

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. FRANCINE L. BROADOUS OPUTA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Dr. Francine L. Broadous Oputa. Her journey, characterized by unwavering faith, an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and an unyielding dedication to her community, stands as an inspirational testament to the profound impact of a life devoted to service.

Born on May 31, 1953, in San Fernando, California, Dr. Francine's life unfolded as a tapestry interwoven with threads of faith, education, and community service. She was the youngest among eleven siblings, born to Pastor/Dr. Hillery Talbert and Mother Rosa Lee (Cox-Thompson) Broadous. Her spiritual roots were firmly planted at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, founded by her own father, where her passion for performance first took root. Francine's thirst for knowledge knew no bounds. Her academic journey led her through several distinguished institutions, including Long Beach State, Stanislaus State, UC Davis, and Fresno State. Her unwavering pursuit of excellence culminated in a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. Throughout her academic odyssey, she not only enriched her own mind but also ignited the flames of aspiration in countless young hearts within her community.

In the autumn of 1976, fate brought Francine and Henry Ifeanyi-Chukwu Oputa together at Stanislaus State in Turlock, California. Their love story blossomed, and on August 20, 1977, they embarked on a 46-year-long adventure as husband and wife. Their journey led them to Fresno, where they would establish their family and leave a lasting mark on the community. Faith played a pivotal role in their lives, inspiring the founding of The Way Ministries John . . . 14:6 in November 1989. Their dedication to the community materialized in the establishment of the Saturday Cultural School and the creation of a lasting tribute, the "When I think of Home" mural, which stands as a testament to their unwavering commitment to West Fresno.

Francine's career spanned 30 impactful years at Fresno State, where she held the esteemed position of Director of the Cross Cultural and Gender Center (CCGC). Her dedication to diversity, cultural competency, and support for students, faculty, and staff was evident through her tireless efforts and the programs she championed, including the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute and the Women's Resource Center. Upon retiring from the university in 2020, Francine founded Oputa & Associates, a successful consulting firm that drew from her decades of experience in performing, inspirational speaking, and diversity, equity, and inclusion training. As CEO, she

continued her mission of making a positive impact on a nationwide scale.

Dr. Francine L. Broadous Oputa's life exemplified the values of faith, education, and community service. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations, a testament to the transformative power of a life well-lived. Her contributions to her community, her unwavering commitment to education, and her boundless faith will forever be etched in our hearts.

Francine was preceded in death by her parents, Pastor/Dr. Hillery Talbert and Mother Rosa Lee (Cox-Thompson) Broadous, as well as six siblings. She is survived by her husband, Rev./Dr. Henry Ifeanyi-Chukwu Oputa, her three children—Chunyendu "CeCe" N. Oputa, I Adeficha Oputa, and Nwachukwu N. Oputa, and several siblings. Her memory will forever be cherished by her family, her community, and all those whose lives she touched.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating this significant moment in the life of Dr. Francine L. Broadous Oputa, a woman whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the hearts and souls of many.

HONORING DON AND DEBRA LUKE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Don and Debra Luke for their dedication and commitment to Arizona and their support for organizations and candidates that uphold the principles and values that have made Arizona and our nation great.

The Luke family has deep roots in Arizona. In 1873, Frank Luke moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Frank married Otilia and had 9 children. One of their children, Frank Luke, Jr. was a leading ace in WWI. Luke Air Force Base, just west of Phoenix, is named after him. Frank and Otilia's youngest son, Bill Luke was the founder of Bill Luke Chrysler-Plymouth and was the head of the automobile dealership until he passed away. Don Luke, Bill and Dorothy Luke's son, started working in the family business at the age of 13, progressed up the ladder, and is now President and CEO of Bill Luke Dealerships. Don and Debra have three sons.

Don and Debra Luke are great people. I have found them to be very friendly and sincere. They are so easy to talk with and we share many values together. Don and Debra really care about our community, state, and nation. I wish we had more people like Don and Debra Luke. They are truly great Americans.

May their values and legacy live on for generations.

HONORING NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CEN- TER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center on 10 years of dedicated service to the community. Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC) provides services for abused children in areas all across the region, including Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, and Roscommon counties. Since 2014, NMCAC has been a compassionate voice for those most vulnerable in our society. Under the leadership of Executive Director and Founder Rebecca Yuncker, NMCAC has transformed from a one-person operation into one of the greatest advocacy organizations in the state, offering counseling, advocacy, forensic interviewing and medical services for both children and adults. With locations in both Tawas City and Roscommon, this diverse group of professionals have dedicated their lives to the noble undertaking of improving the lives of those who desperately need it most. They are a great example of servant leadership and I'm grateful for their selfless devotion to this cause. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center on 10 years of dedicated service to our communities and state.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN WINKLER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian Winkler for his 40 years of dedicated service to our community in Eastern Washington and to the United States of America. Following in the footsteps of his father, a decorated World War II veteran, Brian served as a U.S. Navy Seabee for 15 years and dedicated his life to upholding their motto of "We Build, We Fight, Can Do."

Brian's "Can Do" spirit and commitment to service did not stop there. For the past 25 years, he has tirelessly devoted himself to helping veterans, their families, and his community. Among his many remarkable achievements, Mr. Winkler spearheaded the construction and donation of a water park that has provided joy to generations of young children in our region. Moreover, he has generously shared his time, expertise, and resources with the Salvation Army, City Gate, and numerous other local charities.

To this day, Mr. Winkler maintains a "Seabee" float that he built which he showcases at

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

parades and veterans events across Eastern Washington. He has also used his business to create employment opportunities for more than 200 individuals in Washington's Fifth Congressional District, significantly improving the lives of families in his community.

In addition to his extensive community work, Mr. Winkler has been an unwavering advocate for veterans from every branch of the military. He has extended his support to organizations such as the Seabee Veterans of America, Spokane Veterans Home, Navy League of the United States, Honor Point Military Aerospace Museum, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Spokane chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the United States Marine Corps League, and many more.

Mr. Winkler is a selfless individual who represents everything that is good in the United States of America. His unyielding desire to give back to his community, as well as his enduring commitment to our country and veterans who selflessly served it, are a testament to his profound dedication to helping others. His continued contributions will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the lives of so many, and I know I speak for everyone in Eastern Washington when I say our community is a better place due to his "Can Do" efforts to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brian Winkler for his tremendous contributions to Eastern Washington and thanking him for his dedicated service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE BY DUMFRIES NATIVE TISHA LEWIS

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Tisha Lewis for her dedication to her hometown of Dumfries, Virginia and the surrounding community.

Tisha Lewis was born and raised in Dumfries, Virginia and attended Montclair Elementary School, Saunders Middle School, and Hylton High School. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Virginia Tech, Ms. Lewis successfully pursued a career in journalism, working at television stations across the country in New York City, Bakersfield, California, Miami, Florida, and Indianapolis, Indiana. Ms. Lewis has reported on top national stories and interviewed notable figures, such as former President Bill Clinton, former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Reverend Jesse Jackson, and former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In 2015, the Dumfries community excitedly welcomed her back home to Virginia when she started as an anchor on FOX 5 DC. Since then, the community has been proud to watch her on screen and grateful for her many contributions to Dumfries and communities across Virginia. Ms. Lewis co-founded Sisters Peak, a youth mentorship program that empowers young girls in the community to rise to their full potential. In 2023, she received the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding service to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Tisha Lewis for her leadership and compassion, as well as being honored with the Town of Dumfries' 2024 Hometown Hero Award. This remarkable achievement is a testament to her unwavering dedication and her deep commitment to her hometown.

VETERANS GROUP TO DOJ: IMPANEL GRAND JURY, INDICT BLINKEN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following press release from Veterans For Peace, brought to my attention by Jim Brasile, a constituent and leader of a local chapter of Veterans For Peace who cares passionately about the situation in Gaza. While I may have a difference in opinion with some of the content, I feel that in a democracy, it is important to consider a variety of viewpoints. Mr. Brasile witnessed the violence of war first-hand when he served in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. Since then, he has been a steadfast advocate against conflict and for non-aggression. I thank Mr. Brasile for his service to our country and commend him for his commitment to peace.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS CALL HIM OUT FOR LYING TO CONGRESS

A national veterans' organization today called for a grand jury to indict Department of State (DOS) Secretary Antony Blinken and the U.S. Ambassador to Israel for lying to Congress, violating the Export Control Act, the Genocide Prevention Act and the U.S. War Crimes Act.

In a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice, Veterans For Peace (VFP) cited published reports showing that internal DOS emails and the statements of two senior State Department officials showed Blinken lied when he issued his "Report to Congress" stating, "... we do not currently assess that the Israeli government is prohibiting or otherwise restricting the transport or delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance." (p. 32)

ProPublica revealed a series of State Department emails, internal memos, and meeting notes in which officials agreed Israel was blocking humanitarian aid which should trigger Section 6201 of the Foreign Assistance Act which prohibits weapons shipments to any country the President has been told is blocking humanitarian aid.

In addition to the internal documents ProPublica included, from previous reports, that Samantha Power, Director of USAID and Stacy Gilbert, a former USAID bureau head had both voiced objections to Blinken's findings as the report was being prepared.

Power stated that the looming famine in Gaza was the result of Israel's "arbitrary denial, restriction, and impediments of U.S. humanitarian assistance" and called it "one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in the world."

Gilbert, former senior civil military adviser in USAID's refugees bureau, resigned in May after the DOS "Report to Congress" was released. She said then, "There is abundant evidence showing Israel is responsible for blocking aid. To deny this is absurd and shameful. That report and its flagrant untruths will haunt us."

VFP human rights counsel Terry Lodge said, "The Israeli military continues detonating massive bombs in southern Beirut—bombs they would not possess but for Antony Blinken's repeated violations of federal laws aimed at halting human rights and war crimes violations. Members of the Biden administration unwilling to rein in Israel and furthering its genocide in Gaza need to go to jail."

VFP President Susan Schnall stated, "Just last week, the U.S. gave Israel another \$8.7 billion in weapons to kill and wound innocent Palestinians—in addition to the \$3.8 billion we give them every year. This 'Genocide Tax' is a theft from millions of Americans who have none of the health insurance every Israeli enjoys; from millions of Americans living in horrific housing while Israel builds thousands of upscale homes on land stolen from Palestinians; from millions of young Americans can't afford college because America's top priorities are weapons and death, not human needs."

VFP's letter seeking an indictment of Blinken follows one to the DOS Inspector-General February 9, 2024, alleging that Blinken and DOS officials had already violated a series of existing U.S. laws and international treaties by transferring arms to Israel, by quoting a sworn declaration from Josh Paul, Mr. Paul, former Director of Congressional and Public Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, attested to significant failures by the Department in a declaration filed in the Defense for Children International—Palestine lawsuit.

VFP's February letter was never responded to nor acknowledged.

ProPublica also reported that:

The head of the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration had determined that Israel was blocking humanitarian aid and that the Foreign Assistance Act should be triggered to freeze almost \$830 million in taxpayer dollars earmarked for weapons and bombs to Israel.

DOS Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mira Resnick, and the DOS acting legal adviser, Richard Visek, pressured that bureau and others to agree that Israel was not withholding U.S. humanitarian aid.

Veterans For Peace has one hundred chapters in the U.S. Since 1985 VFP has exposed the true cost of war and advocated to abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF CHRIS QUIRE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Chris Quire of Franklin County for being named Kentucky Sheriff's Association Sheriff of the Year in recognition of his 25 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Quire has risen through the ranks from parking citation officer to Captain before being elected Sheriff in 2018. His time as Sheriff has been defined by ensuring the safety of the people of Franklin County. Under his leadership, the Franklin County Sheriff's office was able to fully staff each school in the county with a School Resource Officer.

Sheriff Quire has earned the respect and support of Franklin County due to his ability to foster strong relationships and his commitment to the well-being of the community.