

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HOMETOWN HERO
MOHAMED EBEIDA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Mohamed Ebeida, founder of the Marvels Program. Dr. Ebeida is a pioneer in introducing STEM and group collaboration opportunities in North Texas for the Muslim community and beyond.

Dr. Ebeida is the founder of the youth Muslim robotics team known as the Marvels of Irving. He is a research scientist at Sandia National Laboratories and has used his knowledge to enrich the STEM community in Texas—24. Dr. Ebeida helped introduce FIRST, an international STEM learning robotics program, for North Texas schools to participate, collaborate, and compete in. He also hosts the First Technical Challenge, which is a head-to-head competition in the area of robotics, for 35 teams in our community to participate in. Dr. Ebeida has brought together and emboldened the Muslim community and countless youth in North Texas to express themselves through STEM.

I thank Dr. Ebeida, for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.

CONDEMNING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S USE OF A HIGH-ALTITUDE SURVEILLANCE BALLOON OVER UNITED STATES TERRITORY AS A BRAZEN VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, This was no weather balloon. This was a spy balloon.

Let me be very clear: Members of both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans, are standing before the American people and recognizing that this resolution of the Chinese Communist Party's actions is appropriate, and we should, as Americans, denounce their actions.

Let me be very clear as well: I want to congratulate the United States military intelligence officials and others who effectively took the Commander in Chief's order that occurred on February 1st to shoot it down.

They handled themselves with the greatest amount of appropriateness to ensure that the American people were safe, to contain the threat, and do their job.

It serves no purpose to suggest that the Commander in Chief, President Joe Biden, failed the American people or did anything wrong.

Interestingly enough, in the midst of the spy balloon, over 70 percent of the American people believe that Joe Biden took to the podium in the State of the Union and gave them enough comfort that the State of the Union is well, our souls are strong, and the American people are strong.

Yes, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am keenly aware and concerned about the Nation's national security, keenly aware of the timeframe in which this spy balloon came into our eyesight.

With that in mind, even as it traversed the United States, I can assure you, in spite of the chronicling of the facts here, that General Austin, the Department of Defense, and others that were responsible for our safety, pursuant to the direction of the Commander in Chief, followed this spy balloon and were able to handle it appropriately in the course of shooting it down.

Finally, let me say: it is important that we use this as a condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party.

Let us not use this to intimidate Chinese Americans or to be able to create atmospheres of hate. I denounce that, and I denounce SB 147 in the State of Texas that wants to stop Chinese Americans from buying property. That is not the American way.

What is the American way is to stand as Democrats and Republicans and Members of Congress to take our full responsibility, alongside the executive, to ensure national security. We have done that.

We have the facts, we know the traversing, and I can assure you that the Chinese Americans have not engaged themselves in this activity and should not be condemned.

The Chinese Communist Party is aware of the strength of the people of the United States and their defense.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN PORT ACCESS PRIVILEGES ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "American Port Access Privileges Act," with Congressmen JIMMY PANETTA (D—CA19) and JIM COSTA (D—CA21). Foreign-flagged vessels' access to the American market and its consumers is a privilege, not a right. Congress must ensure reciprocity in trade and the ocean shipping industry, which is dominated by a handful of foreign-flagged ocean carriers. Some of these foreign ocean carriers are effectively state-controlled enterprises.

Our "American Port Access Privileges Act" would correct the structural disadvantages facing American exporters at our nation's ports by rewarding ocean carriers that serve both importers and exporters. First, the bill would

codify the current preferences for military, Jones Act, and other US-flagged vessels in place at many major American ports. Second, the bill would establish a secondary berthing preference for ocean-going commercial vessels servicing multiple ports in the United States or with significant cargo bookings of American exports.

This new preferential berthing will reward ocean carriers that serve both importers and American exporters by moving those vessels to the front of the queue for unloading and loading. It will similarly incentivize ocean carriers to make second-leg voyages to ports like the Port of Oakland, which is critical for California's agricultural exporters. Any port authority seeking federal funding from the Maritime Administration's port infrastructure development grant program would be required to accept these berthing preferences.

However, our bill ensures that the new preferential berthing and port access for export carrying-vessels would never interfere with U.S. Coast Guard orders for commercial vessels, port safety, or collective bargaining agreements for port workers. Our "American Port Access Privileges Act" would require that export-carrying vessels seeking preferential berthing report cargo bookings at least 7 days in advance to port operators.

Lastly, our bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics to collect data on berthing and cargo practices at U.S. ports. This will evaluate ocean carriers' practices for port calls and cargo bookings, as well as the impact of preferential berthing afforded under our bill. A similar data-collection provision sponsored by U.S. Senator ROGER F. WICKER's (R—MS) on container and chassis availability is incorporated as Section 16 (Dwell Time Statistics) of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–146), of which I was the House sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor the "American Port Access Privileges Act" to ensure fair trade for U.S. businesses and keep hard-won foreign markets accessible to California's agricultural exporters. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from the 113th to the 115th Congresses, I plan to make this legislation a major priority.

HONORING MARLBORO
TOWNSHIP'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marlboro Township as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the township's incorporation this week.

• 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.

Previously a part of Freehold Township, in February of 1848, the New Jersey State Legislature founded Marlboro Township as a separate town, which is now part of New Jersey's 3rd District. Receiving its name from local farmers utilizing marl beds to cultivate their crops, the town originated as a rural farm town within our state. They held a major role within the agricultural industry, exporting marl to other regions of the state and country that did not have this naturally occurring fertilizer.

While the town had humble beginnings at the time of its incorporation, with only 1,500 people calling it home, Marlboro quickly rose to have the population of over 41,000 residents that exists today. Known by many as a safe community with many local draws like excellent schools and convenient access to metropolitan areas, the town has become a destination for many families to build their lives.

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Marlboro Township over the course of their 175-year history. I look forward to all they will continue to accomplish and many more years of notable milestones.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTOPHER HAGAN MATHIS

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Hagan Mathis for his admirable service to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Hagan first joined my team in May 2019 as a district intern while studying for his degree in Finance and Political Science at the University of Alabama. His diligence and his commitment to service made him stand out among his peers, making him a natural fit for the position of personal aide.

The transition from Tennessee's State Senate to the United States House of Representatives is no easy task, but Hagan was instrumental in ensuring that it was as smooth as possible. As a body man, a driver, and a personal aide, Hagan ensured I was always where I needed to be while also providing critical research support for my team. Upon his graduation in May 2020, Hagan joined my district team full-time as a Staff Assistant.

While I have many duties as a Representative of Tennessee, my most basic responsibility and privilege is meeting face-to-face with my constituents. Learning their names and stories, fielding their questions and concerns, and representing their interests in Washington is my singular mission. The pandemic made 2020 and the years following it a turbulent and challenging period, but Hagan's commitment to serving the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District never wavered. A Tennessean himself, he fully embraced my mission and proved himself to be a reliable and steady hand that I could count on. Through COVID-19, floods, tornadoes, and other natural disasters, and through town halls and district meetings, Hagan escorted me on numerous trips over countless miles. Many congressional staffers are acquainted with long days and late nights, but few know them better than Hagan.

Hagan's service to the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District cannot be overstated; the impact of the countless face-to-face meetings and events that Hagan helped facilitate is incalculable. He was the man I relied on to connect me to my constituents, to ensure that our mission was carried out. While I am sad to see him go, I know he has a bright future in store. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful constituency, I thank Hagan Mathis for his honorable service to Tennesseans and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALMOND DAY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joined by my colleagues, Rep. DAVID VALADAO, Rep. JIM COSTA, Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, and Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize February 16, 2023, as National Almond Day. We celebrate the hard-working men and women involved in this great industry, past, and present, for their hard work in providing our Nation and the world with food, fiber, and energy. It is a day to thank those who work by acres, not hours.

National Almond Day is a time to recognize the many benefits almonds provide in a healthy diet and to pay tribute to the hard-working farmers, processors, and other industry members who make the almond industry one of the most successful and innovative in the United States.

Americans and people around the world can observe this day by snacking on one of the world's most nutritious foods, almonds. Almonds provide many health benefits and are a great source of protein, healthy fats, and fiber. They are gluten-free and contain essential vitamins and minerals such as Vitamin E, magnesium, and potassium. As a convenient, versatile, and healthy food option, almonds can be enjoyed in various ways, such as snacking, baking, and cooking. Among their many benefits, almonds help maintain a healthy heart, healthy cholesterol levels, and healthy blood sugar levels. They also provide key nutrients that promote skin health and protect against ultraviolet radiation.

Our home state of California is home to 7,600 almond farms, and nearly 90 percent of those farms are family farms, and many are owned and operated by third and fourth generation farmers. Nearly 70 percent of California almond farms are 100 acres or less. There are 98 almond handlers in California, many of which are family-owned businesses.

In California alone, the almond industry employs 110,000 people and contributes \$9.2 billion annually to the economy. The state is responsible for 100 percent of the U.S. almond supply and 80 percent of the world's almond supply. This great industry has improved the efficiency of water use, reaching 75 percent of the almond community's goal to attain a 20 percent improvement by 2025. Growers and processors are finding new food product opportunities for uses of the almond hull, with a goal to achieve zero waste in the orchards.

The almond industry has long played a crucial role in all Americans' economic and nutri-

tional well-being. Our constituents are innovative agriculturists who are constantly looking for ways to further the growth and success of the industry. Moreover, the United States almond industry is instrumental to the preservation of farmland and forms the backbone of many rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Almond Day and the contributions of almond farmers, processors, and other industry members, who make the almond industry one of the most successful and innovative in the United States.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JUD TEAGUE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jud Teague, Director of the Kingsport Chamber's Visit Kingsport Program, for his dedication to our community and commitment to tourism in Northeast Tennessee.

A native of Powell, Tennessee, Jud Teague dedicated over 25 years of service to the tourism industry in East Tennessee. Jud graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. From there, he began teaching biology with the Knox County School System. His tenure as an educator also included a successful coaching career in baseball, football, and basketball at Bearden High School and Powell High School.

Jud also found time to volunteer with local community sports programs, including Knox Youth Sports, and was later hired as their Executive Director. He was instrumental in developing Lakeshore Park, 200 plus-acre facility with multiple trails, baseball, softball fields, and playgrounds, including a universal playground designed to be inclusive for children of every ability. Jud's involvement in youth baseball earned him a spot on the AAU Baseball Executive Committee. He also received the AAU National Baseball Volunteer of the Year award and the Disney Wide World of Sports Award of Excellence. He was later hired as the baseball senior sports manager for AAU at Walt Disney World Resort.

Since 2006, Jud has served as the Executive Director of Visit Kingsport, where his collaborative efforts led to more than \$100 Million in local economic impact. As a result of his work, Visit Kingsport received multiple Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Tourism from the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association (NETTA).

Adding to his list of accolades and accomplishments, Jud received the Tennessee Tourism Professional of the Year Award—the state's highest tourism honor—from the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association. He is perhaps most proud of developing Miracle Field, a \$2.5 million sporting complex. Jud created and spearheaded the project for his son Nicholas, who has Down syndrome, and other children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jud Teague on his years of service to the tourism industry and wishing him and his family the best of luck in his retirement.