

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HUNGARY CELEBRATING FREEDOM EVENTS AND THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I am congratulating Hungary on the series of events which pay tribute to the lasting idea of freedom and the principles of liberty. Hungry will erect a statue in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's birth. Hungary will honor President Reagan for his contribution toward ending the Cold War and promoting democracy and liberty in Central Europe. In addition, Hungary is hosting the Hungarian Freedom Dinner and establishing the Hungarian Freedom Award.

I also note that Hungary formally and symbolically overcame the legacy of Communism by having recently passed a new Constitution, replacing its previous, temporary Constitution rooted in the Soviet era, to solidify the rule of law.

In addition, I recognize Hungary as an important strategic partner of the U.S. in Europe, and commend the country for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and republican government; and contributing to the stability of the region.

Hungary is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is an ally of the U.S. Hungary has been an important ally of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan, and recently gave invaluable assistance in freeing the two American journalists captured in Libya.

Historically, Hungarians have fought for the ideals of freedom, popular sovereignty, the rule of law, and the cause of liberty at home and abroad, most notably in 1848, 1956 and 1989. Michael Kovats de Fabriczy fought for, and died defending America's independence during the American Revolution in Charleston, South Carolina. In the Revolution and Freedom fight of 1956, Hungarians rose up against communist rule first within the eastern bloc countries. In 1989, Hungary was the first country to open its border and allowed refugees from East Germany to cross. Hungary became the first among the former Soviet bloc countries to transition to a Western-style parliamentary democracy.

In transatlantic relations, between 1995 and 2004, Hungary played a critical role in implementing the Dayton Peace Accords in the Balkans by allowing its airbase at Tazsár to be used by coalition forces transiting the region. Between April 2003 and December 2004, Hungary helped stabilize Iraq by deploying a 300-strong battalion to Iraq as part of the Multi-National Force, and in 2003 allowed the Tazsár airbase to be used for training the Free Iraqi Forces.

Since 2006, Hungary has led a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan and has

also deployed an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team, which operates in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and other United States military personnel in Afghanistan.

More recently, Hungary's military has taken over command of a joint battalion on the Balkans in support of NATO missions, and Hungary's Pápa Airbase is the home base of the Strategic Airlift Consortium's C-17 operations for NATO missions.

The United States and Hungary share common values of democracy, rule of law, separation of powers, cultural diversity, religious tolerance, and social mobility; and the United States is home to approximately 1.5 million Hungarian-Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hungary on the commemorative events to honor the legacy of Ronald Reagan in the region; recognizing Hungary as an important strategic partner of the United States in Europe; and commending Hungary for reaffirming its commitment to transatlantic values, the principles of constitutionalism, and democracy; and contributing to the stability of the region. We wish Hungary a prosperous future.

HONORING THE BOROUGH OF ELVERSON, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Elverson, Chester County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

Elverson celebrates March 14, 1911 as the day it was incorporated as a borough. It was on that day that the arguments for and against incorporation were presented to Judge Hemphill at the Chester County Courthouse. The arguments in favor of incorporation were principally: (1) the need by the residents to govern themselves and to use their own taxes for improvements such as a public water supply and street lighting; (2) the need for their own polling place; and (3) the need for an independent school system. The main arguments against incorporation were: (1) the town had not grown sufficiently, and (2) the new responsibilities would create an undue tax burden.

In weighing these issues, Judge Hemphill felt that the democratic process would help ensure that the new responsibilities would not necessarily result in taxes that were either "burdensome" or "ruinous" and stated:

"... if men of good judgment, careful, economical, and cautious, were placed in charge of the Borough's business and development such would not necessarily be the result. The outcome, must of necessity, be dependent upon the action of the electors themselves, as in the case in every elective municipality."

Over the years, the citizens of Elverson have seen the wisdom of Judge Hemphill's

words borne out, as their Borough has grown from meeting the needs of pre-World War I America to the present day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Elverson and its storied history on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and to extend best wishes to all its citizens—past, present and future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for a vote on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 491.

HONORING PASTOR WILLIE JACKSON ON HIS TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the steadfast and sacrificial service of Pastor Willie James Jackson, Sr., of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana. Pastor Jackson has been a leader not only in his church, but in his community, for twenty five years now, and I applaud his work and dedication.

Pastor Jackson became the shepherd of Union Missionary Baptist Church in 1986. His heart for service and missions has taken him across the country and the continent of Africa, but he has never forgotten his community at home. He has served on many civic, community, and religious organizations in Muncie and the surrounding area, and he is currently a member of the Collective Coalition of Concerned Clergy, third vice-president of the Northeastern district Sunday School and BTU Congress, board member on the Whitely Neighborhood Association, and is a board member for the Muncie Black Expo.

Those who know Pastor Jackson know him as a kind and generous man. He strives to unify and bring together people from all walks of life, and he is greatly respected throughout the community. A loving husband, father to three children, and grandfather to two grandchildren, Pastor Jackson has also mentored and cared for countless others in the community and in his church over his many years of ministry.

I congratulate Pastor Jackson for his twenty five influential years of service, and thank him for his many contributions to the community

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

and to the sixth district of Indiana. His impact will be felt for years to come, and I wish him the best in his continued service and ministry.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF KHEN NGO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to celebrate the 100th birthday of Khen Ngo, a prominent member of the Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone with the Ngo family and the San Bernardino community.

Born on July 4, 1911 in the Hue Province in Central Vietnam, Khen Ngo completed elementary school by age thirteen. Tragically, he fell ill to an infectious disease and did not recover until age seventeen. Shortly thereafter his family enrolled him in tailoring school. Khen completed his secondary education within one year.

The skills he learned in school allowed him to become part of the family business. In Vietnam he opened and operated his own tailoring shop. Soon he was able to manage and maintain his parent's shop as well. Outside of work he served in the Parish council of Kim-Long Church as a finance officer for fifteen years. Life was about to drastically change for the Ngo family.

In 1975, the Vietnamese Communist Regime invaded Vietnam. The Ngo family was a prominent family; the last name was well-known across the country. Their heritage can be traced back to the first President of Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem. Sadly, the communist regime also knew the Ngos well. They sought out and imprisoned many of the family members, leaving Khen no choice but to escape. Khen came to the United States as a Vietnamese refugee.

He settled in Redlands, California and joined the Sacred Heart Church. The Ngos are a deeply religious and pious family. Together with his brother, Father Joseph Trong Ngo, the Ngos helped build and foster a Vietnamese Catholic community in San Bernardino. Khen lived a simple life and held steadfast to his values. He lives by two guiding principles: the Catholic teaching to honor your parents, and to live his life as a deeply religious and spiritual person.

His life continues to be filled with spirit and love. He surrounds himself with the people he loves and leads a simple life. He fathered seven children and bestowed upon them the virtues he embodies. Khen now spends his days fishing and watching soccer games with any of his twenty nieces and nephews or nine grandchildren. I want to extend my best wishes to Khen Ngo on his 100th birthday along with the wishes of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Junior, Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing this special day with Khen Ngo.

ALGER COUNTY ROAD H-58

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several long time residents of Alger County Michigan, who were instrumental in resolving a long standing controversy about road access within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

When Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1966 as America's first national lakeshore, the enabling legislation called for the construction of a "scenic shoreline drive" as part of the park's development. However, the legislation did not specify exactly where that road should be located. Due to other national priorities, including the Vietnam War effort, funds were never appropriated to actually design and build the road.

This delay led to tremendous frustration on the part of local individuals and units of government, many of whom felt misled into supporting the establishment of the park. However, as local pressure increased to fund the project, opposition to building a road through undeveloped portions of the park also increased, leading to many years of controversy.

Over the years, several alternative locations were considered for the road. But, in 1998, to protect the most pristine portions of the park, Congress amended the park's enabling legislation to actually prohibit the National Park Service from constructing a road through the main portion of the park, forcing a compromise solution.

That compromise, ultimately endorsed by the National Park Service and the Alger County Road Commission, called for the reconstruction and paving of an existing sand and gravel road; Alger County H-58. Using a combination of federal and state funds between 1990 and 2010, H-58 was re-designed and paved to provide improved access to and through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and connect the two gateway communities of Munising and Grand Marais.

In the end, the Alger County Road Commission and the National Park Service worked very closely to design and build a roadway that would provide an outstanding scenic experience worthy of a national park. It is also noteworthy that in 2009, as the road project was coming to an end, Congress also provided permanent legal protection to the central portion of the park by establishing the Beaver Basin Wilderness. It took over 40 years, but with these two actions, the controversy about how best to balance road access and protection of nationally significant resources at Pictured Rocks had finally come to an end.

Over the years, many Alger County residents continued to strongly advocate for a road that would provide better access to the National Lakeshore. These included Connie Berube Binsfeld, who later served as Lt. Governor of Michigan and a member of the National Park Advisory Board; Doug Miron and Paul Heyrman, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Alger County Road Commission; the late Dennis "Fuzzy" Boyak, President and CEO of Peoples State Bank of Munising; Rochelle Cotey, Director of ALTRAN, the local transpor-

tation authority, and Richard and Chuck Nebel, a Munising banker and attorney-at-law. Munising native Mike Pond, a professional civil engineer, was involved in the design of virtually every detail of the road. Now that the road is complete, these local residents, along with others, have left a lasting legacy for Alger County and the visitors to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF
BRIAN LENA AND CAPTAIN WIL-
LIAM BAHR

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assistant Chief Brian Lena and Captain William Bahr of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department; for their heroic actions and longstanding commitment to their fire department and community.

In October of 2010 these two men, along with their fellow firefighters, responded to an evolved structure fire which blocked the only exit the occupants had. At the scene, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr bravely rescued the occupants through a second story bedroom window. During this time, the hose crew also attacked an advancing fire in the kitchen and hallway.

In response to these heroic actions, Assistant Chief Lena and Captain Bahr have both been awarded the distinct honor of Firefighter of the Year. They have received this award with several agencies, including the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Assistant Chief Lena, Captain Bahr, and all of the other first responders who came out that day. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers protecting us in the Hudson Valley.

IN HONOR OF WORLD REFUGEE
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World Refugee Day and the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. While we are commemorating World Refugee Day all week, the plight of refugees continues day in and day out. As I speak, there are some 15.4 million refugees around the world. But, there's another dimension to this humanitarian crisis that I want to highlight. Worldwide, there are an estimated 27.5 million internally displaced people who have fled their homes, but remain within their country's borders. So, as we mark World Refugee Day, we cannot forget internally displaced people who are refugees within their own countries.

In total, there are 43 million refugees and displaced people globally which is roughly the