

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, one hundred thirteen years ago this month, pioneers from Korea first journeyed to our shores in search of opportunity, prosperity, and freedom. These early Korean Americans worked hard in our growing country, started families, and established strong communities. Over the past century, Korean Americans have made strong contributions to our fields of medicine, engineering, research, and innovation, and have become respected community leaders and elected officials.

The United States shares a special relationship with the Republic of Korea forged during the Korean War and solidified by the greater global struggle for freedom in the 20th century. In response to the invasion of North Korea and communist forces in 1950, the United States led a global coalition to defend Korean sovereignty. Millions of American and Korean soldiers fought side by side and formed friendships during the conflict. Guided by desire to foster trust and mutual cooperation in the region, the U.S.-Korea alliance has stabilized a region subjected to terror by North Korea.

Last November, I had the privilege of visiting the Republic. Over the course of my three-day visit, I enjoyed robust policy discussions with Korean leaders on numerous topics, deepening old friendships while forging new ones. It was evident to me that the U.S.-Korea alliance has never been stronger. The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) has brought economic growth to both of our countries, and American exports to Korea reached a record level last year. As I continue to reflect on my visit to the Republic, I am reminded of the deep and abiding responsibility all American leaders should feel towards preserving the U.S.-Korea alliance. The vigor and vitality of the Korean people and their commitment to democracy, a free market economy, and the rule of law—our common values—is simply inspirational. We owe that commitment to our esteemed Korean War veterans—the 1.8 million Americans who fought and sacrificed so much in that awful conflict to help birth one of the greatest democracies and alliances in the history of civilization.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Korean American Day. As the co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am proud to recognize our nations' special relationship and the powerful contributions that Korean Americans have made to the United States, especially those who have served with distinction in our Armed Forces. In the years to come, the U.S.-Korea alliance will surely be tested but our faith and determination will never falter or waiver.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN SMITH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor the life of Lauren Suzanne Smith. I am joined by my esteemed colleagues DORIS O. MATSUI, JERRY MCNERNEY, ZOE LOFGREN, AMI BERA, JULIA BROWNLEY, LOIS CAPPS, TONY CÁRDENAS, JUDY CHU, JIM COSTA, SUSAN A. DAVIS, MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA ESHOO, SAM FARR, JOHN GARAMENDI, JANICE HAHN, BARBARA LEE, TED LIEU, ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, ADAM B. SCHIFF, BRAD SHERMAN, JACKIE SPEIER, ERIC SWALWELL, MARK TAKANO, MIKE THOMPSON, NORMA J. TORRES, JUAN VARGAS, and MAXINE WATERS.

Lauren Smith, a beloved daughter, sister, friend, Congressional staffer, and coworker, died on December 26, 2015 in her home in Washington, D.C. at the age of 37.

Lauren was born on August 18, 1978, in Illinois. At the age of four, she attended her first Chicago White Sox baseball game—thus launching a lifelong love of the sport. Lauren was also a professional ballroom dancer and instructor. A self-proclaimed “foodie,” Lauren was an inspirational chef, who had her own website: “One if By Food.” She believed people should not have to compromise taste, flavor, and health—just because they were only cooking for one.

Lauren thrived on following her passions, despite the sacrifices. That characteristic fueled her journey across the country multiple times, from the campaign trail to Capitol Hill. Her unabating dedication to progressive ideals was second only to her independent spirit. Her keen communications skills and doggedness served her well, bringing exciting opportunities and necessitating many a quick decision to say “yes” to pack up everything to go on to the next challenge.

Lauren got her feet wet fresh from graduating from Cal State Fullerton with the All America PAC during the 2006 midterm elections, and worked her way up to become the Democratic National Committee's statewide communications director for Indiana during the 2008 presidential election. Lauren proved herself time and again, handling tough situations and high pressure through a decade on the Hill as Press Secretary for Rep. CUELLAR (D-Texas), Communications Director for Rep. MATSUI (D-Calif.), and Communications Director/Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. MCNERNEY (D-Calif.). After serving as Communications Consultant for John Walsh's bid for Montana's vacant Senate seat, Lauren served as the Deputy Communications Director for Sen. Walsh (D-Mont.) as well.

In 2015, Lauren joined Rep. HONDA's (D-Calif.) team. Lauren swiftly settled in, becoming a major asset to the entire staff—teaming with each staff member to increase effectiveness of all communication. She thoughtfully

served as the Member's voice and ambassador to the media. Lauren was a media liaison extraordinaire, easily developing positive professional relationships with reporters.

Lauren loved her job, and everyone knew it from her positive impact. Lauren changed the lives of everyone with whom she worked. A common denominator for all the offices where Lauren worked is that Lauren was viewed as dedicated, passionate, incredibly hard-working, and most of all, beloved. She would brighten up any office with her quick wit and cheery nature. She was also deeply caring and considerate. She was the first to ask how someone was doing and offer assistance. To her, relationships mattered most of all. Lauren always put herself last.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes, we are simply lucky enough to be gifted with an amazing employee and colleague. Lauren had an infectious laugh, and an inspiring spirit that matched her drive to make the world a better and happier place. No doubt, Lauren is still giggling somewhere, and looking out for her loved ones. Lauren—you are beyond compare. You made it so easy to fall into love with you. We miss you so very dearly.

RECOGNIZING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF “BLACK JANUARY”

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 26th anniversary of “Black January” in Azerbaijan. Imbedded in the memory of all Azerbaijanis regardless of where they live, Black January commemorates Azerbaijan's stand against Soviet soldiers for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity over all lands under Azerbaijani jurisdiction, and freedom from communism and dictatorship.

On the evening of January 19, 1990, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium backed by then-President Mikhail Gorbachev, declared a state of emergency in response to the growing national independence movement in Azerbaijan, which led to Russian troops storming the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku. In an attempt to suppress the movement and “restore order,” Soviet invaders indiscriminately fired on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. That night, more than 130 people died, over 700 people were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 went missing.

The invasion, however, focused not just on peaceful protestors but also on critical infrastructure and workers. According to a report by Human Rights Watch entitled Black January in Azerbaijan, “among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals.” Additionally, the attack was an act of intimidation for all then-Soviet countries with independence ambitions. The Human Rights

• 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.

Watch report concluded that, “indeed the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 constitutes an exercise in collective punishment. 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.”

Azerbaijani citizens, however, refused to succumb to Soviet aggression. Instead, the invasion inflamed Azerbaijani nationalism. In the days after the invasion, thousands of Azerbaijanis surrounded Communist Party headquarters demanding the resignation of the republic’s leadership, the Baku City Council demanded that Soviet troops be withdrawn and the Soviet legislature in Azerbaijan threatened to call a referendum on secession unless Soviet troops were withdrawn within 48 hours.

Soviet troops were eventually withdrawn and January 20th became known as “the Day of the Nationwide Sorrow.” It would not be for nearly two years, however, before Azerbaijan gained political control from the Soviet Union. In October 1991, Azerbaijan’s parliament—the National Assembly—declared its independence.

Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and, most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tragic events of Black January that precipitated the independent Republic of Azerbaijan and the fall of the USSR.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NEVA BELL

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful Hoosier, Mrs. Neva Bell. Today Neva Bell of Indianapolis, a true daughter of the State of Indiana attains the century mark of 100 years of age.

Born in Monroe, Indiana in 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Fricke, Neva attended Purdue University where she met her future husband Simeon Bell of Portland, the son of a Jay County, Indiana pioneer family. Neva and Simeon Bell both graduated from Purdue, married, and raised three children in Indiana. Neva now has 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Over the years, Neva and Simeon Bell spent countless volunteer hours helping many Indiana institutions like the Indiana State Museum, the Eiteljorg Museum, the 500 Festival, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Neva and Simeon also maintained and improved the Bell family pioneer farm in Jay County, Indiana which is still in the family to this day.

Neva lost her husband in 2005, but that hasn’t stopped her from supporting her loved Indiana organizations. Over a lifetime Neva Bell has epitomized the strong, independent citizen that makes Indiana great.

Let us join together today and wish Neva Bell a very Happy Birthday and a joyful and healthy year.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF DWAYNE AND CAROL CHESNUT

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Dwayne and Carol Chesnut, two dear friends, respected community leaders, generous philanthropists, and loyal Democrats. They have three children, Kay, Michelle, and Mark, and two grandchildren, Darrel and Danielle Jobe.

Carol and Dwayne met as teenagers in high school when, coming out of class, he held the door open for her. Carol responded, “It is good to know that there are still gentlemen and scholars left.” Dwayne was smitten and holds the door for Carol still today.

When Carol and Dwayne were courting in Texas in the early fifties, their favorite song was “Too Young” by Nat King Cole. Its words were prophetic: “This love will last though years may go.” The joy they find in each other spills over into the numerous lives, including my own, which they have touched over the 60 years they have been together.

Congratulations. Here’s to many more good times and sweet memories to come.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM B. BYNUM, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William B. Bynum, Jr., a 25-year higher education professional, who was unanimously selected to be the 7th President of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board on October 8, 2013 and he began his presidency at “The Valley” on November 6, 2013.

A native of Rocky Mount, NC, Dr. Bynum earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Davidson College while on a student-athlete scholarship. While at Davidson, he also minored in Education and passed the National Teachers Exam. He was subsequently licensed and certified to teach Social Studies and Math in North Carolina and Georgia. Dr. Bynum went on to earn his masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from Duke University while serving as a Duke Endowment Fellow. Dr. Bynum was also a member of the inaugural class of the NAFEO-Kellogg Leadership Fellows Program, a yearlong program specifically designed to train the next generation of presidents/chancellors for minority serving institutions, which was led by then NAFEO president—Dr. Frederick Humphries; NAFEO chairman—Dr. Joe Johnson, and executive director—Dr. Arthur Thomas. As part of the program, Dr. Bynum “shadowed” Dr. Harold Martin, then chancellor of Winston-Salem State University and now chancellor of NC A&T State University.

As the 7th President, Dr. Bynum’s vision for the University is to uplift 6 powerful words that are already deeply rooted in “The Valley” culture. The vision is: ONE GOAL. ONE TEAM.

ONE VALLEY. The ONE GOAL is Student Success (increased enrollment, retention and graduation; holistic student development and career advancement); The ONE TEAM is University and Community Stakeholders Working Together; And the ONE VALLEY is students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends actively demonstrating School Pride and Spirituality that is second to none!

Prior to his appointment at MVSU, Dr. Bynum served as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services at Morehouse College (2009–2013), where he was mentored by Morehouse’s 10th president, Dr. Robert Michael Franklin. While serving at Morehouse, Dr. Bynum significantly enhanced student-administration relations, improved the efficiency and effectiveness of student services, started, envisioned and led the initiative which established the Parents Council and implemented the nationally acclaimed Morehouse “Appropriate Attire Policy.”

Prior to Morehouse, Dr. Bynum served as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (2000–2009) at The Lincoln University (PA). During his nine years of service, he was successful in nearly doubling Lincoln’s enrollment and recruited the 4 largest new student classes (900+) in the University’s 150-year history. Dr. Bynum also led the Board-approved Student Enhancement Initiative, which entailed elevating Lincoln from NCAA Division III to NCAA Division II athletics, reactivated Lincoln’s membership in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) conference, returned football to the campus after a 40-year absence and started the University’s first marching band program: “The Orange Crush.” At Lincoln, Dr. Bynum was mentored by Dr. Ivory Nelson, the University’s 12th president, who garnered over \$200 million in capital construction to transform the campus physical plant.

Prior to LU, Dr. Bynum served as the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students at Clark Atlanta University (1993–2000), and he was the number 2 person in the division that recruited the 4 largest classes (1500+) in the then 125-year history of CAU. While at CAU, Dr. Bynum was mentored by and developed strong strategic planning and assessment skills from Dr. Doris Walker Weathers. During his CAU days, Dr. Bynum was nicknamed “Bye-Bye Bynum” for his no-nonsense approach to judicial affairs and enhancing the campus culture and environment.

In addition to his enrollment management and student affairs work, Dr. Bynum has lectured and/or taught as well. He served as the Covington Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Davidson and at Morehouse, he was an adjunct professor in the Leadership Studies program and Sociology department. Dr. Bynum’s other professional experience includes research and teaching positions at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Duke University and Durham and Edgecombe Community Colleges. He started his educational career as a teacher, football and wrestling coach in the Rocky Mount (NC) City School System (1984–87) and the Dekalb County (GA) School System (1987–88). Dr. Bynum has represented his institutions in numerous external programs and at professional conferences, while serving as a presenter or moderator. He has authored refereed articles in professional journals and presented papers with academic and social themes. Trained as