EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the month of April as ''Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month'' in my home state of Illinois. The 8th Congressional District is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful, and I wish to recognize their valuable contributions to my district and to our state and country, I believe this recognition is especially timely, given the disturbing rise in hate crimes and violent acts perpetrated against Sikh-Americans, most recently on April 15, 2021 at a Federal Express facility located in Indianapolis.

The first followers of the Sikh religion emigrated to the United States over 125 years ago, where they found work on farms located in California and in the lumber mills of Washington state. Despite suffering persecution and discrimination, these patriotic Sikh-Americans persevered and found ways to participate in civic life, including service in the United States Army. In 1918, Sergeant Bhagat Singh Thind was the first serviceman in the history of the United States Army allowed to wear a turban as part of his military uniform. Sikh-Americans continued to proudly serve with distinction in the Second World War, Korean War, Vietnam War and in our conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition to military service, Sikh-Americans have made countless contributions to our common good. They include scientists like Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany, who is widely known as the ''father of fiber optic technology,'' and Dr. Gurtej Singh Sandhu, one of the world's most prolific inventors. They include artists and musicians like Grammy nominee Snatam Kaur Khalsa, and activist and award-winning filmmaker Valarie Kaur. They include entrepreneurs like Waris Ahluwalia, an actor, model and businessman. And they include men and women called to public service, like Dalip Singh Saund, who in 1957 became the first Asian-American, Indian-American and member of a non-Abrahamic faith to be elected to serve in this House of Representatives.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds and not merely by good thoughts. These tenets of service and respect for the rights and dignity of all stand in painful contrast to the recent vile speech and acts of violence directed at Sikh communities. Madam Speaker, during this month of appreciation for Sikh Americans, I want to officially recognize the contributions of the more than 700,000 members of the United States Sikh community to business, the arts, science, medicine, literature and philosophy. Additionally, I ask all Americans to take to heart the Sikh religion's belief in the sanctity of each person, respect for freedom of religion, and creed that community service is the foundation for living a good life.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT MARK SZYMANKIEWICZ

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz of the Woodhaven Police Department. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Sergeant Szymankiewicz retired on April 9, 2021 after serving over two decades with the Woodhaven Police Department. A graduate of Lake Superior State and Eastern Michigan University, Sergeant Szymankiewicz was a valued leader and mainstay of the department since August of 1999 when he began his career as a patrol officer with the unit. Assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 18, 2019.

Since 2004, he has mentored students interested in a career in law enforcement through the Woodhaven Police Explorers program. Sergeant Szymankiewicz also served on the board of the Michigan Law Enforcement Youth Advisory Committee. Active in service on duty and off, he served on the Woodhaven Police Department Honor Guard.

A lifelong resident of Downriver, he was raised in Brownstown Township, Michigan by Tony and Crystal along with his brothers Dennis and Steve. Dedicated to the community where he was born and raised, Sergeant Szymankiewicz still lives in Brownstown Township today with his son Jake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz for a career of invaluable service to the Woodhaven Police Department. I join with Sergeant Szymankiewicz's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to our community and thank him for his role in serving the City of Woodhaven for the past two decades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on April 21, 2021, I missed one Roll Call vote. Had I been present I would have voted: NO on Roll Call Vote 128, On Motion to Recommit for H.R. 1573.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FRANCIS GORITY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend John Francis Gority, who passed away on April 12, at the age of 74.

Throughout his life, John devoted himself to our nation and our community. A veteran of the Vietnam War, John was awarded a purple heart after being wounded in the line of duty. After returning home to Blair County, John worked tirelessly to serve local veterans. In addition to serving as Post Commander of the Altoona Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3, John was also a member of Catholic War Veterans, the American Legion's Gallitzin Chapter, and Disabled American Veterans.

A 1965 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School, John continued his education at Penn State University, where he studied business administration. As a businessman, he owned and operated Broadway Sharpening and Gority Cabinetry for more than 30 years.

John was a staple of the Blair County Community. In addition to his work with local veterans, John also served as a leader of the Blair County Historical Society, Open Doors for the Handicapped, Eastern Amputee Golf Association, Fire Base Eagle, and Bravo Company.

As a community leader, John Francis Gority exemplified a life of service to our nation and to his neighbors. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to honor John for his many contributions. I extend my deepest condolences to John's devoted wife Donna, their two daughters, and four grandchildren as they mourn this great loss.

H.R. 51, THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, for the second time in two years, the House will vote to end centuries of political repression in the District of Columbia by granting the District statehood.

For too long Congress has denied more than 712,000 Americans in the District the fundamental right to full representation in government. Today we say no more.

All 37 states that have been added to the union were admitted by legislation with a simple majority vote. There is no reason admitting the District should be any different.

The United States is a republic, but the people of its capital lack representation. The

United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting rights in the national legislature and local self-government to the people of its capital.

Today we say no more.

My Republican colleagues would rather continue to deny voting rights for hundreds of thousands of American citizens because they may vote for Democrats.

Today we say no more.

We say no more to taxation without representation. No more to unequal rights for the District's residents. No more to this Nation failing to live up to the foundational principles that make us who we are.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE MARY MULLARKEY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman ED PERLMUTTER, Congressman JASON CROW, and Congressman JOE NEGUSE, to recognize the life and achievements of former Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court Mary Mullarkey, who passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Mary's journey is a familiar Colorado story. She was born and raised elsewhere, in Wisconsin. While there, she graduated from St. Norbert College before earning her law degree at Harvard University in 1968. After law school, Mary traveled to Washington, D.C. in order to work for the Department of the Interior in the agency's equal employment opportunity division. Not only did she find the beginning of what would become a lengthy and distinguished career in public service, but she also found the love of her life, Tom Korson. By 1973, the two had married and moved to Denver for what was supposed to be a brief ''adventure,'' not to exceed two years. However, as the story so often goes, they fell in love with Colorado and thankfully decided to make our state a permanent home for themselves and eventually for their son Andrew.

As many Coloradans have reflected in the wake of her passing, Mary—or ''the Chief,'' as she was affectionately known by her former law clerks—was a remarkable woman with a brilliant legal career. She advised Governors, ran her own law firm, served as our state's Solicitor General and led the appellate division in the Colorado Attorney General's Office before her appointment to the Colorado Supreme Court in 1987. Mary served on the court for 23 years.

Mary's legacy while serving on this esteemed bench is unmatched. She was nominated by her colleagues to be the court's first woman Chief Justice in 1998. She served in this capacity for 12 years, and she is the court's longest serving chief justice. During her time on the Court, Coloradans benefited from her fair and thoughtful decisions. She authored more than 470 opinions, including her most memorable case, which was a 2002 decision granting land access to descendants of Mexican homesteaders in the San Luis Valley after decades of dispute.

Beyond the courtroom, her reputation as a trailblazer and a tireless advocate continued. During her tenure, she accomplished the amazing feat of building a new home for the judiciary, the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, named for the state's Republican governor who opposed the use of internment camps for Japanese individuals during World War II. She also expanded access to the courts by hiring professional interpreters to break down language barriers for those who sought the court's protection. To that same end, she added more jurists to resolve more cases and insisted that childcare be provided in courthouses so that parents could more easily access the court system.

When Mary was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, she faced that challenge the way she approached life in general—with determination, grit, and resolve. My husband Lino and I are honored, along with so many others, to call her a friend and role model.

Truly, the light that Mary cast over once hidden spaces within the state's judiciary, over those parents and individuals who sought the court's haven, and over those Coloradans who get up and work hard every day despite living with a debilitating disease—that light will shine as strongly and brilliantly as Mary Mullarkey did for many, many years to come. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family, in particular to Tom, Mary's husband of 49 years, as well as to their son Andrew, and to all the friends, colleagues, and Coloradans who mourn her loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREW SMITH'S SERVICE TO THE GREEN BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring Green Bay Police Chief Andrew Smith.

Chief Andrew Smith's career as a Police Officer began 33 years ago when he arrived in Green Bay from Los Angeles after having served 27 ½ years with the Los Angeles Police Department. Throughout his career, he held countless command level assignments in Media Relations and Community Affairs groups, Operations, and Criminal Gang Homicide Division. For those who are unfamiliar with Chief Smith's extensive career with the LAPD, you may recognize him from the popular true crime docuseries on Netflix: The Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel.

During Chief Smith's time with the Green Bay Police Department, transparency was one of his top priorities. He gave regular updates to the public through the department's community update videos where he would address current events taking place throughout the Green Bay Area. During Chief Smith's tenure the Green Bay Police Department successfully grew, hiring 65 new police officers and swearing in approximately 190 officers.

When the attacks against our men and women in uniform sparked national attention last summer, Chief Smith continued to protect and defend the Green Bay area. I commend his selfless service and dedication to the Green Bay Police Department and surrounding communities.

Chief Smith is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by generations of police officers for years to come. After retirement, Chief Smith and his family plan to stay in Green Bay and I am confident that he will continue to be a value add to Northeast Wisconsin. Chief Smith's dedication and selfless service to his community is deserving of the highest degree of recognition and honor. I wish Chief Smith and his family all the best in his retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF HENDERSON COUNTY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th celebration of the founding Henderson County, Texas. Henderson County was formed April 27, 1846, and named in honor of James Pinckney Henderson, the first attorney general of the Republic of Texas, and secretary of state for the republic, and most importantly the first Governor of Texas.

Henderson County has a rich history, including the one-time Black-Eyed Pea Capital of the world, and the home of the hamburger. Now, many Texans enjoy the wide-ranging activities Henderson County offers including recreation, entertainment, hunting, and fishing, along with the Texas Forest Trail and the Texas Lakes Trail. The county also brings in visitors from across the state and nation with events such as the Old Fiddle Reunion, held in May, and the Black-Eyed Pea Jamboree which is held in July.

After 175 years, Henderson County continues to be a vibrant community that supports family, sports, fine arts, churches, and numerous organizations for more than 84,000 residents that make up 20 municipalities.

I am proud to represent Henderson County and the many people who make it a wonderful place to live. Congratulations to everyone in the county on celebrating their 175th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 129.

IN RECOGNITION OF KASEY MEREDITH

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kasey Meredith of Johnstown, Pennsylvania as she is named the Cadet First Captain and Regimental Commander of the Virginia Military Institute's Corps