

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REN HARRIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ren Harris, the 2021 Napa Valley Grape Grower of the Year, for his accomplishments and contributions toward our community.

Born in 1941 in San Francisco, Harris is a sixth generation Californian. After attending Napa Valley College, the University of San Francisco, the University of California Davis and the University of Bordeaux, Mr. Harris began his career in the wine community in 1967 as a grape grower and vintner. In the late 1960's, Mr. Harris and his wife Marilyn moved from San Francisco to Oakville and began planting grapes on what was once a prune orchard. By 1975, they had successfully created the Paradigm brand, which is known and loved by residents throughout Napa Valley today.

Mr. Harris's contributions to the wine community extend far beyond Paradigm Winery. His leadership within the industry is exemplary, having served as the President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, Council Member of the California Growers Board, Director of the Napa Valley CoOp Winery, and both President and Director of the Oakville Winegrowers. Additionally, he was the founder of both the Napa Valley Grape Growers and the California Grower Foundation.

Perhaps the best testament to Mr. Harris's dedication to Napa Valley and his fellow viticulturalists is his extensive work throughout his career advocating for the protection of Napa Valley's land, workforce, and community. Through the California Grower Foundation, he was able to help improve the working conditions of viticulturalists as well as establish affordable healthcare access for farmworkers. These contributions have made a lasting impact on Napa Valley and beyond.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Harris is a community member we should all strive to be. His passion for viticulture and dedication to his grape growing community make him deserving of the Napa Valley Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Ren Harris here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERBERT KALINER

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great man, Herbert Kaliner, who passed away on June 1st at the age of 94.

Herb was a cherished member of the Miami community. One of the last living survivors of Kristallnacht and the SS *St. Louis*, Herb was widely known and respected for his decades of engagement with community groups, schools, churches, and synagogues. He was a ubiquitous presence as a teacher and docent at the Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach, where he spent every Saturday leading tours and educating generations of visitors about the Holocaust.

Born in Germany, Herb was just 12 when he and his family fled the Nazi regime on "the Voyage of the Damned," the tragic ocean liner which was forced to return to Europe in 1939 after being turned away from the United States, Cuba, and Canada. When the ship returned to Europe, about 250 of the passengers were killed in the Holocaust, including Herb's parents and two sisters. "We were so close to Miami Beach, I could see it," Herb told the Miami Herald in 1997. "I said to my parents, 'Someday, I'll come back here.'"

Despite the odds, Herb survived the Nazi invasion of France by hiding in the woods and working under false papers. In 1949 he immigrated to Miami and would go on to serve admirably in the Korean War, open a bakery, marry the love of his life, and raise a wonderful family.

Herb dedicated much of the latter part of his life to advocating for the rights, interests, and needs of Holocaust survivors, especially those living in poverty. As a member of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA Executive Committee, he often met with elected national political and communal leaders, even testifying before Congress to ensure the rights of Holocaust survivors to live in dignity. Despite the tragedy he endured, Herb never let his commitment to justice waiver and is an enduring example of commitment, leadership, and service. He will be deeply missed.

Herb is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Vera; his daughters Debbie and Michelle; son-in-law Amir; and three grandchildren, Jessica, Zachary, and Jonah.

RECOGNITION OF MS. ALTHEA MARGARET DAILY MILLS

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills is an unsung hero in the fight for desegregation in Florida. Ms. Mills began her education in Pughsville, Winter Haven's first Black community. When she was 13, she moved to Pennsylvania to live with her aunt. There, she was able to attend integrated schools. In 1963, Mills filed a lawsuit against the Polk County Board of Public Instruction to end the "dual school system" and allow her son to attend the then, all-white, Winter Haven High School. This lawsuit eventually led to the integration of all Polk County public schools.

When asked about her motivation to challenge the system, Mills would later say "Our instructors were just as good, but some of my son's textbooks would go to page 3 and then skip to page 35. You can't learn like that."

Ms. Mills also was the first black career employee of the United States Postal Service in Winter Haven and eventually became manager of the Florence Villa Post Office. But as the first Black postal worker, her career was not easy. At one point, Ms. Mills was transferred to another post office, in an area known to be unwelcoming to Black people, in an effort to get her to quit. While the move was intimidating, she once recalled that her worst day was when a Black patron refused to buy stamps from her because she was Black.

Although Ms. Mills passed away in 2008, her legacy lives on. C.A. Boswell, Jr., the longtime attorney for the Polk County School Board, said of his former opponent, "She was a good lady and had the best interests of the kids at heart, it was a different time. It took some brave people to hold that thing (the lawsuit) up."

The recognition of Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills is all the more special as we do it on June 17, 2021, on the first recognition of Juneteenth as a National Holiday. This Juneteenth is the 155th anniversary of the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

General Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3 in Galveston, Texas which announced the freedom of the last American slaves.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes and work for wages . . .

By the reading of this order two-hundred and fifty thousand slaves were freed nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

We thank Ms. Althea Margaret Daily Mills on this special day and appreciate her efforts to make our community a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, in honor of Building Safety Month, I am pleased to recognize the importance of safety in the built environment and the dedication of the members of the International Code Council (ICC) to their roles in protecting our communities.

• 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.

members of the International Code Council (ICC) to their roles in protecting our communities.

With natural disasters only expected to increase in frequency and severity, building codes include important safeguards to protect the public from tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, ice and snowstorms, wildland fires, and earthquakes. Last November, FEMA released, "Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study" and found that implementing modern building codes could save \$600 billion in disaster spending by 2060. This further confirmed findings from the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) that show adopting modern model building codes save \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with a \$4 to \$1 wildfire mitigation benefit. These benefits represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs, and are enjoyed by all building stakeholders—from developers, titleholders, and lenders, to tenants and communities.

Vulnerable and underserved populations are most affected by increases in utility costs, and they often have the most to lose in the event of a disaster or health emergency. Building codes establish minimum requirements that ensure safe, resilient, and energy efficient schools, childcare and healthcare facilities, housing, and places of employment.

Year round, building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, plumbers, builders, tradespeople, laborers, and others in the construction industry work to ensure the safe construction of buildings through the use of model building codes. The dedicated members of the International Code Council, a national standards developing organization, come together with local, state and federal officials to develop voluntary consensus codes that protect us in the buildings where we worship, live, work, learn, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities and counties and in all 50 states, including the State of Kansas. I commend Johnson County, which makes up a large portion of my district, for recently adopting the 2018 International Codes.

During the pandemic, building and fire prevention departments' essential work has ensured that healthcare centers are structurally sound and capable of withstanding natural disasters, and that temporary healthcare facilities providing medical surge capacity are built and maintained to protect occupant safety. These officials enforce state, local, and federal regulations that require adequate ventilation and sanitization. More broadly, code officials protect the health and welfare of building occupants to prevent dangerous sanitary, air quality, structural, or electrical hazards.

In a Presidential Proclamation designating May 2021 as Building Safety Month, President Biden stated, "Investing in our infrastructure and adopting and implementing modern building codes are the most effective mitigation measures communities can undertake." Building Safety Month was sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' code officials in assuring us safe, efficient, and livable buildings. This year's Building Safety Month theme was, "Prevent, Prepare, Protect. Building Codes Save" and it encouraged all of us to raise awareness of the importance of

safe and resilient construction, fire prevention, sanitation, disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board President Greg Wheeler, as well as ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff for recognizing Building Safety Month.

AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE
(AHI) TESTIMONY ON FISCAL
YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS
BILL

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks from the American Hellenic Institute on the Administration's proposed FY2022 foreign aid budget and U.S. interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. In promoting peace and stability in this critical region, Congress must authorize robust, America-first security assistance to our democratic allies in the Eastern Mediterranean—Greece and Cyprus. Any security assistance which counters U.S. interests, to Turkey and UN "Peacekeeping" efforts in Cyprus, namely, will only serve to advance instability and ideological expansionism in this region. Greece and Cyprus are key allies of our Nation, and we must continue to support their security for years to come.

TESTIMONY OF NICK LARIGAKIS, PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE (AHI), FISCAL
YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, SUBMITTED
TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(By Nick Larigakis)

I am pleased to submit testimony to the House on behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) on the Administration's proposed FY2022 foreign aid budget.

The Administration's budget aims to confront 21st century security challenges. The budget's vision for the United States is to ensure it ". . . plays a lead role in defending democracy, freedom, and the rule of law" by recommending a significant increase in resources to: "strengthen and defend democracies throughout the world; advance human rights; fight corruption; and counter authoritarianism."

In keeping with the best interests of the United States, AHI opposes: (1) any proposed foreign aid and assistance to Turkey from the United States; (2) any proposed reduction in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

Further, AHI recommends an FY2022 funding level of \$1.5 million for NATO ally Greece's International Military Education and Training (IMET) program as authorized for appropriation in The Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act. The Act also authorized \$500,000 for the Republic of Cyprus' IMET program for FY2022, which AHI recommends. In 2020, the U.S. Department of State provided, for the first time, IMET program funding for the Republic of Cyprus. AHI welcomed this policy development, and urges that this policy be continued.

Finally, AHI recommends robust investment for Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

assistance for Greece, in the amount of at least \$10 million, due to its strategic importance to the United States as the House will see presented in this testimony. The East Med Act authorized appropriations of \$3 million for FMF assistance in FY2020.

U.S. Interests in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. The U.S. has important interests in southeast Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. It is in the United States' best interest for the region to be politically, economically, and socially stable, and for democratic principles to flourish, including adherence to the rule of law. Significant commerce and energy sources pass through the region. With Greece's centuries of enduring presence, its close cultural, political, and economic ties to the Mediterranean countries, including Israel; Western Europe, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Greece is strategically situated in a vital region to be an ideal strategic partner for the U.S.

America Values Its Alliance with Greece. Greece is an immensely valuable link as "a pillar of stability" in the region as several high-level U.S. government officials have noted. The U.S.-Greece relationship has reached new heights by virtue of an ongoing Strategic Dialogue, where avenues for cooperation among many sectors, including: regional cooperation, defense and security, and trade and investment, among others, are plotted for implementation. Greece is a pivotal and dependable NATO ally to advance U.S. interests and is a frontline state against terrorism. The Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement between the United States and Greece illustrates the two allies' commitment to address over a longer term the security challenges in the region. The Agreement currently is under revision. After it is upgraded, it will offer more flexibility to deepen cooperation in the defense sector, according to Greece's Minister of Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos. For its part, Greece further demonstrates its commitment to the Alliance as a top contributor to the defense efforts of NATO. Greece is estimated to spend 2.68% of its GDP on defense expenditures in 2020 in accordance with NATO standards despite battling economic challenges. By percentage of GDP, Greece is second to the U.S.

Greece is also important for the projection of U.S. strategic interests by being home to the most important U.S. military facility in the Mediterranean Sea, Souda Bay, Crete. It is a base from where joint USN/USAF reconnaissance missions and air refueling support for U.S. and NATO operations were implemented successfully, and it continues to be immensely important. In 2020, the United States homeported the Expeditionary Sea Base ship, the USS *Hershel "Woody" Williams*, at Souda Bay, assisting the U.S. armed forces in maritime missions and special operations in both Europe and North Africa. Military installations located at Souda Bay include the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC) and the NATO Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI). To illustrate Souda Bay's importance, these figures show the volume of operations conducted there:

In 2020, at least 90 U.S. and 40 NATO (total 130) ships made a port visit at Souda Bay.

It also has been noted by U.S. government officials how Souda Bay allows United States Navy vessels—especially aircraft carriers—the ability to dock, make needed repairs and maintenance, and resupply, all within a couple of weeks and without having to return to Naval Station Norfolk. According to U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, in a March, 20, 2021 statement: "Souda Bay is the jewel in the crown of US-Greece defense cooperation . . . the unique capacities the