

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE LABOR COUNCIL

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Since 1894, the Labor Council has been a force of good in the Wyoming Valley, championing the rights and interests of workers in the area. The milestone will be celebrated along with the 120th anniversary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council at a special event on Saturday, September 28, 2019.

In the early evening of September 28, 1894, John Casey and Daniel Shovlin of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Pat O'Neil and John Gibbon of the Stone Cutters Union, Amos Ayers of the Carpenters Union, and David Grover of the Painters Union met in a stone-cutting yard on South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania before seeking shelter from the rain under the South Street Bridge. These visionary men discussed forming a central labor union to unite laborers from across the city to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment from their employers. It was under that bridge that the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union was born.

By 1899, 118 local unions counted themselves as members of the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union, and as many as 300 delegates regularly attended meetings. To accommodate their ever-growing membership, John Casey (who would go on to represent the region in the U.S. House as a pro-labor legislator) and John Mullery created the Building Trades Council as a subcommittee of the Central Labor Union. The Union supported historic movements such as the 1900 and the 1902 anthracite strikes where they assisted John Marshall in organizing the United Mine Workers of America. Throughout the 20th Century, the Council supported movements large and small in the region to reflect the best interests of workers across a variety of industries. In the mid-1950s, the Wilkes-Barre Central Labor Union became officially known as the Labor Council.

Today, the Labor Council operates out of a former church in Wilkes-Barre. There are 47 locals affiliated with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, representing both private and public sector occupations. The Council holds an annual Labor Day festival in Kirby Park and continues to support community-wide charitable campaigns.

It is an honor to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council on its 125th Anniversary. Its hard work and dedication to protecting the rights of workers in Northeastern Pennsylvania has been remarkable. I wish its leaders and members the best as they con-

tinue to advocate on behalf of our workers for years to come.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN G. OTT

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Kathleen G. Ott for her years of dedicated service to Congress in her role as the Director of Congressional Relations for the Library of Congress. In 2008, Dr. James Billington, former Librarian of Congress, recognized Kathy's talents and appointed her to her esteemed position as Director of Congressional Relations.

Kathy devoted more than a decade of her career to building strong relationships between the Library of Congress and Members of Congress and their staffs. Throughout her tenure with the library, she built bipartisan support with the Committee on House Administration for many library initiatives.

In 2009, she fostered the forming of the Library of Congress Caucus and a few years later assisted in creating the library's Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series. Kathy has played an integral role in developing the congressional relations office at the library and ensuring Member involvement in numerous library events.

I am grateful for her efforts to promote the work of the library and ensure that the work of Congress remains at the forefront of their mission.

HONORING KATHY OTT

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Ott, the Director of the Congressional Relations Office of the Library of Congress. Kathy is retiring after serving more than 11 years under two Librarians of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, and Dr. Carla D. Hayden.

During her time at the Library, through three Presidential administrations, seven Congresses, and five chairs of the House Administration Committee, Kathy has worked in building bipartisan support that recognizes the essential contribution that the Library makes to our national life, and to the work of Congress.

In 2009 she helped put together the Library of Congress Caucus. In a "Dear Colleague" letter inviting Members to join, former Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL) and Representative EARL BLUMENHAUER (D-OR) wrote that "the purpose of establishing a Library of Congress Congressional Caucus is to draw members' attention to the nation's library and

its unparalleled collections and knowledgeable curators and to encourage further use of these extraordinary resources."

Kathy was instrumental in starting the Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series, which recently held its 45th dinner, and has helped coordinate, during her tenure, Congressional participation in the awarding of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

I thank Kathy for her service as Director of the Congressional Relations Office and for her work to serve Congress and to strengthen the relationship between the Legislative Branch and its library.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIFECHOICES HEALTH NETWORK

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LifeChoices Health Network's 30th anniversary.

Thirty years ago, LifeChoices began as a small neighborhood effort to help women whose babies were at risk. Today, LifeChoices serves women throughout southwest Missouri and the four-state area by offering at-risk women free education and medical services. These services include education programs, sexually transmitted infection testing, and early pregnancy care that is needed to ensure that moms and their babies are healthy.

Over the past thirty years, LifeChoices has achieved many milestones. Over 3,800 individuals have received free and confidential services, and they have provided nearly 16,000 ultrasounds. To date, LifeChoices training programs have allowed 163 clinics to implement STI services. Additionally, they have had nearly 10,000 students from area public and private schools participate in their connection institute programs.

LifeChoices has received national and international recognition for their commitment to helping other clinics across this nation and the world.

Madam Speaker, the work of the LifeChoices Health Network is vital to ensuring at-risk women and their babies receive the care that they need at no cost to them. I give them my congratulations on a successful thirty years and wish them the very best in the many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call votes No.

• 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.