

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING ROSALYNN CARTER

### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a truly exceptional First Lady, Rosalynn Carter. I thank my Georgia colleagues for their kind words during this time. It is important we unite as a state delegation to honor her, just as our state and our Nation recently had the opportunity to pay their respects and mark her legacy of service.

I consider it one of the great blessings of my life that I was able to spend time in Plains, Georgia with both President Carter and the former First Lady during my first year in Congress. Their dedication to public service and to our Nation was strengthened by the love and partnership shared over their 77 years of marriage. It's widely been pointed out that the legacy of President Carter would not be complete without a full accounting of the many contributions Rosalynn made during that time in office.

In metro Atlanta, her memory will forever live on at the Rosalynn Apartments through the work of 3Keys, whose mission to support and empower individuals with mental illness to live a life filled with purpose and dignity was directly by her own work. In all that she did, she touched people's lives and made a real difference for the people she was called to serve.

I am holding the Carter family in my prayers and in my heart during this difficult time.

## RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE RUSH CREEK YACHT CLUB

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the youth sailors of the Rush Creek Yacht Club of Heath, Texas, for their role in rescuing a windsurfer in distress.

On July 16, 2021, Bob Cummings was windsurfing on Lake Hubbard near Dallas, Texas, when he lost his foil board in strong winds. Mr. Cummings was stranded in the middle of the lake and located two miles from the nearest shore. He was tired, cold, and anxious about his fate. To his good fortune, youth sailor León van Os was sailing on the same lake and spotted Mr. Cummings struggling in the water. León quickly notified the rest of his crew and utilized their "man overboard" training to rescue Mr. Cummings.

In recognition of their efforts, the U.S. Sailing Safety at Sea Committee has awarded the Rush Creek Yacht Club the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal for the crew's actions. This Medal was established in 1990 to recognize those who have rescued fellow sailors from

danger and made significant contributions in improving rescue efforts nationwide. The crew of young heroes includes León van Os, Mercedes Porter-Via, Alex Deaton, Genevieve Young, Ian Park, Ally Ravji, and Elizabeth Cleaves.

I have requested a United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of each of these individuals for their bravery and heroic action. I thank them for their efforts and may God Bless them all.

## RECOGNIZING THE LUXEMBURG-CASCO FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Luxemburg-Casco football team for their runner-up finish at the 2023 WIAA Division 4 State Football Championship.

For the first time in school history, the Luxemburg-Casco football team traveled to Madison for the Division 4 state football championship game. After an impressive season and playoff run, they would be in for a matchup with the talented Lodi team at Camp Randall. With a record of 12–2, the entire team and coaching staff displayed great determination and hard work to make it to the 2023 state championship for the first time in their school's history.

Even though the Spartans did not come out on top in the championship, the Luxemburg-Casco community is incredibly proud of these young men for their hard work throughout the season. Making it to the state football championship is an outstanding achievement and one which will be remembered for generations to come. To head coach Neil Seering and the entire team, I congratulate you on this outstanding milestone and applaud your tireless commitment and dedication throughout the season. I also want to give special congratulations to the graduating seniors: Sawyer Dorn, Chris Vanderwielen, Trace Schoenebeck, Braeden Schley, Ezra Waage, Max Thayse, Ryland Day, and Cole DeJardin.

Once again, I extend my sincere congratulations to head coach Neil Seering and the entire Luxemburg-Casco football team on this historic accomplishment and wish them many seasons of continued success. I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding the Luxemburg-Casco football team for their runner-up finish at the 2023 WIAA Division 4 State Football Championship.

## RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DEBORAH BUCKI

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a leader within our community, Deborah Bruch Bucki. Not only has she excelled in her professional career, but she consistently devoted time and energy toward countless organizations in Western New York. The spirit and vigor that Debbie has displayed for over five decades is emblematic of our community and its commitment to one another.

A graduate of Villa Maria Academy and D'Youville College, Debbie also received her Ph.D. from University at Buffalo before her career began in nursing. She cared for individuals at multiple hospitals in the area, most notably at Buffalo General Hospital. But more than any singular accomplishment, Debbie's commitment to Buffalo's largest suburb, the Town of Amherst, has been nothing short of impressive. She has served on the town board in various roles since 2006, including a stint as Town Clerk from 2009 to 2011. Currently, Debbie serves as the Deputy Supervisor. This is in addition to work for the Amherst Democratic Committee, Amherst 9/11 Commemoration Ceremonies, Amherst Museum, Amherst Symphony Orchestra, and Amherst Youth Board. Debbie is an active member of the League of Women Voters, numerous Polish-American organizations, and several educational associations. And though it may be hard to imagine, this is far from a comprehensive list: she has played a role in too many organizations and efforts to properly recall.

It is not often that one citizen can have such a positive and broad impact on her community; this dedication ought to be both recognized and applauded. Debbie is an asset for the Town of Amherst, and all of these groups and organizations owe her a debt of gratitude. Hopefully, Debbie will allow herself the chance to enjoy additional time with her husband, Carl, and their son, Craig. But as long as Deborah Bucki continues to serve the people of the Town of Amherst, they are in capable hands, and I am thrilled that she is receiving the recognition that she deserves.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, upon reflection I regret having cast a no vote for Roll Call No. 578, H. Res. 798. I wish to reflect that my vote for H. Res. 798 should have been yes.

• 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.

CELEBRATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROCKWALL COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club (RCRW) and commend their advocacy for conservative values.

In 1976, Jim and Gerry Glasgow founded the RCRW shortly after moving to Rockwall, Texas. At the time, there were only a handful of Republicans in Rockwall who regularly met to discuss the future of politics. Furthermore, the community lacked a group dedicated for Republican women interested in political activism. After much deliberation and consultation, Billie Tuttle was soon selected to serve as the first President of the RCRW.

On May 10, 1976, the RCRW held its first general meeting in Lakeside Village. In its first meeting, there were about twenty participants, but this number quickly skyrocketed when the RCRW hosted its first campaign rally in the summer of 1980. Local newspapers estimated that over 5,000 people attended the rally and barbecue, including the Governor of Texas, U.S. Senators, and many more! From knocking on Rockwall residents' doors to phone banking at the campaign headquarters, the RCRW has consistently delivered in its commitment to mobilizing Republican voters and provide essential community outreach. RCRW members have annually participated in numerous community service projects to assist students and families in need, especially during the holiday season.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of this historic occasion. Furthermore, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of the RCRW in its mission to educate, empower, and support the women of Rockwall County. I wish them continued success for many more years to come.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, all fair-minded Americans must agree the rise in antisemitism is despicable and dangerous. Such hatred is against everything the United States stands for. I will never fail to use my office to stand against antisemitism.

While I will vote for this resolution, I condemn House Republicans for politicizing our fight against antisemitism. Specifically, this resolution directly references an incident in Clifton, New Jersey on October 8, 2023. After checking directly with Clifton leaders and police, I found out this incident did not occur as described in the resolution. And while an in-

vestigation was conducted, no formal complaint was ever filed.

We have seen a startling rise in antisemitism since the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023. There is no shortage of genuine examples to draw from, but Republicans included this unvetted falsehood anyway.

The resolution also conveniently ignores how a resurgence in right-wing extremism has long been a major source of increased antisemitic violence. By turning the fight against antisemitism into one more partisan vehicle, House Republicans are threatening to render frivolous true acts of anti-Jewish hate.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COACH LISA TAYLOR

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Traverse City Central Coach Lisa Taylor for her incredible career and upcoming retirement. Coach Taylor is leaving behind an illustrious legacy from her 30 years as a coach at Traverse City Central High School for their track and cross-country programs.

Throughout her tenure as Head Coach, Lisa Taylor amassed an impressive list of accolades. Coach Taylor led the Trojans to 16 Regional Titles, 20 Conference Championships, and qualified for 28 State Championship meets. She also led the students to one Michigan State Championship and five runner-up finishes.

As a testament to her character, Coach Taylor has been nominated for the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coach Association's Coach of the Year an historic 13 times, winning the award in 2008. She was also a finalist in the National High School Coaches Association's Coach of the Year awards.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Coach Lisa Taylor as she embarks on her new journey in retirement. I'd like to congratulate her on decades of success and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

**HON. LLOYD DOGGETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I will vote "present" for H. Res. 894, not for a lack of commitment to condemn antisemitism and the Hamas atrocities as well as the outrageous examples of violent antisemitism referenced in the Resolution, but because of some of the language tucked into this measure and some that is omitted.

While Anti-Zionism can be a cover for antisemitism, not all actions that are anti-Zionist are antisemitic. This resolution states "clearly and firmly" that "anti-Zionism is antisemitism"—such a blanket statement is

wrong. It fails to reflect the complexities of the Jewish people or the definition of Zionism and anti-Zionism itself. Undeniably, some in the Jewish community do not support the Zionist movement.

Although I personally believe in Israel as an independent Jewish state, I have often criticized the Netanyahu government. Surely it would only devalue the meaning of antisemitism to misapply it to the many—Jewish and non-Jewish—who strongly disagree with that government.

Much is omitted from this Resolution. Mr. Netanyahu's ultra-right wing government and the Israeli settlers, who have terrorized Palestinians in the West Bank, share a common view with some Palestinians—all want only one country; they differ only on who gets to expel the other. I believe and have long advocated for a future with two states, living in peace and security—one is Israeli and another Palestinian.

Additionally, after the murder of a six-year-old child because he was a Muslim and the shooting of three Palestinians, apparently because they were Palestinian, and numerous examples of hate directed against Muslims, this Resolution fails to acknowledge that Islamophobia is just as wrong as antisemitism or Asian hate or other expressions of racism. Indeed, all these forms of bigotry have historically arisen from ultra-right wing white nationalists like those who marched in Charlottesville shouting "Jews will not replace us." This resolution should have condemned all forms of hate speech. None of us are truly safe unless all of us are safe.

Finally, the timing of this Resolution is troubling. It occurs on a day when the United Nations has described conditions in Gaza as "apocalyptic." Along with demanding accountability from Hamas for its terrorism, we should be focused on how to stop the killing of innocents and secure the release of all remaining hostages.

Because I do not want my views on Hamas, antisemitism or other hate to be misconstrued and because no amendments to correct this defective resolution are permitted, I will vote "present."

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT LADD

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Robert Ladd of Van Alstyne, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Ladd honorably served in the United States Army during the Gulf War and Afghanistan War.

As a young man, Sergeant Ladd knew that he wanted to be a soldier and defend his country. Even though he battled asthma, he excelled and was able to join the Army in 1987. In the Army, he became a Unit Supply Specialist, where he successfully managed logistics for Army equipment deliveries. Sergeant Ladd served for over 29 years, with deployments to Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia.

In Afghanistan, he directed military communications with the Afghanistan Army and provided security for important Afghan military leaders in their fight against the Taliban. Additionally, Sergeant Ladd also partook in dangerous supply runs so that our troops were able to fulfill their duties. On numerous occasions, he volunteered for combat missions so that other soldiers would not be put in harm's way. For his outstanding service and actions, Sergeant Ladd was awarded the Bronze Star three times, along with several other awards.

After retiring from the Army in 2016, Sergeant Ladd continued to positively impact his community in many ways. Sergeant Ladd is passionate about animals, and he would take time to assist animals on the street if he saw they were at risk. Without question, he truly embodies the values of an upstanding American soldier. Sergeant Ladd's exceptional display of heroism and selfless service in the line of duty has saved the lives of fellow soldiers and protected our great Nation.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Ladd in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING DONALD "TOBY" PETERSON

#### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Donald "Toby" Peterson.

Born in 1933, Toby spent his childhood growing up in rural Oconto County in the Oconto Falls area, known as "Swedetown." Toby attended Oconto Falls High School and while in school, met Shirley Jean Elbe who he affectionally called his, "Lovely Lady". Following their marriage in 1956, Toby and Shirley started a family that would grow to six children: Lynette, Mike, Kathryn, Mari Jo, Jan, and Beth, who were the center of their world.

Throughout his life, Toby's strong work ethic resulted in his professional success as he and his father owned and operated two gas stations in Oconto Falls that serviced and sold cars and trucks. In 1973, Toby and Shirley purchased the local Ford dealership, which was operated by the family for the next 48 years. Toby and his family built a lasting business that provided many individuals throughout Northeast Wisconsin with stable jobs. Throughout the years, the dealership provided exceptional service and support for the entire Oconto Falls community. I commend Toby and Shirley for their unwavering commitment and dedication to their business and community throughout the years.

As his business grew and nourished, so did his efforts to give back to his community. Toby cherished and devoted much of his time and efforts to his hometown. Toby was a member of the River Island Golf Course, served on the Oconto Falls Fire Department, and on the Community Bank Board. Toby undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the entire Oconto Falls community and built a legacy that will be remembered for years to come. I thank Toby for his years of dedication to our community

and offer my sincere condolences to his family during this time.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Donald "Toby" Peterson for his extraordinary commitment and dedication to the Oconto County community and Northeast Wisconsin. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and to all of the lives he touched.

#### CELEBRATING THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 150TH ANNI- VERSARY

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) for one hundred and fifty years of service and commitment to the community. For over a century, the Kansas City Public Library has served as a gateway for people to gain knowledge and wisdom. The library offers resources and services that cultivate a love and appreciation for reading and learning. On this momentous occasion, let us reflect on the irreplaceable assets the Kansas City Public Library, and all libraries, have given us.

In 1873, the Public School Library of Kansas City was established as an invaluable resource for fostering a love of reading, allowing all who visit the library to immerse themselves in new worlds. In times of extreme economic hardship, KCPL has stood as a beacon of hope and prosperity. The library offered a sense of culture and sophistication, thereby helping establish the foundation upon which Kansas City was built. This institution started with just a few books and has flourished into what we now know as the Kansas City Public Library, with ten branches, thousands of books, and an immeasurable amount of online assistance.

By offering a variety of children's books, novels, textbooks, and databases, libraries represent different things to different people. Synonymous with education, a library can fuel a student's love for learning, allowing them to better understand themselves, friends, family, and the world. Lending books allows prolonged access to knowledge that may not be available anywhere else. Catalogs and records help us learn from the past and recognize how it shaped our present and future. Libraries inspire creativity and imagination, creating an open space for people to share stories and engage with each other. A place unlike any other where all ages can come together, the Kansas City Public Library is not only a quiet place for students to study but also a place to make a friend, pick up a new hobby, access the internet, and attend educational events.

The Kansas City Public Library does more than just provide access to knowledge. The library system is keenly aware of the needs and hardships of many who enter their doors. Specialists throughout the branches help individuals with common issues that everyday people face, from taxes and budgeting to health and fitness. A safe haven is provided for those who enter any of the Kansas City branches. In 2016, the Outreach Team, alongside the AmeriCorps VISTAs, began "Coffee & Conversations." These meetings invite people experiencing hardships and housing insecurity

to have open discussions about their lives; ensuring they have food, emergency supplies, and the support needed to stay on their feet. Additionally, there is also an initiative to help those who just came to the United States. Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment connects the immigrant community with opportunities, services, and resources to help immigrants gain citizenship and integrate into their new home.

Numerous awards and acknowledgements have been given to the Kansas City Public Library to recognize the extraordinary work being accomplished. Multiple five-star ratings have been given by the Library Journal because of program attendance, library visits, internet computer usage, and circulation. The library system received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2008 in recognition of children's programs and free events. There is no denying the outstanding performance of this library. The awards, ratings, and reviews for all the services this library system offers, proves KCPL is a premier library in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the Kansas City Public Library on one hundred and any years of resilience and engagement within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. I have no doubt they will continue to foster a love of reading and prove to be an invaluable resource for all visitors. It is fitting to celebrate this milestone and reflect on the significance of libraries in our community. Here's to another hundred and fifty years of the Kansas City Public Library being a shining light for knowledge, inspiration, and opportunity.

#### CELEBRATING MID-KANSAS COOP- ERATIVE AS THE AGRICUL- TURAL RETAILERS ASSOCIATION RETAILER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mid-Kansas Cooperative being honored as the Agricultural Retailers Association Retailer of the Year. I am incredibly proud that MKC's commitment to their customers and dedication to their community is being recognized.

MKC is a full-service farm cooperative offering a complete line of products, programs, and services for farm and urban customers throughout Kansas. The cooperative has more than 11,000 members and 8,000 customers, and their connection to my district and constituents is deep and stretches back decades. MKC has several large-scale facilities serving the farmers and customers of the 4th district, including their recently opened executive leadership office in Wichita. MKC's continued investment in the district provides good jobs and new markets for the world-class agricultural products grown in Kansas.

The Agricultural Retailers Association's Retailer of the Year award is given to the agricultural retailer who goes above and beyond in environmental stewardship, community leadership, customer engagement and employee relations. MKC works tirelessly to ensure that it gives the highest level of service in all of

these categories. I want to congratulate the MKC team for all their hard work and wish them continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWEST  
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. Fallon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our newest United States citizens in North Texas. Today is a remarkable milestone in each one of their lives.

Since the founding of our Nation, people from all over the world have flocked to the shores of the United States. They have escaped conflicts, persecution, and violence, while others simply dreamed of a better life for themselves and their families, just like many of the men and women here today.

My fellow citizens are now part of our Nation's rich history after devoting much of their time and labor into learning what it means to be an American. In our great Nation, we are afforded the most important liberties and freedoms that are seldom found anywhere else. These unalienable rights protect all Americans from injustice.

The naturalization process was never meant to be simple or swift, and for good reason. By diligently completing each required task, they have now proven that they are determined to overcome the most difficult challenges and are ready to welcome new opportunities. It is my hope that they reflect upon the work and effort that led them to this very moment, and take pride in their new responsibilities as an American citizen.

I have requested a United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital in recognition of each of our Nation's newest citizens for their hard-earned achievements. I wish every one of them continued success and prosperity as they unlock the next chapter of their life as a citizen of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING YURI  
HRESHCHYSHYN'S LIFETIME OF  
ADVOCACY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the hard work, commitment, and leadership of my good friend, Yuri Hreshchysyn. Born in 1959, Yuri has been an inspiring advocate and dedicated servant in the maintenance and growth of Buffalo. The Ukrainian-American community, City of Buffalo, and all of Western New York owe Yuri a debt of gratitude for his enduring vision of what our community should look like.

A committeeman with the Erie County Democratic Committee, he has worked closely with elected leaders on several community projects. Yuri worked as an advisor and volunteer with Buffalo Green Code and None Like You/We Care to right the wrongs of environmental injustices, plan educational outreach,

and design city green space. Whether it was cutting grass, trimming trees, or planting gardens, each project was a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of his neighbors. As Executive Director Emeritus of the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation, Yuri was instrumental in the redevelopment of the terminal and surrounding area. He also offered indispensable leadership in the fight to clean up Buffalo's waterways. It is safe to say that the Buffalo River and Old First Ward would not look the same in the absence of his stewardship.

Yuri has also been steadfast in preserving Ukrainian customs and traditions in Western New York. He has formerly served as the President of the Ukrainian American Civic Center and as a board member of the Ukrainian American Welcome Foundation of WNY. Yuri has been the President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee (Buffalo Chapter) since 2019. In light of Russia's baseless invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, he has been helping displaced Ukrainians, collecting humanitarian aid for the front lines, and serving as my personal counsel for accurate information on the war's developments.

In the "City of Good Neighbors," we are blessed to have no shortage of caring residents; nevertheless, those looking for a model citizen should look no further than Yuri Hreshchysyn. Yuri embodies everything good about our community, and it is my honor to thank him for all that he has done for our community and our country.

COMMENDING MOBILE RETIRED  
EDUCATORS FOR THEIR SERVICE  
TO ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

**HON. JERRY L. CARL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mobile Retired Educators and their service to Alabama's First Congressional District. Educating the young minds in our District is arguably one of the most important jobs there is.

Though their job may not be the easiest, it is vital in laying the groundwork for successful citizens. Being an educator is not just a career; it is being a mover, shaper, and inspiration to young people.

We are grateful for their sacrifices and time in their dedication to their careers for shaping the young minds of our future and the betterment of our community. We wish them the best in their hard-earned, well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast my vote during Roll Call No. 691 on December 1, 2023, due to circumstances that necessitated my remaining in the District. As a consequence, I was unavoidably delayed and was not present in the House Chamber to

cast votes on this date. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On Roll Call No. 691, on Agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 878), "Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives", I would have voted YEA.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR SENIOR AIR-  
MAN ELISHIA BAXTER

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Airman Elishia Lorraine Baxter of Little Elm, Texas, and award her a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Senior Airman Baxter honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Iraq War.

Born in a military household, Senior Airman Baxter had a longtime desire to defend her nation and joined the Air Force in 2003. She trained as an Air Transportation Apprentice, and was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base and Warner Robbins Air Force Base. In this role, she upheld safe and efficient flight protocols for passengers and cargo onboard Air Force aircraft. Senior Airman also served as a career advisor and fitness monitor for fellow servicemembers so that they were prepared for success.

Following her discharge from the Air Force in 2011, Senior Airman Baxter has committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of fellow veterans in our community. For her master's degree, she specialized in social work and assisting veteran grant programs through United Way. Through Senior Airman Baxter's work, over a million dollars was distributed to veterans in Denton County facing difficult financial circumstances. She even finds time to manage a mental health pilot program for veterans. I am confident that her continued veteran outreach efforts reassure the men and women that fought for our country that their sacrifices will never be forgotten.

I am honored to represent Senior Airman Baxter in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award her the Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MS.  
JOYCE ALLEG RUCCI

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Ms. Joyce Allegrucci, a dedicated public servant for the state of Kansas. Over a long and lasting career, Ms. Allegrucci served as Assistant Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for Children and Family Policy, where she fiercely advocated for policies to make Kansas a safer place where children and families can thrive.

She's also supported other public officials on the state level to ensure fair and equitable

policies are at the fore, having served as chief of staff to former Governor Kathleen Sebelius and on Governor Laura Kelly's transition in 2018.

Ms. Allegrucci is an example to us all of what it means to commit yourself to public service. We in Kansas owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude, and it is a privilege to honor her here today. I congratulate Ms. Allegrucci on an impressive, successful career, and wish her a peaceful retirement.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER CRAIG HELM, SPRINGGETTSBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Officer Craig Helm on earning the 2022 Springgettsbury Township "Officer of the Year."

Officer Helm joined the Springgettsbury Township Police Department in November 2015. Throughout his career, Officer Helm has served tirelessly in enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth. In 2022, he made 37 criminal arrests, 188 traffic contacts, 400 incident reports, and investigated 46 traffic accidents. His outstanding work in DUI investigations previously earned him the "DUI Top Gun" award.

Officer Helm frequently serves as the Officer in Charge (OIC) during shifts, and is poised and professional in his leadership. He leads by example, and always volunteers to cover a shift when manpower issues arise. His frequent guidance and support to newer officers, providing them with everything they need to ensure successful outcomes, earned him selection in 2022 as Field Training Officer.

In one of his most notable and heroic actions in 2022, Officer Helm was dispatched for a shooting while serving as the OIC. He arrived on the scene and immediately began dispensing lifesaving first aid to the victim, while simultaneously directing officers to secure the crime scene. His leadership in commanding the situation resulted in the Criminal Investigation Department identifying the suspect, who eventually was charged with attempted homicide.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged and honored to recognize and commend Officer Craig Helm on earning the 2022 "Officer of the Year" for Springgettsbury Township Police Department. He is the standard by which we all should be judged.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMY ROTC AT UTEP

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Army Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

The Army ROTC program has been an integral part of the UTEP and the El Paso com-

munity since its establishment on July 1, 1948, as an Air Defense Artillery ROTC unit of the College of Mines and Metallurgy. Today, the Army ROTC program offers UTEP students basic and advanced courses of Military Science, including a Minor in Military Studies, and provides training in small unit leadership and military skills, in both classrooms across campus and in a field environment.

The Officers commissioned through the UTEP Army ROTC program have served their nation in all major conflicts from the Korean War through the Global War on Terrorism, having preserved the liberties that have enriched this nation. Additionally, the Officers are always at the forefront of providing voluntary service to our country in terms of disaster preparedness and response, community development and environmental protection.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the UTEP Army ROTC, and all those associated with the program, for the important role in preparing individuals to serve their country and their communities, for the last 75 years. I wish them continued success and impact for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR PETTY OFFICER STEPHEN LUNSFORD

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Stephen Lunsford of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PO3 Lunsford honorably served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

PO3 Lunsford comes from a military household and sought to continue his family's tradition of service. In 1961, he joined the Navy and first trained as an Aviation Metalsmith on the A-3B Skywarrior strategic bomber. After being transferred to the Seventh Fleet, he served as a Plane Captain on several aircraft carriers, including the USS *Constellation* (CV-64), USS *Midway* (CV-41), and the USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43). In this role, PO3 Lunsford directed flight operations on the carriers' runway and ensured that F-4 Phantom IIs safely took off for their combat missions. Additionally, he served on the USS *Constellation* when it sailed to the Gulf of Tonkin to provide air cover for American destroyers that were believed to be attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. For his service, PO3 Lunsford was bestowed the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Navy Unit Commendation with bronze star, along with several other awards.

Today, he vividly recalls his experience working on the flight deck of aircraft carriers and that it was an exciting opportunity for someone as young as him to maintain the airworthiness and flight operations of the most advanced aircraft at the time. After his discharge from the Navy, PO3 Lunsford was able to transform the skills he gained in the Navy to successfully operate several businesses, including a nonprofit organization. For the past 40 years, he has served as a deacon at his church and taught Sunday school. PO3 Lunsford has also served as a disaster recov-

ery chaplain and assisted victims of natural disasters. I strongly commend him for his efforts to set a positive example for his family and uplift our community through his generosity.

I am honored to represent PO3 Lunsford in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO FENCING AT THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the No Fencing at the United States Supreme Court Act, which would prohibit the installation of permanent fencing at the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier this year, I introduced a bill that would prohibit the installation of permanent fencing at the U.S. Capitol complex.

After the Supreme Court's draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* was leaked in May 2022, the Supreme Court installed temporary anti-climb fencing around its grounds, which remained in place until late August 2022. While the Supreme Court has not announced plans to install permanent fencing, temporary security measures often become permanent.

While I understand the importance of protecting the Supreme Court building, Supreme Court Justices and Supreme Court employees, we can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

Permanent fencing would send an un-American message to the nation and the world by transforming our democracy from one that is accessible and of the people to one that is exclusive and fearful of its own citizens. The Supreme Court has long welcomed First Amendment demonstrations without becoming a fortress.

Public property should be open to the public. The distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government, including the Supreme Court, low. We should not entrench that distance further by placing intimidating barriers between public servants and the people they serve. There are more effective, less obtrusive security solutions than archaic fencing.

Moreover, the Supreme Court is in a residential neighborhood in the District of Columbia. The Supreme Court grounds are widely used by both D.C. residents and visitors. Permanent fencing would block that use.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONALD J. HERRINGTON

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks for the many years of service of

Donald J. Herrington to the New Holland community, as he retires from public service as a member of the New Holland Borough Council.

Mr. Herrington's selfless service to the New Holland Community exceeds thirty years across two millennia. He entered service to the borough as a member of the Planning Commission, serving seven years followed by a term as Mayor of the borough for four years ending in 1989.

Mr. Herrington was recalled to the service of the borough in June of 2000, as a Borough Council Member, a position which he held through the end of this year.

In addition to his dedication to the borough, he also served his community as a coach for several local Garden Spot sports teams, and with the local Jaycees, eventually serving as the 37th President of the Pennsylvania Jaycees.

Mr. Speaker, our communities across the nation are enriched through the selfless service of dedicated and talented individuals like Mr. Donald J. Herrington. We offer him our thanks and gratitude for his work to strengthen his community and we wish him well in all his future endeavors.

#### CONGRATULATING EYOLE MBONGO

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eyole M. Mbongo of San Antonio, Texas, who received the Outstanding Congressional Staffer Award on December 1, 2023 from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in recognition of his exceptional dedication to advancing equity in education.

In 2014, Mr. Mbongo joined my Congressional staff as an intern while completing his master's degree in public administration at the University of Texas, San Antonio. After his graduation, I hired him as a constituent services representative in my district office, where he worked to help residents of the 20th District of Texas access programs and services within the federal government. After almost two years in my district office, he joined my staff in Washington D.C., where he now serves as a senior legislative assistant.

Over the course of his work with my office, Mr. Mbongo has led the fight to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding back to San Antonio schools and universities—helping them chart a path forward through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic and close racial and socioeconomic gaps in college attendance and completion.

During the current session of Congress, Mr. Mbongo has been a critical advisor in the introduction of several bills and resolutions, including:

The Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act (HERE Act), which would authorize a grant program to support partnerships between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and school districts with high enrollment of Latino students to improve college readiness and degree attainment.

The Advanced Coursework Equity Act, which would authorize a grant program to address equity gaps in enrollment and performance in advanced programs and courses.

A resolution to designate the week beginning on September 11, 2023 as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week.

There is no one more qualified or deserving of this award than Mr. Mbongo, and I am grateful to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for recognizing the profound impact of his work.

I congratulate Mr. Mbongo—he makes San Antonio proud.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL CATES

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Michael "Mike" Cates of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. General Cates honorably served in the United States Army as the 23rd Chief of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

In 1980, General Cates followed in his family's footsteps and joined the Army after obtaining his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Texas A&M University. He specialized in veterinary services in South Korea and Germany, and was the first veterinarian to command the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. I commend his extensive efforts to improve public health and the wellbeing of animals in the military. For his exemplary service, General Cates was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and several other awards. In 2005, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine.

After his retirement in 2008, General Cates continued to make profound impacts in his community in many ways. He became a professor at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and served as their Master of Public Health Graduate Program Director. As the Program Director, General Cates helped prepare students for success in public health careers. When he retired from academia, he served as a board member for the Heritage Association and Pet Partners in Frisco. In these roles, General Cates helped preserve Frisco's rich history and supported local animal shelters so that they may have a safe place to call home. These actions highlight his commitment to uplifting the world around him and being a voice for those in need.

I am honored to represent BG Cates in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

#### OSCAR ORTIZ'S COMMENDATION

#### HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted orga-

nizer and champion for educational equity. Oscar was a visionary: he fought for a just, inclusive future where everyone thrives. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and respected member of the Illinois Third Congressional District community.

Born in our great City of Chicago on April 21, 1962, to Benito and Mirta Ortiz, Oscar dedicated his life to empowering our community through education. He believed that education was a powerful tool to build a just future. He knew education could unlock our collective potential and enable us to realize our dreams. With that in mind, Ortiz became an elementary and high school teacher, helping our young people find their power and joy in learning. Whether it was at Jahn and Lowell Elementary Schools or Jefferson Alternative School, el maestro Ortiz was always present for all his students, their parents, and faculty.

His desire to serve our community and defend public education in Chicago led him to join the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) in May 2003, where he quickly became a committed and active member, never missing a meeting or event. There, Oscar served as a sergeant-at-arms, as the Lowell delegate, and as a member of the Legislative Committees, always with the intention of advancing social justice and equity through education.

Oscar generously committed his time on earth to countless social justice causes. He believed in the power of organized communities and worked tirelessly to build a better future for Chicago and our nation. I, personally, will miss his calls to action and the way he could stir our passions and stoke our courage on the bullhorn at direct actions. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us! I will miss him dearly, and I know that countless others will, too. He was a true, loyal friend.

His wife, Sabina; sons, Gabriel and Daniel; brother Ed; parents, Benito and Mirta; all his loved ones, and to the entire CTU family, are in my heart and in my prayers. Together, as we mourn his passing, let us celebrate the blessing he was in all of our lives, the impact he had on our community, and the mark he has left in our great City of Chicago. Oscar vive, la lucha sigue. Rest in power, Oscar.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF PASTOR CHARLES GILCHRIST ADAMS

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District mourns the loss of Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams, a beloved spiritual and community leader and activist in our district whose influence reached many across our state and the world.

Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and Harvard University and went on to become a doctoral fellow in Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1962 to 1969, Dr. Adams served as Pastor of the historic Concord Baptist Church in Boston. Shortly after, Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams was appointed as lead pastor for the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, a role



he held for more than fifty years. As pastor, he dedicated his life and mission to service, fighting for justice for our communities and improving the lives of residents in Northwest Detroit. He was a tireless advocate in the fight for safe housing for all and for affordable childcare for working families. Pastor Adams served as President of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP in 1984 and served on its executive board consecutive years until 1992.

His bold and grounded leadership is a testament to his impactful work and legacy. The 12th Congressional District sends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to Pastor Adams's family and to the entire Hartford Memorial Baptist Church family on this significant loss to our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Agnes Adams and his children, Dr. Tara Adams Washington and Reverend Charles Christian Adams.

Please join me in remembering Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams for his incredible spiritual leadership and impact on our district and the community. May he rest in love and his legacy continue to impact our community.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MARYLAND ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR LINDA LAMONE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend Linda Lamone: Maryland's longest-serving Elections Administrator and the second-longest-serving chief elections official in America. In September, she retired after overseeing our elections for more than a quarter century. Linda is a woman of tremendous vision, integrity, and reverence for our democratic institutions, and we appreciate her outstanding service.

After serving Marylanders for decades as a Counsel to the Maryland State Assembly, the Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Schaefer's legislative office, a private attorney, and an Assistant Attorney General under Governor Glendening, Linda started as Elections Administrator in 1997. She oversaw 13 federal general elections, including six presidential elections, over the course of her impressive career.

Linda started the role at a pivotal moment for American elections. New digital technologies offered new opportunities to enhance our electoral system. Around the same time, the 2000 presidential election revealed how vulnerabilities in our elections can undermine the American people's faith in our democracy. That experience led me and a bipartisan group of Members to pass the Help America Vote Act to keep our elections secure, accessible, and transparent.

Linda was instrumental in helping the Election Assistance Commission and I implement HAVA in Maryland and beyond. From modernizing and standardizing our state's voting machines to digitizing campaign finance and voter registration resources, Linda brought our elections into the twenty-first century. She helped other states make progress in these areas through her involvement with the National Association of State Election Directors.

Linda also helped our state and our democracy weather unprecedented crises. She led

the effort to ensure that Marylanders could vote safely in the 2020 election during the Covid-19 pandemic. She also sought to maintain Americans' faith in their democratic system amid a wave of election denialism. We were fortunate to have Linda's leadership in 2020 and all the years before and since.

No matter the task at hand or the challenge before her, Linda tackled it with determination. She always knew that she could count on the support of her family—especially her husband of 53 years, Rudy. As Dean of the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park, and as a prominent academic and entrepreneur, Rudy was another crucial leader in our community. We all mourned with Linda when he passed away earlier this year, and we continue to keep him in our prayers.

As Linda brings her career to a close, we find ourselves at another pivotal moment for American elections. We see leaders openly cast doubt on the outcome of free and fair elections. Some people deliberately try to erode our electoral system and other democratic institutions. Linda Lamone serves as an example of the countless hardworking, principled elections officials across the country who help uphold our democracy in the face of these threats. Their work isn't easy, but it is absolutely essential.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Linda and the democratic principles she devoted her career to protecting.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM ANDERSON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Anderson of Denison, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CPO Anderson served in the United States Navy, and his impressive career experience highlights his genuine passion for helping our community.

CPO Anderson was inspired to join the Navy after gaining a deep respect and appreciation for our nation's veterans of prior conflicts. Originally, CPO Anderson wanted to stay in the Navy Reserves, but after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, he wanted to do more to bring the perpetrators of this attack to justice. To accomplish this, he pursued a deployment to Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2008, where he served in numerous support roles, including the Naval Security Forces and Navy Customs. Furthermore, CPO Anderson qualified as a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. Seabees are well known for being able to build infrastructure anywhere around the world at a moment's notice. If you needed a military base, airfield, or bridge halfway around the world, CPO Anderson is the person you'd call to get the job done. For his service to our nation, CPO Anderson was bestowed the Bronze Star, Army and Navy Commendation medals, and many more awards. In 2005, he met his future wife Teresa, and they married three years later. Together, they raised two children.

After his retirement from the Navy in 2013, CPO Anderson continued to serve his nation

through various civilian roles, and even supported counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan. When he returned to Texas, CPO Anderson worked at the Denison Dam Power Plant to help maintain Texas' electrical grid. Today, he continues his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing emergency power relief to those affected by natural disasters. In his recreational time, he is a Scoutmaster for Troop 55 in Pottsboro and Denison, where seven boys have attained the rank of Eagle Scout under his guidance.

I am honored to represent CPO Anderson in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was serving as Ranking Member in the House Financial Services Committee on November 29 when votes were called on the House Floor. The Chairman did not recess the committee in time for me to make the first vote of the series, therefore I missed recording my vote on Roll Call No. 678.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 678.

#### WELCOMING DAMIAN SCIPIO JOHNSON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my Legislative Director and Counsel, Julian Johnson, and his wife Agnieszka Johnson (née Dziadek), on the birth of their first child. It was my honor to officiate the couple's wedding on October 22, 2016, and now I am delighted that their family continues to expand.

Damian Scipio Johnson was born at 4:14 a.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2023, in Washington, D.C., and he is quite possibly the cutest baby the hospital has ever seen. His given names represent strength and an indomitable spirit. Damian is a dual citizen by birth, and he will always have a home in the United States and in Poland.

I have known Julian since 2009 and have long valued his contributions over the years to my office and to the people of the Second Congressional District of Georgia. He is an integral member of my team and champion for the American people, and I continue observing with great pride what the future holds for him both personally and professionally.

My wife Vivian and I give our best wishes to Julian and Agnieszka, their respective families, and their own growing family.

RECOGNIZING WRIGHTSTOWN  
FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Wrightstown Tigers Football Team for their runner-up finish at the 2023 WIAA Division 5 State Boys Football Championship.

Following an impressive season and playoff run, the Wrightstown football team traveled to Camp Randall in Madison to compete in the 2023 WIAA State Football Championship Game. With a record of 11–3 during the season, the Wrightstown team worked together all season to become a dominant force in the conference. I commend head coach Steve Klister, the coaching staff, and the entire team for their unwavering commitment and dedication to an incredibly impressive season.

This being their first trip to the state championship since 2011, the entire team and community have much for which they should be proud. Although they lost a tough battle to a talented La Crosse Aquinas team, the team displayed great skill and determination throughout the season. Congratulations to the entire team for this remarkable achievement, and a special congratulations to the senior players on the team: Riley Verbeten, Quade Thompson, Payton Vande Hey, Kevin Biese, Riley Sundin, Landon Hephrey, Elijah Lemke, Ben Zemple, Sam Keuler, Charlie Garvey, Trent Vande Hey, Garrett Hitner, Brendan Gustafson, Carter Lamers, Everett Lamers, and Gavin Ducat.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to head coach Steve Klister and the entire Wrightstown Football Team for his outstanding accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize this team and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their remarkable season.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR GUNNERY SER-  
GEANT MICHAEL DEHAVEN

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gunnery Sergeant Michael DeHaven of Denison, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. GySgt DeHaven honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism.

As a young man, GySgt DeHaven heeded the call to serve his nation in the Marine Corps. In 1986, he joined the Marines and later became a member of the 5th Force Reconnaissance Company. GySgt DeHaven specialized in high-altitude parachuting, underwater operations, and reconnaissance in support of Marine Expeditionary Forces. Some of his responsibilities included protecting government officials, safeguarding intelligence officers, training allied forces, and conducting raids on high value targets. GySgt DeHaven's efforts helped to protect the wellbeing of

countless Americans and our allies. For his selfless service and contributions to our national security, GySgt DeHaven was awarded the National Intelligence Medal for Valor.

After he was honorably discharged in 1998, GySgt DeHaven pursued a successful career in technology. However, the September 11 terrorist attacks reinforced his desire to defend his nation from all threats, foreign and domestic. He returned to military service, and served as a ground reconnaissance advisor with the 6th Marine Regiment and as an anti-terrorism advisor to our intelligence community until 2021. When he returned to Texas, GySgt DeHaven looked for ways to protect our nation's children in the wake of the terrible events in Uvalde. He opened a private consulting company to help enhance school safety and threat prevention efforts. Through his valuable expertise, the Denison Independent School District selected him to serve as their Director of Safety and Security. Without question, GySgt DeHaven's extensive experience in combatting hostile threats will help to protect our schools and communities.

I am honored to represent GySgt DeHaven in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I voted NAY on Roll Call No. 681 when I intended to vote YEA.

RECOGNIZING McALLISTER TOW-  
ING, PRESIDENT AND CEO BRIAN  
BUCKLEY McALLISTER, AND  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CAP-  
TAIN CHUCK RUNNION

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McAllister Towing, their President and CEO Brian Buckley McAllister, and their recipient of the Patriot Award, Senior Vice President Captain Chuck Runnion.

Founded in 1864, McAllister Towing operates a fleet of more than 70 tugboats, crew boats, and barges in 14 locations along the U.S. East Coast from Eastport, Maine, to San Juan, Puerto Rico. McAllister is engaged in each port's ship docking, general harbor towing, coastal towing, windfarm support, and bulk transportation. Additionally, McAllister manages and operates the POLARIS ATB Unit that is used to bunker vessels with Liquefied Natural Gas in Cape Canaveral. The assets and talented teams at McAllister continue the McAllister family tradition of being an innovative force in marine transportation.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize Brian Buckley McAllister the President and CEO of McAllister Towing and the Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Steamboat Company. Mr. McAllister

serves on the Steamship Mutual P&I Club boards, the Seamen's Church Institute, and the Coast Guard Foundation. He is also a Member of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey and the American Bureau of Shipping. He served as Chairman of the American Waterways Operators from 2013 to 2014.

McAllister's senior vice president, Captain Chuck Runnion, also received the prestigious Patriot Award. Captain Runnion has worked in the industry since 1980, adding invaluable experience and insight to McAllister's Southeast operations. Captain Runnion is being honored for his effort to hire and retain veterans through thoughtful efforts that support specific veteran needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing McAllister Towing, their President and CEO Brian Buckley McAllister, and their Senior Vice President, Captain Chuck Runnion, for their contributions to ports across the eastern shore and Port Everglades, proudly located in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR SERGEANT  
JOHANN SCHRAP

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Johann Schrap of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Schrap honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

As a young man, Sergeant Schrap sailed with his family when they immigrated to the United States. As his ship passed by the Statue of Liberty, he understood that the values of democracy and freedom it represents and knew these come only through sacrifices. During the Second World War, Sergeant Schrap's father helped provide refuge for Jewish citizens in the Netherlands from persecution by the Nazi regime. For these actions, his father was imprisoned but was rescued by American forces when the Allies liberated Holland. As a token of appreciation for American assistance to his family, Sergeant Schrap chose to serve his country and joined the Air Force. He was eventually sent to Saigon, Vietnam as part of the 75th Military Airlift Squadron where he assisted in postal and administrative operations. In this role, Sergeant Schrap managed incoming mail and ensured that soldiers received correspondence from home in a timely fashion. For his service and contributions to our nation, Sergeant Schrap received several awards, including the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Silver Rose.

After returning home, Sergeant Schrap attended California Baptist University in California and later received a degree in Biblical Studies. As part of the First Baptist Church in Garland, Texas, he participated in several mission trips to help rebuild homes that were damaged by natural disasters. Sergeant Schrap ran a very successful small business specializing in home repairs, painting, and remodeling. He is a member of Vietnam Veterans of America and Disabled American Veterans, where he conducts veteran outreach



and provides guidance for veterans to receive assistance. Sergeant Schrap also has a keen eye for spotting veterans in public, and he will happily engage with them in order to listen to their stories or help in any way he can. I high-

ly commend Sergeant Schrap for continuing to uplift the men and women who served our nation and uplifting the community around him.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Schrap in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a

pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.