

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY ARDELL WELLS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rodney Ardeell Wells. Rodney passed away on December 8, 2020. Rodney was a veteran of the United States Navy, a father, grandfather, friend, and a husband to his best friend, Sherril.

Rodney was born on July 26, 1955 in Topeka, Kansas and was raised in Compton, California. As he got older, Rodney had the urge to serve the United States Navy. From 1973 to 2003, Rodney served active duty for more than 20 of those years, at sea.

After serving in the Navy 12 years as Command Master Chief on the USS *Shiloh*, USS *Pearl Harbor*, and Chief of the Boat on the USS *Pogy*, Rodney attended college. He graduated with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture and a B.S. in psychology from Reedley College.

Rodney worked at the Veterans Affairs Central California Health Care System in Fresno, California as a Boiler Plant Operator. Rodney was liked by all of the people he had the pleasure of meeting. He was a leader, wise, and a caring individual who was ready to help. Rodney continued his giving back to the community through helping other veterans like himself at the hospital, but as well as helped to grow food.

When he was not working at the hospital, Rodney would grow seasonal varieties of fruits, herbs, and vegetables. Rancho de Rodney founded in 2009, grew heirloom and cherry tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, carrots, thyme, sage, radishes, and more. In 2014 Rancho de Rodney was certified as organic by the CCOF. He participated in farmers' markets at Fresno Kaiser, True Value Hardware in Oakhurst and the Peddler's Corner in Coarsegold.

As time went on, Rodney changed focus. They were growing food not to sell, but for donation. A disabled veteran owned business, Rodney and his wife Sherril moved towards a non-profit status. Their love for their community and those in need were evident. They were known to help St. Benedict Catholic Worker on distributing their fresh produce to families and individuals. Rodney was also involved with African American Farmers of California headquartered in Fresno. Before his passing, Rodney spent his last Saturday with his fellow veterans at the African American Farmers of California demonstration site working on the vegetables he grew for the Catholic Worker.

Rodney was a proud descendent of members of the Civil War's U.S. Colored Troops and the Cherokee Freedom. He was a friend to many in his life and evolved his passion to giving back to others with his wife by his side.

He is survived by his wife, Sherril, sister Deborah, daughter Charletha Harris, grandchildren and greatgranddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Rodney Ardeell Wells. His service and contributions to the nations and State of California will be missed. I join his family and friends in celebrating Rodney's life.

REMEMBERING MARILYNN JANINE DENHOLM

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Marilyn Janine Denholm, originally of Niles, Ohio, who passed away on Thursday, June 24 at the age of 71.

She was born in 1950, the daughter of Fred and Mary (Colla) Guerra. Marilyn was married to her husband Dave for nearly 45 years. She had 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and extended family and friends with whom she cherished spending time.

Marilynn grew up in Niles, Ohio, and graduated from Niles McKinley High School in 1968. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from Youngstown State University (YSU) in 1972 where she was also a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) sorority. She earned her MA in Guidance and Counseling from YSU in 1978. Marilyn spent 13 years in education in Ohio and 30 years in education in Gaston County, NC. Mrs. Denholm loved being a Guidance Counselor at Gardner Park Elementary where she was able to help thousands of children.

Marilynn was an active member of the ZTA Alumni group and recently received her 50-year alumni pin. She also volunteered with the Blumenthal Performing Arts for 20 years.

Survivors include her husband, David; children Kristine (Seth Thompson) of Phoenix, AZ; David (Nichole) of Merritt Island, FL; and Victoria of Madrid, Spain; grandchildren David, Hannah, William and Henry Denholm, and Nora Thompson; and brother Fred (Gretchen) Guerra of Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Her parents Fred and Mary Guerra preceded her in death.

I am honored to have called Marilyn my Godmother. She was an incredible woman that dedicated her life to helping others, and I was lucky enough to have personally known how truly kind her spirit was. Throughout her life as an educator, she touched countless lives of the children that she taught. My condolences go out to her family and friends. She will be dearly missed.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING IN COMMONSENSE BALLISTIC MISSILES (ICBM) ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, the Investing in Commonsense Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) Act of 2021 bill will pause the development of the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program, the planned replacement to the current Minuteman III missile, and the associated W87-1 nuclear warhead. Additionally, it requires the service life of the currently deployed Minuteman III missiles to be extended until 2040—something that is both technically feasible and more cost-efficient.

The world is witnessing a new nuclear arms race, and this one is extremely dangerous as tensions rise between the Great Powers. As the United States, Russia, and China rush to modernize their nuclear arsenals, the trip wire is growing more taut. Observation and communication satellites and systems are increasingly vulnerable to attacks. All three countries are fielding stealth and hypersonic nuclear delivery systems designed to evade detection. The risk of a false alarm or a political miscalculation has always haunted the nuclear landscape and they do even more today.

As long as nuclear weapons exist we must have a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent. The simultaneous modernization efforts across all three legs of the nuclear triad are an unnecessary and costly way to achieve our deterrent. The modernization includes the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD), the B-21 bomber, the Columbia-class submarine, the Long-Range Standoff (LRSO) air-launched cruise missile, the sea launched nuclear cruise missile, and new nuclear warheads. The costs are extraordinary: a 2017 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report estimated that the 30-year cost of nuclear weapons spending would be \$1.2 trillion (\$1.7 trillion adjusted for inflation). As the Government Accountability Office recently noted, the current plan to modernize every part of the arsenal at the same time is a recipe for schedule delays and cost overruns.

The ICBM leg of the Triad deserves special attention. The total price tag to procure the GBSD is projected to be at least \$95 billion, and \$264 billion when accounting for total life-cycle costs. A GBSD pause will help defray short-term costs for the Air Force and will also defer a long-term expenditure. Additionally, the W87-1, the warhead that is being designed for the GBSD, will cost at least \$12 billion to build—and is not part of the estimated GBSD procurement cost of \$95 billion. To build new warhead cores for the W87-1, the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) is expanding plutonium pit production, which will cost at least another \$9 billion through the late 2020s according to the Congressional Budget Office.

• 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.

We do not need a new ICBM to provide a robust deterrence. The existing MMIII can serve until 2040 with one more life extension, which is technically feasible. Lieutenant General Richard M. Clark, then-Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, noted in testimony before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives that we have “one more opportunity” to conduct life extension on the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, indicating the technical feasibility of extending the Minuteman III missile.

Other independent experts have confirmed the feasibility of a MMIII life extension. In fact, the Air Force intends to do just that. It will upgrade and extend the life of existing MMIII missiles while it is replacing others with the GBSD. The swap out plan is an admission that the life extension is not only possible but has already been factored into the existing plan.

Maintaining and upgrading the current Minuteman III missile is technically possible, and according to a 2017 CBO report, it would cost \$37 billion less than developing and deploying the GBSD through 2036.

Budget analysts who watch Pentagon budgets have warned that an unaffordable “bow wave” would occur as the Pentagon plans to upgrade every weapon system at the same time. Former Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson noted in December 2020, “the next fiscal year (FY22) will see a steep increase in the cost of refurbishing our nuclear deterrent, and with a flat budget, the Air Force can’t do this without crushing its ability to handle all of its other missions.” The current leadership of the military must answer the question, “What critical weapon, defense system, or benefit for the troops and their families could be funded with the \$37 billion saved by pausing the GBSD Missile program?”

Any discussion of the GBSD and the MMIII must include the question “Do we need ICBM’s sitting in 400 silos in the upper midwest to have an effective deterrent?” There is a powerful argument that they are not necessary. The bomber fleet, together with America’s Trident II D5 Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles, can deliver several times more nuclear bombs to any part of the globe than the 400 silo-based ICBM’s. Moreover, it is argued that the silo-based ICBM’s are inherently dangerous because their location is known and they must therefore be launched within minutes of notification of a nuclear attack or be lost to an incoming missile attack.

In every ICBM silo lies the existential risk of a false alarm or a miscalculation. Both have happened in the past but fortunately the errors were discovered in time to save human life on our planet. Bombers can be recalled and subs cannot be found as they hide in the oceans, thereby providing critical time for a thoughtful and fully informed decision before pressing the button.

The ICBM Act bill will strengthen our national security and save billions of tax-payer dollars by:

Prohibiting the use of funds for the GBSD program and W87–1 warhead modification program for fiscal years 2022 through 2031;

Extending the service life of the Minuteman III missiles until at least 2040, and requiring use of nondestructive testing methods and technologies similar to those used by the Navy for Trident II D5 SLBMs; and

Transferring back to the Air Force all unobligated funds for the GBSD program, and transferring unobligated funds for the W87–1 warhead modification program from the National Nuclear Security Administration to the Treasury.

I shall end this with a personal memory of a visit to a United Kingdom submarine that was about to deploy with 16 ICBM’s and multiple nuclear bombs. The captain took great pride in his ship and its role in deterrence. As we were leaving the sub I asked him, “Suppose you are ordered to launch your missiles and their nuclear bombs. You follow the order and launch your missiles. Then what do you do? Go home? To what?” He did not reply.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 28, 2021, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 186, YEA on Roll Call No. 187, and NAY on Roll Call No. 188.

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MUSEUM ACT

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I was unaware that the National Children’s Museum was linking to resources that may promote critical race theory or its principles when I initially became a cosponsor. I oppose H.R. 1703 because I do not support using taxpayer dollars for these purposes.

REPLACEMENT OF BUST OF ROGER BROOKE TANEY WITH BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shed some light on history.

In 1854, members of the Whig Party met to begin discussions on a new political party—the primary platform being the abolition of slavery.

The idea spread like wildfire, and just six years later, the newly formed Republican Party successfully elected their first President, Abraham Lincoln.

Republican leadership fought to eradicate the scourge of slavery, defeat the racist Southern Democrats, and forge a new future for America where all were equal—no matter the color of their skin.

Republicans, as the Speaker of the House so eloquently explained earlier, voted to pass the 14th amendment to give Black Americans the right to vote. Against the will of the Demo-

crats. This history is integral to the discussion we’re having today, as the men who fought to perpetuate slavery, impose racist policies, and oppress newly freed Black Americans were all Democrats.

Now, the Democrats of today don’t want you to know that.

They’ve worked hard to hide their history and supplant the accurate story of their party with the narrative of the Democratic savior. What they’re attempting to do today is further bury their racist past and hide it from the American people.

I represent Tulsa, a city that knows something about Democrats hiding their past. Just this month, we observed 100 years since the horrific race massacre that destroyed Black Wall Street and killed hundreds of Black Tulsans. These attacks were orchestrated by Oklahoma Democrats and subsequently hidden by Oklahoma Democrats for decades, until we began to seek out the truth.

Tulsa no longer hides this shameful part of our history. Under Republican leadership, Tulsa has worked hard to honor the memories of the race massacre victims and share the accurate history of the horrific, racist attack that took place 100 years ago.

We are stronger now because of our commitment to shine a light on our history . . . even the painful pieces. We do not hide it, obfuscate it, or rewrite it—like my Democratic colleagues are attempting to do today.

There are men on display in the Capitol Building who did terrible things. They should never have been placed in such positions of prominence, but it was Democrat leaders at the state level who sent them here. Many such states are now working to remove their statues under the proper process, led by Republican leaders at the state level.

Congressional Democrats are attempting to usurp the authority given to our states and claim it as a moral victory for themselves.

For the statues and busts under Congressional jurisdiction, I fully support efforts to remove terrible men from positions of prominence, but I cannot justify usurping power from the states—states that are already working to rectify the decisions made generations ago by racist Democrats.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD F. SALADINO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Donald F. Saladino. Donald passed away on June 1, 2021. Donald was a Veteran of the United States, a loyal family-oriented son, a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a friend.

Donald was born on August 5, 1927 in Fresno, California. He spent his youth dedicated to the Catholic church, as he attended St. Alphonsus Catholic School and served as an altar boy. While attending Edison High School, he found passion in basketball, where he was recruited to play for the New York Knicks. However, with his strong family bonds, Donald decided to stay at home, where he became a