EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), which will celebrate its 80th anniversary in November of this year.

Since its inception in 1940, IADC has grown into one of the world's largest non-profit trade associations, now boasting over 1,000 members across six continents. Members include companies involved in oil and gas drilling, production, well servicing, oilfield manufacturing, and other rig-site services.

As the Chairman of the Oil & Gas Caucus, I am proud to recognize IADC for 80 incredible years of promoting safety and innovation and for its continued commitment to advocacy and education. By convening conferences, issuing publications, offering accreditation courses, and hosting seven Student Chapters, IADC is supporting workers and cultivating the next generation of leaders in the industry.

IADC and its members value community engagement and recognize the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and conventional energy production. IADC continues to invest in education, innovation and research to ensure its members are informed, adaptable, and responsible stewards.

Madam Speaker, for the last eight decades, the International Association of Drilling Contractors has done yeoman's work, and that deserves recognition. I am confident that this organization will continue leading the charge to fuel our world in a responsible and safe way in the decades to come.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JON A. JENSEN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Jon A. Jensen on his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard.

Major General Jensen has led a dedicated life of service to our military and the American people. After graduating from the Northwest Missouri State University, he earned his commission from the United States Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia. He has served in a variety of command and staff positions in the Iowa and Minnesota Army National Guards—including commands at all levels of Minnesota's storied 34th Red Bull Infantry Division—and earned a master's degree from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

Following his graduate studies, Major General Jensen served in military operations around the globe, deploying to Kuwait in 2001 as a Major, and Iraq in 2007 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He also served as Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Africa.

Since returning home, Major General Jensen has delivered steadfast leadership as the 31st Adjutant General of Minnesota's National Guard. While our state will feel the loss of Major General Jensen's presence, we are fortunate to see his years of dedication and service elevate him to this prestigious post.

Thank you, Major General Jensen, for your friendship and service to Minnesota. I wish you, your wife Cindy, and your entire family all the best in your new role. Our nation is safer because of you.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment to encourage the United States Postal Service Inspector General to investigate and take corrective action on serious mail delivery problems in Chicago.

For the last several years, I have heard frustrating stories from my constituents about serious deficiencies in mail delivery. These breakdowns in mail service are particularly bad in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood in Chicago, but are also present in Beverly, Morgan Park, and Scottsdale. Many constituents have reported that they have gone days without receiving their mail, and that they have been treated disrespectfully when visiting the post office to inquire about their mail. These problems have not been rectified despite a town hall meeting I organized with USPS officials last year, and other follow on efforts.

While COVID–19 is undoubtedly a burden on USPS operations, the problems in my community have been ongoing for years. Additionally, recent media reports have indicated that poor mail delivery is not isolated within my district, but instead has impacted much of Chicago.

In these challenging times, reliable mail and package delivery is critical for our communities to function. Constituents may be expecting tax refunds, stimulus payments, prescription drugs, and forms for unemployment insurance and other assistance programs, just to name a few essential items that arrive by mail.

My amendment directs the USPS Inspector General to conduct an independent investigation since USPS has been unresponsive to my constituents' concerns. It's well past time to take action to improve mail delivery in my district and in Chicago once and for all. USPS leadership must improve service across Chicago to restore public trust in the institution and ensure that essential items arrive on time.

REMEMBERING THE LYNCHING OF BENJAMIN THOMAS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Benjamin Thomas, a young African American man who was lynched by an angry white mob just down the road from this Capitol in Alexandria, Virginia one hundred and twenty-one years ago. He was accused of assaulting a young white girl but was never given the chance to defend himself. During the evening of August 8, 1899, Thomas was pulled out of a city jail by a large crowd. He was bound with a rope and dragged six blocks to a lamppost on the corner of King and Fairfax Street. He was then stripped of his clothes and hanged. Before dispersing, the mob proceeded to shoot his body several times. No one was ever charged for this heinous crime.

The lynching of Benjamin Thomas is only one of 86 documented lynchings committed in Virginia between 1880 and 1930. These acts of premeditated violence were deliberate attempts by whites to terrorize and control black populations across the state. While the local black community of Alexandria was outraged in the wake of Thomas' death, fear of additional white violence prevented any further action. This was often the case, as members of these mobs rarely faced any consequences for their actions, or worse were implicitly or explicitly supported by members of law enforcement.

It is incumbent on all of us, particularly those born into privilege, to remember this shameful episode of our history and others like it. In doing so, we are better able to see the continuous chain of racially motivated violence against black Americans that spans our nation's history. We can truly honor the memory of Benjamin Thomas along with the countless number of named and unnamed victims of racial violence by seeking justice for all Americans and working to build a more inclusive society.

HONORING VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY AND THE WORK OF THE HILLMAN VFW POST 2356

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the observance of Victory over Japan (V–J) Day and the efforts of VFW Post 2356 in Hillman, Michigan.

● 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.