

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

60TH ANNUAL HELMVILLE LABOR DAY RODEO

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Helmville Labor Day Rodeo for their 60th year old operation. The Helmville Rodeo is commonly called “the biggest little rodeo in Montana,” drawing folks from all over the state to a town of less than 50 people to enjoy the events and festivities.

Helmville has been around since Irish immigrants first made their way to the Big Sky, chasing fortune in the Gold Rush. Some of the first families to settle in Helmville back in the 1860s still live and work there. The ranches in the valley are passed down from generation to generation.

Helmville is a classic Montana town, with one long road going through the middle, an old western bar on the side named the “Copper Queen,” and a school where several grades are taught at the same time. The kind of the place where you don’t just know your neighbors by name but the whole town. It is nestled deep in a beautiful valley in the Garnet Mountain Range, the kind of gem that is scattered all around Montana.

Once a year, Helmville is flooded with rodeo enjoyers from around the State. The Helmville Labor Day Rodeo is a major event in the area and has delivered on the promise of summer fun for 60 years now. Two days of bull riding, team roping, steer wrestling, mutton bustin’ and many other events are more than enough of a draw for Montanans to drive the hours that it takes to get from one small town to another. It is the last rodeo of the season for the Northern Rodeo Association, so top riders all show up to impress the crowds and try to score points to make it to the post season. The burgers or barbeque could draw any red-blooded American to the scenic valley, but the one-of-a-kind events keep them there for the long haul. Whether it is trying to find the cow in a herd of steers at the wild cow milking event or the community dance, there is no shortage of western fun to remind us of what rural life is all about.

Don’t mistake the size of the town for the heart that is put into the event. Folks in Helmville are proud of the show they put on and anyone who has attended would attest to that. The rodeo club works year-round organizing the event, but as the date grows closer, the whole community comes together to pitch in and be ready on Labor Day weekend. 60 years is a lifetime of bringing joy, good sport, and great community to Western Montana. As it has grown from a ranch-led rodeo to a professional event, it has never lost its character.

Mr. Speaker, and my esteemed colleagues, I ask that you join me in congratulating the Helmville Rodeo on their 60th year of hosting a legendary Labor Day Rodeo. Bravo Zulu.

RECOGNIZING JOE CASTIGLIONE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joe Castiglione as he receives the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting excellence.

Born on March 2, 1947, to parents Pamela and Frank, Castiglione was raised in Hamden, Connecticut, alongside his seven siblings. With a passion for sports broadcasting from a young age, Castiglione grew up listening to longtime Yankees announcer and inaugural Ford C. Frick Award recipient, Mel Allen. Castiglione followed his passion for broadcasting at Colgate University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and worked for the school’s radio station broadcasting Colgate football and basketball games.

After receiving his master’s degree from Syracuse University, Castiglione began his career as a television sports anchor at WFMJ-TV in Youngstown, Ohio. It was in Youngstown where Castiglione also met the love of his life, Janice Lowry, a third-grade teacher. 364 days after their first date, Joe and Janice were married and will celebrate their 53rd anniversary this November. Over their past five decades of marriage, Castiglione and Janice have raised their three children, Duke, Tom, and Kate, and now have six grandchildren.

In 1979, Castiglione continued his broadcasting career and first began reporting on baseball at WKYC-TV, calling games for the Cleveland Indians. He later called games for the Milwaukee Brewers in 1981, before returning to Cleveland in 1982. In 1983 he was hired on a one-year agreement with the Red Sox. 42 seasons later, Castiglione is now the longest tenured announcer in Red Sox history.

Throughout his career, Castiglione has called over 6,000 games, including four no-hitters and two 20-strikeout games. Additionally, Castiglione was the first Red Sox broadcaster to call the final out of a Red Sox World Championship, ending the team’s 86-year drought in 2004. He would later deliver the final out call for the Red Sox’s World Series wins in 2007, 2013, and 2018. Outside of his work as a Red Sox radio announcer, Castiglione taught broadcast journalism at Northeastern University for 29 years and Franklin Pierce University for 12 years and has been a long-time supporter of the Jimmy Fund.

Over the last four decades, Castiglione has established himself as a pillar of the baseball community. In 2014, Castiglione was inducted into the Red Sox Hall of Fame, and on July 20, 2024, Castiglione was awarded the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum’s Ford C. Frick Award. This award deservedly celebrates Castiglione’s passion for baseball and commitment to quality broadcasting throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Joe Castiglione and ask that my colleagues join

me in recognizing his years of hard work and impact on sports broadcasting.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF CULPEPER BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Culpeper Baptist Church on their 250th anniversary.

Over the last 250 years, Culpeper Baptist Church has served as a space for the community to gather, connect, and worship. Formed in 1774 as Mount Poney Baptist Church, the church was a place of worship open to all—Black, white, freemen, enslaved people, and servants. The community flourished under the ideals of religious liberty, which are forever woven into the history of Culpeper Baptist Church and the fabric of our nation thanks to the actions of its third pastor, John Leland. Leland directly petitioned then-Virginia legislator James Madison to enshrine religious liberty in our Constitution.

In 1833, Mount Poney Baptist moved to the Town of Culpeper, where it built a new church in 1858. The church then changed its name to Culpeper Baptist Church in 1873. Finally, in 1955, Culpeper Baptist Church moved and began services in its present-day location.

Since its inception, Culpeper Baptist Church has worked to serve the community well. In 1949, it established a kindergarten program—now known as the Child Development Center—which has grown to serve the community. Thanks to the labor of love poured into the program, it will celebrate 75 years of helping children from infancy through elementary school later this year. To better assist the community, Pastor J.T. Edwards created the Virginia Baptist Home for the Aged in 1950, known today as The Culpeper. Later, in partnership with the community, Culpeper Baptist Church renovated space within the church’s building to open Generations Central Adult Day Care in May 2022, where aging adults are provided with intergenerational programming and care. Finally, in response to the growing Latino population in Culpeper, Primera Iglesia Bautista Maranatha, the longest-serving Hispanic Church in Culpeper, was founded in 2001 at Culpeper Baptist. The church continues to thrive today.

Throughout the last 250 years, Culpeper Baptist Church has cultivated a culture of faith and service. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Culpeper Baptist Church on their 250th anniversary. Please join me in wishing this community success as they work to foster a love for their neighbors and honor a history that upholds the American ideal of religious liberty.

• 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.

HONORING CECILIA POPE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Cecilia Pope, a constituent of mine who turns 100 years old on August 26, 2024.

Her journey began in 1924 as Cecilia Lujan Baca, in Clayton, New Mexico, where she spent her early years. She ventured to Denver, Colorado for high school, carving out a path of independence and growth. In October of 1947, fate introduced Cecilia to her first husband, Master Sargent Alfred Hill of the U.S. Air Force. They had two children together, John in 1950 and Lisa in 1955. However, tragedy struck as they embarked on their move to Biloxi, Mississippi, in July 1957. Alfred, at the young age of 34, left this world due to a fatal heart attack, leaving Cecilia and their two children.

Undeterred by the hardships, Cecilia moved to Amarillo, Texas, with her children. In 1960, she married Alex Pope, and welcomed a daughter, Alexis in 1963. As life unfolded, they traversed through various cities due to Alex's profession, ultimately settling in Houston in 1966, where they rooted themselves in the Sharpstown area.

Tragedy struck once more when Alex passed away in 1987, yet Cecilia's spirit remained unbroken. In 2004, she made the decision to move to Katy, Texas, to be near her two daughters.

Her resilience and enthusiasm for life is inspiring. Despite the challenges she has faced, Cecilia remains active, independent, and devotes her time to her passions. She's an avid reader, immerses herself in the world of literature, and finds solace in her prayer and family.

Cecilia treasures the moments spent with her friends, children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Her dedication to family and her unwavering spirit is a testament to her strength. Moreover, her faith has been an anchor throughout her life, and is an active member of the Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Katy, Texas.

Cecilia's story is not just one of resilience in the face of adversity, but also a celebration of a life richly lived—a life that continues to inspire those around her. To that end, I want to once again honor her on behalf of the people in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas. I wish Cecilia a happy birthday.

May God continue to bless her and her family every single day.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARK MYERS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH 79

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mark

Myers, who served as the Vice President of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 79 Seattle.

Mark served as NALC's legislative liaison to my office for many years. He was a constant advocate for the voices and needs of his union's members. He was a very effective advocate and all that were lucky enough to know Mark know that he was both sincere and kind in all that he did.

Throughout his life, Mark embodied what it truly means to serve. Mark served his union through his work with my office, but also through his work at the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council and the Washington State Labor Council. Not only was Mark the current Vice President of the NALC Branch 79 Seattle, but he had also served as Secretary-Treasurer and made history as the only retiree re-elected for three consecutive terms.

Mark spent his time outside of work continuing to serve his community. He was a former member of the Highline Community Council and a devout member of his local church, the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Burien.

Mark is a shining example of true leadership and commitment. I appreciate his many years of service working with my office, as well as all of his service to our community. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING MRS. FAYLENE WHITAKER ON BEING NAMED NORTH CAROLINA FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Faylene Whitaker on being named North Carolina Farmer of the Year.

Mrs. Whitaker has the unique honor of being the first woman to be named North Carolina Farmer of the Year. Mrs. Whitaker started Whitaker Farms with her late husband Richard in 1975, who she has surely honored with this award. Together, they purchased 36 acres of land in Randolph County and as a result of their hard work, Whitaker Farms has now grown to 1,000 acres and includes a variety of different crops. The Whitakers use innovative and sustainable farming practices to ensure high crop yields, healthy soil, drip irrigation and devote a majority of the land to organic production.

Our state has a long and proud tradition of agricultural excellence. Many people don't even realize where the food they eat every day comes from, but the Whitakers could tell you they worked around the clock, 24 hours a day when they first started, to ensure they could pay back their first bank loan while overcoming weather conditions that make farming nearly impossible. I know I speak for our region and entire state when I say thank you to our hard-working farmers and the Whitakers for their dedication to putting food on the table in North Carolina. From peanuts to sweet potatoes, North Carolina farmers generate some of the highest quality produce in the world. We are thrilled to recognize Mrs. Whitaker for her continuation of that tradition.

Again, congratulations to Mrs. Whitaker for winning this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mrs. Faylene Whitaker on being named North Carolina Farmer of the Year.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MR. ALDO JAVIER GARCIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Aldo Javier Garcia, who tragically passed away on June 24, 2024, at the age of 25. Mr. Garcia was born in Hanford, California to Javier Pelagio Garcia and Araceli Navarro Garcia. He had one brother, Orlando Navarro Garcia. Mr. Garcia grew up in the Central Valley and was the proud son of farmworkers, from whom he learned the values of hard work and perseverance from a young age. After graduating from Corcoran High School, Mr. Garcia went on to attend the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Garcia was an exceptional student and dedicated his time to the university community, having served as the Student Director of the UC Berkeley Public Service Center. In 2021, Mr. Garcia received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and was accepted to the prestigious Jess M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship. After being selected by the fellowship program, Mr. Garcia served as a Fellow for California State Assemblymember Lori Wilson. Last year, Mr. Garcia began his dream job as a legislative staffer for Assemblymember Juan Carrillo. As Assemblymember Carrillo's Legislative Aide, he worked hard on legislation to help improve the lives of Californians. Mr. Garcia was a valuable asset and a strong leader on both Assemblymember Wilson's and Carrillo's teams, and he was at the beginning of an impactful career in California politics. Mr. Garcia will be remembered by his family, friends, and colleagues as a kind and compassionate young man who always put the needs of others before his own. His passion for politics, dedication to his community, and service to the State of California will never be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Mr. Aldo Javier Garcia. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

JOYCE HUNTER DEDICATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 23, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize and congratulate my constituent, Joyce Hunter, on her retirement from one of the largest multiemployer pension funds in the United States, the Central Pension Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers and Participating Employers ("Central Pension Fund").

Joyce's lifelong dedication to the Central Pension Fund, which has spanned over four decades, and its mission to provide secure retirement benefits to operating engineers and