

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON CARMEN'S UNION, LOCAL 589

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, who for the past 100 years has been a strong voice for transportation professionals in Boston and the surrounding areas.

As it celebrates its centennial, the Boston Carmen's Union represents 6,000 union members and is a part of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the largest labor union in America with over 190,000 members. The union was born in the same way as the labor movement itself: with a great deal of cooperation, dedication and perseverance. In 1912, after a number of failed attempts to meet with management to assert their rights and address their grievances, the first organized Boston Elevated Carmen's Union voted to strike—1,389 votes to eight. During the strike, the newly-formed union faced uncooperative tactics and strike breakers hired by the transit company. Despite these challenges, the union members fought for their rights, enjoying strong support from the labor community, and soon after, from District Attorney Joseph Pelletier, Governor Eugene Foss and legendary Boston Mayor John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald. Finally, after more than six weeks of striking, the union was able to come to a settlement and gained recognition from Boston Elevated Company.

In the years to come, the Carmen's Union continued to grow and collaborate with other local unions, evolving with the changing transit industry to best serve its members. As it marks this centennial milestone, the Boston Carmen's Union has both served and represented the many transportation professionals whose important work forms the backbone of our city and the surrounding area's infrastructure. It is with their help that the employees of the MBTA have been able to stand up for better working conditions, hours and wages.

The Boston Carmen's Union has a stellar record of activism and community service. This year, the union participated in the National Day of Action for Transportation on April 4th. The event gathered the Carmen's membership and supporters to demand fair treatment for transit workers and to demonstrate that available, affordable and well-maintained public transit is an issue of civil rights. The union also works hard to build awareness about the crucial role transportation professionals play in the daily life of every Bostonian. From subway drivers to mechanics to baggage handlers, and so many more, members of the Local 589 provide integral services to their communities every single day.

Along with its efforts to improve working conditions for its membership and empower them to assert their rights as an employee, the Boston Carmen's Union values its ability to play a positive role in the community. When firefighters, policemen or other public servants are killed in the line of duty, members of Local 589 routinely volunteer their

time and services to provide transport to and from the memorial service. I applaud the Boston Carmen's Union both for its dedication to its mission of empowering transportation and allied professionals and for its commitment to serving the Boston community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, its President John Lee and the entire community on the celebration of 100 years of service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NEWLY RESTORED HOTEL LAFAYETTE IN DOWNTOWN BUFFALO NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary celebration. It is with great enthusiasm that I learned of their recent partnership with the newly restored Hotel Lafayette in Downtown Buffalo and I am inspired by their creative collaboration with significant restoration projects throughout our great city and region.

As the premier historical organization in Western New York, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society serves to collect, research, interpret and share the rich history of the Niagara Frontier. Founded in 1862, the organization holds more than 100,000 artifacts, 200,000 photographs, and 20,000 books.

On Thursday May 10, 2012, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society will celebrate their 150th Anniversary Gala and will partner with the Hotel Lafayette at a premier event held at the hotel to announce their collaboration and concept of leveraging Western New York history as a brand. Their shared vision will be showcased at the hotel in the form of inspired images, artifacts and ephemera from the museums vast collection.

Other creative collaborative efforts include: the use of BECHS designed Pan-American dinnerware for use as dessert plates in the newly named Pan-American Grill and Brewery in the Hotel, curating reproduced images for the hotel suites and corridors, and wall coverings to name a few.

As Buffalo's Congressional Representative, and a former teacher of History and Economics at Buffalo State College, it gives me great pride to see such innovative collaborations come to life. This presents a remarkable opportunity to tell the great story of Buffalo, its rise as one of America's fastest growing cities with a bustling and diversified economy, home of the Pan-American Exposition in 1901, and

home of many of the great works of architectural and landscape greats of America. This partnership also allows us to tell the story of a city that is making a great comeback, in large part due to the creativity and contributions of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the long-standing work and commitment of the staff, board of directors, docents and volunteers at the Buffalo and Erie County's Historical Society on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary Gala at the grand, Hotel Lafayette.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDIO ROCKETRY NATIONAL FINALISTS

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate students from Presidio High School and Lucy Rede Franco Middle School for qualifying for this year's Team America Rocketry Challenge national finals. This prestigious competition, which includes approximately 7,000 students from across the country, is the largest model rocket contest in the world.

Through their extraordinary talent and hard work these 3 teams earned a spot within the top 100 finalists, earning them a trip to Washington, DC for the national finals on May 12th. I am proud to congratulate Ana Karen Nieto, Itza Hanai Rodriguez, Antonio Bujanda, Marla Baltazar, Dylan Rivera, Rene Cardona, Gwynelle Condino, Jillianne Franco, Andres Villa, Hector Montemayor, and John Valeriano for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

IN RECOGNITION OF JASON BRANCH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Specialist Jason Branch, the winner of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 2012 Best Warrior Competition.

To be eligible for the grueling contest, Spc. Branch was first selected by his unit, the 189th Engineer Detachment, as the most qualified candidate. The Massachusetts Best Warrior Competition is known to test participants with rigorous physical and mental challenges. Now in its fourth year, the competition continues to evolve to meet the caliber of the contestants. This year's event included tests

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