

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE BARBERET

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of an eternal educator, Dr. Gene Barberet of Mansfield, Connecticut. Having lived a full and active life, Gene passed away on his 101st birthday on January 11, 2021 due to complications related to the coronavirus.

Gene's life was intrinsically American, and he dedicated his life to professorial teaching and sharpening of the mind. To this end, Gene contributed a palpable value toward the strength and productivity of eastern Connecticut's community, the region I have the honor of representing. Dr. Barberet, a first-generation scholar born to parents who immigrated from Alsace, France, was always eager to observe and take from his environment as the youngest of eight siblings. His story will be remembered by many as one of vigor, decency, and a passion for cultural enrichment.

As a lifelong learner, Gene was always destined to become the wisest of educators. His potential in the education industry was reflected from the start, such as when he graduated co-valedictorian from Watertown High School in his hometown of Oakville, Connecticut. His deep French roots struck a clear cord with him from early on as well, motivating then Mr. Barberet to achieve a bachelors degree in French studies in 1941. Taking a break from his studies, Gene heeded the call to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return from the war, however, Gene resumed a determined effort to expand upon his roots—transitioning his education to Princeton University and going on to achieve a masters and subsequent doctoral degree in French literature by 1951.

Not one to let knowledge go to waste, Gene brought his specialization back to our home state of Connecticut before obtaining his doctoral degree in 1949, marking the genesis of a career in sharing his experience as a faculty of the University of Connecticut (UConn). Dr. Barberet went on to educate French Literature within UConn's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, building a true and personal connection to the University over the course of 40 years. He achieved this not by simply mastering lectures, but also by broadening his perspective alongside the very students he taught. As a professor, he personally oversaw the University's year long study abroad program to France, journeying with students across the Atlantic to better understand the international community and our place in it. Dr. Barberet's impact cannot be understated—throughout his long tenure he was recognized by a variety of honors and accolades, eventually even becoming knighted as a chevalier by the French government for his

contributions to the nation's culture. As a fondly remembered mentor and a scholar, multiple scholarship funds were established under the University in his name to support excellence in French.

Dr. Barberet retired from UConn in 1990 as a revered professor emeritus. Though UConn will always be his home, it should be noted that he engaged in a gregarious retirement, frequently travelling back to his heritage in France as well as other stints in Europe. He never gave up on the affinity for education either, acting as a volunteer teacher at the Donald Bergin Correction Institution, a board member of the Center for Learning in Retirement, and even initiating a weekly French conversational circle at the Mansfield Senior Center well into his latest years. Dr. Barberet touched the lives of many who hail from eastern Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as monumental and influential as Gene. His legacy is a lasting and tangible one, having expanded horizons for not only himself, but the lives of thousands of students, colleagues, and friends. While we all mourn his loss, we can at least find solace that his story, memory and purpose lives on in the lives of countless others. Therefore, I find it fitting that we as a institutional body set his name and character further into stone. I ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Gene Barberet and never forgetting that the best educators—and by extension leaders—never end their quest of learning.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRES AGAINST ARMENIANS OF SUMGAIT, KIROVABAD, AND BAKU

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to mourn and honor the victims of the massacres against Armenians of Sumgait on February 27–29, 1988; of Kirovabad on November 21–27, 1988; and of Baku on January 13–19, 1990. During these events, attackers tortured and killed hundreds of Armenian residents. I condemn these pogroms and subsequent aggression by the Azerbaijanis against Armenian civilians and their culture.

As we approach the anniversary of the attacks in Sumgait 33 years ago and reflect on Azerbaijan's ruthless aggression in Artsakh last fall, I urge the U.S. to take a leading role in achieving a fair, just, and lasting peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has shed innocent blood for far too long, and its actions are a clear violation of the international order. I call on the Biden Administration to take a different approach from the previous administration when it comes to holding bad actors accountable. The U.S. must uphold human rights for everyone, everywhere.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATER ARTS TROUPE

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the University of California, Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT) to enrich student life at UC Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz community by providing a space for expression and empowerment. This year, AATAT is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Since its founding in 1991, AATAT has been a steward for theater arts by fostering performing arts, providing a space for community and expression, and furthering cultural enrichment.

The creation of this organization at UC Santa Cruz was not without challenges. AATAT began without a budget, dedicated space, or theater amenities. With the guidance and tireless work of founding instructor Donald Williams, AATAT was able to grow over the years into a full theater production troupe that performs, inspires, and uplifts thousands of people each year.

The artistic and generous spirit of AATAT goes beyond the stage. AATAT strives for inclusivity by making their performances free and accessible to all UC Santa Cruz students. The group's sense of duty has led them to work with high school students across California, tutoring an average of 2000 students each year. In the spirit of uplifting others, AATAT has been able to provide over \$100,000 in scholarships through the years.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the history, dedication, and contributions of the UC Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the UC Santa Cruz African American Theater Arts Troupe as an exceptional group of community and artistic leaders on the central coast of California.

HONORING KYLE REOGAS OF HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to offer a congratulations to the retiring police chief of the city of Haleyville, Alabama, Kyle Reogas.

The city of Haleyville is where I was born, grew up and is my current residence and Chief Reogas has served our community as chief for 29 years. In fact, Chief Reogas has been with the Haleyville Police Department for a total of 34 years.

• 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.

On Monday, May 4, 1992, then Haleyville Mayor W.G. Campbell and the city council, appointed Reogas as the chief of police.

On that night of his appointment, Reogas said "I appreciate this opportunity to serve Haleyville as its police chief, and I will do the job to the best of my ability." The fact that Reogas has served in this position for almost three decades is a testament to the fact he has lived up to that promise.

During the past 29 years, Chief Reogas has seen a lot. Some of it good, but of course in his line of work, he has also seen a lot of bad. One of the biggest challenges he and his department faced was tornado damage that occurred to Haleyville as part of the April 27, 2011 tornado outbreak across Alabama.

But as Chief, he and his officers have always strived to turn the bad situations into the most positive outcomes possible and to always serve the citizens with integrity. Under his leadership, the Haleyville Police Department has achieved this year after year.

Chief Reogas is married to Joyce Reogas. They have two daughters, Meshia and Jennifer.

Again, I want to congratulate Chief Reogas on his well-earned retirement. I wish him all the best in the years to come in the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF BRAD
GOODROAD

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fire Chief Brad Goodroad for his 27 years of service with the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue.

Chief Goodroad's career with Sioux Falls Fire Rescue began in 1994. He served as a firefighter for seven years before transitioning roles to a fire apparatus operator. Chief Goodroad went on to become captain, battalion chief, and finally, division chief, a position he has held since 2017.

During his remarkable career, Goodroad led SFFR's health and safety programs for 10 years and helped the department achieve reaccreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence in 2019. In recognition of his dedication and initiative, Goodroad was awarded the 2020 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award.

Despite the many challenges the city of Sioux Falls has faced in recent years including major flooding and a tornado, under the leadership of Goodroad, Sioux Falls Fire Rescue has maintained an ISO rating of 1, the highest score possible for how well a city is protected by its fire department.

I commend Chief Goodroad for his outstanding record of service, hard work, and leadership. I extend my deepest congratulations to Brad Goodroad on his well-earned retirement. I am thankful for his contributions in keeping the community of Sioux Falls safe.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Salary Home Rule Act, which would give the District of Columbia the authority to raise the pay of its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). There is no reason the District should not have the authority to set the pay of every local official, who are paid with local funds, as a matter of its existing home-rule authority.

In 2013, Congress enacted a law that gave the District more authority to set the CFO's pay. However, Congress did not give D.C. full and complete authority over this local matter. This bill would give D.C. the authority to set the CFO's pay commensurate with its best judgment based on factors such as comparisons with similar positions elsewhere, the competitive market and other factors generally used in determining pay. I was able to get some needed changes in 2013 by amending the Home Rule Act to change the CFO's salary from a fixed rate of pay that was tied to the federal pay schedule to a maximum allowable pay, or ceiling, tied to the federal pay schedule. That ceiling was and continues to be substantially higher than the fixed rate. However, D.C. should have full control over setting the salaries of its own employees.

I introduced the 2013 bill after a D.C. CFO search committee indicated that the fixed rate of pay was not high enough to attract the best talent needed for this complex and demanding job. The responsibilities of the CFO, a position created by Congress, are unique in the United States. The CFO is extraordinarily powerful and independent. The District cannot obligate or expend funds without the CFO's approval, and the CFO can be terminated only "for cause." My bill would not allow the CFO's salary to be lowered and maintains the "for cause" termination provision, so as to preserve the independence of the office. The District needs the authority to pay the rate necessary to retain and attract the best CFOs, especially since the District must compete with the private sector for highly qualified CFOs.

This is an important step to increase necessary home-rule authority for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DON
MOTAKA

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of my friend, Don Motaka. Today, would have been his 69th birthday.

Don was truly one of a kind and he made an impression on everyone he met. I will always remember his quick wit, huge heart, irreverent sense of humor, and booming laugh. He was not someone that could be easily

overlooked, as his positive energy could take over a room.

Unfortunately, Don died suddenly on December 21, 2020 in Oxford, Michigan of complications unrelated to COVID.

I had the honor of getting to know Don when we worked together as congressional staffers in the mid-1990s. Don was not your typical staff member, as his personal and professional life had taken him on a wondering and diverse journey by the time he made his way to Capitol Hill.

A native of Gettysburg, PA, his teenage years were marked by instability that resulted in Don being taken in and cared for by members of St. James Lutheran Church. In spite of those challenges, Don excelled as a student and went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania and Yale Divinity School.

After graduating from Yale Divinity School, Don served as Pastor to two rural churches before leaving to lead Tabernacle Lutheran Church in West Philadelphia, a challenging assignment that left him looking for other ways to serve people. He held many different jobs during that time, including serving as a congressional aide to U.S. Representative Marty Meehan, where we met.

In 2013, Don returned to the ministry to become a monk at St. Augustine's House Lutheran Monastery, the only Lutheran Monastery in North America. Upon becoming a simple professed monk in 2015, he took the name Father Jude—who is known as the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes. At the monastery, he spent his time listening for God and regularly preaching at Sunday Mass. He also dedicated many hours to working in a woodworking shop he created at the monastery.

He is missed by his mother, Almena Motaka, his brothers at the monastery, and his sudden passing has impacted many who loved him and referred to him affectionately as "Uncle Don," including Rev. Edward Keyser and his family, Rev. Fritz Foltz and Faith Foltz and family, Joe Moore and his family, and David Schildknecht and his family.

Don was passionate about politics and was a dedicated Democrat who loved this country and followed in great detail the twists and turns of public policy debates held in Congress. Like many, Don was troubled by what had happened to our country over the past four years and was overjoyed by the results of the election in November.

During my first campaign for Congress, Don was a voice of encouragement from the very beginning, and his daily prayers for me from the monastery were a source of comfort and strength. While it was many years ago that I last saw Don, I can still see his smile and feel the warmth of his personality like it was yesterday. I am grateful to have crossed paths with him and I hope his memory is a blessing to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

136TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE IN
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2021

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 136th anniversary of