EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF ALBERT JOSEPH BERTI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Albert J. Berti who died at the age of 94 on November 28, 2013. He leaves his beloved wife, Mary Vitelli Berti, and his children Paula Lake, Linda Bonforte, Dana Berti Cassillo, Andrea Hennessy, Peter Berti, Christopher Berti, Mary E. Berti, Martha Berti and Monica Casazza. He was the devoted grandfather of 21, and the great grandfather of 5, as well as the brother of Iris Scott Bangston.

Mr. Berti served our country with distinction during World War II and was buried with the military honors he earned and deserved. He also enjoyed a long career with the United States Department of the Treasury.

I'm blessed to enjoy the friendship of one of Mr. Berti's daughters, Andrea Hennessy. In Andrea's words, her father's life was "rich in all the ways that matter, and his large family will cherish his memory forever."

Albert Berti lived a life rooted in the best traditions of our country. He was a patriot who served his country. He was an exemplary husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and he contributed to the life of his community and strengthened our country with his integrity and values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Albert J. Berti, and in extending our condolences to his family.

HONORING GARY FRANCE, OWNER OF FRANCE PROPANE SERVICE, INC., IN SCHOFIELD, WISCONSIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION AND PROPANE INDUSTRY

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special honor to my constituent Gary France, owner of France Propane Service, Inc., in Schofield, Wisconsin. After decades of hard work in the propane industry, Mr. France has received the distinct honor of being named Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA). As Chairman, Gary brings experience and wisdom to the position, leading a national organization of more than 3,000 members of the propane gas industry.

Mr. France has served as an industry leader on both the state and national levels for almost four decades. He started his work in the propane industry in 1964 working at his family's retail propane business at the young age of 13. After decades of commitment to growing his family's business, Mr. France became a small business owner in 1990 when he bought his family business and formed France Propane Service, Inc.

Prior to serving as Chairman of NPGA, Mr. France represented the state of Wisconsin on the NPGA Board of Directors from 2002 until 2010, and received the State Director of the Year Award in 2009. During this period, he also chaired NPGA's Member Services Committee and was a member of the Government Affairs Committee. Mr. France also has served on the Board of the Wisconsin Propane Gas Association for 35 years, during which time he served as President and as Chair of the Education and Legislative Committees.

On a personal level, Mr. France's servant's heart extends to his beloved family. He has been married to his wife Nancy for nearly 40 years, and has raised three children and now four grandchildren. Mr. France has also been a stalwart in his local communities of Schofield and Wausau, taking on leadership roles with the Wausau Early Bird Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Wausau Area Catholic School System, and the Mobile Meals charitable organization.

Mr. France's innate ability to lead by example and his natural penchant to take pride in his work resonates throughout the propane community. He stands as an example of the work ethic, genuine humility, and love-for-country that one finds in Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to call Gary France a constituent and a friend, and I congratulate him on attaining this high honor.

SOLAR ENERGY

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the great progress being made in the use of clean, reliable solar energy across America and particularly in my home state of Arizona. I urge my colleagues to join me on January 24 for the national Shout Out for Solar Day.

Arizona's solar industry employs almost 10,000 people at more than 250 companies. Not only are we the second-largest solar user in the country, solar in Arizona is growing faster than in every state besides California. There is now enough solar generation in Arizona to power almost 200,000 homes.

2013 was a record-shattering year for solar, in Arizona and across the Nation, and I am proud to lend my voice to supporting the continued success of solar energy. Please join me on January 24 and Shout Out for Solar.

HONORING ETHAN YOUNG

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an exceptional high school student from my District whose commonsense and eloquent words brought national attention to education policy.

Ethan Young, a senior a Farragut High School in Knox County, Tennessee, recently testified in front of the Knox County School Board against Common Core, the one-size-fits-all educational scheme being implemented across the Nation.

Ethan's speech was noticed by outlets such as FOX News and Glenn Beck, who called the remarks possibly the best case against Common Core ever made.

I have been friends with Ethan's grandmother for many years and know him to be a very passionate and intelligent young man.

Mr. Speaker, Ethan has learned through his own experience that, in his words, "creativity, appreciation, and inquisitiveness are impossible to scale." I bring his powerful speech, which is reprinted below in its entirety, to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. All education policy-makers should listen closely to his wisdom.

SPEECH TO KNOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(By Ethan Young)

In a mere five minutes, I hope to provide insightful comments about a variety of educational topics. I sincerely hope you disprove the research I've compiled.

Here's the history of the Common Core. In 2009, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers partnered with Achieve Inc., a nonprofit that received millions in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Thus the initiative seemed to spring from states, when in reality it was contrived by an insular group of educational testing executives with only two academic content specialists. Neither specialist approved the final standards, and the English consultant, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, publicly stated she felt the standards left students with an empty skill set, lacking literary knowledge.

While educators and administrators were later included in the validation committee and feedback groups, they did not play a role in the actual drafting of the standards. The product is a, quote, ''rigorous preparation for career and college,'' yet many educators agree that ''rigorous'' is a buzzword. These standards aren't rigorous, just different, designed for industrial model of school.

Nevertheless, Common Core emerged. Keep in mind, the specific standards were never voted upon by Congress, the Department of Education, state or local governments. Yet, their implementation was approved by 49 states and territories. The president essentially bribed states into implementation via Race to the Top, offering 4.35 billion taxpayer dollars to participating states, $500 million of which went to Tennessee. And much like No Child Left Behind, the program

promises national testing and a one-size-fits-all education, because, hey, it worked really well the first time.

While I do admire some aspects of the core, such as fewer standards and an emphasis on application and writing, it's not going to fix our academic deficit. If nothing else, these standards are a glowing conflict of interest. And they lack the research they allegedly received. And most importantly, the standards illustrate a mistrust of teachers, something I believe this county has already felt for a while.

I've been fortunate to have incredible educators that opened my eyes to the joy of learning, and I love them like my family. I respect them entirely, which is why it frustrates me to review the TEAM and APEX evaluation systems. These subjective anxiety-producers do more to damage a teacher's self-esteem than you realize. Erroneous evaluation coupled with strategic compensation presents a punitive model that, as a student, is like watching your teacher jump through flaming hoops to earn a score. Have you forgotten the nature of a classroom? A teacher cannot be evaluated without his students, because as a craft, teaching is an interaction. Thus how can you expect to gauge a teacher's success with no control for student participation or interest?

I stand before you because I care about education, but also because I want to support my teachers. And just as they fought for my academic achievement, so I want to fight for their ability to teach. This relationship is at the heart of instruction, yet there will never be a system by which it is accurately measured.

But I want to take a step back. We can argue the details ad infinitum. Yet I observe a much broader issue with education today. Standards-based education is ruining the way we teach and learn. Yes, I've already been told by legislators and administrators, Ethan, that's just the way things work. But why? I'm going to answer that question. It's bureaucratic convenience. It works with nuclear reactors, it works for business models, why can't it work with students? I mean, how convenient calculating exactly who knows what and who needs what. I mean, why don't we just manufacture robots instead of students? They last longer and they always do what they're told.

But education is unlike every other bureaucratic institute in our government. The task of teaching is never quantifiable. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I haven't learned anything. I'd like to repeat that. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I have not learned anything. Creativity, appreciation, inquisitiveness—these are impossible to scale, but they're the purpose of education, why our teachers teach, and why I choose to learn.

And today we find ourselves in a nation that produces workers. Everything is career and college preparation. Somewhere our founding fathers are turning in their graves, pleading, screaming, and trying to say to us that we teach to free minds, we teach to inspire, we teach to equip. The careers will come naturally.

I know we're just one city in a huge system that excitedly embraces numbers, but ask any of these teachers, ask any of my peers, and ask yourselves, haven't we gone too far with data?

I attended tonight's meeting to share my critiques, but as Benjamin Franklin quipped, any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do. The problems I cite are very real. And I only ask that you hear them out, investigate them, and do not dismiss them as another fool's criticisms. I'll close with a quote of Jane L. Stanford that Dr. McIntyre shared in a recent speech:

''You have my entire confidence in your ability to do conscientious work to the very best advantage to the students—that they be considered paramount to all and everything else. We're capable of fixing education, and I commit myself to that task. But you cannot ignore me, my teachers, or the truth. We need change, but not Common Core, high-stakes evaluations, or more robots.'' Thank you.

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. LESTER BAUM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great solemnity to share with you the recent death of Mr. Lester Baum.

Lester Baum dedicated his life to working in the community. As a local fixture of Vernon, Connecticut, Lester was involved in politics, education, sports and the business community, working as a mentor, leader and friend to many.

Lester was also passionate about his country, which he loved, and as a Korean war veteran believed deeply in participation with the democratic process that makes America the great country it is today. During a long distinguished carrier in politics, Lester was one of Senator Christopher Dodd's earliest and consistent supporters during is campaigns for Connecticut's second district and the U.S. Senate, and served as 2nd Congressional District Coordinator for President Carter. Lester also sat as the Vernon Democratic Town Chairman for 10 years during the 1970s and 1980s.

On a personal note, from my first campaign for state representative from the town of Vernon to my most recent race for Congress, Lester was an incisive and consistent supporter of my efforts. I will never forget his simple but powerful advice, "there is no such thing as a shutout in politics," which was a strong source of support during my 2006 campaign for Congress, which I won by only 83 votes out of 242,000 ballots cast.

As a graduate of the University of Connecticut in 1948, Lester showed an unwavering dedication to the university which spanned several decades. As a familiar sight at most UConn basketball and soccer matches, Lester served as member of the UConn President's Athletic Task Force and the Athletic Advisory Committee. A two-term president of the UConn Club and a recipient of the UConn Alumni Association Jorgensen Award and the UConn Outstanding Contribution Award, Lester played an integral role in inspiring future generations of the university's graduates.

As a zealous participant in Connecticut civic life, Lester served in board member capacities for a number of local organizations including the Vernon Board of Tax Review, Hockanum Valley Community Council, Rockville Redevelopment Commission, the Advisory Board of South Windsor Bank and Trust and the Planning and Growth Committee at Rockville General Hospital. Also the owner and President of the local business Farm Car Care Center Inc., Lester was an upstanding member of his local Connecticut community.

Lester is succeeded by his his wife; two children and eight grandchildren, and will be sorely missed by his family along with a vast community of friends. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Lester Baum, and sharing our condolences with the family and friends he leaves behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DON FAUGHT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Don Faught, as he completes his term serving as the 2013 President of the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

For over 25 years, Don has worked in the real estate industry in California. A second generation real estate professional, Don is currently Vice President and Managing Broker at Alain Pinel Realtors located in Pleasanton, California, in my district.

Don has been a member of the California Association of Realtors since 1987, and has served as a CAR Director since 1997. Before his term as CAR President in 2013, Don also served in leadership positions within the association, acting as President-Elect in 2012 and Treasurer in 2010 and 2011.

Throughout his career, Don has been an active member of CAR, serving on numerous committees, including as chair of the Federal Issues Committee and chair of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

Don also has been involved in the real estate industry at the local and national levels. In 2000, Don served as President of the Bay East Association of Realtors, and was named Bay East's Outstanding Leader in both 2002 and 2008.

A National Association of Realtors Director since 2002, Don currently serves as Chair of the Economic Issues and Commercial Real Estate Trends Forum and is a member the Strategic Planning Committee. Don has received designations as a Certified Residential Specialist, and is a graduate of the Realtor Institute.

As CAR President, Don has worked to engage California Realtors and inspire them to get involved in their communities, taking action to ensure that the voice of the real estate industry is heard. During his term as President, Don has sought to reinforce the values of professionalism, ethics, and integrity within the industry.

Mr. Speaker, Realtors are a critical part of every community, as they enable the American dream of home ownership. I want to recognize Don for his service to his community and his contributions to the real estate industry. I wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve the residents of the East Bay.

HONORING HEALTH CARE DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY ON 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, FUNDING, AND HEALTH CARE SERVICE TO RESIDENTS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. This organization is renowned in the South Florida community for its excellent work in providing comprehensive planning, funding, and health care service delivery to residents of Palm Beach County.

In the 25 years since its founding, the District's staff and volunteers have greatly contributed to the health and well-being of the citizens of Palm Beach County. In 1987, the Florida Legislature wisely recognized the need to provide ample access to health care services in the county, which worked as an impetus for the establishment of the Health Care District.

The Health Care District has since grown to encompass a wide variety of safety-net programs. These programs include the newly constructed Lakeside Medical Center for treating acute-needs patients, school health clinics that serve over 170 public schools, the Edward J. Healy Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, as well as a variety of other coverage programs for uninsured residents of this predominantly rural and agricultural county.

As the operator of the sole public hospital in Palm Beach County, the District has provided lifesaving care to over 3,000 severely injured trauma patients. It also provides health coverage to over 40,000 uninsured county residents, enables uninsured expectant mothers to receive over 70,000 services, and continues to assist over 170,000 county students, where nearly 683,000 visits have been made during the school year. In addition to this critical work, they have also treated over 23,000 visits to the Emergency Room at Lakeside Medical Center.

I am very proud of the Health Care District's work, and privileged to have such a phenomenal organization serving in my Congressional district. I want to personally commend all the hardworking and dedicated staff, along with the countless volunteers of the Health Care District for their service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, and express my most sincere gratitude for all that they have accomplished. I wish them many more years of continued success.

S. 230, PEACE CORPS MEMORIAL

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered S. 230 favorably reported on December 4, 2013, without amendment. However, when the bill was passed by a vote of 387–7 by the House on January 13, 2014, the Committee had not filed its bill report.

For this reason, I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly elaborate on the substance of the legislation. S. 230 authorizes the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs. The project must be planned and constructed with non-federal funds and executed consistently with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA). Accordingly, the work is not eligible for placement in the Reserve as defined by the CWA. This legislation would not have been approved by the Committee on Natural Resources without this clear inclusion of language affirming the moratorium on new memorials within the Reserve.

That being said, I am pleased that the House has enacted yet another bi-partisan bill from the Committee on Natural Resources and I look forward to future successes.