

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ALBERT DOTSON, SR.

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Albert Dotson, Sr., a beloved constituent in our community who served as a pioneer, activist, husband, and loving father throughout his lifetime. On May 29, 2021, Mr. Dotson passed away at the age of 83.

I would like to recognize Dr. Albert Dotson, Sr.'s steadfast leadership, his embrace of the communities he has lived and served in, and his many achievements.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1938, Albert was raised by a single mother who worked as a housekeeper. His mother, Alberta, taught him the value of hard work and respect at an early age.

Later on in life, Albert met his wife, Earlene, while at church. The couple married in 1959 and continued to attend church together throughout the next six decades. Together, they had five children and 13 grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Albert never forgot the value of hard work that his mother instilled in him. After dropping out of college to take an entry-level job at Sears Roebuck and Company, he eventually worked his way up as the corporation's first African American store manager. In 1976, he relocated to Miami, where he eventually decided to launch several of his own businesses with his wife.

Education was always very important to Albert and Earlene. After watching all five of their children graduate from college, they decided to go back to school themselves and complete their undergraduate degrees. Albert eventually went on to complete his PhD in Philosophy in 2004.

Albert continuously remained active in the higher education community, serving on Florida International University's (FIU) Foundation Board of Directors for nearly two decades to secure research funding for architecture and medical students. He eventually went on to chair the FIU Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2011.

Albert cared deeply for the Miami community, being involved with community groups like the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce and the Miami-Dade School Board. In 1989, he joined the Orange Bowl Committee, created in 1935 to promote tourism to the Miami metropolitan area. Less than a decade later, Albert broke records when he became the first African American President of the Committee.

Albert's life is a great example of service-leadership and working hard towards the American Dream. Miami-Dade will always be grateful for his contributions to our community.

Dr. Dotson Sr. is survived by his wife Earlene; his sons Albert Jr. and Jonathan; his daughters Dr. Toya Greene, LeTessa Hall, Christa Dean; and his 13 grandchildren.

STEM EDUCATOR AWARDS EQUITY
ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the STEM Educator Awards Equity Act to ensure educators from the Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa are represented in the annual Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Award is the highest recognition that an elementary or secondary school mathematics or science teacher may receive in the United States. Over 4,800 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Unlike the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Department of Defense schools, each of which may recognize a STEM educator, no more than two awards in total can go to teachers from the four insular areas: the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. This limitation has resulted in many years in which no teacher from one of those four areas is selected. No teacher from the Marianas, for instance, was selected this year. And this lack of recognition defeats the purpose of the program, which is to inspire excellence within each area and provide a role model for other local STEM educators to emulate. These statutory limits, also, unfairly deny deserving educators in the insular areas the national recognition and professional development opportunities we provide to STEM educators elsewhere in our Nation.

My bill provides a more equitable process by requiring awards to at least one teacher from each of the four areas. By ensuring teachers from all parts of America are represented, more students and schools will benefit from the expert-led training programs and collaboration opportunities available to awardees during their visit to our Nation's Capital.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN and the gentleman from Guam, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, are original cosponsors of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING ROBERT EIKLEBERRY
AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Mongo" Eikleberry, as a long-time LGBTQ advocate, business owner, community leader during this Pride Month.

Robert served in the Vietnam War as a young man, where he was given the nickname "Mongo". When he returned home in 1972, he began working as a senior electrician as well as working at bars. Here, Robert saw that while gay bars were some of the only places LGBT individuals could openly be themselves, many establishments weren't uplifting the causes of the LGBT community. Robert realized he should open a business in Des Moines that would provide philanthropic support to multiple causes impacting his community.

Robert opened the Blazing Saddles in Des Moines in 1983, 38 years ago, which is now the oldest gay bar in the Midwest. Robert's work has allowed him to create charities, such as the All Iowa AIDs Benefits to support lowans suffering from HIV/AIDS during the height of the epidemic, as well as helping fundraise to support the needs of LGBT lowans. Robert founded the Imperial Court of Iowa which funds educational scholarships for high school students and adult education seekers. He's known to pitch in for causes like voter education and advocacy, equal rights, and much more. Robert has always made sure his employees at the Blazing Saddles were paid competitive wages and had job protection to be themselves, protection that would not be given to most LGBT workers until 2020.

In his over 40 years of activism, Robert has come face-to-face with hate and discrimination right here in Iowa. His bar had their windows smashed, flags burned, received threatening letters, and various other acts of vandalism over the years. "You can't make fear a part of your life", he said, reflecting on that fact that the fight for LGBT equality has historically been met with violence and intimidation. "But they can't scare us back into closet" he said with a chuckle. Although LGBT equality has made strides recently, Robert has said there is still more work to do. "Everyone needs a place to be themselves" he said.

His bar was named after the 1974 movie, Blazing Saddles, where a plucky group of immigrants, railroad workers, white townfolk, and a black Sheriff who pull together to save their town for those who wish them harm and in turn, live safely together. A fitting name indeed. Please join me in honoring Robert "Mongo" Eikleberry as our Iowan of the Week as we celebrate Pride this month.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHARLES L.
COTRELL

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Dr. Charles L. Cotrell, President Emeritus and Professor of Political Science at St. Mary's University. Dr. Cotrell is set to retire after 55 years of service to St. Mary's University and the San Antonio

• 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.

community. His retirement concludes a vibrant career of advocacy, public engagement, and scholarly work. I am proud to call Dr. Cotrell a fellow San Antonian and friend. Please join me in commemorating the career of an extraordinary educator and equal rights advocate.

Dr. Charles L. Cotrell began his studies at St. Mary's University in 1958, graduating in 1962. In 1965, after receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science and Government from the University of Arizona, Dr. Cotrell went on to teach at Texas A&M University—Kingsville (formerly Texas A&I) until returning to teach at his alma mater in 1966. Dr. Cotrell was an active participant in many civil rights causes like the La Casita Farms strike. He was professor to many Chicano activists of the late 1960s at both Texas A&M—Kingsville and St. Mary's. He mentored youth in the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO) and is a founding board member of the Mexican American Unity Council in San Antonio. In 2000, Dr. Cotrell was named President of St. Mary's University where he spearheaded several education initiatives focusing on underrepresented groups.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Cotrell and his many contributions to our beautiful city. I thank Dr. Cotrell for all that he has done. May he enjoy his well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRAYDUN
MANOCHERIAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Fraydun Manocherian on the 75-year anniversary of his immigration to the United States from Tehran, Iran and for his steadfast dedication to and impactful advocacy for automobile safety. Mr. Manocherian is also a successful entrepreneur embodying the American Dream with his wife Jennifer, their five children, and 13 grandchildren.

In 1932, Fraydun Manocherian emigrated to the United States at the age of 14 with his mother and brother. He soon became an entrepreneur pursuing the American Dream, starting his first business venture in high school by buying and selling used cars. Then, while attending New York University, he turned his sights to New York's skyline—embarking on his career in real estate development.

He acquired three adjacent five-story walk up buildings in Manhattan for \$15,000 a piece which he then redeveloped. During the 1960's and 1970's, Mr. Manocherian was one of the most prolific developers in Manhattan. In the 1980's he expanded his ventures nationwide through real estate investments and high-rise developments, among a multitude of other enterprises. He was the originator of the mega-health-club concept, opening the first New York Health & Racquet Club in 1973, followed by ten additional Manhattan locations. He also developed The Kimberly Suite Hotel in midtown Manhattan in 1985, and has since acquired other hotels which he still personally oversees.

However, among all this success, Mr. Manocherian is, at his core a public servant

and philanthropist. And it is for his accomplishments in automobile safety that I, his family, and all Americans are most proud.

In 1951, two of Mr. Manocherian's high school friends were killed by a drunk driver. At the age of nineteen, he turned his grief into activism and became an advocate for federal funding of public education in traffic safety. After learning that automobile accidents were the number one killer of all young adults aged 16–25 years old, and the number one cause of physical disabilities—causing agonizing tragedy and grief for countless families, a 19-year-old Mr. Manocherian sent a telegram to President Eisenhower. The President arranged a meeting with Senator Irving Ives.

He continued meeting with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to urge President Eisenhower's Committee on Traffic Safety to begin a national mass media educational program. While his determined efforts and countless contributions were impressive, he was not satisfied with the speed of progress. In 1962, he founded the National Road Safety Foundation with the purpose of reducing the 55,000 auto related fatalities every year. In 1970, he wrote *Flesh, Metal, and Glass*, a book on auto safety. Over the past 50 years, more than two million copies of Mr. Manocherian's book have been distributed free to thousands of high schools and drivers' education programs across the country. The publication has been updated several times and is now available online. The National Road Safety Foundation has also produced dozens of educational videos and public service announcements. The book and videos, along with other educational materials, are still used as important tools in driver's education programs throughout the country.

Over the last half century, The National Road Safety Foundation has educated millions on how to become better and safer drivers through collaborating with educators, private groups, legislators, and government agencies to effect national standards in driving competence. The National Road Safety Foundation has also played an important role in seat belt laws, drunken driving policy, safer car regulations, and helmet and turn signal legislation for motorcycles. Mr. Manocherian has been a persuasive and influential force in Congress as this body enacted policies and legislation focused on driver safety.

Mr. Manocherian's voice was among the first to rally the nation against drunk driving and his advocacy for federal funding of public education in traffic safety contributed toward passage of The Highway Safety Act of 1970, which established the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He is currently working to secure increased funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund for a sustained National Traffic Safety Education media program. These efforts, among countless others, have helped reduce fatalities from 55,000 a year to 38,000 a year. This 30 percent reduction in fatalities is astonishing considering that in that same time, the number of drivers and mile driven have grown exponentially.

For his dedication and accomplishments in the field of auto safety, Mr. Manocherian has received the "Man of the Year" award from the New York Council for Civic Affairs, the "Man of the Year" award from the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from St. John's University, a Master of Arts degree

from the International University of Communications in Washington, D.C., the 1997 Distinguished Service to Safety Award from the National Safety Council, and the 2005 Public Service Award, one of the highest awards given by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He has met with almost every President since President Eisenhower, is a founder of the Carter Center, and was appointed by President H. W. Bush to serve on the National Driver Register Advisory Committee.

At 89 years young, Fraydun Manocherian is not only a nationally recognized powerful public service advocate, but also a rated jet pilot, and, more importantly, a greater husband, father, and grandfather than businessman, entrepreneur, or philanthropist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Fraydun Manocherian for his public service and incredible contributions to society and a lifetime of dedication to automobile and driver safety.

CONGRATULATING KIARA
STRAYHORN FOR WINNING TWO
STATE TITLES AT THE CLASS 5
TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kiara Strayhorn for winning two state titles at the Class 5 Track and Field Championship.

Kiara earned a total of twenty-eight points out of the thirty points the Capital City Lady Cavaliers put on the board. Strayhorn should be commended for her hard work and dedication throughout this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Kiara Strayhorn for a job well done.

HONORING SHEILA TRACY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sheila Tracy. After serving 28 years, Sheila Tracy is retiring from her position as President of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce.

With the help of Sheila's leadership, the Northland Regional Chamber has continued to advocate for the needs of constituents in Missouri's Sixth Congressional District and the Northland of Kansas City. Sheila and the Chamber have worked on several large projects to benefit the Northland and my district. Sheila has spent countless hours working to move projects forward that would benefit my constituents, most recently the Buck O'Neil Bridge.

I am honored to have collaborated with Sheila during her time as President of the Northland Regional Chamber. Her professionalism and dedication to the Northland and