

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KELLY FLAHERTY
CLARK AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Kelly Flaherty Clark has lived in Central Florida for 35 years and is the corporate vice president of animal behavioral well-being and management for SeaWorld and Busch Gardens parks. She has a Master of Science in Biology from Clemson University and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from The Ohio State University. She completed Orlando Political Leadership Institute's curriculum and is a passionate advocate for civil liberties and equality.

Thirty-six years ago, Kelly was one of few women in her field. As one of its first executives, she committed to elevating other women through service on executive boards and committees of zoological professional organizations, such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Alliance of Marine Animal Parks and Aquariums, and others. She dedicates herself to young women interested in behavioral or biological sciences, never turning down a visit to a science class or a conversation with an aspiring animal professional.

Raised by a woman who, at 86, still cooks for the homeless community Kelly is drawn to public service and philanthropy. She "rings the bell" for the Salvation Army and attends every cause event she can schedule. In 2008, a gala introduced Kelly to Make-A-Wish, which is dedicated to granting the wishes of children facing life-threatening illnesses. She served on their board for 12 years and facilitated the chapter's significant growth in number of children served. Kelly has several professional and community accomplishments but is most proud to have raised two brilliant, successful, and, most importantly, tolerant young men. Casey, 28, and Spencer, 25. The two attended Central Florida's K-12 public schools and graduated from The Ohio State University and Emerson College, respectively. She has been married to her husband, Stewart, for 32 years and will serve her family, community, and profession for as long as she is able.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
JEFFREY JEWETT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Jeffrey Donald Jewett of Galena, Ohio, who peacefully passed away on January 10, 2024 with his family by his side.

Mr. Jewett was born on February 24, 1962, in Columbus, Ohio, to Ron and Barbara

Jewett. He began his career in the electric power industry and founded Jewett Electric Company in 1996. Jewett Electric has continued to provide the Galena community with outstanding professional electrical contracting services under Mr. Jewett's leadership. From an early age, Mr. Jewett was an avid athlete and participated in numerous sports, including football, volleyball, and soccer. He was a lifelong fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Cleveland Browns. Mr. Jewett was also fond of classic cars, particularly Corvettes, Chevelles, and Chargers, and he would always stop to admire them.

Those who knew Mr. Jewett could testify to his love for animals. Along with his wonderful wife Debra, he rescued several puppies from the streets and provided them with a warm, loving home. His selfless efforts made a difference in their lives and shows his dedication to helping those in need. In his final years, he frequently visited his second home in Florida, where he planned to retire. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing, and I have no doubt that his life and contributions have made a lasting impact on the world.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol in recognition of Mr. Jewett's compassionate and fulfilling life. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
JAMES FLURRY

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of James Clyde Flurry of Marysville who recently passed away peacefully at the age of 79 years old.

James was an exceptional member of our community, where he spent more than 40 years working for the Marysville Joint Unified School District serving in many different capacities.

James started his career at the young age of 18, where he drove his peers to school, parked the bus, and joined them in class. He always recounted his time as a bus driver very fondly. He went on to work as a teacher, vice principal, and later as a school board member.

James originally hailed from Ukiah, California, and moved to Marysville early in life where he attended Marysville High School and Chapman University.

In addition to working for the Marysville Joint Unified School District, James also spent more than three decades working summers as a field representative for Del Monte Foods.

James loved helping his students, especially those who had a rough home life and needed additional support. He greatly valued community service and was a member of the Crossroads Community Church for over 20 years. He was also an active member of the Linda

Lyons Club and Marysville Exchange, where he enjoyed selflessly volunteering in the community.

James is survived by the mother of his children, Randi Flurry; his children, Jennifer and Greg; two stepsons, Jon and Scott; several grandchildren; and his many family members and friends. He will be greatly missed by our community. May he rest in peace.

HONORING DEBRA BOOTH AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN-
TRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Debra Booth was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and moved to Central Florida at age two. She began her career at AT&T, where she became involved with the Communications Workers of America union and quickly rose through the ranks to vice president of AT&T. Debra became involved with the Central Florida AFL-CIO, which represents labor unions in five counties with over 140,000 workers. The goals were to bring economic and social justice to the workers and community, resulting in a better quality of life for all.

She ascended to the Office of President of the Central Florida AFL-CIO and became the first woman to hold that position, which she held for 12 years. Her main responsibility was to serve the unions and coordinate all the political activities for the Central Florida area. This allowed her to interact with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels while working on legislation such as a living wage ordinance, anti-discrimination policies, immigration, affordable housing, and local hire policies with Orlando venues.

Debra was then hired by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a special organizing project to increase market share. The program was so successful in Florida that it now operates in almost every state.

In 2009, she was appointed district director for Florida's Eighth Congressional District, representing Central Florida. In 2011, she opened a political consulting firm representing mostly elected officials in Central Florida. She assisted presidential campaigns with advance work and worked on numerous federal, state, and local campaigns resulting in Orange County becoming a Democratic county with a Democratic majority of elected officials.

In 2017, she was appointed to serve as chief legislative aide to Senator Victor Torres and currently holds this position. Debra has served on numerous boards, including Harbor House Center for Domestic Violence and the executive committee for the Heart of Florida United Way.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE VALIANT SERVICE OF CAPTAIN LARRY TAYLOR

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant service of Captain Larry Taylor and his induction into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. Although no longer with us, having sadly passed away on Monday, January 29, 2024, Captain Taylor's legacy lives on through the lives he touched.

Captain Taylor faithfully followed the family tradition of military service. His family's service in both World War I and World War II exposed Captain Taylor to the sacrifices our brave service men and women must endure to protect the homeland. While attending the University of Tennessee, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon his graduation in 1966. He qualified as an Army Aviator assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, where he completed over 2000 combat missions as a helicopter pilot.

One particularly dangerous mission illustrated the deep reservoir of bravery that was a hallmark of Captain Taylor's career. In 1968, while deployed in Vietnam, Captain Taylor came to the aid of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol under immense enemy fire, evacuating them from far behind enemy lines in the dead of night. Captain Taylor was only ordered to lend fire support to the patrol; however, after expending his entire stock of 152 rockets and 16,000 minigun rounds, it was clear the patrol had no hope of escape. Captain Taylor, realizing immediate air evacuation was the patrol's only hope, disobeyed direct orders to fall back and instead landed in the dark jungle to extract the patrol himself. His Cobra attack helicopter flew the entire patrol—clinging to the rocket pods and helicopter skids—to safety.

From my own time as a flight surgeon supporting U.S. Army Rangers, I am intimately aware of the pressures placed upon helicopter support squadrons. However, Captain Taylor's act of bravery over 50 years ago remains a valiant icon to Army aviators. In September of 2023, Captain Taylor was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his act of heroism. Yet, when Captain Taylor was informed by the President of the United States that he was to receive the Medal of Honor, the Captain humbly replied, "I thought you had to do something to receive a Medal of Honor."

After completing his service, Captain Taylor returned to his home state of Tennessee where he ran a sheet metal company in Chattanooga. He was deeply involved as a veteran in his community and generously donated to organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity, and the Railroad Museum. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Toni, their two sons, Larry and Grady, and five grandchildren.

Captain Taylor's life is a testament to duty and excellence in action, and it is with the greatest honor and respect that I commend his induction as part of the newest class of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame and humbly remember his bravery.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the centennial anniversary of The Wyoming Valley Children's Association. For a century, this noble association has been an integral part of our community in Northeast Pennsylvania, providing children with a variety of developmental conditions an inclusive environment to discover and develop into curious learners and compassionate citizens.

Founded in 1924 by members of the Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre and Community Chest, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association was formed to provide support for children with disabilities. Over the last 100 years, the association has grown to support the needs of children with a wide range of disabilities and developmental delays through fundraisers, specialized programs, events for the children and more.

Today, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association strives to eliminate the effects of developmental delays through therapeutic services and quality education, believing in every child's unique potential. The Together We Grow Preschool is among its most impactful programs as it provides a warm, nurturing atmosphere for children to begin to develop their abilities. The association also offers Early Intervention programs, homebased therapy and education services for children from birth through three years of age.

The association's kindergarten program, which began in 2019, creates an environment rich in learning and social opportunities and features unique, inclusive classrooms focused on individual growth and developmental success for each and every student.

The Wyoming Valley Children's Association has had nothing but a positive impact on our community. For 100 years, the Wyoming Valley Children's Association has been caring for and supporting the children living in the Wyoming Valley and beyond. Its commitment to service, leadership and community has been an inspiration to all. I am honored to recognize the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's many achievements and would like to congratulate its members on this important milestone.

HONORING DEBORAH ANN ASHLEY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Deborah Ann Ashley was born in Kissimmee, Florida. She attended public schools in Osceola County and graduated from Osceola High School.

After graduation, she was employed by the Osceola County School District as a classroom teacher assistant and later worked in re-

tail at Zayre department store. Deborah is currently employed with the City of Kissimmee Police Department, rising from clerk technician to administrative assistant III.

Deborah served as president of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Unified Mission Ministry, is the director of the Mass Choir, and works with the youth department. She served as president of the Senior Women Ministry in Congress #2 and holds the honor of third vice president of the Senior Women Ministry in the First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association.

Deborah loves singing and has a passion for service, mission outreach, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. She demonstrated her passion by implementing an Annual Free Market that provided necessities to those in need in the community.

Deborah's passion for service flowed over to her job at the Kissimmee Police Department. She participated in the Relay for Life Breast Cancer Walk, was the organizer of the Christmas Angel Tree Projects, and the coordinator of the United Way Bowl-a-Thon for the City of Kissimmee.

While employed with the police department, Deborah received recognitions for Secretary of the Year, Support Person of the Year, Administrative Secretary of the Year, and the Chief's Award. In Christian service, Deborah received a Certificate of Completion from the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Bible Academy and Recognition for Outstanding Service and Ministry Leadership Award.

Deborah Ashley is the proud mother of three children, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of two.

Deborah will retire on March 29, 2024, after 32 years and three months of dedicated service with the City of Kissimmee Police Department.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOU SEPERSKY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lou Sepersky, whose decades of dedicated public service and visionary contributions have left an indelible mark on New York City. I was privileged to have known Lou for over sixty years, and it was an honor to work with him as a colleague and call him my friend.

As the President of MetroEast, he played a pivotal role in reigniting the momentum for the long-delayed full-build Second Avenue subway. His relentless advocacy and leadership were instrumental in securing support and federal funding for this vital project. Lou's dream for the subway to extend from 125th Street, cutting across Manhattan to Hanover Square, was not just a transportation plan but a vision for connecting and transforming communities.

His deep commitment to public service shone through his extensive involvement with Manhattan's Community Board Six. Serving with distinction for over five decades, he became the longest-serving Community Board Member in the city.

Lou was a fervent advocate for public spaces. He played a key role in creating the