

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ST. MARTHA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
AND SCHOOL OF PHILADELPHIA

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join the people of St. Martha's Catholic Church and School of Philadelphia in honoring the life and achievements of former parishioner and alumnus Commander Christopher Ferguson.

Commander Ferguson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his mother Mary Ann and step-father Norman now reside in Langhorne, Bucks County.

Ferguson graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School, going on to receive his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University, and earning a Master of Science in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1991.

In 1986, Ferguson earned his Navy Wings and was ordered to the F-14 Tomcat training squadron in Virginia Beach, VA. Later, he joined the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, deploying to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian oceans onboard the USS *Forrestal*.

In 1995, he joined the "Checkmates" of VF-211, completing a deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf enforcing the Iraqi no-fly zone on board the USS *Nimitz*. Throughout his military career, Commander Ferguson has earned many commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Navy Strike-Flight Air Medal.

In 1998, Ferguson reported to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where he served as spacecraft communicator for the STS-118, 120, 128 and 129 missions. He was also the pilot of STS-115, and commanded STS-126 and 135. In September 2010, he began training with a crew of four for a rescue mission that evolved into STS-135, a station cargo delivery flight that carried the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module "Raffaello."

Leading the final U.S. shuttle mission to the International Space Station, Commander Ferguson's final mission marked the end of a 30-year NASA program. The 33rd flight of the shuttle Atlantis was the 37th shuttle mission to the space station, and the 135th and final mission of NASA's Space Shuttle Program.

Commander Ferguson is a decorated military officer and a distinguished member of NASA's historic shuttle program, and the people of Pennsylvania are proud to call him one of our own.

RECOGNIZING MRS. DONNA  
FASSETT FOR HER SELFLESS  
SERVICE TO THE NORTHWEST  
FLORIDA COMMUNITY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Donna Fasset for her selfless service to the Northwest Florida Community.

Donna Fasset is the Executive Director of ARC Gateway, an organization committed to improving the lives of persons with, or at risk of, developmental disabilities. For the past thirty-three years, she has served her community and the organization with unwavering commitment and immeasurable success. Under her leadership, ARC Gateway has expanded its programs to touch the lives of more than 900 children and adults.

Outside of her role with ARC Gateway, Donna Fasset is involved in myriad civic organizations, including: Impact 100, the Florida Council of Executive Directors, the Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival, Fiesta of Five Flags, and Pensacola Five Flags Rotary, where she previously served as President.

Mrs. Fasset's commitment to service and bettering the lives of others has been recognized through the countless awards bestowed to her. She is the recipient of ARC Florida's Robert Ettinger Award for Executive Excellence, Unsung Hero Award, and Life Time Achievement Award, as well as, the Center for Independent Living's Joe Oldmixon Award for Advocacy and the Able Trust Dr. George Spelios Leadership Award. There is no question that Donna Fasset's impact on Northwest Florida is immense, and we are all grateful for her dedication and service to improving our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to recognize Mrs. Donna Fasset. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Donna, her husband Charlie, their two sons Donald and Robert and two grandchildren, Morgan and Jake, all of the best.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Chartered by Congress in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Bank system consists of 12 regional banks acting as a reliable source of critical funding for community financial institutions to finance housing and economic development.

The Federal Home Loan Banks provide safe, affordable liquidity to nearly 8,000 banks,

thrifts, credit unions, insurance companies and community development financial institutions in every state. As such, they are an essential partner for community and economic development across the country.

The Federal Home Loan Banks operate under a cooperative model with ownership resting in its regional members and a management team focused on safety and soundness. This has protected taxpayers over the FHLBanks' entire 80-year history. During the recent economic downturn, the FHLBanks received no taxpayer support, and they were a vital player in supporting a broader U.S. housing market recovery.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the Affordable Housing Program administered by the Federal Home Loan Banks and funded by contributions of 10 percent of the earnings from each of the FHLBanks. This important program represents the largest single source of private sector grants for housing and community development in the country. The Federal Home Loan Banks have distributed approximately \$4.6 billion in private grants through their Affordable Housing Program since its inception in 1990. These grants have helped provide 1.5 million housing units to deserving families in every corner of the country.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS DONOHUE

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is to recognize the work and achievements of one of the nation's most remarkable mayors. Dennis Donohue will step down as the Mayor of Salinas in December after serving in that position since 2006. He leaves office after six remarkable years that saw the city gain national attention for its efforts to solidify itself as the center of the nation's diversified fresh salad economy and turning the city away from its decades-old gang violence problem. Dennis stood at head—and heart—of both of these efforts and his leadership on these and other issues will be felt around California for years.

As a young boy, Dennis' family moved to Salinas. He graduated from Palma High School in 1972 and, ever since, has been a fixture at Palma sporting events. He earned a BA from the University of San Francisco and an MA from Gannon University in Pennsylvania. He then returned to California where he worked for several years in Silicon Valley's high tech industry. In 1988, he returned to Salinas to begin a career in agriculture, eventually rising in 1998 to become CEO of Salinas based European Vegetable Specialties, the world's largest radicchio producer. In 2005-06, he served as Chairman of the Salinas based Grower-Shipper Association of Central California.

In addition to his business leadership, Dennis took on many community service roles. He

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