

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MARKING THE PASSING OF THOMAS DUNCAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the life of a dedicated former House employee, Thomas G. Duncan, who passed away on January 16, 2019 in Fairfax, Virginia.

Tom was born June 10, 1952, in Long Beach, California, to Thomas Owen Duncan and Keith Anne Gamble Duncan and grew up in Dallas, Texas and Birmingham, Michigan. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1974 and the University of Virginia School of Law in 1978. Following his graduation from law school, Tom began a distinguished thirty-year career in public service in the House of Representatives. He began his work in the House in 1979 as an Assistant Parliamentarian and rose to serve as a Deputy Parliamentarian for ten years. He went on to serve with distinction as a staff member on the House Committee on Financial Services, serving as general counsel to chairman from both parties, where he consistently demonstrated his deep commitment to upholding the integrity of our institution, and advancing progress for the American people.

In his more than three decades of non-partisan service to the House, Tom always brought the highest level of professionalism and dedication to the table. He earned the respect of Members and staff alike for his encyclopedic memory of facts and dates, and his great intellect and critical willingness to hear arguments from all sides. His unflappable demeanor delivered calm to many hard-fought battles waged by the House's most energetic and colorful Members.

Tom's many friends will always remember his great love of sports, especially his fondness for the Tigers, the Wahoos and the Washington Nationals. One never wanted to be on the opposite side of a sports trivia contest with Tom, but all will remember him as a gentleman who allowed his opponents to lose with grace. Tom could reveal a mischievous streak when it was needed most by his colleagues, best and most memorably displayed in his creation of the Hershberger Award during his days at the College of William and Mary.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Alison, his two daughters, Katharine Duncan (Brent DePuy) and Taylor Duncan, and his granddaughter, Elizabeth DePuy.

The House is grateful for Tom's contributions over his thirty-year career in our institution. May it be a comfort to Tom's loved ones that so many grieve with and pray for them at this sad time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIONNE BAGSBY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the life of a dear friend and true role model, Dionne Bagsby. Her advocacy and public service to Fort Worth pioneered the growth and development that we see in the community today.

Dionne was a trailblazer for minorities and women in the city of Fort Worth. With her dynamic personality and straight talk, she was able to break unprecedented racial and gender barriers throughout her life and career.

Dionne was the first woman and African-American to be elected to the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. During her tenure on the court, she hired the first Tarrant County African-American precinct administrator and greatly enhanced minority employment and participation at the county level. When she retired from the commissioner's court in 2005, the Texas Legislature honored her community service in a resolution stating, "a distinguished 16-year tenure that has been characterized by integrity and excellence."

Even after her retirement, she refused to stand on the sidelines. She always encouraged young women to speak with confidence and helped them aspire to careers that challenged the norm. Dionne served with a purpose, making it her mission to leave Fort Worth a better place than she found it.

Dionne Bagsby leaves behind a legacy that will impact and empower not only the Fort Worth community but the state of Texas for generations to come. I am lucky to have known someone as inspirational and dynamic as Dionne.

My thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

COMMEMORATING "BLACK JANUARY"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the "Black January" killings which is one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history.

On the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. That night, the Soviet military bulldozed innocent Azerbaijanis and opened indiscriminate fire on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. As a result of these merciless acts 147 people were killed, around 800 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." The report concludes that the violence used by the Soviet Army constituted an exercise in collective punishment and that the punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union. I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

The United States and Azerbaijan are strategic allies and share common interests in the region and globally. I commend Azerbaijan's contributions to the security of the United States.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free market economy and encourage a commitment to the democratic values for which many Azerbaijanis sacrificed their lives.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), officially established on January 23, 1969, by Governor Warren E. Hearnes. The first Board of Directors elected by MRPC were Salem Mayor Jack Masters as chairman; Leon Camillo, representative from Potosi, as vice chairman; Cuba Mayor John Brummet as secretary; and Vienna Mayor Travis John as treasurer. The scope of work has changed over the years, but the overall mission remains the same: To enhance the quality of life for the Meramec Region.

The MRPC, currently serving the counties of Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps and Pulaski, built a strong reputation throughout the area for its work in grant writing, economic development, community and emergency planning, small business loan assistance, housing rental assistance, and legislative advocacy on behalf of the region. These services are especially vital to small communities that often do not have the resources to compete with larger cities for grant funding.

I congratulate MRPC on this milestone anniversary and appreciate the vital role they play in the quality of life in the Meramec Region. Today, it is my great privilege to recognize the Meramec Regional Planning Commission before the United States House of Representatives.

• 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.

IN HONOR OF MS. FRANCES
TANKERSLEY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frances Tankersley as the oldest active member of First United Methodist Church of Terrell, Texas celebrating her seventy-second year at the age of 97.

Born to Charles and Leah Deen of Emory, Texas on November 22, 1921, Frances was raised in Sweetwater and received a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University. She met her future husband Dennis Tankersley at the United Service Organization in Lubbock. Dennis was stationed at the South Plains Army Airfield and had been a pilot in the Second World War. Upon their marriage, they moved to Terrell and began a life together raising two sons, Jim and Greg.

Her tenure at the Terrell Independent School District left all members of the community with a strong appreciation of her selflessness. Ms. Tankersley was a home economics teacher and a special education department supervisor. Additionally, she taught Sunday school at the kindergarten level at First United Methodist for many years and fostered the development of generations in our community. To this day Ms. Tankersley is involved in Relay for Life and volunteers for Meals on Wheels delivering hot lunches to those in need. She is known throughout Terrell for her kindred spirit and affectionate curiosity, as well as her love of golf and her weekly bridge matches.

Ms. Tankersley still resides in Terrell where she has been an active member of her community for decades and drives herself to her beloved church each Sunday. May her commitment to service, faith and community be an example for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 44 on H.R. 676. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43, MTR for H.J. Res. 28.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID LOEBACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. LOEBACK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 22, 2019 due to weather, but I strongly support the NATO Support Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 44, and YEA on Roll Call No. 45.

HONORING MR. ALBERT BURSTEIN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the many outstanding achievements of Mr. Albert Burstein. I recognize the many contributions he has made to the people of the Ninth Congressional District and the State of New Jersey.

Expressing the influence of Mr. Albert Burstein to our community and country is an honor. A Columbia graduate, lawyer, political reformer, state legislator and World War II veteran, Mr. Burstein stands as an example to us all. As a member of our Greatest Generation, Albert was present for many of our country's greatest challenges. It gives me great pleasure to add my personal appreciation and commendation for all that he has done.

Born on November 22, 1922, to Julius and Hannah Burstein, Albert's story begins with his family in Jersey City, New Jersey. Julius and Hannah were immigrants from Poland and Albert spoke highly of their willingness and bravery to start a new life here in the United States. I know Albert was a source of great pride flourishing in the new country they called home. Let his experience be another success story to others in pursuit of the American Dream.

On December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor would change the lives of many Americans, Albert Burstein included. A student in his junior year at Columbia University, Albert was cognizant of the looming threat in Europe. However, the attack on Pearl Harbor would postpone his studies at Columbia University and on May 8, 1943 Albert would be dispatched to Wheeler, Georgia for basic training.

While a recruit, Albert was enrolled in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). Assigned to study German history and language, Mr. Burstein was temporarily transferred to the University of Nebraska to complete his training. This endeavor would be short lived since the growing demand in Europe would abruptly end many of the U.S. Army's training programs. Moved between Louisiana and Mississippi for advanced infantry training, in the period of a month Albert was in Cherbourg, France.

Enduring the rigors of war, Albert served our country for thirty-three months in active duty. For Albert's valiant efforts in WWII, he was honored with the Bronze Star and named to the French Legion of Honor for his service in France. Albert Burstein answered the call and came home safely. WWII is one of the greatest challenges our nation has ever faced, and

Albert Burstein stands as a great American who answered the call to duty.

Returning to civilian life, Albert reenrolled in Columbia University where he would meet his wife Ruth and complete his education with a law degree. Albert and Ruth would marry in December of 1950 and have three beautiful children together, Jeffrey, Diane and Laura. Living in Jersey City, Mr. Burstein established Wolf Baumann and Burstein, a place where he would work for thirty years. While living in Jersey City, Albert would get his first taste for politics starting an independent committee aimed at addressing the needs of the city and its people. Nevertheless, Albert and Ruth would move to Tenafly, New Jersey after determining they wanted to move to a quiet town.

Living in Bergen County, Albert would establish himself as a political authority. Holding office in the New Jersey State Legislature for ten years, Mr. Burstein would represent the 37th legislative district. As an Assemblyman, Mr. Burstein would serve as the Assembly Majority leader and advance many important causes during his time as a public servant. Presiding on the New Jersey Election Law Revision Committee and the Law Revision Commission, Assemblyman Burstein championed efforts to reform New Jersey's election and public financing laws.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated individuals like Mr. Albert Burstein.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family, friends and the residents of the Ninth Congressional District in recognizing, Mr. Albert Burstein and his outstanding character and service to his country and community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH "BETSY" S. LUCIDO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Elizabeth "Betsy" S. Lucido, who passed away on January 12, 2019 at the age of 75. Betsy will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and for her devotion to God. Betsy cared for many families in need and was a pillar in our community. Her dedication to our Valley will be remembered for years to come.

Betsy was born on August 8, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio to Howard & Irene Tripp. Her family later relocated to Fresno, California, where she attended St. Therese Elementary School and the Convent of the Sacred Heart of Menlo Park High School as a resident student. After high school, she attended the University of San Diego, where she met the love of her life William "Bill" Lucido. Betsy and Bill married in Fresno on June 6, 1964. They were blessed with four daughters, Maribeth, Anne, Kate and Monica.

Betsy radiated a "motherly charm" and was known for her generosity, family values and caring personality. Betsy served her community in a number of ways. She was a board member of the Central California Adoption