EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RAYMOND J. AHEARN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ranking Member Levin to honor Raymond J. Ahearn, Specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). After a distinguished career of more than 37 years of service to Congress on international trade and economic policy issues, Ray will retire on December 28.

During Ray's years of direct support for Congress, he achieved a remarkable record of accomplishment. His authoritative, non-partisan and objective expertise and analysis, as exemplified in his many reports, confidential memoranda, committee prints, and confidential consultative work for Members and congressional staff, have addressed just about all major international trade and economic policy issues before Congress. His institutional knowledge of U.S. trade policy and the policy-making process has been invaluable, especially to the Ways and Means Committee and its Members.

Ray's deep institutional knowledge of U.S. trade policies and laws, the global trading system and architecture, multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, regional economic groupings, and the fundamental trends in the global economy have played a critical role in Congress' consideration of these issues. He has also provided intellectual leadership to the overall research agenda of the CRS Trade and Finance Section, working closely with the Ways and Means Committee, as well as many other congressional offices and committees, in ensuring that the CRS international trade and finance work was closely aligned with policy issues of core congressional interest in an authoritative, objective and timely manner.

We congratulate and thank Ray for his years of excellent service to Congress. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

HONORING MR. WAYNE NICHOLS OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Wayne Nichols of Fort Worth, Texas for winning the "Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award" from Humanities Texas.

Each year, Humanities Texas selects eleven teachers who have demonstrated outstanding skill and dedication in the teaching of the humanities to Texas students. The winning teachers and their schools receive a generous grant to purchase materials to enhance humanities education.

Mr. Nichols teaches a variety of History, Geography and Culture classes for grades six through eight at the Middle Level Learning Center in Fort Worth, Texas, and was recognized for his ability to instill a love of learning in his students through innovative and interactive teaching methods.

Because of Mr. Nichols work, thousands of students have been given a new appreciation of the vital subjects that he teaches and the importance of those subjects in their own lives.

I offer my hearty congratulations to Mr. Nichols for this well-deserved award, and I am proud to have such an outstanding educator in my district.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LORAINE PLUMB

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Loraine Plumb as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Loraine was born on December 4, 1912 in St. Paul, Minnesota to a proud family of Norwegian industrialists. She developed a love of teaching, and after graduating from the University of Minnesota and the graduate teaching program at Eastern Michigan University, she applied her training for 35 years teaching physical education and art in both Michigan and Minnesota.

In addition to countless children who passed through her classroom, Loraine has given her love to her two children, son Tracy Plumb and daughter Jeri Gardner Thompson. Her family and friends have referred to Loraine as a "happy little bluebird flitting from fence post to fence post"—an apt description for a woman who has touched so many lives over the years.

Today Loraine enjoys her daily afternoon coffee with friends, and all of the laughter they have given her over the years. She does not attribute her longevity to any one thing except her overall happiness and joy. The Town of Plympton has recently recognized her as the oldest resident of the town, and she is proud to call it her home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Loraine Plumb on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of happiness and health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding my absence from rollcall votes 605–608 on Thursday and Friday, November 15, 2012 and November 16, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: For rollcall vote, 605, I would have voted "no". For rollcall vote 606, I would have voted "no". For rollcall vote 607, on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2453—Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue gold and silver coins with a design emblematic of Mark Twain, I would have voted "aye". For rollcall vote 608, on H.R. 3803 "Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012" to provide normal trade relations status to Russia and Moldova, ends Jackson-Vanik restrictions on both economies, and establishes new human rights-related sanctions on Russia, I would have voted "aye".

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCILWOMAN SANDY SHEEDY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 3, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sacramento City Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy, as she steps down from the Sacramento City Council after 12 years of honorable service. As her colleagues, friends and family gather to honor her dedication to the people of Sacramento, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilwoman Sheedy's outstanding leadership as a public servant.

Councilwoman Sheedy was born and raised in Colusa, California. Before being elected to the City Council, she served with distinction on various commissions and boards including the City Planning Commission, the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission, the Stanford Settlement Board, the Sacramento Association for the Retarded and the Camellia Symphony Orchestra.

Councilwoman Sheedy was elected to the Sacramento City Council in 2000. As Councilwoman, she served as Chair of the City Council's Code Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee and sponsored a wide variety of local ordinances, including the promotion of a stronger local government role in curbing tobacco sales to minors and codes against illegal trash dumping and dangerous dogs. She extended her reach to as many citywide issues as possible, while always fighting for the Del Paso Heights, Robla, and North Sacramento neighborhoods.

Her tenure on the City Council included the construction of a new fire station in North Sacramento and the city's first "green street" project, which allowed for the beautification of Dixieanne Avenue. In addition, Councilwoman Sheedy has been a long-time patron of public parks as she looked over the construction of five new parks, and I had the pleasure of joining with her for the opening of Five Star Park