Ms. Ita M. Neymotin Regional Counsel 2nd District is very honored that The Honorable United States Congressman Francis Rooney congratulated her in the UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - Extensions of Remarks on her appointment as The Chair of The Florida Bar's Committee on Professionalism.



EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PFC ROBERT WALKER, U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of PFC Robert Walker who celebrates 100 years of life on June 25, 2020.

Mr. Walker hails from Spokane, Washington, and worked many jobs before a call to serve his country during its hour of need inspired him to join the Marine Corps. After completing basic training and being assigned to the 4th Marine Division, he was sent to the Pacific Theatre where he fought in the battle for Iwo Jima from February 19, until March 4, 1945.

On March 4, 1945, Mr. Walker was severely wounded by shrapnel and immediately evacuated to Hawaii to be given proper medical care. On September 28, 1945, Mr. Walker was discharged from the Marines and began his civilian life again. His wife of over 50 years, Betty, whom he met in San Francisco where he spent most of his life prior to the war, was waiting for him when he returned.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest and most ferociously fought battles of World War II. Mr. Walker was one of nearly 70,000 Marines who bravely battled entrenched Japanese forces knowing full well that casualties would be high.

For his service, Mr. Walker was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with star, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. After his decorated service in the Marine Corps, Mr. Walker began working for the California Department of Motor Vehicles where he retired from a supervising position.

Mr. Walker has said that one of the happiest days of his life was when he was released from the Marine Corps, but he will also testify that his time in the Corps changed and defined his life. The phrase, "once a Marine, always a Marine" comes to mind when one thinks of the valiant heart and storied life of our friend, Robert Francis Walker.

HONORING LORNA C. HILL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Lorna C. Hill, who is the founder of Ujima Theatre Co. in Buffalo, NY and has been a leader in the Western New York community for many decades.

Ms. Hill has broken all types of barriers throughout her life. She was the first woman accepted into Dartmouth College, graduating in 1973. For this accomplishment, Ms. Hill has been honored by the Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association and the Office of the Dean of the College with a celebration in her name. After earning her bachelor's degree, Hill pursued her M.A. in Theatre at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1978.

In 1978, Ms. Hill founded the Ujima Theatre Company currently located on the West Side of Buffalo. Through the years, Ujima has been a center for cultural acceptance, justice, and racial equality, as well as a hub for artistic vision, especially within the African American community. Ms. Hill continued her career in theatre and the arts as a poet, playwright, and performing on stage, in commercials, and in television.

While operating Ujima Theatre Co., Ms. Hill continued to share her artistic and theatrical talents at the Buffalo Academy of Visual and Performing Arts. As a dedicated public school teacher from 2008 to 2015, Ms. Hill touched the lives of her many students. Her passion for the art of storytelling fused perfectly with her role as an educator.

For her entire adult life, Ms. Hill fought for the rights of women and people of color. Ms. Hill is looked up to by many for her entrepreneurial spirit, service to Western New York, and dedication to cultural theatre and the arts. As such, she has been honored and awarded for her work by a multitude of local organizations including Buffalo Business First, Community Action Organization of Erie County, Erie County Chapter of the Links, YWCA, YMCA, Grass Roots, Inc., Zonta Club, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Artvoice, Arts Council, National Organization for Women, National Conference for Community and Justice, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Buffalo Urban League, Inc., The Women for Human Rights and Dignity Inc., and Langston Hughes Institute.

Ms. Hill's most cherished accomplishment is raising two children, Amilcar Cabral and Zoë Viola, as a single head of household.

Madam Speaker, I take this moment to recognize Lorna C. Hill, a dedicated performer, director, artist, community servant and educator. Her work and presence created an irreplaceable legacy that is felt deeply throughout Western New York and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE CHARLES LLOYD ELLOIE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Judge Charles Lloyd Elloie, a retired Orleans Parish Criminal Court judge, who passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at the age of 82.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 6, 1938 to Joseph and Elizabeth Fredricks Elloie, Judge Elloie was one of five children and was raised in the Lafitte Public Housing Development. A Pullman porter, his father worked on the Sunset Limited railroad while his mother was a domestic worker.

A student of public school throughout grade school, Judge Elloie attended Dillard University and graduated with a BA degree in Education. He was the first of five in his family to graduate from college. Following his graduation from 1960 to 1966, he served as a biology and math teacher in the Orleans Parish School System.

After his tenure teaching, Judge Elloie became an agent for the Prudential Insurance Company where he became the first African American hired in his region. In this role, he was successful in assisting individuals and expanding this critical service to many who did not have access prior. However, despite his success, he still yearned to address some of the unsettling societal inequalities he had seen and experienced throughout his life.

Naturally, Judge Elloie's desire to make an impact in his community led him to get involved in New Orleans politics. In 1968, he pursued a seat on the local school board, but ultimately fell short. However, he stayed determined and refused to allow this loss to deter him.

In 1969, Judge Elloie founded the Community Organization for Urban Politics (COUP) in partnership with his close friend, Attorney Robert Collins. Almost immediately, COUP became extremely influential in New Orleans and particularly powerful in the 6th and 7th wards.

That same year, he ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives, but just a few years later he served as Assistant to the Mayor and Director of Youth Opportunities. In those roles, he successfully promoted political engagement, provided recreational and workforce opportunities for young people, and held politicians accountable to ensure they addressed obstacles faced by people of color both economically and socially.

Prior to the election of former Louisiana Governor Edwin W. Edwards, Judge Elloie worked on his campaign and served as Assistant to the Governor from 1972 to 1975. Upon his departure, he ran for State Representative to represent an uptown district, but unfortunately did not garner enough votes needed to win.

Soon after, Judge Elloie decided to enroll in Southern University Law Center to pursue a career in law. During his tenure as a student, he served as Student Bar Association President. Upon graduating in 1979, Judge Elloie was prepared to become a legal servant of the people.

Beginning in 1980, for sixteen years Judge Elloie had a successful criminal law practice. His legal knowledge, his ability to connect with people, and his passionate pursuit of justice and equity for his clients all played key roles in his career as an effective criminal lawyer.

In 1995, Judge Elloie ran a successful campaign for the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court judge. In 2002, he was re-elected without opposition for a second term. In 2007,

● 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.

Judge Elloie retired following a tenure of service that brought justice and provided numerous opportunities for second chances, all while making his courtroom accessible to the community.

Judge Elloie lived an extraordinary life, founded on bringing justice for all, that cannot be overstated. He was dedicated to elevating his community, maximizing his potential, and being an agent for social change. Judge Elloie was a trailblazer and his life, legacy, and spirit will remain a guiding force to the city of New Orleans. I am grateful for his service. I send my sincere prayers, condolences, and strength to the Elloie family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.

Judge Charles Lloyd Elloie is survived by his wife of more than 30 years, Dr. Pearlie Hardin Elloie, two sons, Charles L. Elloie, Jr. and Joseph C. Elloie, one brother, Wilbur Ronald Elloie, nine grandchildren, one great grandchild, numerous nephews, nieces, family members, friends, and colleagues. Judge Elloie was a member of the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church, serving as Lector. He was also a life-time member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Judge Charles Lloyd Elloie.

ITA NEYMOTIN

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ita Neymotin on her appointment to be the chair of the Florida Bar's Committee on Professionalism, following her nomination by Florida Bar President Dori Foster Morales.

Ms. Neymotin has an outstanding career in litigation in both the public and private sector. Beginning her career as a prosecutor for the state's attorneys office, Ita has prosecuted a wide variation of cases over the course of her career. In recent years she has been a member of the Committee on Professionalism. Ms. Neymotin currently serves as Regional Counsel of the office of Criminal Conflict, and Civil Regional Counsel for the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Ft. Myers, Florida.

I am confident that Ms. Neymotin will continue to uphold the law with the utmost standards and will be a great asset to the Florida Bar as it oversees nearly 107,000 attorneys in the State of Florida.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL PENALUNA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Michael Penaluna, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Denton, Texas. Mr. Penaluna is retiring after serving the public for over thirty years.

Penaluna began his education at North Central Texas College, where he earned his Associate of Science degree and training as an Emergency Medical Technician. He served an internship with the City of Bowie and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Management from the University of North Texas (UNT) in 1988. This milestone was the foundation for two of his lifelong professional passions: Emergency Management and the University of North Texas. His first position in this field was with the Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in Shreveport, Louisiana. During his fifteen year tenure with this department, he rose to the position of Assistant Director, served as President of the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, and earned a Masters degree at Louisiana Baptist University & Theological Seminary.

The second chapter in Penaluna's career began in 2004, when he becamed the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Denton. Over the next fifteen years, he was instrumental in broadening and strengthening the city's Emergency Management Program. Penaluna is well-respected by his peers, and he has served as Chair of the Denton Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee and Co-Chair of the North Central Texas Council of Government's Emergency Management Working Group. He has been a sought after guest lecturer at UNT and Texas Woman's University.

Penaluna has been an esteemed mentor and intern supervisor for many students over the years who are now his professional colleagues. In 2015, he was recognized by UNT as the Outstanding Alumnus in Emegency Administration & Planning. Penaluna's legacy will continue to shine brightly as his namesake Michael A. Penaluna Endowed Scholarship in Emergency Administration & Planning at UNT will afford many more students the opportunity to train for the profession he holds so dear.

Throughout his career, Michael Penaluna dedicated over three decades of his life to public service. His expertise and leadership will be sorely missed not only by the citizens of Denton, but also by his colleagues across Texas and beyond. He has truly been an outstanding public servant, and on behalf of the 26th District, I wish him all the best in retirement.

SWITZERLAND IS UNIQUE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the United States of America is grateful for the partnership with the leadership of the Swiss Confederation in partnership with our shared resolve to eradicate the Wuhan Virus.

The Swiss Confederation worked tirelessly through the leadership of the Federal Council, notably Minister of Health, Alain Berset; Foreign Minister, Ignazio Cassis; Minister of Finance, Ueli Mauer and Minister of Economics, Guy Parmelin. Their efforts to end the pandemic, stabilize the economy, and lead through the principles of freedom and democracy enable the United States and Swiss business, scientific, and economic leaders to work together for vaccine, cures, ventilators, masks, and other critical lifesaving efforts. The Cantonal leadership was also a testament to the success of federalism that the United States and The Swiss Confederation historically share.

The Swiss Confederation is recognized as an international leader in the fight against the pandemic and its Spietz lab has made valuable contributions to the international research that made this recognition possible. Americans are grateful to the people and the Confederation of Switzerland for their unique contribution in fighting this tragic pandemic.

The partnership of Switzerland and the United States is enhanced with the dynamic leadership of Ambassador Ed McMullen, appointed by President Donald Trump.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, after consulting with physicians about traveling during the COVID–19 pandemic, I was not able to make it to Washington for this vote, but I would have voted NO on H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020. Instituting common-sense police reforms is a bipartisan goal, but this bill is unfortunately an exercise in partisan politics. I continue to support the JUSTICE Act put forth by Senator TIM SCOTT, which contains many bipartisan reform measures, and urge the Speaker to bring it before the House for a vote.

RAE ANN WESSEL

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, and longtime Southwest Florida environmental Advocate Rae Ann Wessel on her retirement today from the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Over the course of her entire career, and especially during her 14 year tenure at the SCCF, Rae Ann has worked tirelessly for the ecosystems of southwest Florida and was major advocate for clean water after the harmful Blue Green Algae Blooms ravaged the precious marine ecosystems, estuaries, and fisheries of the Southwest Florida coastline, as well as being a major factor in restoring Southwest Florida's natural wetlands.

On behalf of myself and the citizens of the Florida 19th Congressional District, and the rest of the Southwest Florida community, we are extremely grateful for the tireless, and resolute work Rae Ann has done to clean up the Environment of not only Southwest Florida, but of the entire State of Florida.

I thank Rae, and we wish her a long, joyful, and blessed retirement.