

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BILL COSBY, WINNER OF THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE FOR HUMOR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a hometown hero and constituent of mine—the distinguished and very funny Philadelphian, William Henry Cosby, Jr.

Bill Cosby has been tickling the nation's funny-bone and prodding its conscience throughout his adult life. He has won a trophy room of honors, but none like this one. Bill Cosby's talents and his insight have earned him the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, awarded by the Kennedy Center on October 26, 2009. The star-studded and laugh-filled presentation will be shown on PBS nationally on Wednesday, November 4, always one of PBS's most popular and acclaimed programs.

Bill Cosby—aka Heathcliff Huxtable, friend of Fat Albert, “America's Dad”—is no stranger to the nation's viewers and comedy fans. Less well known, but looming large in terms of character and values, is the Bill Cosby who has served as role model, activist, educator, author, anti-violence crusader, fundraiser and valued citizen of his native Philadelphia.

Bill Cosby was born in the Germantown section of Philadelphia into a modest family that valued hard work—the son of a maid and a Navy cook. He was raised in the Richard Allen Projects, attending Channing Wister Elementary, Fitzsimons Junior High, Central and Germantown High Schools, playing various roles as class clown, class president, star athlete, shoe repair apprentice, produce seller, and ultimately Navy hospital corpsman.

As a young adult he began a lifetime relationship with Philadelphia's premier public institution of higher learning, Temple University. Building on his high school equivalency diploma, earned through correspondence courses, he enrolled in Temple in 1961 on a track and field scholarship, also playing full-back. Cosby, telling jokes as he earned a living, interrupted his studies to pursue show business, returned to academia and ultimately received a bachelor's degree from Temple.

Eventually Bill Cosby would become Doctor Cosby. He earned a masters and a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, a springboard to his later involvement in advocating for educational opportunity. But Bill Cosby, proud alum, has never left the Temple family, happily donning the cherry and white for football and basketball games, cheering on the Owls during and after the tenure of his close friend, Coach John Chaney.

Cheerleading isn't all Bill Cosby has done for Temple. He has endowed scholarships (including one for graduates of Philadelphia schools he attended), established a lecture se-

ries, generated the University's Cosby Scholarship Committee of the Provost's office, appeared at numerous fundraisers and alumni functions, and served as the public face for Temple on countless occasions.

Another side of the Bill Cosby Philadelphia Story is his anti-violence work. I have marched with Bill Cosby and my friend Bilal Qayyum through the streets of our city beneath the banner of Men United for a Better Philadelphia to denounce the scourge of violence, murder and gang activity. He has been outspoken—and raised considerable controversy—in denouncing the gang-minded culture and the negative, hateful cultural influences that fan street violence among our youth. He aimed his toughest words at parents, calling on them to step up and take responsibility for their children's education, safety and values.

Education has been another Cosby cause. He and I share the passion for leveling the playing field, providing every child the resources, the quality teachers and the full opportunity to achieve his or her dreams. Earlier this year he donned a T-shirt from Central High School to stand with Governor Ed Rendell and advocate for fairer school funding.

In his famous 2004 “Pound Cake Speech” Bill Cosby raised some hackles by telling African American parents they need to do a better job teaching their children morals at home. He chided those who “had forgotten the sacrifices of those in the civil rights movement” and declared that many young African Americans put too much emphasis on sports, fashion, and acting tough in the streets.

The controversies raised by Bill Cosby still ripple through communities of color, but the points he raises are valid. And of course he has never lost his sense of humor. In all these ways, Bill Cosby is a worthy recipient of the Mark Twain Prize and the legacy of Mark Twain himself.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and thanking Bill Cosby, Philadelphian and American, upon this great occasion.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENSENVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of Bensenville, Illinois, in the heart of my Congressional District.

In 1884, the Village of Bensenville was incorporated, and George Cogswell became its first President.

In the years since its humble founding, Bensenville has become a center of culture and commerce, serving as a home to busi-

nesses, professionals, churches and organizations that have made this a vibrant and thriving community. Over the years, Bensenville has developed a well-deserved reputation as an enjoyable place to live, work and raise a family.

On the occasion of this 125th Anniversary, we join together to celebrate Bensenville's legacy of growth and prosperity, and to look ahead to the opportunities facing our local community and our nation. Today both marks 125 years of working together to build a brighter future, and reminds us that our work continues.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Bensenville Village President Frank Soto, the Village Board of Trustees and the citizens of Bensenville in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. In particular, I would like to express my support for Section 220, which requires that Coast Guard vessels homeported in Guam be repaired, overhauled and maintained at American facilities. This provision was included in H.R. 2830 the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act from the 110th Congress and which was included in a manager's amendment that was adopted on the floor. I appreciate Chairman OBERSTAR's and Chairman CUMMING's continued support for including this provision in this bill.

This section clarifies a current loophole in statute that will ensure that Coast Guard ships that protect the waterways of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the Federated States of Micronesia will be repaired by American workers. Furthermore, the maintenance funds authorized and appropriated by this body will be reinvested in the American economy. This is a common sense provision that simply extends to Guam the same repair American provisions that already apply to the rest of the United States. Again, I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman OBERSTAR of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and to Chairman CUMMINGS of the Coast Guard Subcommittee for their leadership on this bill and for including this provision.

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