

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, one of the seminal events in 20th century was the demise of the Soviet Union, which altered the balance of power in the world, most profoundly in Europe and Central Asia. But the event that sparked the tinderbox of democratic uprisings through the sphere of Soviet satellites began in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijanis remember the night that democratic fire was sparked; it was January 20, 1990. The Azeris called it "Black January." At midnight on that fateful night, 26,000 armed Russian troops stormed into Baku with tanks.

The weeks and months prior to Black January had seen a surge in the national independence movement. Hundreds of thousands of Azeris pushed then USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy by publicly marching for independence and territorial integrity.

Some of the emerging democratic groups were projected to win seats in the upcoming Parliamentary elections. Since only Communists could hold government office in a Soviet satellite, Gorbachev moved quickly to put down the independence movement.

Gorbachev declared a state of emergency to repress a growing independence movement. The Soviet heavyhandedness served only to elevate Azeri resolve and passion. Soviet troops, under orders to "restore order," tried dispersing the throngs of peaceful Azeri demonstrators by firing arbitrarily into the crowds on the Baku streets, killing women and children who were among the protesters calling for independence from the Soviet Union.

Over 130 Azeris were killed in the violence of Black January; 611 were injured, nearly 1,000 were arrested, and five were never found.

Human Rights Watch's report "Black January in Azerbaijan," said that, "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals." Human Rights Watch concluded, "The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union."

The standoff between nationalists in Azerbaijan and the Soviet leaders in Moscow escalated into an Azeri threat to hold a referendum on secession unless Soviet troops withdrew in 48 hours. Soviet troops were hampered when Azerbaijani oil tankers blockaded the Baku harbor, keeping Soviet naval vessels at bay.

Soviet forces withdrew, but formal independence would come nearly two years later.

On this day, Azeri patriots stood up for their freedom, sealing the fate of the Soviet empire and forever changing the history of the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me in standing with the people of Azerbaijan today in solitude and gratitude for their passion for independence and remembrance of the lives lost on Black January.

### RECOGNITION OF DEAN LESTER'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Dean Lester, on his 20 years of service to the House of Representatives and the people of the United States.

Dean came to Washington, DC in January, 1995 to work for his home state Congresswoman, Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho. He fondly remembers the "united sense to accomplish things" in the first 100 days of that year as the House embarked on a hectic schedule to implement the Contract with America.

Dean must have enjoyed that fast pace, because even when Congress slows down or goes into recess, he maintains a full schedule. Over time, he began working for multiple House offices at once, and he now serves as office and financial administrator to eight different members of Congress. In total, Dean has worked for 20 members of Congress in 20 years.

Dean is an irreplaceable member of every staff on which he serves. He tracks our budgets, manages our office moves, and ensures all of our equipment is working properly; in short, Dean makes sure the trains run on time. He knows every inch of this building and every trick of the trade. When a problem arises, we call Dean and we can always count on him to fix it.

Dean is a mentor and guide not just to younger staff members but to senior staff and members of Congress as well. Through it all, he maintains a sense of humor, an upbeat attitude, and a positive view of what we can accomplish together. He reminds us of why we came here and what an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity it is to serve.

Dean, we could not do our jobs without you. For your tireless work ethic, your dedication to Congress and the people of this great country, and your 20 years of service, we salute you.

### HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S SUE PARDUE

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to recognize the

life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Sue Pardue. For decades, Sue was a leader and integral part of the Northwest Florida community, and she will be missed by all who were fortunate to know her.

Sue married her loving husband of more than 42 years, Alvin, in 1972, before moving to Pace, Florida, where they started a family and became an integral part of the Pace community. While raising her five children, Sue also took steps to further her education, receiving bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees from the University of West Florida. Sue used her education and kind-hearted nature serving as a counselor at many institutions in Northwest Florida, including Pace Assembly Ministries, Santa Rosa Correctional Institute, and Pensacola Family Care for Youth, amongst many others.

While raising a family and working as a counselor, Sue also took an active role in many community organizations helping to serve the community that she loved. Sue was deeply devoted to serving the Lord, and she served for many years as head of the Children's Ministries at Pace Assembly of God and the Women's Ministries at Pensacola First Assembly of God, while also holding a position on the church's board. In addition to her service at her church, Sue was deeply involved in many other organizations, including: Concerned Citizens for Gifted Children, Crisis Line Counseling, RSVP Advisory Board, Red Cross, Advisory Board for Children's Home, Advisory Board for Guardian Ad Litem, Pace Water System, Family Promise, Pregnancy Resource Center, and Santa Rosa County Bond Review Board.

To some, Sue will be remembered as a devoted servant of Jesus Christ, working tirelessly to spread His word at her church and throughout Northwest Florida. To others she will be remembered as a highly educated, hard-working, and dedicated counselor. To her family and friends, she will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to Sue's husband, Alvin; her children, Donna, Deniece, Brian, Edwin, and Calvin; her seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and the entire Pardue family.

### IN HONOR OF 2015 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BILL ELLIOTT

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate racing legend Bill Elliott upon his induction into the sixth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. There is a rhyme that holds true about this inductee, "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville."

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