

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND AMERICAN SAMOA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act, which would authorize tuition assistance grants to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition costs for Northern Marianas and American Samoa community college graduates seeking to attend a four-year public university.

The importance of having an educated citizenry is a bedrock principle of our nation and has been since our founding. And in today's competitive job market, a postsecondary education is increasingly becoming a critical necessity for obtaining a decent job with a decent wage.

The Northern Mariana Islands has only been part of America for forty years. We understand well that education is key to our continued growth, but the reality is that household incomes in the Northern Marianas are less than half the national median. The U.S. territory of American Samoa is in similar economic straits. Poverty and unemployment rates there are among the highest in the country.

I believe the best way to improve economic conditions in these territories is to improve the educational opportunities of our residents. Unfortunately, however, neither the Northern Marianas nor American Samoa has a four-year institution of higher education. In fact, they are the only two congressional districts in the country without a public four-year college or university. Each has an accredited community college, but academic offerings are substantially limited.

Students from these U.S. territories wanting the advantages of a four-year university in another state or territory face significant financial difficulty. Nonresident students spend an average of \$14,480 in out-of-state tuition and fees more per year than their resident peers at public four-year colleges, according to College Board. And many students in the Marianas and American Samoa wanting to attend a four-year university not only face the cost of nonresident tuition, but also the significant expense of travel. The Marianas are over 3,700 miles from the nearest state, Hawaii—a \$1,100 one-way trip by plane. American Samoa to Hawaii is over 2,500 miles, over \$800 one-way.

The bill follows the model of P.L. 106–98, the DC College Access Act, which allows students residing in the District of Columbia to apply for grants to help pay the cost of attending colleges outside D.C., but much smaller in scope and cost. It creates a program through which public four-year schools in the 50 states, D.C., and other U.S. territories may be

reimbursed for offering in-state tuition to undergraduate students from the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The gentlelady from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and help give students from the Northern Marianas and American Samoa the means needed to make their educational dreams a reality.

HONORING ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I proudly honor Essex County College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past half-century, Essex County College has helped educate and enlighten thousands of students from New Jersey and across the country.

Essex County College opened in 1968 to more than 3 thousand students. By 1970, the school needed a new campus and was relocated to what we now call University Heights in the Central Ward of Newark—across the street from my congressional district office. Essex County College has grown and expanded across the community in the decades since it opened. Today, Essex County College has more than 13 thousand students across its degree, certificate, and job training programs.

Throughout the 1970s and continuing today, Essex County College has invested in local communities. The school has opened and operated extension campuses throughout Essex County. It provides off-campus educational services like the popular Saturday Youth Programs. Essex County College helps students enter the workplace with marketable skills.

Essex County College has provided a foundation of education for generations of students. Through leadership and community investment, Essex County College is leading the way toward greater opportunity. Under President Anthony Munroe, I know that Essex County College will continue to flourish for years to come. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

HONORING MAJOR CHRISTOPHER PETRANCOSTA

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Major Christopher Vincent Petrancosta of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation. Major Petrancosta will soon transi-

tion from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison to the House of Representatives to attend Army Intermediate Level Education with follow on assignment at Fort Drum.

A native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Chris is a third generation Army Soldier, continuing a proud family tradition of service to this nation. Chris attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2007. He has held numerous leadership and staff assignments in a variety of units, highlighted by operational and combat deployments to Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, and Niger during service with the 82nd Airborne Division and First Infantry Division. During his time in Washington, Chris earned a Masters in Policy Management from Georgetown University and worked as a Political Military Planner within the Joint Staff's Transregional Threats Coordination Cell.

In 2018, Major Petrancosta was selected to serve as a Congressional Liaison in the United States Army House Liaison Division. As the primary liaison between Members of the House of Representatives, their staffs, committees, and the Army, he provided insight and understanding of Army policies, actions, operations, and requirements. His first-hand knowledge of the military, its culture, and traditions has been a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices. This previous Christmas, I traveled with Chris to the Middle East to visit our servicemembers and better understand the region. Chris' extensive experience in the region enabled a productive visit for myself and other Members of Congress. I found him to be a thoughtful, intelligent, and dedicated Soldier in the best traditions of America's Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Chris during his time as an Army Congressional Liaison Officer in the House of Representatives. On behalf of a grateful nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Major Christopher Petrancosta, his wife, Stacia, and their children, Tatum and Maryn. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in the United States Army, and continue to dedicate their lives to the service of our nation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT DAVID JOHN REZZO

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, our brave men and women of the Armed Forces continuously make sacrifices to keep our nation strong and free. Among the ranks is Lieutenant David John Rezzo, who I want to recognize today for his eight years of service in the United States Navy.

Lieutenant Rezzo currently serves as a Requirements Officer for Undersea Networks in the Pentagon. He entered the United States

● 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.

Navy in 2011 and has served in numerous assignments and deployments throughout his distinguished career.

Lieutenant Rezzo has shown not only outstanding leadership skills, but also uncommon technical prowess. Over the course of six months as a Junior Officer on the USS Charlotte, he safely supervised the entire ship watch team during surface and submerged operations and managed the maintenance of an attack submarine's mechanical systems. He also achieved certification from the United States Department of Energy to assume overall responsibility of a US Naval Nuclear Power Plant.

Since November 2016, Lieutenant Rezzo has led a major revision of the Undersea Warfare Division's strategic plan, articulating future investment areas to industry, fleet users, program offices and other stakeholders with the aim of maintaining undersea dominance. He continues to coordinate plans to transition high-end asset programs that expand reliable communications throughout the maritime domain.

Most recently, Lieutenant Rezzo was also working on facilitating a \$150 million-dollar rapid acquisition effort to expand maritime surveillance worldwide in support of a critically important Chief of Naval Operations directive.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Virginia's Eighth Congressional District I command my constituent, Lieutenant David John Rezzo on his years of devoted service to the United States of America and ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing him.

**COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DR. ALEXANDER P. STONE**

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Dr. Alexander P. Stone.

Dr. Stone was a patient teacher, a mathematical scholar and creator, and a true gentleman. Under his guidance, his students learned more than the fundamentals of calculus and how to solve differential equations on curved surfaces of arbitrary dimension—he also instilled in all of us a deep appreciation for the beauty of abstract mathematical thought.

Dr. Stone held the admiration and respect of all those around him. His breadth of knowledge was clear, and so was his determination as a mathematical mentor to make sure that his students had the instruction and personal attention they needed to excel. He never belittled anyone for asking what may have seemed like a trivial or obvious question and went out of his way to put students at ease during casual conversations as well as in high stakes exams. He celebrated with us as we made new mathematical discoveries that led to our growth and success.

Alex was also a devoted father, which was made clear during dinner time at his home. His young son was always welcome to join the conversation, setting an example for how to teach children to be inquisitive and engaged without being disruptive.

Dr. Stone's empathy was boundless. He had a rare combination of great kindness in

addition to great knowledge. He touched the lives of all who entered his classroom, and he will be missed.

IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today is National Decision Day. It is an exciting time of year for students as they commit to colleges across the United States. I rise to speak in support of the international scholars who choose to attend our American academic institutions. Their presence in the U.S. is an asset to our country's culture and economy.

While the Department of State's annual Open Doors report states that the United States is still the top location for international students, a concerning statistic shows that new international student enrollment declined by 6.6 percent during the 2017–2018 school year.

The congressional district I represent greatly benefits from international student enrollment in our local colleges and universities. In addition to their intellectual and research contributions, these students make an annual financial contribution of \$52.2 million dollars and support the creation of several hundred jobs each year. We're at risk of losing this valuable talent and the benefits they bring to the residents of New York's 16th District.

But it's not just my district that will suffer—the entire country will. Although they only make up 5.5 percent of higher education enrollment in the United States, the economic value that international students have on our economy is significant. In the 2017–2018 academic year alone, international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$39 billion to the U.S. economy and supported over 450,000 jobs. For every seven international students enrolled, three U.S. jobs are created and supported through spending in the higher education, health insurance, and transportation sectors, among others.

International education doesn't just foster economic benefits; it advances learning and scholarship. Students want to come to the United States because they know that this country has some of the world's greatest educational opportunities. However, as a result of delays in processing student visas in recent years, many international scholars have decided to study in other countries, such as Canada and Australia, which have more welcoming policies. As a result, our country is missing out on incredible talent, and students are foregoing the opportunity to study in one of the best education systems in the world.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am grateful for the work international students are doing every day to strengthen ties with countries around the world. International education develops cultural understanding and respect among different peoples.

We need to send the message that international students and scholars who want to study in the United States are welcome. I urge my colleagues to work with me in ensuring

that the United States continues to be the world's best destination for academic study.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISCOUNT DRUG MART

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an Ohio-based drug store chain, Discount Drug Mart on their 50th Anniversary. Small businesses are the heart of America. They not only create jobs and opportunities, but engineer vibrant communities to live and raise our families in.

Like many small businesses in our country, Discount Drug Mart was established after somebody took a risk and poured their heart and soul into a visionary product. In 1969, Parviz Boodjeh opened the first Discount Drug Mart in Elyria, Ohio, combining a retail store with the personal care of a Pharmacist's office. By integrating disease management and screening services with necessities and convenience items, Discount Drug Mart has influenced businesses around the globe and continues to support thousands of Ohioans today. Mr. Boodjeh's leadership and compassionate touch have helped his family expand to over 70 stores and operate in over 20 Ohio counties. Discount Drug Mart, Inc., serves as a model for the American Dream and an example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to this valued business and celebrate with them for over a half-century of service to our communities.

ENCOURAGING GREATER PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article regarding H. Res. 327 Encouraging Greater Public-Private Sector Collaboration to Promote Financial Literacy for Students and Young Adults.

[From the Democrat-Gazette, April 8, 2019]

NO MONEY TREE

(By Robert Hopkins)

At an age when children are busy playing with their new Legos or asking for Happy Meals, they're also forming early and foundational ideas about earning, saving and spending that they may carry with them throughout their lives. April is Financial Literacy Month, so it's a good time to discuss why it is important that we teach personal finance and economics to young children.

Children often develop their financial behaviors as early as 7 years of age, according to research by David Whitebread and Sue Bingham of the University of Cambridge in England. So waiting until students are in