

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL HUTCHINS RECEIVING THE ATHENA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize University of Michigan Head Softball Coach Carol Hutchins for receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award. Coach Hutchins has had a distinguished career and helped the University of Michigan softball team achieve success on and off the field.

Coach Hutchins joined the University of Michigan softball program in 1983 as an Assistant Coach and became Head Coach in 1985. During her tenure, the Wolverines have become one of the premier softball programs in the country and have reached the Women's College World Series in 12 of the last 22 seasons. In addition, Coach Hutchins has won over 1,400 career victories with the team, more than any other coach in Michigan athletics history. In recognition for her teams' stellar performance, Hutchins has earned 16 Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year honors, 9 National Fastpitch Softball Association Regional Coach of the Year awards, and was inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame in 2006. Hutchins' teams have also excelled academically, with the team achieving 100% graduation rate and 135 student-athletes earns Academic All-Big Ten honors.

Coach Hutchins has also distinguished herself through her service to the Ann Arbor community. In 2010, she founded the Michigan Softball Academy, a one-night on-field clinic for adults that raises funds for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer initiative. To date, Coach Hutchins and the Michigan Softball Academy have raised nearly \$750,000 for the organization. This level of support underscores her commitment to helping those in need. In addition, Coach Hutchins has been a fierce advocate for Title IX and works to support LGBTQ equality as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carol Hutchins for receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award. She is more than deserving of such an honor, and it is my hope that she continues to excel on the field and in the community.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT GRAVES, STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HON. RALPH LEE ABRAHAM

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott Graves, the outgoing Staff Di-

rector of the House Committee on Agriculture. You have heard a lot of fine things about Scott today, and all of them are deserved. Instead of talking about what Scott has done for the members of the Ag Committee, or the greater agricultural sector, which would keep me here into next week, I would like to recognize Scott for what he has meant to my staff and to me.

When I arrived here some two years ago I knew a fair bit about farming. I've been growing rice, corn and soybeans in the fertile lands of Northeast Louisiana most of my life. Scott has helped me take that experience and apply it to crafting our Nation's agriculture policies. Policies that help farmers and producers grow the finest commodities in the world and deliver them to dinner tables across the planet. Scott and his staff have been instrumental in helping my staff and I understand the finer intricacies of these policies and practices. They have gone to great lengths to help me, and all the members of the Committee, work to make sure the American farmer can not only endure, but prosper.

Scott has spent 12 years working on Ag policy on the Hill, and his absence over at 1301 Longworth will be profoundly felt by many, myself included.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on Friday, February 3, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On February 3, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Maria Alvarado, Maria Angeles Avalos, Martha Patricia Bello, Esteban Campos, Grace Carrillo, Erick Chay, Maribel Galicia, Jose Dolores Garcia, Jessica Elizabeth Hopkins, Maria Dolores Ibarra, Kristina Kiselinnova, Brenda Melina Larson, John Richard Latka, Judith Love, Ivica Jovan Markovic,

Matilde Martinez, Ivan de Jesus Martinez Desiderio, Hector Gabriel Martiniez, Janice Uyen Nguyen, Adrian Nunez, Blagoja Petkovski, Lidia Esther Guevara Galindo, Yolanda Ramirez, Simona Simental, Fellisia Suboh, Jeidi Torres, Jonathan Treto, Luz Valdez, Froylan Vega, and Enrique Vilches.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on February 3, 2017. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF MICHELENA “MINNIE” CUCCHIA

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Staten Island's Michelena Cucchia.

Michelena, or Minnie, as she is known to her friends and family, was born on January 21, 1917, in Manhattan to Charles and Grace Sciascia. After moving to Staten Island in 1932, Minnie met the love of her life, Salvatore “Sam” Cucchia. On December 19, 1936, Minnie and Sam were married at St. Joseph's Church. Afterward, they moved to a home in New Dorp on Staten Island to raise their daughters, Angela and Grace, and their son, Steve.

At the age of 100 years young, Minnie Cucchia is still active. With six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren, she certainly enjoys spending time with the many members of her family. Moreover, she continues to partake in her favorite hobbies, such as crocheting blankets, hats, and scarves for babies that she then donates to a local hospital. To this day, Minnie still lives in the house in New Dorp where she and Sam raised their wonderful children. She truly is a lifelong Staten Islander.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Minnie Cucchia a very happy 100th birthday. I applaud the tremendous life she has led. I am proud to call her

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