EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BRUNO PERINO FOR BEING AWARDED THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent who is a courageous veteran of World War II, Mr. Bruno Perino. Mr. Perino has been awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal for his bravery in helping to liberate France as a rifleman in the 45th Division of the U.S. Army. The Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon Bonaparte on May 19, 1802 and is the highest decoration in France.

Bruno Perino, a native of Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood, was drafted into the United States Army at the young age of 18 and survived countless attacks by the Germans and singlehandedly captured a German officer and his soldiers in Alsace-Lorraine. Shortly after the brave capture, Bruno Perino was injured by enemy fire that took the lives of half of his battalion. Bruno was treated by his own brother, Joe Perino, just two years his senior, at the field hospital. He quickly recovered and entered the battlefield again under General Patton.

Throughout all the bloodshed and loss of soldiers and friends, Bruno Perino remained humble and devotional, keeping his faith with him and praying daily. After the war was over, Bruno returned to Chicago and was honorably discharged with many decorations, including three Bronze Stars.

Today, Bruno Perino is married with three children and blessed with nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is retired from the City of Chicago. His family, friends, and colleagues are truly blessed to know such a fine example of faith and devotion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bruno Perino for his outstanding courage and bravery, and his service to our Nation. And I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Perino and his family, and congratulate him on being made a Knight of the Legion of Honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely regret that, due to unavoidable flight delays, I was unable to vote on Monday, February 10, 2014. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yes" on all three bills considered that day. They were:

(1) H.R. 2431—The National Integrated Drought Information Systems Reauthorization Act; H. Res. 447—Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, as amended.

(2) Journal vote.

A TRIBUTE TO NOAH KATZ OF WHITEFISH BAY, WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor a young student from my district, Noah Katz, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Noah Katz, who hails from Whitefish Bay, was named one of the top honorees in Wisconsin by the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This is an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Katz is being recognized for his work and leadership with the organization "Boxes of Love." The organization has 183 young volunteers who bake, pack and ship treats in order to raise funds to help others. They raised more than $63,000 and donated the funds to help build a school house through Free the Children and built a well in Kenya.

Mr. Katz should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Mr. Katz for his initiative in seeking to make his community and the global community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans play important roles in our communities.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995. The mission is to not only inspire young people to volunteer, but to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued. Over the past 19 years, the program has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level and is the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service.

Youth volunteers like Noah Katz are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. It is extremely important that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Mister Speaker, I commend Mr. Katz for his work. America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future and shines because of his efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT ROBERT L. SALES

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, saw some of the most intense fighting of World War II. Among them on D-Day was Sergeant Robert L. Sales of Madison Heights, a member of the Virginia National Guard Company B, 116th Infantry. After coming under fierce attack in the first wave of the invasion, Mr. Sales made his way to the seawall. He was the only man from his landing craft to survive the landing and went on to continue fighting on the frontlines. Thanks to his selfless service, the citizens of France were given hope of once again living in freedom.

It was this heroic service that earned Mr. Sales the French Legion of Honor nearly 70 years after the Allied invasion. He was one of six World War II veterans to receive the French Legion of Honor directly from French President Francois Hollande at a ceremony in Arlington on February 11, 2014.

The French Legion of Honor is France's highest distinction and is presented as an expression of gratitude for aiding in efforts to liberate France from enemy forces. Those eligible for the medal must have fought in one of the major French liberation campaigns, which includes the D-Day landing at Normandy.

As a member of "The Greatest Generation," Mr. Sales joined the Virginia National Guard in 1941. The actions of Mr. Sales throughout his service in World War II also earned him America's deepest gratitude and well-deserved military honors, including the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

As we recognize the valiant service of Mr. Sales, we are reminded of all service members who have made tremendous sacrifices and our responsibility to honor them every day. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Sales on becoming a Knight of the French Legion of Honor. I am grateful for his service, and the service of all of our veterans, in the defense of this great Nation.

INTRODUCING THE COMMUNITY GARDENING AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2014

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Community Gardening and Nutrition Act of 2014, legislation that creates a new pilot program within AmeriCorps VISTA focusing on creating and improving access to community gardens in areas with high poverty rates.

Community gardens have been shown to be very beneficial to the communities they serve. They improve quality of life, encourage self-reliance, and reduce family food budgets—all while producing highly nutritious food for participants. Additionally, community gardens create opportunities for recreation, social interaction, exercise, education, and economic development.

Providing new avenues for nourishment like the one in this legislation has become even more important since the recent cuts of $19 billion to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A report released in August 2013 by the Union of Concerned Scientists concluded that if Americans ate one extra serving of fruits or vegetables daily, there would be approximately 30,000 fewer deaths from cardiovascular diseases and $5 billion saved in health care costs in our nation every year. Nearly 130,000 deaths would be prevented and $17 billion saved in medical costs if that amount was increased to an additional two and a half cups of vegetables and two cups of fruit daily. These figures highlight the importance of making healthy foods more easily available for those who would benefit from them the most.

Mr Speaker, my legislation is very straightforward. It requires the creation of at least 40 new community garden projects in both urban and rural areas suffering from high poverty rates. AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers in this program will work with members of these communities to establish new gardens, which will help to expand general anti-poverty efforts, teach basic nutrition, and help provide affordable healthy food options. Within 90 days of the completion of the program, the Director will submit to Congress a report describing the projects that were created, information about the volunteers that were placed, and a recommendation regarding continuation and expansion of the program.

I can think of no better way to mark the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty than to rededicate ourselves to the principle of improving people's lives. We can do this by increasing access to healthy foods and fighting health crises like the obesity epidemic. Just last year, President Obama announced an expansion of the AmeriCorps program, led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), to develop new strategies for expanding national service. This legislation could play a significant role in these efforts. The pilot program created within the Community Gardening and Nutrition Act of 2014 will help to educate about the importance of nutrition and empower Americans living in impoverished regions to be more self-reliant while increasing access to healthier foods. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.