

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH
BIRTHDAY OF HENRY MELCHIOR
MUHLENBERG

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown, in commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was born in Einbeck, Germany on September 6th, 1711. In 1742, the Franke Foundations of Halle (Germany) sent Muhlenberg to be pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, Trappe and New Hanover. In 1748, Muhlenberg organized the Pennsylvania Ministerium, the first Lutheran denomination in the New World. Through his writings and works, Muhlenberg became the most influential German-American Lutheran clergyman in colonial America, establishing or assisting congregations throughout the region. One of his sons, John Peter Gabriel, served as a Revolutionary War general and another, Frederick Augustus, as the first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's legacy continues through the nearly 4,000 persons The Lutheran Theological Seminary has trained for the public ministry throughout the United States and around the world. With a current enrollment of over 350 students from thirty Christian denominations, LTSP is a major educational institution in the Philadelphia region and continues to celebrate its ties to the Muhlenberg tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of his birth and to extend best wishes to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown on this celebratory occasion.

RECOGNIZING S&W CONTRACTING
OF WESTERN NEW YORK'S
ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of S&W Contracting, a successful local business, which recently landed at No. 47 on this year's Fortune Magazine Inner City 100, a list of the country's 100 fastest-growing inner city businesses.

Shandra Spicer, the company's president and CEO was recognized last year during Minority Enterprise Development Week as Minority Small Business Person of the Year for the Small Business Association's Buffalo District and Region II, including New York, New Jersey, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

S&W Contracting of Western New York was founded in 1999 by Shandra Spicer and her parents. They began as a small company that cleaned and painted units in Buffalo's Old First Ward area apartment complexes.

About one decade later S&W had grown into a general construction contractor and commercial janitorial services company with 27 employees and revenue of 1.7 million. The company saw profits of \$2.1 million in 2010. At age 22, Shandra Spicer became the CEO and President of S&W Contracting, a testament to her maturity and strong business sense at a young age.

In twelve years of business, S&W Contracting has secured some choice construction contracts, including work for Erie County Buffalo Public Schools and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shandra Spicer graduated from the University at Buffalo all State Minority and Women Emerging Entrepreneurs program and LPCiminelli's Emerging Contractor Mentor Program; she regularly attends workshops at the Women's Business Center at Canisius College.

Ms. Spicer advises other contractors to invest in their infrastructure, understand developers and their mission, and build relationships. S&W has clearly built relationships and put in the hard work necessary to secure contracts based on merit, a valuable message for any local business in today's economy.

It is with great pride that I stand today to recognize the achievements of S&W Contracting, under the leadership of Shandra Spicer, an inspiration to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF
RICHARD LASKY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Richard Lasky of Lewisville, Texas for his 30-year commitment to the fire rescue service and to celebrate his retirement.

Chief Lasky began his career as a firefighter in the outskirts of Chicago, where he also taught for the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute and at the Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association. There, Chief Lasky received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors' prestigious "Innovator of The Year" award. He has been a trail blazer in learning and leading on the job ever since.

Chief Lasky later moved to Lewisville where he continued his career in the fire service. He

has held numerous positions in the fire service including earning the distinguished title of command-level officer. Although he has held many positions in the fire and police service, Chief Lasky is best known as being a family man whether at home or at the station.

Soon after he began his position in Lewisville, tragedy struck our great Nation on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Centers were attacked. Chief Lasky came to the aid of his fire fighter brethren in New York City.

In addition to his tenure as a firefighter, Chief Lasky has also experienced a successful career as both a motivational speaker and an author. He has written over 150 technical articles and published a best-selling book entitled "Pride and Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job."

To add to his already impressive career, Chief Lasky also works as a co-host for the radio show "The Command Post" heard on the Fire Engineering Talk Radio.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this exceptionally courageous patriot and his professional and personal dedication to our community. It is my honor to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FRED
DONALD "DON" GIACOMAZZI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Fred Donald "Don" Giacomazzi, who passed away on August 18, 2011 at the age of seventy-three. Don was a distinguished dairyman and community leader who always placed the utmost importance on kinship, family, and friends.

Don was born on October 26, 1937 to Fred and Lilia Giacomazzi in Hanford, California. He grew up working on his family's dairy, which was established by his grandfather, Luigi Giacomazzi in 1893, and is one of the oldest operating dairies in California. He became active in the family business and learned the value of hard work early in his childhood. Don also became active in 4-H and the Future Farmers of America during his youth, demonstrating his passion for agriculture.

Upon graduating from Hanford High School in 1955, Don studied at College of the Sequoias, and then transferred to California State University, Fresno, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Years later, in 1966, Don married Jacqueline Giglio and they had four children and five grandchildren.

Don spent his adult life as a farmer in Kings County, California. In 1969, he and his father formed Don and Fred Giacomazzi Farms,

• 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.

which is currently run by Don's son, Dino, producing a fourth-generation family dairy operation. Don's passion and commitment to agriculture was evident in his enthusiastic membership and leadership within a number of dairy organizations. Don was a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for 22 years and served as president for five years, a member of the California Milk Advisory Board for 12 years, and chairman of the Kings County Western United Dairymen for four years. In addition, his family was named Dairy Family of the Year in 1998. In 2008, he and his wife Jackie were honored as the Distinguished Dairy Couple at the 52nd annual Salute to the Dairy Industry Dinner in Hanford, California.

A truly notable son of the San Joaquin Valley, Don also found time to enrich the community as a member of the Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment. Balancing his time and service to dairy and agriculture issues, Don also served as a member of the school board for 30 years and 4-H club leader, clearly exhibiting his personal vested interest in youth and education programs in agriculture.

Whether he was spending time with his family and friends, or serving our community, Don will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jackie; his mother Lilia; his four children Gina, Dino, Cara, and Mia; sister Patricia; five grandchildren; and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Fred Donald "Don" Giacomazzi, an honorable and respected man with an unwavering commitment to our community and his loving family.

HONORING "REMEMBER THEM:
CHAMPIONS FOR HUMANITY"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary and historic event taking place in California's Ninth Congressional District, the official unveiling of master artist Mario Chiodo's world-class bronze monument Remember Them: Champions for Humanity in Oakland's new Henry J. Kaiser Sculpture Park.

Originating as a heartfelt response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Mr. Chiodo's masterpiece honors 25 world-renowned humanitarians who boldly championed human rights despite hardship, barriers and personal risk. In the last decade, many in our community have helped to bring Remember Them to fruition. With the collaborative effort of private and corporate donors under the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Mr. Chiodo's vision has grown to include additional tributes to 14 local Bay Area activists. Remember Them is a source of Oakland pride and a powerful symbol of human altruism, sacrifice and resilience.

As we celebrate the three-section debut of the four-piece, 1,000-square-foot monument, we recognize that this magnificent work of art is not only the largest bronze sculpture in the West. It is a lasting, living legacy that will empower future generations to come. For exam-

ple, Remember Them is already part of a K-12 education curriculum developed with Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute as part of its Global Liberation Project. Thousands of young people in the Bay Area and throughout the country will have multi-faceted, hands-on access to the United States' first large-scale monument to promote global diversity and celebrate international humanitarians as a group. Another groundbreaking Remember Them feature is its unique access for visually impaired persons, including information in Braille. Moreover, a small-scale casting of the monument will be on permanent display in the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 25 global humanitarians who are honored today, and who will continue to inspire the hearts and minds of our young people, are (in alphabetical order) The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Maya Angelou, Susan B. Anthony, Ruby Bridges, Cesar Chavez, Chief Joseph, Head of the Nez Perce Nation, Sir Winston Churchill, Frederick Douglass, Shirin Ebadi, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Harvey Milk, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Oskar Schindler, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rigoberta Menchu Turn, The Unknown Rebel of Tiananmen Square, Elie Wiesel, and Malcolm X.

The many names and faces of Remember Them represent our vast global community and the beauty of our differences. Yet, more importantly, they remind us of what we share in common: the capacity to demonstrate extraordinary acts of human decency in the face of injustice and iniquity. In fact, this monument is designed on a spiraling axis that emulates the helix of humans' common DNA. Therefore, as we commemorate those who have made larger-than-life contributions to social justice, let us be reminded that we are well-equipped to follow suit.

On behalf of the residents of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to salute all who have contributed to the success of Mario Chiodo's Remember Them: Champions for Humanity. Thank you for your service to our community, and for ensuring that peace and social justice are a lasting symbol in our daily lives.

CONGRATULATIONS EDWARDS
FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friends Shawn and Susann Edwards on the birth of their son Robert Lacy Edwards. Robert was born on Monday, August 22, 2011, at 5:36 p.m.

Robert Lacy Edwards is seven pounds and eight ounces of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Gerald Robert and Marsha Miller of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Lacy and Pauline Edwards of Marion, South Carolina. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Edwards family and wish them all the best.

HONORING GREGORY WAYNE
MEYER, M.D.

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved doctor in the Merced Community, Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D.

Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. was born in 1957 in Merced, California and died at the age of 53 after a tragic hiking accident on June 29, 2011 in Yosemite National Park. A family lost more than a husband, father, son and brother when Dr. Meyer died while trying to rescue a friend and colleague in Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite National Park.

Dr. Meyer, 53, and physician assistant Richard Fox, 53, were swept to their deaths while trying to cross a bridge at Wapama Falls, which was swollen by near-record ice melt and an unseasonably late thunderstorm. Meyer was trying to save Fox, who was overtaken by rushing water according to Paula Meyer who survived the accident.

The Meyer family lost a budding rancher, a gourmet cook, the driver of a battered '69 green pickup, a tree grower, a pie baker, a wine connoisseur, an ice cream maker and a man whose trademark under pressure was striving to be the calmest man in the ER. Greg touched all those around him with a special sense of "grace and elegance," which is how he defined a "great" practitioner of emergency medicine, which is what he did at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier.

That's where the Merced High graduate met his wife, Paula, in 1997, when he was a doctor and she was a physician assistant. It wasn't love at first sight—"we bonded over cooking," she recalls—but after they were married in 2006, they became inseparable and expanded their joy with twin daughters, Kate and Emily, in 2008.

His parents think back to a boy who borrowed \$140 from his dad at age 8 to buy a Hereford bull. He saved nickels from his allowance to pay back the loan, with 1 percent interest, until his dad finally told him he could pay him in full when he sold Cheyenne, the bull. "He had 30 head of cattle when he went to college," his mom remembers.

And Paula, Texas-born but Southern California-bred, had no clue that the guy who took her to lunch at the Bel Air Hotel in L.A. for their first date was more comfortable riding in the "Green Beast" pickup, wearing an old straw Stetson hat and muddy work boots. "Bet you never thought when you met me you'd get cow bleep on your shoes," he told her after one of their trips back to Merced. It was also on a visit to Merced that he took her to the Branding Iron and they dined under his own brand.

He blended a high-profile career in emergency medicine with a down-home love of the ranch. Paula used to surprise and entertain friends at the ER with photos of the two of them in Merced, hauling compost and working the land. In recent years, they'd begun to spend two weeks in Whittier and two weeks in Merced, at the 17-acre ranch where he planted oak, peach, almond, cherry and plum trees. "He was living his dream," his mom says. Adds Paula: "We had a charmed and beautiful