

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL A.
GRAF, JR.

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Paul A. Graf, Jr. for his swift and courageous action to protect a family and their pets from an apartment fire.

Mr. Graf is a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. On February 16, 2016 while on his route, he noticed smoke coming from an apartment. He called 9-1-1 and took immediate action to make sure that there was no one inside the apartment.

Mr. Graf's actions prevented a possibly life-threatening tragedy. The Ridley Park community he serves and the greater Philadelphia area are grateful for his vigilance and hard work on the job.

SUPPORTING THE AIRR ACT

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the House continues its work on long-term reauthorization and reform of the Federal Aviation Administration and related programs, I would like to reiterate my support for commonsense provisions included in H.R. 4441, the Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016, which would ensure the safety of our commercial aircraft and passengers.

Mr. Speaker, early last year I met with my constituent, Justin Madden, who is the National Secretary/Treasurer for the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), which represents the aircraft maintenance technicians of both Southwest Airlines and Alaska Airlines. During the course of our conversation, we discussed many issues impacting the aviation industry, including safety. Justin brought to my attention that he and his colleagues are subject to background checks, as well as pre-employment and random drug tests, yet their counterparts at foreign aircraft repair stations are not required to meet the same safety precautions.

As the amount of maintenance work performed on U.S. aircraft at foreign repair stations increases, we must do more to ensure that the employees at these stations are also held to the same level of professional standards as their counterparts at U.S. repair stations.

On October 31st of last year, Russian Metrojet Flight 9268 disintegrated over the Sinai Peninsula. All 224 people on board the flight tragically died that day. On January 29, 2016, Reuters reported that a mechanic had been detained and was suspected of planting

a bomb, which he had been given by his cousin, who was a member of ISIS. Two policemen and a baggage handler were also suspected of helping the mechanic. This incident alone should give us pause as we think about the safety of American aircraft and the American flying public.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman BILL SHUSTER for his commitment to safety and for working with me and Representative DAN LIPINSKI and Representative LOU BARLETTA to include Section 402 in the Aviation, Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act.

This provision marks a bipartisan, commonsense step forward in ensuring that background checks and drug tests are required of employees at foreign repair stations who work on U.S. commercial aircraft, strengthening America's commitment to protecting its citizens and ensuring safe air travel.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF
THOMAS BUILT BUSES

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, every school day, around 450,000 school buses transport more than 24 million children to and from schools and school-related activities, making school buses the largest mass transit program in the U.S. (National Wildlife Federation).

I rise today to recognize Perley A. Thomas and his family who have aided in the transportation system for many generations.

Thomas Built Buses started in 1916 in High Point, North Carolina and since then, the Thomas children and grandchildren have built a national reputation among the school bus business.

In 2011, Thomas Built Buses became the first, and remains the only, school bus manufacturer to achieve Zero-Waste-to-Landfill operations, demonstrating its industry leadership as a driving force in facility waste management and environmental commitment.

Today, a decade into the school bus occupation, Thomas Built Buses offers school, activity, green, childcare, specialty and commercial buses across the nation.

As the United States Congresswoman for North Carolina's 12th Congressional District, I am proud to offer my congratulations for 100 years of service and best wishes to you. Thank you for making such a positive impact in this country and for many years to come.

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY JERRY
RICE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Deputy Jerry Rice of Henderson County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Chief Deputy Rice for his dedication to Henderson County, and congratulate him on his retirement after three decades of faithful service.

Chief Deputy Rice's long career in law enforcement began in 1986 with a position as a tele-communicator for the Brevard Police Department. That same year he completed Basic Law Enforcement training and subsequently worked as a patrol officer with the Brevard Police Department. In July 1987, Chief Deputy Rice began service with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. There, he spent time in a wide range of roles, working at different points as a patrol deputy, a field training officer, a detective, and an undercover narcotics investigator. Later in his career, he held several supervisory positions in the Sheriff's Office serving as Detective Sergeant over Drug Enforcement, Detective Lieutenant supervising Property Crimes, Operations Lieutenant in CID, Chief Administrator of the Henderson County Detention Facility, and Operations Major. Over the course of his career, Chief Deputy Rice also spent six years as a member of SWAT, became a Rifle Marksman and a general and specialized firearms instructor, earned a license as a polygraph examiner, and became an airplane and rotary wing law enforcement pilot.

Throughout his time with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Rice was known for friendship, helpfulness, and dedication to the mission of his office. He earned a reputation for his clear understanding of the issues facing Henderson County and for his reasoned voice and counsel. I am proud to honor Chief Deputy Jerry Rice for his lifelong commitment to public service and to express the gratitude of myself and the people of Western North Carolina.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF JOHN
FOSTER, 35 YEARS OF LAW EN-
FORCEMENT

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. LAMALFA, to honor the service of Police Chief John Foster, who has kept the citizens of Grass Valley, California, safe for 17 years.

As a police officer for 35 years, Chief Foster has dedicated his life to public welfare and

● 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.

safety. He began his career as a police officer in Palo Alto, California. Over the course of 13 years, he was promoted to Sergeant and then Lieutenant. His demonstrated leadership resulted in the position of Police Captain in Corvallis, Oregon.

John Foster became the Chief of Grass Valley Police in July 1998. He has been a mainstay of the community ever since that time. He has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Rotary International, League of Cities, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He currently serves as a Blue and Gold Officer for the United States Naval Academy.

Chief Foster has been the standard-bearer for public safety and leadership training. He is a member of the POST Instructor Standards Council, a Pointman Leadership Institute Instructor, an Allied to Benefit Law Enforcement Consultant/Trainer, a Sierra College Administration of Justice Committee member, a Drug Free Coalition Steering Committee member, a Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Council and a Leadership Institute Advisory Council member.

Mr. Speaker, Chief John Foster has dedicated his life to the protection of his fellow citizens. He is an example of leadership for us all.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT
WORK OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND SUPPORTING INCREASED ACCESS TO HOME HEALTH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many nurse practitioners (NPs) in Oregon and nationwide who work hard to provide quality health care to patients. Today, I'm meeting with Nancy Cavanaugh, a pediatric NP from Central Point, Oregon. Nancy practices at La Clinica's school-based health centers, including at Crater High School in Central Point. NPs like Nancy are the health provider of choice for millions of Americans seeking primary care, pediatric care, disease education, and other preventative services. Along with clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), and physician assistants (PAs), NPs serve many patients as their main source of care, especially in rural areas where a physician isn't always readily available.

Despite this important role, these clinicians remain unable to order home health services for the Medicare patients under their care. This impediment results in an administrative and paperwork burden, creating an unnecessary step in care delivery. That is why I introduced H.R. 1342, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015, which would ensure that our Medicare beneficiaries get the home health care they need in a timely manner by allowing NPs, CNSs, CNMs and PAs to order home health services, if their state allows it.

By easing administrative burdens and permitting nurse practitioners like Nancy to order and certify home health services, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act would

help deliver needed care to patients, especially in areas where access to health care is limited. Oregon's seniors should be able to receive this important care in a timely fashion, because no one should be forced to choose between receiving health care and remaining in his or her home. Please join me in thanking Nancy and her fellow NPs for their hard work on behalf of patients.

HONORING MERLE LEWIS

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent Merle Lewis, recognizing the celebration of his 90th birthday on April 8th.

An upstanding resident of Pennsylvania, Merle resides in Glenburn Township with his wife Hilda. Merle and Hilda have been happily married for over 50 years.

Merle has led a successful life as a dairy farmer and is a committed advocate for the agriculture community. Merle serves as a Director of the Wyoming-Lackawanna Farm Bureau as well as a SafeMark dealer for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. He is the former Director of the Lackawanna County Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

Along with his many responsibilities to the Farm Bureau, Merle is a member of the Oriental Grange in Lake Winola and a past member of the Green Grove Grange in Scott Township.

I want to wish Merle a very happy 90th birthday and thank him for his service to all of the farmers in Pennsylvania.

RESTORE THE VOTE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge today as Restoration Tuesday and to honor the role of the brave men and women who fought in the ongoing battle to protect our most sacred constitutional right, the right to vote.

Today, 51 years ago, courageous men and women stood tall and moved forward on what would be the final march of the peaceful protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in March of 1965. This final march only occurred after countless Americans were left beaten, bloody and bruised on "Bloody Sunday" in pursuit of their fundamental right—the right to have their voices heard and their vote counted. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 would never have been possible without their sacrifices; but still today old battles have become anew and the struggle for equal voting rights continues.

It is reprehensible that still in 2016, Americans across the nation continue to face modern day barriers to the ballot box. A number of states, including Alabama, quickly passed restrictive laws designed to suppress the vote after the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 pre-clearance and federal protection for vul-

nerable communities in 2013. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was reauthorized nearly a decade ago and it is shameful that still today, people across the nation do not enjoy full and free access to exercise their right to vote. The time is always right to do what is right. As we continue to progress throughout this election year, it is especially critical that all Americans have fair and equal access to the ballot box. Our very democracy is built on the ability of every citizen being able to have their voices heard and vote counted.

We must learn from the lessons of the past and honor those who sacrificed for our nation's progress. Just recently, I introduced legislation to honor voting rights icon, Amelia Boynton Robinson, by renaming the Selma, Alabama post office in her honor. Mrs. Boynton Robinson was a voting rights hero and one of the Foot Soldiers on the front lines of the 1965 voting rights marches. She made the clear and compelling statement through her campaign motto when running for Congress as the first woman from the State of Alabama that "A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People." We cannot continue to repeat the errors of the past. Amelia Boynton Robinson, like so many others literally shed blood for the right to vote. Fifty-one years later, no one should have to face violence or shed blood for a fundamental right.

Also, just today I introduced legislation to designate several civil rights and voting rights sites in Birmingham, AL as a national park in order to commemorate their historical significance. While these pieces of legislation are important gestures, the best way to commemorate and recognize their legacy is to pass meaningful voting rights legislation that would restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Now is the time. Congress must act. The American people cannot wait any longer. On this Restoration Tuesday, we honor the men and women who stood for our fundamental right and take up the cause to continue the fight. The right to vote is worth fighting for and we must fight until the battle is won.

We must Restore the Vote.

CONGRATULATING THE ALIQUIPPA
QUIPS FOR A PERFECT SEASON

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Aliquippa Quips boys basketball team for claiming the PIAA Class AA title after an undefeated season with a perfect 30-0 record. Their extraordinary accomplishment makes the entire community proud.

It is history in the making. They're only the 13th WPIAL team to ever win a state basketball title with a perfect record, and the 33rd undefeated boys basketball state champion. This is Aliquippa's first state title since 1997, and their first undefeated state championship since 1949.

Athletics endow young people with many of the virtues and skills they will need to succeed not only on the court, but in every other endeavor. These young men are being rewarded for their hard work, dedication, athleticism, and team unity.