

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the dedicated staff in the Office of Legislative Counsel here in the House of Representatives for helping us to write important legislation reauthorizing surface transportation programs. In addition, I would like to thank the staff of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for providing us with their technical assistance and expertise. In particular, I would like to thank the following individuals for their work on this legislation:

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Thanks to the dedication of these experts we have achieved a major accomplishment in the passage of H.R. 4348.

### CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE CITY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the City of Alton, Illinois.

Among the first Europeans to explore the area later settled as Alton, Illinois were Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet in 1673. The Illiniwek tribes had lived in the area for many years and a Native American drawing, the Piasa, a fierce-looking bird that was painted on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River was first documented by Fr. Marquette. The drawing has been reproduced many times and the Piasa can still be seen on the bluffs today.

Situated on the banks of the Mississippi, between its confluences with the Missouri and Illinois Rivers, Alton was a natural location for development as a river town in the early 19th Century. Rufus Easton, a St. Louis businessman who ran a ferry operation at Alton named the town after his eldest son in 1818. Because of its excellent location, the community experienced tremendous growth and was incorporated as a city in 1837.

1837 was the year of another important event in Alton's history, although hardly a highlight. Abolitionist printer, Elijah Lovejoy, who had moved from St. Louis to Alton because of increasing tensions in the slave state of Missouri, was killed by a mob in Alton as he attempted to protect his printing press. Other significant historical notes of Alton in the mid-19th Century included being a major stop on the Underground Railroad and the site of a Union prison for Confederate soldiers, many of whom died there due to rampant disease. Alton was also the location for the final Lincoln-Douglas debate, in 1858.

Famous people from Alton include renowned jazz musician Miles Davis and Robert Wadlow, known as the "Alton Giant," and still the tallest human in recorded history at 8 ft. 11 inches tall.

The 20th Century saw an increase in manufacturing in the Alton area, with steel, glass and cardboard boxes among the leading industries that provided employment for Alton residents. As Alton has expanded and diversified, it has always remained tied to the river. The area is referred to as Riverbend because of the arc of the Mississippi at Alton. The National Great Rivers Museum and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, both near the Melvin Price Lock and Dam at Alton, are two recent additions that promote the study and appreciation of the rivers that gave rise to many cities like Alton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the City of Alton, Illinois and to wish them the very best for a bright and prosperous future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of Title IX. This

historic piece of legislation has had a profound and lasting impact on gender equity in this country. While many people associate Title IX with primarily promoting funding equality in collegiate athletics, its impact is much greater—affecting the role of women as leaders and role models in our society. Title IX of the Education Amendments in 1972 prohibited sex discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. It is the cornerstone of federal statutes that require equal access to all areas of education for women. Title IX sent a message to young women across this country that their achievements were just as great as those of their male counterparts.

The opportunity to succeed is an essential tenet of our American spirit; Title IX provides women with an opportunity to succeed in collegiate athletics and beyond. An entire generation of young women has seized this opportunity, as evidenced by their many achievements. In the past 40 years, women have excelled in all aspects of society. In law and government, we have seen the first female Speaker of the House, the first female Supreme Court Justice and the first female Secretary of State. In science and technology, we have seen the first female astronaut enter space and six female scientists receive Nobel Prizes. Title IX has helped lay the foundation for equal educational access for these achievements.

In addition, Title IX has helped create a generation of young female athletes: in 1972, only 1 in 27 women participated in high school sports; now 1 in 3 participate. Sports can play a key role in a young person's successful growth and development. Young people who participate in sports are more likely to be goal-oriented, healthy, confident and ambitious. These athletes have lower teenage pregnancy rates, are less likely to commit crimes and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol. The dramatic increase in female sports participation is undoubtedly an important factor in women's success and advancement in the past 40 years.

Women have come a long way since the 1970s, but considerable work remains. On average, a woman still earns only 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man across all occupations and levels of educational attainment. Further, women's rights to healthcare and prevention services are being challenged by courts and legislatures across this country. As policymakers, we must remember how long it has taken women to get to this point and must not allow gender equity to recede. We must continue to legislate with the spirit of equality and opportunity, as the Members of the 88th Congress did 40 years ago. I commend the many achievements that women have made since the passage of Title IX and look forward to seeing many more in the future.

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