

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RUTH PASSEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beautiful life. Ruth Passen was a pioneer of community journalism, a champion for social justice and a strong voice for our American values of equality, fairness and progress. Her passing is a great official loss for our San Francisco community and a deep personal loss for all who were blessed to call her friend.

Ruth Passen was a San Franciscan through and through. Born and raised in the city of Saint Francis, she dedicated herself to being an “instrument of peace” and spent a lifetime sowing love, hope, light and joy in our community and around the world.

Ruth made a difference in so many ways. Together with her dear friend, the late, legendary Enola Maxwell, Ruth helped build the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, known as the Nabe, into a transformative beacon of hope, healing and help for so many in our community. Understanding the unifying power of the arts, Ruth was also an inspired, effective force in bringing her beloved jazz and theater to the Nabe and our wider Bay Area community.

Ruth earned the deep respect of all as an innovator and a leader of local journalism. In 1970, she made history as she launched the Potrero View, which has become San Francisco’s longest running community newspaper, as well as one of its most respected. Ruth’s visionary leadership over four decades has brought local news and community services to countless families in our City, and has helped set the standard for editorial integrity in the field.

All San Franciscans can take great pride in the progress that Ruth advanced for equality, fairness and freedom around the world. She worked tirelessly to bring peace and justice to communities in need, first through the Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom during the 1960s and 70s, and then through her work with the people of El Salvador in the 1980s.

She brought that same persistence and dedication to progress to the labor movement, where along with her late respected and remarkable husband Joe, she was a fearless voice for the rights of working men and women throughout the West Coast, on the waterfront, in the farms and in all workplaces. Through their involvement in Young Democrats, Ruth and Joe also helped bring more progressive voices to Washington, ensuring that the People’s House would serve the American people.

San Francisco and America have been blessed by the life and leadership of Ruth Passen. May it be a comfort to her son Marc, daughter-in-law Dianne, granddaughters Nat-

alie and Teresa, and all her loved ones that Ruth and her beloved Joe have been reunited. May it also be a comfort that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ERNEST ‘CHUCK’ AYALA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the incredible life of a dear friend, Ernest “Chuck” Ayala. Chuck Ayala was a visionary leader and entrepreneur who dedicated his life to serving the people of San Francisco and our nation. His passing on April 22, 2019 at the age of 94 is a profound official loss for the countless San Franciscans whose lives he touched and a deep personal loss for his many loving friends and family.

Chuck Ayala was a life-long San Franciscan whose deep faith compelled him to honor the words of our patron saint, Saint Francis who said, “Preach the gospel, sometimes use words.” Whether serving in the Army during World War II, directing the Catholic Youth Organization’s Youth Services or mentoring countless at-risk young people to put them on the path toward a brighter future, Chuck lived his faith through action and always looked for ways of giving back to the community he loved.

In 1973, Chuck was inspired by his mother’s immigrant experience to create the Centro Latino de San Francisco, a senior center dedicated to feeding our city’s seniors and providing the resources they need to thrive. For over 46 years, Centro Latino has helped countless underserved and underrepresented seniors receive a hot meal and find a sense of community.

Since Chuck started Centro Latino, it has become a full-service community center for over 2,500 low-income multi-ethnic seniors and families. The center’s education initiatives have helped new immigrants learn English, apply for vital services and fulfill their American Dreams by becoming citizens. In short, Centro Latino has done nothing less than give thousands of San Franciscans a sense of dignity and worth.

From city hall to the White House, Chuck never failed to make his voice heard. It was an honor to nominate Chuck to the White House Conference on Aging to ensure that our nation’s leaders were listening to the grassroots activists who are on the ground caring for our seniors and their families.

For Chuck and the love of his life, his late wife, Bernice, their greatest source of joy was family. Over their 56 years together, Chuck and Bernice raised a beautiful family and created a legacy of service and advocacy that will continue to improve the lives of San Franciscans and all Americans for generations to come.

May it be a comfort to Chuck’s daughter, Darlene, sons, Mike and Joe, grandchildren and the entire Ayala family that Chuck and his beloved Bernice have been reunited. May it also be a comfort that so many mourn with and pray for them during this sad time.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF T.J. MCGRATH AFTER NEARLY 27 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding service of T.J. McGrath on her retirement after nearly 27 years of distinguished public service, the past 10 years at the Congressional Budget Office, most recently as its General Counsel.

T.J. was promoted to that position in late 2016, in recognition of her dedication, ability, skillful work, and breadth of experience. In that capacity, she has served as CBO’s principal legal officer and an integral part of the agency’s leadership team. She has overseen CBO’s legal staff and their work, skillfully leading them in interpreting legislative proposals and providing high-level analysis regarding significant judicial decisions, scorekeeping guidelines, and relevant budget laws. She has been a leader in making CBO’s analysis more transparent.

Moreover, since becoming CBO’s General Counsel, she has worked tirelessly, building professional relationships across the legislative branch, focusing on creating a positive work environment at CBO, and providing training so that employees have the skills they need to interact more effectively. One example that encapsulates all three of those efforts is bystander training. T.J. worked closely with the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to develop training to prevent harassment in the workplace. The training provided participants with practical tools for taking ownership of their work environment and encouraged bystanders not to remain silent if they witness an incident that might make someone feel uncomfortable. As a result of T.J.’s efforts, CBO was the first agency in the legislative branch to receive bystander training.

From 2009 to 2016, T.J. served as CBO’s Deputy General Counsel. In that position, she dealt with many operational matters and quickly demonstrated her ability to develop practical solutions. She instituted CBO’s successful legal intern program, updated and refined CBO’s internal policies, served as lead attorney in cases involving the Congressional Accountability Act, and worked closely with a Justice Department attorney in a case brought in U.S. District Court. T.J. also made valuable contributions to numerous reports, testimonies, and cost estimates in just about every subject area covered by CBO, including the economy, national security, and health care.

● 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.

T.J.'s service to the nation did not begin with her work at CBO. She came to CBO from the Defense Department's TRICARE Management Activity (now the Defense Health Agency), where she was an Associate General Counsel, providing guidance to the Director and staff on policy and legal issues involved in delivering quality health care to military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents.

Although T.J. is retiring from civilian service, she will continue her exemplary military career. For nearly 27 years, she has served as a member of the Air Force's Judge Advocate General Corps. She first served on active duty with assignments across the world, including in Alaska, Korea, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. During that time, T.J. defended the Air Force against tort claims, prosecuted criminal offenses, taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy, commanded a cadet squadron, and was a military assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense. Since transferring to the reserves more than 14 years ago, she has served in the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, the Air Force Space Command, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, and the Pacific Air Forces. She remains active as a colonel in the selected reserves today.

Her colleagues in CBO and on the Hill appreciate her hard work, keen insights, sense of humor, and steady hand. They will especially miss her generosity with her time and knowledge, her patience, and especially her kindness.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to T.J. for her service to our country. We wish her well in her future undertakings and hope that the nation will continue to benefit from her expertise and commitment.

HONORING HANS BERG

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today because in early March my district and the state of Colorado lost Hans Berg of Empire to an avalanche in Jones Pass.

Hans was a professional photographer for an experienced and well-reputed backcountry ski company. He was working with a guided group when an avalanche struck the pass.

Hans' death is the seventh in my home state this season and was the second within one week's time.

I share my deepest condolences with Hans Berg's family and friends during this time of loss and ask for a moment of silence in his honor.

HONORING ANNIE DICKERSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Annie Dickerson has been a leading activist and advocate for several decades on conservative policy. She began her career at

the Michigan Republican Party in the 1980s working for Spencer Abraham, who later became a United States Senator from Michigan and then the Secretary of Energy. She has supported and helped elect candidates from state and local position to statewide and federal offices.

She did presidential campaign advance work for President H.W. Bush and was deputy finance director for the reelection of President George W. Bush in 2003 and 2004. She served as chief of staff to American Ambassador Mercer Reynolds in Switzerland during the Bush Administration.

Later, she was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2016, serving on the Platform Committee where she stood up for inclusion and support of minority communities within the GOP. Annie has also been a mentor of and advocate for women, founding Winning For Women in 2017 to support more conservative women to federal office. She has been a political commentator on television and a leading fundraiser for candidates and charities over the years. She is the proud mother of two children and currently resides in New York City.

IN HONOR OF MARV WOLF WINNING THE 2019 WYOMING JEFFERSON AWARD

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marv Wolf on winning the 2019 Wyoming Jefferson Award.

Marv Wolf is well known in the Cheyenne community. A veteran himself, Marv is a dedicated volunteer at the Cheyenne Veterans Administration where he spends time comforting hospice patients and offering rides to doctor's appointments and the grocery store. At 89 years young, Marv has dedicated himself to his community and fellow veterans. The people of Cheyenne and Wyoming are lucky to have Marv and I'm grateful for his commitment to serving his fellow veterans.

Again Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to Marv Wolf for winning the 2019 Wyoming Jefferson Award and I thank him for his service to our country and Wyoming.

HONORING MICKEY O'CONNELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of a great American patriot, husband, father, union leader and favorite son of Baldwin, New York, Mickey O'Connell.

Mr. O'Connell began his career as an apprentice carpenter in 1978 with local three of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and retires today as a master Electrician after more than forty years of exemplary service.

Mr. O'Connell's love of country and family manifested itself through his many acts of cou-

rageous service to the United States Intelligence community throughout the world and after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Mr. O'Connell's wife Heidi is a dedicated professor at Nassau Community College and their son Edward is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army, their son Andrew is a former Army Ranger and current ATF agent and their youngest son Joe is an electrician with local three following in his dad's proud IBEW tradition of service.

Madam Speaker on this day, April 29, 2019, the United States House of Representatives rises to pay tribute to Mickey O'Connell on the occasion of his retirement and extends to him and his family the nation's gratitude for his tireless community involvement, strong work ethic and profound love of family and country.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. LARRY CLARK

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of my constituent Dr. Larry Clark who the Federal Laboratory Consortium recently recognized as the Lab Director of the Year out of over 300 federal labs nationwide.

Dr. Clark is currently the Director of the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. Through his work, Dr. Clark has made a number of breakthroughs in understanding how our nation's wildlife interacts with society and how these interactions can be improved. As a result of his work, numerous groups in both the public and private sectors have been able to make changes that mitigate their environmental impact.

At a time when our country faces enormous challenges related to our changing climate, it is critical that we understand how our decisions impact the creatures in the world around us. A better understanding of these effects allows us to minimize the impacts of human activity on the world which we all share.

Dr. Clark's tireless dedication to scientific exploration and excellence allows Americans to live in peace with the species that share our world with us. For this reason, I would like to thank him and all those working at the National Wildlife Research Center for all that they do for our nation.

CELEBRATING MIAMI-DADE PARKS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Miami-Dade Parks' 90 years of service to our community. South Florida is blessed with abundant green spaces and outdoor attractions. From the luscious Chapman Field Park to the historic Deering Estate to the countless dog parks nestled in quiet neighborhoods, residents of Miami-Dade are fortunate to have access to such spectacular natural areas.