CONGRATULATING DAISY PAEZ ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Daisy Paez on the occasion of her retirement from the Educational Alliance after 30 years of dedication and service. The Educational Alliance is a non-profit organization established in 1889 serving thousands of Lower East Side residents and New Yorkers.

A life-long resident of the Lower East Side, Daisy's first interaction with the Educational Alliance (EA) was more than three decades ago when she enrolled her children in the early childhood program. Recognizing that a parent is a child's primary teacher, Daisy bravely registered for adult classes. She was encouraged to push herself beyond her circumstances to achieve greater opportunities for herself and her children. With the support of the Educational Alliance, Daisy proudly earned her high school diploma. This achievement empowered her to apply for an employment opportunity at the Education Alliance which hired her. She then furthered her education by taking college classes. These accomplishments emboldened her desire for community service and the betterment of her neighborhood. The Education Alliance provided an opportunity to develop her skills, leadership and helped her build a pathway for economic security for the past 30 years.

Daisy is an amazing role model for women and single parents. She is a strong and effective community advocate. In her capacity on numerous local boards, she has championed issues from demanding enhanced transportation services for seniors, to fighting for increase funding for youth programs and more access to park space.

Today, Daisy is an elected community representative, currently serving as District Leader for NYS's 65th Assembly District, Part B. She is also a member of the 7th Precinct Community Council and a graduate of the NYC Police Department's Citizens Police Academy and the FBI's Citizens' Academy. She works closely with government leaders on behalf of her constituents.

Daisy's commitment and dedication to her community is immeasurable. She has made a remarkable impression at work and in the community through her public service. I know her colleagues and members of the Educational Alliance will deeply miss her guidance, smile and energy.

I congratulate Daisy Paez on her retirement and wish her the very best to her and her family as she enters the next phase of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, as the mother of an air force veteran, my heart goes out to every military family right now living on pins and needles over what President Trump set in motion. We still don't know what threat was so dire that President Trump needed to risk a conflict with Iran to kill their second-most powerful leader. What we do know is American lives are our nation's most precious treasure, and this president cannot be trusted to keep us safe. I was unavoidably detained during the vote and regret that I was not able to cast my vote tonight, but I wholeheartedly support the War Powers Act (H. Con. Res. 83) and would have voted in favor of it as reflected in my YEA vote and testimony in the Rules Committee the day prior.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 7.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHESTER B. PIATKOWSKI

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chester B. Piatkowski, who passed away on December 27, 2019, at the age of 96. A veteran and devoted public servant, Chester Piatkowski will be dearly missed by his family and community.

After graduating from Vocational School in Verona, NY, Chester Piatkowski enlisted in the United States Navy, proudly serving his country in World War II. During the war, he was stationed in England, working as an Aviation Petty Officer 2nd Class, repairing PBY planes. After the war, Chester Piatkowski served as a Police Officer with the City of Syracuse, eventually rising to the rank of Sergeant. A proficient marksman, Chester Piatkowski oversaw firearms training for the Syracuse Police Department, and competed in police pistol competitions across New York State, winning several first-place trophies.

Throughout Chester Piatkowski's life, he remained very proud of his American and Polish heritage. He was active in the Polish American Legion Post 14, Seniors at the Syracuse Polish Home, and enjoyed taking Polish language classes. Additionally, he was a member of the American Legion Post 113, the Police Retirees Association, and the Holy Name society at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the life of Chester B. Piatkowski. A veteran and devoted public servant, Chester Piatkowski's legacy will always be remembered and cherished. I encourage my colleagues to keep his family in their prayers during this truly difficult time.

THE U.S.-INDIA ALLIANCE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strong relationship between the United States and India. Since our two countries established diplomatic relations in 1946 through the 2005 launch of our strategic partnership, the United States and India have had a long and storied history. I thank Ambassador Shringla for his friendship and his deep commitment to maintaining our strong US-India alliance. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I stand with India in their aspiration to provide equal economic, social, and political opportunities to all citizens. As part of this pursuit, two-thirds of the Indian Parliament voted last year to change the status of Jammu and Kashmir. This vote allowed the government of India to address the stagnant economy and high youth unemployment plaguing the region by providing economic opportunity and sound governance. The residents of Jammu and Kashmir have battled economic depression and forces of extremism and radicalization for too long. The regional stability now provided by government will give residents of Jammu and Kashmir a better way forward and hope for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the events in Azerbaijan culminating in what is now known as Black January. In January 1990, the former U.S.S.R. attempted to continue to suppress freedom and impose its political will on the people of Azerbaijan. At that time, however, the people of Azerbaijan decided that they had enough of Soviet control and resisted.

At night, the Red Army marched into Baku to stem the movements for equality and freedom. While the Azeris used peaceful protests and calls for freedom, the Soviets responded with guns and tanks. These actions resulted in 147 civilian deaths, with hundreds more wounded and imprisoned.

The Azeris had seen what happened to prior independence movements in the Soviet Union, yet they persevered on. This tragedy only emboldened them in their cause, carrying on the mission of their countrymen which culminated in their August 1991 independence.

Since this monumental declaration, Azerbaijan has been a beacon of freedom in the region as well as a friend and ally of the United States. At this time, we memorialize those fallen and celebrate the continued strength of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to recognize Black January and join in the honoring of allies in Azerbaijan and their quest for liberation.