.

Throughout his journey he has been empowered by the encouragement and support of his beautiful family. Frank has been married to the former Vivian Deloris Wingard for 69 years. They are parents of three adult children: Carla Washington, Kent Washington, and Robin Major. They are also proud grandparents of three grandsons.

Madam Speaker, Frank B. Washington has spent his lifetime as a selfless leader and humble servant to his fellow citizens of the great state of South Carolina. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 90th birthday of Frank B. Washington and

wishing him continued good health and great prosperity in the days ahead.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Celebrated from September 15 to October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month is designed to celebrate the history and culture of Americans who have ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This observance was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to a full monthlong celebration. Within the thirty-day period are many celebrations of independence for Latin American countries. September 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Furthermore, Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

Whether they came here as immigrants or their family has been here for generations, Hispanic Americans are woven into the fabric of this great nation. No matter when they arrived, these men and women came to America in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Guided by the promise of freedom and the chance to participate in the unique American experiment in democracy, some of these individuals arrived with nothing but the clothes on their back and the hope of a better tomorrow. Motivated by their own goals and aspirations, Hispanic Americans have made their mark in American history, whether it be in sports, fine arts, sciences, or politics. Today, I am pleased to recognize their many contributions to our country's story. Every day, I witness the critical role that these men and women bring to Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. I continue to be impressed with organizations such as the Hispanic Business Center, Candid South, and the Latin American Association. The hard work of these organizations is truly making a difference in our community and improving the lives of all my constituents.

The Hispanic community in Georgia is vibrant and continues to grow significantly. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to focus on what that means for our country. Despite the many contributions to our society, millions of proud immigrants have suffered discrimination at the hands of the Trump administration. I stand alongside Hispanic Americans in rejecting such rhetoric and discrimination. I am proud to stand up and fight for the men and women who have contributed so much to our communities each day in Washington. Hispanic Americans help contribute to what makes this nation remarkable, and I am honored to lift up the voices of those who have selflessly dedicated their lives to building up themselves, their community, and this country.

Hispanic Americans represent a diversity of experiences and professions—they are farmers, construction workers, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, elected officials, and service-

members in our armed forces. I am struck by the common desire among Hispanic Americans in my district to give back to their own communities. Not only have these men and women earned incredible success for themselves, they also demonstrate an impressive commitment to improving their community and the entire state of Georgia. Their love of this district, this state, and this country is worth recognizing every day, but particularly during Hispanic Heritage Month. Therefore, I am honored to highlight three constituents who deserve special recognition this month: Gabriel Vaca, Maria Azuri, and Aixa Pascual.

Gabriel Vaca is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Business Center. In 2018, Gabriel received special recognition at a celebration of the 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia. Just this year, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame. Gabriel served UPS International for 24 years as a consultant in logistics and the global supply chain. During his time with the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he has served as Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the Hispanic Business Center, and a member of the Senior Executive Corporate Advisory Board of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Born in Mexico City and raised in Washington, D.C., Gabriel currently resides in Roswell, Georgia with his two children.

Maria Azuri is the Director of Candid-South, an organization that focuses on philanthropic efforts for immigrant communities across the southeast. Maria came to this country as an undocumented immigrant when she was a child which fuels her passion and commitment. As an Hispanic American citizen and leader she engages frequently with her communities around issues of mental and public health, criminal justice, immigration, and entrepreneurship. Prior to her work at Candid-South, Maria worked in the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs as its first Director of Programming. There, she successfully created numerous programs to strengthen immigrant communities through community engagement. Maria has taught at Georgia State University's School of Social Work and designed a program that trains community health providers to offer health information from culturally and linguistically sensitive perspectives—the first of its kind in the south. Her work has been recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the White House under President Barack Obama. Maria lives in Atlanta with her three boys.

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aixa Pascual is a champion for Hispanic communities in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. For the past seven years, she has worked at the Latin American Association in Atlanta, where she serves as the managing director of advocacy, civic outreach, and cultural engagement. Aixa is the child of two Puerto Rican parents, and she spent her life traveling between Puerto Rico and the mainland United States. She is a graduate of Princeton and Columbia University, and has worked previously as a journalist for Business Week, Time and People magazines, the Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia. Aixa's childhood in Puerto Rico gave her a strong sense of her cultural and linguistic identity which she cherishes to this day. Her work with the Latin American Association has allowed her to engage closely with Georgia's