EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD GREAGOR TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Howard Greagor. Mr. Greagor is a treasured local historian and has published six books on the Western way of life in southwestern Colorado.

Mr. Greagor was born in Colorado in 1924 and has lived here all his life. As a former cattle rancher, newspaper contributor, and published author, Mr. Greagor commands a deep understanding of the issues and lifestyle defining southwestern Colorado. In 1965, Mr. Greagor began writing short stories which were later compiled into his first book, In the Company of Cowboys, published in 1990. Since then, Mr. Greagor has put his extensive knowledge of Western life to good use in a collection of books that informs all who are interested in the origin of community traditions like Pioneer Day.

When he is not busy writing, researching, and marketing his books, Mr. Greagor enjoys time with his large family including his wife Betty with whom he has been happily married for more than 60 years, and his many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Howard Greagor. I rise today in honor of his contributions to the preservation of southwestern Colorado history and his accomplishments as a Western author.

VICTORIA ARLEN

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Victoria Arlen of Exeter, New Hampshire on winning a gold medal and three silver medals at the Paralympic Games in London, England. It is truly a prestigious distinction to be one of a few athletes from around the globe to represent their country, and Victoria's outstanding performance in the Games has brought pride to both New Hampshire and the United States.

At a young age, she was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis, a neurological disorder that causes inflammation of the spinal cord. Awaking after two years in a coma, she fought back against this disease and used her strong spirit and determination to overcome the challenges she was presented with. With the support of her parents and twin brothers, Victoria excelled in her recovery and has emerged as a world class athlete.

Throughout her brief career, she has consistently exceeded expectations and did again in London, beating several highly ranked competitors and setting a new world record in the 100-meter freestyle S6 where she took home the gold medal. She earned her silver medals in the 400-meter Freestyle, the 50-meter Freestyle, and the 4×100m Women's Freestyle relay with her U.S. teammates. With her athletic talent and effort, and strong drive and will, she has quickly become one of the top swimmers in the world.

Her motto of "face it, embrace it, defy it, and conquer it" has guided her to success and I believe she has inspired young athletes across the country to strive for their dreams no matter the challenges they face. On behalf of the First District of New Hampshire, I commend Victoria on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her all the best in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF AL WAGNER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad and heavy heart to honor the life of one of Central California's most treasured public servants, Mr. Al Wagner of Wasco, California. Al led an exemplary life filled with a strong faith in God and a reverence for service. His dedication and loyalty to the people of the San Joaquin Valley, coupled with his warm and caring nature made him a true source of pride for our Valley. We say goodbye to Al as a son, brother, friend, mentor, and dedicated public servant.

His many contributions to the San Joaquin Valley and California were exemplified through his work in the California State Legislature, which began in 1998 when he served as Chief of Staff for then Assembly Member Dean Florez, and subsequently as District Director for State Senator Michael J. Rubio. Upon retiring from public service with elected officials, Al went to work at Valley Baptist Church, where he also worshipped.

Al genuinely cared about people and it was reflected in his superior moral character and advocacy work. He was a dependable and effective champion for the people he most cared about and always maintained a commitment to fighting for what was right, meritorious, and fair. He was fluent in American Sign Language and Spanish—further indicating his true dedication to service. Al also managed to find time to do business-related work for Baptist missions in poor villages and orphanages in Central and South America, as well as Eastern Europe.

A valued political strategist and community activist, Al served as a friend and mentor to many up-and-coming politicos, including several members of my staff. Al willingly shared his expertise and leadership in hopes of developing the next generation of leaders for our Valley, State, and Nation.

Al will be best remembered by those who knew him for his wit, love of people, and simple generosity. He gave of himself freely, and for that selflessness, we honor him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Al Wagner—a faithful public servant, friend, and great American.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S 101ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2012, America's very good friends, The Republic of China commonly known as Taiwan), will celebrate their 101st anniversary.

Both the United States and Taiwan share the fact that they are relatively new countries when compared to the rest of the world. Taiwan is 101 years old and the United States just celebrated its 236th birthday; both are much younger than those countries with roots dating back to some of the ancient civilizations.

But in the past 100 years, America has changed so much and, arguably, Taiwan has changed even more. In the last 16 years alone, Taiwan has become a full blown democracy with a President and Legislature being directly elected by its citizens. In 1996, Taiwan had their first Presidential election and during that time they have had three peaceful transfers of power from one party to another.

The people of Southeast Asia are fortunate to have a beacon of democracy like Taiwan to look up to, and we Americans are fortunate to call them friends and allies. Under President Ma's leadership, I am confident that Taiwan will continue to thrive and our relationship will prosper.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHRIS SARACINO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of St. Louis' finest citizens and community leaders, Mr. Chris Saracino. Chris Saracino comes from a restaurant family that has been serving St. Louisians for over 50 years. His father Bartolino Saracino, Sr. opened his first restaurant in the 1960's. Chris has been working in his family's business since he was a young boy.

Currently Chris and his brothers own three of the most profitable restaurants in St. Louis; Bartolino's Osteria, Bartolino's South and Chris' Pancakes and Dining. His service to the Italian American Community is exemplary. Chris has been President of the Hill Business

Association for several years, an organization residing in one of America's most famous Italian-American neighborhoods. As President, Chris has promoted and helped grow businesses on the Hill, creating jobs for his fellow citizens. Chris has also led the Hill Business Association in numerous community improvement initiatives such as successfully organizing neighborhood parades and festivals, raising money for local park improvements, and securing funding for beautification projects.

Chris is very active with St. Ambrose Catholic Church where he volunteers helping the school prepare healthy lunches for the students. Imagine running a business, volunteering for community and business organizations, raising a family, and still having time to go to your church and make meals for school age children. Chris is a very special person.

This is the kind of citizen our founding fathers hoped our Nation would have—engaged citizens in the private sector and the public square. This October, The Italian Club of St. Louis, celebrating its 90th Anniversary, will recognize Chris Saracino for his outstanding contributions to St. Louis and the Italian-American community by presenting him with the Club's Italian Heritage Award. This award salutes Chris Saracino for demonstrating excellence in business, leadership in the community, and compassion for others. I congratulate my good friend Chris Saracino for this well deserved honor. St. Louis, Missouri, and America are fortunate to have such a committed and unselfish citizen. May he continue to lead and inspire others to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL BRUNICARDI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant Michael Brunicardi, who has retired after devoting more than three decades to protecting the citizens of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Lieutenant Brunicardi graduated from San Jose City College Police Academy in 1978. After a brief period working for the San Mateo Police Department, Lieutenant Brunicardi went on to Colma, where he protected the public as a police officer and sergeant for 8 years. He returned to San Mateo in 1987 and served in the San Mateo Police Department for 25 years. He was promoted to Corporal in 1992, Sergeant in 1994 and Lieutenant in 2001.

Throughout his career Lieutenant Brunicardi has gone above and beyond the call of duty, and has dedicated himself to protecting victims and young people. He has put his own life on the line for the safety of others.

Lieutenant Brunicardi has received a multitude of awards and recognitions for his outstanding service. In 1985, he was awarded the Heroism Award from the Peninsula Council of Lion's Clubs for his apprehension of an armed and dangerous suspect. He has received numerous commendations from the District Attorney's Office for his investigative skills in a variety of crimes, including child molestation cases. The Downtown San Mateo Association presented him with an award for ''Outstanding Dedication'' to the development of the family-friendly safety program in a new downtown theater project. In Lieutenant Brunicardi's 25-year career with the City of San Mateo he amassed more than 100 letters of acknowledgement and thanks from the public and city staff because of his integrity and professionalism.

Community policing involves building lasting relationships and lines of communication between police officers and the public. Lieutenant Brunicardi has dedicated his career to this type of important police work, particularly in areas facing gang violence and other criminal activities. He has implemented several neighborhood safety partnership programs in cooperation with neighborhood association groups.

At age 55, Lieutenant Brunicardi is a proud husband and father. He has been married to his wife, Valerie, for 20 years and has five children: Anthony, Steven, Andrew, Justin and Nicole, who range in age from 11 to 27.

Lieutenant Brunicardi loves working with young adults and children and has coached baseball for 25 years. For 10 years he contributed as a board member of the Burlingame Youth Baseball Association, and serves as that association's president.

Although Lieutenant Brunicardi is retiring from a long and meaningful career as a law enforcement officer, he will continue to play a vital role in our community as an associate professor at the College of San Mateo. In September, Lieutenant Brunicardi began teaching Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Criminal Investigation in this role. While Lieutenant Brunicardi feels blessed to be able to work with young people in this capacity, his students will benefit most from his dynamic personality, his passion for the profession and his expertise in the field.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Brunicardi has devoted his time, energy and passion to serving as a leader and a role model in our community. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in commending him for his extraordinary selflessness and service.