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HONORING THE LIFE OF BELOVED
CAPITAL REGION EDUCATOR ER-
NEST D. STECK

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of beloved community leader, veteran and educator Ernest D. Steck who passed away in February.

Mr. Steck was a symbol of virtue and discipline to many in our Capital Region. Our community owes him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to educating and shaping the minds of the young men under his tutelage, both in his history classroom and on the football field.

Ernest was born in Rock Island, Illinois and grew up in Chicago and Brooklyn during the Great Depression. He enlisted and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and fought in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he went back to school to earn his undergraduate and advanced degrees in physical education at the University of Iowa.

After brief stints teaching in Bridgeport, Connecticut and Providence, Rhode Island, Ernest moved to Albany and brought his love of teaching to the Albany Academy, where he taught from 1953 to 1991. He also coached football, basketball, track, and tennis. Each discipline provided a welcome opportunity for Ernest to share the principles that guided his life: the importance of hard work, discipline, and integrity. These earned him the respect of his colleagues and students. Classrooms were known to fall silent before he arrived while students waited eagerly for him to speak.

Ernest's legacy of service earned him a promotion to athletic director and a spot in the Capital Region Hall of Fame in August of 2014. If not reminding his teams that "cool heads win games," he could be found virtually silent on the sidelines. He believed in allowing the students to call their own plays, giving them a chance to develop team unity and trust. His creative approaches worked time and time again. In 1970, the Albany Academy football team won the State Championship for small high schools. He led a record-achieving championship streak until 1982. Students he coached referred to themselves as "Ernie's Boys," a moniker that denoted their respect and appreciation. Even to people who never stepped foot on a court or entered an arena, Ernest was legendary.

Above all, Ernest was a proud family man. His legacy lives on in his sons David and Phillip and grandchildren Kaylee, James, Alexandra, and Aaron. He was laid to rest in late February alongside his wife Roselyn. To those who knew him, loved him, and were made better by his presence, I offer my sincere condolences.

May we all take inspiration from the incredible service and courage of Ernest Steck and honor his legacy for years to come.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate Women's History Month.

I want to offer a special mention for the U.S. House of Representatives women firsts:

Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana who was the first elected woman member of the House of Representatives;

Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii who was the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to Congress;

Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm of New York who was the first African-American Congresswoman member of the House of Representatives; and

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen whom we have the honor of working with is the first Hispanic woman elected to serve in Congress.

National Women's History Month's roots go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

International Women's Day was first observed in 1909.

In 1981, Congress passed a law authorizing the President to proclaim March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." It was a modest beginning, but very significant to women because it started a societal and cultural change in how women—and especially young girls saw themselves within the American story.

In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

This month we recognize Women's History Month by noting the fundamental role women have played in shaping America's history. But I say to you that a month is not enough to make known the significant contributions of women to the success of the United States of America.

We taught our girls about Rose the Riveter who represented the millions of American women who went to work on assembly lines to manufacture tanks, planes, and weapons for the defense of this nation during World War II.

We have many American Women heroes in the STEM area like: Sally Kristen Ride, the first woman sent into space; Eileen Marie Collins, the first woman space shuttle pilot; and Grace Murray Hopper an American computer scientist and United States Navy rear admiral.

Admiral Hopper developed the first compiler for a computer programming language, which made it possible to program computers without using punch cards.

The Shriver Report, "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink: Some Recommended Steps for Government Businesses, and Women reported on the economic health of the average American woman.

Today, women make up half the U.S. workforce, but the average full time working woman earns only 77 percent of what the average full time working man makes.

And that is why the House must pass H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, when it comes to the floor for debate and vote.

There are many women in the State of Texas and in the city of Houston who have

made significant contributions to the American story:

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives;

Kathryn "Kathy" Whitmire was the first woman elected to serve in Houston City government; and

Mae Carol Jemison, the first African American woman astronaut.

These many accomplishments does not mean there is not more that needs to be done.

There is still a long way for women to go according to the Shriver Report.

Women are more than 50 percent of the population and more than 50 percent of the votes.

A woman working full time, all year at a minimum-wage job, or a job close to the minimum wage, will not be able to bring her family above the poverty line.

Families need an income closer to 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold to escape the brink.

In the Shriver Report's survey:

73 percent of Americans said that in order to raise the incomes of working women and their families, they strongly favor the government ensuring that women get equal pay for equal work;

79 percent of Americans said the government should expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare for working families;

Almost 60 percent of Americans said women raising children on their own face tremendous challenges and should be helped financially by government, employers, and communities; and

If we are going to win the war on poverty we must wage and win the war of discrimination of women in the workforce.

Pay inequality is not just a women's issue—it is a family income equality issue.

In 2012, Texas' ranked second among the 50 states among with workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 6.1 million workers are paid hourly rates in Texas in 2012,

In Texas 282,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, while 170,000 earned less.

From 2011 to 2012, the number of Texas workers who earned at or below the federal minimum wage was 7.5 percent. The percentage of workers earning less than the federal minimum 2012 was 2.8 percent, while the share earning exactly the minimum wage was 4.7 percent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help celebrate Women's History month by becoming cosponsors of H.R. 863.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BILLY
MARTIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Billy Martin, who passed away on Sunday, January 27th at the age of 52.

Billy, a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, graduated from Gulfport High School and attended

Gulf Coast Community College. He went on to be an ice cream delivery driver for Blue Bell Ice Cream for over ten years. It was during this time that he began investing in the lives of young adults at Resurrection Life Worship Center in Picayune, Mississippi. After his time at Blue Bell, he accepted a full-time position at RLM serving as the administrator for over ten years. It was in this role that Bill's heart of service out shined all those around him.

In a world where everyone seems to be dead set on self-promotion and self-advancement, Billy found his joy in serving others. In a world where people are going to extreme lengths to draw attention to themselves, Billy went the extra mile to draw attention to others. In a world where it's common to see people broadcast their own accomplishments, Billy was a megaphone for the achievements and good qualities of others. In a time when everyone wants to see their dreams fulfilled, Billy saw fit to spend his time helping fulfill the dreams of others.

Billy's life is one that should be celebrated and remembered. His legacy of obedience to God and selfless service to others lives on in all the lives he touched.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife and best friend of 17 years, Jameye Hickman Martin of Picayune, his mother, Shirley Martin; his siblings, Randy (Karen) Martin and Terri (Tony) Zbysinski, of the Mississippi Gulf Coast; his brothers-in-law, Rev. Allen (Amy) Hickman of Picayune and Andrew (Karen) Hickman of Brookhaven, 17 nephews and nieces and 9 great-nephews and great-nieces.

HONORING BELOVED ALBANY
RESTAURANT LOMBARDO'S

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bid a fond farewell to Lombardo's, a historic Albany, New York restaurant that was a beloved community staple for nearly a century until its close earlier this year.

Charley Salvatore Lombardo opened what would become this legendary family restaurant in 1919 after making the journey to the United States from Southern Italy. For decades, Lombardo's weathered the changing landscape of the Albany area, generation after generation, never wavering in its service to neighbors and cherished ability to bring people together.

Whether looking for a bite to eat or a brief respite from the demands of daily life, Lombardo's provided a hub of connection and familiarity for the surrounding area. Many Albany residents chose this establishment as the setting to celebrate their milestones, from birthdays to anniversaries to reunions. Artists and authors found inspiration behind its doors. Local entrepreneurs cite Lombardo's as a model that guided their ventures.

Lombardo's memorable Art Deco design and tiled floors saw their last public visitors in December of 2018, but the spirit of the establishment lives on in the stories and memories of its owners, its many servers and staffs, patrons and friends. Thank you to everyone who made Lombardo's such a special place for our community.

THOMAS MILLS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Thomas Mills for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Thomas Mills is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Thomas Mills is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Thomas Mills for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING KAZAKHSTAN
ON THEIR PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic March 19 announcement by former Kazakhstan President, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, who voluntarily and peacefully resigned from his position as President and as the Head of State.

Kazakhstan's Constitution was prepared for such a scenario and calls for the Chairperson of the Senate of the Parliament to step in and take on the roles and responsibilities for the remainder of the President's term. This transition process, which will usher in the Chairman of the Senate, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, as Head of State, is moving forward peacefully and with little to no disruption, as all parties involved remain committed to Kazakhstan's further development and prosperity, as well as serving as a stabilizing force in the region. Additionally, I call on President Tokayev to carry out the reforms necessary to hold free and fair elections in 2020, so that the people of Kazakhstan can continue to strengthen their democratic institutions.

For almost 30 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have worked diligently to build a strategic partnership based on mutual trust and cooperation on important issues such as economic investment, security, and cultural exchanges. Both Kazakhstan and the United States have made clear that this strategic partnership and friendship will continue to grow and expand under a new Head of State.

I applaud President Nazarbayev for his work to create a strong and lasting relationship with the United States. In 2018, the U.S. and Kazakhstan signed numerous economic agreements that have paved the way for more than 700 American companies to invest over \$3.7 million in the last year alone. These in-

vestments support jobs and provide an economic boost for both of our economies. In partnership with American companies, Kazakhstan launched the Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) in 2018, which serves as a trading and financing platform for foreign and domestic investors, allowing Kazakhstan to grow as a major financial hub in the region.

Kazakhstan and the United States have also been constructive partners in promoting security and stability around the world. Our two nations work together closely to support peace in Afghanistan and Central Asia through the Strategic Partnership Dialogue, joint-military efforts, and the C5+1 multilateral meetings. Additionally, President Nazarbayev was instrumental in Kazakhstan being the first Central Asian country to be elected to the United Nations National Security Council, providing a voice for the people of the region on a global stage.

The United States welcomes this peaceful transition of power in Kazakhstan as it remains a reliable and trusted partner in Central Asia and I congratulate Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on his new role.

STEFAN MOE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stefan Moe for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Stefan Moe is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stefan Moe is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stefan Moe for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING ROY BENAVIDEZ

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez.

My district is proud to claim as one of our own Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez, a Medal of Honor recipient who is among the most distinguished heroes in American history. On the occasion of the Roy P. Benavidez Memorial Highway Dedication, I would like to recognize once more a man who exemplified courage, sacrifice, and unbreakable determination.

Sergeant Benavidez, of El Campo, Texas, was orphaned at a young age and dropped