

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA POPPY KWONG—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Barbara Poppy Kwong of Silver Lake, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Barbara Poppy Kwong has been a Silver Lake resident since 1960. A true native of Silver Lake, Barbara is a graduate of Micheltorena Elementary School, Thomas Starr King Middle School and John Marshall High School. She went on to graduate with a degree in zoology from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Care of the environment has long been a passion for Barbara. Wherever she is and wherever she goes, Barbara responds to her surroundings with an innate sense of caring and desire for improvement. Barbara can be seen picking up trash on her neighborhood walks, cleaning the street and sidewalks around MATS Gym in Hollywood and gathering trash and recyclables in Griffith Park. Over the last 3 years she has personally removed over 4,000 pounds of trash from the streets of Los Angeles.

During a 31-year career at Disney she was the unofficial "Recycling Queen" of her department, separating out anything from office waste that could be recycled or reused—from batteries to bubble wrap to aluminum cans—delivering thousands of pounds of material to proper sites for disposal. Barbara encouraged co-workers to recycle by creating competitions with prizes which included her fantastic baked goods. She collected packing materials that would otherwise be thrown out and donated them to local non-profits for re-use in their shipping departments.

In addition to her environmental causes, many cultural institutions in the local Los Angeles landscape have benefited from Barbara's volunteer efforts. She is a lifelong supporter of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC), the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), the Los Angeles Tanabata Festival, the Los Angeles Zoo, and has become a very active volunteer at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants.

Her dedicated, selfless spirit and decades of generosity in service of community have earned Barbara Poppy Kwong recognition as a Woman of the Year from Silver Lake.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Barbara Poppy Kwong.

HONORING ANTONELLA ROCCO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Antonella Rocco, my fellow who has served Florida's 24th Congressional District over the last year.

Antonella is an environmentalist dedicated to fighting for clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment. While in my office, Antonella has pushed my environmental agenda to great lengths—from drafting legislation to acknowledge climate change and its impact on our homes to researching environmental data, Antonella has prioritized the health of our communities.

Antonella is a force in environmental policy. Her passion has been powerful over the last year as we have fought for the health of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Her commitment to environmental justice has included advocating to move Miami-Dade to safer water systems and bringing attention to Biscayne Bay and nuclear plants located close to the district. Antonella's environmental advocacy has been a lifelong mission of hers.

From dedicating her birthday to raising money for water and wildlife protection, working with a team of ecologists to produce hydrologic and ground-elevation data for the Everglades, and presenting her research at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration conference, Antonella's selfless acts will always shine through.

Antonella has and will continue to make a difference and leave her mark on environmental policy as she continues to fight for our future.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Antonella Rocco for her dedication to a healthy planet and selfless dedication to a brighter future for all.

HONORING ROBERT F. DASH

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and a true friend to veterans across my district and throughout New Jersey, Ronald F. Dash. Ronald served his country with honor and valor as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. After his service in Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves and later transitioned to the Army National Guard attaining a final military rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ronald's dedication to service did not end with his military career. He continues to give

his time generously as an adviser to the Willingboro Township Veterans Advisory Committee which is active within area VFW organizations and American Legions. Most notably, Ron serves as Commander in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 26 right here in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. Ron can also be found at many community events in Willingboro—providing those in need to a hot meal or connecting a fellow veteran to benefits they have earned.

August 7th is Purple Heart Day, and as we prepare to honor and remember the brave men and women who were wounded during their service or paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today, I want to say thank you to Ronald F. Dash for all that he has done to uphold the solemn commitment we have to veterans and their families. The Willingboro community, my district, and the State of New Jersey are all better off thanks to his tireless efforts.

REMEMBERING BELLE ORTIZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Belle Ortiz, who passed away on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Long known for her commitment to music education, Mrs. Ortiz was a trailblazer for the teaching of Mariachi music. She is survived by her husband Juan Ortiz, along with her 4 children, Annabelle Garcia, Roseanna Valenzuela, former state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, and Rolando San Miguel.

After graduating from what is now Our Lady of the Lake University with a degree in music education and performance, Mrs. Ortiz became an educator at a time when Texas schools were openly hostile to Hispanic culture. While teaching at Barkley Elementary School, Mrs. Ortiz was called before the school district's Board of Trustees for teaching children to sing in Spanish, then a prohibited practice in many San Antonio schools—but she could not be deterred.

Utilizing her role as an educator, Mrs. Ortiz pushed for the creation of music education programs that promoted the unique Hispanic heritage of San Antonio. Foremost among her efforts was the creation of the first Mariachi education program in Texas at Lanier High School. Over the subsequent decades, Mrs. Ortiz would expand her Mariachi education efforts across Texas. At both high schools and universities, she touched the lives of thousands. Her actions cumulated when she and her husband founded the world-renowned 12-piece Mariachi ensemble, Campanas de América.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Belle Ortiz. Although I am saddened by her loss, I am confident that her impact on San Antonio and Mariachi will last for years to come. I thank Mrs. Ortiz for her never-ending

• 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.

passion for music and teaching. May God bless her and her loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO CHANCHANIT
MARTORELL—30TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Chanchanit Martorell of the Park La Brea neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Ms. Martorell was born in Thailand and raised in Los Angeles. She attended the University of California, Los Angeles where she received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in urban planning. She was also conferred an honorary doctorate degree in social work from Pacific Oaks College.

For over 3 decades, Chanchanit has been involved in social activism. In the early 1990s, she documented the demographics and human and social service needs of Thais in Los Angeles in a landmark community needs assessment study to advocate for more resources in underserved communities. Currently, Ms. Martorell serves as Executive Director of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC). She established this nonprofit organization in 1994 with the goal to improve the lives of Thai immigrants through services that promote economic self-sufficiency and cultural adjustment. In 1999, Thai CDC, under Chanchanit's leadership, played a role in the 8-year long community organizing campaign which raised community awareness and led to the designation of the first Thai Town in the country in East Hollywood.

Devoted to social and economic justice, Chanchanit actively serves in an array of capacities, including the Los Angeles County District Attorney Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Board and Los Angeles Food Policy Council Leadership Circle. She is also the co-founder of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, the Rotary Club of Thai Town, the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program, the Asian Pacific Islander Human Trafficking Task Force, and the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. Ms. Martorell is most notably known for her work on more than 6 major human rights cases involving more than 2,000 Thai victims of human trafficking who were discovered working in conditions of slavery in the United States. Her advocacy on behalf of the victims and the success of each case led her to become an in-demand spokesperson and leading expert on the issue of modern-day slavery.

Chanchanit has received numerous awards and honors for her exceptional service to the community, including the Asian Americans for Equality "Dream of Equality" Award, KCET Unsung Hero Award, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Distinguished Service Award,

Los Angeles Women's Foundation Mentor Award, Phenomenal Woman Award from California State University, Northridge, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Award, and the Royal Decoration of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn from His Late Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. Ms. Martorell has been married to her husband, Esteban Martorell since 1994 and has 2 grown sons.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Chanchanit Martorell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I was unavoidably detained attending to important matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question (H. Res. 614), NO on H. Res. 614, YES on Ryan Amendment No. 1, NO on Ogles Amendment No. 2, NO on Greene Amendment No. 3, NO on Greene Amendment No. 34, NO on Bost Amendment No. 35, NO on Rosendale Amendment No. 37, NO on Roy Amendment No. 38, NO on Roy Amendment No. 39, NO on Roy Amendment No. 40, and NO on Zinke Amendment No. 41.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, fifty-eight years ago, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became a staple in the fight to expand democracy to all Americans. Unfortunately, much of the ground gained from the law has since eroded. After the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* that stripped essential oversight provisions from the Voting Rights Act, a tidal wave of anti-democratic practices washed over our country to systematically disenfranchise Black and brown voters, harkening back to the Jim Crow south.

Over the past decade, Republicans have implemented restrictive changes to voting practices to intentionally exclude groups of voters. These tactics include reducing the number of polling locations to leave out locations where Democratic voters live, placing limitations on early voting and mail-in voting, implementing strict voter-id laws, gerrymandering voting-districts, enabling armed individuals to intimidate voters and election officials, purging voters from voter rolls, and declaring election fraud when Democratic candidates win. Furthermore, Republicans and right-wing media figures have spread incendiary lies about the U.S. election integrity, leading to far-right extremists storming the Capitol in a failed attempt to prevent the certification of the 2020 presidential election results.

The idea of democracy is sacred. Democracy promotes self-governance. Democracy

promotes settling our differences non-violently and the peaceful transition of power. Democracy promotes tolerance and inclusion. We stand at an unprecedented point in American history where the very existence of our democracy hangs in the balance. We must prevent extreme political actors from implementing anti-democratic voting practices.

I am proud of the work Illinois has done to protect voting rights. For example, all Cook County polling locations offer same-day voter registration on election day. Additionally, Illinois has open-access to mail-in-voting. These provisions make it easier to vote, not harder. These provisions support greater democratic participation, not less. However, these provisions do not go far enough. Congress must protect, defend, and expand democracy at the federal level.

Two years ago, the House passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021, a bill that would require states to receive federal preclearance before implementing changes to voting practices if they have demonstrated a history of voting rights abuses over the past 25 years. The bill would restore the oversights stripped from the Voting Rights Act by *Shelby County v. Holder*. Congress must enact the Voting Rights Advancement Act and bills like it if we are to ensure the survival of American democracy.

Recent Supreme Court decisions on reproductive rights and affirmative action demonstrate that the struggle for equality has not ended for many groups in this country. We cannot grow complacent with the political victories secured thus far. We must defend the rights for which we have fought so hard, and we must remain steadfast in our march toward a true democracy where all citizens have the opportunity to participate equally.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, I know that democracy will persevere as the foundation of America because we will ensure that it does.

HONORING SANTOS RODRIGUEZ OF THE CITY OF DALLAS

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Santos Rodriguez—a young soul whose life was tragically cut short 50 years ago. On July 24, 1973, this innocent 12-year-old boy from Dallas, Texas, fell victim to an appalling act of violence that shook our Nation's conscience and forever changed the lives of his family and community.

On that fateful night, a Dallas police officer z—who was entrusted with protecting and serving the community—took Santos and his brother, David, from their home while responding to a call about a petty theft at a local gas station in the Little Mexico neighborhood. The two brothers were still in their pajamas as they were handcuffed and placed in a police car. In a shocking display of recklessness, the police officer aimed his gun at Santos' head and engaged in a lethal game of Russian roulette. Santos denied any involvement in the crime. Tragically, when the trigger was pulled—the gun fired. Santos was killed as his brother