

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, March 4, 2016, marks the 155th anniversary of the Government Publishing Office (GPO), the legislative-branch agency that Congress depends upon every day to produce the documents we need to discharge our constitutional responsibilities. Opening its doors for business as the Government Printing Office the same day that Abraham Lincoln was first inaugurated as President, the GPO since that time has worked around the clock in support of Congress, Federal agencies, and the right of the American people for access to information by and about our Government.

Where once GPO produced this Government information solely through the printing process, in the past generation GPO has transformed itself into a digital publisher, reducing dramatically the cost of producing Government information while exponentially expanding its reach to the public. More than 8,000 staff labored at GPO when it provided print only, while today there are about 1,700. Yet because of technology changes embraced by GPO the productivity of the 1,700 vastly exceeds their predecessors'. That productivity has yielded huge savings for the taxpayers and vastly modernized the way we work on behalf of the citizens we represent.

The technological changes the GPO has undergone have not gone unnoticed. In 2014, legislation was introduced in the Senate to recognize that the GPO is, by virtue of its digital progress, not just for printing anymore, and Congress and the President agreed that the time had come to change the GPO's name. Today, the GPO is the Government Publishing Office, a lean, technologically proficient, and thoroughly modern agency under the leadership of Director Davita Vance-Cooks, a talented manager who understands how to lead and sustain the benefits of change.

For the third year in a row Director Vance-Cooks has sent Congress a flat budget request. With her at the helm the GPO's employees have rated it one of the best places to work—a big change from how they felt ten years ago—and in their work they now turn out one success after another. Last year they installed high-efficiency equipment that has yielded a significant price reduction in the cost of producing our hearings. Last month, they unveiled a new, easy-to-use website that is drawing universal praise, including from you, Mr. Speaker.

Moreover, together with the Library of Congress, GPO employees last week launched public access to bulk-data files of bill-status information, a move that is further expanding openness and transparency to the legislative process. For the future they are poised to sup-

port the State Department's introduction of the next generation e-Passport and in 2017 they will move to a new composition system to speed and further reduce the cost of producing documents for Congress and Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, in remarks five years ago observing the GPO's sesquicentennial, I noted that Benjamin Franklin—America's patron saint of printing and Philadelphia's greatest citizen—would be surprised and pleased by what the GPO is and does. I can confidently say that he would feel the same today. On behalf of all of us in this House, congratulations and best wishes to GPO Director Davita Vance-Cooks and the men and women of the Government Publishing Office. Many thanks for all their good work.

SUPREME COURT VACANCY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, when taking office, every Member of Congress swears to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. This includes Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, also known as the "Appointments Clause."

The Appointments Clause clearly states the President has the power to nominate Justices of the Supreme Court. Nowhere does this clause state the President abdicates this constitutional responsibility during a presidential election year. And, nowhere does it state the U.S. Senate can make threats against the President for exercising his constitutional authority. Our separate branches of government exist to provide checks and balances against tyranny, not to hijack Constitutional processes for political gain.

Many Republicans have argued that Supreme Court Justices are not typically appointed during presidential election years, and especially during a president's last term. To those claims I invoke Mahlon Pitney, Louis Brandeis, John H. Clarke, Benjamin Cardozo, Frank Murphy, and Anthony Kennedy—all examples of Supreme Court Justices who were confirmed during a presidential election year.

Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and Benjamin Cardozo in particular, were confirmed during President Reagan and President Hoover's last years, respectively. Justice Louis Brandeis was nominated and confirmed in 1916 to replace Justice Joseph Lamar, who died in early January of that same year.

Not only has the Senate voted on and confirmed Supreme Court nominees during presidential election years, the process has never taken more than 125 days. In fact, on average, nominees have been confirmed, rejected, or withdrawn within 25 days. Ample time remains for President Obama to work with Congress to approve a nominee.

However, Republican leadership has once again let politics get in the way of doing what the American people elected them to do.

The Constitution is clear. Just as we honor our First Amendment right to freedom of religion or our Second Amendment right to bear arms, so should we defend the constitutionality of the Supreme Court appointment process. We cannot pick and choose which sections we enforce.

As Members of Congress, we made a promise to our constituents that we would "faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which" we have been elected to. It is the Senate's duty to consider a Supreme Court nominee.

I implore my Republican colleagues: Put politics aside and do your job; do not block President Obama's nominee. Rulings handed down by the Supreme Court directly affect our economy, security, and civil rights. This seat is too important to leave vacant.

SUPREME COURT VACANCY

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, barely an hour after Justice Scalia's death was confirmed, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL issued a statement rejecting any judge President Obama chose to nominate to the Supreme Court.

At that point, the President hadn't even announced his intention to fill the vacancy on our highest court.

It's a sad state of affairs that the highest ranking Republican in the Senate would politicize the Court in such a grotesque way when many of us were still learning of Justice Scalia's passing.

But this is par for the course for the Republicans. On issue after issue, debate after debate, they continue to solidify their reputation as the party of "no," to the detriment of this great nation.

Senate Republicans continue to maintain that they will deny a confirmation hearing to any individual nominated by President Obama to serve on the Supreme Court.

This is part of the Republican political agenda to disrupt the work of government when it does not align with their far-right ideology.

It is a thinly-veiled attempt to obstruct the nomination process in hopes of packing the Supreme Court with conservative justices who will roll back the progress our nation has made, from marriage equality to reproductive rights.

We have already seen what is at stake here. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act—a major setback for civil rights and voting rights, and a major blow to fundamental democracy in this country.

The president has a constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor to Justice Scalia.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Senate also has a constitutional responsibility—to give the nominee a fair hearing and a timely vote.

This is about democracy and protecting the institution of the Supreme Court.

What we are seeing from Republicans is a clear pattern of obstruction. They have shut down the government, threatened not to pay our debts, and halted the nomination process before it has even begun.

This divisiveness is a detriment to our democracy, an affront to justice, and an insult to the American people, who deserve to have their nation's highest court working at full capacity.

Republicans have said that there is no precedent for confirming a Supreme Court nominee during an election year. That is blatantly wrong: six Justices have been confirmed in presidential election years, including three Republican appointees.

Since the 1980s, Congress has almost never left any vacancy during a single Supreme Court session.

What is unprecedented in modern history is denying the President of the United States a hearing or vote on a nomination to the Supreme Court.

And yet that's what the Republican plan is. It's hard not to see this as an effort to delegitimize the nation's first black president.

Republicans have been trying to derail President Obama ever since he took office.

And now, whoever ends up being nominated for the Supreme Court, regardless of qualifications, will be rejected simply because he or she is an Obama nominee.

The disdain Republicans have for Obama is so great that they are willing to trample on the U.S. Constitution to prevent him from appointing a judge to the Supreme Court.

The U.S. Constitution—the very document that Republicans like to accuse the President of ignoring—states that the president “shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the Supreme Court.”

Not only does he have the right, he has a duty to appoint a judge to the Court.

Now, President Obama made clear that he seeks judges “who approach decisions without any particular ideology or agenda, but rather a commitment to impartial justice, a respect for precedent, and a determination to faithfully apply the law to the facts at hand.”

There is nothing radical about the President's position. His comments speak to his respect for the law and the seriousness he brings to the nomination process.

Republicans must do their job as it relates to that process—earnestly debate and then vote on the person nominated by the President.

There are many hotly debated issues in our country—immigration, gun reform, health care, campaign finance; issues that necessitate the maximum strength of the Supreme Court.

The American people deserve far better than attempts by Republican politicians in Washington to stack the Supreme Court with far-right judges who will forgo impartial justice to advance the conservative agenda.

They expect their government to work for them, and Senate Republicans must meet that expectation by swiftly filling the vacancy on the Court.

SUPREME COURT VACANCY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 29, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, sixteen days ago, and just moments after learning the sad news that Antonin Scalia, the most senior Justice on the Supreme Court, had died in his sleep at the age of 79, the Republican Senate Majority Leader, announced emphatically that “this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new President.”

Later that evening, the Senate Majority Leader's position was echoed at a presidential primary debate in South Carolina by every Republican presidential candidate.

Justice Scalia may have had many qualities but none endeared him more to his admirers on that debate stage and across the country than his professed devotion to the rule of law, his exaltation of the doctrine of “original intent,” and his insistence that the meaning of the Constitution is to be divined only from the strictest reading of the text.

Given the praise heaped on Justice Scalia by Republican senators and presidential candidates, it is passing strange indeed that they claim to be honoring his memory by taking a position that repudiates the very principles Justice Scalia devoted his life to advancing.

Mr. Speaker, so-called “strict constructionists” claim that the Constitution is to be interpreted according to its literal text.

Well, there is nothing clearer than the provision in Article II, Section 2, which states that the President “with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court[.]”

To read the Constitution as containing a limitation restricting the President's exercise of this power in the fourth year of his term of office would be to treat the Constitution as a “living document” and to engage in the type of judicial activism that Justice Scalia opposed and fought during his 30 years on the Court.

Indeed, just three years ago, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Justice Scalia in discussing his judicial philosophy, expressed his view of the Constitution: “It's not a living document. It's dead, dead, dead.”

If it had been the original intention of the Framers to restrict the President from nominating Supreme Court Justices to fill vacancies occurring in the fourth year of his or her term, they would have manifested that intent clearly, explicitly, and unmistakably, as they did in conditioning Supreme Court appointments to the advice and consent of the Senate and in prohibiting the President from exercising the Pardon Power in cases of impeachment.

Mr. Speaker, disregarding the procedure expressly set forth in the Constitution for filling vacancies on the Supreme Court because it may not result in the appointment of one's preferred justice makes a mockery of the “rule of law,” adherence to which is claimed to be the most sacred principle of both judicial and political conservatives.

The bottom line is this: for those who revered Justice Scalia, cherish his memory, and wish to do honor to the work of his life, the way forward is clear.

And that is for Republican senators to gladly receive, when it is put forward, President Obama's nominee to fill the vacancy left by the death of their hero and discharge their constitutional duty to advise and consent (or not consent) to the nomination as reflected by an up or down vote on the nominee.

Republican senators protest there is an 80 year precedent against confirming a Supreme Court nominee during an election year, and besides, there is not sufficient time even if they wished to do so.

This is a short horse soon curried.

The most recent instance where there was a vacancy on the Supreme Court in an election year occurred not 80 but 28 years ago, in 1988, during the administration of President Reagan.

That vacancy was filled on February 3, 1988 by the appointment of Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was confirmed 97–0 by a Democrat-controlled Senate.

The Justice Kennedy nomination is the controlling precedent, as Justice Scalia would recognize.

The erudite Justice would say to anyone claiming otherwise, “*Leges posteriores priores contrarias abrogant*,” which is Latin for the canon of judicial interpretation that “the last expression of the people prevails.”

There are 326 days left in President Obama's term, which is more than sufficient time for the President to nominate, and for the Senate to consider and vote to confirm or reject his nominee.

Since 1900, there have been 60 Supreme Court vacancies.

The average time taken to fill these 60 vacancies is 73 days, which is less than 25% of the time remaining in the President's term.

The average time to fill each of the 13 vacancies since 1975 is a mere 67 days.

And of the current members of the Supreme Court, the average time is 74 days, the longest being the 99 days taken to confirm the controversial nomination of Justice Clarence Thomas in October 1991.

Mr. Speaker, as is often noted, elections have consequences; they also impose responsibilities and duties.

And one of the most important duties imposed by the Constitution on the President is to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court and for the Senate to consider those nominations with dispatch.

The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court and its essential and indispensable role in our constitutional system is to provide definitive interpretations of American law and the Constitution.

Its decisions are the law of the land binding in every state and territory.

The Supreme Court is the only judicial tribunal capable of providing the legal clarity and certainty required for the legal system to function and give meaning to the rule of law.

President Obama has announced that he intends to fulfill the responsibility devolved upon him by the Constitution and will submit to the Senate a nominee to fill the large shoes left by the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

The Senate should fulfill its constitutional duty to advise and consent, or withhold its consent, by casting an up or down vote on that nomination.

That is the way to pay fitting tribute to Justice Scalia, to honor the Constitution, and to keep faith with the American people.

CELEBRATING THE INDIANA
BOROUGH BICENTENNIAL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indiana Borough in Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District for reaching a huge milestone: its Bicentennial.

Officially incorporated on March 11, 1816, countless citizens of the Indiana Borough have contributed to and witnessed the impressive development of a uniquely welcoming and enterprising community over the past 200 years. As a proud American city, Indiana can claim as one of its many notable contributions to our country to have had citizens participate in the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War, and our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. What's more, the borough has helped develop citizens who have contributed meaningfully to just about every aspect of our society, including: business, education, medicine, the arts, and politics. As many of my constituents know, Indiana Borough is also the hometown of famous Hollywood actor Jimmy Stewart. Additionally, it is home to the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, which attracts thousands of bright students to the area each year.

As the product of a region that has experienced the benefits of a strong coal industry, I am also proud to highlight Indiana Borough's contributions to the rich heritage associated with coal mining. There can be no doubt that over the past 200 years, the Indiana Borough has contributed an invaluable spirit as well as list of accomplishments and successful residents to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I am certainly proud to represent this borough and its citizens.

As such, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Indiana Borough and its remarkable citizens on this Bicentennial milestone, and wish them an even brighter future.

RECOGNITION OF GUY PRESTON
RICHARDSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Guy Preston Richardson Sr. of Danville, Kentucky, who passed away on Friday, December 11, 2015.

Guy was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army from 1944–1946. He earned his paratrooper wings, and served in the 11th Airborne that fought in the Battle of Mount Macolod and liberated the Philippines. Guy was awarded the Bronze Star and was part of the honor guard to witness the return of General Douglas MacArthur.

After serving with the occupation forces in Japan for a year, he returned to Danville, Kentucky, in 1946 to attend Centre College on the G.I. Bill. It was there that he met the love of his life, Sue Swan. Following graduation, Guy went into his family's grocery business, which he successfully managed for more than 50 years.

Mr. Richardson was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Danville for more than 60 years, serving as a Stephen Minister, Sunday school superintendent, deacon, elder, and trustee. He was a former president of the Rotary Club of Danville when, as a survivor of polio, he led the effort to raise local money to eradicate polio. He was also a former president of the Boyle County Chamber of Commerce, and served on the boards of the Boyle County Library, Ephraim McDowell Hospital and Central Kentucky Federal Savings Bank.

A lifelong, passionate student of politics and policy, Guy was the model of an engaged citizen. He managed numerous campaigns for State Representative Joe Clarke over the course of 20 years. He was a leader in the local civil rights movement to integrate the Danville schools, and was part of Dr. Martin Luther King's 1964 march in Frankfort, KY. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sue, their four children, and many grandchildren.

True to his abiding faith, Guy Richardson sought justice and was dedicated to his community in Boyle County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HONORING MRS. LORI PAULSON
OF LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an outstanding citizen in the great State of New Mexico, Mrs. Lori Paulson. Lori, despite being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2013, has dedicated the last two years to the betterment of her community, and beloved New Mexico State University. She is undoubtedly an inspiration and role model to all she meets. In the last two years, Lori has become more than a friend or mentor to the NMSU football team, she has become family.

During both the 2014 and 2015 football season, Lori served as the Aggies' honorary captain—attending practices and events with the team, even participating in the opening coin tosses during every home game.

Throughout her time with the team, Lori has helped players through injury and personal tragedy. Recently, Lori took another step to help the school and team she loves—she gifted \$100,000 to the football program in the creation of the Lori Paulson Football Excellence Fund. When asked about the donation, Lori simply stated—"It's just me confirming what I have always said, which is that I believe in them."

Lori is an exemplary Aggie. We can all learn from her selfless dedication and courage. As a fellow Aggie and New Mexican, it is an honor to rise and recognize Lori's commitment to her community and alma mater.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes today, March 1, 2016, I was in-

escapably detained and away handling important matters related to my district and the State of Alabama.

If I had been present, I would have voted:

Yes on H.R. 136.

Yes on H.R. 3735.

HONORING THE WOMEN WHO
SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative DINGELL would like to recognize an incredible group of women today. On May 29, 1943, in the midst of war, a new image appeared on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post. Created by Norman Rockwell, it was an image of a woman who was strong and brave. The image acted as an introduction to heroes the American people had already come to know. These heroes, known as Rosie the Riveters, have been solidified in our national memory as champions. Initially, there was uncertainty as to whether or not women should be allowed to work in industries and fill positions that were previously only occupied by men. However, as the war moved on, women began to fill positions in the workplace and keep American industry, and the war effort, afloat. Slogans such as "The More Women at Work the Sooner We Win" were sprawled across newspapers and magazines and appealed to women's patriotism and willingness to serve.

As a part of Women's History Month, on March 22nd, we will welcome a group of "Original Rosies" to the United States Capitol to celebrate their tremendous contributions to our nation.

To these women we say: through your service during the Second World War, you played an invaluable role in the war effort and victory as a part of the Greatest American Generation. Your rigorous work and passionate love of our great country are arguably what sustained the American people, at home and abroad, during a volatile time of war and uncertainty. You made great personal sacrifices and served with such infectious zeal that you were able to reinvigorate the war effort and inspire, encourage, and support your communities. Since your time serving during the War, the number of working women in the United States has never fallen to pre-war levels; this is one of countless examples of your legacy. Your generation paved a path for the generations of women to follow.

We are grateful for the work you have done. We honor you and recognize your work as a symbol of American strength and ingenuity. Rosie's story inspires us. You inspire us, and we will continue to tell your stories to our children and grandchildren to ensure the American spirit, which you embody, never leaves our hearts. Your spirit is a reminder to the American people that we, too, can do something more for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 87, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING IRVING LADIMER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man commonly referred to as the "Mayor of Riverdale," Mr. Irving Ladimer, a staple of the northwest Bronx community and a dear friend. Irving turned 100 years old on February 16, 2016, and I am so grateful to be able to help celebrate his reaching that remarkable milestone by honoring him in the hallowed halls of Congress.

Irving has contributed a great deal to the Riverdale neighborhood, both professionally and through his work in various community groups. As an attorney specializing in health care issues, Irving's compassion for his fellow man was always evident. Incredibly, Irving maintains his distinguished law career to this day, and still travels into his law firm's office in Manhattan every week to work. Irving's legal expertise has also been put to work as a law professor at institutions such as Yale, Columbia, and New York University, where he taught on a wide array of topics from patient safety, rights for the elderly, ethics, and nutrition.

Irving has also dedicated a great deal of time to the community. As a trustee at his synagogue, he has volunteered to help the aging and still offers his legal expertise to those in need. Irving also generously gives his time to the Catholic Health Services Center and has teamed up with local officials to reach out to schools and community centers to offer civics lessons about the constitution and government. It has always been important to Irving for his fellow community members to be more civic-minded, and as a member of the Ben Franklin Reform Democratic Club he has made huge strides in advocating for that type of civic engagement.

Without question, Irving has been an influential member of the community. He is the most spry 100 year old I've ever met, and I wish him nothing but the best and thank him for all he's done for the Bronx.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen conflict, I unavoidably missed the following votes on February 24, 2016 and February 29, 2016.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On roll call No. 85, I would have voted "nay" (Feb 24) (On Ordering the Previous Question for Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder).

2. On roll call No. 86, I would have voted "nay" (Feb 24) (On Agreeing to the Resolution for Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder).

3. On roll call No. 102, I would have voted "yea" (Feb 29) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4238, "To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities").

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,080,123,823,020.74. We've added \$8,453,246,774,207.66 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

WELCOME ABIGAIL WESSON
SYDNOR AND ANNA LOUISE
SYDNOR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Chad Sydnor, Military Legislative Assistant for Senator RICHARD BURR, and his wife, Alli Sydnor, on the birth of their twin girls. Abigail Wesson Sydnor and Anna Louise Sydnor were born at 8:10 a.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Abigail weighed six pounds and measured 19 inches long and Anna weighed five pounds and three ounces and measured 18 and 1/2 inches long. They are the first children for the happy couple and I have no doubt their talented parents will be dedicated to their well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Abigail and Anna's grandparents, Robert and Christal Blakely of Great Falls, Virginia, and Charles and Cindy Sydnor of Snow Camp, North Carolina. Congratulations to both the Blakely and Sydnor families as they welcome their newest additions of pure pride and joys.

A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF
MYONG MOK BAE AND KEI ZA
RYU BAE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to provide relief for Mr. Myong Mok Bae and Mrs. Kei Za Ryu Bae. Mr. and Mrs. Bae are eighteen-year residents of Guam, who currently face removal by the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Baes came to the United States in June 1997 as immigrant entrepreneurs. Although unforeseen natural disasters and economic hardships hampered the success of their investment, the Baes remained active members of the Guam community. They continue to serve as goodstanding members of the community who have no criminal history and pose no risk to public safety or national security.

Removal of the Baes would cause them to suffer extreme hardship. The Baes arrived in Guam from Korea, a country which they have now not seen in 15 years. They are an elderly couple with no family or community in Korea, and with no means of gainful employment at this stage in their lives.

This bill would provide the Baes relief from this extreme hardship by establishing their eligibility, under the Immigration and Naturalization Act, for either an immigrant visa, or an adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident. The bill provides a timeline of two years to allow the Baes to file, and pay the applicable fees, for the appropriate status. Finally, the bill reduces by two, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to those whose country of origin is Korea.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation to relieve the Baes from the extreme hardship that would result from their removal, and to allow them to remain in the United States—the place they have lived for nearly two decades and the place they call their home.

HONORING WESTCHESTER JEWISH
COUNCIL 40TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, organizations which strive to instill and promote core values and traditions play an indispensable role in any community. The Westchester Jewish Council continues to play prominent roles in assisting the Jewish community of Westchester, through social action, education, youth, dialogue with elected officials, and instilling Jewish values to promote interfaith dialogue within the Westchester community. Their value to our local communities is of the utmost importance and of great value to us all.

Since 1975, the Westchester Jewish Council has served as a prominent organization in the

Westchester Jewish community and plays a key role in fostering relationships with organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders, both inside the Jewish community and the community at large. Additionally, their work involves interfaith initiatives and events aimed at communicating and coordinating services and programs for the Jewish community. Furthermore, the Westchester Jewish Council provides meaningful opportunities to engage in volunteer work throughout the community.

The Westchester Jewish Council also sponsors various educational roundtables which foster Israel advocacy and Jewish education, initiatives that are paramount to the organization's mission. The Westchester Jewish Council works together with 150 other organizations to help facilitate Westchester Jewish traditions and culture by supporting and hosts various community-wide events aimed at celebrating Jewish history and heritage. The wide variety of services they offer are meaningful, indispensable, and cultivate the important traditions of the community.

On February 6th, 2016 the Westchester Jewish Council will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary Gala. I want to congratulate the entire organization on the occasion, and thank them for the invaluable work they have done for the entire Westchester community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 102, H.R. 4238, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ROSE BAENKE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Rose Baenke was born on February 24, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois. At an early age, she developed a passion for politics. When she turned 18, she voted in her first election and has taken pride in the honor and privilege of voting ever since.

In 1992, Mrs. Baenke and her husband moved to the community of Nesbit, Mississippi. She became involved in the local political scene and was a charter member of the DeSoto County Republican Women, a group in which she remains an active member. At age 90, she participates in the club's events and dedicates her time and effort to the group's mission.

Mrs. Baenke has been politically involved at the state level as well. She says that her crowning achievement was assisting Governor Phil Bryant's successful campaign to be Mississippi's 64th Governor. She has served in

leadership positions with the DeSoto County Republican Women, which has enabled her to become an effective voice in the Republican Party. As an active citizen, she also served two terms on the Mississippi River Commission.

Currently, Mrs. Baenke resides at Wesley Meadows Retirement Community in Hernando, Mississippi, where she works tirelessly to urge other residents to remain engaged and informed on political issues. Specifically, she asks other residents to exercise their right, which was earned at a very high price, to vote.

I would like to wish Mrs. Baenke a Happy 90th Birthday and extend my deepest appreciation for her passion and dedication to her country and state.

CAPTAIN WIELENGA ASSUMES COMMAND OF HESPERIA SHERIFF'S STATION

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Captain Gregg Wielenga, who was recently promoted to the position of Captain for the Hesperia, California Sheriff's station. Captain Wielenga is a twenty-five year veteran of law enforcement and has served with the department since 1990.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Captain Wielenga has served the citizens of San Bernardino County in a variety of ways. His assignments have included Patrol Deputy in Needles, Detective in the Victor Valley, and Sergeant at the county's jail facilities. Prior to Captain Wielenga's recent promotion he served as the Lieutenant at the Hesperia station.

I would like to congratulate Captain Wielenga on his new position. He exemplifies the professionalism of the men and women of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. I am honored to have him serving the people of Hesperia and wish him the best of luck.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, March 6th marks the beginning of Women in Construction Week. The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) takes this week to highlight women in the construction industry. Chapter 11 of NAWIC is located in San Antonio, which I represent. This week allows thousands of NAWIC members across the country to raise awareness of the opportunities available to women in the construction industry and emphasize the growing role of women in the industry.

In sincere appreciation, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week as Women in Construction Week.

HONORING DAVID FORD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and trusted employee, David Ford, who today is being honored by the Black Dems of Westchester for 50 years of incredible service to the community.

David has been a resident of Mt. Vernon for 53 years and an active member in the community his entire adult life. He has pursued his two great passions—community service and politics—with great vigor and has accomplished a great deal in both fields over a long and impressive career.

First elected Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Democratic Party in 1969, David inherited a club in a rock bed of Republican politics. For the next 27 years he served as Chairman and oversaw a complete political switch in the area. When he left the position in 1996, every elected official in Mt. Vernon was a Democrat, whereas none were in 1969.

David has also made his mark in the community through engagement with various civic organizations and as Commissioner of the Mt. Vernon Water Department, a role he served in for 33 years until his retirement in 2009. He has been President of the Mt. Vernon Lions Club, the Mt. Vernon YMCA, and the Citizens Veterans Association. As Board Chairman of the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center for 30 years, David was instrumental in turning a small program with 19 employees into one of the largest Health Care Centers in the region, employing over 400 people serving 40,000 patients annually. It is no wonder then why David has received countless honors in the community, including the Torch Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the "Citizen of the Year" Award from the YMCA.

But for all of his accomplishments in the community, I will always value David's incredible hard work as one of my most trusted and talented special assistants, a role he still serves in to this day. I congratulate David on this well-deserved and wonderful recognition from the Black Dems of Westchester, and thank him personally for all he has done to better the Mt. Vernon community. I am proud of David for all of his hard work, but I am even more proud to call him a friend.

HONORING STEVEN AND KATHERINE DIEBERT AS THEY CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven and Katherine Diebert on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Steven and Katherine Diebert were married on February 26, 1966 in Fresno, California. They met as young students at Roosevelt High School by the drinking fountain; however, their paths unknowingly had crossed as children in 1953 when Steven was one of

Hopalong Cassidy's cowboy sidekicks at a Fresno department store called Coopers. Katherine's mother brought her to meet Hopalong Cassidy on that day, and little did she know that the boy by Hoppy's side would one day be her husband and that they would raise two beautiful daughters together.

In December of 1965, Steven proposed to Katherine and they were joined in marriage on February 26, 1966 at the First Baptist Church in Fresno. Despite many opportunities to leave the Central Valley over the last 50 years, they chose to remain in Fresno and raised their family here. The highlight of their marriage have been their two daughters, Stephanie (along with her husband, Kenneth) and Melissa (along with her husband, Layne), who have blessed them with five grandchildren, Leo Stephen, Ari Benjamin, Kaitlin Jade, Ella Rose, and Harrison Steven.

Steven Diebert was born on July 10, 1943 in Fresno, California to parents of Volga German descent, who were also born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley. Steven was a highly regarded football player at Roosevelt High School, where he proudly graduated from in 1961. Following high school, Steven attended Fresno State University where he graduated with a degree in Political Economy in 1966. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree, Steven went on to work for the Xerox Corporation where he worked for two years. In 1968, he returned to Fresno State to continue his education and received a graduate degree to become a Certified Public Accountant. Following

graduate school, he worked for the national accounting firm Touche Ross and in 1975, he was appointed by then California Controller, Ken Cory, to serve as a California Probate Referee. Steven is regarded as one of the finest probate referees in California and has carefully developed a reputation as a straight shooter and as a man of great integrity.

Katherine Diebert was born on November 6, 1944 in Fresno, California. Her parents were of Armenian, English and Irish decent and lived the majority of their lives in Fresno. Katherine graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1962 and went on to attend Fresno City College. In 1964, she began working in the medical administration and billing department at Fresno Medical Group. Katherine continued to work at Fresno Medical Group until she and Steven were blessed with their first daughter, Stephanie in 1971. Upon the birth of their second daughter, Melissa in 1975, Katherine decided to take some time off of work to raise her children. In 1977 Katherine returned to work for Internal Medicine and Associates where she worked until her retirement in 2008. While, building a beautiful family and successful career, Katherine has maintained a beautiful home and has continued to keep a meticulous and stunning garden.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Steven and Katherine Diebert on their fifty years of marriage and may they be blessed with many more. They serve as a prime example to us all of what it means to be committed to strong family values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that yesterday, February 29, 2016, I was detained in my district and missed the one roll call vote of the day. Had I been present I would have voted:

AYE—Roll Call No. 102—H.R. 4238—to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 102 I was inadvertently detained and missed the vote on H.R. 4238.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.