

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MELINDA WALKER ON  
HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF RE-  
PORTER OF DEBATES

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2019

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Melinda Walker, the Chief Reporter of Debates, on her retirement in August after more than 20 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives.

Ms. Walker has brought great effectiveness and integrity to this critical position, which has long been vital to the transparency and accessibility of Article I, the Legislative Branch, to the American people. She carries on the long, storied tradition of shorthand reporters of debates, upon whom the House has relied for nearly two centuries to ensure that the People's House can be open and accountable to the American people.

A proud native of Texas, Ms. Walker came to the House in 1999 after serving as a court reporter for the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania. Her career began after graduating from the Stenograph Institute of Texas in 1989, and her skills took her around the country and the world, with positions in England, the Caribbean, and South Africa.

Ms. Walker has led a career of great distinction in the House. She has reported both House committee hearings and Floor proceedings, and has taken down committee testimony from two Chief Justices of the United States and three Secretaries of State, among many others. On the Floor, Ms. Walker has reported the State of the Union messages for three Presidents as well as the speeches of numerous foreign dignitaries during Joint Meetings of Congress.

Upon her promotion to Chief Reporter in 2015, she led the team of court reporters and staff in charge of the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. She has distinguished herself by the excellence with which she has mastered intricate parliamentary nuances of House proceedings and by her passion for and commitment to this institution. Among her many contributions to the House is the legacy she leaves through the 200-page style and format manual that she fully revised and updated for the Office of Official Reporters, which will serve as a resource for years to come.

Ms. Walker is recognized by the National Court Reporters Association as a Registered Professional Reporter, a Certified Manager of Reporting Services, and is a Certified Shorthand Reporter in Texas. She plans to return to her hometown of San Saba, Texas, and spend more time with her family and faithful hound dog, Bleu.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Walker has joined a long and distinguished tradition of dedicated, nonpartisan service to the House, and I join her staff and many others in wishing her the very best in retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE "APOLLO 11"  
MOON LANDING

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on July 20 our nation commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing.

I remember July 20, 1969, when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans ever to land on the moon.

With the words "the Eagle has Landed," their place in history was secured.

I hold the men and women who made that day possible in great regard for their tireless work to make it possible in my lifetime to see people depart our tiny blue planet and visit another world.

To young people listening today this may sound like science fiction, but for those of us fortunate enough to have witnessed the event it is science fact.

Since the beginning of mankind, we have been driven by curiosity and a wonder of what is next for humanity.

In 1865, Jules Verne's "From the Earth to the Moon" was published.

"From the Earth to the Moon," was a humorous science fantasy story about three members of a post-American Civil War gun club efforts to build a spaceship to the moon.

A little over a century later, the men and women of NASA made that science fiction story science fact.

People have wondered about our place in the cosmos for as long as we have been able to look up into the night sky and see the stars.

And of course, after witnessing the moon landing, we have been dared by our own sense of imagination and possibility to slip the surly bonds of earth, ascend to the heavens.

The visionary who made this possible was the nation's youngest elected president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 36th President of the United States of America.

His election as president fired the imagination of a nation that was redefining its role on the world stage following World War II.

He said in his inaugural speech "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

President Kennedy understood that for freedom to prosper in the world America must lead the way and that we did not have a person to waste—that we needed everyone's talents.

Most of all, John Kennedy was a man who never stopped thinking about tomorrow or working to realize the full promise of America.

And he understood that we all had a place in that future and a role to play in bringing it about.

John Kennedy believed there was nothing America could not achieve once it set its mind to it.

In September 1962, President Kennedy delivered his famous Moon Speech at Rice University in the city of Houston, Texas, and committed America to send a man to the moon and to bring him safely home before the end of the decade.

Asked why we should go to the moon, President Kennedy said:

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

To anyone who might doubt America's ability to make good on this commitment, President Kennedy said, "this country of the United States was not built by those who waited and rested and wished to look behind them."

"This country was conquered by those who moved forward—and so will space."

It is with an awe of that sense of exploration that I commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the *Apollo 11* moon landing.

In one fell swoop, President Kennedy harnessed our competitive drive and merged it with mankind's relentless pursuit of discovery and information and knowledge.

"It was a bold proposition, not because of this challenge, but also because of our standing in the Space Race."

Just four years before Kennedy's Moon Speech, the Soviets had released Sputnik into orbit, as the first unmanned satellite, and in the process taken the lead in the global space race.

Our confidence shaken, we set out to work on the mission before us.

The 1960s were a tumultuous time in our pursuit of the moon's surface—Vietnam, Civil Rights, and the Cold War vied for our attention.

A few years ago, the book "Hidden Figures," about three African American women who made significant contributions to the space program was made into a motion picture.

Their contributions and those of hundreds of women was revealed for the first time.

There are thousands of hidden figures who contributed to the pinnacle of human achievement—human space flight and men walking on the moon.

More important, it revealed the capacity of an America absent discrimination to outperform the world on the most difficult of human endeavors—landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth.

Our path to the moon was not linear and not without setbacks.

Before we could celebrate the triumph of the *Apollo 11* crew and the valor of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, we mourned the crew of *Apollo 1*, Gus Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee who died tragically during a launch test.

Before we could walk on the moon, it was necessary first to orbit the Earth.

Indeed, the journey to Mare Tranquillitatis was long, and a collective, national endeavor.

The challenge would be the pursuit of three presidents until, on July 20, 1969, the crew of *Apollo 11* touched down on the Moon's surface.

• 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.

The words uttered by Neil Armstrong were instantly immortalized, and can be recited by every child, then and now: "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

This was a moment for joy and celebration for the entire nation.

But for those of us from Houston, this moment is an occasion of unique pride.

The flight to the Moon, and indeed all manned flights, have been guided by the brilliant and hardworking men and women working in Mission Control at the NASA Johnson Space Center of Houston, who, for close to 60 years, have been the steady hand, guiding manned space exploration.

I thank them for all that they do and urge all who will hear these words to maintain that same sense of discovery and exploration and wonder for what lies next for us.

And, I invoke President Kennedy's admonition to us from 58 years ago, that we should not be motivated simply by what is easy, but that we should meet the difficult challenge and savor what can be accomplished by our collective efforts.

Therefore—I seek out ways each day to touch this part of American exceptionalism—our ability to take all that we know about science, seek out new knowledge, bring the talents of all our people regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity and apply our resources to solving problems.

We can prevail against global climate change, cure cancer, end pandemics, and poverty—by pursuing these ends with the same focus and determination that our nation brought to bear in facing the challenge of landing people on the moon.

I congratulate the men and women of NASA past, present and future in making science fiction—science fact.

Today, we celebrate our trip to the moon.

I look forward to our celebration of our nation sending the first humans to Mars.

#### HONORING LUCINDA MARIE LOPEZ FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2019*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucinda Marie Lopez, who has earned the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award.

Lucinda joins a select group of scouts to obtain this recognition. The Gold Award symbolizes an individual's outstanding accomplishments in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The award requires earning four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and completing the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. A scout must also complete a Gold Project, in which scouts identify and lead a project on a pressing issue in the community.

Inspired by the work and leadership of Girl Scout's founder Juliette Low, Lucinda assembled a replica of Low's childhood home for display at Brownsville's Holiday Village. Her model helped to inspire our children and instill in them values championed by the Girl Scouts. This project required remarkable creativity and attention to detail in order to bring an exhibit

of such magnitude to life. Additionally, she designed a patch of the Holiday Village, which her fellow Girl Scouts earn by visiting the village.

It is a great honor to recognize Lucinda Marie Lopez for her dedication and unwavering service. I am confident that the skills and life lessons she learns through Girl Scouts will prove to be invaluable in her future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her achievements, work, and service.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY HONOREE: CATHERINE ELIZABETH MCCARTHY

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2019*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I retract the Congressional recognition of Ms. Catherine Elizabeth McCarthy.

Congressional recognition of one's accomplishments is a solemn honor and privilege conferred to people that have earned it through their service to their community. Catherine Elizabeth McCarthy is wholly undeserving of this honor, as she deceived the community about her medical credentials and did not perform any of the actions described in the recognition. While I understand that I cannot make a retraction of my March 11, 2019 remarks made in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I formally submit this statement as a substitute for my earlier comments.

#### HONORING COLONEL L. OMAR LOMAS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel L. Omar Lomas, an Army veteran, and a dedicated community leader. On July 18, 2019, he took command of 42D Military Police Brigade.

Colonel Lomas is a native of Texas's 15th Congressional District, born in McAllen, Texas. In 1996, he graduated from Texas State University, formerly known as Southwest Texas State, as a Distinguished Military Graduate through their ROTC program, earning his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. In August 1996, Colonel Lomas enlisted and served as an Army soldier in Operations Desert Shield/Storm. After serving, he obtained two Masters degrees, one in Business and Security Administration from Webster University and another in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Colonel Lomas engaged in a variety of impressive learning opportunities including the Military Police Officer Basic course, the Captain's Career course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Army Air Assault and Airborne courses, and the Army Force Management Course.

Colonel Lomas has honorably served in key leadership roles in our military; serving as a Platoon Leader to Commander for the Military

Police at Fort McClellan, Fort Polk, Fort Hood, Fort Riley, Schofield Barracks, and in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Colonel Lomas also served as Operations Officer, Directorate of Emergency Services, Fort Riley Kansas; Military Police Observer Coach/Trainer, Mission Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Deputy Director, Defense Forensics and Biometrics Agency, Pentagon; and Strategic Initiatives Group Chief, Office of the Provost Marshal General, Pentagon.

Colonel Lomas has received several awards and distinctions, including the Bronze Star Medal (3 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (4 OCL), the Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), the National Defense Service Medal (1 Bronze Star), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal (3rd Bronze Star), the Afghanistan and Iraqi Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Liberation of Kuwait Medal, the Defense of Saudi Arabia Medal, the Order of the Marechaussee (Bronze), the Combat Action, Air Assault and Parachutist's badges, and the Army Staff Badge.

Madam Speaker, Colonel L. Omar Lomas has dedicated his life to defending our country and the freedoms we hold dear. It is an honor to represent a hero who has exemplified leadership, scholarship, and selfless service. There is no doubt in my mind that Colonel Lomas will excel with 42D Military Police Brigade. I wish Colonel L. Omar Lomas, his wife Edna Georgina Garcia, and his children Maria, Miguel, Mateo, and Diego the best in their future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE MOYE FAMILY'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history of the Moyer Family and their commitment to maintaining the values of loyalty and community.

Jacqueline Johnson, a constituent and Buffalo resident who worked for many years in the Buffalo Public School District, brought the Moyer family history to my attention as they gather in Buffalo to celebrate their 39th annual family reunion.

The Moyer family history begins in South Carolina, with the marriage of Ezra Moyer to Sarah Howard. This union produced six children, Willis, Sonny, Ezra Moyer Jr., aka "Bud", Millie, Rachel, and Margaret. From these six children, the Moyer family has grown exponentially.

The firstborn in the next generation of Moyer's is Lawrence Moyer, the son of Willis and Mattie. Prior to Lawrence's birth, all previous Moyer ancestors had lived under the crushing burden of slavery. In 1865, Lawrence was freed from slavery, and in his first display of true freedom he chose to marry two weeks later. His love for his new wife Charlotte was unbounded by slavery, and he seized this opportunity to benefit the generations of his family to come.