

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH

HON. KATIE HILL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the WOW Flower Project participating in the annual observance of Juneteenth.

Whereas the staff and volunteers of WOW Flower Project have agreed to devote their time, resources and energy to this united effort to bring attention to this important day of celebration.

Whereas Juneteenth is an annual observance on June 19th to remember when Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation and freed all remaining enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865. This day is an opportunity for people to celebrate freedom and equal rights in the United States.

Whereas WOW Flower Project will hold a public Juneteenth Celebration with the goals of bringing our neighbors together to remember the millions of African Americans who suffered the evils of slavery and celebrate the community's commitment to working toward a more fair and just society. Together, we honor the unbreakable spirit and countless contributions of generations of African Americans to the story of American greatness.

Whereas WOW Flower Project leads us today and every day in recommitting ourselves to defending the self-evident truth, boldly declared by our Founding Fathers, that all people are created equal.

On this day, we rise to declare June 19th, National Juneteenth Awareness Day. Dating back to 1865, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. We are fortunate to have passionate, forward-thinking, dedicated organizations like the WOW Flower Project who work tirelessly to enact change and educate our community.

Therefore, let it be proclaimed the Antelope Valley declares that every 19th of June is the official Remembrance of Juneteenth.

TRIBUTE FOR ELVIS DURAN AND ALEX CARR

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring two outstanding individuals who share an unquestionable commitment to improving the lives of Staten Islanders and to supporting our borough's LGBTQ community—Z100's Elvis Duran, and his fiancé, the Staten Island Zoo's own Alex Carr.

If there's one thing Staten Islanders know all too well, it's sitting in traffic in the morning lis-

tening to the radio. The work that Elvis Duran does every day to make that commute just a little less grueling deserves recognition all by itself. But Elvis is so much more than a New York City radio legend. Whether he is contributing to the Robin Hood Foundation which fights poverty in New York City, supporting the LGBTQ community through his work with GLAAD and The Trevor Project, or generously supporting local Staten Island causes with his fiancé, Alex, Mr. Duran has continually shown a commitment to helping those in need.

Our borough is known for its sense of community and through it, the people who make it one of the best places to raise a family. It is that commitment to community and supporting our borough in ways, both big and small, that Alex has exemplified. When there is someone struggling—whether a close friend or stranger—there's a good chance Alex will be there to help in some capacity. It's who he is, and Staten Island has been made better because of his efforts.

And so it should be no surprise that when Staten Island's own LGBTQ community needed help with a fundraiser, Elvis and his fiancé Alex went above and beyond to help out. They offered to do a dollar for dollar match of donations to the Staten Island Pride Center, raised awareness of the Pride Center's work on social media, and helped raise over \$25,000.

Their philanthropic efforts have impacted many lives, but there is nothing more powerful than individuals with large platforms sharing their stories and helping others feel accepted. Elvis and Alex have opened their lives to Staten Island, the City, and the country whether it's through the Morning Show, the Staten Island Zoo, or just the extraordinary acts of kindness they have demonstrated time and time again.

Staten Island is a place where we look out for each other and where we never hesitate to help those in need. Few people embody that more than Elvis Duran and Alex Carr. For that reason, the Pride Center of Staten Island will be honoring Alex and Elvis at its celebration commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots on June 21, 2019.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Alex as everything a Staten Islander ought to be, Elvis Duran as an honorary Staten Islander and in thanking them for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to Staten Island, and to all of New York City.

SONIA RAMIREZ

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW), a member organization of the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU), to honor Sonia Ramir-

ez, who has dedicated six years to the NABTU and millions of working men and women across America.

Sonia Ramirez is native of California's 26th Congressional District and a graduate of Occidental University in Los Angeles.

From 1995 to 1996, Sonia participated in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institution's graduate program and worked for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in the Office of Latino Outreach in Washington, D.C. Afterward, she served on the DNC's Board of Directors.

Sonia began serving working families directly as a legislative representative for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). In this position, Sonia fought passionately for economic and social justice.

In 2012, Sonia was named the Director of Government Affairs of NABTU after serving as Deputy Director for two years prior. In this position, Sonia Ramirez advocated for more jobs and better working conditions for her fellow Americans day in and day out.

Now, Sonia will be moving on to serve as the Wage and Hour Division Administrator for Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries. She will be the first woman and person of color to hold this esteemed position, and it is no surprise to those of us that know Sonia that she will be breaking barriers.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating Sonia Ramirez's exceptional career, as well as her dedication to the national labor movement. On behalf of my union brothers and sisters across the country, I recognize the tremendous work accomplished by Sonia Ramirez.

RECOGNIZING MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY OF DILLON

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the staff, instructors, and mentors of the Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon for helping thousands of at-risk youth turn around their lives toward a more promising, productive future.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) provides young Montanans from 16 to 18 the opportunity to develop academically and hone work-force and social skills in a secure, structured setting.

The 22-week program, sponsored by the Montana National Guard and the State of Montana, focuses on academics, responsibility, service, leadership, and health. Nearly 3,000 students have graduated from MYCA since 1999, with volunteer mentors supporting and guiding them following graduation.

Every cadet in the academy has a story of personal struggle and perseverance. Many

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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.

have faced circumstances that put them at risk of not completing high school. One such cadet is 17-year-old Crystal Whitelirt.

Placed in foster care as a child, Crystal struggled with learning disabilities. As a high school junior, she was informed she was unlikely to meet graduation requirements. Crystal decided to enter MYCA.

Though her first attempt at graduating MYCA was unsuccessful, she reentered the academy eleven months later. Through perseverance and the assistance provided by MYCA, Crystal graduated MYCA on June 15 as part of the academy's 40th graduating class.

"People always told me it would be tough, but to push through and do things because you'll have your family right beside you," Crystal said. "I never knew what they meant. I never had that, but now I do. I never thought my family would be so big."

Crystal plans on joining the Job Corps program. She hopes to someday enter the military and become a role model for her community.

Madam Speaker, for twenty years of helping Montana's at-risk youth develop the skills and abilities they need to overcome challenges and turn their lives around, I recognize the staff, instructors, and mentors of the Montana Youth Challenge Academy for their spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF AGNES ZAIONTZ

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Agnes Zaiontz, who passed away on Wednesday, May 29th at the age of 77.

Agnes, a resident of Columbus, Mississippi, was a long-time employee at the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Authority, serving as office manager. During her time with the Tenn-Tom Waterway, she assisted with the creation of a traveling Smithsonian exhibit at the Tenn-Tom Waterway Museum. The Waterway dedicated the exhibit to her naming it "The Agnes Zaiontz Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Transportation Museum." When she was not at the office, Agnes was an active member of Annunciation Catholic Church.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Francis Zaiontz of Columbus, MS; her sons—Bobby Zaiontz and Frank Zaiontz, Jr.; her daughter—Cindy DeFelice of Olive Branch, MS; grandchildren—Patricia DeFelice, Emily DeFelice and Maddie Zaiontz; as well as her sisters—Margie Walker, and Darcus Goodman.

Agnes's life was one of service, grace, love for her family, and community. She will be greatly missed by all who she encountered.

RECOGNIZING LUDINGTON PUMPED STORAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WEST MICHIGAN

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Ludington Pumped Storage plant in Mason County for 46 years of service. Owned by Consumers Energy and DTE Energy, Ludington Pumped Storage recently had its construction and operating license period extended for 50 years.

Beginning operations on the shores of Lake Michigan in 1973, Ludington Pumped Storage is affectionately known as "the big battery." This engineering marvel is a critical part of Michigan's energy infrastructure, ensuring our residents can access safe, affordable, and reliable energy. It also serves as an innovative example of what can be done to harness energy in my home state.

Here's how the facility operates: When electricity is cheaper at night, the plant pumps water from Lake Michigan up a bluff to the plant's 27 billion-gallon reservoir, creating an on-demand power source. When demand dictates, the gates are simply opened, enabling water to rush downhill and turn the plant's powerful turbines to generate electricity.

Ludington Pumped Storage has the ability to produce 1,872 megawatts of electricity, which is enough energy to provide power to 1.4 million Michigan residents.

With the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently approving a 50-year extension of the plant's construction and operating license, this important source of energy will continue to support Michigan residents until June 30, 2069.

"The Big Battery's" nearly half-century of service is a testament to the dedication of the men and women who helped build it as well as to those who have kept watch over the years. As our nation confronts energy challenges going forward, I hope we remember Ludington Pumped Storage and the example it has provided in supporting Michigan's energy needs.

Congratulations to the team at Ludington Pumped Storage on this great achievement. I look forward to a new chapter for this modern marvel in service to the people of Michigan.

HONORING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unveiling of over thirty pieces of art from the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts in the European Union Ambassador's Residence in Washington, D.C. on June 20, 2019.

These works date back to the 1920's and represent a variety of creative approaches and artistic styles. The ceramic pieces, by renowned artists from all over the world, range

from functional to sculptural to abstract, and the paintings and sculptures by Texas artists are hallmark examples of movements such as surrealism, American regionalism, minimalism, and impressionism.

Texas has a rich, multicultural history that is well-represented through this collection. I am incredibly honored to have these pieces from Texas' 11th District on display in the Ambassador's home where they will be viewed and appreciated by individuals from across the world. It is a historic feat for art from an American museum to be displayed in a foreign diplomatic residence, and I am proud to have San Angelo and Texan artists represented on the world stage in this way.

The artists from Texas who will have their art displayed are: Randy Brodnax, Vorakit Chinookoswong, Fidencio Duran, Altha Leona Edge, Juan Granados, W. Frederick Jarvis, Chapman Kelley, Lebeth Lammers, Ben Livingston, Otis Lumpkin, Patricia Nix, and one of San Angelo's very own world-renowned artist, René Alvarado, who also assisted with the transport and install of the art.

I would like to recognize Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, the European Ambassador to the United States, for his generosity in displaying these works and opening his home to Texas art and culture. Additionally, I want to thank his wife, Mrs. Phoebe Kapouano, for her efforts in personally selecting the works to be displayed. This exhibition is a testament to the benevolence of Ambassador Lambrinidis, the excellent leadership of the museum, and the commitment of the San Angelo community to strive for excellence.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF 171 CEDAR ARTS CENTER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of 171 Cedar Arts Center in Corning, New York.

171 Cedar Arts Center is an Associate Institutional Member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts. As a non-profit multi-arts community center, they present performances in dance and music as well as exhibitions of fine arts and crafts in the community. The Center offers educational programs for people of all ages and skill levels, providing the community opportunities to share in the joy of the arts.

171 Cedar Arts Center gets its name from 171 Cedar Street in Corning, New York, the address of the old Knights of Columbus house where the Center was founded. Community members consisting of arts advocates, artists, and business entrepreneurs came together to form an organization to provide a place for artists and community members to come together, fostering artistic growth. From this foundation the Center has grown into the award-winning cultural hub that it is today.

While 171 Cedar Arts Center is a staple of the Corning area and community, it also holds a special place in my heart. My daughter, Autumn, took dance lessons at 171 Cedar Arts Center from the time she was four years old until she graduated from high school. Her time