

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE 2019 HONOREES OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS ILLINOIS DIVISION

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 individuals who are being recognized as the 2019 Polish American Congress, Illinois Division, Honorees. These Polish-Americans will be honored on Sunday, October 20th, at the 50th Annual Polish American Heritage Award Banquets.

Each year, the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress presents awards to recognize notable work in public service, philanthropy, heritage, community service, the arts, and other notable accomplishments. This year's honorees are The Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, Richard Owsiany, Lucie Bucki, Dominic A. Pacyga, Ph.D., Jacek Niemczyk, Tom Startek, Martin Obrecki, Maria Roszek-Kucharski, Ewa Milde, and Bogdan Lanko. The Polish American Congress, and its mission to unite the Polish-American community and to aid its members to become better informed American citizens, have benefitted from the contributions of these individuals.

The Illinois Division is one of 25 state divisions under the national Polish American Congress, and it represents 39 Polish-American organizations and over one million Americans of Polish heritage from across the state. In Chicagoland, and Illinois as a whole, we are blessed to have the most robust Polish-American community in our nation. The Illinois Division works to bring community members together, and it is a privilege to represent and work closely with so many members of this organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the award recipients on this tremendous honor. They deserve praise for the energy and time they have dedicated to strengthening Polonia and our nation. I wish them the best in their future endeavors where they will surely continue their success.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND  
JOBS PARITY ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Employment Services and Jobs Parity Act. This legislation would make long overdue amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act to include the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

Presently, the Marianas and American Samoa are not eligible for the employment

services formula grant that is currently awarded to all other states and insular areas. Congressional action is needed to ensure all Americans can get the help they need to develop the skills necessary to enter in-demand jobs and career paths. Special Representatives of the Marianas and the President recommend in 2017 that the Department of Interior work cooperatively with DOL to extend the Wagner-Peyser Act to the Marianas.

At a time when our island economies continue to recover from major natural disasters, the annual Wagner-Peyser grant would provide timely support to the Marianas and American Samoan workforce through skills assessment, career guidance, and referrals to training for job seekers.

Now is the time to make things right and ensure parity for all Americans. The gentleman from American Samoa, Mrs. Radewagen is an original co-sponsor. This bill is important to the workers in the Marianas and American Samoa. I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
CITY COUNCILMAN DR. JOE LEE  
SMITH

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the service of Councilman Dr. Joe Lee Smith, who after 36 years of faithful service to our Rockledge City Council, will enter retirement this November.

Having been elected to the city council twelve consecutive terms, serving 3 years as council chairman and as deputy mayor, the city of Rockledge owes much to Dr. Smith for his unmatched dedication and service to its residents.

A life-long Brevard County resident, Dr. Smith began his career as an educator, having earned his doctoral degree in education from University of Florida and serving as the President Emeritus of Brevard Community College (BCC) until 2000. He then came out of retirement to become provost of the Palm Bay Campus location and served as BCC's college ambassador until 2017.

In both his personal and professional life, he was viewed as a mentor for students in the community and his coworkers. He was a founder of the Brevard Recreation Association and served on the board of directors for many community organizations such as the Salvation Army, Circles of Care, Rolling Readers, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Mayor Tom Price of Rockledge says of Councilman Smith, "He's the definition of a true statesman, someone that you rarely see in politics anymore. He's done 36 years of great work on the board and will be greatly missed by the City Council."

In recognition of his work to advance higher education in the community, Dr. Smith has

had several educational facilities named in his honor such as the Joe Lee Smith Recreational Center in Cocoa and the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Teaching Center on the Brevard Community College Melbourne Campus.

A revered and distinguished member of the community, he has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Brevard Community College Distinguished Servant Award, Onyx Magazine's Humanitarian Award, and the United Third Bridge Puerto Rican Taino Award for his work advancing the Hispanic community in Brevard.

Aside from his distinguished role as an educator for the community, Dr. Smith has also been honored as an athlete, having been inducted into Florida A & M University's Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a talented baseball player in addition to the Space Coast Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions in sports program development.

On November 20th, the Rockledge City Council will recognize Dr. Smith's long and accomplished tenure. His contributions to the community are immeasurable and will surely be felt and appreciated by generations of Floridians to come.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives along with the residents of Rockledge to join me in saluting his work.

RECOGNIZING BETTY WIECHERT  
AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. TROY BALDERSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Betty Wiechert, a resident of Muskingum County, who is celebrating her 100th birthday this Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Betty has lived a life characterized by devotion and an unyielding selflessness, making her a pillar of this congregation. A woman of family, community, and faith, Betty was a Sunday School teacher and taught my very first Sunday School class. Her devotion and unwavering loyalty for the Coburn Church community is still evident today as she attends each and every Sunday service, even if that requires taking a taxi to mass. Betty is an incredible inspiration and role model to us all and I am sure turning 100 will not slow Betty down in the slightest.

I join Betty's friends and family in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day, and in celebrating her life and contributions to our congregation and community. Happy 100th Birthday to Betty; it is an honor celebrating with her.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN  
RUDISILL

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Rudisill and congratulate her on being a Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber (SWCRC) Women of Achievement Award Honoree. Her commitment to our Downriver community makes her a deserving recipient of SWCRC's Inspiring Achievement Award.

Ann Rudisill is a veteran of the United States Air Force. After serving in Colorado Springs for four years during the Vietnam Era, Ann returned home with an unrelenting commitment to the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces alongside her. She endeavored to find new ways to support our nation's veterans, especially those in her local community, and has been passionately pursuing this mission ever since.

On April 7, 2017, Ann Rudisill founded Downriver for Veterans. Recognizing many veterans in our community lack reliable assistance and transportation options, Ann established Downriver for Veterans to help them meet their needs and navigate throughout the Downriver region. Since the organization's inception, Downriver for Veterans has provided food, shelter, paperwork, and transportation to over 350 veterans in our Downriver community. The organization continues to rapidly grow and was officially recognized as a non-profit organization in February of this year. Downriver for Veterans has a real impact on the veterans of our community, and Ann's meaningful efforts truly serve as an inspiration to all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ann Rudisill as she receives SWCRC's Leadership Award. Her commitment to veterans by ensuring all their basic needs are met is worthy of commendation. Ann wholeheartedly deserves the SWCRC Leadership Award, and, above all, we thank her for her service to our great nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LARRY SIMMONS

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a great American hero, Larry Simmons.

Mr. Simmons joined the United States Army in 1960 after finishing high school. After several assignments throughout the United States and in Berlin, Mr. Simmons received orders to deploy to Vietnam. Over the course of his two tours in Vietnam, he received two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Stars for his heroic actions on the battlefield, including his rescue of two small children during a firefight.

Following Mr. Simmons' retirement from the military in 1980, after 20 years of service, he spent 14 years as a correctional officer at San Quentin prison. After his retirement, Mr. Simmons and his wife, Karen, moved to Kentucky

Lake to enjoy life as a grandfather and great grandfather.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Simmons on his induction into the Signature Healthcare Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY FREEHOLDER  
BLANQUITA B. VALENTI

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Blanquita B. Valenti on her retirement as a Middlesex County Freeholder. As a freeholder, city council member and educator, Freeholder Valenti has distinguished herself as a dedicated public servant whose contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

A long-time resident of New Brunswick, New Jersey, Freeholder Valenti devoted many years to representing her community as a council member and freeholder. She is well-respected by her colleagues as well as the residents she serves. Her professionalism and vision for the community earned her elections to leadership positions on the City Council and Board of Chosen Freeholders, including council vice president, council president and freeholder deputy director.

Although retiring from elected office, Freeholder Valenti remains an active community leader and advocate for individuals and families in Middlesex County. She has served on numerous boards of social services agencies, educational organizations and others, including the Middlesex County Board of Social Services, PRAB, Middlesex County Hispanic Affairs Commission, ASPIRA New Jersey and the Middlesex County College Foundation. She is also a founding board member of Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc., a non-profit aimed at ending homelessness in the county, which is honoring Freeholder Valenti at their Fall Gala on October 19, 2019.

In addition to serving in elected office, Freeholder Valenti taught at Trenton State College (currently The College of New Jersey) and Rutgers University as well as high schools throughout Middlesex County. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education from Seton Hall University and her master's degree in Spanish and Latin American Literature from Rutgers University, and holds her undergraduate degree from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Freeholder Blanquita B. Valenti as she retires as a Freeholder this year. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking her for her commitment to public service and the betterment of our communities.

COMMENDING DR. G. DOUGLAS  
RIPLEY FOR HIS CHRISTIAN  
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO  
NORTH ALABAMA

**HON. MO BROOKS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. G. Douglas Ripley, for his diligence in ministry and service to others.

On January 1st, 1970, Dr. Ripley received Jesus Christ as his Savior and immediately began to cultivate his relationship with Christ and understanding of the Bible. Within a few weeks he enrolled in the Gulf Coast Bible College at Anderson Church of God and thereafter traveled as a student evangelist, during which time he met his wife, Katy.

In 1973, Dr. Ripley and Katy pastored Open Door Baptist Church in Tennessee, where the church grew from 16 to 1,000 people in a short twelve years. By December of 1985, Dr. Ripley, Katy, and their two children, Jessica and Jeremy, moved to Decatur, Alabama where Dr. Ripley became the Pastor of Moulton Heights Baptist Church. The church grew rapidly, relocating once and having five major renovations from 1988 to 2004. Under Dr. Ripley's leadership, many lives have been impacted.

Known as "Brother Douglas," Dr. Ripley's passion for world missions and discipleship have reached across the world. In fact, he was one of the first pastors to visit Albania and his act of bravery opened the way for more churches to evangelize in Albania.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Ripley's diligent and obedient service to his flock and God is inspiring and sets an example for future generations.

I commend Dr. G. Douglas Ripley for his leadership in the church and passion for service to Christ.

SUPPORTING H.R. 2328, THE REAUTHORIZING AND EXTENDING AMERICA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, now is the time to fix Medicaid funding, the insular areas. This is an area of strong bipartisan agreement—Republicans and Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce committee agree, and something must be done.

H.R. 2328 was reported out of Committee in July. This bipartisan solution would address the serious funding shortfall that all Insular Areas face now that the special Obamacare Medicaid funding has ended.

Our hospital, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), and other healthcare providers across the Marianas depend on the availability of Medicaid funds as a significant source of revenue. This special funding provided an average of \$11 Million beyond our statutory cap each year, ensuring CHCC and