

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ROCHESTER GIRL SCOUT TECH TEAM, THE HIPPIE PANDAS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor and privilege to congratulate the Girl Scout tech team, known as the Hippie Pandas, who participated in the FIRST 2012 Championship—a celebration of science, technology, and robots involving more than 600 student teams from 32 countries around the world. For their innovative work and outstanding professionalism, the Hippie Pandas of Rochester, New York, were awarded the “Gracious Professionalism Award.”

As someone who places great value on science and technology, I am so pleased to see the tremendous success of these four girls from Rochester, New York. The Hippie Pandas, aged 11–14, are not only an inspiration for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education for girls around the country, but they have also found a creative way to help communities in Nicaragua.

After learning that women in Nicaragua experience a high rate of miscarriage and disease because they drink unpasteurized milk, the Hippie Pandas set out to use their skills to develop an inexpensive and accessible solution to address this pressing problem. With the help of their coach and mentor, Cheryl Lawniczak, a chemical engineer at Eastman Kodak Co, and faculty members at the Rochester Institute of Technology, the girls designed and built a solar powered device to heat milk to 145 degrees to kill harmful bacteria.

The Hippie Pandas initially used a thermometer to determine when the milk reached target temperature, but realizing this would be impractical for most Nicaraguan women, they developed a clever and natural alternative—beeswax, which melts when milk has reached 145 degrees.

This solar powered milk pasteurizing device is currently being implemented in Nicaragua to help women treat raw milk so that it is safe to drink. As one of the Hippie Pandas stated, “One thing we definitely learned is how dangerous raw milk can be and how pasteurization helps. . . We also learned that as kids, we can help people around the world to live safer lives.”

At a time when we as a nation have fallen behind in STEM education, the success of the Hippie Pandas is truly inspirational. The life lessons of teamwork, leadership, and dedication can only be learned through hard work and experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of these girls along with their mentors at Rochester Institute of Technology and Eastman Kodak Co. for their innovative work and dedication to science and technology.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5743) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, I was unable to speak during last week’s floor debate on the FY13 Intelligence bill—the following is the statement I would have made before the amendment was adopted by voice vote:

First, let me thank my esteemed colleague Congressman JOHN CONYERS for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important amendment.

I would also like to recognize Congressman KEITH ELLISON who has been an outstanding leader on issues affecting the Middle East.

Mr. Chair, first let me say unequivocally that we can all agree that we must work to prevent an Iran armed with nuclear weapons—which would never be acceptable.

That is not what this amendment is about, this amendment is noncontroversial.

This amendment is really just about common sense.

It would simply require that the National Intelligence Director give Congress a report outlining their assessment of the consequences of launching a military strike against Iran.

This amendment is necessary because, once again, we have saber rattling voices who are beating the war drum.

If we have learned anything from the past ten years, it is that we have to be deliberate, be thoughtful, be careful, and know exactly what we are getting ourselves into before we launch another war in the Middle East.

These decisions should not be taken lightly, and they must be based on sound reasoning, and the best information, and the best intelligence.

We have a duty to our brave men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so much during the past decade of war to have an informed debate about the consequences of military action.

I urge you to vote “yes” on this amendment.

HONORING ROBERT M. CHUR OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Robert M.

Chur, the Chief Executive Officer and majority shareholder of 19 independent, assisted living and skilled nursing companies in my home community of Western New York.

These combined entities, which represent Bob’s hard work and dedication to service, currently employ 2,800 full and part-time employees, and care for more than 5,000 people each year throughout the Western and Central New York area.

Before beginning his outstanding career, Bob served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from St. Lawrence University, and received his MBA in Marketing Management from Syracuse University.

Remarkably, Bob has been affiliated with over 25 organizations throughout his career; sitting on various Boards of Directors, and serving as Chairman, President, and holding many other esteemed positions.

Bob has also received numerous awards for his service including his 2004 Health Care Hero for Lifetime Achievement award from Business First of Buffalo, and his 2010 ACHA Gold Award for Quality from ElderWood Health Care at Wedgewood.

Nine of Bob’s skilled facilities and five of his assisted living facilities have earned the Bronze and Silver Awards for Quality from the American Health Care Association. As a result, it comes as little surprise that in 2012 Robert was named one of Western New York’s most influential business leaders by Buffalo Business First.

It is very easy to see why Bob’s facilities have won many accolades over the years. In late April, I was proud to visit one of Bob’s facilities, Westwood Village, located in West Seneca, New York, as they welcomed their 1,000th resident, and Bob’s company’s success was self-evident: they care for people in the most dignified and respectful manner, assisting seniors as they transition through new chapters of their lives. Bob’s facilities are not “nursing homes,” in the traditional use of that term. Bob, his family and staff members work as hard as they can to simply make his facilities home for the many thousands of Western New Yorkers whom they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor Bob Chur on his exemplary career and celebrate his retirement. I thank him for his warm friendship and for his dedicated service to his country and to his community. I know that you and all of our colleagues join with me in wishing Bob good health and the best of luck in his future endeavors.

SALVATORE INGRALDI TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvatore Ingraldi of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Ingraldi is a proud

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