

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DAVID VAN DYKE
FOR OUTSTANDING VOL-
UNTEERISM

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community leader in West Michigan, and a personal friend.

David Van Dyke, a dairy farmer from Coopersville, Michigan, was recently recognized as the Michigan Farm Bureau's 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

David became involved in a local township issue when he saw a fellow farmer put at risk by a planned recreational trail that would have cut through the middle of his family farm. The trail would have bisected a beef feedlot, threatening the existence of the family business. The back half of the property could only be accessed from a point on the proposed trail.

David served as an intermediary between township and county officials, Farm Bureau, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and various elected officials. He helped engage the farming community and concerned neighbors in support of the local farmer and helped coordinate the appeal to the county for action.

The efforts were fruitful. The county ultimately purchased and swapped land in the community to entice the MDNR to re-route the trail around the family farm.

Echoing the words of Dave's friend and neighbor, who first nominated Van Dyke for Volunteer of the Month, "Dave is a tireless proponent of agriculture and the local farming community. His ability to communicate and bring together people with opposing viewpoints has made him an excellent leader and liaison for the local agricultural community."

"Dave is someone who can be counted on to go the extra mile by donating his time and services for important agricultural and community causes."

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring David Van Dyke for his service to his community and for serving as a model volunteer for others across Michigan.

THANKING COLLEAGUES AND CON-
STITUENTS AND STAFF FOR
PRIVILEGE OF SERVING

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House for the last time during the 112th Congress.

I will be very brief. It has been an honor to serve as a member of this body, and the

southern California congressional delegation—the largest Democratic delegation in history—that is, at least until the 113th Congress convenes.

But the greatest honor is serving the wonderful people of the 37th Congressional District of California, which includes Long Beach, Compton, Carson, and Signal Hill. Since September 2007, I have had the great privilege and high honor of representing the best congressional district in the world's greatest legislative body, the U.S. House of Representatives, aided by a terrific cadre of talented, hard-working, and dedicated staff members, both here in Washington and back in my district offices.

Together, my staff and I have, worked very hard to advocate for, and advance the interests of my district. One of my proudest achievements has been to continue the tradition begun by my predecessor, the late, great Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald, of hosting an Annual Senior Briefing at the Juanita Millender McDonald Community Center in Carson, California. This event is attended by more than 1,000 seniors in my district and was a valuable opportunity for me to discuss with them, one-on-one, what their concerns were and where I could help them the most.

In the last five years, my office has assisted more than 1,000 constituents in resolving casework ranging from Social Security claims to disputes with the IRS to help with immigration and housing issues.

From my seat on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I have worked with colleagues in the delegation and across the aisle pass legislation and secure funding to strengthen and protect the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and to develop a national freight transportation policy for the 21st century.

I will always be grateful to have been selected by my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee to serve as Chair and then Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, which enabled me to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our first responders have the resources needed to secure the homeland and to provide comfort and deliver relief supplies to the people of America Samoa when the island was struck by a tsunami in October 2009.

Like all of you, I believe in bipartisanship because you have to work together to get things done. As President Clinton reminded us this past summer, "what works in the real world is cooperation."

I came to Congress on a pledge to work to end the war in Iraq and refocus our national security efforts on Afghanistan so we could achieve our goals there and bring our troops home. That is why I was so pleased to lead a Codel to Afghanistan consisting of me and 4 Republican House colleagues and to be appointed by Speaker PELOSI to serve as a conferee to the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act Conference Committee, which in-

cluded a provision of mine to strengthen and support the nation's strategic ports, including the Port of Long Beach in my district.

Another great example of bipartisanship is the way the women members of the House, supported by our male colleagues, banded together to form the Congressional Softball Team to battle the Capitol Hill press corps to raise funds for, and awareness of, breast cancer research. I will always be proud to have been the first baseman and cleanup hitter for those great teams.

Not only is the California congressional delegation the largest, it has been one of the most productive and consequential. During my tenure in Congress, colleagues in our delegation chaired the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee (HENRY WAXMAN); Education and Labor (GEORGE MILLER), Foreign Affairs (BERMAN); and the Veterans Affairs (Bob Filner).

And it is to this delegation that the House looked when it made history by electing the first woman to be Speaker of the People's House (NANCY PELOSI).

This delegation is the most racially diverse and gender balanced in history. It is in fact a mirror of our nation: a delegation of men and women, black and white and Hispanic and Asian Pacific, young and young at heart, from all backgrounds and different experiences, committed to working together in common cause to advance the interests of our constituents, our state, and our nation.

And working together, we made a positive difference. We can look back with pride on the remarkable and landmark achievements of the Congress, especially the 111th Congress which was led so brilliantly by Speaker PELOSI, working so closely with President Barack Obama to pass the:

1. Affordable Care Act, ensuring that the wealthiest country in the world gives all of its citizens an opportunity to receive decent care and ending the worst insurance industry abuses.

2. Dodd-Frank Act, which protects the middle class and prevents Wall Street executives from ever again jeopardizing the savings, retirement, or livelihood of middle class families.

3. The Recovery Act, which provided the investments necessary for the American economy to create new jobs while saving existing ones, and to spur economic activity and laying the groundwork for long-term growth.

We can also look back with pride on the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; Credit CARD Act; Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act; American Clean Energy and Security Act; Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act; Hire Act; Cash for Clunkers; Small Business Jobs and Credit Act; Disclose Act; and Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

And we helped to end the war and bring our troops home from Iraq and ended "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

These policies, supported and led by members of this delegation, serve the best interests of the country and will continue to shape our future for generations to come.

• 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.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of my colleagues for their friendship and their service.

I wish you the best. Thank you all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 649 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3159, as amended); "yes" on vote No. 650 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4057); and "yes" on vote No. 651 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3202).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on a vote cast on December 13, 2012. The vote was on the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4310—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013—offered by Ms. DAVIS of California. The Motion to Instruct would instruct conferees to agree to section 1249 of the Senate amendment, which requires the Secretaries of Defense and State to submit to Congress a detailed plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls as we transition from U.S. to Afghan-led security in Afghanistan.

On rollcall vote Number 624, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent due to the passing of my mother and was not present for rollcall votes on Sunday, December 30 and Monday December 31, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall Vote No. 649—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act—"yes"; rollcall Vote No. 650—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning—"yes"; rollcall Vote No. 651—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act—"yes"; rollcall Vote No. 652—Motion to Suspend the

Rules and Pass, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013—"yes"; rollcall Vote No. 653—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, a bill to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range—"yes"; and rollcall Vote No. 654—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, the World War I Centennial Commission Act—"yes".

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL DUEHR

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Michael Duehr on being named the First Citizen of the Year by the Dubuque Telegraph Herald. Mike is being recognized by the newspaper for his work in helping children. Mike has dedicated his personal and free time towards students and the youth in Dubuque.

Mike has devoted much of his volunteer service through his Fraternal Order of the Eagles organization. However, Mike felt that he needed to do more to give back to the community. He founded the "Eyes on the Future" program which engages students in service projects that assist children and the needy. Mike's program has created valuable opportunities for future volunteers. Mike and I are both actively involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Last August, Mike's Fraternal Order of the Eagles organization raised money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization in Dubuque.

Mike is another example of a leader who has worked tirelessly to make his community a better place to live. He has done this work quietly and without a need for public recognition. I'm happy that Mike is now getting the accolades that he deserves. I'm proud to call Mike my constituent and my friend. I congratulate him on receiving the 43rd annual Telegraph Herald First Citizen award. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STEELCASE FOR 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great West Michigan company and leader in the office furniture industry. Steelcase, Inc. began serving Grand Rapids, MI in 1912 as the Metal Office Furniture Company. Today, Steelcase is known as a company of innovation and integrity.

Since the creation of its first product, the fireproof metal wastebasket, Steelcase was able to look forward in innovation and safety. Steelcase continued to move forward in the world of office furniture, when in 1953, they became the first in the industry to produce office furniture in colors. Examples of

Steelcase's attention to creativity and safety continued to be shown throughout the years. Steelcase ultimately proved itself to be a company that cared about much more.

Steelcase has also been a company that focuses on its people and their capabilities. This is easily seen in their diversity and community leadership programs. Steelcase employs fair and honest hiring practices, and seeks to raise awareness of diversity issues by creating partnerships with other companies that support diversity.

Steelcase has demonstrated a commitment to local involvement, contributing to over 100 community organizations around the United States. Additionally that philanthropic spirit carries over into the culture of the Steelcase team, where the employees volunteered nearly 4,500 hours of community service in 2010 alone.

These ideals continue to set Steelcase apart, and the company is now recognized as a symbol of excellence around the world. Steelcase now employs over 11,000 people worldwide, and 3,500 people in West Michigan. Today, the company's product line has expanded to over 500 items, and serves over 110,000 companies around the globe.

Steelcase has proven itself to be a company built on great ideas, and continues to live up to this model as they move forward. Steelcase has recently introduced the "100 Dreams, 100 Minds, 100 Years" program. The movement looks to create a dialogue with people from around the world, and showcase their ideas and perspectives in a film centered on the future of the changing world of work.

Thank you, Steelcase, for your commitment to the Second District, the greater Grand Rapids area, and happy 100th anniversary.

HONORING SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Senator Paul Wellstone and to recognize his leadership, integrity, and the lasting impact he has had on the citizens of Minnesota and the United States.

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of the tragic death of Senator Wellstone, who was killed in a plane crash in Northern Minnesota on October 25, 2002, along with his wife, Sheila Wellstone, their daughter Marcia, members of the Senator's campaign staff Tom Lopic, Mary McEvoy, and Will McLaughlin, and the plane's two pilots Richard Conry and Michael Guess.

Paul should not be remembered for the tragedy of his death, but rather the energy with which he lived his life. Born in Washington, DC, Senator Wellstone took a teaching position at Carleton College in Northfield, MN, after graduating from the University of North Carolina. While a professor at Carleton College, Paul inspired his students through his teaching of political science in the classroom and his grassroots organizing in the community. When his position at the college was in question, students rallied around him and successfully lobbied the college not only to protect his job, but to grant him tenure. The activism he infused in his teaching is felt today on

Capitol Hill, where a number of his former students continue to work towards greater equality for all Americans.

Paul's activism extended beyond the college campus. He worked throughout the state of Minnesota, organizing labor groups, farmers, and immigrant communities; championing causes such as public housing, healthcare, and improved education. Paul's work led to his successful Senate bid in 1990, and re-election in 1996, campaigning from the back of a beat-up old school bus painted his signature green. In Washington, Paul continued his legacy of progressive policy, particularly working towards mental health parity. Paul never did what was expedient, instead he did what he felt was right, standing up for those without a strong voice in Congress. Paul was one of the few senators to vote against the authorization of war in Iraq, shortly before the 2002 election. He knew this vote might cost him his seat in the Senate, and he was the only senator up for reelection to vote no.

Throughout his academic and political career, Paul was matched in energy and determination by his wife, Sheila. An outspoken advocate for women and families experiencing domestic violence, Sheila brought the conversation about domestic violence in our communities to a national level, and was instrumental in passing the first Violence Against Women Act. A leading voice for women in the United States, she also extended her focus to international human rights abuses and spoke out for victims of sex trafficking. She helped make the fight against domestic violence a national priority.

Paul and Sheila's work is continued with groups such as Wellstone Action, which promotes progressive causes and has trained over 55,000 candidates, campaign staff, and community organizers around the country, and the Sheila Wellstone Institute, which continues Sheila's work of ending the violence against women and children.

Paul's legacy is not encapsulated in a specific cause or any individual vote, but by his embodiment of public service. He was an example of how to live a life dedicated to values and the greater good. Paul did not make decisions based on whether they were right politically, but whether they met his basic principles of fairness, generosity, and compassion.

Senator Wellstone was a political inspiration for me, and I am proud to call him my friend. He will always be remembered as a champion for the underserved, a master at grassroots campaigning, a fervent public speaker, and a Minnesota icon. Many of my colleagues have stood on the floor here and in the Senate over the last ten years, remembering his presence as we unsuccessfully try to fill the gap he left behind in politics. A truly uncommon politician, I believe if we live by Senator Wellstone's actions, our country will be better for it. As Paul said, "We all do better, when we all do better."