EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH BIRTHDAY OF HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown, in commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was born in Einbeck, Germany on September 6th, 1711. In 1742, the Franke Foundations of Halle (Germany) sent Muhlenberg to be pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, Trappe and New Hanover. In 1748, Muhlenberg organized the Pennsylvania Ministerium, the first Lutheran denomination in the New World. Through his writings and works, Muhlenberg became the most influential German-American Lutheran clergyman in colonial America, establishing or assisting congregations throughout the region. One of his sons, John Peter Gabriel, served as a Revolutionary War general and another, Frederick Augustus, as the first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's legacy continues through the nearly 4,000 persons The Lutheran Theological Seminary has trained for the public ministry throughout the United States and around the world. With a current enrollment of over 350 students from thirty Christian denominations, LTSP is a major educational institution in the Philadelphia region and continues to celebrate its ties to the Muhlenberg tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of his birth and to extend best wishes to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown on this celebratory occasion.

RECOGNIZING S&W CONTRACTING OF WESTERN NEW YORK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of S&W Contracting, a successful local business, which recently landed at No. 47 on this year's Fortune Magazine Inner City 100, a list of the country's 100 fastest-growing inner city businesses.

Shandra Spicer, the company's president and CEO was recognized last year during Minority Enterprise Development Week as Minority Small Business Person of the Year for the Small Business Association's Buffalo District and Region II, including New York, New Jersey, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

S&W Contracting of Western New York was founded in 1999 by Shandra Spicer and her parents. They began as a small company that cleaned and painted units in Buffalo's Old First Ward area apartment complexes.

About one decade later S&W had grown into a general construction contractor and commercial janitorial services company with 27 employees and revenue of 1.7 million. The company saw profits of $2.1 million in 2010. At age 22, Shandra Spicer became the CEO and President of S&W Contracting, a testament to her maturity and strong business sense at a young age.

In twelve years of business, S&W Contracting has secured some choice construction contracts, including work for Erie County Buffalo Public Schools and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shandra Spicer graduated from the University at Buffalo all State Minority and Women Emerging Entrepreneurs program and LPCiminelli's Emerging Contractor Mentor Program; she regularly attends workshops at the Women's Business Center at Canisius College.

Ms. Spicer advises other contractors to invest in their infrastructure, understand developers and their mission, and build relationships. S&W has clearly built relationships and put in the hard work necessary to secure contracts based on merit, a valuable message for any local business in today's economy.

It is with great pride that I stand today to recognize the achievements of S&W Contracting, under the leadership of Shandra Spicer, an inspiration to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RICHARD LASKY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Richard Lasky of Lewisville, Texas for his 30-year commitment to the fire rescue service and to celebrate his retirement.

Chief Lasky began his career as a firefighter in the outskirts of Chicago, where he also taught for the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute and at the Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association. There, Chief Lasky received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors' prestigious ''Innovator of The Year'' award. He has been a trail blazer in learning and leading on the job ever since.

Chief Lasky later moved to Lewisville where he continued his career in the fire service. He has held numerous positions in the fire service including earning the distinguished title of command-level officer. Although he has held many positions in the fire and police service, Chief Lasky is best known as being a family man whether at home or at the station.

Soon after he began his position in Lewisville, tragedy struck our great Nation on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Centers were attacked. Chief Lasky came to the aid of his fire fighter brethren in New York City.

In addition to his tenure as a firefighter, Chief Lasky has also experienced a successful career as both a motivational speaker and an author. He has written over 150 technical articles and published a best-selling book entitled ''Pride and Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job.''

To add to his already impressive career, Chief Lasky also works as a co-host for the radio show ''The Command Post'' heard on the Fire Engineering Talk Radio.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this exceptionally courageous patriot and his professional and personal dedication to our community. It is my honor to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FRED DONALD ''DON'' GIACOMAZZI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Fred Donald ''Don'' Giacomazzi, who passed away on August 18, 2011 at the age of seventy-three. Don was a distinguished dairyman and community leader who always placed the utmost importance on kinship, family, and friends.

Don was born on October 26, 1937 to Fred and Lilia Giacomazzi in Hanford, California. He grew up working on his family's dairy, which was established by his grandfather, Luigi Giacomazzi in 1893, and is one of the oldest operating dairies in California. He became active in the family business and learned the value of hard work early in his childhood. Don also became active in 4–H and the Future Farmers of America during his youth, demonstrating his passion for agriculture.

Upon graduating from Hanford High School in 1955, Don studied at College of the Sequoias, and then transferred to California State University, Fresno, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Years later, in 1966, Don married Jacqueline Giglio and they had four children and five grandchildren.

Don spent his adult life as a farmer in Kings County, California. In 1969, he and his father formed Don and Fred Giacomazzi Farms,