

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING YORDENIS UGÁS
HERNÁNDEZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Yordenis Ugás Hernández for his exceptional athletic accomplishments, fierce patriotism, and dedication to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people.

Mr. Ugás said on August 12, 2021, "I'm a fighter not only inside of the ring, but outside of the ring; I fight for the freedom of my people. That's the most important thing to me. I hope that all those who fight for freedom in Cuba are safe and know that I will fight for them on Saturday, August 21." He also stated that, "I'm dedicating this fight to all my fellow Cubans fighting for freedom every day. I want to make history for my legacy and for all the Cubans around the world. This will be huge for the entire Latin community." Mr. Ugás reportedly listened to the pro-freedom Cuban song "Patria y Vida" ("Homeland and Life") when heading into the ring for the fight, and went on to win that boxing match against long-time champion, Manny Pacquiao. After his historic win, he exclaimed, "Homeland and Life, Homeland and Life, not Homeland or Death," which is a phrase that has become a mantra for Cuba's pro-democracy movement.

Mr. Ugás is not just a fighter in the ring; he is a freedom fighter. He survived being sent to a Cuban prison, which was a punishment he endured simply for attempting to escape oppression. He ultimately was able to enter the United States in 2010. Since then, not only has Mr. Ugás thrived in his field, but he has become an inspiration to people seeking freedom all over the world.

Madam Speaker, I admire this talented and spirited athlete who left Cuba, but has never left the Cuban people. He has repeatedly expressed his solidarity with those brave leaders and activists on the island who are risking everything for liberty. Mr. Ugás has inspired a new generation of Cubans both in Cuba and in exile, and I commend him for his fierce dedication and potency—both inside and outside the ring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADISON CAWTHORN

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, during the process of voting proxy, there was a human error made, which unfortunately reflected a no vote. My vote should have reflected yes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 10.

FIREFIGHTER BENJAMIN POLSON

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to offer our deepest condolences to the Polson family and friends on the loss of firefighter Benjamin James Polson, a dear member of our St. Louis community and Engine House 13.

Benjamin Polson was courageous. Every day he went to work with the goal of saving lives, and our St. Louis community is indebted to him for his commitment to that work. As Congresswoman for Missouri's First District, I am deeply honored to represent Engine House 13, and I, like so many of our neighbors, am forever grateful to Mr. Polson. Like his father, a retired fire captain, and his mother, an elementary school teacher, Mr. Polson lived a life dedicated to the care and service of his community, joining the St. Louis Fire Department in 2019. He will undoubtedly be missed by everyone who loved him, and his legacy will live on through his family, friends, and colleagues. St. Louis will never forget Mr. Polson's relentless dedication to our city as a first responder.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JAMES
RAEBEL

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude, and the gratitude of all Central Washingtonians, to Detective Sergeant James A. Raebel, and to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

During his more than forty years of service with the Pasco Police Department, Det. Sgt. Raebel has truly embodied what it means to "serve and protect", working as a K-9 handler, an undercover narcotics officer, a detective, and a sergeant. Because of his work, the Pasco community truly was safer.

Without dedicated public servants like Det. Sgt. Raebel, our Republic, which is sustained by a system of law and order, and our very way of life could not endure.

I wish Det. Sgt. Raebel the very best as he enters this next chapter of his life. I commend him on a lifetime of service to his friends, family, and neighbors, and on behalf of all Central Washingtonians, I thank him for his service.

HONORING THE SPIRITED
LEADERSHIP OF DEBBIE MACCOY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a bright light on the ultimate example of leadership set by a resident of eastern Connecticut's second district, Debbie MacCoy. For more than six years, Debbie has been on the front lines of the crumbling foundations crisis affecting the State of Connecticut, and now we know, the State of Massachusetts as well. Throughout this crisis, Debbie has acted as a leading figure on the issue, dedicating countless hours in advocacy, education, and communication with local, state, and federal leaders, leading researchers, and international communities impacted by similar crises. Debbie has operated as a volunteer throughout this entire period and will soon retire from her role as one of the pre-eminent community advocates on this issue.

In part due to Debbie's leadership, hundreds of families have now been able to remain in their home with a remodeled foundation, with thousands more in the pipeline.

Organizing purely from a grassroots level, Debbie left her career of more than 30 years to allow the time necessary to focus on the issue of crumbling foundations. Each week, she has poured through correspondence from homeowners writing to her under duress seeking guidance or assistance.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as dedicated as Debbie. I have had the privilege of knowing her personally for many years and can attest to her compassion for others and her high ethical standards in the way she conducts herself in the community. If it were not for advocates like her, there would be far fewer solutions available to those affected by this crisis. I am grateful for Debbie's fierce example of altruism and her decades-long friendship. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in memorializing Deborah MacCoy's efforts, setting them further into stone and thanking her for all those who have benefitted from those efforts. Debbie will forever be a "concrete queen" for Connecticut residents. I thank her.

REMEMBERING LAWRENCE
BROOKS, 112-YEAR-OLD WWII
VETERAN

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I remember Lawrence Brooks of New Orleans, the United States' oldest living World War II veteran, who was laid down in his eternal resting place on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at the age of 112.

• 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.