

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. LORENZA “LORI”
GUERRERO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lorenza “Lori” Guerrero, a beloved nurse from McAllen, Texas, who passed away due to COVID-19 on July 7, 2020 at the age of 72. Lori was a hero; always putting others before herself.

As our nation navigates an unprecedented global pandemic, healthcare providers like Lori Guerrero are working day in and day out to care for our constituents. Lori began her career as a licensed vocational nurse in 1971, and after 49 incredible years serving her community as a nurse, she passed away from COVID-19.

Lori will not only be remembered for her courageous efforts to serve her community, the Rio Grande Valley, fight COVID-19, but also for her decades of work helping victims of sexual assault as a sexual assault nurse examiner. At one point in her career, she met with as many as seven victims a day. Furthermore, she worked with local law enforcement to provide training and develop programs so those victims could be better served.

These are just two examples that showcase Ms. Guerrero’s selflessness and devotion to her community. The daughter of migrant workers, Lori never complained and was always ready to work. Her work ethic and compassion led her to be who she is today; an icon in the Rio Grande Valley.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Lorenza “Lori” Guerrero could have retired when she heard that a global pandemic was looming, but she chose to help the sick in her community. I stand here today to recognize Ms. Guerrero for going above and beyond the call of duty. Lori paid the ultimate sacrifice, one that we will not forget. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations to follow in her footsteps.

IN HONOR OF CHRIS PEIRCE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Peirce, who is being honored for his work as the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) New Hampshire State Commander. VFW works to ensure that all veterans are recognized for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. During his time as State Commander, Commander Peirce helped organize the delivery of meals to veterans around New Hampshire, conducted in person and virtual “buddy-checks” on fellow members, and worked tirelessly to ensure that no veteran feels isolated during this stressful time.

Chris Peirce was born in Newbury, Massachusetts and has been serving our country in one form or another ever since. Commander Peirce entered the Marine Corps in July of 1980 and as an artillery section chief, he participated in Operation Urgent Fury, the invasion of Grenada. In 2004, he was deployed as First Sergeant of the 172nd New Hampshire National Guard as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He retired as a First Sergeant from the NH Army National Guard in 2006 after a combined 26 years of service.

Commander Peirce joined VFW at Post 1088 Kingston NH and maintains his Life membership there. He has held all positions at the Post level including Post Commander and All State Post Commander. At VFW he has been the Chairman of OTI, the Special Olympics, and the Patriot’s Pen. He has also been a member of the Finance Committee and the All State Judging Committee. Finally, Commander Peirce has represented the state of New Hampshire on the national Iraq/Afghanistan Committee for three years.

Outside of VFW, Commander Peirce worked as an Engineering Project Manager for 21 years with Mersen before retiring. His legacy of service continues with his son who is on active duty with the Air Force.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to thank Commander Peirce for his service to our country and his dedication to his fellow veterans. I congratulate him on his successful term as State Commander, and I thank him for all he does to make sure that veterans in our state are remembered and valued.

IN MEMORY OF PASTOR DAVID
ROQUEMORE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of David Roquemore, esteemed pastor of Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Pastor Roquemore knew at a young age that he was destined for a career in the clergy. He was deeply moved by the power of prayer and gospel music. Pastor Roquemore began his pastoral profession at Church of Our Faith Prayer Tabernacle, where he served as a faithful member of the renowned Voices of Prayer Tabernacle choir. Pastor Roquemore found his passion for prayer through song in Detroit’s burgeoning gospel music scene. He performed with the era’s powerhouse principal vocalists Hulah Gene Dunkin-Hurley, Louise McCord Williams, and his brother Richard Roquemore. The choir recorded, “The Love of God,” which became an instant hit. Affectionally known as “Rock”, he remained a faithful member of the church.

On August 7, 1982 a group of individuals assembled to deliberate the possibility of orga-

nizing a church. The meeting participants included Reverend D. W. Roquemore, Sister Madeline Roquemore, other individuals who elected Reverend Roquemore as pastor of the newly formed Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church, inaugurating a thirty-seven-year commitment.

Pastor Roquemore committed to religious scholarship, earning degrees from William Tyndale College, Tennessee School of Religion, and Union Baptist Seminary. He also served in leadership roles for a number of organizations, including Executive Secretary of Council of Baptist Pastors and Detroit Vicinity, Secretary of Westside Ministers Alliance, Chairman of Health and Human Services Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, and professor of Tennessee School of Religion. Pastor Roquemore’s commitment to serving the needs of others earned him great esteem and respect.

Please join me in tribute to the memory of Pastor David Roquemore, a spiritual leader, who will be missed by his family, friends, and flock.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor heroes from the theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado on July 20, 2012. Twelve lives were taken, seventy were injured, and hundreds suffered emotional trauma. Yet even in this tragedy, we saw incredible heroism that night—those who sacrificed themselves to save others, those who helped others while badly wounded themselves, and lives that were saved by the tireless efforts of first responders and medical teams.

These men inspired me to act on a National Heroes Day Resolution:

John Larimer, age 27, was a Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class and cryptologic technician who was stationed at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora for about a year. He was murdered protecting his girlfriend and his friend inside the theater, jumping into action to protect them once the shooting began. John was the youngest of five siblings from Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Jonathan Blunk, age 26, served his country in three tours in the Middle East. His desire was to become a Navy Seal. He was at the theater with a girlfriend when the shooting started and immediately pushed her under the seats, saving her life. Jonathan was shot multiple times and suffered a fatal gunshot wound to his heart. He left behind a widow and two small children in Reno, Nevada.

Matt McQuinn, age 27, was in love with his girlfriend and wanted to marry her and start a family. When the shooting began, he leaned over his girlfriend to get her out of harm’s way. She was shot but survived. He was shot nine

• 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.

times; the most of anyone in the theater. He was survived by his parents, brothers, and girlfriend in Ohio.

Alex Teves, age 24, was born and spent his early years in New Jersey before moving to Arizona and then onto Colorado where he earned a master's in psychology the month before he was killed. He counseled kids with unique learning and emotional challenges at Humanex Academy. He was murdered after pulling his girlfriend down to safety, leaving himself exposed; a bullet hit him in the forehead as he whispered comforting words of love. He was the oldest of three siblings.

After his death, Alex's parents, Caren and Tom, began the "No Notoriety" movement asking that the media stop concentrating its coverage on the shooters for the sake of public safety. This movement is widely endorsed by law enforcement and on both sides of the aisle.

These individuals inspired me to introduce a resolution with my colleagues from the Colorado Congressional Delegation to designate July 20th as "National Heroes Day" to honor their memory and all those who save lives and improve their communities.

Those whose loved ones have been taken by horrific acts of violence, have honored their memories with action and now ask us to do the same. I will always remember the exceptional acts of courage displayed by those in Aurora and will continue working with my colleagues to enact meaningful reforms to prevent these horrific acts of violence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUVENILE INCARCERATION REDUCTION ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Juvenile Incarceration Reduction Act of 2020.

Our Constitution guarantees a fair process in all hearings and equal treatment under the law. Even as we make technological advances, we must ensure that the principals of the Constitution are not bypassed for convenience. Most importantly, we cannot delegate the duty and responsibility of justice to technology.

The use of risk and needs assessment tools in the juvenile justice system is widespread. According to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, 42 states have a statute or probation agency policy supporting or requiring the implementation of a risk and needs assessment instrument for youth who are justice system involved. These technology tools collect data about youth offenders and use this data in complex algorithms used to determine how likely a young person may become a repeat offender.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear. This data—not the young person's actual actions—far too often determine critical decisions such as, whether a youth offender will be in custody prior to trial, the conditions of a youth offender's adjudication (conviction), and whether a youth offender will be placed in a secure youth facility (detention).

Unfortunately, research shows that these "risk and needs assessment tools"

disproportionally misclassify youth of color as high risk. For example, in my home state of Georgia, where the use of risk and needs assessment tools are required by state statute, Black youth comprised 69 percent of juveniles sentenced to youth prisons and made up 80 percent of those juveniles who were convicted in adult court.

My legislation, the Juvenile Incarceration Reduction Act proposes simple changes that will significantly improve the prospects of young people in the juvenile justice system. This bill will prohibit or limit the use of risk and needs assessment tools in federal juvenile proceedings in four scenarios: (1) when determining whether or not a youth offender should be charged as an adult; (2) in determining a youth offender's risk of recidivism; (3) deciding whether a youth offender should be incarcerated prior to adjudication; and (4) as a sole factor in determining a youth offender's eligibility for recidivism reduction programs or likelihood of benefitting from these programs.

In addition, this legislation would prohibit the admission of determinations made by risk and needs assessment tools as evidence in trials against a justice involved youth. These risk and assessment tools clearly exacerbate existing bias and disparities in our criminal justice system. My bill helps introduce parity, equity, hope, and opportunity for all—especially minority—youth offenders.

Breaking the school to prison pipeline means advancing simple policies like the Juvenile Incarceration Reduction Act. If Congress can come together to reduce recidivism and create opportunities for adults in the criminal justice system, we have a moral obligation to do the same for our young people.

It is critical that justice-involved youth are given a fair opportunity to rehabilitate no matter their racial or ethnic background. Congress must do all we can to correct these systematic wrongs, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this common-sense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RIGDON FRANCIS CURRIE ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rigdon Francis Currie, a former longtime resident of Palo Alto who is celebrating his 90th birthday on July 17, 2020. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Constance Berry Currie and Charles James Currie and he had one sibling, Charles James Currie, Jr.

Georgia born and bred, Rigdon retains the elegant accent and perfect manners he learned growing up in the South. A Georgia Tech and Harvard Business School graduate, Rigdon served our country in the Air Force for two years, and went on to lead a productive and adventure-filled life. His great career at Xerox was followed by a productive tenure as a venture capitalist, creating hundreds of well-paying jobs. Exceedingly generous with his time, resources and talent, he mentored countless career-seekers, leading them to positions that ideally suit them. His generosity extended to many non-profit organizations, including the Pacific Theological School in

Berkeley where he served on the Board for many years. His efforts in Mann County resulted in many miles of roads in Point Reyes being free of trash.

Rigdon is an ardent birder. He has seen and identified more than 5,000 species during his birdwatching avocation, and travelled to 90 countries in pursuit of them. He loves sharing his love of birds with others, and often carries a tripod and telescope to make sure others are able to see and appreciate his finds.

Rigdon is the adoring father of two sons, Steven and David, their partners and his grandchildren. He is the proud stepfather of Chris and Alexis, their spouses and children. There is nothing any of them can ask of him that he would refuse. The center of his family is his wife of 40 years, Trish Johnson. Together they have welcomed hundreds into their Palo Alto and Point Reyes homes, creating havens for those in need. They also created parties, hikes, apple pressing and good times for friends in need.

A brilliant business man, an extraordinary birder, a most generous philanthropist, a friend to so many and a devoted family man, Rigdon Currie sets an example for all of us to emulate. His ninety years have been filled with adventure and giving to others, and we are a better and stronger country because of him and his work.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Rigdon Francis Currie as he celebrates his 90th birthday, and in wishing him many more years of living life to the fullest.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JAMES J. MINGUS ON HIS 35 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General James J. Mingus on his 35 years of exemplary military service. For the last two years, Major General Mingus has served as Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Part of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division is the Nation's Global Response Force and has participated in nearly every major United States conflict around the world since its inception. As Commander, Major General Mingus answered historic calls to duty on behalf of our great nation.

Major General Mingus began his career in 1981 with the Iowa Army National Guard and today fulfills his duty as Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. Throughout his storied career, he has held every rank and commanded more than 18,000 paratroopers spread across six brigades.

A decorated public servant, Major General Mingus holds the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Purple Heart. He represents the best our nation has to offer, and future generations will look up to his leadership for years to come.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I know I speak for our entire community when I say we are truly grateful for his tireless service and