

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ROHNERT PARK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a city in my District on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its establishment. Incorporated in 1962, Rohnert Park has become an integral part of Sonoma County's historical and cultural heritage.

The land that would become Rohnert Park was known as Rancho Cotate when it was granted by General Mariano Vallejo to one of his soldiers in 1844. During the next century, the land would change ownership many times and experience much development.

After World War II, when Sonoma County experienced a surge in growth, the City of Rohnert Park was conceived and developed by two Sonoma County lawyers, Paul Golis and Maurice Fredericks, who had a vision of a vibrant planned community in the heart of the valley. Their concept stressed the importance of "neighborhood units", groups of houses centered around schools and parks, in order to provide ample recreation to city-dwellers.

Through collaboration and hard work, Rohnert Park was established in 1962. Today it is proud to serve its residents with many recreational amenities and attractions. Rohnert Park is home to two municipal swimming pools, an 18-hole golf course, and bike, hiking, and equestrian trails. The city also contains Sonoma State University and the Green Music Center.

Mr. Speaker, Rohnert Park is an important city in the heart of Sonoma County. Please join me in honoring Rohnert Park on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR AARON
WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Director Aaron Williams for his invaluable service to the Peace Corps and our nation. As the Director throughout the past three years, Mr. Williams undeniably impacted the Peace Corps legacy. It is important that we recognize the importance of his contributions and the unique role the Peace Corps has played in our national and global community throughout his tenure.

Mr. Williams championed the ideals of the Peace Corps by bridging alliances with Minority Serving Institutions, enhancing the safety and security for the nine thousand volunteers serving abroad, and as President Obama noted, was essential in reforming and modern-

izing the agency. Sharing core American values with some of the world's most impoverished populations, his leadership these past three years reflects his service to the underrepresented and underprivileged.

Despite a complex, changing global climate, Mr. Williams dedicated tireless efforts to ensure the safety of the Peace Corps volunteers. I was proud to work closely with the Director to pass the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act. This act expanded the Peace Corps' safety precautions by providing further protection for female volunteers who are particularly vulnerable while living in foreign countries. It also increased government accountability in responding to sexual assault through a Sexual Assault Advisory Council and protects the anonymity of volunteers who report sexual assault.

Mr. Williams understood that a better Peace Corps is a bigger Peace Corps, and he therefore fought for the necessary increase in volunteers. He successfully expanded programs throughout Colombia, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone. And I was proud to work in the Appropriations Committee to help the agency obtain the largest funding in its history.

Whether it was collaborative efforts with RCPV/W or promoting fundamental principles that make the Peace Corps and our country exceptional, Mr. Williams never wavered from his commitment to enhancing Peace Corps' outreach and capacity to serve diverse communities. Having served in the Peace Corps, I know firsthand the positive impacts that result from our Peace Corps programs and volunteers. Due to Mr. Williams' vision and leadership, the Peace Corps continues to lead the cause for peace, prosperity, and progress, and it has been strengthened for future generations. Again, I thank Mr. Williams. I am immensely grateful for his service, and most of all, his friendship.

RECOGNIZING SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OR MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize and congratulate Saint Mary's College of Moraga, California, upon its 150th year of academic excellence in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Saint Mary's College was founded in 1863 in San Francisco as a liberal arts institution reflecting the life and work of the founder of the Christian Brothers, John Baptist de La Salle. The College was founded to serve some of California's earliest denizens, many of whom were immigrants with few resources and the first in their families to attend college. In 1928, after establishing a brief presence in Oakland, the college moved to its current location in Moraga, California.

Saint Mary's is a Lasallian Catholic College with a strong history of service to our country. In the 1940s, Saint Mary's joined the war effort in becoming the West Coast naval aviation training center. Lieutenant Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, who would later become President of the United States, was stationed at Saint Mary's for three years as he trained young pilots for duty in the Pacific Theatre. After the Second World War, Saint Mary's welcomed returning veterans studying on the G.I. Bill and continues to support our Veterans today through the Yellow Ribbon program.

St. Mary's rightfully boasts of a faculty composed of scholars at the top of their field with a devotion to teaching students to be engaged global citizens. Nearly 45,000 alumni have earned degrees at Saint Mary's, leading to every imaginable career path. The Graduate Business programs have produced scores of corporate leaders in businesses around the world, while the School of Education has produced world-class teachers who are in turn educating millions of students around the globe.

Saint Mary's is also proud of its extra-curricular programs. The athletic department has brought national and international attention to Northern California through athletic excellence in basketball, baseball, softball, crew, soccer, golf, and rugby. Furthermore, world-renowned artists, authors, scholars, musicians and political leaders share their unique talents not only with the student community, but with all of Northern California.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Saint Mary's College of Moraga, the faculty, staff, alumni and students as they celebrate 150 years of extraordinary success as an educational leader in the State of California.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF
THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the wonderful work being done by the Georgia Aquarium, which is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta. With more than 10 million gallons of water, the Georgia Aquarium is the world's largest with more aquatic life than any other aquarium, and six distinct galleries that portray diverse aquatic habitats, ranging from arctic to tropical waters. Since opening its doors in 2005, Georgia Aquarium has established itself as a leader in aquatic animal conservation and research. The results of this research are shared with the global zoological community for the enhancement of animals everywhere, thus showcasing Georgia as a global center of animal study.

Currently, Georgia Aquarium is one of only six accredited facilities in North America that is capable of providing care for beluga whales, a

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