

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HOWARD BLACKBURN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Howard Blackburn of Hays, North Carolina for his recent induction into the Wilkes County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Howard Blackburn epitomized a life of excellence and service. He served in the military during World War Two and the Korean War. Howard Blackburn influenced thousands of lives through his leadership in education and agriculture. Through his work at Wilkes Community College, where he served as director of the life sciences program, Mr. Blackburn helped thousands of students develop farming skills.

Howard Blackburn is perhaps best known throughout Wilkes County for his contributions to beekeeping. He helped found the Beekeepers of Wilkes, and personally served as an instructor and mentor for decades. He helped many, many other people understand the importance of bees to our lives. He always maintained the highest standards of meticulous conduct and expected others to strive to the same level of excellence. Howard Blackburn is a shining example of service that we should all seek to emulate.

HONORING THE POLISH HIGHLANDERS ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America as the organization prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary. I am proud of the relationship I've developed over many years with the Polish Highlanders Alliance and President Jozef Cikowski. It is a privilege to represent so many Polish Highlanders and I look forward to gathering with them on Saturday, November 23rd for this historic celebration.

The Polish Highlanders Alliance traces its roots back to 1929 when its first chapter, known as a circle, was founded in Chicago. Since its inception, the Alliance has sought to organize Polish Highlanders throughout North America into a unified Highlander family. For the last 90 years, members of the Alliance have worked hard to preserve the unique cultural heritage of the Polish Highlands region, including music, dance, folk costumes, and other traditions. Through the years, the organization has grown to over 80 circles throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Today, the Polish Highlanders Alliance is headquartered on the Southwest Side of Chicago in the Highlander Home on Archer Avenue. The Alliance organizes many cultural events for the Highlander and the Polish-American community including the Highlander Picnic which attracts nearly 3,000 people every year. For its numerous cultural activities, the Alliance has received awards including the Gloria Artis Cultural Achievement Medal. The medal was awarded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for the Alliance's distinguished contributions to Polish culture. In addition to cultural activities, the Polish Highlanders Alliance raises money to provide assistance to churches, schools, and other establishments within Poland and the Highlands region.

This year marks 100 years of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Poland. I am overjoyed that as we celebrate this anniversary, the U.S. is finally including Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. As a result, as of November 11 citizens of Poland no longer need a visa to visit the United States. For years I helped constituents obtain visas for their Polish relatives to visit the U.S. for baptisms, weddings, and other family events, and I advocated alongside the Polish Highlanders Alliance for Poland's inclusion in the VWP.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America does to promote unique Polish cultural traditions and to support strong ties between Poland and the United States. The members' devotion to their community and their mission is commendable and I wish them the best as they continue to impart their traditions for generations to come. Good wishes (Sto lat).

RECOGNIZING COLLIN COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO END HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, each year during the week prior to Thanksgiving, communities across the country come together to bring awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. Today, I want to recognize the Collin County organizations working to end hunger and homelessness throughout our community.

Today, there are nearly 42 million Americans facing hunger and on any given night, more than 194,000 people will sleep on the street.

While these numbers are sobering, we are incredibly grateful to those in our community who work so hard to ease the suffering of others. Organizations such as the Collin County Homeless Coalition, Family Promise of Collin County, North Texas Food Bank, Minnie's Food Pantry, and Hope's Door New Beginning

Center, Allen Community Outreach, and many, many others work year-round to take care of those less fortunate.

Through these organizations, volunteers, businesses, and faith communities come together to provide necessities like shelter and nutritious meals. They go above and beyond to ensure those in need have access to basic medical care and hygiene products and even provide job training and placement resources to those struggling with homelessness.

As we approach the holidays, let us not only remember and support those facing hunger and homelessness, but also those in our community who give so much for their fellow man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 630. Had I been present, I would have voted: on roll call vote number 630 YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, on November 19, 2019, I voted in favor of H.R. 5084, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. However, my vote did not register on Roll Call 630. I would like the record to reflect that I supported passage of this legislation on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEGAN HANDAL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Ms. Megan Handal, upon her departure as Clerk, Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In this role, Ms. Handal was personally responsible for ensuring that the Chairs of the Readiness Subcommittee and Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee had the appropriate administrative information and hearing details, handled all logistics for each hearing, and ensured all hearings ran on time. Ms. Handal coordinated with Congressional Members, Congressional staff, and all witnesses for

● 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.

each hearing she oversaw. Ms. Handal was also responsible for quality control of Congressional transcripts, military construction tables, and subcommittee bill and report language. Before her time as Clerk, Megan interned with the House Armed Services Committee in 2015, as well as the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the summer of 2016.

Megan is a graduate of Villanova University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and is an avid supporter of Villanova Wildcats basketball.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Ms. Megan Handal for her dedicated service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to our Nation. We wish her the best as she moves on to her next role.

HONORING COMMANDER JIM MOODY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the service of Commander Jim Moody with the Collin County Sheriff's Department. Following a distinguished thirty-seven year career in law enforcement, a grateful community thanks Commander Moody for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Collin County.

In 1981, Mr. Moody began his career in law enforcement with the Atoka County Sheriff's office in Oklahoma. During his time in Atoka, Jim worked in several areas, including Dispatch, Patrol, Civil, Mental, and Warrants. In 1985, Jim joined the Collin County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Officer. Due to his stellar efforts, he was promoted to the rank of Captain over the Detention Facility and as well as Professional Standards. Later, he would hold the position of Support Services Captain and Public Information Officer prior to serving in his current capacity as a Commander.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Commander Jim Moody for his steadfast service to Collin County and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING HERMANN HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hermann Bearcats volleyball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class II State Volleyball Championship.

This is Hermann High School's fourteenth state championship win in the history of their volleyball program. This team and Coach Phil Landolt should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Hermann Bearcats volleyball team for a job well done.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LINDA JAY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Linda Jay, a community leader from Tehachapi, California which I represent, who is retiring from her position as the CEO of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors after an illustrious, decades-spanning career.

As a 30-year veteran of the real estate industry, she managed the Coldwell Banker in Tehachapi, served as President of the Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors, contributed extensively to the Tehachapi News as a real estate expert, and most recently held the position of CEO of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors, one of Kern County's largest trade organizations.

Linda's community involvement hardly ends there. In addition to her real estate experience and leadership, Linda has long been an active member on numerous local boards and commissions, including the Tehachapi City Planning Commission, Habitat for Humanity Golden Empire, and the Kern Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, to name a few. Linda's public service also extended to local politics, where she served on the Tehachapi City Council for twelve years and was elected Mayor of Tehachapi in 2009.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Linda met her husband Bruce through her work as a realtor when he came to the Bakersfield Association of Realtors in search of advice for a business he was starting. Since getting married in 2012, the Jays have become known as a local power couple heavily involved in all things Tehachapi and Kern County. When retired, Linda and Bruce are looking forward to more family time with their 6 children and 12 grandchildren, and plan to travel throughout the country in their RV coach.

On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to congratulate Linda on a remarkable career, thank her for her dedicated service to the Tehachapi and Kern County, and wish her and Bruce all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the critical relationship with our ally India. I recently had the great pleasure of sitting down with India's ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Harsh Vardhan Shringla to discuss the critical issues facing India and the importance of the bilateral relationship between India and the United States.

India faces many regional and geopolitical threats. Islamic insurgents are a constant

threat, spreading terror throughout Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in India. We should support the government in Delhi in the continued fight against terror. India also faces an increasingly aggressive and assertive China that continues to export its malign influence throughout the Indo-Pacific region. China's behavior is destabilizing India's near-abroad, saddling its neighbors with unpayable debts, as was the case with the port project in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. India is also on constant alert with a hostile and unstable nuclear-armed state to their West—Pakistan.

India is a critical trading partner with the United States. India accounts for about 3 percent of the United States' world trade, which continues to grow year after year. Likewise, the United States is India's second largest trading partner—accounting 16 percent of India's exports. We must continue to work towards strengthening our trade relationship with India, increasing bilateral foreign direct investment, and consider the negotiation of a free trade agreement.

Most importantly, India and the United States share the same values. As the two largest democracies in the world, our countries dually respect freedom and human dignity. It is then no surprise that the population of Indian-Americans grew by 38 percent between 2010 and 2017. Going forward, our relationship with India will only grow in importance. By sharing the same values, we inherently share similar interests and concerns. We must continue working together to confront dangers abroad, strengthen our economic relationship, and advance the cause of freedom and democracy around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on the Making Appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H.R. 3055). Had I been present for roll call No. 631, I would have voted "AYE."

RECOGNIZING MR. MIKE VANCE

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Stephen "Mike" Vance for his longtime service to Collin County as an officer of the law.

At the age of three years old, Mike moved to Richardson, Texas, with his family where he attended St. Paul Apostle Grade School and Allen Military Academy. "Mooky," as he is known by many, would go on to graduate from the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University and also earned a degree in Management and Technology from Richland Junior College.

Mike Vance's career in law enforcement began in 1985 when he became an Officer of