

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. I join the community in celebrating OHA on this historic occasion.

We are grateful to have a museum and research center that reminds us that we have inherited a special place to live because of the people and events that have come before us. Onondaga County New York's rich history is intertwined with many key periods in our country's history, including the building of the Erie Canal, women's suffrage, emancipation, the history of Central New York's Native Americans, the Haudenosaunee, also referred to as the Iroquois Confederacy. OHA's recent jubilee celebration was built around the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the same year the association began.

OHA's mission is to inspire people's understanding that the history we share as a community is the foundation for our future together. Its purpose is to encourage a diverse audience from the neighborhoods of Syracuse and the communities of Onondaga County to explore, appreciate and utilize their past. OHA offers engaging exhibits and programs, pursues partnerships with other cultural organizations and community groups, and develops and cares for a definitive collection related to local history. In addition, OHA operates a museum and research center in Syracuse, New York.

We take comfort that OHA will continue to document our history in Onondaga County and that its work will serve as a guide to future generations. Simply stated, OHA is our bridge to the past, present and future of Onondaga County. We are a stronger community because of the exceptional work of the OHA's staff, Board, and community supporters.

Once again, I congratulate OHA and all the individuals who have helped to preserve this extraordinary organization over the past 150 years.

HONORING JARED T. BLANKENSHIP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared T. Blankenship. Jared is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities

of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jared has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jared has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jared has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared T. Blankenship for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE NONPROFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, of course Congress should make sure the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration and other government agencies are funded sufficiently to help communities recover from natural disasters like Sandy. H.R. 592, the Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013, would add "houses of worship" to the list of eligible entities that can receive direct government assistance from FEMA. Religious institutions are important to our communities. Unfortunately, as drafted H.R. 592 is unconstitutional.

In 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously held that a government subsidy used to construct buildings at colleges and universities was constitutional only if the buildings could never be used for religious activities. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme Court held that no taxpayer funds could be used for maintenance and repair of facilities in which religious activities take place. The types of buildings that this bill seeks to make eligible for direct government funding—houses of worship—are inherently used for religious activities and the bill would have the effect of unconstitutionally funneling taxpayer money for religious activities. Under current law, houses of worship are eligible for Small Business Administration loans to help rebuild in the wake of a disaster like Sandy. Thus, there is already federally available aid that is neutral in its application that churches, synagogues and other houses of worship can avail themselves of without implicating the government in providing direct support to religious institutions. And private insurance companies have long provided such policies for houses of worship.

As I have since Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey, I will continue to push for the maximum possible funding—including disaster recovery loans—for all New Jersey communities impacted by this and future storms.

HONORING MR. EDWARD NORTHROP

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize a man who has served his country, created hundreds of new jobs in my district and is a loyal father and husband of over 50 years. I am proud to say he is one of my constituents and would like to thank him for a lifetime of dedication and commitment to his country.

Edward D. Northrop, Jr., graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1962. He then served 20 years in the United States Army from 1962–1982, graduating from both Airborne and Ranger schools. He served 2 tours in Vietnam in the 4th Infantry Division, serving for the Red Warriors, C Company and as HHQ Company Commander. During this time, he received many awards, including the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star and Army Commendation Medal for Heroism. Ed retired as a LTC in 1982.

Later that year, Ed became a Burger King Franchisee and currently owns six locations—four of which are in my district—employing 180 Georgians. Due to his commitment to excellence, Ed has achieved some of the highest volumes of any Burger King restaurateur in the Southeast. He also is committed to serving the franchisee community through his work with the National Franchisee Association, NFA. Through NFA, Ed has served as President of the New South Coalition of Burger King Franchisees, on the NFA Board of Directors and on NFA's Government Relations Committee for over sixteen years.

Ed is also very active in his local church and served on the vestry multiple years. He is also involved in local adopt a school programs as well as the Special Olympics program.

On behalf of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, thank you, Ed, for your unwavering commitment to your country, your family and the NFA. We are proud to call you one of our own.

CONGRATULATING KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kansas State University, the oldest public university in the state of Kansas, on its 150th anniversary. Kansas State University holds a special place in my heart as my alma mater, and today, I still proudly wear my K-State purple.

Originally founded as Blumont Central College in 1858, Kansas State University began

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

as an institute of higher education serving 29 students from working class and farm families in the Kansas Territory. In 1863, during the Civil War, Bluemont College became the Kansas State Agriculture College, the first land grant university under President Lincoln's Morrill Act, and was only the second public institution of higher education to admit men and women equally.

Today, more than 24,000 students from all 50 states and more than 90 countries around the world study at one of Kansas State's three locations: the main campus in Manhattan, better known as the Little Apple; the College of Technology and Aviation in Salina; and the new state-of-the-art Olathe campus, which is currently preparing graduate students in the innovative fields of bioscience and biotechnology.

Kansas State University is among the top 75 public universities, and offers more than 250 undergraduate majors, 65 master's degrees, 45 doctoral degrees and 22 graduate certificates in multiple disciplines. The university ranks first nationally among state universities in Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall scholars with 135 recipients, and the Kansas State University College of Engineering was recently named one of the best undergraduate engineering programs in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Kansas State has a wonderfully supportive community, better known as the K-State family, and it is serious business. Let me give you an example. Six years ago, students created the K-State Proud campaign. Driven by the idea of how a family takes care of one another, the Proud campaign established a culture of philanthropy and to date has raised more than half a million dollars to fund 300 scholarships for students who are struggling financially due to challenges from health issues, natural disasters, or family tragedy. This is in addition to the \$200 million in scholarships, grants, loans and work study Kansas State distributes each year.

With 16 men's and women's athletic programs, more than 475 student organizations, and more than 20 club sports, cultivating a positive and encouraging sense of student life is a high priority. The Princeton Review recently ranked Kansas State as second in the nation for excellent campus and community relations and No. 14 for quality of life.

If you ask anyone what they remember most about their time at Kansas State University, they will tell you without a doubt, it is the people. It is where they met their best friends, their husbands or wives, and it is where they hope their children choose to attend.

Graduates of Kansas State University have gone on to do many great things for this country, and I am not only referring to those who entered public service as a member of the House, Senate, or even the Kansas governor. Notable Kansas State alumni include: presidents of colleges and universities; chairmen and CEOs of major companies, Olympic gold medalists, Emmy Award winners, as well as the creator of the snooze alarm, and the inventor of the Space Pen.

On this historic anniversary, it is my honor to recognize my alma mater, Kansas State University, on 150 years of excellence. I can only image the remarkable things the future holds for Kansas State and the talented individuals it will educate and inspire. Congratulations.

BARBARA J. WRIGHT

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

BARBARA WRIGHT, WORKERS RIGHTS CENTER,
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

My name is Barbara J. Wright, and I am a resident of Madison, Wisconsin. I have been married twice in my life, both times to husbands who were born in other countries. I have two children from my first marriage. Cesar Gabriel Moran, 39, is a firmware engineer in St. Paul Minnesota and Nickolas James Moran is a jazz musician here in Madison.

On July 27th, 1972, I married Cesar Edmundo Moran in Magdalena del Mar, Lima Peru. I was 19 years old and he was 18. We were married for 25 years. He had been studying in Platteville, Wisconsin at the University of Platteville. When we left the country to travel to Peru (we hitch-hiked there!), he lost his student visa. After we married in Peru, I returned to the US and filed for him to get a permanent resident visa (a green card). He had to stay in Peru until it arrived. I sent the form to the INS along with \$25 dollars, both of our birth certificates, our marriage license, and a letter from the police to say we had committed no crimes. In a month he was able to pick up his permission to travel and his green card at the American Embassy in Lima and return to the US, so we could both go to college.

My marriage to Cesar ended in 1998 although it was a few years till we were legally divorced. In 2004, I married Youssef Amraoui, from Morocco. We were married in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 6th, 2004. This time getting Youssef permanent residence status took more than 5 years. Between the legal fees to file all of the petitions and to pay the immigration lawyer, Irene Wren at Wren and Gateways Law Group, it cost almost \$12,000. Luckily, Youssef had filed for a waiver by himself with no lawyer, so that he did not have to leave the country while he waited for his case to be determined. Imagine getting married and having your new husband have to go back to his country and wait five years to see each other again.

Because the INS was now under the wing of Homeland Security, there were many additional steps which meant additional delays. When I asked Irene why things were taking so long she said that there was a huge backlog of cases, between 4 and 6 years of cases. She said Homeland Security insisted that each case be reviewed by the FBI and since it was not a criminal case, it gathered dust in someone's inbox for a long time.

One time, Homeland Security called and demanded that Youssef come to Milwaukee alone to be "interviewed". We were waiting for a formal interview in Milwaukee that is now a part of the process, but this was not it. The man who called tried to intimidate me when I said that Youssef was not coming alone. I said that either I or the immigration attorney would go with him (I was petrified of his being taken into custody or forcibly removed or never hearing from him again). This man tried to convince me that Youssef could be a "sleeper agent", and they needed to interview him. Because I owned a restaurant and could not leave, I sent the attorney with him. Youssef said they kept him in a room that had shackles but did not shackle him. Irene said this was a scare tactic because Moroccans and other Muslims were all suspects because of the attack on 9/11. They

just wanted to see if he would come or he would run. That was a horrible day.

It seemed like every time we would reach the end of the process there would be more forms to fill out, more fees to pay, and more of an indefinite wait. At one point in the process, the fees were doubled. We paid the majority of our discretionary income to this process. Youssef's parents were old, and he lived in fear that they would die before he was able to go and see them. You have to have permission to leave the country once the papers are filed. If you leave without permission, you cannot come back.

I know many people here who are undocumented. The press has been talking a lot about a "path to citizenship". I think very few of the people saying this have any idea what is really involved. Because of the high fees of immigration attorneys, the many steps of the process and the time involved, many will have a hard time coming up with the money for this process.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GREEN BROS. PHARMACY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Green Bros. Pharmacy in Stockton, CA, which closed its doors in 2012 after 82 years of business. The Green Bros. Pharmacy was one of Stockton's last remaining independent pharmacies.

This pharmacy, operated by Charlie Green, opened 82 years ago in downtown Stockton, and has served thousands of people throughout the area. Mr. Green has been a tremendous advocate on behalf of pharmacies and patients for decades. He served as president of the San Joaquin Pharmacists Association, the California Pharmacists Association, and the American Pharmacists Association, drawing on his firsthand experience about the needs of independent pharmacists and patients in San Joaquin County and across the country. Mr. Green worked tirelessly to improve our health care system. In addition, Mr. Green taught at the University of Pacific in the Pharmacy Department, educating and mentoring young students. I've had the pleasure of meeting with these students when they visit our nation's capital each year and know their dedication and commitment to our community. I know that Mr. Green played a part in their development as professionals. In recognition of his dedication, work ethic, and exemplary work, Mr. Green was presented with the Daniel B. Smith Excellence Award.

Independent pharmacies are essential to our communities, and businesses like Green Bros. have been a staple of neighborhoods across the country because of their personalized service, affordable prices, and ability to help patients.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of Green Bros. Pharmacy to San Joaquin County, as well as other independent pharmacies across the country.