

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING EUGENE P. VUKELIC FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene P. Vukelic, a business leader who has devoted his life to service, giving back again and again to the people of Western New York.

Gene joined the United States Marine Corps in September of 1955 and served active duty with the United States Marine Corps 3rd Marine Division. He was stationed in Japan, rose to the rank of Corporal, and continued his military service until his discharge in April of 1963.

Following his military service, Gene became president of Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. in 1960, when he took over the company from his father, Stephen. The company originated as a small beer distributor with 12 stakeholders in the late 1920s, and today has over 625 stakeholders and serves Western New York clients from a state-of-the-art sales and service center in Lancaster, New York. Try-It Distributing is the exclusive Western New York distributor of Budweiser beer and related Anheuser-Busch products, and now includes subsidiaries Balkan Beverage and Saratoga Eagle Sales & Service. Try-It is the largest distributor of Labatt products worldwide. Gene has now been with Try-It for more than six decades.

Gene and his wife Carole Rose were married in 1958, and are parents to eight children, including six sons: Gregory (who passed away in 1981), Paul, Tim, Matt, Jeff and Peter; and two daughters Mary Ellen Sullivan and Suzanne Mahoney. Four sons work for Try-It, continuing the company's family legacy that has now spanned three generations.

Gene's focus has always been to give back to our community. He has contributed an extensive amount of volunteer leadership over the course of his career. Not-for-profit agencies, institutions and charities including Muscular Dystrophy Association, Nardin Academy, Canisius College, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Our Lady of Victory Services, in addition to Father Baker Charities have all benefited from Gene's generosity.

Gene is the recipient of numerous professional and civic awards and recognitions for his leadership of Try-It and his civic endeavors. Gene was awarded the Caritas Award from the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation in 2003, recognized as Humanitarian of the Year from Hope of Tomorrow in 2008, and was the recipient of the Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Award in 2018. In 2019, Gene was inducted into the Buffalo Business Hall of Fame. Gene has also served as president of several local organizations, including Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and the Buffalo Executives Association.

Madam Speaker, I recognize an honorable military veteran and a pillar of our community, Eugene P. Vukelic, and I hope that you and our colleagues will join in honoring Gene for his lifetime of service to the people of Western New York.

### HONORING MAJ. CARL A. NUNZIATO

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maj. Carl A. Nunziato, for his continued work to assure veterans in the Youngstown area have access to the treatment they deserve.

Maj. Carl A. Nunziato proudly served his country during two tours in Vietnam. During his first volunteer tour he served as a senior lieutenant commander of door gunners over 300 men located in seven locations throughout Vietnam; Nunziato also secured air bases and camp perimeters during this first tour as an intelligence officer and commander. Nunziato went on to serve as an artillery battery commander with the 25th Division and then returned to Vietnam to assist infantry in Ku-Chi. In 1966, during his second tour, he fought in Operation Adelborough, but near the completion of this operation he was struck by a mortar which resulted in the amputation of both his legs and a 23-month stay at the Walter Reed Hospital in recovery.

Nevertheless, Maj. Nunziato did not allow this event to derail his life. Returning home a hero, he chose to pursue an education and graduated from Case Western Reserve University's School of Law in 1971. He went on to work in law and served nearly 30 years in the banking industry.

As a result of his injuries, Maj. Nunziato became an advocate for veterans with disabilities. His efforts to assure that all veterans received adequate care in the Youngstown Area helped lead to the establishment of the Veterans Outpatient Clinic on Youngstown's North Side in the early 1990s. This clinic now serves about 45,000 veterans annually, and to this day Nunziato continues to work tirelessly. The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced the construction of a new, larger, 35,000-square-foot clinic near the old clinic. In May 2018, the Veterans Resource Center on Wick Avenue in Youngstown was renamed in his honor and he also helped to establish the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Youngstown's Central Square which commemorates the 104 Mahoning County soldiers who lost their lives during the war.

I am proud that Maj. Nunziato is a constituent of my district. The work he has done has been invaluable to our community and he has contributed an immense amount to the people of Youngstown through his service in both military and in the community.

I thank Maj. Nunziato for his service to our community and wish him the best of luck in his future efforts to assure the veterans and residents of Youngstown with disabilities receive the attention they deserve.

### RECOGNIZING THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will host its 43rd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association has been a tremendous asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have served their communities through many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Dr. William J. Pierce.

Dr. William Pierce's career in the medical field has been remarkable and noteworthy. After graduating from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Dr. Pierce joined the Medical Corps of the United States Army, where he served proudly and reached the rank of captain. Subsequently, in 1973, he opened his private practice, Pierce Medical Clinic, which has been very successful and remains in operation today. During his illustrious career, Dr. Pierce has remained active in the medical community throughout Northwest Indiana, practicing at Community Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, Saint Catherine's Hospital, Saint Anthony's Hospital, and Pinnacle Hospital. He also played a major role in the establishment and development of Pinnacle Hospital in Crown Point. In addition, he has served on numerous hospital and medical boards, chairing many of them. Dr. Pierce's expertise and leadership is highly respected, and he continues to go above and beyond for the healthcare community throughout the region. While his commitment to medicine and to his patients is most impressive, Dr. Pierce has also given much of his time and efforts to numerous charitable organizations in Northwest Indiana, and he has been very active in the Rotary Club for many years. For his dedication and important work, Dr. Pierce is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American

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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.

Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Dr. William J. Pierce. For his outstanding and lifelong career in the medical field and his dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana, Dr. Pierce is worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NORMA MALONE COOK

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Norma Malone Cook of Huron, Ohio. On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the Huron United Methodist Church will honor Norma for 50 years of service to their congregation.

Norma began playing the organ at age 15 for the Huron United Methodist Church on September 14, 1969.

Norma tells the story of the night that her parents dropped her off at the church to practice music and forgot to pick her up. She recalled the darkness and the sounds of the heat registers, and, there being no telephone near the choir loft, Norma just waited at the back door until her apologetic father showed up around midnight. Despite that event, Norma continued to serve her church with a smile.

There have been many changes at the Huron United Methodist Church during the time that Norma has served, and she has improvised and changed alongside the church. One such change that marked the end of an era was in 1995, when the Henry Organ Company increased the organ from 7 to 11 ranks, which made the organ four feet higher and moved to another location. Previously, the organist was in a sunken pit and could not see the activity of the sanctuary aisles. The organist relied on taking cues from the minister as to when music should commence or end, making it extremely difficult to play for a wedding as one could not see the bride walking down the aisle. Norma and Rev. Carothers formulated a communication strategy during his ministry by which the Reverend would crack open the parlor folding doors to bare the light. He would switch the light on and off as the cue for Norma to start the Wedding March. The wedding observers in the pew never suspected anything.

Over the decades, Norma has brought over 300 brides down the aisle for weddings and comforted more than 400 families with funeral music.

An active member of the Huron United Methodist Church congregation, Norma works with choirs of all ages and serves on multiple church committees. She always brings a sense of humor to choir rehearsals and helps make music fun for all who work with her or hear her play.

Norma has played ecumenical services at almost every church in Huron, serving as an asset to the entire Huron community.

Norma has been married to her husband Ron for over 35 years. Norma has three children and three grandchildren.

We congratulate Norma on all her accomplishments and dedication to her service to the

Huron United Methodist Church and the entire Huron community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT ERNEST SCHAEFER

**HON. RUSS FULCHER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Schaefer of Nampa, Idaho. An astute thinker, Robert used his passion for liberty to advocate for the fundamental principles of our divinely inspired constitution and form of government we enjoy as Americans. For 28 years, Bob, as most called him, attentively represented his constituents in the Idaho Legislature as a man of honor, integrity, and resounding character. Colleagues described him as a deliberate lawmaker, a diligent friend, and an honest critic of bad policy. In his spare time, Bob was passionate about modifying and rebuilding several Ford Thunderbirds—an icon that will always remind us of him. This year, Bob and his wife, Betty, celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary. As a follower of Christ, his faith was ever-more present when he was diagnosed with a terminal illness that ultimately claimed his life. Despite being away from the Idaho Legislature in his later years, he would still write letters to the editor, engage with other local officials, and work to protect the Constitution. Bob kept every piece of correspondence he ever received in the Idaho Legislature, and fondly enjoyed the time he was given to make a difference as a defender of liberty. I honor the passion of this great Idahoan, a humble, caring individual, dear to so many in Idaho. Bob will be missed by many, and remembered by all as a friend of freedom.

HONORING HY-VEE AS A 2019 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AWARD WINNER

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate, honor, and thank Hy-Vee and Hy-Vee employees in my district. For those not from the Midwest, you might not know the name of the grocery store with a helpful smile in every aisle. That's why I'm here today to let this Chamber know about the important and valuable work that Hy-Vee has done to support Iowans.

In March this year, Iowa was hit with severe flooding. Entire communities were underwater, homes destroyed, farm land ruined, and Iowans wondering how they were going to recover. For some Iowa residents, the flooding was so catastrophic that they had to flee their houses with only the clothes on their back. The situation was dire and tragic for all those impacted.

Hy-Vee stepped in during this difficult time to address the immediate food and water needs of these communities. They filled 8 semi-trucks with bottled water to make sure that those who were impacted had fresh,

clean water. And they didn't stop with just donations. They helped raise money for these communities. They held a monthlong campaign and let their customers chip in to donate. They raised nearly \$158,000 dollars—and then Hy-Vee pitched in an additional \$50,000. This money is helping Iowan families recover and rebuild.

So it's not a surprise that Hy-Vee was picked as a 2019 Winner for the Community Outreach Award for their work to address food insecurity issues and help Iowans get back on their feet. I'm proud to have such a great company in my district, working to help their community.

Congratulations again to Hy-Vee and all their employees for their tremendous work on behalf of Iowa.

HONORING SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH ON ITS 135TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 135th anniversary of Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish in Lemont, Illinois. On Sunday, November 3rd, the church held a celebration to commemorate their long history of faith and service to the community, and I am pleased to join them.

Founded in 1884, Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish has remained an unwavering example to our local community. Father Leopold Bonaventura Maria Moczygemba established this parish at the direction of the Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Reverend Patrick Augustine Feehanas. Saints Cyril and Methodius became a place of worship to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of Lemont's growing Polish-American community.

Father Witusik, who was assigned as an associate pastor in 1979, founded the Polish Club of Lemont and helped introduce a Polish Mass at Saints Cyril and Methodius to better serve the Polish-speaking parishioners. To this day, the parish continues to support the Polish community and its heritage.

In the 135 years since Father Moczygemba presided over the first mass, Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish has undergone many renovations and improvements to accommodate its ever-growing congregation. In 1898 and 1928, tragic fires struck Saints Cyril and Methodius. Each time the parishioners banded together to ensure that the church was rebuilt. This endeavor required hard work, commitment, and sincerity, all unifying characteristics of the church's parishioners.

What has remained constant through all the changes is the commitment of Saints Cyril and Methodius's parishioners to come together and work towards the fulfillment of their faith and the betterment of their community. This hard work has not gone unnoticed by the local community who benefit from the services that the church provides. The parish has a Ministry of Care which provides prayer, comfort, and healing to those who are unable to physically attend Mass. Father Stawarski and his congregation also organize the Helping Hands program to distribute food items and other products to those in need.