

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING REBECCA BUCK
AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2024
EDUCATION MINNESOTA TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Rebecca Buck on being a finalist for Education Minnesota's 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Rebecca has taught in District 191 for twelve years, being recognized as the 2020 recipient of the district's Spirit of Excellence Award, which honors employees who exemplify the best of what District 191 strives for. As an elementary school music teacher, she is an inspiration to her community and the students she works with. Her dedication and passion shine through the connections she makes with her students and their love for music.

Ms. Buck strives to practice and advocate for equitable, inclusive education, ensuring students in her class are represented in the curriculum and have opportunities to share their own cultures with classmates. This recognition by her peers and officials at Education Minnesota is supported by the immense appreciation for her contribution to public service in my district.

I am honored to recognize Rebecca Buck today as a model for meaningful educators, and I thank her for the work she is doing to create community in her classrooms.

ILLEGITIMATE WAR CRIMINAL
PUTIN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, having the extraordinary opportunity to visit the people of Russia beginning in 1990 from St. Petersburg to Moscow to Novosibirsk to Chelyabinsk (which is the Sister City of my state capital, Columbia), I believe facts reveal that war criminal Putin's presidency is non-binding and not a direct or legitimate representation of the Russian people.

The inspiring people of Russia deserve better than endless corruption and dictatorship. War criminal Putin has shown time and time again that he is willing to subvert the law and the will of the people by continuing to enrich himself and his cronies. The United States should make it clear that it will not recognize desperate attempts by Putin to cling to power and continue murderous activities, enriching oligarchs across the globe.

I have introduced bipartisan resolutions with Tennessee Congressman Steve Cohen noting that the election irregularities that kept Putin in power made his continuation in office illegitimate.

In March 2024, H. Res. 1087 stated that "... any attempt by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to remain in office beyond May 7, 2024, shall warrant non-recognition on the part of the United States."

Author, professor, and journalist David Satter, a former Financial Times Moscow correspondent and former senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, has documented the basis of overwhelming evidence, the September 1999 apartment bombings which brought Putin to power were carried out by the Russian security services, and that the Putin regime has been illegitimate since the first day of his accession to power.

Satter's writings in National Review, August 17, 2016, and his book, *The Less You Know, the Better You Sleep: Russia's Road to Terror and Dictatorship Under Yeltsin and Putin* (Yale University Press), include the following analysis and perspectives:

"The bombings in the cities of Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgograd killed more than 300 persons and injured hundreds of others. They were blamed without evidence on Chechen terrorists and used as a pretext to start a new war against the semi-independent Republic of Chechen. When Putin was put in charge of the war his popularity soared, making it possible for him to be elected as Russia's second post-Soviet president in March 2000.

"It is clear, however, that what had taken place was the greatest political provocation since the burning of the Reichstag. In an almost unbelievable slipup, Gennady Seleznev, the Speaker of the Duma and a close Putin associate, announced in the Duma on September 13, 1999, that a building in Volgograd had been blown up. The building that had blown up on that day was in Moscow. A building in Volgograd was blown up three days later, on September 16, 1999.

"On September 17, 1999, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, head of the Liberal Democratic party at the time, demanded an explanation from Seleznev on how he had known about the bombing in advance. Zhirinovskiy stood at the podium in the Duma and shouted, 'Do you see what is happening in this country? You say an apartment building was blown up on Monday and it explodes on Thursday. This can be evaluated as a provocation.' Seleznev refused to give a response, and Zhirinovskiy's microphone was shut off while continuing to insist on one.

"In March 2002, *Noviy Investiya*, a daily newspaper published in Moscow, Russia, obtained the transcript of Seleznev's words on September 13, 1999. Which were: 'Here is a communication which they transmit. According to a report from Rostov-on-Don today, this past night, an apartment house was blown up in the city of Volgogradsk.' When asked who informed him of the bombing three days in advance, he responded, 'Believe me, not [exiled oligarch Boris] Berezovsky,' who had accused Putin of orchestrating the bombing. Seleznev then said that on September 13, 1999, he was referring to an explosion in Volgogradsk on September 15, 1999, that was part of a war between criminal gangs and caused no deaths. Even if Seleznev was referring to this explosion on September 15, how was he aware of it two days in advance, on September 13?

"On September 22, 1999, a fifth bomb was discovered and quickly deactivated in the basement of a building in Ryazan. The bomb was found to be planted not by Chechen terrorists but by agents of the Russian FSB. On September 24, 1999, Head of the FSB, Nikolai Patrushev, stated that the bomb was a dummy, planted as part of a training exercise in Ryazan. Although, the bomb tested positive for hexogen, the same explosive used in the four successful apartment bombings in Buynaksk, Moscow, and Volgogradsk. Not a single local government agency in Ryazan, including the local branch of the FSB, was informed in advance of the "exercise," even though Russian law on civil defense requires any exercise in residential areas are planned and confirmed in advance with local officials. For two days, local authorities in Ryazan believed they were dealing with an attempted terrorist attack while official Russian media continued to inform people that an attempted terrorist attack had been averted and Russian air force began the bombing of Grozny, the capital city of the Chechen Republic.

"On February 2002, after three failed motions in the Duma to investigate the Ryazan incident failed due to opposition from the pro-Putin Unity party, a group of Duma deputies and human-rights activists formed a public commission to discover the truth on their own. Among these members were Sergei Yushenkov, Yuri Shchekochikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, and Alexander Litvinenko, who were all murdered by 2006. This developed a fear in people to investigate or question the September 1999 apartment bombings and how Putin came into power.

"The terror regime in Russia began with the 1999 apartment bombings, which served as a prelude for the attack on the Beslan school with grenades and flamethrowers that killed nearly 300 hostages, most of them children, in 2004, the shooting down of the MH17 civilian airliner in 2014 and the Russian war against Ukraine with its human wave attacks from the Russian side and hundreds of thousands of casualties.

Speaking the full truth about the Putin regime is the first step toward ending the carnage";

HONORING RICK AND SUSAN
WILCOX FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RICK WILCOX
MAGIC THEATER

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation Honoring Rick and Susan Wilcox for the 25th Anniversary of the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater:

Whereas Rick Wilcox was intrigued by magic at age 10, began his magic career astonishing guests at a restaurant in Brookfield, Wisconsin during high school, funded his UW-Madison degree with magic shows, and has never stopped pursuing his passion for magic and illusion;

Whereas Rick became a nationally sought-after act for corporate events with his showmanship and quick wit, and while managing

• 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.

his entertainment business full-time, he married Susan in 1996 who happily became his business partner and eventually agreed to join him on stage;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, despite the glamour of performing around the world, determined to bring their business home to Wisconsin, and with extraordinary encouragement from their families, purchased and renovated a neglected, unoccupied 550-seat theater in Wisconsin Dells, transforming it into an economic, employment and enchantment engine for the region;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater became the first-of-its-kind when it opened on May 17, 1999: a theater dedicated to the art of magic, entirely owned, operated, and headlined by its namesake,

Whereas Since 1999, as owners and performers, Rick and Susan Wilcox have managed every aspect of their small business: producing and starring in thousands of shows for Midwestern families, hiring hundreds of staff members, maintaining the theater and property, and delighting tens of thousands with their unique on-stage chemistry, and mix of family-friendly comedy and illusion;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, by unanimous vote of their peers, won the magic community's most prestigious award, the 2024 Milbourne Christopher Illusionist Award, placing these two Wisconsin natives among the pantheon of magic's most-celebrated illusionists, including such past winners as David Copperfield, Doug Henning, Harry Blackstone, Lance Burton, and Siegfried and Roy;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater is nationally recognized as "Wisconsin's Best" on the Reader's Digest list of "The 50 Best Family Travel Destinations in Each State," is the No. 1 rated activity in Wisconsin Dells by TripAdvisor, and continues to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin, and

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater celebrated a remarkable milestone on May 17, 2024: 25 amazing years in business, and will continue to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin Dells; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my sincere appreciation to the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater and Rick and Susan Wilcox for their incredible 25 years of bringing magic, comedy, and joy to families in Wisconsin.

CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club for their 80 years of providing essential services to some of the most vulnerable residents in California's 34th Congressional District.

Founded in 1944, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has nurtured and empowered generations of youth and families, providing them with essential resources and opportunities for growth.

Over the years, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has evolved, adapted, and ex-

panded to meet the changing needs of the Northeast Los Angeles community.

Some of the essential services provided by the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club include developmental programming for children, academic support, sports, psycho-educational groups, leadership development, pre-employment preparation, art and dance, and gang prevention and intervention.

These programs have resulted in improved math proficiency, improved reading test scores, a lifelong interest in regular exercise leading to an improved health-conscious habits that prioritize health, and proper nutrition for the youth of Northeast Los Angeles.

Additionally, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club provides services to support the entire family unit through case management, weekly food distribution, positive community events, and emergency and crisis response services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 80 years and beyond.

HONORING HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Harrodsburg, Kentucky as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of their founding.

James Harrod and a team of men were sent by Lord Dunmore to Kentucky to survey land promised by the British crown to soldiers who served in the French and Indian War. Harrod was the first to map out a town on June 16, 1774, making Harrod's Town (later Harrodsburg) the first permanent British settlement west of the Alleghenies and the first city in Kentucky. By 1776, they had established a county court, a county militia, and named James Harrod as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly. A blockhouse was established at Fort Harrod for the protection of settlers. After the Revolutionary War ended, the town grew rapidly and the original log cabins were replaced with brick structures.

Many men from Harrodsburg fought in the war of 1812. After the war, agriculture and education were very important. Bacon College, Greenville Institute for Young Ladies, and the Harrodsburg Female Academy all opened between 1839 and 1847. Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill was founded in 1805 and became very prosperous. The local economy was based on livestock, hemp, wheat, corn, and valuable racehorses. By the middle of the 1800's, Harrodsburg had been home to three Kentucky governors and one U.S. Ambassador as well as a nationally known resort, Graham Springs.

Like many areas in border states, Harrodsburg was divided by the Civil War and experienced much loss and destruction. Citizens picked up and treated wounded soldiers from both Union and Confederate forces following the nearby Battle of Perryville. After the war, the city rebuilt and prospered once again. The 20th century brought the Dix River Dam, constructed in the 1920's to provide electricity,

and the reservoir, Lake Herrington, became a tourist attraction. A reproduction of Old Fort Harrod was constructed as well as a monument to George Rogers Clark which was dedicated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Shaker Village was restored and became another tourist attraction. There has always been a strong military presence in Harrodsburg and World War II was no exception. Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion was stationed in the Philippines in 1941 and included 66 from Harrodsburg. Forced to surrender to the Japanese, more than 7,000 American soldiers died from the brutal Bataan Death March, including 29 Harrodsburg men.

Today the city of Harrodsburg continues as a thriving community with robust agriculture, tourism, and industry. Dedicated leaders from founder James Harrod to today's Mayor Bob Williams have led the city of Harrodsburg. I am honored to lift up this great American community before the United States Congress and to congratulate them on their 250th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because a meeting with constituents ran long. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 250.

SUPPORTING THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in support of awarding the Medal of Honor to three Guam natives who served in the Vietnam War.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

As veterans and residents of Guam, we have a unique opportunity to support three of our own who have displayed extraordinary valor in service to our nation. Delegate James Moylan has introduced amendments to the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to authorize the President of the United States to award the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) to:

CSM Martin Manglona, U.S. Army Retired
SGM Juan Ogo Blaz, U.S. Army Retired
SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez, U.S. Army Retired (Medical)

These three veterans, all of whom served in the Vietnam War, have already been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the U.S. Army's second highest honor. However, they have never been given a fair chance at being considered for the MOH, despite their actions mirroring those of other soldiers who have received this prestigious award.

WHY THIS MATTERS

No other veteran from Guam or the Marianas has ever been awarded the MOH.

SPC4 Perez absorbed the explosion of a hand grenade to save his battalion, an act of valor that has earned the MOH for others.