

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BERNARD TYSON

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Bernard Tyson, a devoted husband, father, and health advocate. His passing is a great loss for our country and all those committed to quality, affordable health care, as well as a deeply personal loss for all of those who were privileged to call him a friend. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Denise Bradley-Tyson, his three sons, Bernard Jr., Alexander, and Charles, and the Kaiser Permanente family on their loss.

Bernard Tyson was a proud son of the Bay Area who embodied our city's values of equality and opportunity for all. Born in Vallejo, California, on January 20, 1959, Mr. Tyson was one of seven children of Billie and Moses Tyson. He spent his formative years in Vallejo, CA, where he graduated from Vallejo High School with the class of 1977. Mr. Tyson and his family spent much time in and out of hospitals with his mother, who had diabetes. These visits helped shape and develop his interest in the field of medicine, and inspired within him a dream of running his own hospital one day.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Tyson attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. While in university, he worked as an administrative analyst for Vallejo General Hospital. In 1982, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Health Service Management and in 1984, he earned his Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University.

Mr. Tyson spent much of his professional career at Kaiser Permanente, which he loved. He joined the company in 1987 as an Assistant Administrator. In 1992, he was appointed CEO of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Santa Rosa. From 1993 to 1999, he held the positions of Vice President, Senior Vice President (SVP), and Central East Division president for Kaiser Permanente. From 1999 to 2006, he was the SVP, Chief Operating Officer for regions outside California, and SVP of brand strategy. From 2006 to 2010, he served as the Executive VP of Health Plan and Hospital Operations. From 2010 to 2013, he was President and COO of Kaiser Permanente. From 2013 to 2014, he was promoted to CEO and from 2014 to 2019, he had been Chairman and CEO.

To say that Mr. Tyson knew the interworking of the Kaiser would be an understatement. He worked his way to the top one step at a time, mastering all he could along the way. Mr. Tyson's innovative, pioneering and effective leadership was recognized by many. In 2017, Mr. Tyson was named one of Time's 100 most influential people.

As one of our nation's most prominent African American CEOs and health care leaders,

Mr. Tyson blazed a trail for countless other health care advocates and leaders of color to bring their vision, values and expertise to improving the health and well-being of our communities. While he made his mark as a leader of the health care community, his reach extended to every part of our Bay Area community: to the arts, education, sports, and local activism. He brought a commitment to diversity and inclusion to everything he did, from the grassroots to the corporate suite. His bright smile encouraged others to participate. He gave people hope.

From when we first met Mr. Tyson, his visionary approach to health care stood out. His passionate advocacy for the Affordable Care Act helped protect and strengthen this landmark legislation, ensuring that every family, in every community had access to the care they needed to grow and thrive. For his many contributions to the health of families and the strength of our nation, we are deeply grateful.

Today, on behalf of California's 12th Congressional District, I join Congresswoman LEE in celebrating Bernard Tyson's impactful life and legacy. May it be a comfort to Denise, Bernard Jr., Alexander, and Charles that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time. May Bernard rest in power and in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 95TH  
BIRTHDAY OF PHYLLIS LYON

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise with joy to recognize an icon of San Francisco, a trailblazer in the fight for civil rights and a dear friend, Phyllis Lyon, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

Beginning in the 1950s, Phyllis and her late wife, Del Martin, were on the vanguard in the fight to make real the promise of equality for LGBTQ Americans, forming our nation's first lesbian civil rights organization, Daughter of Bilitis, and establishing the first nationally distributed lesbian newsletter, the Ladder. They worked tirelessly to ensure that every woman could live without fear of violence or persecution.

As a journalist, community organizer and clarion voice for justice and equality, Phyllis has dedicated her entire life to uniting diverse communities to create fundamental change. From working to decriminalize homosexuality, successfully advocating to outlaw employment discrimination in San Francisco and ensuring that our city respected the dignity of everyone, Phyllis's work has had a powerful impact that has strengthened our communities and our democracy.

For 40 years, the Lyon-Martin Health Services, named in honor of their dedication to the health and well-being of all women, has been a model for community-based health care that

provides lifesaving services, case management and care for women of every age, race, disability, socio-economic condition and sexual orientation. Phyllis' unwavering commitment to caring for our most vulnerable continued as my appointee to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, where she was a strong voice for the rights of lesbian seniors and all women.

Phyllis and Del's relationship and service to our community has been a source of inspiration to me and all who are fortunate enough to know them. In 1996, during the Floor debate on the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, I was privileged to display their picture, asking my colleagues, "If you knew Phyllis and Del . . . why would you not want them to be treated equally?" This year, I once again recognized them on the House Floor as we voted to pass the landmark Equality Act to finally, fully end discrimination against LGBTQ individuals and guarantee the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of who they are or whom the love.

Phyllis and Del's marriage in 2004, the first same-sex wedding to be recognized in San Francisco, was a joyous celebration. When the California Supreme Court voided their marriage, they recommitted to the fight for equality until the decision was finally overturned in 2008, when they became the first LGBTQ couple to be legally married in California.

While Del sadly passed away a few months later, Phyllis continues to be a blessing to our community, using her vision, values and voice to build a brighter future for San Franciscans and all Americans. On behalf of the House of Representatives, it is a pleasure to wish Phyllis Lyon a happy 95th birthday and a year filled with peace, love and joy.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN MATHIAS  
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Melvin Mathias, a resident of Illinois who will celebrate his 90th birthday on November 23rd. I came to know Melvin's story through his cousin and my friend, Sidney Mathias of Buffalo Grove, and I wish to share it today because it embodies so much of the opportunity, perseverance, and immigrant heritage that makes our nation special.

Mr. Mathias was born in Fulda, Germany, to Erich and Kathinka in 1929. A Holocaust survivor, he immigrated to the United States in October 1936 with his parents and maternal grandparents, to escape religious persecution by the Nazis.

Mr. Mathias and his family eventually settled on Chicago's South Side. He became a United States citizen on July 7, 1943. In 1951, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in

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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.

the Korean War until 1953. After he was discharged from the military, he began working for his uncle Ernest at Quality Sheet Metal Works. He worked hard at the company and eventually became the co-owner with his cousin Sidney. He led the company until it closed in 1992.

Mr. Mathias built his first house in Chicago after marrying Joanne Decker in 1955. Soon after, they had two children, Linda and Larry. The family relocated to Homewood in 1970, where Joanne passed away in 1990. Mr. Mathias later remarried Adrienne Cohen in 1993, and the couple remained together until her passing in 2012.

Presently, Mr. Mathias is active and engaged member of his local community. He is involved in several veterans groups including the Homewood VFW 807 and the Pvt. Sam Veivelt Post of the Jewish War Veterans of America, where he serves as Quartermaster and Corresponding Secretary. In recognition of his service in the Korean War, he participated in the Chicago Honor Flight in 2016 to visit the Memorial in Washington, D.C. He also enjoys traveling and spending time with family.

I heartily congratulate Mr. Mathias on his 90th birthday, and thank him for his service to our community and nation.

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS  
SMALL BUSINESS CONTINUATION  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 499, the "Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act."

H.R. 499 amends the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of surviving spouses for purposes of the service-disabled veteran-owned small business definition.

This act will provide the surviving spouse of a service-disabled veteran with federal contracting preference as a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

On Monday we celebrated Veterans Day to show our veterans and military families how important they are to us and how grateful we are for them each and every day.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 here in the 18th Congressional District. 21.6 million brave men and women are veterans of our nation's military service.

This includes more than 2 million women, 2.7 million African American men and women, 1.5 million Hispanic men and women, 342,000 Asian American Pacific Islanders, and 178,000 American Indians.

The memory of the fallen are never forgotten.

Each Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable.

Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are freedom's foundation.

This bill will help veteran families by extending additional benefits to the surviving spouses of deceased veterans across the country, including at home in Harris County.

By allowing the spouses of deceased service-disabled veterans to retain their status as a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, they will remain competitive in the federal contracting market.

After the years of service their family members provide to our country in support of their loved ones who sever the military, veterans' spouses have earned the reliability this bill provides to them and their businesses.

Current law allows surviving spouses of 100 percent service-disabled veteran business owners to continue receiving preferences for contracts with the VA, but the benefit does not extend to the spouses of veterans with a disability less than 100 percent.

The bipartisan bill introduced today will extend the benefit to these spouses for three years, helping ensure their businesses are not upended after the death of their veteran spouse.

I thank my colleague, Congressman CHABOT for sponsoring this legislation to support families of Veterans who so bravely supported the freedoms of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 499 to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of surviving spouses for purposes of the service-disabled veteran-owned small business definition.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOCTOR  
BILL NOBLE

**HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, last week, Wheeling lost a compassionate doctor and an all-around good man. So, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Bill Noble of Wheeling, West Virginia. Bill was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, teacher and cardiologist.

My wife, Mary, a nurse, worked with Bill for many years at Ohio Valley Medical Center where he not only served as chief of cardiology, but was also a dedicated teacher. He was recognized as teacher of the year several times by the medical residents, but his greatest passion was for his work as a cardiologist. Bill touched the lives of thousands in the area and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Dawn, his two children and his extended family as they mourn his passing. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING STEVE FARUS AND  
HIS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO  
THE DUNCAN FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. TROY BALDERSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duncan Falls Fire Depart-

ment's 1st Assistant Chief, Steve Farus, for the forty years he has dedicated to Wayne Township and the surrounding area.

Assistant Chief Farus's career, now spanning more than four decades, exemplifies a selfless commitment to public service. After graduating from Philo High School in 1971, Steve joined the U.S. Navy, where he served honorably for four years. Upon his return to civilian life, Assistant Chief Farus graduated from college and joined the Duncan Falls Volunteer Fire Department. In this role, Steve has continually gone above and beyond his call of duty. His dedication has manifested itself in numerous ways, including in his co-founding of Duncan Falls Safety Town—an educational program through which he has delivered countless safety demonstrations to school, church, and other civic groups across the Wayne community.

In addition, Steve is a long-serving member of the Muskingum County Firefighters Association, where he was instrumental in acquiring a Fire Safety Trailer for the Duncan Falls Fire Department. Today, the trailer is used for children's safety demonstrations and is a favorite stop on the many station tours that Steve coordinates for members of the community. For his remarkable service, Assistant Chief Farus has been honored with several awards, including the Zanesville Sertoma Service to Mankind Award and the Gardner Insurance Community Protector Award.

Beyond his work with the Fire Department, Steve has further served Wayne Township as the owner and operator of the Clyde Thompson Funeral home since 1985. He and his wife, DuAnne, are the proud parents of Scott, Matthew, and Stacey, and now have 6 grandchildren.

As family, friends, and Wayne Township gather to recognize Steve's outstanding career, I salute him for his commitment to advocating for safety and for his ongoing service above self. Assistant Chief Farus can take great pride in all he has accomplished and the positive impact that his work has had and will continue to have.

I thank Steve for his devotion to bettering Wayne Township, Ohio, and in turn, I honor him for his incredible record of achievement.

HONORING AMBASSADOR JOHN  
O'KEEFE

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador John O'Keefe, who is retiring after a distinguished diplomatic and public service career including, most recently, eleven years at the helm of the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress.

Open World is a unique exchange program for emerging democracies, particularly former Soviet and communist states. This program leverages the energy of Members of Congress and their constituents, bringing current and rising foreign leaders to Washington and other communities throughout our country for dialogue and cultural exposure. Open World now maintains a vast network of more than 29,000 alumni.