

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF SAINT EPHRAIM'S SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CENTRAL FALLS, RHODE ISLAND

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of Saint Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

In the late 19th century, a small, close-knit group of Syriac families living in Turkey and Iraq arrived in America after fleeing the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

After coming to Rhode Island, this small faith community chartered Saint Ephraim's Syriac Orthodox Church—a parish center and chapel for worship that have remained strong symbols of the strength of Rhode Island's Syriac Orthodox residents.

The church claims a wealth of theological, liturgical, and musical traditions. Indeed, to this day, every Sunday the parishioners in Central Falls, Rhode Island conduct liturgy in the original Aramaic that was spoken during the time of Jesus Christ.

The parish of St. Ephraim's has contributed mightily to our community in northern Rhode Island. Whether newly arrived immigrants fleeing persecution or just yearning to live the American dream, or multi-generational and fully assimilated Americans, parishioners of St. Ephraim's church are patriotic Americans.

Like anyone else, they work hard, value education and appreciate and enjoy the freedoms they are offered.

In return, they have been industrious citizens and have served our country in numerous positions of distinction, including university educators, engineers, leaders in law, medicine, and commerce.

Many have also served in the Armed Forces, dating back to the early 20th Century, and some have made the ultimate sacrifice for the defense of our country.

Today, as we celebrate the centennial anniversary of Saint Ephraim's, we are also mindful of the ongoing persecution facing Christian Syriac families in the Middle East and especially in Syria where two Orthodox bishops were abducted earlier this year.

And as we hope for the safe return of these and other victims of recent violence, all of us stand united in praying for peace in Syria and throughout the Middle East.

I thank Father Mattias Alan Shaltan for his continued leadership of this parish and salute all the members of Saint Ephraim's on their centennial celebration this year.

RECOGNIZING THE ROLLING FAMILY AS THE 2013 HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA, FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Rolling family for being selected as the 2013 Holmes County, Florida, Farm Family of the Year.

Jeremy Rolling first discovered his love for farming at the young age of four, while riding in the cab of his grandfather's tractor in the Noma community of Holmes County. This love, coupled with his grandfather's influence and his grandfather instilling in Jeremy a strong work ethic, factored into Jeremy's interest in the field of Agriculture, his active involvement in the Future Farmers of America, and the foundation on which his successful farming operation is conducted today.

Following high school, Jeremy met his wife Teresa, and together they settled in the Prosperity community of Holmes County. They began truck farming and small plot farming, until 2008, when Jeremy started to row crop farming. Today, they operate a 400-acre farm that includes peanuts, cotton, oats, watermelons, and hay. Teresa and their daughter Jordan, who is in sixth grade and has embraced her green thumb at an early age, both remain actively involved in supporting Jeremy in operating the farm. Teresa assists by pulling peanut wagons, as well as operating the module builder for cotton, and Jordan grew and marketed her first crop of watermelons in 2012. There is no question that the success of the Rolling Family Farm and its expansion across county lines in five years is largely attributed to the family's hard work and joint effort.

The Rolling family is also active in the community outside of their farm. They belong to the Ponce de Leon Future Farmers of America Alumni Association, and Jeremy is a member of the Florida Peanut Producer's Association. Additionally, both Jeremy and Teresa work full-time jobs. Jeremy is an Investigator for the State of Florida, and Teresa transitions from nurturing crops to the bright third-graders of Ponce de Leon Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation was built by the tireless work of farmers and their families. The Holmes County Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Rolling family's dedication to farming and their strong family values. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Rolling family for this great accomplishment. My wife, Vicki, and I wish them the best for continued success.

SECOND CHANCE ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of reauthorizing the Second Chance Act.

I'd like to thank my dear friend and colleague Rep. Danny Davis for being such a vocal and tireless advocate on what is a critical issue for communities in my district and throughout the country.

I'd also like to thank my colleague Jim Sensenbrenner for his work on this issue and for introducing, along with Congressman Davis, H.R. 3465 which would reauthorize this important law.

The Second Chance Act, signed into law in 2008, has provided important resources and support to individuals re-entering their communities after being incarcerated.

It has support from a broad coalition of organizations including from the civil rights, law enforcement, and behavioral health communities, in addition to many others.

Since becoming law, the Second Chance Act has authorized nearly 600 grants that have been awarded to local governments and nonprofit organizations in 49 states.

These grants have played a critical role in addressing recidivism and increasing public safety.

In my own district in the city of Oakland, a program known as the Comprehensive Community Cross System Reentry Support or C³RS, brings together government and nonprofit partners to re-engage youth in school after leaving a juvenile detention center.

This has been a tremendously successful program. Of the 592 program participants, 442 were reenrolled in school and of the 161 who received job training, 102 were placed in jobs.

This is but one example of the hundreds of successful programs that have helped previously incarcerated individuals get back on their feet and on the right path.

That is why it is so important that we move swiftly to reauthorize the Second Chance Act.

I call on House Republican leadership to bring this measure to the floor for a vote and give our communities and previously incarcerated individuals the support they need.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE MILITARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, religious freedom is a fundamental human right—a right which is guaranteed by the First Amendment. Many of America's earliest settlers came to her shores seeking religious freedom. As individuals around the world face persecution because of their religious beliefs, America has

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