

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER DANIEL
BALLONI

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oswego Police Officer, Daniel Balloni, for his heroic actions to save a woman from the freezing Oswego River.

On December 29, 2019, at 1:17am, police responded to the Oswego River after local residents called 911 to report screams coming from the river. As officers began investigating on the west side of the river, Officer Balloni, who was not originally dispatched to the call, went to the east side to see if he could help. Officer Balloni and his colleagues located a young woman in the freezing water struggling to stay alive. After several failed attempts by the officers to rescue her using a floating ring, Officer Balloni removed his gear and jumped in the frigid water, grabbing the ring and the woman. Aided by his fellow officers, Officer Balloni was able to bring the woman to shore. Shortly thereafter, paramedics arrived on the scene and transported the woman to a local hospital where she was treated for hypothermia and is now recovering.

Officer Balloni risked his own safety and suffered from hypothermia during this rescue. His actions reaffirm that first responders in our community and nationwide put the safety of our communities ahead of their own. I am tremendously grateful for the heroic actions of Officer Balloni, members of the Oswego Police Department, and all of those who work every day to keep us safe.

Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor Officer Daniel Balloni for acting to save the life of a young woman. Every day, first responders like Officer Balloni put their lives on the line to serve and protect our community. I thank him as well as the first responders in Central New York and across the country for their service.

HONORING RICHARD STEVEN
GREEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Steven Green. Richard 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 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Richard has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Richard has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his fam-

ily, peers, and community. Most notably, Richard has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who will be recognized during the 41st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Mark Spencer will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, Lieutenant Derrick Cannon, James Harris, Suzette Raggs, Verlie Suggs, and Mildred Guthrie will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oli-

ver Gilliam, who also served as the MLK Breakfast Chairman, Vice President Charles Jackson, Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Valerie Tate, and Treasurer Floyd Donaldson, and all members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

RECOGNIZING GINA LOSS OF
GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Loss, founder of the Great Falls Project Linus chapter, for leading efforts to provide comfort to Montana's children.

Project Linus is a national organization with chapters throughout the country. Its primary mission is to create handmade blankets to give to children who face a challenge, crisis, or emergency.

Facing her own challenges, Gina was inspired to create a local chapter of Project Linus. When faced with personal challenges, Gina believes many people often ask, "Why me?" When she confronted her own challenges, she asked herself, "How do kids get through hard times in life?" Considering that question led her to found the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus in March 2006.

Since its launch, the chapter has given more than 15,000 blankets to kids through hospitals, dentist offices, and neonatal intensive care units, among others. The entire community has embraced the effort, and now hundreds of volunteers across Montana offer handmade gifts of comfort for thousands of kids in need.

Volunteering her time and resources, Gina uses her home as the chapter's headquarters, overseeing everything from storage to quality control. Her home is also the distribution center where the blankets are sent around the state.

Gina says people don't realize how much a blanket means to a child who is thrust into difficult, challenging circumstances. She says as soon as a kid gets one of their blankets, they immediately settle down and never let it go.

Madam Speaker, for bringing together people across the state to provide comfort to children when they need it most, I recognize Gina Loss and the Great Falls chapter of Project Linus for their Spirit of Montana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I

• 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.

would have answered present on Roll Call No. 1.

IN MEMORY OF AL YOUNG

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Al Young of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Young passed away on December 25, 2019 at the age of 77. Mr. Young was an icon in the bourbon business, one of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's signature industries.

Mr. Young was born in Louisville, Kentucky on June 20, 1942. Following his graduation from Western Kentucky University and later Southern Illinois University, he began his career in the distilling industry in 1967. He served in a variety of roles and became Distillery Manager of Four Roses Distillery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky in 1990. He was named Brand Ambassador for Four Roses in 2007, where he served until his passing. Mr. Young was a part of the Four Roses family for over fifty years.

Mr. Young was inducted into the Kentucky Distillers' Association Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2011. He was one of the KDA's official historians due to his extensive knowledge of the industry. He was also inducted into the Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame in 2015. He authored the book *Four Roses: The Return of a Whiskey Legend*. Mr. Young was passionate for the industry and was well known by bourbon fans around the world.

Eric Gregory, President of the Kentucky Distillers' Association, said "Al was an ambassador for Kentucky bourbon long before the job was even invented. The thing I'll remember most is that Al was always smiling. Always. You just knew he loved his job, his family, and his life. We were lucky to share in his spirit."

Mr. Gregory is survived by Gretchen, his wife of 52 years, their three children Marc, Heather, and Christine, and four grandchildren.

It is my honor to acknowledge the life of this accomplished man, Mr. Al Young, before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ELAINE RACE MASSACRE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, one-hundred years ago, soldiers, returned from the European front in WWI were committed to benefitting from the opportunity and liberty they secured at great risk and sacrifice to themselves. Many took that commitment to autonomy and freedom home to the small towns, communities, and homesteads where families and livelihoods remained. One-hundred years ago, few eyes were turned toward a small agrarian community in Northeast Arkansas, where black sharecroppers, spurred in part by the tales of opportunity and liberty spun by these returning patriots, dared to dis-

cuss fair pay for their crops. To this day, the accounts of the tragic loss of life that took place during the Elaine Massacre, when white mobs killed more than 100 African Americans, remains widely unknown.

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the dedication of a memorial to the victims of the 1919 Elaine Massacre. I also had the distinct pleasure of meeting the Honorable Brian Miller, U.S. District Judge and nephew of Leroy Johnston, WWI veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and murder victim during the Elaine Massacre. I would like to include in the RECORD Judge Miller's remarks from the ceremony.

THE ELAINE MASSACRE MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Court Square Park, 350 Perry Street, Helena, Arkansas, September 29, 2019.

(By Judge Brian Miller)

One-hundred years ago, on September the 30th of 1919, on this block, Phillips County's civic, political, and economic leaders settled in for a night at the Helena Opera House, which used to stand on this block.

One-hundred years ago, on the same night, three men met at the Phillips County Courthouse and drove down to Hoop Spur Church. They went to Hoop Spur Church to check on a meeting of black sharecroppers who were attempting to unionize. And those people were unionizing so that they could be paid fairly. The three men left from that courthouse across the street from this block.

While the black sharecroppers fought for fair pay, the black business class in Helena built movie theaters and cathedrals. They owned rental property. They ran small businesses. They practiced medicine on Walnut Street, which runs on the west side of this block.

While the black business class ran their businesses on Walnut Street, the white business class owned banks, movie theaters, restaurants, and retail stores on Cherry Street, which is that street that runs on the east side of this block. Two sides of this block.

And although there was a wide divide between the black and white business classes, there was an even greater divide between the black business class and the black sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night.

The 30 miles that separated this block and Walnut Street from Hoop Spur might as well have been a million miles, because there was nothing holding together the black business class and the sharecroppers meeting at Hoop Spur that night, except for shared history and black skin.

But what neither group could have imagined happened 100 years ago. The three men who left the courthouse across the street from this block fired shots into the Hoop Spur Church. And shots were fired out of the church, and a white man was killed.

A posse formed in that courthouse across the street from this block, and mob violence ensued. When the dust settled, five white men were killed, and more than 100 black people were killed. Estimates have gone as much as 800, but most historians have settled on about 200. And the mob raged on.

More than 100 black people were arrested and brought to the Phillips County Jail across the street from this block. Those men were brutally beaten and tortured in that jail across the street from this block. And the mob gathered.

Right here on this block, right where you sit, the mob gathered and chanted and screamed for death. And 12 men were given sham trials in that courthouse across the street from this block and sentenced to die across the street from this block.

But Judge Jacob Trieber stayed those executions in the old federal courthouse that

once stood on that corner across the street from this block.

Now, after 100 years, we return. And where do we return? We return to this block. We return not to relive 1919. We return to this block to remember and honor those who were killed. We return in hope. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for redemption. We return to this block with an earnest yearning for reconciliation.

Those of us who failed to take up the cause of the sharecroppers seek redemption for failing to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And those of us who joined the mob or contributed to the slaughter of the sharecroppers seek redemption for doing the unthinkable.

And all of us, whether we are the descendants of the mob, whether we are the descendants of those who were killed by the mob, or whether we are just people of good will, seek reconciliation with one another.

We return to this block on this day and at this time to face the reality that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We all love our ancestors and we all respect them. But we also accept the reality that they were not perfect. We understand that they were human beings. We understand that they were susceptible to human frailty.

Because of this, we return to this block to announce that we will be vigilant not to repeat their mistakes. We return to this block to forgive one another, and to ask for forgiveness. We return to this block to accept that forgiveness and to allow ourselves to be redeemed.

And this, the Elaine Massacre Memorial, forever stands as a reminder of why we have returned to this block. Every time we feel angry, every time we feel embittered, every time we feel slighted, every time we feel divisive, and every time we feel guilty, we will see that monument and we will remember the nightmare that all of those emotions will bring.

And we will remember this day and how we feel at this moment, and we will recommit ourselves to loving and respecting one another, even when we disagree.

HONORING SETH KOHLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Kohler. Seth 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 313, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth 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, Seth has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Seth designed and constructed a flag pole outside of his church.

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