EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LIMITATIONS OF FREEDOM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have twice in my life been denied passage at a wall or fence with both times being a limitation of freedom.

On June 12, 1990, I was denied passage in Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate by an East German Communist guard directing me to Checkpoint Charlie at the junction of Friedrichstraβe.

On February 25, 2021, I was denied passage in Washington at 2nd and C Street, which I have walked for 20 years, at a locked 12-foot fence topped with razor wire until a courageous Capitol Police Officer arrived to unlock the gate for me to be released from Capitol Hill confinement.

I appreciate the efforts of District of Columbia Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON to prevent permanent fencing surrounding Capitol Hill, which isolates legislators from constituents.

Unobtrusive security can be implemented and installed without abusing National Guard personnel who are dedicated in their service. As a 31-year Guard veteran and grateful Guard Dad of three members, I know firsthand of Guard commitment.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

REMEMBERING BARBARA LUBIN

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Barbara Lubin who passed away on February 6, 2021 at the age of 63 following a cancer diagnosis. No one knew Democratic politics in Arizona the way that she did, knowledge that she put to good use at the Arizona Democratic Party in the role of Operations Director. Barb had an extensive career in politics including her own run for the Arizona Corporation Commission and her service as the director of the Clean Elections Institute.

Barb was warm, kind, always ready to share a story or a meal, and most of all incredibly funny. She and her mother first talked me into running for the legislature when we were all living in Flagstaff, and I feel so grateful to have been so close to her and her family when I was representing that area. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Barb's husband Stanley, their daughter Jessica, their son-in-law James and their two granddaughters Abigail and Elizabeth, as well as the larger Arizona Democratic community who loved her. Barb represented the best of Arizona, and her legacy will live on far beyond her.

HONORING RON WRIGHT

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 7th, we were forced to say goodbye to my dear friend and fellow Representative, Ronald ''Ron'' Wright.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Ron inspired all with an unshakeable drive to make his community a better place. Ron was a committed Texan through and through, and among those values he held most dear were those of integrity and hard work.

Ron's jobs over the years reflect this. He spent his early years milking cows—on the family dairy farm, then proceeded to 30 years in business, working in construction, media, sales, and management. But throughout his time in the private sector, Ron couldn't quite shake a deeper desire to serve. He served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Tarrant County Historical Commission, the Arlington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, the Mansfield Education Foundation board, the Arlington Sports Authority, and the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

In 2000, Ron made the permanent switch to public service when he was elected to the Arlington City Council. In this role, Ron fought to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. After serving 8 years on the City Council, Ron accepted an appointment to become the Tax Assessor-Collector of Tarrant County. He was later elected to a full term by the voters of Tarrant County, then re-elected to a four-year term in November 2016.

In 2018, Ron was elected by the constituents of Texas' 6th Congressional District to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. In this capacity, Ron fought to improve the lives of his fellow North Texans, and he served as a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Education and Labor.

I had the opportunity to learn from Ron last Congress during our time on the Foreign Affairs Committee. In my conversations with Ron, I was struck by his wit, charm, and readiness to solve the problems affecting all Americans.

During his time in Congress—Ron, famous for his impeccable taste in bow ties, began every day with a smile on his face. He worked with everyone, looking past the bounds of party lines in his desire to find solutions for the American people. In 2019, Ron was diagnosed with lung cancer. In the face of this challenge Ron did not balk but maintained a rigorous work schedule and inspired us all with his fortitude and lasting sense of humor.

Ron was a fighter, a proven conservative, and a true statesmen. The citizens of Texas' 6th District have lost a leader and we here in Congress have lost a dear friend. My heart goes out to Ron's wife, Susan, their three children, and their nine grandchildren. Ron Wright was a warrior, and someone who passionately fought for his constituents, for Texas, and for America—he will be missed.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS ''RARE DISEASE DAY''

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for its leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern ''blood bank,'' which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and

● 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.

patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More than 840 drugs and biologics have been approached by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of rare diseases. However, Congress must do more to combat rare diseases. In addition, more work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

In 2019, more than 100 countries observed Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT EASTERN CARL, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a community leader and friend, Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., who passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at the age of 90. Robert was a longtime resident of Tyler County and had the respect of all who knew him.

Robert was born on July 17, 1930, in Camden, Texas, to Estelle Miller Carl and Robert Eastern, Sr. As a young adult, he was called to aid his country in the United States Army and fought in the Korean War. Following his time in the military, he returned to Tyler County and went to work as a rigger for Texaco. While employed by Texaco, he dutifully served as Board President of the Texaco Credit Union for 15 years. After his years of service, he began his well-deserved retirement. Robert was the man to call whenever you needed anything fixed. No matter who called, he never hesitated to come to the aid of his fellow man. Robert was devoted to his family and loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Woodville and a dedicated deacon for many years. In his spare time, he also enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and loved ones.

Robert is survived by the love of his life and wife of 66 years, Gay Carl of Woodville; daughter, Debbie Darville and husband, Roy, of Marshall; sons, Keith Carl and his wife, Lori, of Port Neches and Kevin Carl and his wife, Peggy, of Buna; brother, James Carl of Nederland; sisters, Eunice Vinson of Chester and Ann Adkinson and her husband, Ira, of Porter; grandchildren, Brian Darville, Andrew Darville and his wife, Heather, Mattie Riu and her husband, Tim, Michael Carl and his wife, Laura, Alison Carl, Emily Carl, Amy Tallerita and her husband, Beau, Zachary Carl and his wife, Channing, Seth Carl, Chloe Carl, Sophie Carl, Jonathan Carl and his wife, Jessica, and Matthew Carl and his wife, Melissa; great grandchildren, Kyson Darville, Blake Darville, Emerald Riu, Felix Riu, Annette Carl, and Charlotte Carl; and special friend, Jimmy Telford. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Estelle Carl; brother, Earnest Lee Carl; and sisters, Joyce Best and Rita Chandler.

Madam Speaker, I honor my friend Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., for his faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELRETA MELTON ALEXANDER-RALSTON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Elreta Melton Alexander—an educator, barrier breaker, civil rights advocate, and renowned officer of the court. She was the first Black woman in North Carolina to be licensed and practice as a lawyer, to argue before its Supreme Court, and to be elected a judge.

Elreta Narcissus Melton was born on March 21, 1919, in the small eastern North Carolina town of Smithfield. Her father, Joseph C. Melton, a Baptist minister and teacher, and her mother, Alian A. Reynolds Melton, a schoolteacher, had strong beliefs about the importance of education and refused to perpetuate the narratives of racial injustice. The family later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, where in 1937, at the age of eighteen, Alexander graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College, now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in music. Upon graduation, she became a high-school teacher in South Carolina where she taught music, math, and history.

Encouraged by a Greensboro minister, Alexander decided to attend law school and pursue a legal career. Because of the limitations for Black student admittance into Law schools in North Carolina, Alexander applied and was the first Black woman admitted to Columbia Law School in 1943 at the age of twenty-four, and became the first Black woman to graduate from Columbia Law School in 1945. In 1947, after passing the North Carolina bar exam, Alexander became the first black woman to practice law in North Carolina. After establishing a large solo criminal practice in Greensboro, Alexander formed one of the first integrated law firms in the South, Alston, Alexander, Pell & Pell. During her career as a trial attorney, she added to her list of ''firsts'' when she became the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

On December 2, 1968, Alexander became the first Black judge elected in North Carolina and the first Black woman in the United States to be elected district court judge. Alexander was re-elected in 1972, 1976 and 1980. One of her most notable accomplishments as a District Court Judge was her innovative juvenile sentencing approach called ''Judgment Day'', which focused on rehabilitating young offenders and misdemeanants as an alternative to sentencing. Judge Alexander ran for the Republican nomination for the Chief Justice position on the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1974. Battling persistent racism in the state, she lost the election to a White man named James Newcomb, a fire extinguisher salesman with no college degree or legal background. However, her loss prompted a later-adopted constitutional amendment requiring judges to first be attorneys licensed in North Carolina before they can rightfully hold the position as judge. Her presence in the courtroom brought about great change and needed perspective; however, she did not win every battle and every election. Despite the perception of defeat, the barriers that Alexander faced laid the groundwork and opened doors for a better tomorrow.

While Alexander faced many challenges throughout her educational pursuit and legal career, she refused to let her circumstances define her destiny as she forged her own path led by her passion and conviction for justice and equality.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I am proud to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of a true pioneer and Black History icon, Elreta Melton Alexander-Ralston.

HONORING THE CAREERS OF BILL AND JANE FOX

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill and Jane Fox of Fox Dealerships in Central New York as they settle into well-deserved retirements. For nearly fifty years, Bill and Jane, siblings and co-owners of Fox Dealerships, have operated a thriving local business and demonstrated great generosity and care for the community they serve.

Growing up in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Bill and Jane gained an early appreciation for the automotive industry by spending their summers working with their father, a used car wholesaler. In 1976, Jane purchased her first auto dealership in Weedsport, New York, while her brother practiced law in Syracuse. Jane became one of the first female dealers in the Northeast and established herself as a leader in the industry. In 1979, Bill left his law firm to grow the family brand with the purchase of a second dealership in Auburn, New York. Over 40 years, Bill and Jane expanded their business, owning as many as 14 dealerships, and becoming a household name in Central New York.

Across Central New York, the Fox family has also become well-known for philanthropy and investment in the community. Local schools, hospitals, and charities have all benefited from both Bill and Jane's time and resources. The siblings have also always shared a strong commitment to hiring local workers and promoting them to senior positions.