

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING UNDERSHERIFF RICK CASTLE FOR HIS 35-YEAR CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Undersheriff Rick Castle's distinguished career of service. Undersheriff Rick Castle is a lifelong law enforcement officer who has spent 35 years serving and protecting his local community.

Undersheriff Castle was born and raised in Waterford, New York and graduated high school from Troy's La Salle Institute in 1988. Finding himself drawn to a life of service, that same year he joined the Waterford Police Department and began working as a dispatcher. The following year, Undersheriff Castle was hired by the Sheriff's Department and spent the next three decades dedicating himself to Saratoga County.

Throughout his long career in law enforcement, Undersheriff Castle made a point to continue his formal education, earning a B.S. in Public Safety Management from the University of Albany in 2006 and a Master of Public Administration from Marist College in 2020. He also joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2008 and has proudly served for over 14 years.

While Undersheriff Castle began his career with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department as a desk officer, his commitment to the people of Saratoga County allowed him to continually rise through the ranks. Over the span of 33 years, he was regularly promoted and, in 2016, was selected to serve as county Undersheriff. Undersheriff Castle also served as an investigator and instructor for the collision reconstruction unit, a systems administrator for the IT department, and a licensed emergency medical technician.

Undersheriff Castle is a lifelong public servant, a loving husband and father, and a distinguished member of the Saratoga County community. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize the storied career of Undersheriff Rick Castle.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF WALTER WILLARD COLE, SR.

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the passing of a true Portland icon. A beloved member of the LGBTQ+ community, a pioneer for equality, and a dazzling performer, Walter Willard Cole Sr. embodied the spirit of Portland. Walter passed away on March 23rd in Portland, Oregon after a long and accomplished life. I am honored to

have known Walter and deeply admire his many contributions to our city, both as a civic leader, small business owner, activist, philanthropist—and yes—as the drag performer Darcelle.

For decades, Darcelle was a fixture in Portland's live entertainment scene, captivating audiences as the world's oldest working drag queen. For over 50 years Darcelle entertained patrons acting as master of ceremonies to a cadre of drag performers and dancers, all the while bantering with audience members and performing memorable routines in extravagant, hand-made gowns.

In 1967, Walter purchased a bar in Portland's Old Town neighborhood, then skid row, that would later be known as the Darcelle XV Showplace. Well before the gay rights movement took hold, Darcelle XV experienced its share of protests, threats, and hardships. Yet Walter persisted, creating a welcoming and inclusive space for audiences to relax, laugh, and enjoy a show.

As LGBTQ+ acceptance grew throughout Portland and the country, the nightclub's impact cannot be understated. Darcelle had a way of putting people at ease and created an environment where patrons, both gay and straight, felt comfortable and welcomed. At Darcelle XV, drag queens had a stage to perfect their act before taking their performance on the road, showcasing their talents for the broader public. The nightclub and Walter's stewardship were influential in advancing mainstream acceptance of drag performance and contributed significantly to the broader societal acceptance of gay rights. Today, Darcelle XV is considered a Portland institution and a pioneering establishment in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality.

Outside the club, Walter was a fierce advocate for Portland's LGBTQ+ community. He understood and embraced his position as a community leader who worked to create positive and lasting change. Walter used his performances to raise awareness and funds for the causes he cared deeply about. During the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 90s, Walter stood up for his community. He helped raise money for medical research, people living with AIDS, and their families.

In 2020, I was honored to support the effort to preserve Walter's legacy by including Darcelle XV in the National Register of Historic Places. This was the first institution recognized in Oregon that honored our LGBTQ+ community and its history. I'm glad we were able to honor Walter's work in this way and protect his legacy for generations to come.

Walter will be dearly missed by his friends and family, the LGBTQ+ community, and all of Portland.

COMMEMORATING THE 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives and legacies of Mardiros Deovletian, Shooshan Hounanian, Azniv Totigian, Mariam Minasian, Hadji Martiros Temelian, Annenouhi Toutikian. These names represent a few, but a precious few, of the more than 1.5 million men, women, and children who lost their lives in the first genocide of the 20th century.

One hundred and eight years ago, the Ottoman Empire began a systematic effort to destroy the Armenian people. Teachers, writers, businessmen, and doctors were rounded up and killed, clergy were tortured and burned alive in churches, infants were ripped from their mothers' arms, sons and daughters witnessed their fathers being murdered, and children died gasping for a drop of water. Many Armenians were killed outright, and others, including Komitas Vartabed, considered the father of Armenian music, suffered emotional trauma after witnessing the sheer horror of the brutal massacres.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of this methodical mass killing, Turkey has long engaged in a campaign to deny the genocide and to silence those who would speak the truth.

But the United States will no longer be silenced. In 2019, for the first time in history, the U.S. House passed my resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide by a near unanimous and bipartisan margin. The Senate too passed a resolution affirming the facts of the Armenian Genocide. And in 2021, President Joe Biden finally cast aside decades of shameful silence by our nation to become the first sitting U.S. president to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

These historic achievements happened because of a resilient and enduring Armenian diaspora. It's a testament to the unwavering efforts of thousands of activists, organizations, communities, and church leaders. It's a victory for human rights, and for truth itself, and it's something we achieved together.

But we know there remains work to do. Our thoughts and our hearts are with Armenia and Artsakh, because the Armenian people are still under duress and attack and have suffered the losses of many who died in Artsakh, the thousands who were forced to flee from the unprovoked aggression by Azerbaijan and Turkey, and those who remain prisoners of war. Azerbaijan's unprovoked assaults on sovereign Armenian territory and the brutal blockade of Artsakh risk another genocide. We have seen this before, and we must not allow it to happen again.

These are the horrific consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked and

• 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.

when Aliyev's hostility is met with deafening silence, emboldening him to continue, and expand, his unprovoked attacks on the Armenian people. This is why Azerbaijan is emboldened to believe it can annihilate Armenians in their historical homeland. We cannot allow violence and crimes against humanity to go unanswered, whether they occurred one hundred eight years ago or as recently as this year or even this month.

The United States must impose sanctions on Azerbaijan, and U.S. support for the warmongers in Baku must stop. The United States must continue to pressure Aliyev to immediately reopen the Lachin corridor, direct U.S. humanitarian assistance to Artsakh, call for the safe and unconditional release of the remaining Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians, hold Azerbaijan accountable for the destruction of religious and cultural sites, and support democracy in Armenia and a free, independent Artsakh.

On this solemn anniversary, as we pause to remember the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide, we also reflect on the resilience of those who survived, and the perseverance of their children and grandchildren, who built new lives in the United States, speak the beautiful Armenian language, and enrich our nation with the Armenian culture and heritage. Despite the trials the Armenian people have faced and continue to face, it has not broken their faith, determination, or their will to survive. They have overcome the harshest of trials and tribulations, and yet, they remain strong and unbowed, in Los Angeles, in Yerevan, in Artsakh and around the world.

From marching shoulder to shoulder with the Armenian community in California to the halls of Congress, I will always stand with you every step of the way as we redouble our efforts to bring liberation to our Armenian brothers and sisters abroad. Although I am not a descendant of the fallen, on this day, as we commemorate the Armenian Genocide and honor the martyred saints, we are all Armenian. Whenever we speak out against mass murder and refuse to be intimidated into silence, we are all Armenian. Whenever we stand up for human rights and justice, we are all Armenian.

RECOGNIZING KELLY SCHULZ FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Kelly Schulz for her one and a half years of invaluable service to my office and my constituents in Washington's 1st Congressional District. Kelly joined my office as my D.C. Scheduler in November 2021 and has worked tirelessly to ensure my schedule runs smoothly and I am able to make it to all of my commitments on time. She has also done a wonderful job of carrying out one of the most fundamental responsibilities of a congressional office—ensuring that as many constituents as possible are able to meet with their member of Congress to share their thoughts. Kelly has brought a wonderful Washingtonian spirit and hard work ethic to this critical position. Over

her tenure, she played an instrumental role in overseeing the smooth ramp up of in-person constituent meetings as we transitioned back to being in the office—all while building lasting relationships with my team and those who had the pleasure of getting to know her. Kelly has been an incredible staffer and a wonderful friend to all in the office, and we will all sorely miss her and her infectious laughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kelly Schulz and wishing her the best in all of her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAIN NOISE AND VIBRATIONS REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Today, I introduce the Train Noise and Vibrations Reduction Act, which would direct the Secretary of Transportation to submit a report to Congress containing recommendations on how to reduce train noise and vibrations near homes, as well as estimates of the costs and benefits of each recommendation. Such recommendations would include modifications to trains, tracks and maintenance procedures, speed limits for trains, mitigation measures between tracks and homes, limitations on the number of trains and the number of cars on trains, limitations on hours of operations, building insulation and modifications to soil conditions. The report would be due to Congress no later than one year after the enactment of the bill.

The Noise Control Act of 1972 created the Office of Noise Abatement and Control within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), granting EPA authority and oversight over broad noise control regulations. However, years of defunding left this office without any resources to conduct enforcement, forcing EPA to phase out the office in 1982. I hear from District of Columbia residents frequently about the negative impact of train noise and vibrations on their lives. The noise and vibrations can harm health and quality of life, and can even harm the structural integrity of homes. Congress and the executive branch must do more to reduce the harm nationwide.

As a senior member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I have been committed to reducing transportation noise pollution. I have convened community meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to examine how to reduce train noise and vibrations. A report on reducing train noise and vibrations can help us identify viable, long-term solutions for communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA BLUE KEY

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Florida Blue Key.

As the state of Florida's oldest honors society, Florida Blue Key's history is a story of service and honor.

Originally organized to put together a parent's weekend for a university football game, Florida Blue Key now sponsors the entire university's homecoming including Gator Growl, the largest student run pep rally in the country.

I draw on the lessons I learned in Florida Blue Key every day, as have so many others before me in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

One hundred years later, Florida Blue Key remains the most prestigious leadership honorary in the Sunshine State. I am grateful for my time in Florida Blue Key and wish them continued success in the century ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on February 27, February 28, and March 1. Had I been present for the following roll call votes, I would have voted Aye for the following votes:

Roll Call No. 120, February 27, 2023: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 132—Responding to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023.

Roll Call No. 121, February 27, 2023: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 538—Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act.

Roll Call No. 125, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Bost of Illinois Amendment No. 1.

Roll Call No. 126, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Boebert of Colorado Amendment No. 3.

Roll Call No. 127, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Jackson Lee of Texas Amendment No. 6.

Roll Call No. 128, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Jackson Lee of Texas Amendment No. 7; and

Roll Call No. 129, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Lee of Nevada Amendment No. 9. I would have voted Nay for the following votes:

Roll Call No. 122, February 28, 2023: On Ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 166—Providing for consideration of (H.R. 347) Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act; (H.J. Res. 30) congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, U.S.C., of the rule submitted by the Dept. of Labor relating to Prudence & Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments & Exercising Shareholder Rights;

Roll Call No. 123, February 28, 2023: On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 166—Providing for consideration of (H.R. 347) Reduce

Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act; (H.J. Res. 30) congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, U.S.C., of the rule submitted by the Dept. of Labor relating to Prudence & Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments & Exercising Shareholder Rights;

Roll Call No. 124, February 28, 2023: On Passage H.J. Res. 30—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising;

Roll Call No. 130, March 1, 2023: On Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 347—Roy of Texas Amendment No. 14; and

Roll Call No. 131, March 1, 2023: On Passage H.R. 347—Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 24, 2023

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Infertility Awareness Week. In the United States, infertility impacts at least 1 in 8 couples.

The impact of infertility is devastating for people who are trying to build a family and can take a serious toll on their mental and emotional health. Many people face difficulty in accessing or affording treatments. Infertility

can impact anyone, and for many people the underlying cause is never known.

Infertility has a serious impact on everyone, but it can be particularly challenging for men and women in the military and our veterans. Studies have shown that among veterans, infertility is nearly twice as prevalent as it is among the general population. This can be for a variety of factors including the significant stress that members of the military are under, exposure to environmental toxins, and other hazards of their service to our country. In 2021, Blue Star Families issued its annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey. The survey found that 67 percent of military families have experienced at least one family building challenge in their lifetime.

This week, I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to support our military and veterans who are struggling to have a child.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND
GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 734) to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chair, the House is considering a Republican-led bill that would prohibit transgender girls from participating in girls' and women's athletic programs.

This bill undermines the key purpose of Title IX—which is to eliminate sex discrimination in federally funded education programs—and it removes protections against gender identity discrimination in the context of athletic programs.

Young people participate in sports to be part of a team, learn sportsmanship, and challenge themselves. However, this bill seeks to strip trans girls of all ages of these opportunities and would limit opportunities for nonbinary and trans students as well as subject all students to egregious invasions of privacy.

We cannot let anti-LGBTQ Republicans use “protecting women” as an excuse for targeting and discriminating against trans kids. This isn't about sports or gender equity; it's about attacking LGBTQ kids.

We must stand up against this bill and the larger coordinated attack against transgender people and the LGBTQ community. We've seen hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills, with many specifically targeting transgender people, introduced in states across the country this year.

Some extreme conservatives have even gone as far as calling for the “eradication” of transgender people.

We must stand up for the rights of all people and protect school children—regardless of their gender identity, and ensure that everyone has equal access to opportunities, including playing sports.