

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL POTE MRA

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences on the passing of Michael Potemra, longtime literary editor of National Review Magazine.

Mike Potemra was a conservative thought leader who served President Reagan and three United States Senators—Kasten of Wisconsin, Durenberger of Minnesota, and DeWine of Ohio—before joining the Editorial Board of National Review in 1999. Mike was a valued and proud member of the Reagan Revolution.

I knew Mike when we worked in Senator Kasten's office together nearly 30 years ago. Mike's desk was around the corner from the mailroom where I started as an intern. He was a speechwriter for Senator Kasten, and a masterful one at that. With brilliance and absolute integrity, Mike took everyone he worked with to a higher level . . . so much from him.

Mike loved America and the mobility and economic liberty that America embraces. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio to Slovakian immigrants and grew up speaking both Slovak and English. His life embodies the American Dream: as a child of immigrants, he attended Catholic University, Harvard Law School, and served in the White House and the U.S. Senate.

Mike was a profound and dedicated conservative, but he was never partisan. He was intellectually curious about everything and embraced political discourse as a true American does—always providing people with the opportunity to change his mind—which rarely happened.

On a human level, Mike was a wonderful person with a keen sense of humor. More often than not, everyone who visited Mike's desk left with a smile and a hearty laugh at his jokes, observations, and uncanny impressions of William F. Buckley, Ronald Reagan, and Jack Kemp.

Let us take this time to remember Mike's life and service to our country, and pray for the people who loved him dearly—his family, friends, and colleagues. He was a good man, and a great American.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA LEE FOR 20 YEARS OF CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Representative BARBARA LEE, a native of El Paso, Texas, who this year is celebrating her 20th year as a Member of Congress. On

June 10, her milestone will be honored with a portrait dedication ceremony at the McCall Neighborhood Center in our mutual hometown, and I rise today to note her achievements and congratulate her on a distinguished career thus far.

Representative LEE was born in El Paso, Texas, where she attended St. Joseph's Catholic School. During her childhood, El Paso remained a segregated community. For instance, Representative LEE and other African American citizens were not able to enter landmark buildings in El Paso such as the Plaza Theatre due to segregation laws. Despite this adversity, her family achieved milestones for racial equality in El Paso: her mother was one of the first African Americans to graduate from Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) and her father was the first African American mail carrier in El Paso.

Her upbringing and experiences in the diverse community of El Paso inspired in her a passion for justice and equality, a quality that endured when she moved away from El Paso to California when she was 13 years old. Following high school, she not only raised two sons as a single mother and worked to create a better life for her family, but also attended Mills College, served as president of the school's Black Student Union and later received her master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Her ensuing career in politics further demonstrates her resiliency and determination: she rose through Congressman Ron Dellums' congressional office over the course of 11 years, beginning as an intern and eventually earning the title of Chief of Staff. Similarly, she was elected a California State Assembly member in 1990, a California State Senator in 1996, and a Congresswoman for California in 1998.

During her time as a state representative and the 20 years she has served as a Member of Congress, she has made it a priority to represent some of the most underserved Americans by fighting for justice, equality, and peace. Through that desire, she helped found the Out of Poverty Caucus and the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus. She also began serving as chair of the Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality and Opportunity in 2013.

Furthermore, she has consistently been a leader in opposing our involvement in endless war, even when it was not politically popular to do so. She was the only member of the House to vote against the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, which demonstrated her foresight on the open-ended authorization. To recognize her work on these issues, she was nominated, as part of a group of 1000 women around the world, for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 to recognize her dedication to peace and human welfare.

Please join me in recognizing Congresswoman LEE's successful and distinguished career and her roots in El Paso, Texas.

HONORING MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monroe Elementary School in Hinsdale, Illinois for earning the prestigious Green Ribbon Award from the United States Department of Education. The Department of Education awards the Green Ribbon to schools that reduce their environmental impact, improve the health and wellness of their students, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. I am proud to represent many of the students at this award winning school; Monroe Elementary has earned due credit for a job well done.

Monroe Elementary provides a unique environmental education program through their "Living Classroom"—a set of gardens that stretch across approximately .85 acres of the school's property including a butterfly garden, a prairie, a pond, and their "George Washington Vegetable Garden." In the Living Classroom, students get the opportunity outside the classroom to explore nature and learn about plants and animals.

Monroe also sponsors a student "Green Club," which monitors lunch waste and leads the school's recycling and upcycling programs. I commend the Green Club for their environmental stewardship. Their work highlights how engaged the school body is in protecting the environment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Monroe Elementary School for earning the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon, and for their tireless work protecting the environment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held the night of June 7, 2018, and votes held on June 8, 2018, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on H.R. 3. Regarding amendments to H.R. 5895, I would have voted YES on the Tsongas Amendment; YES on the Beyer Amendment; NO on the Gosar (No. 24) Amendment; YES on the Lee Amendment; YES on the Connolly Amendment; NO on the Gosar (No. 29) Amendment; YES on the Lowenthal Amendment; NO on the Blackburn Amendment; NO on the Norman Amendment; NO on the Gohmert Amendment; NO on the Meadows Amendment; and YES on the Takano Amendment. I would have voted YES

• 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.

on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5895, and NO on Final Passage of H.R. 5895.

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION OF
FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH
CENTERS IN THE VA MISSION
ACT OF 2018

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight two important pieces of legislation that address the care of our nation's veterans. Earlier this week, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks, or VA MISSION Act, into law, enacting key reforms at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill will help us fulfill our nation's promise to veterans by increasing access to quality, timely care and benefits, while increasing accountability and transparency at the agency.

Today, the House passed an appropriations package that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Year 2019, including the new VA MISSION Act. Specifically, I would like to highlight a provision included in the bill that ensures the newly created Center for Innovation for Care and Payment has the resources it needs to improve quality and access to care for our vets, while finding cost savings at the VA by cutting through bureaucratic red tape and establishing common-sense partnerships with sister agencies in the federal government.

One such partnership I hope the Center will consider exploring is the opportunity for VA Medical Centers to integrate care with Federal Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs. Many veterans, especially those who live in rural communities, face challenges accessing care through the traditional VA system, and partnering with FQHCs that already provide quality care in local communities could be the most effective alternative for veterans facing transportation, mobility, or additional concerns with traveling to the nearest VA hospital.

With over 10,000 FQHC service sites located across the U.S., a pilot program examining the opportunity for FQHCs to work with VA Medical Centers could demonstrate the viability of this program on a larger scale. Under the VA MISSION Act, FQHCs are already designated as eligible providers, just as they have been under current law for years. The Innovation Center has the authority to conduct pilot programs studying the best way to connect veterans to the high-quality care they deserve, and measuring the impact of a potential VA-FQHC partnership will generate the critical data necessary to determine how to achieve the missions of Veterans' Choice while cutting costs at the VA.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE Y-12 NATIONAL SECURITY COMPLEX

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Construction of the Y-12 plant in 1943 was a vital step in winning World War II, and 75 years later, Y-12 and the NNSA still play an essential role in protecting our nation. Today, Y-12 not only helps to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent, but provides fuel stock for the United States nuclear navy, retrieves and stores vulnerable nuclear material from around the world, and supports other essential government missions.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is an integral part of the fabric of its community and of the greater East Tennessee region. It is a powerful economic driver, with more than 6,000 full-time contractors, subcontractors, and federal employees working at the site. In addition to being a key component of the region's economy, Y-12 gives back to the Oak Ridge community, providing more than \$400,000 annually to area nonprofits and educational institutions.

On Y-12's 75th anniversary, we reflect not only on its great history, but look to its bright future. The Uranium Processing Facility, a \$6.5 billion dollar project, will transform the site by replacing outdated, legacy facilities, and during construction, create thousands of jobs and have a positive economic impact on the region. Through collaborations with labor organizations, colleges, universities, and schools, the Y-12's lead contractor, Consolidated Nuclear Security, encourages students to consider careers in trades and crafts, as well as engineering and other technical fields.

Seventy five years ago, the men and women of the Y-12 plant worked tirelessly to protect our national interests and help us win World War II, and generations on they continue to serve their nation and their community. The 75th anniversary of the Y-12 National Security Complex is an occasion to reflect on this proud history and celebrate the people of the complex for their contributions.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRINCIPAL JAMES P. ANTOS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Principal James P. Antos of Brother Rice High School in Chicago. As he prepares to retire, we cannot help but admire his service and hope that his example and distinguished tenure are emulated in the future.

Jim, a local Chicagoan, has been nurturing young minds for 44 years. After deciding in his junior year of high school to become a teacher, Jim earned a B.A. in Psychology and an

M.A. in General Experimental Psychology from Illinois State University. He then began his career in education in 1974 as a psychology and history teacher. From there, he quickly expanded his duties and involved himself in student activities and recruitment, going above and beyond his core responsibilities. In 1979, Jim found his way to Brother Rice High School, where, in addition to his teaching role, he would serve as the baseball coach, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Students, and eventually Principal. His students and peers have frequently praised him, describing him as a father figure, lauding his calm and consistent leadership, and applauding his honest, caring, and compassionate demeanor. As one student recalled, Jim never forgot a name, not just in his own class, but in the entire school. This outstanding public servant has devoted his life to his students, both in the classroom and on the field.

In addition to cultivating the future of America, Jim has also stood in defense of it. He served in the U.S. Army while engaged in Vietnam where he was stationed outside of Qui Nhon at Camp Granite. Jim has not only taught history but has been a part of it—providing the students of Brother Rice with a unique perspective to our nation's story. He has also provided them with wisdom, knowledge, and direction, while helping to guide countless students through high school.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Principal James P. Antos and his accomplishments. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his decades of service at Brother Rice High School.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AT THE PORT ANGELES MARITIME FESTIVAL

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the men and women who are serving in the United States Coast Guard on the Olympic Peninsula.

In my travels across our region, I often have the privilege of crossing paths with these outstanding professionals.

For example, I recently attended a ceremony recognizing Petty Officer Jacob Hylkema, who received the Coast Guard Medal for his actions during a storm last summer in which he risked his life to save a fisherman who had fallen overboard. His entire unit received a citation for their actions that day. Together, they rescued 9 people in a 20-hour period.

Mr. Speaker, the good work isn't just limited to one unit. Recently, the crew of the *Active* based in my hometown, Port Angeles, Washington, seized more than \$78 million in illegal drugs during a patrol near the coast of Central America. According to a report in The Peninsula Daily News, the crew seized more than three tons of illegal drugs and arrested multiple people suspected of smuggling drugs into the United States.

This kind of work makes the news, but every day the Coast Guard in our region keeps us safe and keeps our economy moving.