

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MEKONG PLAZA AND ITS CELEBRATION OF THE VIETNAMESE TET NEW YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions that the Mekong Plaza has made to the City of Mesa and surrounding communities. In just over a year since its Grand Opening, Mekong Plaza has proven to be a distinctive and uniquely wonderful element of Mesa's community. The grocery store and many shops and restaurants serve as a window into the Southeast Asian culture, showcasing Vietnamese food, clothing, culture and hospitality.

I especially want to recognize that, this year, all of the proceeds from Mekong Plaza's annual Vietnamese Tet New Year Celebration—the largest such event in Arizona—will be donated to provide services to the needy and to assist public safety through the non-profit CARE Partnership and the Mesa Public Safety Foundation.

I am truly privileged to represent such a strong cultural fixture in our district and will continue to treasure the plaza's addition to Mesa's diversity. As many in the Vietnamese community decorate their homes with flowers and share special cuisine to start the New Year, I am honored to share in their celebration. Again, I am proud to serve the Mekong Plaza and am eager to see its continued success and growth.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, to join me in rising to congratulate the tenants and management team at Mekong Plaza for their tremendous service and contributions to Mesa and the surrounding community.

RECOGNIZING OF THE COLUMBUS DOWNTOWN LIONS CLUB

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Downtown Lions Club for its dedication to the improvement of the Columbus area. The Columbus Downtown Lions Club, which was officially re-chartered by Lions Club International on December 9, 2009, is committed to building a safer, healthier, and stronger community through volunteerism and support for local initiatives.

The Lions Club International was founded in 1917 and today is the world's largest service club organization. The club, originally known for fighting blindness, continues that legacy today by conducting vision screenings, equipping hospitals and clinics, distributing medicine and raising awareness of eye disease. Lions Club International also supports community

projects for children and schools through scholarships, recreation programs and mentoring.

The Columbus Downtown Lions Club was originally chartered on June 17, 1920, and served the local community for over eighty years until it was disbanded in 2007 due to insufficient membership. I am proud of the individuals who have restarted this organization and committed themselves to continuing its legacy of volunteerism and generosity. I am excited and thankful in anticipation of the valuable service that this club will provide to our community.

In the long-standing tradition of Lions Club involvement in central Ohio, the Columbus Downtown Lions Club has already begun to build relationships that will foster future volunteer activities. This Saturday, during the Downtown club's official charter celebration, the Downtown club will make a contribution to Honor Flight, an organization that pays for and organizes trips for our World War II veterans so that they can see firsthand our Nation's capital and their monuments. The members of the Columbus Downtown Lions Club are building a valuable network of service-minded individuals who will serve as role models and leaders in our community for decades to come.

With the re-chartering of the Columbus Downtown Lions Club, the Lions community has once again demonstrated its generosity, compassion, and commitment to making a difference in the city of Columbus. I am proud to recognize and honor this organization and all of its dedicated volunteers for their exemplary record of service and their future contributions to the betterment of central Ohio.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE'S WORK OF SARAH D. "SALLY" STEWART

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, it is with an abundance of appreciation and admiration that I pay tribute to the life's work of Dr. Sarah D. "Sally" Stewart, who recently retired—after 26 years—from the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees. She leaves the district having served longer than any other trustee in the district's history and, prior to her service there, served eight years on the Board of the Portola Valley School District.

During her impressive tenure, Sally became known as a thoughtful and energetic board member who always saw the big picture. Educational opportunities, principles and challenges have evolved quite a bit over the past three-plus decades and Sally always kept one step ahead, urging her colleagues to embrace new ideas and ever striving to serve the myriad needs of students, parents, educators and the community.

Sally distinguished herself through her passionate contributions to the underserved youth

of East Palo Alto. She provided leadership and guidance to the Youth Court and was instrumental in the founding of two nonprofit organizations, including what eventually became EdSource, a foundation dedicated to providing access to quality education for all children and encouraging an informed and involved citizenry to strengthen California's schools.

Dr. Stewart's commitment to education transcended the boundaries of her own community. She served on the San Mateo County School Boards Association, where she instituted the J. Russell Kent Awards to recognize the work of area teachers. She served as President of the California School Boards Association and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and has given her time, energy and intellect to numerous charities, causes and campaigns that benefit children and education at all levels.

Next month, Sally will be duly honored with her induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Sally was born in Albany, New York in 1932 and received her Bachelor of Arts from New York's Smith College. She also received a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology from Stanford University.

Madam Speaker, Sally Stewart is one of those rare public servants whose quiet and competent leadership gives others something to aspire to. For decades I have stood in awe of her capacity to understand the intricacies of school finance and the subtleties of achieving district-wide academic excellence. While I regret to see her go, she has certainly earned her retirement. No doubt she will spend her newly-found free time doing more reading, walking her beloved dog and continually pushing for reforms that improve California's educational system.

Our nation owes Sally Stewart a debt of gratitude. I would also like to extend my thanks to her sons—Ed and Willie—and her two grandchildren—Teddy and Sam—for sharing this remarkable woman with the greater community for so many years.

Imagine how much better our nation's schools would be if every community had a Sally Stewart. But since there is only one, I am selfishly grateful that she chose the San Francisco Peninsula to call home.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE-AMERICANS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Organization of Chinese-Americans a happy and healthy New Year for the year 4708, the year of the Tiger.

I hope this New Year brings the Chinese-American community of Pittsburgh much joy

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