

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHIEF PHIL COLLUM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chula Vista Assistant Police Chief Phil Collum, a 29-year veteran of the department who we sadly lost to cancer. His service and his legacy will always be remembered.

Those who knew Assistant Police Chief Collum best emphasize his empathy, his compassion, his reputation for being fair, his work ethic, and more than anything, his dedication to his community.

Community was at the heart of everything Assistant Police Chief Collum did. He gave the directive in 2022 to create the Community Engagement Division to help foster community relationships—and he personally led this division.

He was committed to building bridges between officers and the community they serve. Through the Community Engagement Division, he worked to make sure that the Chula Vista Police Department was actively connecting with community members including residents, students, and business owners.

Assistant Police Chief Collum was also deeply involved in charity work. He volunteered at his church. He went to Tijuana every month to support orphanages and help children in need as part of the Corazón de Vida Foundation—his empathy and compassion for others on full display.

And, Assistant Police Chief Collum was a true trailblazer. He was the Chula Vista Police Department's first Black lieutenant, first Black captain, and first Black assistant chief.

He was also the first openly gay male officer in the department. In his own words, during an interview in 2022, Assistant Police Chief Collum said that he was proud to be a member of the LGBTQ community. He was proud to be a law enforcement officer. He was proud of his husband. He was proud of his community. And that he wanted to celebrate that.

I can't think of a better way to sum up his incredible contributions to our community. He broke down barriers and was a role model for so many.

Assistant Police Chief Collum is survived by his loving husband, William Lopez, and my heart is with his family, his friends, his colleagues, and our entire community as we mourn this immense loss.

We will always remember Assistant Police Chief Collum.

HONORING NELSON CRUZ AND LA VOZ HISPANA

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nelson Cruz and La Voz

Hispana, a music shop owned by the Cruz family, which has served the Chicagoland area for more than 60 years.

"Musica y Cultura", the slogan for La Voz Hispana encompasses what it has represented for Chicago.

You will find people in the neighborhood who remember buying their first guitar or first set of bongós there. Mothers took their kids to La Voz Hispana for music lessons, and the shop also helped promote new Latino artists as they passed through Chicago.

It was my favorite Latin Jazz store to visit. I bought records, tapes, cd's, maracas, a guiro and a triangle there.

This neighborhood spot will be missed by many.

I wish Nelson an enjoyable retirement, which I'm sure will be full of music (Le deseo a Nelson que disfrute su retiro, que seguro estará lleno de música).

CONGRATULATING LARRY FOSTER

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Foster of the Navajo Nation for his induction into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame. This honor demonstrates the outstanding leadership and athletic achievement of Mr. Foster. It is a hallmark of his commitment and dedication.

Foster was a student at Window Rock High School in Arizona where he earned All State and All Conference Honors in baseball, football, and basketball from 1966 to 1969. Upon graduating high school, he continued to play baseball at Bacone Juniors College in Muskogee, Oklahoma and later Adam State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He was named as the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Batting Champion in 1971 with a batting average of .442.

After college Foster played semi-pro baseball and was a nine-time All Tournament outfield and batting champion and continued to play in All Indian baseball tournaments from 1964 to 1976.

Foster now resides in Gallup, New Mexico with his wife Mattie Foster. He continues to be an active member of his community, including being a local sportswriter Ná baa hózhó (Congratulations), Mr. Foster. We are grateful for his contribution to sports in New Mexico.

CONDEMNING IRAN'S UNPRECEDENTED DRONE AND MISSILE ATTACK ON ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, supporting the overall intent of H. Res. 1143, condemning Iran's unprecedented drone and missile attack on Israel.

However, while supporting much of the intentions of this resolution, I believe that it is imperative to make clear that, as this resolution affirms Israel's right to "respond to this aggression through military, diplomatic, economic, and other necessary means," I do not intend my vote in favor of the resolution to be taken as an endorsement of any military action Prime Minister Netanyahu might take in response. We stand at a dangerous time for the region, and any response to Iran's attack should be measured with the goal of achieving lasting regional peace.

In advancing this resolution, let us not forget our steadfast, ironclad dedication to upholding international peace.

CELEBRATING BORICUA COLLEGE

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Boricua College is a cutting-edge higher education institution founded in 1974, by members of New York's Puerto Rican community. It is a majority minority institution, primarily serving Latino nontraditional students. Not only is Boricua College important for the population it serves but is also unique in its approach to education. Its focus on humanistic learning is one of a kind and creates a distinct learning environment serving a unique student population.

Boricua College provides an environment for historically excluded nontraditional students to reach their potential, while giving them space to explore their own cultures and the cultures of their peers across their three New York City campuses, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the South Bronx.

The college has an extensive faculty consisting of many Latino academics, providing a wide array of perspectives, and creating possibility models for the students attending Boricua College.

Their unique approach to education uses the Five Ways of Learning method. These include individualized attention, colloquium, experiential studies, theoretical studies, and cultural studies. By focusing on all five of these, Boricua College students receive a well-rounded, practical, and meaningful education experience.

• 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.

Leadership development is also central to the mission of the college. Boricua College engages and empowers all their students through encouraging the development of students' critical thinking skills and cultural competency to ignite the spark of leadership in their entire student population.

I would like to Congratulate Boricua College on 50 years of providing outstanding education and I look forward to seeing the institution's continuous dedication to their students and the community.

REMEMBERING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE, (RET) CARTER SMYRE, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, outstanding father, proud grandfather, astute entrepreneur, distinguished military officer, faithful man of God and friend of longstanding, Chief Warrant Officer Three, (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. Sadly, CWO3 Smyre transitioned from labor to reward on April 12, 2024. A homegoing celebration attended by friends and family will be held on April 19, 2024, at the Ward Chapel AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The extraordinary life story of CWO3 Carter Smyre, Jr. began with his birth to the union of the late Staff Sergeant Carter Smyre, Sr. and Mrs. Selma Tinsley Smyre on June 7, 1925, in Griffin, Georgia. Following the example of his father, young Carter Smyre, Jr. set out to blaze his own path in the United States Army. One of his proudest moments was graduating from the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, (now Fort Novosel) Alabama. For 25 years, he served his country, rising through the ranks and ultimately being appointed by the Secretary of the Army as Chief Warrant Officer Three—a technical leader, trainer, operator, maintainer, sustainer, integrator, and advisor. CWO3 Smyre's life was always the epitome of the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity, honor, and personal courage—values which give soldiers direction, purpose, and motivation to be, know, and do what is right. And for 98 years that has been his legacy.

Following his retirement from the Army, Carter Smyre owned and operated a grocery store, worked 10 years as a real estate agent at Carter Realty Company and then founded his own company, Smyre Realty Company which he operated for 42 years. He had immense joy when he was able to help others realize the dream of home ownership and because of his commitment to his craft and excellence, former Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him to the Georgia Residential Housing and Finance Authority Board of Directors where he served the entire State of Georgia.

It has been said that "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with both hands but who climbs with one hand and reaches back with the other." Chief Warrant Officer Smyre always reached back to help others throughout the Chattahoochee Valley Area to include his beloved East Carver Heights Community, the

Moderns Club and the Path Seekers Civic and Social Club to name a few.

On a personal note, CWO3 Smyre was a special friend and was "family" to my wife, Vivian, and me. He encouraged us to pursue our dreams and supported us every step of the way as he did for so many others who have been blessed by his wise advice, counsel, and mentorship. He led by example and because of that sterling example, others, including his beloved son, former State Representative Calvin Smyre, have thrived in service to others.

Carter Smyre accomplished much in life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his late wife, Mrs. Mildred Bass Smyre; his current wife, P.J. Glover; his devoted son, former State Representative and U.S. Representative/Public Delegate to the 78th United Nations General Assembly, Calvin Smyre; his late daughter Gwendolyn Smyre-Foster, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other extended family members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in celebrating the extraordinary life of Chief Warrant Officer Three (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who mourn his loss. May we all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGEGUIDE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois, an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering older adults to live with dignity and independence. As one of 622 Area Agencies on Aging throughout the United States, established by Congress to implement the Older Americans Act, AgeGuide stands as a representation of excellence in its field.

When AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois was established in 1974, the Illinois Department on Aging designated it as the Area Agency on Aging for DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Grundy, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. For half a century, AgeGuide has provided invaluable services and resources to seniors, ensuring that they are well taken care of and respected in our society.

On this momentous occasion, we honor the dedication and hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois who have tirelessly worked towards improving the lives of older adults. Their compassion, generosity, and determination have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are truly grateful for their dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a proactive and collaborative organization that has positively transformed the lives of countless individuals and I ask my colleagues to

join me in celebrating AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois' remarkable 50 years of service, advocacy, and empowerment for our seniors.

NO U.S. FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 15, I will vote No on H.R. 5921, the No Financing for Iran Act. While I agree with the bill's stated goal of preventing the Iranian government from accessing the U.S. financial system, the bill goes much further than that and has several issues.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5921 as written would likely inflict significant harm on small businesses in Oregon and across the country. The bill includes provisions to prevent the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (ExIm Bank) from financing projects associated with Iran's government. However, under current U.S. policy, ExIm is already prohibited from doing business with the government of Iran and Iran-related sanctioned persons (as are all U.S. government entities and U.S. persons).

As Ranking Member WATERS has noted, H.R. 5921's duplicative provisions will impose overly burdensome requirements on the ExIm Bank, which would dramatically increase the cost, processing time, and resources needed to review transactions and help American small businesses. The bill would also put American small businesses at a disadvantage to foreign competitors when exporting their goods abroad.

Given my own work with the ExIm Bank before holding elected office, I know how reliant small businesses engaging in international trade in Oregon and across the country are on the services provided. I cannot support legislation that undermines the ExIm Bank's ability to serve American businesses.

In addition, the bill seeks to prevent Iran from accessing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)—an international reserve asset that many developing countries around the world rely on—through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, Iran is already prevented from having access to SDRs thanks to current U.S. sanctions, meaning this bill is unnecessary.

In practice, the bill would actually prevent increases of SDRs to all countries. This is because the IMF process for approving SDR distributions is a simple up-or-down vote on whether there should be a distribution of SDRs to all IMF member countries—there is no avenue at the IMF for SDR votes on individual member countries. As a result, this bill would likely cause significant hardship for many developing IMF member countries around the world.

The U.S. Treasury Department is also opposed to these provisions, stating that this bill would deny the IMF and U.S. Treasury "a tool for promptly responding to global economic crises and preventing spillovers to the U.S. economy."