

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on December 10, 2019, I was absent from votes. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 660; nay on Roll Call No. 661; nay on Roll Call No. 662; yea on Roll Call No. 663; nay on Roll Call No. 664; yea on Roll Call No. 665; yea on Roll Call No. 666; and nay on Roll Call No. 667.

HONORING REYMUNDO BARRON RUIZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Reymundo Barron Ruiz, a Korean War combat veteran, who recently received his high school diploma and celebrated his 90th birthday.

Reymundo Barron Ruiz was born in Mexico but spent much of his youth in Del Rio, Texas with his mother, three brothers, and four sisters. During the Great Depression, he attended school, while working to help support his family. His older brothers were called to serve during World War II, and as the youngest, Reymundo, stayed at home to support his mother and sisters. When his older brothers returned from war in 1945, two of them were gravely injured and another relocated to Oregon, leaving Reymundo as the primary breadwinner of his family.

While he was 17 years old, Reymundo attended San Felipe High School and attended class as often as he could, while providing for his family. He would routinely travel with his mother to the Santa Clara Valley to work in the orchards and fields. This continued until 1950, when Reymundo was inducted into the U.S. Army, before he could receive his high school diploma. He then served in combat in the Korean War, until he was honorably discharged. Reymundo and his brothers were not citizens when they fought for our country and proudly became U.S. citizens for their combat and military service.

When Reymundo returned from the U.S. Army, he relocated with his mother to San Jose, California in pursuit of a better life. In 1954, he married Adelaida Macias and raised six children. As a young husband and father, Reymundo resumed and continued his education at night, while working day jobs as a laborer. In the evenings, he worked to improve his English while also studying chemistry and metallurgy in night school.

In the 1960s, Reymundo worked in the burgeoning electronics and semiconductor industry. Despite having no formal degree or di-

ploma, he was recognized by the National Semiconductor Corporation as a co-inventor of processes and methods for electro-plating computer chips during the early stages of the Silicon Valley computer industry.

After his retirement in 1992, Reymundo has devoted his time to the betterment of his family and community. He has volunteered at the local public schools and also helped establish the McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association, as one of their founders.

An extraordinary role model, he taught his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the importance of education and selfless service to others. Now his family includes teachers, law enforcement officers, active and retired military, as well as other public servants.

Reymundo always had the regret that he had not received his high school diploma. However, this year on November 11, he was recognized as a 2019 graduate of Del Rio High School and received his diploma, 69 years after he joined the U.S. Army and a month before his 90th birthday.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Reymundo Barron Ruiz on a life extraordinarily well-lived and for receiving his high school diploma. I thank Mr. Ruiz, for his service and for his contributions to our country and community.

CONGRATULATING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ANN MARIE SYDNOR ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Command Sergeant Major Ann Marie Sydnor on her retirement from the United States Army.

CSM Sydnor is a native of Rock Island, Illinois and a graduate of Rock Island High School. She attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training in 1992 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, graduating as a Unit Supply Specialist. She held many leadership positions during her career in the U.S. Army, such as Squad Leader, Supply Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Senior Drill Sergeant, Battalion S4 NCOIC, Supply Accounting NCOIC, G4 Multi-Class Logistics NCOIC, First Sergeant, Support Operations Sergeant Major, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Brigade Command Sergeant Major and U.S. Army Command G4 Sergeant Major. CSM Sydnor has been stationed at home and abroad on various important assignments and has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and several others. She exemplifies patriotism, determination and passion.

It is because of community leaders such as Command Sergeant Major Ann Marie Sydnor

that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate CSM Ann Marie Sydnor on her retirement from the United States Army.

STRATA-G, 2019 DREAM BIG SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Knoxville-based engineering firm Strata-G on winning the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Dream Big Small Business of the Year Award.

Strata-G was founded in 2002 by retired Navy veteran Dan Hurst. Since then, the Strata-G team has grown to include more than 200 engineers, scientists, safety professionals and project managers that provide technical support to clients in environmental, energy, defense, utility and infrastructure sectors.

Strata-G has received numerous awards for both its outstanding engineering services and focus on community service. The firm supports numerous charities, non-profits and land stewardship initiatives. The Small Business of the Year Award came with a check for \$25,000, which Strata-G is investing in two of its community partners: Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries and Westview Community School.

It's an honor to have Strata-G located in Tennessee's Second District, and I know I speak for many in East Tennessee when I say congratulations on this prestigious award.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINA FAT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of my dear friend Lina Fat. Lina was not only the woman credited with building the Fat Family Restaurant Group empire, but an astounding woman and example for the rest of Sacramento. As we mourn this tremendous loss, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and legacy.

Born Po Ying Yue in Hong Kong in 1938, Lina moved to the United States to attend college in Tennessee. After she graduated, she moved on to attend UC San Francisco Medical Center's School of Pharmacy, where she met her husband Ken. Although Lina and Ken originally became medical professionals, in 1974, Lina Fat changed careers to help her family expand and open the Fat City Bar & Cafe in Old Sacramento.

Lina went on to become a trailblazer and an industry icon. Her generous and dynamic soul

• 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.

permeated through everything that she achieved. Her accolades were many—she was named both Businesswoman and Restaurateur of the Year in Sacramento. She also was the beating heart behind the Sacramento World Music and Dance Festival. Yet, behind it all was her everlasting dedication and love for her community.

Lina Fat will continue to stand as an example to us all. Her life and legacy are symbolic of the convergence of culture, ideas, and community that are woven tight into the fabric that makes up the tapestry of Sacramento's essence. Her kindness, grace, and dedication to our region will never be forgotten.

As we mourn this tremendous loss, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and legacy. She is survived by her husband Ken; their children, J.C., Kevin and Diana; and various family members and friends. May we all find comfort in the incredible legacy she will leave behind.

CELEBRATING THE CLERMONT
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce.

The Clermont Chamber of Commerce has a rich history of working to enhance the Clermont County community and providing quality services and employment opportunities to its residents. The Chamber represents approximately 800 businesses and individuals from around the area.

As a pillar of the community, the Chamber has grown to become the 3rd largest Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and plays a leading role in the economic development and continued success of Clermont County and the Greater Cincinnati region.

I am thankful to have such a positive working relationship with the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce and look forward to fifty more years of collaboration in the name of bettering Clermont County, its businesses, and those we serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WIS-
CONSIN ARMY CADETS' 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Wisconsin Army Cadets.

The Wisconsin Army Cadets is a youth military training and career exploration program based in Appleton, Wisconsin that provides young men and women ages 12 to 20 years old with hands-on, uniform-on, living experience to assist them in deciding on a military career. Cadets embrace and represent the Army's core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal

courage. The program aims to enhance the character and leadership ability of Cadets.

During the program, Cadets participate in monthly drill events, train in common task warrior skills, learn U.S. Army weapons systems, and partake in military science excursions and field training at Fort McCoy. Cadets also engage in community service by supporting events like the Old Glory Honor Flight, Armed Services Day, and local veteran's events and parades. In addition, the program serves its chartering partner, the Wisconsin National Guard, during times of deployment by supporting Rear detachment community outreach missions such as clothing and food drives, color guards, Purple Heart ceremonies, and soldier funerals.

The Wisconsin Army Cadets Appleton unit was founded in 1994 by COL Brian Blahnik. Since its existence, the program has provided military career education to over 5,000 youth Cadets. The Appleton unit has seen at least 500 young men and women join the Armed Forces directly from its ranks. The Wisconsin program has been used as a model for Army youth programs across the country and has been recognized as one of the top military youth programs in the nation.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Wisconsin Army Cadets on their 25th year in operation. I wish the program many more years of continued success.

CALLING FOR TURKEY TO IMME-
DIATELY RELEASE KURDISH PO-
LITICAL PRISONER SELAHATTIN
DEMIRTAŞ

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to renew my call for President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey to immediately release Kurdish political prisoner Selahattin Demirtaş, who has been held in prison for more than three years.

Last week, we celebrated Human Rights Day. Every year on December 10th, we commemorate the historic day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming that all people, by their inherent dignity as members of the human family, are entitled to certain universal rights, no matter who they are, where they come from, what they believe in, or how they pray or think.

Seventy-one years later, under Erdoğan, Turkey has conducted a campaign of repression against anyone who dares disagree with his barbaric policies. He has put the Dictator's Playbook into action, arresting journalists, targeting academics, threatening judicial independence, and jailing rival political leaders, such as Selahattin Demirtaş and other members of the Peoples' Democratic Party. As an Executive Committee Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I am proud to stand with Demirtaş and to advocate for his immediate release.

The bipartisan Lantos Commission is charged with promoting, defending, and advocating for international human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the right not to be subjected

to arbitrary arrest or detention, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to take part in government, directly or through freely chosen representatives. These are some of the rights that President Erdoğan has callously disregarded in his continued imprisonment of Demirtaş. As fellow parliamentarians, we cannot simply look the other way when a colleague is targeted by an oppressive regime simply because their party is out of power.

Today, I call on my House colleagues to stand with Selahattin Demirtaş. I call on President Erdoğan to immediately release not only Demirtaş, but every political prisoner who is being incarcerated for advocating for democracy and human rights in Turkey. We must stand together with all those who stand up for human rights and democracy in the face of tyranny.

CONGRATULATING TANNER WHIP-
PLE ON HIS WIN AT THE SIX
DAY INTERNATIONAL ENDURO IN
PORTUGAL

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tanner Whipple for his win at the Six Day International Enduro in Portugal. The six-day, 1,140-mile, off-road motorcycle race started in 1913, and is now in its 94th year. This year, Tanner took home the gold medal after competing against 30 other countries.

Tanner was born into a racing family and has been riding since he was four years-old. He won the gold medal by being within 10 percent of the fastest person in his class division. Tanner competed against 30 other countries and is the first rider to represent the Quad-Cities Area since 1979. This is the most difficult race he says he has ever competed in. The weather and terrain were obstacles, but Tanner was able to surmount them to win the gold. He says his favorite part about riding was the adrenaline rush. Tanner is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. With his talent and passion, I am proud to see him represent Colona, Illinois so well in the world.

It is because of leaders such as Tanner that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Tanner Whipple on his win at the Six Day International Enduro in Portugal.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
WORK OF ANGELA SALO

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2019

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angela Salo for her unparalleled commitment to her fifth-grade students at DeLong Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington. In October, Angie's work for our community was recognized nationally, when she received the National Science Foundation's