

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ART PULASKI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Art Pulaski, who is retiring after 26 years with the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, which represents over 2 million union members in manufacturing, transportation, construction, service and the public sector.

Art has a long history with labor advocacy. He began his organizing career at age 16 when, as a supermarket clerk, he joined the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union. After working his way through college and graduate school, he worked as a union organizer.

Art most recently served as the Chief Officer, after serving as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, where he built coalitions with union and community groups to protect workers and retirees. Under his leadership, the Federation has more than doubled in size and has had numerous legislative achievements. The Federation restored daily overtime pay, raised the minimum wage, and passed the nation's first Paid Family Leave law.

In 2010, the Federation led a successful campaign to ensure that every California Democrat in Congress voted in favor of the Affordable Care Act. Furthermore, in 2003, Art led the creation of the Stand for California Coalition, a group of labor unions, religious organizations, civil rights groups and business interests, as well as helped to develop the Apollo Alliance, a national coalition for cleaner energy and better jobs.

Art has also served on numerous gubernatorial panels and commissions on economic progress and workforce development. He was a founder of one of California's model childcare centers, called PalCare, and served as president of nationally televised PBS series "We Do the Work", the Labor Project for Working Families and the California Works Foundation.

Art has spent his career protecting our community by advocating for workers, ensuring they are paid fairly, and improving workplace conditions. Art will be missed by the entire Federation but is looking forward to continuing his commitment to the labor community as a volunteer and spending time with his four children: Erin, Katie, Luke, and Kaleb, and his two grandchildren, Wilder and August.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, July 29, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY

on Roll Call Number 405, NAY on Roll Call Number 406, NAY on Roll Call Number 411, NAY on Roll Call Number 412, YEA on Roll Call Number 413, NAY on Roll Call Number 414, NAY on Roll Call Number 415, YEA on Roll Call Number 416, and YEA on Roll Call Number 417.

HONORING GENERAL MICHAEL LEPEILBET

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the life and service of my friend, Michael LePeilbet.

Michael was a resident in Tehama County for over 20 years, a devout family-man with a heart of gold. His hard work and devotion to our community will be felt for generations.

Michael received his A.S. in administration of justice from Antelope Valley College as well as his bachelors, and master's degree in criminal justice from Pacific Western University. He graduated from the California Military Academy, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Academy of Private Investigation.

Michael has been awarded many decorations and awards. To name a few he received his Expert Infantry Badge, Army Aviator Wings for California, Basic Parachutist (Jump Wings), General Staff Badge (California State Military Reserve), Legion of Merit, Soldiers Medal, and plenty more. He rose through the ranks, beginning in 1966 as a private (E-1) to becoming a Brigadier General in later years. He served his country in the U.S. Army, the National Guard, and the California State military reserve. He was also the owner of LePeilbet Investigation Service.

Michael was someone you could count on and turn to. In my many trips to Nevada County, I will always have fond memories of stopping by to see him and catching up on world events, or just to have a few minutes with a friend.

After Michael's retirement he felt that it was important to remain active in the community. He worked with the Boy Scouts, The American Legion, Masons, Shriners, VFW, the senior senate, and many other organizations. A large part of Michael's life was helping others,

Michael was a patriot who loved our country and a wonderful friend and will be greatly missed by all. Upon his passing, he leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his legacy his wife, Linda; their five children: Nicolas, Jacob, Anita, Nancy, and Lorianne; eight grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends. Today, I stand beside Linda and their family in this time of sorrow and profound personal loss. May God bless my friend, Michael. He is not forgotten.

HONORING LIEUTENANT RICK SCHAEFER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work that the U.S. Navy, Office of Naval Intelligence, Human Intelligence section's Lieutenant Rick Schaefer did to protect our strategic naval assets during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

In March of 1991, Lieutenant Schaefer, who after receiving a tip from the 3rd Armored Division's Counter-Intelligence section, personally investigated three Iraqi naval sites that had yet to be exploited and were to be ignored. Due to his initiative and sound judgment, the sites were investigated properly and revealed the official Iraqi naval minefield locations, which were unknown to U.S. forces. These plans led to the demining and safe passage of both civilian and military ships in Iraqi waters.

Due to the decisive action of this sailor, untold lives were saved as well as the prevention of the potential loss of naval assets. His actions exemplify the honor and courage of our service members. We should applaud their efforts.

HONORING EVELYN DIXON WILLIAMS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the 107th birthday of Dania Beach Centenarian, Evelyn Dixon Williams.

Evelyn Dixon Williams, a Dania Beach resident and pioneer, will celebrate her 107th birthday on August 2, 2022. Born in 1915, Mrs. Williams has witnessed much change in her lifetime and continues to be healthy and aware. She is someone who has been kind and generous throughout her lifetime and is truly an inspiration to others.

Born in Mosely Town, Georgia, and raised in neighboring Vidalia, Evelyn Williams and her husband Alonzo Williams moved to Coconut Grove, Florida, in 1935 and later relocated to Dania with their two sons—Deotis and Luriel. The Williams family were early members of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in the Liberia (Hollywood) neighborhood, bordering Dania Beach.

Mrs. Williams is an encouraging influence in our community, where she has supported young people in pursuing higher education and professional goals. She regularly visited elderly, homebound and nursing home residents—often bringing fruit, staying to read and pray, and always delivering a message of

• 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.

hope and Godly love. Evelyn Williams' activism included serving in the Broward Civic Improvement Association—an organization devoted to assisting families in need and ensuring improvements in housing and area schools. Recognized by the Broward County Historical Society as a dedicated poll worker of nearly 50 years, Mrs. Williams was also honored by the City of Dania Beach on her 100th birthday as a noteworthy pioneer for her many years of community service; and as a Broward County centenarian during the County's Centennial Celebration. In her advanced years, Evelyn Dixon Williams continues to be a gracious lady of dignity, demonstrating the resilience of a life well-lived.

I wish Mrs. Williams a hearty congratulations on this milestone birthday, and I am grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida's 23rd Congressional District and across Broward County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 414; NAY on Roll Call No. 415; YEA on Roll Call No. 416; and NAY on Roll Call No. 417.

RECOGNIZING DR. FREDDIE LOUIS THOMAS, SR.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Freddie Louis Thomas, Sr. for his 50 years of service to the Central Valley community as the Senior Pastor of Jerusalem Mission Community Church of God in Christ.

Dr. Thomas, Sr. was born in 1934 in Marshall, Texas. As a child, he and his family relocated to California and settled in Los Angeles. In 1953, his family moved to Bakersfield, California. He went on to be a fixture in the Central Valley ever since. After graduating from Bakersfield High School, Dr. Thomas, Sr. attended Bakersfield College while working towards his license as a building contractor.

After working years in building construction and contracting, Dr. Thomas, Sr. felt a calling from a higher power and made the admirable decision to dedicate his life to Christ. He went on to attend multiple seminary schools, eventually achieving a doctorate in divinity. Dr. Thomas, Sr. has used his knowledge to become a leader in the Central Valley religious community—spreading the word of God through his teachings to multiple congregations.

In 1963, Dr. Thomas, Sr. founded the Jerusalem Mission Community Church of God in Christ. He has served as the church's senior pastor since its founding and has become a true source of inspiration for Valley families for decades. In 2021, he became the Emeritus Pastor of the Church.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Freddie Louis Thomas, Sr. for his 50 years of service to the Central Valley community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 409, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on Friday, July 29, 2022, I was unavoidably detained and missed some of the day's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Yea on Roll Call Vote 416, H.R. 7283—To amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to make certain activities eligible for grants from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and for other purposes.

Nay on Roll Call Vote 417, S. 3451—To include certain computer-related projects in the Federal permitting program under title XLI of the FAST Act, and for other purposes.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COMPLETION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5118, the Wildlife Response and Drought Resiliency Act. This much-needed legislation will take steps to help protect communities from the devastating consequences of extreme weather events by providing crucial investment and response measures to help prevent and respond to wildfire, drought, and other climate related weather issues. These provisions include disaster assistance and environmental justice measures for communities disproportionately harmed by drought, wildfire, and other extreme weather events.

Extreme weather exacerbated by the climate crisis is increasingly wreaking havoc throughout our country, putting lives in danger while causing tremendous damage on private property and public lands. Currently, much of the western United States is experiencing the driest conditions in over 1,200 years. It is estimated that 1 in 6 Americans live in areas of significant wildfire risk and more than 65 million experienced severe to exceptional drought this summer. Portions of our country are suffering under intense heat waves while in other places, too much rain in too short a period is causing flooding. My heart goes out to families of those who have died in flooding in Ken-

tucky, a toll that stood at 30 at last report, with many still missing.

The Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act includes policies and resources to strengthen federal efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to wildfires and other extreme weather events that are affecting our nation, including calling for a 10-year federal wildfire strategy and supporting our federal wildland firefighters and land managers who are on the frontlines in the fight to protect communities and lives. The bill would also create a National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program that would coordinate Federal efforts to reduce the loss of life and property from wildland fires especially in the face of a changing climate.

The Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act delivers critical drought relief for communities in several ways including authorizing investments in new water supply projects, promoting the delivery of reliable water to Native American communities, and supporting the development of technologies to enhance effective water management.

I want to take a moment to highlight the bill's provisions on environmental justice because we know that some communities bear a disproportionate share of the burden of extreme weather events as they do environmental hazards such as poor air and water quality, lead exposure, and other environmental threats. For example, in Kentucky, some of the worse hit areas of the recent flooding are low-income. A recent EPA study found that people of color, regardless of region or income, are significantly more likely to live with exposure to air pollution. This leaves communities of color at a heightened risk of developing health complications like chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, and increased mortality from lung cancer and heart disease. A study by Clean Wisconsin found that people of color in my state are exposed to more "dangerous particulate matter" than the state average.

This bill would authorize Environmental Justice Community, State, and Tribal Grant Programs to empower local nonprofits, state governments, and tribal communities to identify and implement programs that reduce or eliminate disproportionately adverse human health or environmental impacts in specific communities. For example, the bill authorizes new grants to develop community-led partnerships that implement projects addressing climate justice needs, like solar and wind energy, home and building electrification and weatherization, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

In addition, H.R. 5118 would establish a federal Environmental Justice Interagency Council to guide federal agencies actions to identify and respond to environmental inequities among communities of color, tribal communities, and low-income communities. The bill would also require federal agencies to more closely consider the needs of and engage with communities that bear a disproportionate share of environmental burdens including by preparing community impact reports assessing the potential consequences of a proposed federal action on these communities. The bill would also require early and meaningful community involvement in federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act review process.

I support passage of this bill and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

HONORING 3RD ARMORED DIVISION'S COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SECTION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great work that 3rd Armored Division's Gregory Hagen, Gerald Euchler, Craig Carlson, David Evans, Donald Wood, Thomas Lykens, Denis McMahon, Jesse Weiss, Joan Mercier, and Sharon Mack did to protect our strategic naval assets during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

In March of 1991 these soldiers, who belonged to 3rd Armored Division's Counterintelligence section, identified three Iraqi naval sites that had yet to be exploited. In coordination with U.S. Naval Intelligence, the sites were investigated properly, and revealed the official Iraqi naval minefield locations, which were unknown to U.S. forces. These plans led to the demining and safe passage of both civilian and military ships in Iraqi waters.

Due to the decisive action of these soldiers, untold lives were saved as well as the prevention of loss of naval assets. Their actions exemplify the honor and courage of our service members. We should applaud their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2022, I missed four roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

YES—Roll Call Vote 414—Continental Divide Trail Completion Act;

YES—Roll Call Vote 415—Big Cat Public Safety Act;

YES—Roll Call Vote 416—STREAM Act; and

NAY—Roll Call Vote 417—To include certain computer-related projects in the Federal permitting program under title XLI of the FAST Act, and for other purposes.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESPONSIVENESS TO RECORDS REQUESTS AND TRICARE COVERAGE OF COVID TESTS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend remarks I made earlier this session during debate of this year's National Defense Authorization Act. During that floor debate, and many times previously, I spoke about the lack of accountability at the Department of Defense and the need for enhanced oversight. In keeping with this lack of accountability not only to the American taxpayer, but Congress itself, I wish to publicly request information from the Department that my staff has solicited since July of 2018. Namely, I seek information

on behalf of Wisconsin-based PFC Lawrence Gordon Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that works to locate and identify servicemembers who remain missing as a result of armed conflicts. This request for information on behalf of a constituent is now entering its fifth year of processing—the time has come for the Department to be responsive to this records request.

Additionally, I also wish to mention another concern relayed to me by a separate constituent—TRICARE's inability to reimburse beneficiaries for personally purchased COVID tests from local drugstores. I encourage the Secretary to examine this matter and consider amending TRICARE reimbursement practices, and I look forward to working with him to address the concern (particularly during the current increases in positivity rates across the country).

HONORING ERNEST MARVEL—WORLD WAR TWO VETERAN AND RECIPIENT OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Ernest B. Marvel, proud World War Two Veteran and recent recipient of France's highest distinction, the Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur, also known as the Legion of Honor.

On July 13, 2022, Mr. Marvel was presented the Legion of Honor by the French Ambassador to the United States, Phillipe Etienne. The Legion of Honor was first created over two centuries ago to reward eminent military and civil merits in service or defense of France. Created as an order of merit, foreign citizens may be awarded this recognition for their actions in support of France. For a World War Two Veteran like Mr. Marvel to be awarded the Legion of Honor, they must prove they were involved in combat operations within France.

As a Private First Class with the 45th Infantry Division of the United States Army, Mr. Marvel's service demonstrated exceptional bravery, character, and valor. Arriving in France shortly after the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. Marvel was soon given a vital mission to clear mines and booby traps. That mission brought Mr. Marvel and another soldier into direct contact with enemy troops. For his successful actions that day, Mr. Marvel was awarded the Bronze Star. After this action, Mr. Marvel participated in several dangerous combat missions to help liberate France from Nazi Germany, including missions as a bazookaman and in notable amphibious operations across the Rhine River.

Despite the significant combat Mr. Marvel and his unit saw in Europe, perhaps the most harrowing experience was their actions to liberate the victims in the Dachau Concentration Camp. As Mr. Marvel and the 45th Infantry Division moved toward Dachau, they were engaged in fierce combat with German troops still defending the camp. Mr. Marvel would help liberate 32,000 captives of Dachau. But, as Mr. Marvel recalls, the "sights in this camp I will never ever forget."

Mr. Marvel was awarded numerous awards for his service, including the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and several campaign medals. With the latest award of the Legion of Honor, Mr. Marvel joins a distinguished group of Americans, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Audie Murphy, Chuck Yeager, and many others.

Finally, on behalf of the State of Delaware and a grateful Nation, I thank Mr. Marvel for his service to our country. He sacrificed greatly to safeguard freedom and democracy. He is a testament to our Nation and his actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. I congratulate Mr. Marvel once again on this honor—he brings great pride to Delaware and the United States.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF KARRIE WILSON WEATHERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Karrie Wilson Weathers, 91, of Eggville. Mr. Weathers took his final flight Friday, July 29, 2022. He was born at home in Eggville on February 1, 1931, to the late Denver and Louie Weathers. He graduated from Mooreville High School in 1951 where he was a basketball all-star. Karrie joined the U.S. Air Force serving in the Korean war. He retired after 25 years of service as a Master Sergeant.

After active duty, he became a partner with his brother, Dudley Weathers at Weathers Auto Supply. He started Capital Auto Glass in 1966. Karrie also served as Lee County Tax Assessor, retiring after 16 years. Dedicated to serving others, Karrie was a member of the Lee County Shrine Club and a founding member of The Flying Fez. He enjoyed flying children to the Shriner's Hospital in Galveston, Texas. He was also a 50 year member of the Tupelo Masonic Lodge 318, a founding member of the Tupelo Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), a 33rd-degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a founding member of the Tupelo Veterans Memorial Park.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a private pilot for over 30 years. In Karrie's own words, he enjoyed flying out of "Eggville International Grass Airfield!" He was a member of Auburn Baptist Church. Karrie leaves behind his wife of 69 years, Barbara Finley Weathers; three children, Steve Weathers, Julie Weathers Watson (Woody), Mark "Winky" Weathers (Roxy); eight grandchildren, LeAnna Hill (Todd), Brittiyah Weathers (Daniel), Luke Weathers (Wendy), Erin Tullos (Adam), Hannah Treece (Nick), Emily Weathers, Tyler Weathers (Meagan), and Katie Weathers Gazaway (Mason); seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Juanita Weathers Franks Knight (John). He was preceded in death by his parents, Denver and Louie Weathers; his brother, Dudley Weathers, and a great-granddaughter, Sophie Gazaway.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVID
SUMAYA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hanford Fire Department Captain David Sumaya for his 33 years of service to the Central Valley community.

Captain Sumaya was born and raised in Hanford, California. As a young man, he knew he wanted to serve the community he had lived in all his life and found the best way for him to do so was to become a firefighter. In 1989, he began his work in the fire service and joined Hanford Volunteer Firefighters. As a volunteer firefighter, he ran calls out of the old Lacey Boulevard Fire Station, even working on fire engines from the 1940s.

In 1991, Captain Sumaya was hired as a full-time firefighter with the Hanford Fire Department. Throughout his decorated career, he held every position in the Department, eventually rising to the rank of Captain. Additionally, he served as one of the original members of the Hanford Fire Department Investigation team, helping the Department understand the causes of fires throughout the community.

Over his three decades of service, Captain Sumaya served as a role model for all members of the Hanford Fire Department. He has been a source of inspiration for young firefighters in the Department, and a great resource for veteran members. His dedication to his community is an inspiration to us all, and his legacy within the Hanford Fire Department will live on forever.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Captain David Sumaya for his 33 years of service and dedication to the City of Hanford.

HONORING SHERIFF DEVON BELL

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize my good friend, Placer County

Sheriff Devon Bell. We celebrate his retirement and job well done regarding his service and legacy to the people of Placer County and the State of California.

Working with Sheriff Bell for over 12 years has been a pleasure. I have enjoyed the friendship that has developed as we have partnered on many critical issues. He has proven to be someone I can always depend on, and his deep devotion to public safety made it easy for me to support him.

Since 1992 Sheriff Bell has been committed to protecting the citizens of Placer County. I am not surprised how he rose through the ranks. Devon is a man of integrity, humor, dedicated work ethic, and a friend to many. He is a man of great character who can be trusted to do the right thing.

Sheriff Bell holds bachelor of arts in criminal justice management from Union Institute and University, a master of arts in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 222nd Session. This education, coupled with his decades of experience, provided him the background needed to be elected 28th Sheriff-Coroner-Marshall of Placer County.

Sheriff Bell has been active in the California State Sheriffs Association for nearly 20 years. He began as a legislative committee member, where his voice was essential in passing and rallying against legislation affecting law enforcement throughout California. Devon has served in many capacities on the California State Sheriffs Association Board of Directors and was the Second Vice President at retirement.

I have observed Sheriff Bell's devotion to those in the law enforcement community and our community in the time he spent on the KidsFirst Board and the Placer Sheriffs Activity League. His service to our community was indispensable and appreciated.

I wish the best to Devon, Sue, and their children and grandchildren in his retirement. Wherever their path takes them and for all the adventures yet to come, I am grateful for the time he and his family sacrificed for our community.

God bless my friend Devon on this next chapter in his life. I thank him for all he has done for us here in the North State. Best wishes in retirement.

WELCOMING PAUL DILLARD TO
NEW JERSEY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Paul E. Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion, as he visits American Legion posts in New Jersey's Third Congressional District. The Commander has a busy schedule across New Jersey, but I am proud that he will be visiting posts in Toms River, Brick, and Seaside Heights.

Commander Dillard honorably served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam through four campaigns, including the Tet Offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second-class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

As we hope for all of our veterans, Commander Dillard was able to resettle back in his home State of Texas and started a family with his wife, Donna, and a successful insurance business practice focused on employee benefits.

As a paid-up-for-life member of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant, and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman. Commander Dillard was elected in 2021 and has set a theme of "No Veteran Left Behind."

Representing a district that has one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the country, serving them and honoring their sacrifice is one of my highest priorities in Congress. The simple promise we make is that if someone steps up to protect us, our families, and our Nation's security, we will have their backs for the rest of their lives. Our country has not always kept this promise, but I look forward to working with Commander Dillard and The American Legion to work for a better future for our veterans and their families so they receive the benefits they have earned. I have no doubt Commander Dillard will enjoy his time visiting with his American Legion family in New Jersey and wish him continued success in his term as National Commander.