

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PATTY ROSE

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional member of the Pierce County community. I would like to recognize Patty Rose and her remarkable career as a workers' rights advocate, as well as congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

A Tacoma native, Patty Rose started her labor advocacy career in 1974 at the local branch of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), a union with national reach that represents service workers in the healthcare, public, and property service sectors. During her more than 27-year tenure at SEIU, Patty managed the Tacoma office for two decades before becoming a SEIU union representative for over 7 years. In 1981, Patty joined the Pierce County Central Labor Council as a delegate and eventually served as an executive board member in the years before her election as the Pierce County Central Labor Council's first female Secretary-Treasurer.

From partnering with equity-focused constituency groups to boost union membership among minority workers and increase minority student enrollment in apprenticeship programs, to playing a pivotal role in helping to pass a 1998 ballot initiative to establish a minimum wage indexed to inflation, Patty has been instrumental in uplifting the voices of workers in Pierce County and Washington State through her work with and later leadership of the Pierce County Central Labor Council. Over the past 30 years, the labor movement has seen significant changes brought on by the outsourcing of jobs overseas and continued threats to organized labor. In spite of all of these challenges, Patty has remained steadfast in advancing the interests of Washington's workers and fighting for economic justice through her tireless engagement of and outreach to her community.

I commend Patty's courage to meet the challenges of today's economic climate by championing union representation of the current workforce and her efforts to ensure economic security for the next generation of Washington's workers.

HONORING SHERRY TREPPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherry Treppa whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for Lake County because of her service to our community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District

in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in Lake County, California, Ms. Treppa has served on the Executive Council of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe since 2004. She first served as Vice Chairperson before becoming Chairperson, a position she has held for 15 years.

As Chairperson, Ms. Treppa has been instrumental in developing tribal programs that expand access to education, elder care, health care, and home and auto purchase assistance to more Tribal members. She also played an important role in passing essential tribal relief packages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her leadership, the Tribe passed three Tribal CARES Acts, which helped Tribal members and businesses stay afloat, while also providing \$65,000 to local first responder and educational organizations.

Under Chairperson Treppa's leadership, the Habematolel Pomo's philanthropy was extended beyond their own tribe. The Habematolel Pomo donated \$660,000 to the North Shore Fire Protection District to increase their effectiveness in responding to and preventing wildfires. The tribe also donated \$100,000 to the California Tribal Families Coalition's Legal Counsel for Tribes to address the inequality in courtrooms that tribal members face regarding Indian child welfare matters.

In keeping with the Habematolel philosophy that "high tides raise all boats", Chairperson Treppa has been instrumental in establishing the Running Creek Casino, building an expanded local call center, and supporting other programs that resulted in over 240 potential jobs in the rural Upper Lake community. Similarly, she has been engaged in extensive outreach programs with the goal of educating officials and other sovereigns about tribal issues. Her leadership and knowledge of tribal issues have led her to be called on to testify in front of Congress. She also helped to secure bipartisan support for the Indian Child Welfare Act as it faces legal challenges.

Mr. Speaker, Sherry Treppa has been a strong and generous leader as the Chairperson of the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Lake County's 2023 Woman of the Year.

HONORING THOMAS SCOZZAFAVA'S
34 YEARS AS MORIAH TOWN SUPERVISOR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible leadership and determination of Mr. Thomas Scozzafava. Mr. Scozzafava has dedicated his life to public service and, after 49 years, has announced his retirement at the end of this year.

Mr. Scozzafava was born and raised in the Town of Moriah and began his lifetime of service as the town's Buildings and Ground Superintendent. In 1985, at the age of just 28, he was first elected to the position of Moriah Town Supervisor. Mr. Scozzafava left that position in 1998 to work for the Moriah Shock State Correctional Facility. He was drawn back into local government in 2004 when he was again elected Town Supervisor. Ultimately, Mr. Scozzafava served as Moriah Town Supervisor for 34 years and dedicated over four decades of his life to public service and government work.

Mr. Scozzafava has had an unmistakable positive impact on the North Country. He worked tirelessly to improve the local infrastructure in Essex County, building two wastewater treatment plants and working with a team to develop a new local business park. Even as he retires, his passion for improving his community is leading to major changes, including laying the groundwork for a hydro-power project that will generate electricity from the abandoned mines of Essex County.

Mr. Scozzafava spent 49 years dedicated to civil service and improving the North Country. While he will be greatly missed as a Supervisor in our community, we wish him nothing but joy in his retirement. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize and honor the service and achievements of Thomas Scozzafava.

HONORING GEORGE T. MILEKOVICH, SR. ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor and in celebration of the 100th birthday of Mr. George T. Milekovich, Sr., a man who has used his life in service to his country, his community, and his family.

While we would love to claim him as a native Michigander, George was born in Campbell, Ohio, on April 8, 1923. As a young man who came of age as World War II raged, he made the decision to enlist in the United States Navy on May 26, 1943. George was stationed for boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center before he reported to the USS *West Virginia* in August of that same year and headed to the Pacific theater.

George took great pride in his role as a Shipfitter 2nd Class in the R Division onboard the *West Virginia*, which the crew affectionately referred to as "The Mighty Wee Vee". George and his shipmates took part in operations to capture Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. On April 1, 1945, while off the coast of Okinawa, the *West Virginia* was hit by a Japanese Kamikaze plane but was able to remain in action. It's a night forever seared into George's memory. So too is the

• 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.

much more pleasant memory of the camaraderie he experienced when he and his shipmates crossed the equator, transforming them from slimy “Pollywogs” to trusty “Shellbacks” in the Navy’s famous “Crossing the Line” ceremony. Upon his return home, George was honorably discharged from Active Duty on February 6, 1946, but he continued to serve in the United States Naval Reserve for many years to come.

Milekovich settled in Lansing, Michigan, where he married his late wife, Lureta, on February 14, 1947. Together, he and Lureta had four sons: James, Anton, Edmund and George Jr.; and had the pleasure of spoiling another generation of grandchildren. George retired on June 1, 1985, from Michigan State University, where he served as an operating engineer for 26 years at the University Power Plant.

The selflessness of veterans like George Milekovich, Sr., who answered our Nation’s call to serve during World War II, defines the true character of our greatest generation. It is my privilege to wish him a happy 100th birthday, and to thank him for his inspiring service in the United States Navy and his lifelong dedication to his community and his family.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ZACH
BENJAMIN MERRILL

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a friend and proud Marine, Zach Benjamin Merrill.

I served with Zach in Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, as part of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. We were among the survivors of a 7-month tour where our battalion suffered among the worst casualties of the conflict. During the chaos of war, Zach showed immense courage and selflessness in responding to enemy action. Unfortunately, the war followed Zach home. On March 23, 2023, at the young age of 37, he passed away after a courageous battle with Leukemia caused by the toxins we were exposed to in Iraq. Even as he fought his final battle, Zach always made everyone around him smile, regardless of the circumstances.

Zach’s legacy is that of service, honor, and sacrifice. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family, and the hearts of every Marine he served with. I am praying for his wife, Andrea, and his children, Zachary, Julien, and Jaden.

Zach was cherished by those who knew him and will be deeply and sincerely missed. May he rest in peace.

Semper Fidelis, Zach Benjamin Merrill.

HONORING MARY KIMBALL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kimball whom I have named the 2023 Woman of the Year for

Yolo County because of her service to our agricultural community. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California’s 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Kimball’s leadership in the Center for Land-Based Learning’s growth has been invaluable in turning the organization from a small group of 30 high school students to a program with five models. This program helps thousands of students and adults across California learn more about agriculture and the management skills necessary to run a farm. It now partners with hundreds of organizations, businesses, and government agencies to help up and coming farmers succeed.

Ms. Kimball’s civic work has been essential in supporting the agricultural community by funding scholarships for women in the industry and investing in the Sacramento region as a critical food system. She has also worked to protect agricultural and natural resources, particularly when it comes to preserving agricultural land use designations.

Her efforts have had a tremendous impact in making the agricultural industry more accessible to new farmers through education and assistance programs. In doing so, she has helped thousands across the state learn about the best ways to run their businesses while maintaining their land in a sustainable manner.

Born in Carson City, Nevada, Ms. Kimball grew up on a small farm in Woodland where her family continues to live today. She has spent her career in public service for Yolo County and currently works as a Director for Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation board. She spends her extra time as a member of the Sacramento Chapters of Les Dames Escoffier and the Land and Economics Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Kimball has been a strong leader in Yolo County’s agricultural community. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Yolo County’s 2023 Woman of the Year.

HONORING MR. RANDALL
ROBINSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, to honor the extraordinary life and career of Randall Robinson, a legendary activist, lawyer, and a true fighter for racial justice. From reparations for Black Americans to ending apartheid in South Africa, Mr. Robinson dedicated his career to advocating for equity and human rights for all people of African descent. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Randall’s family, his wife Hazel Ross-Robinson, and his three children, Anike, Jabari, and Khalea. They are in my prayers during this difficult time.

Mr. Robinson’s story is one of tremendous courage and is a testament to the goodness that exists in humanity, even in the face of racial injustice. Born in the Jim Crow South, Mr. Robinson’s worldview was heavily influenced by the racial discrimination he faced from a

young age, as he grew up in a society marked by institutional racism and attended segregated schools. From these experiences, Mr. Robinson found a deep passion for political activism and racial justice. He rose to become a leader in representing the African diaspora and African people in the United States.

Randall was a proud graduate of Harvard Law School, a Ford Fellow, a Congressional staff member to Representatives Bill Clay & Charles Diggs, and founder of the TransAfrica Forum. Through TransAfrica, Mr. Robinson organized sit-ins and civil demonstrations, influenced US foreign policy to the Caribbean and throughout the African continent, and ultimately established the leading foreign-policy think-tank for African Americans.

But perhaps, Mr. Robinson’s most notable achievement was his contributions to the end of apartheid, as he forced the United States to confront the evils occurring in South Africa. His organizing efforts included leading daily sit-ins in the South African embassy calling for Nelson Mandela’s release from prison. Randall’s commitment to South African liberation earned him seven arrests for civil disobedience, but ultimately helped influence a congressional override of President Ronald Reagan’s veto of economic sanctions against the South African government.

Mr. Robinson’s dedication to the African community never ceased, even after Nelson Mandela’s successful release and the official end of apartheid.

He famously missed President Mandela’s inauguration, as by then he had already led a month long hunger strike to protest the treatment of Haitian refugees fleeing a military junta. Mr. Robinson ended his hunger strike only after President Clinton committed to granting those fleeing violence in Haiti asylum hearings.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of working with Randall when he was a senior staffer to the late Congressman Diggs and myself with Congressman Ron Dellums. I vividly remember helping Randall organize TransAfrica and the hard work, brilliance and passion of this effort. He never lost his vision and purpose. Because of this, he changed the world.

Randall Robinson was a shining example of public service and activism. He was the first to give voice to so many unheard and ignored African communities in the United States and throughout the world. May his incredible legacy serve as an example to us all, as the work for racial equity remains unfinished. While we mourn his loss, we celebrate a truly remarkable individual who served as a force for justice until the end. May he rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING PLANTER’S HARD-
WARE AND BUILDING INC. FOR
OVER A CENTURY IN BUSINESS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Runyan family, who has been operating Planter’s Hardware and Building, Inc., for over a century.

A member of the Runyan family has been operating Planter’s Hardware & Building Inc.