

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAT KELLY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Pat Kelly, one of the longest-serving employees in the history of the House of Representatives. Pat retired yesterday after more than 53 years of outstanding public service.

Pat comes from a family that has always placed a high premium on public service. Her father, Edward, was a New York City Court justice; her mother, Edna, was a Member of the House of Representatives. Even further back, Pat can trace her family's history of service to a grandfather who was appointed Postmaster of Brooklyn, New York, by President Woodrow Wilson.

In her decades in the House, Pat worked as a research assistant, a legislative assistant for three Members of Congress and the House Rules Committee, and the Editor of the House Daily Digest. Pat served in that most recent role from 1999 to her retirement. She has seen more than half a century of history being made first-hand—and more importantly, she has helped shaped that history, through her diligence, hard work, and deep experience. For more than 53 years, Pat Kelly made herself indispensable to the House, and she will be greatly missed.

HONORING EVIE DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service is a noble profession when done honestly and well. Those who work in government, serving the people, do so with pride of accomplishment in the knowledge that they are helping to make life easier for those they serve.

Evie Davis, the District Manager of the West Nyack Social Security office began her career with the Social Security Administration 40 years ago, in October of 1970, at the North-eastern Program Service.

She held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility, rising to District Manager of the White Plains office in 1990. She served there for eleven years before moving across the Hudson River to her current position in Rockland County.

She has served on many committees and workshops in furtherance of helping the SSA better help its clients, including the workgroup on the Limited-English Speaking Population. She has also served on the Advisory Committee of the Offices for the Aging in both Westchester and Rockland Counties.

She has always prided herself on her service to the Social Security Administration and the people it serves, touching the lives of vir-

tually all of America's families in one way or another. She derived great fulfillment from her role in managing and always strove to contribute to a satisfying work environment. For her dedication and her abilities she has received many awards, including the Associate Commissioner's Citation.

Evie and her husband Mark are about to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Eric and Jarrod and twin baby granddaughters.

I congratulate Evie Davis for her 40 years of public service in helping people. She has earned our thanks and praise for the good work she has done for so many years in making our lives and the lives of those around us better and more fulfilling.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EUGENE
AARON BONACCI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Eugene Aaron Bonacci, a decorated veteran of the United States Navy, loving son, brother, partner, and friend to many. Tragically, Eugene passed away unexpectedly last month at the all too early age of 33.

Eugene devoted his too short life to his family and country. After graduating from Roslyn High School in 1996, he enlisted in the United States Navy. The military proved an ideal career choice. His intelligence, patriotism, selflessness, and drive to succeed in all he endeavored were a perfect fit for the Navy. It was no surprise to those who knew Eugene best that he would be highly decorated for his service. Eugene earned the Navy Achievement Medal, Blue Jacket Award, National Defense Service Medal, Joint Services Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Pistol Expert Medal, and Rifleman Marksmanship Ribbon.

Following his time in the Navy, Eugene enrolled at Pennsylvania State University, where he studied security and risk analysis. It was Eugene's difficulty obtaining full-tuition benefits for his education under the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill that inspired him and his mother, Leslie Blei, to become tireless advocates of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Improvements Act. When the bill passed and was signed into law by President Obama, Eugene, selfless as always, cited his mother's advocacy as a factor for passage of the bill.

Eugene's professional accomplishments were numerous. His personal attributes were the most significant though. Eugene was loved by his family and loved them in return, including his partner Elizabeth Rockey. His large extended family was the source of his strength.

Eugene's life was cut short, but as his father Eugene Bonacci II says, Eugene was blessed with a meaningful life. In a final act of compas-

sion that embodied Eugene's selflessness, he donated his organs, which doctors estimated could save and improve the lives of numerous people.

For his service to country, advocacy for veterans, and devotion to his family and friends, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Eugene Aaron Bonacci.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LINDA ROMANIK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Linda Romanik. She was a labor leader who was dedicated to her fellow workers, her family, and her community, and a former member of my Congressional Staff. I am saddened to report that Linda passed away recently after a short illness.

Linda was born on July 31, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio. Early in her childhood she moved to Wickliffe, Ohio, and graduated from Wickliffe High School in 1967. Soon afterward, she began her employment with Bailey Controls in Wickliffe.

At the time, the workers at Bailey had no labor representation. In 1971, Linda helped form an organizing committee. As a result of her efforts, the workers at Bailey Controls organized Local 1741 of the United Auto Workers (UAW). She served on the Local 1741 committee from 1985 until 1996 and was the committee's Vice President from 1990 through 1993. Linda was also active on the UAW's Community Action Program (CAP) for the Ash-tabula-Geauga-Lake region from 1976 until 1981 and was its chair from 1981 through 1988.

In 1996, Linda worked tirelessly on my Congressional campaign. When we won the election that year, I asked Linda to join my staff as a caseworker and labor liaison. She served the people of Ohio's 10th Congressional District with enthusiasm and distinction. She helped me set up my District offices and worked closely with constituents who needed personal help and with local labor leaders who needed my attention on many issues.

Linda resigned from my staff in 1998 to take on greater challenges in the labor movement. She became the UAW's CAP coordinator in 1998 and International Representative for the UAW's Regions 2 and 2B in 2004. She retired in 2010 after more than 35 years of service with the UAW. She served on the board of the United Labor Agency and was its Recording Secretary. She stayed active with Local 1741 and its successor, Local 70 after the merger of the two locals in 2005. Linda was also a long-time member of the Lake County Democratic Women's Club.

Linda was also a caring mother and wife. She spent 30 loving years married to her husband John, for whom she cared dearly. She

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

also raised her two children, John and Andrea, with warmth and kindness and was the proud grandmother of Carter.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Linda Romanik, an advocate for the public good who served this House with distinction, who made the workplace a better place for workers, and who was dedicated to her community and family.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAIT EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in the last two and a half years, through Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Mainland China's Association for Relations Across the Strait (ARATS), Taiwan and Mainland China have held several rounds of talks and concluded many economic and trade agreements, most important of which was the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) inked last June 29 in Chongqing China.

ECFA boosts Taiwan's economy and creates tens of thousands of job opportunities. Further, the agreement will help Taiwan's economy to benefit from regional integration and develop new international markets while attracting foreign direct investments in Taiwan. In addition to the economic benefits for both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, the signing of this agreement has significantly eased tensions across the Taiwan Strait. The two sides are now linked by more than 300 direct flights per week. Mainland China is Taiwan's largest trading partner with cross-strait trade totaling close to \$110 billion in 2009, according to Taiwan statistics.

Clearly, the Straits Exchange Foundation is to be congratulated on its 20th anniversary for its good work. SEF has brought prosperity and peace to the Taiwan Strait. As we celebrate the successes of the SEF, we know much lies ahead for the SEF and the ARATS. For instance, the people in Taiwan and the international community continue to have strong concerns about China's military expansion and deployments.

So far, China has yet to renounce the use of force regarding Taiwan and China's military build-up across the Taiwan Strait continues unabated with more than 1,100 missiles pointed in Taiwan's direction. Although tensions have abated and there seems to be no danger of China using force against Taiwan, China's military deployments worry policymakers in both Taipei and Washington.

While the United States is happy to see rapprochement between the two sides, it is my opinion that to ensure Taiwan's future, we must help Taiwan develop the confidence to resist any outside aggression. We should and must continue to stand by our commitment to provide Taiwan with defense articles and defense services. Our recent decision to notify Congress of the approval of arms sales to Taiwan worth \$6.4 billion is an indication of our commitment to meet the obligations spelled out in the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This has been a U.S. policy followed by successive Administrations for more than 30 years.

Again, I congratulate the leaders of Taiwan's SEF, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and ROC President Ma Ying-jeou for their vision and hard work in improving cross-strait relations. Together they have restored U.S. trust and reversed the deterioration in cross-strait relations that took place prior to May 2008.

HONORING TREVOR BAYNE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a rising star in motor-sports.

On February 20, 2011, Knoxville native Trevor Bayne raced into NASCAR history by becoming the youngest driver ever to win the Daytona 500.

It was only his second sprint Cup race ever. The night before his victory, Trevor celebrated his twentieth birthday. Little did he know that the next day, his childhood dream would come true.

Trevor's love of racing began when his father bought him a go-kart when he was 5 years old, and he never looked back.

As a boy, his hero was NASCAR legend Jeff Gordon. Until Sunday, Gordon was the youngest driver ever to win the Daytona 500, an honor that now belongs to Trevor.

Just before heading to Victory Lane, Trevor said four words that summed up his historic feat: "Are you kidding me?"

Because of his overnight success, Trevor is fast becoming one of the most popular young drivers in his sport, but he is much more than that.

Trevor is a young man who puts his faith before winning and his family ahead of individual accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Knoxville and the State of Tennessee are very proud of 2011 Daytona 500 Champion Trevor Bayne, and I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in recognizing this extraordinary young man.

COMMENDING THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida for 100 years of dedicated service to our South Florida community. For a century, it has amassed a distinguished history of honorable service to the people of Miami-Dade County. I have the great privilege of representing the 18th Congressional District of Florida which falls within the boundaries of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is the largest circuit in the state of Florida and the fourth largest trial court in the United States. The circuit is one of 20 in the state. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit's jurisdiction consists of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and has 123 circuit and

county court judges presiding and over 14,000 attorneys serving a county wide population of over 2.5 million people. The court's philosophy is written on a placard that appears above the bench in each courtroom with the words, "We Who Labor Here Seek Only Truth."

When Florida entered into statehood in 1845, the state was served by only four judicial circuits: North, South, East, and West. The Southern Circuit spanned thousands of square miles, covering Dade, Monroe, Hillsborough, and Benton counties, and was served by only one circuit judge. The judge had the daunting task of traveling by train, boat, or horse across thousands of square miles to serve the entire circuit. In 1868, Florida's legislature replaced the four compass point circuits with seven numbered circuits. A constitutional amendment added an eighth circuit in 1902.

Florida's growing population soon created a need for additional circuits; so in 1910, the people of the State of Florida amended their constitution to give the legislature the authority to create additional judicial circuits as needed. After considering several plans to restructure the state circuit court system, the legislature expanded the system to 11 circuits in 1911. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit was one of the state's three new circuits.

Originally, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit served the counties of Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe. At the time, Dade County had a population of roughly 12,000 people and was growing steadily. The first judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit was Livingstone Wellesley Bethel, a first generation immigrant raised in Key West, who spent almost 40 years of his life in public service. Judge Bethel served the people of Florida in many capacities including mayor of Key West, Lieutenant Governor of Florida, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and county and circuit judge.

Our country was built on the foundation that all men are created equal and with certain unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our founding fathers took care to protect these and other fundamental rights, establishing a three branch federal government and state governments. They recognized the importance and need for a judicial system to provide checks and balances in order to protect the rights of citizens, stating in the preamble of our Constitution, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." A foundation of our judicial system is "equal justice under law." Our federal and state courts work tirelessly to protect the rights of all Americans and are dedicated to carrying out the mandates of our Constitution.

From its modest beginnings in 1911, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit has grown to be one of our nation's most highly respected and important legal jurisdictions. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is celebrating its rich history and legacy through centennial celebrations that include special artwork, a reenactment of the historic 1930 Al Capone perjury trial, and an overview of the civil rights movement in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is one of busiest and most prestigious