CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

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supports for the project 33 years ago. The reunion laid the groundwork for an upcoming Smithsonian exhibition on The Running Fence that will serve as a tribute to her partnership with Christo on this remarkable collaboration.

Born in Morocco, Jeanne-Claude met Christo in New York in 1958. At that time, Christo was wrapping small objects, and they soon began collaborating on wrapping larger outdoor installations which led to the most famous—Paris's Pont Neuf (1975–1985) and Berlin’s Reichstag (1971–1995). Many other projects included natural settings such as Surrounded Islands in Biscayne Bay, Florida; Valley Curtain in Rifle, Colorado; The Umbrellas on hillsides in both California and Japan; and The Gates in Central Park, New York.

Sponsorships were never accepted for these and other installations which were financed through sales of prints, models, drawings, photos, and other documents. The works were always a team effort, with the resulting objects signed with the joint name, “Christo and Jeanne-Claude.”

In addition to her husband, Jeanne-Claude is survived by their son, poet Cyril Christo, and a grandson.

Madam Speaker, Christo will be carrying on the couple’s work, and I am sure that memories of Jeanne-Claude’s vibrancy and love will be a comfort to him during this time. Marin and Sonoma residents will remember her glitzy red hair and her wit and charm, but it is her friendship that we will cherish the most.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 1, I was unable to cast my vote on three suspension bills due to my attendance of the President’s address to the Nation from the United States Military Academy. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yes” on rollcall vote 911, “yes” on rollcall vote 912, and “yes” rollcall vote 913.

COLONEL HAL HOXIE RETIRES
AFTER 27 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize COL Hal Hoxie on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

Colonel Hoxie was born November 6, 1958 in Chewelah, Washington, and went to college at Eastern Oregon State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business in 1983. He received his commission through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1983 and was selected to attend pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. During pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie’s professionalism and attention to detail marked him as a natural leader and upon graduation he was selected to remain a T–38 instructor and chief flight examiner. Subsequently, Colonel Hoxie was recognized as the distinguished graduate from his pilot instructor training course. In May 1988, Colonel Hoxie converted to the F–16 at the 60th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and was immediately called upon to fly in support of Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama. During his time at Eglin Air Force Base, Colonel Hoxie attended Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where he was recognized as a top graduate for his academic and military achievement. Also during this tour, Colonel Hoxie deployed in direct support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM and flew 66 missions helping to consolidate a swift and complete victory for the allied forces.

Colonel Hoxie went on to work in various staff positions including executive officer to the Athletic Department Director at the United States Air Force Academy, executive officer to the Vice Commander Headquarters, Air Combat Command, and Senior Operations Duty Officer at Osan Air Base, Korea. He also commanded the 94th Flying Training Squadron at the Air Force Academy, led as the Deputy Operations Group Commander at the 34th Operations Group, United States Air Force Academy, utilizing his skills as a trainer and mentor, and was the Chief of Homeland Defense and Security at Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Following this assignment, Colonel Hoxie went on to command the 356th Mission Support Group at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

For the past 2 years, Colonel Hoxie has performed with distinction in the Legislative Liaison Directorate. From May 2008 to March 2009, he led the Programs and Legislative Division, ensuring prompt and thorough response to the Congress on policy and personnel issues concerning the United States Air Force. From March 2009 to the present, Colonel Hoxie led the Congressional Inquiry division, providing efficient and thorough response to over 5,000 congressional inquiries. Colonel Hoxie provided exceptional service to the Congress on policy and personnel issues concerning the United States Military Academies.

Thank you, and I urge the House to pass this legislation.

INTRODUCING THE HONEST AND OPEN TESTIMONY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Honest and Open Testimony Act, a bill that helps provide for an honest and open discussion regarding Don't Ask, Don't Tell by allowing active-duty members of the Armed Forces, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) members, to openly testify in Congressional hearings without fear of retribution. The Honest and Open Testimony Act expands existing whistleblower protections between members of the Armed Forces and Members of Congress to include communications from active-duty service members who testify concerning Don't Ask, Don't Tell in a Congressional hearing, as well as those who do so and disclose their sexual orientation.

The United States of America prides itself on having the finest military in the world because of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of its brave men and women in uniform. And yet, under the discriminatory law known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the talents and contributions of our GLBT service members continue to be ignored simply because of who they are. As you know, Don't Ask, Don't Tell was signed into law in 1993 by former President Bill Clinton as a compromise to allow gay and lesbian service members to serve in the military. To the contrary, Don't Ask, Don't Tell compromises the integrity of our troops and kicks them out to boot. For more than fifteen years, Don't Ask, Don't Tell has negatively impacted the lives and livelihoods of these military service members and deprived our Armed Forces of their honorable service. This is not only a disservice to them, but to our country as a whole.