

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
VALERIE POPE-LUDLAM

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to a respected member of the Westside community and civil rights activist, Valerie Pope-Ludlam. Valerie passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Valerie moved to California from Michigan in 1962. For the following decades Valerie Pope-Ludlam served the community as an outspoken leader and advocate. She began working at Patton State Hospital and continued until 1964 when she started Welfare Rights. The organization advocated for both the rights and educational opportunities for women on welfare.

The following year she started the League of Mothers with Frances Grice and Bonnie Johnson. The three women fought for the rights of African Americans in the educational system and the workplace. They spearheaded a legal battle against the San Bernardino Unified School District to end the de facto segregation in the Westside.

In 1969 Valerie founded the Westside Community Development Corporation (CDC). The CDC trained hundreds of young adults in construction, allowing the organization to rehabilitate houses and sell them to families who would otherwise not be able to afford the down payment. Close friend and niece, Frances Grice, reflects, "She has done so many wonderful things. . . The Governor used to call her 'the Sun Lady.'" Long before green jobs became popular, Valerie built the first Westside solar energy conservation project. The project cost \$2 million and gained national recognition from *Ebony Magazine* for its success in providing green energy to low income homes.

Valerie will always hold the honor of becoming the first African American female 6th ward council person. Other council members describe her as a sounding board and a valued mentor. She will leave a lasting impact on both the individuals she touched and the community at large. Professionally, Valerie was known for confidence and tenacity. On a more personal note, she was a loving mother and grandmother. She always put her family at the forefront throughout her public service.

Valerie leaves with cherished memories three children: Marshall Griffin, Michelle Beauregard, and George Beauregard as well as nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, Jennifer are with Valerie's family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring and remembering a tireless advocate Valerie Pope-Ludlam.

IN HONOR OF DAVID YOST, THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF  
AMERISOURCEBERGEN

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the career and many contributions of David Yost, the Chief Executive Officer of AmerisourceBergen, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical distribution and services companies headquartered in my district in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Yost will retire this July. Following his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy and military service, Dave spent most of his professional career with Amerisource Health Corporation and, after the 2001 merger with Bergen Brunswig Corporation in 2001, AmerisourceBergen Corporation. In a career spanning 37 years, he has served as CEO for 14 years and has guided the company successfully through a rapidly changing business environment. The company has experienced astonishing growth from \$40 billion in revenues in 2002 to nearly \$80 billion this year and it continues to handle many challenges presented by our evolving health care system.

David Yost is an exceptional leader with impeccable commitment to the highest ethical standards. He has led a company that is a shining example of how our health care marketplace should operate today—a company that delivers savings, efficiency, security and integrity of product for patients who need these medicines. In addition, he has a history of giving, including as a Founding Director of the U.S. Air Force Academy Endowment Fund which provides cadets with facilities and programs for their professional development. He has generously initiated employee-company match contributions for those affected by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the recent Japanese earthquake disaster.

David Yost has provided a long-term vision for the industry, reforming the entire enterprise by reducing inventory size and its associated costs, and stressing the importance of technology and strategic partnerships in moving the company forward. AmerisourceBergen was the first national distributor to announce that it would only purchase pharmaceuticals directly from the manufacturer to ensure the integrity of products to patients. He also instilled pride in the company's workforce for the important work they do. There is a sign over the door of every AmerisourceBergen distribution center that reads "Thank you for what you do. People's lives depend on it."

Through it all, David Yost has been a devoted husband and father and active in his community. He now prepares for a well-deserved retirement to spend more time with family and pursue other interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to represent many of the fine employees of

AmerisourceBergen and I join them in saluting David Yost for his vision, leadership and outstanding service during a long and exemplary career.

IN HONOR OF POLISH  
CONSTITUTION DAY, 2011

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Poles, Polish-Americans and the Honorable Ambassador from Poland, Robert Kupiecki, and his wife, Malgorzata Kupiecki, on the occasion of Polish Constitution Day, celebrated on May 3, 2011.

Polish Constitution Day is a day when people of all cultures join with the people of Poland to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland. After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. The Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished elements of serfdom, all of these are key elements of freedom and democracy.

The Polish American Congress strives to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful and involved U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of leadership. Since its foundation over sixty years ago, the group has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent in the U.S. and enrich Cleveland's social fabric. These programs include the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War Two. The group also won American veterans benefits for Polish Veterans of both World War One and World War Two. The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of support and service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and this nation. This year, the Greater Cleveland Community can celebrate Poland's rich history and culture by joining Cleveland's Polish community in attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me today, Polish Constitution Day, in honoring the struggles, courage and triumphs of the people of Poland and honoring all people of Polish descent. Through their successive struggles for freedom, the people of Poland have given the world hope.

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