

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COUNCILWOMAN ELSIE FRANKLIN

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most passionate and dedicated citizens, Lake County Councilwoman Elsie Franklin. Councilwoman Franklin passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019, at the age of 81. Her unwavering commitment to her constituents and her community is worthy of the highest praise, and she will be greatly missed by her family, friends, co-workers, and the many grateful residents whose lives she touched.

Elsie was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and moved to Gary, Indiana, at a young age. She attended Gary Roosevelt High School and built her life in the city of Gary. Ms. Franklin was a member of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church and was very active in her faith throughout her lifetime. For Elsie, being able to improve her community and assist those in need was her life's purpose. She is remembered by family and friends as a role model who stood up for those who did not have a voice.

Throughout her lifetime of public service, Elsie Franklin served the people of Gary and Lake County in numerous capacities. She was the director of Gary's General Services under Mayor Thomas Barnes while also holding positions on various boards, charities, and organizations throughout the years. In 2002, she was elected to serve on the Lake County Council, representing the 2nd district. This victory marked the first time an African-American woman would serve on the Lake County Council. She was passionate about the people of her district and the issues they faced. Many remember her actively working to secure funding for services within the Lake County Juvenile Court system. The challenges facing the youth in the city of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana were a priority for her, and Councilwoman Franklin was a true hero for her hard work and dedication to the children of our communities. Elsie served on the Lake County Council for the past seventeen years, and she was an outstanding activist for the people of her district and the city of Gary.

Councilwoman Franklin was also a strong leader for the Democratic Party in Northwest Indiana for many years. Throughout her remarkable career, spanning over 50 years, she served her party in numerous capacities. Elsie served as vice chairwoman of the Lake County Democratic Central Committee, and she was the first African-American woman to chair the Gary Democratic Precinct Organization.

Elsie Franklin is survived by her beloved children: Cherylynn, Michael, Kimberly, Kenya, Keesha, Theodore, and Dara. She also leaves to cherish her memory many dear friends and

family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to a true public servant, Ms. Elsie Franklin. For her outstanding contributions to the city of Gary and to the community of Northwest Indiana, she is to be commended. Elsie Franklin's legacy will be forever remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come.

REMEMBERING LAURENCE M. BLOCH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday May 14, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember an important mentor, advisor and my quasi-brother/father, Laurence M. Bloch, whom the world knew as "Larry." Larry, a Memphis native and longtime real estate investor and contributor to humanitarian causes, passed away on February 23 in Santa Monica, California, at the age of 87.

A font of sage advice, Larry was constantly there for me and for many others who loved him for the caring individual he was. After graduating from Christian Brothers High School in 1949, Larry went to the University of Michigan, and led a group of Wolverines fans traveling by train with the team to the 1951 Rose Bowl where Michigan beat the California Golden Bears 14 to 6. Larry graduated with a degree in economics in 1953 then served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to Memphis where he was involved in the millinery business before settling into the real estate investment business.

He remained an avid Michigan fan his whole life and used to tape every game. Known for his disheveled salt-and-pepper hair and socks-less and tie-less style, and for riding his bicycle like Albert Einstein, he also drove around town in a Lincoln Continental with coach doors. He celebrated healthy eating habits as a prophet of whole grains and fiber. An investor with a keen eye for good deals in Memphis' downtown, he had the good sense and good fortune to own the property kitty-corner from The Peabody on Union Avenue that was torn down to create AutoZone Park.

A patron of the arts, he also supported the Memphis Crisis Center, Meals on Wheels and the Church Health Center among his charitable causes. As a cat lover, another of his charitable causes was The House of Mews, where he was for a while the top cat. A charming story teller, he provided useful advice and helped many people solve their problems. Larry liked: long walks, telling stories, giving advice, peanuts, cashmere sweaters, everything else cashmere, trains, maize and blue signs, a studied careless appearance, salads and, more than anything, Cheryl and his grandsons. Larry didn't like: being photo-

graphed, zoos, recognition, Ohio State or work hours extending two hours either side of lunch.

I was fortunate to have had him as a good friend and will miss him greatly. Much of what I am and have been is because of Larry Bloch. I thank Larry. I want to extend my condolences to his daughter Cheryl, to his grandsons Nick and Alex, to his sister Joyce whom he loved, and her family, and to his multitude of adoring friends. Larry Bloch led an exemplary life.

HONORING BEATRICE "BEBE" COKER

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of my colleagues Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Beatrice "Bebe" Coker, a mother, sister, artist, advocate, mentor, leader, and recipient of the 2019 John H. Taylor Jr. Education Leadership Award.

Bebe, as she is affectionately called, is a lifelong advocate for quality public education, the arts, and diversity and inclusion. She was honored by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce affiliate, The Partnership, Inc., at Superstars in Education Reception and Awards Ceremony on May 13, 2019, for her unrelenting dedication and leadership in advancing education for all children and making our community a better place to live and work.

Ms. Coker is a revered community mobilizer and literacy advocate, as well as a champion of social justice in Delaware. Among her many contributions to our state, Ms. Bebe was appointed by former Gov. Pierre S. du Pont to join the Citizens Alliance for Public Education to ensure the peaceful desegregation of Delaware schools. She has volunteered for countless organizations, including The Christiana Cultural Art Center, the NAACP Young Adults Group and the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. She chaired the State Civil Rights Commission and has aided numerous organizations focused on literacy.

Bebe holds a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a Doctor of Humanities from Delaware State University. She is a playwright, poet, and lyricist. She is, quite simply, a renaissance woman.

Never one to shy away from fighting for what she believed in, her work throughout Delaware has had a tremendous impact on us all. As a writer, or through her work in the community, she has always been an honest story teller—the stories of our past, our present, and those that inform the work we do to create a better future.

A mentor to many young people, Ms. Coker's greatest source of pride and support is embodied in her three "daughter/best

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

friends", retired Capt. Laurie Coker, U.S. Navy Public Health Services, CDC, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Joan Coker, Head and Neck Surgeon, Wilmington, DE; and Julie Coker Graham, President & CEO, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. While each has accomplished much in the "career-world", Ms. Coker's pride stems from each embracing a love of service to others as their privilege and responsibility.

A community activist in Delaware for over 50 years, Bebe is an inspiration to me. I am proud to stand here today with my fellow Delawareans honoring an extraordinary woman with an extraordinary heart, who is steadfast and unmovable in our community and who consistently sacrifices her time and talent to improve the lives of others. Ms. Coker's anchor is her strong faith in God and lifelong words she was taught to live by, "Don't let your talents take you, where your character can't keep you. It is all about the "integrity of one—you".

SAVANNA'S ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, Native women in the U.S. face tragically high rates of violence, sexual assault, and murder. According to the CDC, murder is the third leading cause of death among Native women, with rates of violence ten times that of the national average on reservations.

I rise today in support of Savanna's Act, which will recognize Native women victims and make sure that their invisibility by law enforcement ends. I understand the devastating effects of colonization and the disproportionate harm and risk for Native women. We must work together to pass Savanna's Act, which will substantially strengthen federal and tribal investigations into the disappearance of Indigenous women, and increase the likelihood of prosecuting these violent crimes.

Savanna's Act will also create and improve procedures, communication, and cooperation among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies that may share jurisdiction over these crimes. These provisions will also improve recording and sharing of data so these women are no longer invisible to law enforcement.

I thank Rep. TORRES for taking the lead on this important piece of legislation. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor this life-saving legislation, and I urge House leaders to move swiftly to bring it to the floor for a vote.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHIEF DAVID FRENZEL WITH THE ORANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great man and thank him for fifty years of service to the City of Orange's Fire Department, Chief David Frenzel. Chief

Frenzel was born on June 25, 1947 to E.P. and Sophia Frenzel in Orange, Texas. He and his brother, Dolan, were raised there and attended public school.

Chief Frenzel began his college career at Lamar Tech anticipating a career in the medical field. In the spring of 1969 Fire Chief Vertis Sands called and offered him a job with the fire department on a Thursday. He withdrew from classes at Lamar on Friday and went to work at the fire department on Saturday, April 19, 1969. The rest, as they say, is history. Chief Frenzel did go on to earn his degree from Lamar University in Fire Protection Technology in 1978 and completed the Executive Officer program through the National Fire Academy in 2000.

Through the years, Chief Frenzel advanced through the ranks at the fire department and was named Fire Chief in 1997. Today he continues to serve in that capacity, claiming that he still has a few things he would like to accomplish within the department before retirement.

In addition to his firefighter duties, Chief Frenzel has volunteered in many capacities throughout the community, including service on St. Mary's Catholic Church Pastoral Council; serving on the boards of the Sabine Neches Chief Association and Lamar Institute of Technology; and serving as Scout Master for Troop 1 for twenty-five years with 75 young men earning the rank of Eagle Scout under his leadership.

Chief Frenzel and his wife Hildy have been married for 41 years and have two sons, David and Adam, both of whom were valedictorians at West Orange Stark High School and went on to graduate from Texas A & M University. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren Charlie, Sam, Andy, Abigail, and Alden.

Chief Frenzel is known for his humble ways, quick wit, and knowledge of Orange history. His most admirable quality is his love of God, his family, and for the Orange Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chief Frenzel on his half century of dedicated service to the Orange Fire Department and in thanks of a heroism few share, but all are grateful for.

RECOGNIZING BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF COLLIN COUNTY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, in October 1968, the "Boys Club of McKinney" under the leadership of Mr. Henry L. Shoap, was created to assist young men in developing the skills, attitudes, and aptitudes to make successful decisions in life. In April 1969, after receiving incorporation from the national organization, the Club would officially open its doors on the historic McKinney Square.

A decade later, girls would be admitted to the organization. However, it would take another seven years for the Club to officially change its name to the Boys & Girls Clubs of McKinney. In time, the Club came to be a popular destination for kids from around Collin

County to assemble in a safe and fun learning environment.

In 1988, in order to expand their area of service, the Club would officially change its name one final time to Boys & Girls Club of Collin County. Similar to its inception fifty years ago, the mission remains largely the same: To enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible individuals.

The Boys & Girls Club of Collin County provides a valuable service—and sometimes the only option—to those children needing a place to go after school. Today, over 10,000 Collin County children and teens are regularly served by locations in McKinney, Plano, and Frisco. Kids who attend the Club are afforded a variety of programs and activities that assist in allowing them to meet key areas of development while gaining independence and learning tools to become productive members of their community.

For this reason, I am proud to congratulate Boys & Girls Club of Collin County on their 50th anniversary of service to a grateful community. Under the leadership of so many selfless individuals, including current CEO E. Michael Simpson, your dedicated team of leaders has worked to ensure that those who would most benefit from the services provided by your organization are allowed to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this tremendous organization for improving the lives of countless children over the past five decades while growing our next generation of community leaders.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend several exceptional leaders from Indiana who will be honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2019. While there are many deserving nominees, this year's inductees include Kenneth J. Allen, Benito Gamba, Ron McCollly, and David Van Eekeren. In addition, U.S. Steel will be presented with the Enterprise of the Year Award. For their many contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees will be recognized at the 12th Annual Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, and United States Senator TODD YOUNG will serve as keynote speakers for this special event.

Kenneth J. Allen graduated from Gary Lew Wallace High School and went on to study at Valparaiso University and the Indiana University School of Law. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Allen worked in construction and then for a railroad company at a steel mill. After graduating law school, Ken opened his law firm in Valparaiso, focusing on personal injury