

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to rise today in opposition to H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012.

VAWA has never been a partisan issue until this Congress, and I am disappointed that the safety of women in this country is now a political game to those in charge.

Mr. Speaker, I am a brother, a father and a grandfather.

I want to be a part of a country that believes in protecting and preventing violence towards all people, especially our most vulnerable.

When women and girls feel threatened or are at risk of experiencing violence, it interferes with their ability to pursue an education, employment, or community involvement.

For this reason, I have been a strong supporter of past Violence Against Women bills.

The Violence Against Women Act has been an essential tool in helping to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and to allow women and girls to pursue the American dream.

First passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, VAWA has successfully strengthened enforcement of state and federal anti-violence laws and underwritten effective prevention and victim support programs.

Since VAWA was first signed into law, annual incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 60 percent.

It has been one of the best tools law enforcement, prosecutors, and community service providers have to help protect and support women who have experienced gender violence. The law also streamlines these community programs, saving states and the federal government billions of dollars.

Unfortunately, the version of the bill before us today reverses many of the modest protections in the original bill.

Even worse, this bill goes a step further and outright excludes vulnerable populations such as Native American women, non-citizen women, and LGBT individuals.

Tragically, H.R. 4970 subjects many women to even greater risks of violence and makes it even harder for them to receive the services and programs that should be readily available to them.

Once again, House Republicans are choosing confrontation over compromise.

This Republican bill is opposed by hundreds of groups including law enforcement, civil rights, and faith-based groups and many, many, many of my constituents.

I want only the best for the women in my family and for all of the women in this country.

This bill falls far, far short of the mark.

It does not deserve to be called the "Violence Against Women Act" because it fails to protect the people it claims to serve.

I will be voting against this bill and I urge my colleagues to support all women and reject this terrible legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT MA YING-JEUO ON THE OCCA- SION OF HIS INAUGURATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou for his inauguration on the occasion of the Republic of China's Centennial National Day. This national holiday commemorates the 1911 Wu-ch'ang uprising that ended centuries of monarch rule and led to the birth of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Taiwan and the United States enjoy an important relationship that reflects our two countries' historical, cultural, and economic ties over the last century. While there is no formal relationship between the two countries, the United States and Taiwan continue to be strong partners in trade, cultural and educational exchanges, as well as cooperation in many other areas. In the last three and a half years, the relationship between the United States and Taiwan has grown even stronger. Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in combating global terrorism has earned the trust of the American people and improved our exchanges and enhanced the friendship between our two nations. These relations also include discussions about Taiwan's military needs. A strong Taipei-Washington relationship is in the best interests of both and the stability of East Asia. Last year, we celebrated the 31st anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of the U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Recently, there has been good news about Taiwan's rapprochement with mainland China. Taiwan has concluded 16 agreements with mainland China and each one is based on the principles of parity, dignity, and reciprocity and ensures that Taiwan comes first for the benefit of its people. I sincerely hope that Taiwan and China will continue to work together and cultivate a future based on respect, democracy, and freedom. Again, congratulations to President Ma Ying-jeou on his second inauguration.

IN HONOR OF THE FAMILIES OF THE ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell and the men, women, and families of our Nation's Armed Services.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you a poem, on behalf of Albert, who penned this tribute in recognition of the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men, women, and families of our Nation's Armed Services.

THEY MAKE US WHO WE ARE

(By Albert Caswell)

They
They make us who we are!
For they are the greatest of all shining stars!
As they so make us who we are!
Our loved ones and families
The ones for whom we all so die and bleed!
Yes, they make us who we are!
As we go off to war, we carry them with us
ever far!
The ones who so live with such heartache
and pain
And such worry, wondering if they shall ever
so see us all again
Oh yes, they make us who we are!
Quiet Heroes, out across our heartland one
and all!
The ones now on bended knee, so pray to
Lord to watch over us all so godspeed!
They make us who we are!
The ones who at our grave sides, with tears
in eyes whose hearts now so bleed!
Who have lost their greatest loves of all!
The ones who never had the chance to so say
goodbye!
The ones for whom our Lord's love shall
never die!
As they so make us who we are!
The ones who now at our bedsides who have
so traveled so very far
As we come home from war, half dead and so
full of scars
Carried, now upon us all!
Missing arms and legs in all places, as some-
how they must face this!
For all of them it is so very hard!
As they so help us to beat down death, and
so face so all of this!
As they bless, because they are all in it for
the long haul!
Oh how they so make us who we are!
Providing us with the hope and courage, and
not letting us so get discouraged!
Where, would we and our nation all so be?
If it were but not for such all of these, who
so make us who we are?
Yes, all of our loved ones and families
who all in us do so believe!
And so make us who we are!
Shining ever so brightly, our nation's most
courageous of all stars!
All with such dignity and faith, as they shine
from sea to sea!
As one day up in heaven, they will all so be!
For these are the ones, who have so sent!
So sent, all of their most beloved daughters
and sons off to war!
Husbands and Wives, who live with such deep
pain so deep down inside!
And all our children who so lie awake at
night, and so begin to cry!

• 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.

Who must live with such fear, day in and
night after night!
And all of that death and destruction, that
which war does so make!
Unrelenting . . . our loved ones helping us
to rebuild what war has so taken away!
To once again, To So Make Us What We Are!
Just look at those heroes standing there,
with such honor and such faith and
tears who so care!
Wearing that uniform, with those most cou-
rageous hearts that which beat so
warm!
Who were so raised by those loved ones, who
their souls have so formed!
To make them who they are!
Just, look at all of those husbands and wives,
and children who now must now so cry
. . . .
Who so sent their loved ones off to die . . .
For they all so make this Nation, and our
Country 'Tis of Thee who we are!
America's Shining Stars!
They Make Us Who
We Are!

NATIONAL BLUE ALERT ACT OF
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for a bi-partisan piece of legislation that I am a co-sponsor of, H.R. 365, the National Blue Alert Act of 2012.

The Blue Alert system, similar to the "Amber Alert" system used for abducted children, would operate throughout the United States to quickly disseminate information to law enforcement organizations advising them of when an officer has been seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

Currently, there is no national alert system to distribute this valuable information to law enforcement. In implementing H.R. 365, we can speed up the apprehension of criminals and ensure rapid broadcasting of information to enhance public safety for all of our constituents.

This piece of legislation is deficit neutral and is funded using previously appropriated dollars from the COPS Program. This bill is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, the Sergeants Benevolent Association, the National Sheriff's Association, the National Association of Police Officers, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

In observance of National Police Week, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 365.

HONORING COLIN KANTOR OF THE
CARROLL SENIOR HIGH LATIN
CLUB

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Colin Kantor, a member of the Latin Club at Carroll Senior High School, for his taking first place in the Classical Geography and Monuments competition (Level IV) at the Texas State Junior Classical league convention.

As part of the Junior Classical League, Kantor is among 50,000 students in this worldwide organization. Twenty-two students from the Carroll Senior High Latin Club travelled to participate in the convention held by the Texas chapter in San Antonio in March. The convention hosts a variety of competitions, both academic and cultural, that relate to the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.

A fourth year student of Latin, Colin entered two Level IV competitions at the convention, one in Roman History and another in Classical Geography and Monuments. He demonstrated excellence and studiousness and took home first place in the Geography category. We are very proud of Colin and thankful to Terra Windham for so ably sponsoring him and leading the Latin Club. I am told that the Latin Club at Carroll Senior High is growing in popularity as a result of its successes, and it impresses me that these young people are taking such an astute interest in a language and culture that has such a venerable heritage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Colin Kantor on his earning a state title at the Texas State Junior Classical League convention.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TIRE-
LESS EFFORTS OF MRS. AN-
NETTE WOLFE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise in recognition of the determined efforts made by Mrs. Annette Wolfe over the last 50 years of service to the funeral industry within the great State of New York.

Annette's roots in the funeral industry date back to her grandfather in Yonkers, New York. Continuing the family tradition, her father passed it down to Annette who partnered with her husband, Buddy Wolfe, to become a pioneer in the industry and continue the success of the family business.

A leader among her colleagues, Annette became a masterful fundraiser for multiple notable organizations. Annette created a successful fundraising blueprint for the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association (MetFDA), a respected professional trade organization that has been in operation since 1928. In the 1980's she served as President of the Catholic Cemetery Guild and fundraised for the Catholic Charities of the Brooklyn and Queens Dioceses. Annette also devoted much of her time to fundraising for children's needs during Christmas at the Heartshare organization.

While serving as chair of MetFDA in the late 1970's, Annette derived the concept of an annual outing that would aim to build awareness, increase membership and raise money for the organization. This was no easy take for a strong and outspoken woman among her male colleagues who traditionally dominate the funeral industry. Annette single-handedly introduced several women's programs within the New York State Funeral Directors Association and the National Funeral Directors Association.

After much perseverance and dedication, Annette was able to organize the first golf

classic for MetFDA in 1979. Over the last thirty years, the proceeds from what has now become an annual tradition, continues to support education seminars for funeral directors, produce the organizations monthly newsletter, assist members with their needs, and maintains three resource centers for members, consumers, and for industry advocacy. Last year's golf classic fundraiser, delivered \$50,000 in income for the MetFDA.

With more than 50 years of service in the funeral service industry, Annette continues to remain active with various industry associations working as a knowledgeable and respected consultant. It is with great joy, Mr. Speaker, that I ask that you and my fellow colleagues join me in celebration of this year's honoree, Ms. Annette Wolfe for her 50 years of service to my beloved Harlem community and the State of New York. She is truly an encouraging figure that has always provided exceptional support to the funeral industry both local and national levels.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. KENNETH
CAPSHAW

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kenneth Capshaw, a fellow El Pasoan and high school band director who has spent his life educating El Paso's young people and children and instilling in them an appreciation for music. He has also been a member of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra for 30 years, not only extending his knowledge of music to younger generations, but the entire community as well.

Mr. Capshaw has been a band director for over 20 years, 15 of which were spent at Coronado High School. Under his leadership, the Coronado High School band has become one of the most successful band programs in the State of Texas.

Capshaw has been recognized many times for his achievements in music education, including receiving the Legion of Honor Award from the John Phillip Sousa Foundation and the Meritorious Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association.

Not only is he recognized nationally in the field of music education, but he is highly respected and admired by the music community and scores of young people in El Paso.

Mr. Capshaw has touched the lives of many students in his career. They could be the custodian's daughter or the surgeon's son, or have a physical disability. His sole focus was always to develop each of his students' musical talents and character, teaching them the values of hard work, responsibility and working together to achieve excellence.

Fine Arts is a subject very important to our children's education, and many studies demonstrate that students of musical education programs often have higher academic achievement. Music education, particularly when directed by a dedicated and caring musical director like Kenneth Capshaw, encourages motivation and teamwork among participants along with individual excellence.

Today I recognize Mr. Capshaw and thank him for the many years he has spent educating our children and making beautiful music

for our community, and I wish him and his wife the best of luck in retirement. God bless you, Mr. Capshaw.

HONORING THE CARROLL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WINTERGUARD CHAMPIONS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Carroll Senior High School winterguard for winning first place in the Scholastic Triple-A Purple Division on March 30 in Forney, Texas.

In Texas when the members of the colorguard finish their duties with the high school football season, their own season is just beginning as they transition to winterguard competition. From November through March the winterguard practices most days of the week, often hours per day, perfecting the team's choreography. This year, their centerpiece dance and performance was set to Eva Cassidy's cover of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters".

Capping off a season of commendable dedication and hard work, the Carroll winterguard took home first place in the Scholastic Triple-A Purple Division, with a competition in Forney, Texas, where they earned 71.7 points. The students who carried on their school's strong tradition this year were Captain Nicole Elledge, Lieutenant Captain Mikaela Heming, Lieutenant Captain Mallory Wyatt, Gabrielle Allen, Nick Conard, Ann Dahl, Gabrielle Earley, Maher Gill, Caitlin Gillum, Emma Harding, Kim Hardy, Savannah Hensley, Morgan Howell, Haley Hurlburt, Olivia Jolley, Paige Lepp, and Amy Rasmussen. They were led by director Pam Randall and assisted by Amy Keller.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the young people of the Carroll Senior High varsity winterguard on their accomplishments in Scholastic Triple-A Purple Division competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 254, due to a constituent meeting that went long, I wasn't able to make this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."