

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DONNA LEITERMANN FOR HER HARD WORK AND DEDICATION AS A PUBLIC SERVANT IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Donna Leitemann as she transitions from Bangor Township Treasurer to Bay City Treasurer. She will start her new career with the city on June 22, 2015.

Ms. Leitemann began her work as a public servant as Deputy Treasurer in December 1992. Two years later, she was elected as Bangor Township Treasurer and continued to serve for five terms.

Concurrent to serving as Bangor Township Treasurer, Ms. Leitemann was the treasurer of Bangor Township Downtown Development Authority and committee member of Bangor Township Department of Public Works. For two decades, there has not been a major infrastructure project in Bangor Township for which she was not responsible.

Public servants like Donna Leitemann deserve respect and appreciation. Every day, she has done important work that has positively affected her community. Ms. Leitemann has also been a member and past president of the Bay County Treasurer's Association, member of the Michigan Treasurer's Association, and treasurer and board director of Bay Future of Bay County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Donna Leitemann for her commitment to public service and thank her for diligently serving as Bangor Township Treasurer these past 21 years. I wish her all the luck as she begins a new chapter as Bay City Treasurer.

IN HONOR OF THE LAUNCHING OF DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN HOUSTON GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT (IAH) AND TAIWAN TAOYUAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TPE)

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of direct flights between Taipei and Houston. The inaugural flight BR-52 is scheduled to arrive in Houston Airport at around 4:30 p.m. on June 19th, 2015. The new direct service will make it easier for my constituents to travel to Taiwan and destinations throughout Asia for both business and leisure.

The United States and Taiwan share a thriving economic partnership. The new direct

route will further enhance our close relationship by promoting business and tourism, which will result in new jobs and economic benefits for my constituents and all of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and congratulate Houston Airport, U.S. and Taiwanese officials involved, and the large Taiwanese-American community in Houston for their years of effort to achieve this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING DIANE GERBER

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tireless dedication of Staten Island's Diane Gerber in serving our veterans.

Originally from Brooklyn, Diane currently resides on Staten Island, and as a grandmother of eight, who single-handedly raised three children, she found time to commit 25 years to the American Legion's Cespino Russo Auxiliary Unit #1544.

Ms. Gerber served on American Legion Auxiliary Unit and County committees. She later ascended to the roles of Secretary, Vice President, and President. While serving as chair of these committees, she was the model of a true American citizen: fundraising to purchase holiday gifts for hospitalized veterans and helping bridge the educational gap by granting scholarships to many students.

During her term as President, she geared her attention toward her project, "Soldier's Wish—Making Our Heroes' Wishes Come True." Through her leadership, over \$57,000 has been raised so far. These funds are dedicated to identify the un-met needs of uniformed heroes regardless of rank or branch of service.

Mr. Speaker, Diane Gerber's commitment to improving and supporting the lives of those who have served our great nation is the perfect example of a model American citizen. I commend her outstanding achievements and I am proud to honor this hero from New York's 11th District.

THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: ASSESSING THE COMPLIANCE REPORT AND REQUIRED ACTION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, international parental child abduction rips children from their homes and families and whisks them away to a foreign land, alienating them from the love and care of the parent and fam-

ily left behind. Child abduction is child abuse, and it continues to plague families across the United States.

Every year, an estimated 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

The problem is so consequential and the State Department's previous approach of "quiet diplomacy" so inadequate, that Congress unanimously passed the Goldman Act last year to give teeth to requests for return and access. These actions increase in severity, and range from official protests through diplomatic channels, to extradition, to the suspension of development, security, or other foreign assistance.

The Goldman Act is a law calculated to get results, as we did in the return of Sean Goldman from Brazil in 2008.

But a law is only as good as its implementation.

Broken-hearted parents across America waited four years for the Goldman Act to become law and still await full U.S. government implementation of the law.

The State Department's first annual report that we are reviewing today should be a roadmap for action.

The State Department must get this report right in order for the law to be an effective tool.

If the report fails to accurately identify problem countries, the actions I mentioned above are not triggered.

Countries should be listed if they have high numbers of cases—30 percent or more—that have been pending over a year or if they regularly fail to enforce return orders, or if they have failed to take appropriate steps in even a single abduction case pending more than a year.

Once these countries are properly identified, the Secretary of State then determines which of the aforementioned actions the U.S. will apply to the country in order to encourage the timely resolution of abduction and access cases.

While the State Department has choice of which actions to apply, and can waive actions for up to 180 days, the State Department does not have discretion over whether to report accurately to Congress on the country's record, or on whether the country is objectively a non-compliant.

As we have seen in the human trafficking context, (I authored both the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as well as the Goldman Act) accurate accounting of a country's record, especially in comparison with other countries, can do wonders to prod much needed reforms.

Accurate reporting is also critical to family court judges across the country and parents considering their child's travel to a foreign country where abduction or access problems are a risk.

The stakes are high: misleading or incomplete information could mean the loss of another American child to abduction.

• 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.

For example, a judge might look at the report table filled with zeros in the unresolved cases category, erroneously conclude that a particular country is not of concern, and give permission to an estranged spouse to return to their country with the child for a vacation. The taking parent then abducts the child and the left behind parent then spends her life savings and many years trying to get her child returned to the U.S. All of which could have been avoided with accurate reporting on the danger.

I am very concerned that the first annual report contains major gaps and even misleading information, especially when it comes to countries with which we have the most intractable abduction cases.

For instance, the report indicates that India, which has consistently been in the top five destinations for abducted American children, had 19 new cases in 2014, 22 resolved cases and no unresolved cases. However, we know from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) that India has 53 open abduction cases—and that 51 have been pending for more than 1 year.

The report shows zero new cases in Tunisia for last year, 3 resolved cases, and zero unresolved cases. And yet Ms. Edeanna Barbirou testified to her more than 3-year battle to bring her children home from Tunisia. NCMEC's numbers show 6 ongoing abductions in Tunisia, all of which have been pending for more than a year.

Nowhere is the report's disconnect with reality more clear than in its handling of Japan, a country that has never issued and enforced a return order for a single one of the hundreds of American children abducted there, and was not listed as a country showing failing to cooperate in returns.

In March, nearly two months before the annual report was released, I chaired a hearing in the subcommittee which I chair featuring Ambassador Susan Jacobs in which it was made perfectly clear that, "Congress expects that Japan will be evaluated not just on its handling of new abduction cases after it joined the Hague Convention last year, but on its work to resolve ALL open abduction cases," including the more than 50 cases I and others have been raising with the State Department for the last 5 years.

Among such cases is that of Sgt. Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as "my country will protect me."

Her country, very worried about its designation in the new report, sent a high-level delegation in March to meet with Ambassador Jacobs and explain why Japan should be excused from being listed as "non-compliant," despite the fact that more than one year after signing the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Japan has ordered zero returns to the U.S.

Just before the report was released in May—two weeks late—Takashi Okada, Deputy Director General in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Japanese Diet that he had been in consultation with the

State Department and "because we strived to make an explanation to the U.S. side, I hope that the report contents will be based on our country's efforts."

In other words, Japan got a pass from the State Department and escaped the list of countries facing action by the U.S. for their failure to resolve abduction cases based on what Mr. Okada euphemistically refers to as "efforts," not results.

Sgt. Michael Elias's country has utterly failed to protect him. He has seen zero progress in his case over the last year—the 7th year of his heart-wrenching ordeal—and yet the State Department cannot even bring itself to hold Japan accountable by naming Japan an offender in the annual report.

It is disappointing, discouraging, and disgraceful. The report whitewashes Japan's egregious record on parental child abduction.

Adding insult to injury, the report table that was to show the unresolved abduction cases in Japan failed to include a single one of the more than 50 cases, 36 of which have been dragging on for more than 5 years, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Instead, the table listed Japan has having a 43% resolution rate.

Japan has never issued and enforced a return order for an American child. These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government.

The Goldman Act is clear: All requests for return that the State Department submitted to the foreign ministry and that remained unresolved 12 months later are to be counted against Japan. Nearly 100% of the abduction cases to Japan remain open; and the report's conclusion of 43% resolution is indefensible.

Moreover, not a single left behind parent pursuing access was allowed in-person contact with their child over the last year.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

The question still remains, will the State Department use the Goldman Act as required by law?

I appreciate the Department's presence at yesterday's hearing to discuss ways that we can improve the report and ensure that it fulfills the purposes for which it was intended—namely, the prevention of abduction and the reunification of the thousands of American families that have been suffering forced separation for too long.

WELCOMING THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE, TECO, TO DENVER

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to welcome the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, TECO, to the city of Denver. The establishment of this important office in Denver is a testament to the strong relationship the people of Colorado have developed over the years with the people of Taiwan. Colorado counts

Taiwan as its 6th largest Asian trading partner and its 13th overall trading partner. Locating this office in Denver not only reflects the depth of our current relationship with Taiwan but will surely contribute to deepening our trade, education, and cultural ties in the coming years.

My district in Colorado has a growing Taiwanese population and their presence greatly enriches the district economically, culturally, and civically. Taiwanese entrepreneurs, business community, civic leaders, and students contribute greatly to our community. Over the past 50 years Taiwan has also proven itself as a significant political, economic, and security partner of the United States and I fully expect that strong relationship to grow even stronger in the years to come.

Having Taiwan as a meaningful partner clearly benefits both of our citizens, and I am proud that Colorado now has a direct relationship with Taiwan through the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

I look forward doing whatever I can to further enhance our close and growing relationship.

MIDDLE EAST WARS ARE A  
HORRIBLE MISTAKE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Sowell is one of this Nation's most-respected economists and syndicated columnists.

His latest column is about the lessons we should learn from our seemingly-endless war in Iraq.

Mr. Sowell wrote: "Going back to square one, what lessons might we learn from the whole experience of the Iraq War?"

If nothing else, we should never again imagine that we can engage in "nation-building" in the sweeping sense that term acquired in Iraq—least of all building a democratic Arab nation in a region of the world that has never had such a thing in a history that goes back thousands of years."

Mr. Sowell is right.

It has been a horrible mistake for this Nation to spend trillions of dollars on unnecessary wars in the Middle East.

We should never have gotten involved in all these civil wars between Shi'a and Sunni.

Yet, we keep on pouring mega-billions down these ratholes, voting for even more billions over there as recently as yesterday. When will we ever learn?

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
NORTH CHICAGO AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ROTARY HUMANITARIAN PATRIOT AWARD

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding community service of The Rotary Club of North Chicago and to recognize this year's recipients of The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Award.

The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Program was established by The Rotary Club of North Chicago in 2013 with three primary objectives: 1) recognizing individuals throughout Northeast Illinois who are the best at providing humanitarian support for our United Armed Forces Veterans and their families; 2) highlighting veteran services provided by local North Chicago institutions including the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and its integrated relationships with the active duty component at Great Lakes Naval Training Center and Rosalind Franklin University College of Medicine and Science; and 3) supporting research, treatment, and awareness for individuals living with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Rotary was founded on the principle of service, and The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Program is an inspiring extension of this mission. The award recipients all demonstrate an extraordinary sense of commitment to the men and women of our armed forces. These individuals understand that veterans have sacrificed greatly for this country and deserve nothing less than our highest gratitude and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this year's recipients of The Rotary Humanitarian Patriot Award: Bryan Anderson, Joyce Campbell, Mary Carmody, Larry Crone, Jeff Harger, Gander the Service Dog, Lon Hodges, Robert Kauffman, Don Long, Rob Paddor, Judge John Philips, Anthony Sarpe, Craig Steichen, Matt Steichen, Angela Walker, Scott Watkins, Bill Wolff, Michael Woods, and Frank Yurasek.

Even more so, I thank these outstanding individuals and canine for the incredible work they continue to do. Their service strengthens our communities and our country, and I am grateful for the work of The Rotary Club of North Chicago and all of this year's honorees.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. D. EDWARD SMYTH ON HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor D. Edward ("Ted") Smyth on his retirement from McGraw Hill Financial, following a distinguished career at the highest levels of government and business.

In 2009, Ted joined the company as its Executive Vice President for Corporate Affairs, overseeing worldwide marketing, communications, government affairs and corporate responsibility. During his tenure, Ted helped lead the company's transformation into a focused provider of credit ratings, benchmarks and analytics to the financial marketplace, with marquee brands that include Standard & Poor's, Platts and J.D. Power. He also lent his expertise in corporate governance to the company's Board of Directors and served as a trusted counselor to two chief executive officers: Harold W. ("Terry") McGraw, III, and more recently, Douglas L. Peterson.

Ted came to McGraw Hill Financial after more than two decades at H.J. Heinz Company, where he held the dual roles of Senior Vice President for Corporate and Government Affairs and Chief Administrative Officer. In his time at Heinz, Ted created world-class com-

munications and government relations functions and chaired both the Heinz Global Communications Committee and the Heinz Crisis and Issues Committee, reporting directly to Bill Johnson, Heinz's former chairman, president and CEO. Ted also built and sustained the company's talent management process, designed to attract and retain the best minds in the food industry.

Prior to joining Heinz in 1988, Ted spent 15 years as a senior diplomat for Ireland, serving in embassies and offices in Geneva, Portugal, Washington, D.C. and London. Among the many highlights of his diplomatic career, Ted served as a delegate to the 36-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Switzerland and was a special advisor to the Irish Prime Minister in seeking a peaceful resolution to the Northern Ireland conflict. Ted also was a member of the Secretariat of the New Ireland Forum and was Press Secretary for the Irish government in the United Kingdom.

A talented writer and sought-after speaker, Ted has authored numerous articles on public policy, has participated in leading conferences worldwide and has contributed thoughtful bylines to several leading newspapers. He lends his considerable leadership skills to a number of organizations, currently serving as a Director of Glucksman Ireland House at New York University, a member of the Global Studies Program of the Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, a trustee of the Clinton Institute in University College, Dublin, and a trustee of Marlboro College, Vermont. He also is a former Director of the Hain Celestial Company, the Africa America Institute and the Ireland Funds. Ted graduated with honors in History and Political Science from Trinity College in Dublin.

Mr. Speaker, apart from his countless accomplishments, Ted Smyth is a true gentleman and a friend to all who know him. I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ted for his many contributions and congratulating him on his remarkable career.

#### CONGRATULATING THE D.C. CHAPTER OF THE BLACK DATA PROCESSING ASSOCIATES ON ITS 37TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the District of Columbia chapter of the Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) on its 37th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Founded in May 1978 by Norman Mays, the D.C. chapter is the second chapter of BDPA formed, preceded only by the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania chapter, 1977. In 1979, BDPA was restructured as a national organization, and has 45 active chapters across the United States.

As the oldest and largest African American information technology (IT) organization, comprised of over 2,000 African-American IT professionals, as well as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) college students,

BDPA's vision is to be a powerful advocate for their interests within the global technology industry. Its mission is to be a global, member-focused technology organization that delivers programs and services for the professional well-being of its members.

BDPA continues to promote professional growth and technical development for young people and those entering into information and communication technology (ICT) in academia and corporate America. We also appreciate BDPA and its 45 chapters for continuing to provide ICT opportunities for STEM students and professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 37th anniversary of the D.C. chapter of the Black Data Processing Associates, in congratulating BDPA for its outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the residents of the District of Columbia and around the country, and in welcoming those attending the BDPA Annual National Technology Conference and Career Fair, titled "Evolution of IT—Embracing the Digital Future," on August 18–22, 2015, at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

#### HONORING NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY WRESTLER, NICK GWIAZDOWSKI

##### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nick Gwiazdowski, a member of the North Carolina State University wrestling team, on winning his second straight NCAA Division I Individual Championship.

Mr. Gwiazdowski is the first Wolfpack wrestler to ever win multiple NCAA titles and one of the most successful student-athletes in NC State's history. He finished this season with a perfect 35–0 record and holds a record of 55 straight wins since last year—the nation's longest current winning streak.

North Carolina State has a long history of success in wrestling, with seven national championships. Gwiazdowski's remarkable victory—17 seconds into the championship match—adds yet another chapter to that storied tradition.

Congratulations to Nick Gwiazdowski. Wolfpack fans everywhere are proud of your championship and look forward to your senior season next year and the promise of a threepeat.

#### OUR SHREDDED FLAG

##### HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, recently, I was contacted by a constituent, Colonel Paul Dudley, United States Air Force, Retired. He wrote to express his patriotic feelings for our country and the treatment of our flag. Attached to his letter was a poem he wrote titled, "Our Shredded Flag." Since this Sunday, June 14th, is Flag Day, I thought it appropriate to submit his poem.

I am a United States of America shredded flag.  
 I fly from the roof of many typical American homes.  
 Some time ago, I was new and radiant when they placed me there,  
 But the wind and rain have reduced me to strings of red, white, and blue.  
 Sometimes I fly from vehicles until I am torn to shreds;  
 Though I still wave proudly, and can be recognized, I need replaced,  
 And here's why:  
 Brave military have carried me into battles in many wars  
 To save and preserve our nation, and restore peace.  
 I fly proudly above our military bases and naval vessels  
 To show that we are, yet today, a nation of strength and honor.  
 Our Veterans, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard  
 Still honor me, care for me, protect me, and rescue me when torn;  
 With them, I am in good hands.  
 When they see that I am weathering from the elements,  
 They take me down and honorably, ceremonially give me final rest,  
 And as a service to those citizens who do not seem to know, or do the same,  
 They do it for them, with great respect and understanding.  
 I am called "Old Glory", "The Star Spangled Banner", and other respected names,  
 Which make me flow and flutter proudly in the wind,  
 For I am the true vision of our great nation.  
 I represent a people who have achieved their freedom;  
 I remind a people of the sacrifices that we have made to keep it;  
 I go off to war with the greatest warriors, many who die defending it;  
 And I grieve when draped over their coffins when they are returned.  
 I am placed into the hands of their greatest loved ones  
 To honor them and remember them forevermore.  
 Those who dishonor me, stomp on me, and burn me, only destroy my cloth.  
 My meaning, my purpose, my honor and representation still live on;  
 These cannot be taken away so long as there remains a United States of America.  
 So, fellow citizens, protect what I stand for, not for me, but for you;  
 For I am merely dye on cloth with a God blessed meaning.  
 Honor me; respect me for what I represent,  
 And I will fly over you wherever, and forever.  
 I am the "Stars and Stripes Forever".

Written by Paul Frederick Dudley, Colonel, USAF (Ret) USMC (WWII) USAF (Vietnam) March 6, 2011.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. STEVEN A. LOOMIS

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dr. Steven A. Loomis of Littleton, Colorado. Dr. Loomis will soon be elected the 93rd president of the American Optometric Association (AOA) during their 118th annual meeting on June 27, 2015, in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Loomis is a graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry and owns Mountain Vista EyeCare and Dry Eye Center in Littleton, Colorado. He was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and elected President-Elect at the 117th Annual AOA Congress & 44th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting in June 2014. Dr. Loomis has continuously proven to be a leader in his profession at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to his duties as President-Elect, Dr. Loomis is chair of the AOA Building Committee and serves as a member of the AOA Agenda, Executive, and Personnel Committees.

Dr. Loomis' enthusiasm for optometry and commitment to excellence in eye and vision care has earned him this prestigious national office. I take great pride representing Dr. Loomis in Colorado's Sixth Congressional District and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA and I wish him the very best of luck.

#### MAYOR KURT D. DYKSTRA

#### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Kurt D. Dykstra and his commendable service to the City of Holland as its 40th Mayor.

Mayor Dykstra was the first of his family to attend college, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Northwestern College, in Orange City, Iowa, and his Juris Doctor at Marquette University Law School, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating first in class, Summa Cum Laude.

Mayor Dykstra has been a member of the City Council since 2005 and represented Holland's fifth ward until his election to Mayor. As Holland's mayor since 2009, he has provided strong leadership for this thriving and successful lakefront city. Today, Holland is a bright, vibrant city thanks to his vision and leadership.

During his tenure, Holland was named the 2013 winner of Outstanding Achievement in Heritage Preservation, the 2012 winner of Environmental Efforts, named in Forbes list of America's Prettiest Towns, a Top Five Safest Cities in the U.S., and the 3rd Best Place for Families in the U.S.

Mayor Dykstra's record of successful leadership has enabled the City of Holland to continue to be recognized as a place to live, work and play. Under Mayor Dykstra, the city has become a place where businesses are able to grow, strong and safe neighborhoods flourish, and visitors are warmly welcomed. The City of Holland has been well served by his tenure.

I wish Mayor Dykstra the best of luck as he leaves West Michigan to become President of Trinity Christian College.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Kurt Dykstra for his service to the City of Holland.

#### HONORING THE GLEN MOORE FIRE COMPANY

#### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glen Moore Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of serving and protecting families in Chester County.

Glen Moore's first apparatus was horse-drawn. It was bought for \$100 in 1915 after local residents saw the need for fire protection in the community. Since then, the Company has grown and thrived and the Glen Moore area now benefits from the protection of a highly-trained team of expert officers and members, modern apparatus and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014 alone, the Glen Moore Fire Company responded to more than 300 incidents—one every 29 hours. We are grateful to the fine firefighters of the Glen Moore Fire Company and I wish them another 100 years of success in serving the community.

#### HONORING COUNCILMAN THOMAS D. MISERENDINO

#### HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Navy and Vietnam veteran Thomas Miserendino of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, who passed away last week, and express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Councilman Miserendino served our country valiantly during the Vietnam War and in his position as Senior Chief of the U.S. Navy. Councilman Miserendino continued his service to the country after his time in the Navy by actively serving his community.

Among his many volunteer services he was a Councilman to the Borough of Beachwood, the longest serving Chief of Beachwood Volunteer Fire Company, Ocean County manager for the NJ Firemen's Home, Secretary of the Beachwood Fire Relief Association, Life member of Ocean County Firemen's Association and past board member for Toms River Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, South Jersey is tremendously grateful for Councilman Thomas Miserendino's service to our nation and its communities. It is my honor to recognize his service and achievements before the United States House of Representatives.

#### YOUNG AMERICA'S NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

#### HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 12, 2015*

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the students who will take part in the Young America's National High School Leadership Conference from July 8th to 11th. At this conference, the students will learn leadership

skills along with discussing the ideas of individual freedom, a strong national defense, free enterprise, and traditional values. It is extremely important for young people in the United States to learn about the virtues of these ideas.

I join with the students' families and friends in wishing these young conservative leaders a successful conference, and excellent time in our nation's capital.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY "TONY" GIANNETTA

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Dominic "Tony" Giannetta, who passed away on May 30, 2015, at the age of 94. As the founder of Hallmark Homes, Tony helped expand the California home building industry and devoted much of his life to maintaining it. His kind heart, talent, and contributions to the Central Valley will be greatly missed.

Tony was born on November 7, 1920, in Fresno, California. Raised in Fresno, Tony graduated from Edison High School. He married Alice Therese Baraldi on November 22, 1942, and shortly thereafter the two moved to Marysville, CA, to fulfill Tony's duties in the United States Army. After the war the couple moved back to Fresno, where they settled and raised six sons.

During the late 1940's, Tony began his career in the home building industry as a carpenter. In 1951 Tony and John Mortillaro formed the Quality Homes Construction Company, which merged with the Cetti Brothers Construction Company a year later. Under the Hallmark Homes name, the company developed 27 subdivisions and built more than 4,500 homes in the Fresno, Clovis, and Madera areas, in addition to the construction of many commercial projects. This made Hallmark Homes one of the largest regional builders for three decades, and it marked the association of the name Tony Giannetta within the home building industry. In fact, the two became synonymous in Fresno.

Tony was a member of the Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley, and served as president in 1967, 1979, and 1980. He acted as a Director to the California Building Industry Association and was a life director to the National Association of Homebuilders who on February 15, 2008 acknowledged him as a 50 year member, and he served on various committees for the California Building Industry Association including its Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, Insurance Committee, and Long Range Planning Committee.

As a Fresno native, maintaining community involvement was important to Tony. In partnership with the Construction Department at Fresno City College, Tony provided work experience training for students in the building industry. He was also instrumental in creating the National Association of Home Builders-Building Industry Association student chapters at Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno.

For his contributions to homebuilding and its community, Tony became a lifetime member

of the Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley in 1986 and was inducted into the California Housing Foundation Hall of Fame in 1988—the first inductee to come from the Central Valley. He was also awarded the Oscar Spano Lifetime Service Award in 1988 by his local building industry association.

In his spare time, Tony enjoyed traveling, playing sports and cherished his time with family and friends. He was a devoted husband to Alice, his bride of 72 years; a loving father to his sons, Gerald, Ronald, Anthony Jr., James, Michael and John; and the kind and generous grandfather of 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Tony's favorite memories included celebrating the holidays in his home as well as gathering for Sunday pasta lunches, a tradition he shared with his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Anthony Dominic "Tony" Giannetta, a Central Valley pioneer and influential figure in the California home building industry.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

##### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,758,342,047.24. We've added \$7,525,881,293,134.16 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE RICHARD AND GINA SANTORI LIBRARY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

##### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Richard and Gina Santori Library of Aurora, Illinois.

Since its founding in 1838, the Aurora Public Library system has nurtured education in our diverse community and has instilled a love of reading for generations of Aurorans. By establishing locations throughout the city, developing bookmobiles and robust outreach efforts, the library has made educational resources accessible to all Aurorans and been a strong contributor to community growth.

With the opening of the new library in downtown Aurora, the Aurora Public Library has embraced the challenges and opportunities of the next century. The building will feature a "Makers Space" on the first floor with a 3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, plotter printer, computers with CAD, CAM, Adobe Cloud and other creation software for students and community members to experiment and train with modern manufacturing tools. It will also feature

an audio/visual library, the Kiwanis Club of Aurora Children's Library, and a Teen Space with a state-of-the-art media studio. These new resources will allow the Aurora Public Library to continue its mission and serve the new needs of our community.

Congratulations to the City of Aurora and the Aurora Public Library on the opening of the new facility. The Richard and Gina Santori Library will no doubt inspire future generations to become lifelong learners.

#### THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Zimbabwe is a country the size of the state of Montana, with a population of nearly 14 million people. However, its mineral wealth gives it an outsized importance. The southern African nation is the world's third largest source of platinum group metals and has significant reserves of nickel, gold, chromium and dozens of other metals and minerals. Significant diamond reserves were discovered in 2006. Currently, about 40 percent of the country's foreign exchange is earned from the export of these metals and minerals.

It was the abundance of such mineral resources, and their exploitation, which has driven the relationship between the West and Zimbabwe. Since its colonization by Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company in 1889 on behalf of Great Britain, the area once known as Southern Rhodesia has experienced a tumultuous history. The white minority gained self-governance in 1922, and a 1930 Land Apportionment Act restricted black access to land, making many Africans laborers and not land owners. In 1964, the white minority government unsuccessfully sought independence from Great Britain, and then unilaterally declared independence a year later under white rule. This move sparked international outrage and economic sanctions, and that regime was never widely recognized by the international community, though the support of white-ruled South Africa enabled the government to limp along.

Meanwhile, black opposition to minority rule, which began in the 1930s, erupted into a guerrilla war in 1972. Attempts to end the conflict diplomatically failed until the 1979 talks brokered by Great Britain resulted in British-supervised independence elections. The winner of those elections was Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union, or ZANU, who at age 91 continues to rule this country, in large part through intimidation and manipulation of elections.

As a hero of the independence and majority rule movements, Mugabe has enjoyed the support of many other African leaders, who have considered him an honored elder and have generally declined to join in international efforts to sanction his government. This has placed the United States in an awkward position, with limited African support for political and economic reforms in Zimbabwe.

Although many observers have credited the Mugabe government with productive management until fairly recent years, there were political problems from the beginning of his rule.

For example, Mugabe fired fellow independence leader Joshua Nkomo in 1982 and then launched a campaign to suppress what his government called a rebellion by pro-Nkomo forces. The Mugabe regime has been accused of killing thousands of ethnic Ndebele citizens over the next few years to end the supposed rebellion, assisted by military advisors from East Germany and North Korea.

Once one of the leading industrial nations in Africa, Zimbabwe began a long economic downward spiral in the late 1990s. Squatters, with the support of the Zimbabwe government, seized white farms they claimed had been stolen by white settlers in the past. Despite government assurances, these farms were not transferred to black farm workers, but rather to cronies of the Mugabe government who lacked agricultural experience. Both whites and blacks in Zimbabwe acknowledged that the land policies had been unfair, but the manner of addressing this problem led to serious economic problems for the country.

Agricultural production fell, and the manufacturing sector, heavily tied to agriculture, also diminished. Efforts to squeeze currency for shrinking national reserves from businesses, coupled with the disastrous requirement that businesses use the fictitious exchange rate, caused retailers to lose money with each sale. The effort to close the many vendors who supplied tourists with souvenirs

and citizens with necessary household items was yet another milestone in Zimbabwe's economic collapse. By 2006, year-on-year inflation exceeded 1,000 percent. Devaluation of the currency and the subsequent use of foreign currency are credited with eventually preventing a complete economic collapse.

Zimbabwe and the United States have had a tempestuous relationship since that southern African country emerged from white minority rule. Part of the problem has been resentment by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and his closest advisers against the United States for not supporting their liberation movement, the backdrop to which was the geopolitical conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States. Another part of the problem has been the justifiable public criticism of repressive political policies by the Mugabe government by successive U.S. administrations. Consequently, the minimal communications between our two governments has contributed to suspicions and an inability for U.S. officials to reach out to cooperative Zimbabwe officials.

Successive elections have been the subject of opposition and international criticism for the lack of political space allowed to those who would challenge the ruling ZANU party. Arrests, incarcerations, torture in custody, beatings at public rallies and demonstrations and disappearances of government opponents have denied legitimacy to the Zimbabwe elec-

tion processes. The country's commitment to democratic governance has been further placed in question due to a series of repressive laws preventing freedoms of speech, association and movement.

As if the government's repressive tactics are not troubling enough, political jockeying in Zimbabwe, including the recent dismissal of Vice President Joice Mujuru, places the succession to President Mugabe in doubt, which puts U.S. policy in question. Last week's hearing examined current U.S. policy toward Zimbabwe and the prospects for an enhanced relationship depending on events that have not yet taken place.

Of course, in foreign policy, one cannot wait until a crisis materializes in order to create a planned response. A leader nearing the century mark, presiding over a fractious political scene in a country that has experienced political and economic turmoil creates a situation in which planning for a positive outcome to regime change must be devised.

Zimbabwe is a country rich in both natural and human potential. Once the resentments of the current old guard have passed and democratic governance can be established, U.S.-Zimbabwe relations can become what they have never been: harmonious and mutually beneficial.