

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALICE'S KIDS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a wonderful organization within my district. There are roughly 20,000 children in Fairfax County living at the poverty level. These children suffer both privately and publicly. Privately, they may not have enough food, no heat or no electricity. All hardships indeed. But when that same child leaves the home, they suffer public indignities that can seriously affect their self-esteem. When they go to school wearing the same dress for five straight days or shoes with holes in them, they can be targets of ridicule. When they cannot afford their senior dues, a sport's physical or a gym uniform, they are embarrassed. When they have to sit home while their friends are enjoying the prom, they experience pain. These situations are especially acute when poor children are integrated with wealthier children, as is often the case in Fairfax County.

Seven years ago this month, my constituent and friend, Ron Fitzsimmons, formed "Alice's Kids," a charity designed to give needy children the opportunity to feel a little bit more "normal" amongst their peers. They have built a network of approximately 500 teachers, school counselors and county social workers who contact Alice's Kids when they identify a child with a "minor" but nonetheless important need. It might be a pair of soccer cleats, glasses or summer camp fees. The child might not be able to afford their senior yearbook, wishes to take music lessons or needs a simple haircut. Within 24 hours, Alice's Kids either writes a check or issues a gift card to the referrer so the child can obtain the item. And the charity purposely does not interact with the family as they prefer to be anonymous to help the child maintain their dignity.

I am pleased to see that this once small charity is now expanding. In addition to children in Fairfax County, they are now serving children in the City of Alexandria and in select schools in Washington, D.C. Even more exciting is that Mr. Fitzsimmons is carrying out his ultimate goal, which is to serve children all across the country as they are now helping children in San Antonio, Seattle, Miami, Charlotte, Nashville and several other cities working in conjunction with the national organization "Communities in Schools."

In 2016, Alice's Kids provided assistance to 683 children. But I am thrilled to note that in 2017, they have already served 767 children! This is the little charity that could. I want to congratulate Alice's Kids as they continue to provide much-needed assistance to children in the D.C. Metropolitan area and wish them luck in their efforts to reach as many children as possible.

RECOGNIZING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the award winners from the U.S. International Trade Commission who were recognized last week, on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at their annual Career Service Awards Ceremony.

The employees at the U.S. International Trade Commission are on the front line of enforcing our U.S. trade laws and addressing a wide variety of trade-related issues. U.S. trade laws protect American workers from unfair trade practices and support communities that manufacture and produce the products that power our national economy and that are essential to supporting our national security. The dedicated employees at the U.S. International Trade Commission investigate allegations of unfair trade practices against countries from around the world, and their work is essential to defending good jobs throughout our country, including steel and manufacturing jobs in the First Congressional District of Indiana.

Last week, I was pleased to be able to attend their 2017 Career Service Awards Ceremony, which recognized the outstanding accomplishments of the International Trade Commission staff from the past year. For example, the ceremony presented Quality Step Increase Awards to individuals that received a permanent increase in their rate of pay in recognition of high quality performance above that ordinarily found. The ceremony also presented Superior Accomplishment Awards based on an act, service, or suggestion that contributes to the efficiency or other improvement of government operations. I would note that under this category, an award was presented to the Carbon and Alloy Steel Cut-to-Length Plate team for providing high quality work products, meeting aggressive statutory deadlines, and adroitly overcoming numerous analytical challenges with a high-profile case that involved the greatest number of countries for a single case in more than a decade.

Additionally, the ceremony presented employees with Length of Service awards, including 40 Years of Service awards for Judith M. Bryant, Deborah A. Daniels, Jean H. Jackson, Myra D. Lay, and Deborah A. McNay, 45 Years of Service awards for William W. Gearhart, Jr., and Linda D. Powell, and a 50 Years of Service award for Tyrone F. Coward.

I also would like to call attention to the Distinguished Service Award winners, Karen Attardo, Attorney-Adviser in the Office of Administrative Services, and Vu Q. Bui, Investigative Attorney in the Office of Unfair Import Investigations. This award is the second-highest honor that can be conferred upon an employee and recipients are chosen by senior management in recognition of notable con-

tributions. Further, I would like to recognize Jennifer Rohrbach, Program Manager in the Office of Operations, as the recipient of the Commissioners' Award for Exceptional Service. This is the highest honor that can be conferred upon an employee and recipients are chosen directly by the Commissioners in recognition of distinguished and exceptional service.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our former colleague and my friend from Indiana Lee Hamilton said it best when he stated that public service "is not just a way of life, it is a way to live fully." I am incredibly grateful for the invaluable, diligent, and thorough work of all of the employees at the U.S. International Trade Commission. I thank all of them for choosing to have a career in the service of our country and again congratulate all of the award winners for their exemplary performance.

RECOGNIZING J. MICHAEL ANDERSON

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Michael Anderson, the 2017 recipient of the Zunic Award as presented by the Syracuse Football Club.

The Syracuse Football Club is a group of former Syracuse Orange football players focused on making a difference in the Central New York community. The Zunic Award was created to honor Mike and Judy Zunic, who died tragically in a United Airlines plane crash in Sioux City, Iowa on July 18, 1989. The pilot, anticipating landing difficulties, requested volunteers to give up their seats and sit at the exit doors to assist passengers in the event of an emergency. Mike and Judy gave up their seats in first class to sit at one of the doors. They both died in the crash and those in the Zunic's original seats survived. The Zunic Award honors those, like Mike and Judy, who have acted selflessly for the good of others.

This year's Zunic Award recipient, J. Michael Anderson, is a former Orange offensive lineman, and has tragically lost two of his three sons—Jimmy and Eric. Despite this extraordinary loss, Mike has channeled his own tragedy into advocacy and volunteerism. He and his wife, Flo, have focused on making a difference in the Central New York community and assisting others who have experienced similar tragedy.

Anderson served as a youth basketball coach for more than two decades at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Liverpool, and coached baseball in the Salt City Little League for 10 years. In addition, the Andersons are frequent holiday volunteers at the Syracuse Rescue Mission, serving meals to those less fortunate, and are active participants in the Liverpool Central School District "Dollars for Scholars" program where they have established a scholarship in their son Jimmy's name. Anderson

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