

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE FOR RITA AND STEVEN JEROME

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring two of my constituents—siblings Rita and Steven Jerome. Their family represents the best that Staten Island has to offer, and now they are continuing their family's legacy of service, not just their fellow Staten Islanders, but the entire country.

On Staten Island, a passion for public service is part of our DNA, and the Jerome family is the perfect example of that. Rita and Steven's father serves as a NYPD lieutenant and their uncle is a pastor. Their paternal grandfather acted as a judge in the New York State Compensation Board and "in 1978 single-handedly apprehended a man threatening to blow up his courtroom in the World Trade Center." Now, Rita and Steven are choosing to follow in those family footsteps by joining the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academies (USMMA), respectively.

Rita isn't just any Air Force Academy cadet, she's making history as part of an increasing percentage of women serving in the Air Force. According to the USAFA Admissions Office, Rita, who is majoring in astronautical engineering, is among the 28.2 percent of women in the Class of 2023. She is also the first alumna from her high school along with the first Staten Island women to be admitted to the USAFA.

Her brother, Steven, recently completed a rigorous regime of academic, military, and physical training at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy after his graduation from Monsignor Farrell High School. Steven, who is earning a four-year degree in maritime logistics and security, will be completing almost three years of classes along with spending a year at sea away from his family.

As Rita and Steven embark on their new careers in service, I know that their entire family will be right there with them.

So, Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending Rita, Steven, and the entire Jerome family for the sacrifices they have made, and will continue to make for our nation.

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE HISPANIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, Modesto Junior College (MJC)'s thirty-sixth annual Hispanic Education Conference wel-

comes students from across the Central Valley. This conference celebrates the achievements of Latinx education while exploring the amazing opportunities available to students in the Central Valley. This conference is a time for current students to explore their educational and career paths, and for prospective students to see the best of what Modesto Junior College has to offer.

A tradition started in 1984 by Dean Juan Alvarez and the Modesto Hispanic Leadership Council lives on today as the largest youth conference in the Central Valley. It serves our Central Valley community and promotes enrichment and success in higher education. Its workshops and lectures have inspired many generations of high school students, and are sure to inspire another generation to come. With a student body that's 52 percent Hispanic, Modesto Junior College is one of California's premier Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and no event better celebrates this impressive status than the Hispanic Education Conference.

I am proud to have taught at MJC, and I am proud to dedicate this record to an event that recognizes the opportunity and possibility offered by higher education, the dedication and creativity of its students and faculty, and Latinx achievement in the Central Valley. I'm also proud to recognize the Legacy Award recipient, whose contributions to making this event a reality and a success have been immeasurable. I'm happy to be part of this tradition that's more than three decades old, and I know I can look forward to more successful conferences in the years to come.

HONORING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMITH CHAPEL AME CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Smith Chapel AME Church, a house of worship located in Inkster, Michigan, on the occasion of its ninety-fifth anniversary service.

Smith Chapel AME Church held its first service on October 5, 1924 when a small, but passionate group of people gathered together to worship. Drawn together under the shared value of creating a caring community, the congregation quickly grew in size and influence. Though the church has witnessed many changes over the years, the congregation continues to gather regularly to nourish the spirit, mind, and body and give back to the surrounding community. In recent years, Smith Chapel has expanded its food pantry program to include a community garden, which is tended by church members, as well as its Summer Youth Café program that offers recreational and character development programs for young people. Whether gathering in prayer, celebrating love in marriage, or marking the

passing of a dear friend and loved one from this life, we all draw great strength from sharing with one another through faith. The history of Smith Chapel AME provides a wonderful example of how much this faith and unselfishness mean to our entire community.

Please join me in recognizing Smith Chapel AME on this milestone as we wish them well in the years to come.

IN MEMORY OF DR. CORNELIUS W. GRANT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a strategic thinker, a great motivational speaker, an excellent entrepreneur, a man of God, a friend of longstanding, and my fraternity brother, Dr. Cornelius W. Grant. Sadly, Dr. Grant passed away on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. His homegoing service was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the lives of his family, friends, and the countless students he mentored as the Vice President of Student Affairs at Albany State College (now University) and those he touched in his many other endeavors.

Dr. Cornelius "C.W." Grant, also affectionately known as "Dean Grant", was born on February 10, 1931, to the union of the late Reverend Everett Grant and Mrs. Elberta Clark Grant. He was a product of the public-school system in Jacksonville, Florida, graduating from Stanton High School. The next step of his life's journey took him to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). He took a brief respite from FAMU to serve our country in the United States Army. After a successful tour of duty, he returned to FAMU and earned his Juris Doctorate Degree. He began his career at Albany State College in 1966 as the Vice President for Student Affairs where he retired in 1996 after an incredible 30-year career.

Because of the solid spiritual foundation that was instilled in him at an early age by his parents, he enjoyed a strong relationship with God. He was an active member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia for many years, serving under the leadership of Dr. E. James Grant and Dr. Daniel B. Simmons. In later years, he continued his walk with the Lord at Second Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany under the leadership of Dr. Theodus Drake. God indeed ordered the steps of his life.

He was highly sought-after as a public speaker, lecturer, and consultant. Dr. Grant gave many speeches all across the country. He always left a mark and very often ended his speeches with his legendary phrase, "If it is to be, it is up to me!"

• 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.

Dr. Grant was armed with a servant's heart and gave of himself in selfless service to many local, state, and national organizations to include: The National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP); the American Association of Law Librarians; the Benevolent Elks; the Pinochle Club; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Delta Delta Chapter); The Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany; Albany Civil Rights Institute; the American Red Cross; The Dougherty County School Board; and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Grant was a leader and not a follower. He served as President of the Albany Civil Rights Institute Board of Directors, Chairman of the Dougherty School Board and also served as President of NASAP. Dr. Grant was also a trailblazer and a history maker. As a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc., he holds the distinction of being one of only six members of the fraternity bestowed with both the Elder Watson Diggs Award and the Laurel Wreath, the highest awards given by the fraternity. He also served as the 16th Southeastern Province Polemarch.

Dr. Grant was a man who exuded confidence. He was indeed an original. He made those with whom he came in contact believe that they could accomplish any task. Dr. Grant's life was truly lived in the words of George Bernard Shaw when he said, "Some people see things as they are and they say why, I dream things that never were, and I say why not?" Dr. Grant lived his life with a "Why Not?" philosophy.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family, his late wife, Dr. Velma Fudge Grant, who was a long time professor of English and Language Arts; his two daughters, Cheryl Lawson and Joi Grady; his grandchildren; godsons; and companion, Judge Denise Marshall.

On a personal note, Dr. Grant was my friend and my fraternity brother in both Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Pi Phi. He was always encouraging and supportive of my career in Congress and I will indeed miss his candid and cogent advice and counsel.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, and the countless others who were touched by this great man, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Grant family. We are proud to have known a man who dedicated his life to the uplift of others. To God be the Glory for the life and legacy of Dr. Cornelius W. Grant.

REMEMBERING ENRIQUE FERNÁNDEZ TOLEDO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Enrique Fernández Toledo, who sadly passed in late September. Those of us in the Puerto Rican community—on both the mainland and the Island—will remember Enrique as a tireless champion for the Puerto Rican people. He was also a loving husband, a father and, to me, personally, a dear friend.

Enrique began working in Congress in 1993 as a staffer for my former colleague, Rep. Luis Gutiérrez. During Enrique's two decades working for Congress, he fought for fairness and

greater economic security for Puerto Rico's most vulnerable. His unwavering commitment to justice and thoughtful insight earned him the senior position of deputy chief of staff. Over the decades, I came to rely on Enrique's vision and wisdom on a range of issues and he provided invaluable guidance and perspective to many Members of Congress in all Puerto Rico-related discussions on Capitol Hill.

Following Enrique's service on Capitol Hill, he continued amplifying the voice of millions of Puerto Ricans. In 2018, Enrique joined the Center for American Progress (CAP) as the director of relief and economic development policy for Puerto Rico. There, he was critical to Puerto Rico's ability to access relief and assistance after Hurricane Maria and recover from years of economic malaise.

At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Enrique Fernández Toledo. May he always be remembered for his kindness, indefatigable spirit and the millions of lives he positively affected in Puerto Rico, Chicago and elsewhere. I pray his wife, Mayra; three children, Enrique Jr., Carlos, and Mayrita; and all who knew and loved him, draw strength and peace from his manifold contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF GENERAL GEORGE A. BUSKIRK

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration and remembrance of General George A. Buskirk, former Adjutant of the Indiana National Guard, who passed away on October 8, 2019.

Born in 1949 in Indianapolis to George and Mary (Carriger) Buskirk, General Buskirk committed his life to serving his fellow Hoosiers and defending the country he loved. His long record of public service is testament to his dedication to our country.

General Buskirk received his business degree from Butler University, as well as a law degree from Indiana University. He enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in January 1978, where he was appointed as First Lieutenant. Throughout a distinguished military career that spanned four decades, General Buskirk served in a variety of roles, including Defense Counsel, Staff Judge Advocate, Brigade Judge Advocate, Assistant Adjutant General and Adjutant General. Outside of his military career, General Buskirk had an esteemed legal career which included his admittance as a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Indiana as well as his tenure as the President of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

He will also be remembered for his devoted service to our community. General Buskirk served as National Treasurer for the American Legion for more than two decades, President of the Indiana War Memorial Commission, and he was on the Indiana State Armory Board. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Board of Saint Mary of the Woods College in Terra Haute, Indiana and he was a member of the Ivy Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. In 2016, he was appointed to the Indianapolis Board of Public Health and Safety by Mayor Joseph Hogsett.

I am also particularly honored that General Buskirk served on my Service Academy Committee, where for many years he helped me nominate bright young students in our community to the U.S. Armed Forces' storied institutions of higher learning.

General Buskirk lived an honorable life of service to our community and our country, and he will be greatly missed. I send my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

THE MAN WHO SAVED MANKIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, South Carolina is fortunate to have Mark Powell as a columnist for the Lexington County Chronicle to highlight unique facts of history. On October 10th, he recognized "The man who saved mankind".

An elderly Russian man was quietly laid to rest outside Moscow last spring. No crowd mourned him. No news articles reported his passing. Yet, if you're age 36 or older, you are alive to read this because of him. And you've never even heard his name.

This is what happened the night Stanislav Petrov saved the world.

It all started in the late 1970s. The United States and the Soviet Union faced off in the Cold War. President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy vacillated between sometimes talking tough, sometimes going out of its way to accommodate the Soviets. Moscow smelled weakness.

So the Soviets deployed their new SS-20 nuclear missiles. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) upped the ante by announcing it would deploy its powerful Pershing II missiles in Western Europe by 1983 in response.

Suddenly, it felt like we were living in Armageddon's shadow. If you are of a certain age, you'll remember massive anti-nuclear war rallies in the northeast U.S. and Europe, some attracting hundreds of thousands of protestors. A TV movie about a post-nuclear attack called *The Day After* got huge ratings. Rock music songs that played on nuclear fears such as *The Final Countdown*, *It's A Mistake*, and *99 Red Balloons* were big hits. People were on edge.

Which brings us to September 1983. Early that month, the USSR shot down an unarmed Korean Air Lines jetliner over Soviet airspace, killing all 239 people onboard—including an American congressman from Georgia. East-West relations were indeed tense.

At that precise moment Stanislav Petrov unknowingly entered the world stage.

A 44 year-old Air Force lieutenant colonel and father of two, he served in the Soviet's prestigious Air Defense Forces. He was part of the elite team that monitored the Russians' satellites which, in turn, kept an eye out for nuclear missile launches by the U.S. via a spiffy new state-of-the-art computerized system.

Petrov worked the overnight shift. Early on the morning of September 26, the unthinkable happened. "The siren howled," he recalled in a 2013 interview. "I just sat there for a few seconds, staring at the big, backlit, red screen with the word 'launch' on it."