

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DARIUS ASSEMI

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Darius Assemi, a home builder, businessman, philanthropist, and Central Valley resident of more than 40 years. Darius has been a close friend and confidant for many years, including my time in the State Senate and here in the United States House of Representatives.

Darius is currently President and CEO of Granville Homes, a real estate development company established in 1977. Over the last 40 years, Granville Homes has built more than 6,000 single-family residences in the Fresno metropolitan area, and has been involved in the acquisition, financing, and development of over 100 construction projects. Through these experiences, Darius's knowledge of building codes and resilient construction has been an important influence on me as I have pursued disaster mitigation policies.

Darius is actively engaged in public policy work at the local and state level. He is passionate about legislation that affects transportation, agriculture, health care, education, and the environment. In 2009, Darius was appointed to the California Transportation Commission by Governor Schwarzenegger, and reappointed by Governor Brown in 2012. During his 6-year term, Darius was actively engaged with legislators and key stake holders in securing much-needed transportation funding for the Central Valley. In addition to public policy, Darius is driven to educate his fellow citizens about the complex issues that affect everyone in the community.

The lack of health care options available in the Central Valley and across the world is an issue that Darius and I have focused much of our time on. In 2009, he helped to establish the Alliance for Medical Outreach and Relief (AMOR), a non-profit with a mission to build healthier communities. AMOR constructed and continues to operate a 100-bed hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan that provides medical services and health education to over 80,000 people annually. High amongst Afshar Hospital's key accomplishments is their success in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates in the Kabul metro area. In addition to their work in Afghanistan, AMOR is in the process of building a wellness clinic and community resource center to serve the impoverished Central Valley farming community of Mendota.

Darius views his various business endeavors as vehicles to further his true passion: helping to improve the lives of those in the community and around the world through strategic partnerships and philanthropic giving. The Granville Foundation's mission is to provide food, shelter, healthcare, and education to the underserved. In 2006, Darius initiated the Granville Home of Hope, a program in which a new home is raffled off, with 100 per-

cent of the proceeds from ticket sales given to local non-profits. Over the last 12 years, the Granville Home of Hope has raised more than \$5.2 million dollars, providing food, clothing, scholarships, and resources to those in need. In addition to Home of Hope, the Granville Foundation provides support to various organizations—in 2017 alone the foundation sponsored more than 70 non-profits.

I am proud to call Darius a friend and I am grateful for his companionship throughout my years in public service. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Darius Assemi for his outstanding contributions to the Central Valley, our state, and nation.

HONORING JERRY AND VIRGINIA MORALES' 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the marriage of two outstanding individuals who have contributed to the growing diversification and development of Kansas City and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. In mid-July of 1951, Kansas City and its citizens were one of several areas that fell victim to major flooding in the Midwest United States. Following the "Great Flood of 1951," and during a trying time in which communities were facing a variety of obstacles, including family relocation, Mr. Jerry Morales and Ms. Virginia Gloria Alvarez first met.

Following the devastating events that unfolded from the flood, Mr. and Mrs. Morales would soon meet again as teenagers in their shared place of employment to support and provide assistance to struggling families. Receiving the approval of both parents to marry, in 1953, the couple began their lifelong commitment to value, respect, and cherish one another.

To join their brothers and sisters, and to start a family of their own, the Mr. and Mrs. Morales relocated from the Westside Community of Kansas City, Missouri to the thriving Historic Northeast community. The opportunities provided by increased diversity and affordable housing contributed to their decision to relocate and, ultimately, thrive in the growing community.

Since their move, Mr. and Mrs. Morales have seen their family grow just as they wished when they first married. Their eleven children all live in the greater Kansas City area and have given Mr. and Mrs. Morales the large family they always dreamed of with 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Apart from being loving parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Morales share a history of being both politically and civically involved in the community. Mr. Morales was a two-time Golden Gloves

champion, a boxing coach, and a referee. Furthermore, he grew up along Southwest Boulevard and went on to train other young, aspiring boxers in the community. Moreover, they continue to assist local organizations and contribute to the community through their longtime involvement with the Sheffield Neighborhood Association and as members at Our Lady of Peace Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Morales share their worldliness with their friends, family, and community. They have traveled the world in every way possible—by plane, train, canoe, and automobile. The couple have traveled from the Americas to Europe numerous times and have demonstrated their love of family by purchasing a home in Mexico for their family to spend quality time together.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Morales are a shining example of what marriage is meant to be, as well as the power of civic engagement within a community. I urge all of my colleagues to please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring the marriage between Mrs. Virginia Morales and Mr. Jerry Morales.

HONORING FRED FEHSENFELD, SR

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran, business leader, pillar of the community, and close friend, Fred Fehsenfeld, Sr. Fred passed away on November 28 at the age of 94.

Fred was the epitome of the Greatest Generation. Fred was born in Indianapolis in 1924, the third of four brothers. Fred enrolled at Purdue University at the age of 17. He found a passion for flying, joining the Purdue Glider Club and learning from, among others, Amelia Earhart. Ever the patriot, on his 18th birthday, Fred left Purdue and enrolled in the Army Air Corps. Just a few months later, he was assigned to the 354th Pioneer Mustang Fighter Group in France, a famous fighter group of P51 Mustangs and P47 Thunderbolts. Fred flew 89 missions in Europe and was awarded the Air Medal with three silver clusters and a silver star.

After the war was over, Fred returned to Purdue and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Fred began his career at Rock Island Refining as a Process Engineer. A few years later, he was asked by his dad, to join the original family business, Crystal Flash Petroleum, a company that operated gas stations and sold home heating oil.

He then took over the business from his father and showed his true entrepreneurial spirit. He grew Crystal Flash Petroleum from 100 employees, operating gas stations and home heating oil sales in Indiana and Michigan into what has evolved as The Heritage Group. The Heritage Group currently employs 6,500 people around the world, with operations across

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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.

North America, Europe and China. In 2017, in recognition for his work on behalf of the State of Indiana, I-895 was renamed the "Fred M. Fehsenfeld Highway."

I know his passion for improving our highways firsthand. He knew that America needed to change how we managed traffic and freight movement. This knowledge led to the creation of Critical Commerce Corridors. Critical Commerce Corridors are a simple idea that we separate cars and trucks using physical barriers. Fred presented this idea to me, and his enthusiasm convinced me that this idea was something our country should pursue. It was because of him that Critical Commerce Corridors were included in the most recent highway bill reauthorization, passed into law in 2015.

Fred was a devoted, loving husband to his wife of 57 years, Midge Fehsenfeld, who passed away in 2003 and to his surviving wife, Barbara Fehsenfeld, of 15 years. He is survived by Barbara, brother Mac, five children, twenty grandchildren, and twenty-four great grandchildren. All of us who knew him and were impacted by his generosity, kindness, and loyalty will truly miss him. I ask everyone to keep his family in your prayers.

REP. JEB HENSARLING FAREWELL

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Representative JEB HENSARLING who has accomplished so much in only eight terms in Congress.

JEB served six years as Chairman of the Financial Services Committee where he has continued to ensure that free markets thrive. Interestingly, his portrait features four books: The Bible, Atlas Shrugged, Hayek's The Road to Serfdom, and Friedman's Capitalism and Freedom. These works have guided his commitment to free markets and individual liberties.

JEB HENSARLING is as articulate of a speaker as I have ever encountered. Inevitably, his remarks reveal his perceptive views on subjects ranging from job creation and economic development to our Constitutional rights.

JEB leaves the Hill the same way that he came, a principled man with the strongest of ideals. I thank JEB for his years of service to our country and to his constituents in the fifth district.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BLAIR ALEXIS ROTERT FOR HER DEDICATED CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blair Alexis Rotert, an outstanding member of my staff who has served my office with distinction for three years.

A California native, Blair graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where she

earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Blair started her career on Capitol Hill in Representative DAVID VALADAO's office, who represented part of her home county of Fresno, California.

I am thankful that DAVID was kind enough to let Blair come to work for me, as she has been an integral part of my team, and has served dutifully as a public servant. I personally would like to thank her for her work on the Veterans Dignified Burial Act, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, the Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act, and a national monument proposal. She also has played an integral role in my work as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, serving as a liaison between my personal office and the committee.

Blair managed her duties with professionalism, integrity, and a high degree of respect for the people we serve. Her dedication to the 39th Congressional District of California and the U.S. House of Representatives is an extraordinary example of her strong commitment to her country and fellow citizens. Even though I am retiring from office, Blair will always be part of the "Royce Team" and I will be forever grateful for her work.

She will be missed by all who worked with her. And I wish her the very best of luck as she sets forth on the next chapter of her life.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JUDGE WALTER H. RICE

### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Honorable Judge Walter H. Rice in conjunction with House passage of legislation to name the Federal Building and United States Courthouse in downtown Dayton, Ohio in his honor.

Judge Rice was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1958 and then attended Columbia University School of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate degree in 1962. Exhibiting the intelligence and hard work that would serve him so well throughout his career, Judge Rice also received a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business Administration that same year.

Judge Rice began his legal career in 1964 in Dayton, Ohio, as an Assistant County Prosecutor for Montgomery County. In 1966, he entered private practice, joining the law firm of Gallon & Miller. In June of 1969, Judge Rice returned to public service as First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office.

Judge Rice's distinguished judicial service commenced in November 1969 when his fellow citizens elected him Judge of the Dayton Municipal Court. He held that position until 1971, when he was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Montgomery County. His exemplary judicial record and steady presence on the bench earned him reelection to the Court of Common Pleas in 1972 and 1978.

Federal officials took note of Judge Rice's impressive track record and experience, and President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Rice

to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. After confirmation by the United States Senate, Judge Rice was sworn in as a Federal District Court judge in Dayton on June 4, 1980. During his tenure, Judge Rice spent seven years as Chief Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, leading that bench from October 13, 1996 to October 12, 2003. He assumed senior status in 2004, maintaining a full docket.

A recipient of numerous awards, honors, and recognitions, Judge Rice received the Thomas J. Moyer award for judicial excellence in 2014. This award recognizes a current or former Ohio state or federal judge who displays outstanding qualities of judicial excellence, including integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, knowledge of the law, professionalism, ethics, creativity, sound judgment, courage, and decisiveness. In receiving the award, Judge Rice was lauded for his commitment to serving the needs of the most vulnerable in our community and for his efforts to encourage dialogue among his fellow citizens.

Judge Rice has been a tireless advocate for our community. He received the Citizen Legion of Honor Award from the Presidents Club of Dayton in recognition of his efforts as a champion of peace, inclusion, and civil rights. His volunteer efforts have included service with Wright Dunbar Inc., Inventing Flight, Aviation Heritage Foundation, American Veterans' Heritage Center, and the Montgomery County Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board. He was a founding member of the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Project and Dayton's Dialogue on Race Relations. He taught for many years at the University of Dayton School of Law and Wright State University, and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Dayton in 1991 and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Wright State University in 2000.

It is only fitting that the chambers in which Judge Rice continues his long service to the Dayton community, the state of Ohio, and the American public at large as a Senior Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio should be in a building that bears his name. I thank Judge Rice, for his numerous contributions to the greater Dayton community and congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING DR. FRANK LUNTZ, PhD

### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Frank Luntz, PhD, a talented communications professional and linguist whose unique talents have moved the needle on some of our nation's most critical issues. Frank has been an excellent advisor and close personal friend of mine throughout my time in Congress. His guidance has been invaluable.

Frank grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut and graduated from Hall High School before going on to get his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. He then earned his Doctorate in Politics from none other than Oxford University. He has since gone on to