

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ERIC
BRADLEY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Eric Bradley—husband, father, and community leader—who passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2016.

Eric was well known locally and nationally as a political activist and strategist who possessed unparalleled abilities in organizing and advocating for numerous causes. He served his community, his state, and his country loyally and effectively through his work.

Eric began his career after studying political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara and continued to serve the people of Southern California until his last days. He dedicated his life to improving the lives of others and he will be remembered for his compassionate spirit, which moved everyone who met him.

Trusted and beloved by many, Eric was a man of resolute character, integrity, honesty, and kindness. His advice was invaluable and his approval, once earned, was treasured. He believed in fairness and justice for all; equal opportunity and protection under the law; creating an economy that supports everyone, especially working families; and above all, the value of public service.

Eric Bradley's legacy will live on in the institutions that he served and through the people that he empowered. He is survived by his wife, Gail Bradley, and his son, Anders Bradley, whom I hope take comfort in the way he lived as an outstanding and honest man. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Eric Bradley's incredible life.

CELEBRATING THE 68TH YOM
HA'ATZMAUT, ISRAEL'S INDE-
PENDENCE DAY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 68th Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, which took place on May 12th, 2016.

Sixty-eight years ago, the founders of Israel sat in a hall at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and made the fateful decision to declare Israel an independent state for the Jewish people. Following centuries of persecution in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and even, sadly, the United States, with the worst culmination of anti-Semitism during the Shoah—in which six million Jews were systematically executed—Israel became the first modern homeland for Jews.

I am proud that the United States of America played a role in the birth of this new state,

becoming the first country in the world to recognize Israel's existence just minutes after David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's nationhood. President Truman rightfully understood the new State of Israel represented the same western democratic values that the United States cherished, and acknowledged that an independent state for the Jewish people was long overdue. His endorsement of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 sealed our two nations in an unbreakable bond that remains strong to this very day.

Over the last sixty-eight years, the relationship between the United States and Israel has flourished. In addition to promoting our continued shared values, Israel has emerged as a crucial ally in the Middle East, and a strong partner in our work to enhance global security. Furthermore, Israel has contributed valuable innovations to the global community that help our businesses run more efficiently and make our world more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today proud of my work to support and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. On this occasion, I reflect on the importance of maintaining strong ties with Israel, and remind my colleagues of the importance of working together to create a lasting peace in the region.

I congratulate the State of Israel on its sixty-eighth anniversary, and am confident that our bond will remain unbreakable for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN
KELSALL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and contributions of Mr. John Kelsall, the President and CEO of the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, located in my congressional district.

As the head of the Chamber of Commerce for more than ten years, Mr. Kelsall has been a tireless champion for local and small businesses in Lakewood. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Kelsall has been instrumental in creating new programs to benefit the Lakewood community. His "Shop Lakewood, Stay Lakewood Local" initiative to improve commerce within the city was so successful that the city adopted it as one of its mottos. He also insisted on starting business councils, including those for veteran-owned and home-based companies.

More recently, Mr. Kelsall shifted his focus to bringing new businesses into Lakewood. After seeing a need in his community for an establishment that sells fresh organic produce, he and the Chamber of Commerce partnered with the city and Lakewood Center mall to make it happen. Due to his vision and leadership, Lakewood opened its first Farmer's Mar-

ket just a few weeks ago. This is just a small sampling of the many initiatives spearheaded by Mr. Kelsall during his time at the Lakewood Chamber.

For the past decade, Mr. Kelsall has been a terrific leader for the Lakewood business community, but his greatest achievement may be as an advocate for veterans returning to civilian life. Following the tragic death of his son Lieutenant Commander Jonas Kelsall, a U.S. Navy SEAL, in 2011, anyone could excuse Mr. Kelsall time to grieve. Instead, he and his wife Teri Kelsall poured their energy into providing opportunities for our returning servicemen and women. In 2012, the Kelsalls founded the Jonas Project, a nonprofit that offers mentorship and services to veterans who wish to start a business. In just four years of operation, the Jonas Project has aided in the development of a number of successful, veteran-owned small businesses across the country.

America needs more people like John Kelsall. Faced with unspeakable tragedy that would halt so many of us in our tracks, he instead chose to use his talent to create an organization dedicated to serving those men and women who risk their life to preserve our freedom. We owe our veterans an unpayable debt, and so I hope that Mr. Kelsall and the Jonas Project will inspire others to help ease their transition back to civilian life. I applaud Mr. Kelsall on his successful tenure at helm of the Lakewood Chamber and wish him well as he departs that post to dedicate himself full-time to the Jonas Project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for several votes taken on the House floor on May 25 and May 26, 2016, missing Roll Call Vote Number 239 through Number 268. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call No. 239: NAY, Roll Call No. 240: NAY, Roll Call No. 241: NAY, Roll Call No. 242: YEA, Roll Call No. 243: NAY, Roll Call No. 244: NAY, Roll Call No. 245: YEA, Roll Call No. 246: NAY, Roll Call No. 247: YEA, Roll Call No. 248: NAY, Roll Call No. 249: YEA, Roll Call No. 250: NAY, Roll Call No. 251: NAY, Roll Call No. 252: YEA, Roll Call No. 253: YEA.

Roll Call No. 254: YEA, Roll Call No. 255: NAY, Roll Call No. 256: NAY, Roll Call No. 257: NAY, Roll Call No. 258: YEA, Roll Call No. 259: NAY, Roll Call No. 260: NAY, Roll Call No. 261: NAY, Roll Call No. 262: NAY, Roll Call No. 263: NAY, Roll Call No. 264: YEA, Roll Call No. 265: YEA, Roll Call No. 266: NAY, Roll Call No. 267: NAY, Roll Call No. 268: NAY.

• 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.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE
OF SARID CHAIM SHAHDAIAH
AND QUINCY GEMAL WILLIAMS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

“What is a fear of living? It’s being pre-eminently afraid of dying. It is not doing what you came here to do, out of timidity and spinelessness. The antidote is to take full responsibility for yourself—for the time you take up and the space you occupy. If you don’t know what you’re here to do, then just do some good.”—Maya Angelou

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah, and Quincy Gemal Williams two very accomplished young men who tragically lost their lives in a car accident on December 3, 2014.

Many parents, teachers, neighbors and young people hope to find the kindness and dedication that these two young men exhibited regularly as sons, students, friends and incredibly well-rounded, commendable young men.

The achievements these young men earned far exceed the highest expectations of any proud parent or community member in awe of exceptional young leaders in today’s America.

I understand as well, that in recognition and honor of his pursuit of excellence, several highly esteemed universities expressed interest in Sarid, hoping that he would join their respected student bodies.

I was thoroughly impressed to learn that, through his dedication to his studies, Sarid earned a grade point average of 3.6 and was inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars.

As a highly accomplished student-athlete, he served the U.S.A. International Football Team as Captain, Team Ambassador and starting linebacker, in addition to exalting fervent school pride, during his junior year as a highly valued teammate of the DeKaney Wildcats, his high school varsity track and football teams.

Expanding the bounds of his requisite studies, he explored his curiosities for the world of science becoming a member of the Texas High School Engineering Career and Technology Council.

I join his family and many admirers in genuinely celebrating Sarid’s life and outstanding contributions.

Quincy was a beaming light of talent and happiness.

Affectionately called by his parents a “Junior”, Quincy was one of the most outgoing, lovable kids that a parent could ever want.

Quincy was one of the world’s best comedians. He had the ability to make anyone who came into contact with him laugh.

All who knew Quincy admired his prowess for presentation—deemed one of the “sharpest” brothers you’d meet.

Although young in body Mr. Williams was old in song; He was a profound lover of any and all Motown Performers and would listen to them regularly.

While at Andy DeKaney High School Quincy became branded as the “Soul Brother” of the football team.

Quincy was also a highly valued teammate of the DeKaney Wildcats high school varsity track team.

Quincy and Sarid were not only classmates and teammates, they were bonded and talented friends who earned the love and respect by all those who knew them.

These two young men cultivated their efforts, positioning themselves to successfully matriculate in May of 2016; and, but for their ill-fated passing, would by all accounts have celebrated their well-deserved accomplishments with their families as a milestone achievement in their young lives.

While I have no doubt they would have realized countless ambitions, we are left to accept that their dreams of immeasurable magnitude now rest with them.

These young men worked hard and touched many lives with their ambition and dedicated commitments to their families, friends, school and their community.

I cannot think of a more solemn manner of celebrating their life than to honor their efforts by bestowing upon their families recognition of the achievement for which they so ardently strode.

In the words of Booker T. Washington “character is power”.

Character truly is power and that power was present in the lives of these prolific young men.

Yes, their lives were cut short, but with what time they did have they effectively made the best of it.

Heaven has truly gained a dynamic pair of angels, while young Sarid and Quincy’s families lost their most promising stars.

Please join me in a moment of silence for the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah and Quincy Gemal Williams.

SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A “NATIONAL
CAMEROONIAN HERITAGE AND
DIASPORA MONTH”

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the establishment of a “National Cameroonian Heritage and Diaspora Month” during the month of May to celebrate the great contributions of Americans of Cameroonian immigrant heritage in the United States, who have enriched the history of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, people of recent Cameroonian immigrant heritage and the greater Cameroonian diaspora are found in every State of the Union. Furthermore, the history of Americans of Cameroonian descent in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the Nation.

This past year, I have been proud to establish and co-chair the Congressional Cameroon Caucus, along with Congressman ANDRÉ CARSON (D-IN), Congressman STEVE RUSSELL (R-OK) and Congressman HANK JOHNSON (D-GA). The Congressional Cameroon Caucus enjoys strong bi-partisan support, which includes Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE (D-TX).

The community of Americans of Cameroonian immigrant heritage in the United States poses an inherently diverse population comprised of distinct ethnicities, religions and more than 100 language dialects. Americans of Cameroonian immigrant heritage in the United States come from all regions in Cameroon and do not constitute a homogeneous group. They include people from different religious, linguistic, ethnic, racial, cultural, and social backgrounds. Cameroon is nicknamed ‘Africa in Miniature or Mini Africa’ for its religious, linguistics, geographic and ethnic diversity.

Mr. Speaker, the month of May has been celebrated by Cameroonians at home and abroad, since 1972, because ‘Cameroon National Day’ is on May 20. Since independence in 1960, Cameroon has earned a reputation as a peaceful and welcoming nation, and as a linchpin of regional stability. Undoubtedly, Cameroon serves as an important economic, military, and cultural partner of the United States.

Additionally, Americans of Cameroonian descent have traced their heritage via DNA to various kingdoms in Cameroon such as Bamileke, Hausa, Tikar, Baka. Individuals such as Secretary Condelezza Rice, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congresswoman Kelly Robin; artists such as Quincy Jones, Blair Underwood, Venessa L. Williams, Sheryl Lee Ralph; and thousands of Americans of African-American, Afro-Latino America, Afro-European Americans and others, have traced their heritage to Cameroon.

Recent Cameroonian immigrants have also made significant contributions to American culture, including in areas of American life such as the military, health care, arts, education, community service, and public policy. Raising awareness about Cameroonian immigrant heritage is crucial to effectively fighting disparities within the greater Black population in the American narrative and is essential to building a stronger America. Additionally, Americans of recent Cameroonian immigrant heritage have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States such as Sylvie Qwasinwi Bello of the Cameroon American Council.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cameroon share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the world, but there remains much to be done to ensure that Americans of recent Cameroonian immigrant heritage and the greater Cameroonian diaspora have access to resources and a voice in the United States Government and continue to advance in the political, social, and economic landscape of the United States. Celebrating ‘National Cameroonian Heritage and Diaspora Month’ in the month of May would provide the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of and to appreciate the challenges faced by Americans of recent Cameroonian immigrant heritage. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I believe that a “National Cameroonian Heritage and Diaspora Month” should be recognized in May to celebrate the significant contributions of Americans of recent Cameroonian Immigrant Heritage to the history of the United States.