

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
BATEAUMEN OF THE JAMES  
RIVER

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the legacy of the African American Bateamen of the James River. These men played critical roles in establishing the economy of colonial Virginia, and it is imperative we honor and remember their work.

The James River Bateau, a series of flat-bottomed wooden cargo vessels first used in the 1770's, was the primary means of transporting goods on the James River until 1840. Crews of men performed the difficult, dangerous, and physically demanding work of moving tobacco and other goods and services up and down the river, connecting Richmond to the wider world. Their efforts helped make the City of Richmond a regional hub for industry and commerce.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth is recognizing the profound impact of the African American Bateamen of the James River with a historical highway marker designation from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. By highlighting the experiences of these men, this highway marker helps us achieve a more inclusive understanding of our shared history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the legacy of the African American Bateamen. Their contributions to colonial Virginia were formative in growing the Commonwealth's economy, and I am grateful for their work. This landmark designation will help us remember the important work they did and preserve their legacy for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's National Day. On October 10th, Taiwan celebrated the 108th anniversary of the Republic of China. On the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important anniversary and express the sincere commitment of our nation and Congress to the bilateral relationship. As security, diplomatic, and economic challenges in the Pacific region grow, it is vital for our mutual security that the bond between the United States and Taiwan remains strong.

I am proud to support our continued defense partnership, trading relationship, and a shared belief in democracy and human dignity

that stands in stark contrast to the behavior of the government on the mainland. The United States and Taiwan have built an alliance that can withstand future threats, and to which I know President Trump and his administration is committed to preserving. I also want to commend the Americans serving in the American Institute in Taiwan for their patriotism and commitment to preserving this critical partnership.

We cannot be complacent when the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing attempts to export authoritarianism and corruption and tries to weaken our democratic allies. I encourage my colleagues to support measures to stop Beijing's ongoing attempts to undermine Taiwan's participation in international fora and its increased disruption of Taiwan's diplomatic ties.

From its beginning over a century ago to its embrace of a vibrant democracy today, the Republic of China (Taiwan) shares a bond with the United States founded on common principles. As Taiwan celebrates Double Ten Day, I extend my best wishes and congratulate the Taiwanese people for all they have achieved.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
LAURA HAND

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Laura Hand as she retires after 47 years as a celebrated journalist in Central New York.

For nearly five decades, Laura Hand has been a trusted source for news in our community, a household name in broadcasting, and beloved by many in Central New York. Throughout her career, she has told countless community stories, inspired rising journalists, and used her platform to raise awareness for childhood literacy.

Born in a military family in Virginia, Laura Hand spent much of her childhood travelling around the world to countries including England, Germany, Thailand, and Italy. Developing an interest in news and politics at a young age, Laura Hand followed this passion and enrolled in Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where she studied journalism and political science. While a student at Syracuse University, Laura Hand became the first woman to direct the campus radio station, WAER. After graduating in 1971, she took her first full-time position as a radio news reporter with WFBL in Syracuse, NY.

In 1972, Laura Hand transitioned from radio to television, joining the NBC 3 broadcast team. Throughout her reputable career with NBC 3, she held a number of positions, but has become best known for anchoring "Weekend Today" and "Monday Night Answer

Desk," where she encouraged viewers to get involved and have fun in the Central New York community. Passionate about her community, for years Laura Hand maintained the "In Your Community" webpage, a site dedicated to informing residents of the many community events in Central New York.

Throughout her career, Laura Hand has interviewed some of the most prominent figures in American politics, including former New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller and former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Laura Hand has coupled her prominent career in journalism in Central New York with her passion for reading, and, for more than 30 years, has organized the "Books Breaks" summer reading campaign, an annual program that promotes childhood literacy in our community. She plans to continue this work into retirement. In addition, she has served as a long-time member of the Salvation Army/Syracuse Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Laura Hand for an incredible 47-year career in journalism. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUND  
BREAKING FOR FORT STREET  
BRIDGE PARK AND THE 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE ROUGE  
RIVER FIRE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Rouge River fire and celebrate the ground breaking of the new Fort Street Bridge Park.

On October 9, 1969, sparks from an acetylene torch ignited debris in the Rouge River. With flames rising 50 feet into the air, the burning river quickly became a symbol of societal indifference to pollution and became a catalyst for change in our community. Years before the Rouge fire, the river also served as an important site for another event that provoked societal transformation. On March 7, 1932, thousands of unemployed auto workers embarked on a march from Detroit to the Ford Rouge Factory in Dearborn to protest the economic devastation in Detroit's automotive industry during the Great Depression. In a painful part of our community's history, the marching autoworkers clashed with police and Ford Motor Company security guards on the historic Fort Street Bridge above the Rouge River, resulting in the death of five protestors and leaving dozens of others injured. Later known as the Ford Hunger March, this event laid the groundwork for the formation of the United Auto Workers in 1935.

Without a doubt, the Fort Street Bridge and Rouge River are prominent symbols of Detroit's past.

In the half century since the Rouge River fire, heightened public and political attention to

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