

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL SHORT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and passion of Michael Short.

Michael Short has been involved in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) since the mid-1970s. He taught elementary choirs at Cambridge, West Orange, and Prospect and some of the infamous musicals that they have produced were "Let George Do It" and "It's All About Music".

He obtained his bachelor's degree from Chapman College in Orange, California in 1979 and his master's degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fullerton in 1988.

In August of 1979, he was hired as a full-time music teacher at Portola Junior High and in 1982, he created the Chamber Singers at Orange High School (OHS) while still running a full-time program at Portola. He was offered a full-time position by Orange High School in August of 1982. In April of 1982, the Chamber Singers sang at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Short.

In 1988, he became the Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Orange, down the block from his home. From 1990 to 1993, he was one of the Chairmen of the American Choral Directors Association High School Honor Choirs and continues to work with the American Choral Directors Association in many capacities over the last three decades.

In February of 2002, he received the "Bravo Award" from the Los Angeles Music Center for his excellence in music education and was named "Teacher of the Year 2004" by OUSD.

In October of 2005, he was named "Chapman University's Alumnus of the Year 2004" and in 2006 he was named the City of Orange's "Citizen of the Year for 2005" by the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

He continues to be involved in the arts in the Orange, California community. In 1995, he created and still conducts the "City of Orange Tree Lighting and Candlelight Procession" in downtown Orange every holiday season and the patriotic program "Third of July" every summer.

The latest project to be a recipient to his enthusiasm and leadership is the Greater Orange Community Arts Theater (GOCAT) which is a venue to feature creative artists of the community. Even though he is retiring from Orange High School, he continues to be involved in the community and the arts.

Currently, Michael is the President of the Western Division, American Choral Directors Association and he oversees the Western Region ACDA Conference to be held in Pasadena, California in March of 2024.

Michael has been married to Vicki since 1982 and has two children, Katherine Hicks

and Matthew Short. He and his wife are proud grandparents to three grandchildren as of August 2020.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and commemorating the outstanding career and accomplishments of Michael Short.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2023, I inadvertently cast a "yea" vote for H. Amdt. 176 to H.R. 3091. I intended to vote "nay."

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. THOMAS DIXON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Thomas Dixon, a civil rights icon and the founding President and CEO of the Tacoma Urban League, whose impactful leadership in our region will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Dixon was born in 1931 in Sparta, Georgia, and recalled the incredible influence of his family, including his father, who was a doctor, and his grandfather, who was formerly enslaved, and became one of the largest Black landowners in the county. Encouraged by his family to pursue higher education, Mr. Dixon came to Tacoma, Washington after enlisting in the United States Air Force. He received his bachelor's degree at Sophia University in Tokyo while serving in Japan and earned his master's degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

Mr. Dixon belonged to a remarkable generation, who bravely carried the weight of responsibility in leading Tacoma through the Civil Rights Era. In 1966, he continued his life of service as the first Director of the Hilltop Multi-service Center, where he dedicated his time and energies to improving the lives of people in Tacoma through housing, job training, and educational opportunities. Just two years later, Mr. Dixon began his tenure as Executive Director of the Tacoma affiliate of the National Urban League. Throughout the 34 years he served in this role, and through his pioneering involvement with the Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective, Mr. Dixon was a tenacious and visionary leader, pushing for racial, social, and economic justice in our region. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our community, he was honored with the Laureate of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize in 2015.

The Tacoma community has joined in mourning Mr. Dixon's passing on April 26,

2023, at the age of 92. Our hearts are with his wife, Sylvia, his family, and the countless individuals who held him dearly, as we express our deepest gratitude for the legacy he built. When reflecting on his career and life lived, Mr. Dixon was quoted as saying, "Everything I have done, I would try to do it again." May we all continue to do our part in keeping his spirit of service alive into the future.

HONORING JAZMIN SANCHEZ TORREZ WITH FIRST PLACE IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jazmin Sanchez Torrez for being honored as the Winner of New Hampshire's First District Congressional Art Competition. As we celebrate the competition's 42nd year, we continue to uplift young talent while recognizing and celebrating how important arts education is to our young people. This year we received outstanding submissions from talented young artists from across the First District. Jazmin's artwork titled *In Full Bloom* was chosen by our Advisory Board as an excellent piece of art with an impactful meaning.

Jazmin's intent with her artwork was to capture the presence of insecurities. The flowers in the image mark where the person is least confident in their appearance. While taking the reference photos for this project, she simply handed her subject a bouquet of flowers and asked, "What would you cover up?" Jazmin wanted to highlight that what may be insecurities to some, can be seen as beautiful by others. Her work exemplified creativity and thoughtfulness, and it will be an honor to display this piece in the United States Capitol for all to see.

New Hampshire is filled with talented student-artists with bright futures ahead, and Jazmin proudly represents the best of the best here in the Granite State. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Jazmin for embodying all the creativity that our state has to offer, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of Jewish

• 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.

American Heritage Month, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Throughout a multitude of sectors in fields like government and military service, science and innovation, business, medicine, and the arts and humanities, Jewish Americans have made a mark on the course of history and have created a strong foundation for future generations to come. On this occasion, we have the unique opportunity to recognize the impact that Jewish American people, organizations, businesses, and more have made, all while connecting people to their heritage.

During Jewish American Heritage Month, we are also reminded that the vibrant culture of the Jewish people has not always been embraced, but it has certainly been a part of enriching our communities' history, values, and culture. In a country where diversity should be cherished and protected, Jewish communities continue to endure hostility, hatred, and narrow-mindedness. Anti-Semitism in any form, by anyone, is simply unacceptable, and it is our job to ensure Jewish Americans can proudly and safely express their faith and identity. Despite experiencing discrimination and adversity, this community has undoubtedly played a central role in the growth and prosperity of our country.

We are proud to celebrate Jewish Americans' legacies and accomplishments during this Jewish American Heritage Month. I look forward to celebrating more notable milestones with Jewish American communities for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of the Head Start program and the invaluable services it makes available to children and families in need. The Head Start Project was launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program. President Lyndon Johnson commissioned Sargent Shriver with the establishment of a comprehensive program that would assist underserved communities in meeting the needs of preschool aged children. With the help of education, psychology, and child experts, the U.S. government initially launched "Project Head Start" as an eight-week summer program that reached 561,000 children. Finding early success, the program was expanded in the fall of 1965 to provide services throughout the entire school year. In the subsequent decades, Head Start has further grown to include bilingual and bicultural programs, as well as services for disadvantaged infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through Early Head Start grants.

Over the last six decades, the Head Start Program has provided a window of opportunity to more than 37 million vulnerable children and their families. Now serving nearly 1 million children and their families annually in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. Head Start's exceptional dedication to our children is truly re-

markable, and this year, as it celebrates its 58th anniversary, we express our appreciation for the impact that Head Start has had on communities across the country and especially in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF GARY SPARKS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER FOR OXFORD, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Chief Gary Sparks' 40 years of service as a firefighter for the City of Oxford, Alabama.

Chief Sparks began his work with the City of Oxford when he was just 15 years old washing trucks and cleaning the station. On May 12, 1983, He became an official member of the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department.

He later became a full-time member of the Anniston Fire Department on February 13, 1987, rising through the ranks to eventually become Assistant Fire Chief in 2003.

After 20 years of service with the Anniston Fire Department, he retired on February 13, 2007. Chief Sparks became full time Fire Chief for the City of Oxford on March 3, 2007.

Chief Sparks is involved in several civic organizations in his community. He is currently serving on the Alabama Joint Fire Council. He has served Alabama's fire service for eight years with dedication and insight as a member of the Personnel Standards & Education Commission with the Alabama Fire College. He is a Past President of the Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and was voted the 2015 Alabama Fire Chief of the Year

In addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Chief Sparks is also a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Chief Sparks and his 40 years of service as a firefighter for the citizens of the City of Oxford.

CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF TRINI GOMEZ

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Ms. Trini Gomez, a constituent and friend, as she celebrates her 98th birthday. We celebrate the remarkable life she has led.

Her dedication to serving the Hispanic community through managing the Inland Empire Hispanic News has made a lasting impact on our community. She and her late husband, Graciano Gomez, provided a platform for voices that needed to be heard, shedding light on important issues, celebrating achievements and fostering a sense of unity among the Inland Empire.

Her life journey is an inspiration to all of us. On this special day we honor her incredible achievements and the inspirational person she is. I hope her birthday is filled with joy, surrounded by loved ones who cherish and admire her.

Today, I thank her for being an extraordinary role model and for inspiring us all with her unwavering dedication and love for our community. May the coming year bring her good health, happiness and many more cherished memories.

HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS SCORPION'S DISAPPEARANCE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 55th anniversary of the tragic loss of the USS *Scorpion* and its crew of 99. On this solemn occasion, we remember the valiant submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great Nation.

The USS *Scorpion*, a distinguished vessel within the Skipjack-class of nuclear-powered submarines, disappeared on May 22, 1968, during a deployment in the Atlantic Ocean. It took several months to locate its remains, and despite multiple investigations from the Department of Defense, we may never know what truly resulted in this steep loss to our Nation's fighting force. This somber event serves as a stark reminder of the inherent risks and sacrifices associated with submarine operations, and the bravery of Americans who step up to serve underseas in the Silent Service.

The USS *Scorpion* was a vessel that symbolized American strength, technological prowess, and the courageous spirit of our servicemen. It was manned by a highly skilled and dedicated crew who embarked on perilous missions in defense of our Nation. As we honor the 55th anniversary of the USS *Scorpion's* disappearance, let us reaffirm our commitment to the safety, readiness, and well-being of our submariners. We must ensure that those who choose to serve are equipped with the resources, training, and support necessary to carry out their vital missions.

Mr. Speaker, the USS *Scorpion* crew's unwavering dedication to duty and defending our Nation overseas deserves our eternal gratitude. We must continue to remember their legacy. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the 55th anniversary of the loss of the USS *Scorpion* and etching the sacrifice of its 99 servicemembers into our collective memory.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. The bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for three federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. It would also make D.C. eligible for a transportation program that

would support the replacement and removal of infrastructure that damages the ecosystems of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states. In fact, D.C. pays more federal taxes per capita than any state. D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Under this program, each state is authorized to receive a minimum amount of \$4 million per year, while D.C. is authorized to receive a minimum of only \$1 million. Third, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. Currently, only states and units of local government are eligible for these competitive grants, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has held that D.C. does not qualify, even though it operates as the functional equivalent of a joint city, county and state. Fourth, the bill would treat D.C. as a state for the purposes of the Safe Streets for All Program. Cities, counties and political subdivisions of a state are eligible for these grants, but DOT has held that D.C. is ineligible.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users, the extension of transit service to new communities, the replacement and repair of culverts, and the implementation of roadway safety improvements for all road users. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

Last Congress, the House's surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these four programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**CELEBRATING MAX COOK AND HIS
32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
MISSOURI BANKERS ASSOCIATION**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Cook and his 32 years of service at the Missouri Bankers Association. His leadership, dedication, and advocacy for community banking has strengthened business throughout Missouri.

Under his stewardship, Max led the effort to forge the next generation of banking professionals in Missouri. In celebration of his retirement, an endowment established in his name will send emerging industry leaders to meet policymakers here in Washington. Max's legacy will be felt throughout Missouri for years to come.

In addition to congratulating him on his illustrious career, I thank Max for his friendship. He's a good man who has done great things for many people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Max Cook a very happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 18, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 226 and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

**HONORING JUDGE ANTHONY J.
DENNIS**

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this month, Rhode Island District Court Judge Anthony J. Dennis celebrated his 98th birthday and remains an important and active member of his community.

Born in Bristol, Rhode Island on May 15, 1925, Judge Dennis was raised in Naugatuck, Connecticut. In 1942, at the age of 17, he made the brave decision to enlist in the Navy Seabees.

During World War II, he was stationed in the Pacific Theater on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands and on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands with Unit CBMU 549. His unit's courageous efforts helped lead to the Japanese surrender of Wake Island in 1945. Judge Dennis returned safely to the United States and was honorably discharged in 1946.

After the war, he resumed his education at Bristol's Colt High School and then continued to Providence College. At the age of 29, Judge Dennis obtained his law degree from Boston University Law School and then became a member of the Rhode Island bar in 1954.

He was elected Bristol Town Clerk in 1956, serving in this role until 1969. He was also a member of the Rhode Island Democratic Party Executive Committee, serving as Secretary from 1963 to 1969.

Judge Dennis was appointed by Governor Frank Licht and confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate in 1969 as a District Court Judge where he served honorably for 21 years before retiring in 1990. During those years, I had the privilege of appearing before Judge Dennis as a practicing attorney. He was always a compassionate, profound, and thoughtful Judge with a deep commitment to justice.

Rhode Island thanks the Honorable Anthony J. Dennis for his dedicated service to our state and country and wishes him a happy birthday.

**CELEBRATING UCLA MENS
VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR THEIR
2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY**

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the men's volleyball team from the University of California, Los Angeles. They took home the 2023 NCAA Men's National Collegiate Volleyball Championship on the 6th of May. UCLA defeated the men's volleyball team from the University of Hawaii at EagleBank Arena on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

This year's championship is the program's 20th national title win and the 121st overall NCAA title win by a UCLA Bruin team in any sport.

The men's volleyball team should be proud of their achievement in earning the distinction of being national champions, amongst the more than half a million student-athletes who participate in NCAA events each year. The team ended their season with 12 straight wins, which marked the longest streak by the program since their last 2006 national title win. With guidance from Coach John Speraw, the team was able to defeat the two-time defending champions, Hawaii, with a 3-1 win.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the UCLA's men's volleyball team once again on winning the national championship and wish them the best of luck next season. This win is a special moment in the collegiate athletic careers of each individual UCLA player and marks an exceptional accomplishment and historic achievement for the UCLA community. Go Bruins.

RECOGNIZING LEAH PEER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Leah Peer, Founder and Music Director of Kol Nashim, the Women's Choir of the Colorado Hebrew Chorale.

Leah founded Kol Nashim in the fall of 2013 with the mission to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Jewish experience through song by performing with and for diverse audiences. In 2014, Kol Nashim performed its first benefit concert to raise awareness for women in need and has since continued to spread its dual message of presenting Jewish music while expressing the life experience of women.

A notable history with music, Leah is an active performing pianist and has established several chamber ensembles around the U.S. Additionally, she holds a Master of Music in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, Israel.

Leah is a teacher, leader, and musician. Her dedication to music is apparent and undoubtedly led to the beautiful cultivation of her art. I want to congratulate Leah on her many accomplishments as we celebrate 10 years of Kol Nashim.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Emergency Rescue Squad on its 75th Anniversary.

As the Rescue Squad celebrates this milestone, we look back on the outstanding history that has shaped the organization. On April 5, 1947, the Ansul Rescue Squad was established after founding member Joe Banich conducted a survey at the Ansul Company about employees who understood first aid procedures. Following the survey, Mr. Banich was given permission to facilitate a sign-up for individuals interested in first aid training. Eight men signed up to take an extensive 21-week first aid training course and the first rescue squad was formed. The group of men, referred to as the "Great Eight," began a legacy of service that would live on for generations.

Throughout the years, the Great Eight expanded their knowledge and skill while providing services to the sick and injured. The men continued to play a critical role in the community and therefore, were provided with a Rescue Squad vehicle and first aid equipment. By 1949, the group had grown to eighteen members who answered more than 1,300 calls from community members in need. Then in 1959, the Ansul Rescue Squad was turned over to the Marinette and Menominee community management and became the Emergency Rescue Squad as it is still referred to today. Today, the Rescue Squad receives up to 20 calls in a 24-hour period demonstrating the clear need and service they provide to northern Wisconsin.

I commend the numerous members of the Rescue Squad, past and present, for their years of selfless service and dedication to the community over the years. Over the last 75 years, the Emergency Rescue Squad has played a critical role in the success and safety of communities throughout Marinette County, including the cities of Marinette, Peshtigo, Menominee, and the towns of Peshtigo, Porterfield and Grover. I extend my sincere appreciation to past and present members of the Emergency Rescue Squad for their years of exceptional service to Northeast Wisconsin.

It is my honor to commemorate this historic milestone for the Emergency Rescue Squad. I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Emergency Rescue Squad. The Rescue Squad is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin and is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

HONORING MACY MCKAY

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Macy McKay for her years of service at St. Luke's Episcopal School. Ms. McKay is retiring after 50 years of teaching and coaching countless students. Teachers and

coaches are tasked with an incredible responsibility to mold the minds of our young folks and equip them with the knowledge and the tools they need to be productive members of our society.

Ms. McKay has gone above and beyond the call of duty with her students, and her impact will live on for generations to come in the lives of so many students, parents, and fellow educators in Mobile.

After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970, Ms. McKay began her career in education. In 1973, she came to St. Luke's to help create a physical education program. During Ms. McKay's time as a coach at St. Luke's, she has been the driving force behind the state winning archery program. Her passion for physical education is just one of the many factors that play a part in the incredible impact she has made on our community.

Ms. McKay's legacy lives on in the St. Luke's community. After 50 years of hard work and determination, she has more than earned a relaxing retirement. I know I am joined by so many in our community who are thankful for her impressive career.

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration and the utmost respect that I rise to recognize the outstanding group of individuals who comprised the United States Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadron One (designated VW-1). For their courage in the face of danger and their commitment to defending their fellow service members, these brave individuals are to be commended.

In 1944, recognizing the need for early warning radar and aircraft to protect the United States Naval Fleet from attack by identifying ships and low-flying aircraft, the United States Navy launched its first program aimed at minimizing the impact on our military and its operations. As the program evolved, in June 1952, Airborne Early Warning Squadron One was established and initially located at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, in the then Territory of Hawaii. Soon after, a permanent detachment of VW-1 was established in the Western Pacific, providing heavy airborne early warning coverage and participating in the Korean War. After relocating to Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, in 1957, VW-1 took on additional roles, and in 1961, was tasked with weather reconnaissance. This increased focus on identifying hazardous weather conditions included the addition of 6 meteorologists and 18 aerographers, as well as new technological equipment. During 1961 alone, VW-1 flew more than 1,000 hours of weather reconnaissance, thus identifying the squadron as the "Typhoon Trackers."

Through its valiant efforts, VW-1 provided airborne early warning support and protection for the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the Vietnam War, from 1964 through 1971. Their mission was to fly north of the DMZ in the Gulf of Tonkin, providing airborne protection for the Sev-

enth Fleet, which was operating below the DMZ. VW-1 was responsible for alerting the Seventh Fleet against enemy attacks and dangerous storms while also providing radar surveillance for air strikes over North Vietnam.

From 1964 through 1967, VW-1 was based in the Philippines for an extended airborne mission time of 18 hours. These missions were often extended beyond the aircraft's fuel range, requiring them to refuel at Da Nang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam before returning to base. In late 1967, a detachment was established at Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam but later moved to Da Nang Air Base in order to shorten the mission time.

From its establishment in June 1952 until July 1971, at which time the unit was absorbed into VQ-1, VW-1 completed its mission with an astonishing record of 19 years of accident-free flights, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW-1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individually, aircrew members have also received more than 1,200 Air Medals and 2 Purple Hearts, both of which were awarded for injuries sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One (designated VW-1). The squadron played a critical role in the United States Military, and its courageous members are a true example of steadfast patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation and their fellow service members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on Amendment No. 1 and passage of H. Con. Res. 40.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 226 and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

RECOGNIZING CLINT JOHNSTON

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an extraordinary educator. Clint Johnston has spent 31 years in public education. He retires at the end of this school year as Superintendent of the Jefferson R-VII district. Clint began his career in Scott County Missouri, teaching science, coaching baseball, and driving buses. He ends it in Jefferson County Missouri overseeing four schools, 160 faculty and staff, and 1,123 students in Pre-K through 12th grade.

Mr. Johnston takes an interest in his students, celebrating their achievements and helping them overcome their challenges. He encourages and inspires his faculty and staff to provide an exemplary education to the students in their care. He is, most certainly, the

biggest cheerleader for his Jefferson County Blue Jays.

It has been my great privilege to nominate students from Jefferson R-VII who have achieved their dreams of attending U.S. Service academies. No one is prouder of their accomplishments than Superintendent Johnston.

As he retires from education, he begins a new chapter that his wife Joy says will include some travel and some time at his family farm. To paraphrase a line from his favorite movie, "Forrest Gump," "retirement is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're gonna get."

On behalf of the thousands of children and their families whose lives he touched, I am proud to congratulate retiring Jefferson R-VII Superintendent Clint Johnston of Festus, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), which will be celebrated on June 7th.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America's first responders in Calhoun County, Alabama. During the past 25 years, the staff of the CDP have provided essential all hazards training to first responders from all 50 states, every U.S. territory, and numerous tribal nations, enabling them to plan for, respond to and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

Its multifaceted campus includes the Nation's only toxic agent training facility for civilian responders to gain the competence and confidence to respond to real world events involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological, and other hazardous materials. It also includes the only hospital facility in the Nation dedicated solely to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. In addition, it has served as a Joint Field Office for tornado response efforts in the state of Alabama and a personnel mobilization center for responders being forward deployed to presidentially declared disasters across the Nation.

Today, the CDP is under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and further helps ensure a safe and resilient Nation by serving as the primary location for the training of FEMA's incident workforce.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness for reaching this important milestone and look forward to witnessing its continued service to the Nation. I am especially pleased to recognize Superintendent Tony Russell for his years of service to the CDP.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the CDP on this exciting milestone in its history.

HONORING UNT POLICE CHIEF ED REYNOLDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary leadership and public service of Chief Ed Reynolds, as he retires as Police Chief of the University of North Texas (UNT) Police Department. Chief Reynolds has served as Police Chief since November 2015, and since joining the UNT Police Department in 1994 as an officer, he has accumulated almost three decades of faithful service to the 45,000 students, faculty and staff members on UNT's Denton campus.

Chief Reynolds earned an associate degree in criminal justice from North Central Texas College and graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UNT. He attended the UNT police academy and graduated as valedictorian. He holds a master peace officer, firearms, and instructor license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

During his career at UNT, Chief Reynolds has served the department as a police officer, corporal, sergeant, lieutenant and deputy chief. In doing so, he has supervised every division within the department including operations, investigations, and administration.

He led the department's successful effort to become nationally accredited in 2006 by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, a distinction that fewer than 7 percent of law enforcement agencies nationwide achieve. He received a UNT Presidential Award, the Bob Rogers Service and Community Engagement Award, in 2023, for outstanding service to the university and collaboration with the surrounding community. In 2018 he was also recognized nationally by Campus Safety Magazine as their Higher Education Director of the Year, honoring him for outstanding achievement and leadership in security, public safety and emergency management.

The UNT community is indebted to Chief Reynolds as he steps down from leading the 65 full-time employees and the department he has directed for almost 8 years. He has put the safety of others above his own and has honorably carried the burden of law enforcement leadership during one of the most challenging periods our country has witnessed. I am proud and grateful to have had someone with the character and servant heart of Chief Reynolds serving my alma mater, and I wish him and his family the best in retirement.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF SELMA MAYOR GEORGE PATRICK EVANS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing public servant and educator, former Selma Mayor George Patrick Evans,

who passed away at the age of 78 on May 15, 2023.

A native of Selma, Mayor Evans was a proud product of the Selma City School System. He began his higher education at St. Mary's College in Dodge City, KS, earning his Bachelor of Arts in speech and physical therapy in 1962. Shortly after graduation he returned to Selma, where his passion for education led him to teach at Tipton High School in Dallas County. He continued his education while teaching, receiving a Master of Education in Educational Administration from Livingston State University and an Educational Specialist Certification in Educational Administration from Troy State University.

Dedicating over 40 years to the Dallas County School System, Mayor Evans held many roles, including Principal, Assistant Principal, Coach, and Right to Read Coordinator. Transitioning from the classroom into upper management, he served as the Dallas County Board of Education Federal Program Coordinator for 9 years and served as Superintendent for 5 years. Mayor Evans' impactful career as an educator led him to break barriers as the first African American Superintendent of Dallas County public schools and Chief Academic Officer of the Alabama State Department of Education.

Bringing the same passion and tenacity into his career in electoral politics, Mayor Evans blazed trails in the Selma City Council, becoming its first African American City Council President. In his words, "good things kept happening at that time," making history as the second African American Mayor in the City of Selma's 192-year history. As Mayor for two terms, he showed his skill as a public servant leading the Queen City through the recession of 2008, a 12-percent municipal salary cut, and boldly addressing the lingering impact of segregation within Selma's communities. His foresight propelled Selma forward, implementing the City's optic fiber network and "butterfly park" to allow tourists an unobstructed view of the Alabama River and the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.

As a trusted leader in the Selma community, Mayor Evans served on the board of numerous organizations, including a member of the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities, Chairman of the Alabama Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, Wells-Fargo, then Wachovia Bank Board of Directors and AMFund Board of Directors. A man of faith he worshiped at the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Selma, and served as an Elder and Clerk of Session. His additional civic affiliations include the Selma Exchange Club, Twelve High Club, Chesterfield Club, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Mayor Evans was known for his love of basketball and received numerous awards for his contribution to expanding the sport in Alabama. From 1979 to 2010, he served as the men's basketball official and officiating coordinator for the Southwestern Athletic Conference, leading him to an induction into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame. He served on the AHSAA Bryant-Jordan Student Athletic Program Scholarship Committee and the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Mayor Evans is survived by his beloved wife, fellow educator, and nurse Jeannie Evans; sons, Patrick, Duane, and Byron; and

grandchildren, Erin, Pailee, Pilar, Eden, Paxson George, Patrick Jr., Kelly, and Tremaine.

On a personal note, as a native of Selma, I have known Mayor Evans all my life and even worked as the family babysitter during my youth. Mayor Evans has always been a man of great character and honor, whose love of God, family, and community has been his guiding principle. From being Dallas County's first Black school board superintendent to his 16 years of public service as President of the Selma City Council and then as Mayor, Evans led by example through his hard work, perseverance, grit, and kindness.

During his tenure as Mayor, he partnered with my office to bring vital federal resources home to Selma and Dallas County. From his demonstrated efforts to revitalize downtown Selma to his dedicated commitment to making our community stronger and safer, Mayor Evans fought hard to improve the lives of the people he served. His public service has left an indelible imprint on Selma, and he will be missed. Let us find comfort in knowing his incredible legacy will live on in the many people he touched. May he rest in peace and power.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of an exceptional public servant, Selma's former Mayor, George Patrick Evans, for his decades of service to the City of Selma, Dallas County, and the entire State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN A. THOMAS, THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Sergeant Major John A. Thomas. Sergeant Major Thomas began his career in 1985 after completing both his basic and individual trainings. Over a 38-year career, Sergeant Major Thomas has served this great Nation to ensure the safety of American citizens and to provide support for military personnel.

Sergeant Major Thomas's decorated career includes being deployed to Egypt in support of the Multi-national Forces and Observers, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and his emergency rapid response participation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida. Sergeant Major Thomas has received accolades for his service in overseas campaigns fighting terrorism and for his decisive actions in the line of duty.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I thank Sergeant Major John A. Thomas for his service to our country.

HONORING FRANCIS XAVIER BELLOTTI OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francis Xavier Bellotti, in recognition of his 100th birthday and with the deepest appreciation for his courageous service to our Nation during World War II and his many contributions to Massachusetts' legal and political communities.

Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Bellotti graduated from The English High School in 1942 before enlisting in the United States Navy's elite Scouts and Raiders—the Navy's first special warfare unit and a progenitor of today's Navy SEALs. Mr. Bellotti led his squad valiantly across multiple theaters in World War II and was decorated for his service in Europe and the Pacific.

Mr. Bellotti's earned his bachelor's degree from Tufts University in 1947 and graduated from Boston College Law School in 1952. He quickly became a prominent and respected attorney, practicing at every level of the state and federal judicial system.

Mr. Bellotti's career in public service began on January 3, 1963, when he became the 61st Lieutenant Governor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He then served three terms as Massachusetts' Attorney General, from 1975 to 1987, during which time he transformed the Office of the Attorney General, fostering a culture of transparency, professionalism, and nonpartisanship. In 1981, the National Association of Attorneys General unanimously voted Mr. Bellotti the most outstanding attorney general in the country.

After his departure from elective office, Mr. Bellotti returned to the law, where he has remained a steadfast advocate for justice and democracy.

In his personal life, Mr. Bellotti is a proud father of 12 children and more than twice as many grandchildren. His beloved wife, Margarita "Maggie" Bellotti, passed away on December 26, 2022. She is remembered as the "driving force" in Mr. Bellotti's life and a powerful victim advocate in her own right.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Xavier Bellotti's legacy is clearly one of service—to country, community, and principle. Over the years, Mr. Bellotti has received countless accolades for his good work. In 2011, Boston College Law School aptly named its public service loan repayment

assistance and forgiveness program in his honor. In 2012, the District Court of East Norfolk—where Mr. Bellotti first practiced—was renamed the Francis X. Bellotti Courthouse. And, in 2017, the United States Navy awarded Mr. Bellotti a trident badge plaque for his leadership as a member of the Scouts and Raiders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to join Mr. Bellotti's family and friends in recognizing his 100th birthday and to thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Rollcall No. 228 (H.R. 1076) and YES on Rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1156).

HONORING JAIME CARRANZA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and service of Jaime Carranza, a senior warehouseman for the Anaheim Union High School District who was recently recognized as one of nine California Classified Employee of the Year honorees.

For the past five years, Jaime has been an integral part of the Anaheim Union High School District. Students and faculty alike know that Jaime goes above and beyond to ensure that all students are supported in their education and in their lives. As senior warehouseman for Food Services, Jaime ensures that all of the Anaheim Union High Schools are able to provide kids with healthy meals, safe campuses and transportation, and a supportive infrastructure during difficulties and unexpected changes. Known for his friendliness, expertise, and willingness to assist others, Jaime is the first person his colleagues call when they need help.

For his work and dedication to our community, Jaime won the award for top classified employee in the Food and Nutrition Services category. He was selected for this honor from a state-wide pool of 151 nominees. He was distinguished by his exemplary work performance, involvement in his campus and the Anaheim community, and the support of his colleagues.

I thank Jaime for his service to Anaheim's students.