

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 550TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GURU NANAK

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. The 8th Congressional District of Illinois is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful. I wish to acknowledge Guru Nanak's birth anniversary in the history of the Sikh religion and the important influence of Guru Nanak and Sikhism on other religions.

Born the child of Hindu merchants, Guru Nanak spent his childhood in the village of Talwandi, which is located in the modern-day province of Punjab in the modern nation of Pakistan. In keeping with the custom of the times, he married at an early age and was quickly blessed with two sons. He began his adult years working at a storehouse for tax collections, and exploring his spiritual side through meditation, writing hymns, and poetry.

Guru Nanak soon felt an irresistible calling to pursue spiritual enlightenment, however, after his thirtieth year embarked upon a series of pilgrimages in search of wisdom and religious truth. During this phase of his life, he composed a series of hymns that formed the basis of the Sikh religion and the foundation of the Adi Granth, the sacred text compiled in the early 17th century by the Fifth Sikh Guru Arjun.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds (and not merely by faith or good thoughts). Sikh spirituality encompasses a belief in an unending succession of birth, life, death and rebirth until perfection is realized and one's soul is released from this cycle after achieving a complete understanding and acceptance of the nature of God.

Guru Nanak is recognized as the first of the ten gurus revered by Sikh faithful throughout the world. His truths continue to guide the Sikh community and form the bedrock of its commitment to public service and deeply ethical behavior.

Madam Speaker, on this 550th anniversary of his birth I want to recognize the founding contribution of Guru Nanak to Sikhism, one of the world's great religions, and also the many gurdwaras in the greater Chicagoland area and the Sikh faithful in the 8th Congressional District, for their service to their communities.

HONORING XANDER CARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Xander Carter. Xander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Xander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Xander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Xander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Xander helped perform habitat maintenance at Martha LaFite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri, clearing over an acre of land of invasive honeysuckle and unhealthy trees and planting 25 new Missouri Dogwood trees.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Xander Carter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SEIF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona in Riverside County, California are exceptional. On Thursday, February 6, 2020, Dean Seif will be honored as the 2019 Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

The mission statement of the Corona Chamber is to promote business, advocacy, community and economic development while serving as a catalyst for improving the overall quality of life in our community and region. Dean exemplifies this mission statement in all that he does in business and beyond. Dean has served the Chamber through various roles, including as the Chairman of the Board in 2016, and remains a strong advocate for the Chamber and their principles.

Today, Dean continues to serve our community as a Board Member for the Corona Chamber and as the President of the Corona Chamber Foundation. He is also a Corona-Norco United Way Board Member, sits on the Governing Board of the Corona Regional Medical Center, and is a Member of the Corona Rotary Club. Dean is a local business owner, an active community member, and role model for many.

Considering all that Dean has done for the community of Riverside County and the city of Corona, it is only fitting to honor him as Citizen of the Year. Dean has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call him a friend, a fellow community member, American and a constituent of the 42nd Congressional District of California. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Dean Seif on being named Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District was established in June of 1944 and has provided exceptional services to better the quality of life in our community ever since. This independent special service district offers recreational activities and leisure services to the people of Vallejo. GVRD is strongly committed to creating and managing age inclusive programs and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of over 120,000 residents.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District manages mostly city-owned recreational properties and an additional 1000 acres of public land. These city properties include neighborhood parks, special purpose parks, an Olympic-size swimming pool and community centers. GVRD is responsible for organizing and overseeing services provided by Parks & Recreation. GVRD holds a variety of youth and family-friendly programs, such as Family Campouts, Breakfast with Santa, Concerts in the Park and Family Movie Nights. The GVRD staff works tirelessly to uphold the organization's mission to improve the livelihood of our community, and their outstanding service is evidenced by the gratitude of our community.

GVRD also offers educational programs to adults and youths. Students can attend an array of afterschool programs, including martial art classes, painting lessons, Spanish classes, online drivers education courses and many more. Furthermore, GVRD advocates passionately for a healthy lifestyle. The District organizes basketball and baseball trainings for children and teens along with cardio and weight lifting classes for adults. GVRD has maintained a tradition of creativity paired with excellent services that demonstrate ideals defined by the programs it provides.

Madam Speaker, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District has been instrumental in fulfilling the educational and amusement needs of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Greater Vallejo Recreation District on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MRS. ANN KEYES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a great North Carolinian, public servant, loving wife and a friend to many; Ann Keyes. Mrs. Ann Keyes resides in Plymouth, North Carolina with her husband George Donnell Keyes.

Mrs. Keyes' passion and conviction have led her to serve in North Carolina's Washington County Government for more than 44 years. She currently serves as the Director of Planning and Safety in the Office of Washington County Emergency Management where she oversees the efforts of many local governments to implement comprehensive community plans that prioritize public safety.

Mrs. Keyes's strong commitment to public safety drove her to earn many professional certifications that include: Executive Level Certification in Emergency Management, State Certification for Floodplain Manager, Certification for Community Rating System Coordinator, and Certification for Chronic Diseases and Chronic Pain Self-Management Training Leader.

With the lifetime record of public service, Mrs. Keyes has been recognized for numerous achievements which include: 2003 Washington County Emergency Management Responder of the Year Award, North Carolina State Coordinator's Award for Floodplain Management, Colonel Phillip Nichols Waters Award, North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Regional Coordination Center's Award of Excellence, 97th North Carolina National Guard Civil Affairs Battalion's Outstanding Support Award, Washington County Employee of the Year, and North Carolina Community Emergency Response Team's Green Star Award.

In her nearly half a century of service to North Carolina, I applaud Mrs. Keyes for her years of dedication and commitment to emergency preparedness of our communities in North Carolina. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I express appreciation to Mrs. Ann Keyes for 44 years of committed service to Washington County. I thank for her for her perseverance and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure public safety in North Carolina.

Mrs. Keyes has, without exception, earned the right to be honored. It is my hope that God will continue to bless and keep Mrs. Keyes and her family in the years to come.

HONORING TATE EIVINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tate Eivins. Tate is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tate has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tate has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tate has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tate built a large metal and wood picnic table for a historical site in Clay County, Missouri, and spent 144 hours planning, gathering materials, building, and teaching other scouts how to weld and build the table.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tate Eivins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD ANTHONY VACCARO, SR., PH.D.

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of longtime Concord resident, Edward Anthony Vaccaro, Sr., Ph.D.

Edward Vaccaro was born in Paterson, New Jersey, where he grew up spending time with his family at the Jersey Shore and developing a passion for the arts. Edward attended Fordham University before marrying his wife, Jeanne and starting a family. Ed and Jeanne moved to Concord, California where they raised their children.

Ed became involved in the local business community as the owner of Vaccaro's Florist. Ed went back to school and got his doctorate in 1987. Ed had a passion for the City of Concord and loved being a member of the community. The positivity with which Ed lived his life left an impression on everyone he met.

Edward Vaccaro was a cherished member of Concord and he will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY RICHARD WHITTEN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Whitten, who succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound sustained on May 29, 2019, while responding to a crisis call in Cleveland, Texas.

On May 29, Deputy Whitten was off-duty and en route to a law enforcement training class, when "shots fired" was dispatched over the radio. Deputy Whitten did not hesitate to put himself in harm's way, he responded instantly, arriving just as the suspect was fleeing the scene after murdering two people at a Cleveland business. After a brief pursuit, Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck by the murder suspect—paralyzing him instantly. The perpetrator subsequently committed suicide.

Following this tragedy, Deputy Whitten remained hospitalized at TIRR Memorial Her-

man, a world-class rehabilitation hospital in the Houston Medical Center. On February 3, 2020, Deputy Whitten suffered a complication while undergoing physical therapy and tragically passed away.

In July 2019, Deputy Whitten, his wife, Kami, and I had a lengthy conversation about his passion for law enforcement as well as his recovery process. He personally told me that he would do it all over again to protect his community. He served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for four years and will be greatly missed.

Deputy Whitten selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Liberty County. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Deputy Richard Whitten, for his faithful service and devotion to his community. My prayers remain with his family and friends at this time.

CONGRATULATING MISSOURI'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S FOOTBALL TEAMS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Webb City football team, who won their 15th State Title in Class 4 last year. "Go Cardinals". I would also like to commend the Carthage football team for winning the Class 5 State Championship and our Joplin High School football team who were runner's up in the Class 6 State Championship. They all performed admirably this season and demonstrated a determination and dedication to their team, school, supporters and communities.

Webb City football has a legacy of excellence and tradition that is evident in their record, which they only improved upon by claiming their fifteenth state title 48-0 against Platte County. The Cardinals, ranked 1st in their Class with a 13-1 record, had a hard road reaching the finals. They faced not only the 2nd best ranked team, but also the 3rd and 4th in the lead up to their championship win. Following their semifinal defeat in 2018 to the eventual champions, Webb City's program worked hard all season and succeeded in accomplishing their goal of "Chasing 15."

Carthage football's Class 5 Championship win was tough fought, including a nail-biting third quarter with an impressive long completion that secured their 27-21 win against second-ranked Jackson Indians. Their Coach, Jon Guidie, said the team "just . . . [wouldn't] die and they just won't quit." This win was the first state title for the 5th ranked Carthage team who finished their season 12-2. The Carthage team has fought back against the difficulties of their season, which is a credit to their determination and grit.

Joplin High School football team, ranked 3rd, lost to the 1st ranked De Smet in the Class 6 Championship game. The game was a hard-fought loss for Joplin High, with the Eagles unfortunately unable to hold a third quarter lead that would have secured a victory. The Eagles ended their season 13-1, having beaten Ft. Zumwalt West and Marquette in the semi-finals and quarterfinals respectively.

All of our great Missouri football teams have persevered through difficult seasons and have