EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF ALEX ESCLAMADO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of a courageous and legendary community leader, Alex Esclamado, who passed away in the Philippines on November 4, 2012. He was held in the highest regard, and his name was synonymous with freedom and the fight for democracy.

Alex Esclamado arrived in the United States in 1959, living and working in California for decades. As founding publisher of The Philippine News and a devoted Filipino community advocate in the United States, he championed the key issues of immigration reform, farm workers' rights, professional recognition and licensing of foreign graduates, and naturalization of World War II Filipino Veterans. In the United States, Alex Esclamado's biggest battle was against the dictatorship of then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

In 1997, Alex retired from the daily operations of the newspaper to devote his full-time attention to establishing the foundation of NaFFAA, whose goals are the national unification of some 3,000 Filipino-American associations in the United States, the empowerment of Filipino Americans, and assistance to the Philippines. Alex became the founding national chair of NaFFAA and was elected unanimously as the first National Chair during the First National Filipino-American Empowerment Conference held in Washington D.C. in August 1997, which was attended by over 1,500 Filipino-American leaders representing associations throughout the United States. He served as National Chair from 1997 to 2002. He also served as National President of the Filipino American Political Association (FAPA), a political advocacy group since 1965. In 1998–99, he served as the only Filipino-American member of the U.S. Census Advisory Committee on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations.

Mr. Esclamado's life and work are a lasting example of a true profile in courage. His work inspired generations of leaders in the Philippines and in the United States. His many honors include a special award for his Filipino-American Welfare and Human Rights Advocacy during the celebration of the 432nd Araw Ng Maynila, the first Filipino-American awardee by the City of Manila. He was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and was compared with the inspirational leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez from the Greenlining Institute. He was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor Award and Medal, the highest honor accorded to a civilian in the Philippines, by Philippine President Corazon Aquino for "his distinguished and outstanding service to the country during the past 20 years." He was the only Filipino-American recipient of this award. During the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty in New York in October 1986, outstanding immigrants were honored for their contributions to America. Alex Esclamado was the only Filipino-American recipient of the Congressionally-sponsored Ellis Island Medal of Honor along with 79 other outstanding Americans representing all other nationalities.

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS WEEK

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Community Foundations Week, and to recognize the millions of Americans who have joined together throughout our nation's history to support charitable causes in their communities. This spirit of generosity is a central tenet of the American spirit, and the good work done by the over 650 community foundations in the United States is evidence of the good that can be achieved when communities come together in support of a common cause.

Established in 1989, observation of Community Foundations Week has served to draw more attention to the work done by Community Foundations across the country. In my home state of Illinois alone, there are 26 community foundations. I would like to highlight some of the work done by just 2 of them in Central Illinois. The Galesburg Community Foundation, for example, funds a variety of programs that are strengthening their community and helping those who have nowhere else to turn. One of their most innovative projects is called KnoxCorps. This project teams with local Knox College to place graduates at local non-profits to provide human capacity for initiatives and causes that affect the greater Galesburg area. The placements last for one year, but the impact that has already been achieved is much more far reaching. This partnership has kept some of the best and the brightest in this small rural community, contributing to positive economic development, stronger communities, and a thriving spirit of service.

In the 18th District we have the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, which operates out of my hometown of Peoria. One focus for them is Community Needs Grants, given to local non profits to aid them in their service to the area. For example, in 2011, CFCI partnered with the American Red Cross Central Illinois Chapter with a Community Needs Grant that allowed the continuance of free youth education classes. These classes have educated over 35,000 youth on how to prepare for emergencies, prevent injuries, and make healthy choices. With the help of the grant, the program was enhanced by the addition of a puppet show to better connect with the children and provide an interactive learning experience.

These two examples are just a small snapshot of the extraordinary work done by these two organizations, as well as organizations like them around Illinois and the nation. I am honored to recognize all Community Foundations this week for the outstanding work they do fifty-two weeks a year.

HONORING JACOB MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Moore. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Royal Rangers and earning the most prestigious award of the Gold Medal of Achievement.

Jacob has taken an active part with the Royal Rangers through his church, Blue Springs Assembly in Blue Springs, Missouri. The Royal Rangers provide young men the character development and leadership formation needed to thrive in today's world. Attaining the Gold Medal of Achievement demonstrates Jacob's dedication and commitment to the Royal Rangers. I am sure that Jacob will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Moore for his accomplishments with the Royal Rangers and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Medal of Achievement.

IN HONOR OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Thomas. The month of October 2012 marked the 45 year anniversary of this tremendous parish. Nearly a half century ago, a small group of Greek Orthodox from South Jersey saw a need for a church to serve the Philadelphia metropolitan area and its New Jersey suburbs. This parish has been paramount in reaching out to the Southern New Jersey community, teaching the Greek language and heritage, and sharing the traditions of the Greek Orthodox faith.

Perhaps most worthy of praise are the number and variety of group organizations the church provides. Among them are the "Philoptochos," a philanthropic society for lady parishioners who are committed to serving the sick, destitute, elderly, and others in need of assistance. The Hellenic Heritage Dance