

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE IRA BRUCE RUSKIN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 11, 2014*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of an extraordinary man, the Honorable Ira Bruce Ruskin. Ira was born in New York City on November 12, 1943, and passed away after a long struggle with brain cancer on July 3, 2014.

Ira Ruskin was drawn to progressive issues at the University of California, Berkeley, where he became involved in the Free Speech Movement. This began his lifelong advocacy for civil rights, women's rights and the environment. After graduating from Berkeley, he earned a degree in communications from Stanford University. He was a marketing and public relations consultant for two decades until he began his political career in 1995, serving on the Redwood City Council and as the Mayor from 1991 to 2001. In 2004, he was elected to the State Assembly, a position he held with dignity and distinction until 2010, when his illness prevented him from entering the race for the State Senate.

Ira Ruskin gave generously of his time and considerable talents to others. He helped organize and served as Chair of the Committee for Regional Water Reliability, and was Chair of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. He also served our community as a Director of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and as an Advisor to the Redwood City Education Foundation, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the San Mateo County Joint Powers Authority, and the San Mateo County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to Ira's beloved wife, Cheryl, to his entire family and to his many friends. It is fitting for us to honor the life of Ira Ruskin who was kind and compassionate and who will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. He was a patriot who served his community and his country with a deep sense of dedication and integrity and his values and his life of service to others have benefited us and made our union stronger. How blessed and privileged I am to have known Ira, served our mutual constituents together, and called him my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE CHRISTOPHER

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 11, 2014*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catherine Christopher, a resi-

dent of Middleborough, Massachusetts, who today celebrates her 100th birthday.

Catherine was born on July 11, 1914 to Mary and Michael Vergos in Lowell, Massachusetts. The second oldest of her six siblings, Catherine, or Kay as her family and friends know her, left her junior high school to work at Giant Store to help support her family. Kay later married Harry Christopher at the Holy Trinity Church in Lowell on October 22, 1939, and they went on to raise three children together: Sandra, William, and Chris. In the early 1950's, the Christopher family opened a grocery store on Locust Street in the early 1950's, which they operated for thirty years.

Kay has been an active member of the local Greek Orthodox Church and she, along with her husband, belonged to a number of clubs and organizations within their community for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Catherine Christopher on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her continued health and happiness.

BABY BOY BORN AFTER BEING SPARED FROM ABORTION FOLLOWING MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 11, 2014*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

[From the Christian News Network, Feb. 6, 2014]

(By Heather Clark)

WEST CHESTER, PA.—A baby boy was recently born in Pennsylvania after his life was spared from abortion through a miraculous series of events.

Baby Roman was 18 weeks gestation when his parents went to Planned Parenthood in West Chester last July for an abortion.

"I went to Planned Parenthood because I was stuck in my own world doing everything that I wanted to do," Roman's mother, Cartier, who had a previous abortion in 2012, told Christian News Network. "I was going to go get another abortion."

Cartier, 21, had three other children and a stepchild, and was living in government housing, where she was limited to an occupancy of six people. If she had the baby, she and her husband feared that they might have to find housing elsewhere, but had nowhere else to go.

At Planned Parenthood, Cartier found out that she was too far along in her pregnancy to have an abortion at the facility. She was directed to go to Cherry Hill, New Jersey that day to end the baby's life.

"[Planned Parenthood] gave me this paper and said, 'Here's other places that will do it,'" she explained. "And when I left, my husband and I got in the car [and were going to drive to New Jersey for the abortion]."

That day, a number of Christian sidewalk counselors stood outside of the facility offer-

ing help to abortion-minded mothers. Mary Ellen Caris, who has been active in pro-life ministry since 1989, was one of the counselors that eventually had contact with the couple.

"They came out an hour or so after they initially went in," she stated, "They didn't look at us, and they didn't want to take any information."

DIVINE INTERVENTION

But as Cartier's husband started the car and was ready to exit the parking lot, suddenly the transmission blew—right in front of the sidewalk counselors.

"[T]he car died," Caris explained. "[The husband] tried starting it up and it just barely made it to the stop sign and died again."

Cartier's husband started the car one more time and was able to turn the corner, but the car again stalled—this time for good.

"They had just spent \$500 on the car the week before to fix it," Caris outlined, "So probably he's thinking, 'Man, I just spent \$500. Why isn't this car working?'"

Suddenly, everyone began to ask themselves whether the situation was a matter of divine intervention.

"The whole time that my husband and I were in the car, we kept saying, 'What if it's God? What if He's trying to tell us something?'" Cartier recalled.

Caris and some of the other counselors then approached the vehicle to offer help, and minutes later, worked out arrangements to take Cartier home—but with the stipulation that she first go to the local pregnancy care center.

"I said to [my husband], 'I'm just going to do whatever this lady wants me to do so that we can get home,'" Cartier explained, "and then, forget them."

But Caris said that she and the others asked God to intervene in the situation as she drove Cartier and her husband to Chester County Women's Services in Coatesville and then waited patiently for the decision.

"We were praying while they were inside," she remembered.

"I CAN'T DO IT"

As Cartier sat in the offices of the pregnancy care center and listened to the words of Medical Director Lisa Thomas, she said that she suddenly "broke down." She texted her mother to tell her about the situation, who replied by congratulating her on the pregnancy—something that stood out to Cartier as she said that her mother had never spoken to her like that before.

Minutes later, Cartier had an ultrasound, and she knew right away that she couldn't go through with the abortion.

"I'm like, 'Oh my goodness, I can't do it,'" she said. "And me and my husband were immediately like, 'Alright, we're keeping him.'"

But, Cartier and her husband still did not know how they were going to provide for their son.

"I couldn't go to work; my husband was unemployed," she explained. "So now, we don't have a car, no way to get around—nothing."

Cartier and her husband decided to pray and trust God. And that's when they began to see amazing things happen before their eyes.

"Lisa called us and said that somebody wanted to give us a van, and that we could

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