

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF EDWARD DALY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward Daly, Sr. of Vernon, Connecticut. Ed turns 90 this August 15th, and as he reaches this milestone, it is fitting that we take this opportunity to honor and recognize his contributions as a model citizen and passionate advocate for workers' rights.

Born 1933 to Michael and Catherine Daly, Ed was raised in Hartford, Connecticut. He was instilled with the values of service from a young age. Brought up by a politically active family, he also learned early on that one must proactively fight for effective representation, to improve the lives of working families. There is much to cite about Ed's 90 years of activity. However, it is important to emphasize that organizing—advocating for effective representation—within local, state, and federal communities became a defining mission within Ed's life.

Mr. Speaker, there were several benchmarks from Ed's life which influenced his outlook and community involvement. From 1953 to 1955, he bravely served his country in the Korean War as a radio operator. Upon his return from the Korean peninsula, he pursued an education in and achieved a degree in Animal Science from UConn's esteemed College of Agriculture. In 1969, he and his family moved to Vernon, where they have remained pillars of the community ever since.

Armed with his education, Ed continued his life of public service as a Dairy Inspector for Connecticut's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Afterwards, he transitioned to the Department of Environmental Protection as a founding employee in the Soil Conservation Division. There, as a Land Agent, he helped establish the Open Spaces and Tidal Wetland Programs. The Department of Environmental Protection would eventually morph into the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Ed's early contributions helped nurture the Department into becoming the lynchpin of statewide conservation practices that it is today.

While Ed's trailblazing career with the State's civil service is a living piece of Connecticut history in and of itself, a more prominent aspect of his still incomplete legacy has been his penchant for advocacy. Given his upbringing, Ed viewed a workforce as a community where it was their responsibility to collectively better their own condition. He personally felt the carveouts of the federal government's 1935 Labor Relations Act which notably excluded workers protections for state public employees. Ed spurred to action and laid the foundations for a new era of organized labor in Connecticut. He championed the formation of Connecticut State Employee Association, formally franchised by Generally Assembly

statute in 1975, to represent workers in disputes. Before the arrival of collective bargaining agreements for state employees, civil servants like Ed saw their hours, working conditions and livelihoods at the whims of Connecticut's annual budgetary process. Unsurprisingly, Ed has a history of leadership within the CSEA, including serving as its president in 1986.

As a union leader, Ed was instrumental in uplifting surrogate advocates for the Connecticut State Employee Association. A story that reflects his unyielding organizing efforts was his work to help elect Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso—the very person who, in their first year in office, signed the 1975 statutory recognition of the Connecticut State Employee Association into law. Convinced of her candidacy during the union endorsement convention before the general election, Ed instructed then-candidate Ella Grasso not to leave upon finishing her speech. In a sort of old fashion gamesmanship, he jumped to the stage upon the departure of the other candidate, took control of the microphone and provided a riveting endorsement of Ella Grasso before the audience. As the story goes, Grasso was elected one of the first female governors in U.S. history later that year.

Ed has existed as a backbone in Connecticut Democratic politics. He served as Campaign Manager and Treasurer for several successful local candidates and further served as the Chair of the Vernon Democratic Town Committee from 2001 to 2003, where he helped deliver majorities on the Board of Education and Town Council. I have lived in the same town as Ed for quite some time. I can personally attest that he has been there thick and thin to uplift solid candidates in and out of Vernon, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, as Ed initiates his 90th year, where he continues in his retirement as a serious model railroad maker and avid Red Sox fan, I find it appropriate that we take a moment to recognize this father of organizing. I count myself incredibly fortunate to represent constituents as civically minded and progress-oriented as Ed Daly. I urge my colleagues to pay a testament to his 90 well-lived years.

RECOGNIZING SIBU NAIR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to a pillar of my community and a cultural visionary, Sibü Nair. Sibü's unwavering dedication to preserving the rich cultural heritage of India has had a profound impact on countless Indian American and Asian American members of Western New York.

Since 2010, Sibü has been actively involved in various capacities within the Indian American community, committing himself to cultural

understanding and unity between Western New Yorkers. As the former president of the India Association of Buffalo, he played a pivotal role in securing the first cricket ground in Eric County for the community. His ambitious leadership was also evident in the successful execution of the "Festival of India," or "India Mela." This grand event is attended by thousands of people, including prominent elected officials and delegates from the Indian Consulate, a monumental accomplishment for Buffalo.

As the Vice President of the Hindu Cultural Society of Western New York in 2018, Sibü continued to promote the importance of heritage and tradition to future generations. He recognizes that our children are the torchbearers of our own cultural legacy—a legacy that must be carried on at all costs. This sentiment continues to guide Sibü now as the founder and current Executive Director of the Council of Heritage and Arts of India, an organization dedicated to the preservation and celebration of India's rich culture. His current role as Deputy Director for Asian American Affairs for New York State has further proven his selfless dedication to public service. Of course, that is in addition to his deep involvement in various public committees and boards across Erie County.

Sibü's reputation is formidable; Buffalonians know him as a respected and honorable advocate for the Indian American community. It is with great admiration that I commend him for his relentless efforts to preserve cultural heritage and promote cultural harmony. His contributions have enriched the lives of Western New Yorkers and have left an indelible mark on the community he serves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOÑA JOSEFINA CERVANTES FLORES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Doña Josefina Cervantes Flores, a tireless advocate for farmworkers and a dedicated member of the United Farm Workers (UFW) movement. At the age of 92, she peacefully passed away in Visalia on Monday, June 26, leaving behind a legacy of courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment.

Doña Josefina was part of a remarkable group of veteran farm worker activists who continued to organize and engage with the UFW well into their 70s, 80s, and beyond. Throughout her life, she participated in practically every major VFW campaign and event, witnessing the movement's triumphs and sacrifices. She was a true warrior for agricultural labor rights, tirelessly fighting for the cause that she held dear.

Doña Josefina's fierce loyalty extended not only to her own large family but also to her

• 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.

labor family. She cared deeply for her UFW brothers and sisters, and her commitment to the movement's goals was unwavering. Through strikes, boycotts, marches, and political campaigns, she contributed immensely, to the advancement of farmworker rights.

Born on October 24, 1930, in Calexico, California, to a Yaqui family from Sonora, Mexico, Josefina's warrior spirit was evident from an early age. Despite having no formal education, she taught herself to read and write, demonstrating her determination and resourcefulness. Her encounter with Cesar Chavez in the 1960s in Reedley, Fresno County, was a turning point in her life. From that moment, she became deeply involved with the UFW, learning English and actively participating in organizing efforts. Even a serious injury sustained during an incident in a field did not deter her from her mission.

Josefina's dedication to the UFW extended to the lettuce boycott, organizing events in Chicago and New York. She continued to fast, a powerful form of protest, well into her 80s, despite pleas from her family. Her commitment and activism earned her meetings with prominent figures, including Hilary Clinton, the Kennedys, and President Obama. One of her remarkable contributions was on Cesar Chavez's birthday, March 31, 2021, when Josefina accompanied her great-grandchildren to help First Lady Dr. Jill Biden administer COVID vaccines to farm workers at the movement's historic Forty Acres property near Delano.

Throughout her life, Josefina inspired countless young UFW organizers and personnel. Known for her direct approach, she encouraged workers to take charge of their lives and effect positive change. Her ability to balance patience and urgency left a profound impact on those she mentored. Beyond her public role, Josefina also engaged in caring for UFW staff and leadership children and cooked for Cesar Chavez during his time at the La Paz headquarters in Keene. Her dedication to the cause also extended to her residence at the Paulo Agbayani Retirement Village outside Delano and the Casa Hernandez affordable senior housing neighborhood, both under the auspices of the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

Josefina leaves behind a large and loving family, including her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Her democratic union values and, if possible (*Si Se Puede*), attitude have been passed down through 5 generations, continuing the legacy of her tireless efforts for farmworker rights. In honor of Doña Josefina Cervantes Flores, a memorial service will be held to pay tribute to her extraordinary life and unwavering commitment to the UFW. Her contributions to the farm worker movement will forever be remembered and celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Doña Josefina Cervantes Flores, a true pioneer of the farm worker movement, whose legacy will continue to inspire us all to fight for justice and dignity in the labor community. May her family find comfort in knowing that her contributions have touched the lives of many, leaving an enduring impact on farm workers and communities throughout the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MCGROARTY
ARTS CENTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McGroarty Arts Center in Tujunga, California, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary.

The McGroarty Arts Center is named after the late John Steven McGroarty, former Congressman and Poet Laureate of California. Born in 1862, McGroarty moved to the Los Angeles area in 1901, settling in the Verdugo Hills of Tujunga. That same year he began his 40-year career as a journalist and editorial writer for the Los Angeles Times, penning the "Seen from the Green Verdugo Hills" weekly column.

The McGroarty home, known as "Rancho Chupa Rosa," was constructed in 1923 on the surviving foundation of the burned-down house of John and Ida McGroarty. It served as their home during the latter portion of Mr. McGroarty's distinguished career in writing and politics.

Upon Mr. McGroarty's death in 1944, Rancho Chupa Rosa went to his niece, Miss Margaret McHale who sold the property and surrounding acres in 1953 to the City of Los Angeles. The City's Department of Recreation and Parks managed the McGroarty home until 1974, when the supervision was transferred to the Department of Cultural Affairs, a few years after the home was declared a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. Since 1995, when the center was privatized, it has been operated by the non-profit organization, the McGroarty Arts Center in partnership with the City's Department of Cultural Affairs.

A thriving community arts complex, the center offers access to arts and history by providing a variety of creative events, comprehensive arts instruction, and the cultural and historic venue for artists to show their work in a multitude of forms. The McGroarty Arts Center has hosted countless events, workshops, and exhibitions over the years in the beautiful, historic home that is deeply cherished by the members of the community. Events include the annual Ceramics Juried Open Exhibition, the annual Chili Bowl Fest and Art Craft Faire, Hanukkah in the Foothills and Poet Laureate of Sunland Tujunga celebrations, as well as drawing, ceramic, piano, tai chi and watercolor classes.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring McGroarty Arts Center upon the celebration of its Centennial Anniversary.

IN MEMORIAM OF MRS. ZINETTA
MARIE NASSIF

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Zinetta Marie Nassif.

Mrs. Nassif was born on June 3, 1944, and lived an incredible life serving her family, community, and country. She had a passion for her loved ones and a remarkable giving spirit.

Mrs. Nassif was often described as the most fun to be around at a party, as she had a keen sense for bringing people together. Her ability to connect was best exemplified during her tenure abroad with her husband, Ambassador Thomas Nassif.

Mrs. Nassif served alongside her husband, Thomas Nassif, when he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Morocco. Mrs. Nassif's diplomatic efforts were highly regarded by those she worked with. Her commitment to public service and unwavering support for her husband made her a beloved figure in Morocco and at home in the United States. The Nassifs' legacy of service to their country will always be remembered and admired by those who knew them.

On August 5, 2023, Mrs. Zinetta Marie Nassif passed away at her home in La Jolla, California. Mrs. Nassif left a noteworthy impact across the globe with her servant's heart, and her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 11, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to extend my deepest appreciation and profound gratitude to the extraordinary legislative fellows who have graced my office with their unwavering dedication and unyielding commitment.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our Nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states and the Nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and the benefits from their contributions everyday. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves.

That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by so many great public figures that came before me. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure there are several other great young men and women who served as legislative fellows this Spring and Summer in my office. Each day, they exemplified the highest standards of excellence, bringing forth fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and an unrelenting drive to effect positive change