

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.