

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING OUR FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day represents one of our nation's most important holidays.

Each year, our nation unites, regardless of political differences and ideology, to remember the heroes from all branches of military service who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the very freedoms we hold so dear.

This Monday on Memorial Day, as we honor the courageous men and women in uniform who gave their lives to defend our country, we continue our nation's long-held tradition of paying tribute to America's fallen soldiers.

On this day of remembrance, let us recall that these brave men and women left behind countless loved ones and family members who also deserve our collective gratitude.

As we remember the remarkable lives of our nation's fallen soldiers and their families on this Memorial Day, we must continue to honor them each day, as a single day of commemoration is far short of what they deserve.

HONORING FALLEN VETERANS

HON. STACEY E. PLASKETT

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2015

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of our armed forces who have given their lives in defense of our democracy. The men and women whose dedication has been to protect not just our land and people, but also the principles we hold so dear: the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The veterans from my home district in the U.S. Virgin Islands have long been among the first to answer America's call to duty. In some cases, even fighting in defense of this great nation before they were officially a part of it.

Our territory had only been under the U.S. flag for a few months when America entered into World War I. Virgin Islanders had not yet been granted American Citizenship, but our people served—and they did so bravely, and with honor.

In the fight to preserve our democracy all Virgin Island veterans have given, but there are some, like the nine brave Virgin Island souls, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This Memorial Day, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the sacrifice and honoring the memory of these men. They are:

Army SSG Kendall Thomas; Army PFC Jason Lynch; Marine Lance Cpl. Shane L. Goldman; Army SPC Jose Rosario; Army SSG Gregory Rivera-Santiago; Army LTC David C.

Canegata; Army SFC Floyd Lake; Army SGT Jorge Scatliffe and Army SGT Errol James.

This nation owes these men, and the countless others who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, a great debt; one which we can never really repay. Our resolve is that their sacrifice is not in vain as we rise up in their stead in the continuing fight for liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING PHIL LARUE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Phil LaRue for his many contributions to the New Democrat Coalition. Next month, Phil will be leaving the New Democrat Coalition to move back to Pennsylvania.

The New Democrat Coalition, which I have the honor to Chair, is a group of 46 pro-growth, innovation focused Members of the House Democratic Caucus. New Dems support policies to expand economic growth and foster the new economy; a fiscally responsible and efficient government; and a robust foreign policy that includes a pro-growth trade agenda.

Phil joined the New Dem staff as Communications Director in June 2013. Since then, he has been a trusted advisor to me and many Members of the Coalition. Over his tenure, the New Democrat Coalition has been at the forefront of many issues important to our country including working to reopen government during the shutdown in the fall of 2013, introducing and advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, advancing a competitiveness agenda, building support for regulatory reform, and working to pass a pro-growth, pro-worker trade agenda. Phil's work sharpening our message, interacting with the press, identifying opportunities, and coordinating key stakeholders has been critical to the Coalition's success.

In addition, Phil was a key architect in the New Democrat Coalition's American Prosperity Agenda released in March 2015; the first comprehensive policy agenda in the Coalition's 18 year history. The American Prosperity Agenda lays out a vision for policies Congress should prioritize in three key areas: 1. Grow the Economy in Every Town and City, 2. Give Everyone a Shot at the American Dream, and 3. Make Government Work Better for the Middle Class.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the New Democrat Coalition, thank you Phil.

SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTRE- PRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2262) to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I voted for H.R. 2262, the Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship (SPACE) Act of 2015 to promote continued American competitiveness and ingenuity in space exploration. I agree with many of my fellow Democrats that as this industry matures, we should be regularly revisiting the issue of the "learning period," and its related Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations regarding spacecraft, as well as rules relating to indemnification.

This is why I supported the Edwards amendment to the SPACE Act to shorten the extension of these provisions to five and four years, rather than continuing them through 2025. Though that amendment failed, I voted to support the underlying bill because it is important to encourage growth in this industry, considering the end of NASA's space shuttle program in July 2011, and the rapid development of this industry internationally.

As is now happening with our commercial drone industry, which can help us with everything from enforcing environmental protections to improving worker safety, a failure to move beyond outmoded federal regulations in the U.S. will mean other countries progress and we're left behind. A failure to reach agreement on these critical areas of emerging technology and the role of the federal government will undercut American's ability to compete and lead in the 21st century. Research, innovation and investments are happening in the area across the globe. We must strike the right balance, but Congress ought not play a role by adding complexity and delay.

MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, this month, I join my colleagues in recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

National Foster Care Month was established over 20 years ago to bring foster care issues to the forefront, highlight the importance of

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