

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RAUL PERDOMO AND HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Raul Perdomo, a longtime resident of Southeast Michigan and a veteran of the Vietnam War, and to grieve his passing. His service to our country, both in the military and afterward, is worthy of commendation.

Born on September 28, 1944, in Caracas, Venezuela, Raul moved to Dearborn, Michigan, at the age of 16. Following his graduation from Dearborn High, he became a naturalized citizen and answered our nation's highest calling when he joined the United States Navy to serve in the Vietnam War. This set the stage for a lifetime of service to his community and to his country. After his military service, Raul returned to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and enrolled at the University of Michigan where he studied anthropology before studying business at Eastern Michigan University.

As a graduate of the University of Michigan, Raul was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Wolverines. His hearty "Go Blue!" and love for the Maize and Blue was known by anyone who met him, whether through his 40 years of work for the University of Michigan Athletics Department, as President of the U-M Club of Tampa Bay, the Central Café and Beer Depot in Ann Arbor, or during his time helping run the Ann Arbor Community Recreation and Education Center. Public service remained at the forefront of Raul's life, and even after retiring from the military, he remained just as committed to serving his community, which included 20 years of research and tenure on the Institutional Review Board at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, and as a patient advocate at the University of Michigan Frankel Cardiovascular Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the life of Raul to our nation. A naturalized citizen answering his country's highest calling, he served his country with bravery and honor in the Vietnam War before continuing to serve his local communities after leaving the military, bringing joy, enthusiasm, and love to everyone he met along the way.

RECOGNIZING MADISON MARSH

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Madison Marsh, a distinguished second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and the first active-duty service member to be crowned Miss America. Madison graduated from the Air Force Academy with a degree in physics and

represents the epitome of dedication, intelligence, service, and class. She entered the world of pageantry motivated by a desire to serve and inspire others, and she has redefined what is possible for women across America.

From a young age, Madison had a love of science and a dream to be a pilot and astronaut. Her parents encouraged her dreams, sending her to Space Camp when she was 13 years old where she met astronauts and fighter pilots.

Around that time, she learned about the United States Air Force Academy and at 15 years old, started flying lessons. She earned her pilot's license two years later and then began to work towards her goal of becoming a cadet. Upon graduation from the and commissioning into the Air Force, she received a coveted pilot slot and is currently determining the career opportunities and personal projects she wants to pursue.

Madison's accomplishments reach far beyond the Air Force and pageantry. She founded the Whitney Marsh Foundation to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer research in memory of her mother.

Madison is an exceptional role model for women and girls across our great country, teaching them that even the sky is not the limit. She is currently studying public policy as a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School, working to earn her master's degree. She is a two-time National Astronaut Scholar, National Rhodes Finalist, certified private pilot, black belt in tae kwon do, and U.S. Air Force Academy Superintendent's List NASA Intern.

Mr. Speaker, Madison is an inspiration to women across America and a shining role model for all. I urge all Americans to join me in congratulating Madison on being crowned Miss America. Madison's journey reminds us of what we can accomplish when we work towards something greater than ourselves. I thank Madison for showing America what it means to be a Coloradan.

HONORING SERGEANT RANDY ARMSTRONG AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S 9TH DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable valor and contributions of Randy Armstrong, our esteemed Veteran of the Month from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is with great honor that I highlight the exemplary service and dedication of this true American hero, whose courage and commitment have certainly left a mark on our Nation's history.

Randy Armstrong, born and raised in Brown City, dedicated his entire childhood to the community that shaped him. His passion for

baseball and humble beginnings, including his initial employment at the Brown City Bank, illustrate a profound—and proud—connection to his roots. In 1966, answering the call of duty, he enlisted for a three-year term alongside his brother at Fort Knox.

Following his graduation from ordnance supply school, Randy's journey took him to Fort Lee, Virginia, and later to Scott Air Force Base, where he served with distinction in the Air Defense Command. His expertise as a radar operator led to his promotion to the rank of E4. In 1967, orders arrived for deployment to Vietnam, and before 1968, Randy found himself across the world. By January 1969, he had attained the rank of Sergeant E5.

Completing his tour of duty, Randy returned to the United States, making his way to Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was there, in acknowledgment of his honorable service, that he was discharged from the Army, marking the conclusion of a chapter defined by profound dedication to his country.

In honoring Randy Armstrong, we pay tribute to a man whose journey from Brown City to the heart of Vietnam embodies the sacrifices and resilience of our armed forces. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this American patriot.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM K. (BUDDY) WHEELER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, William K. (Buddy) Wheeler of Lexington, Kentucky. He passed away on February 8, 2024.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. He met his future wife Lucy Clay in grade school. He graduated in 1952 from Mt. Sterling High School. He went on to the University of Kentucky, where he graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1956. He opened Wheeler Pharmacy in 1958 in the Chevy Chase neighborhood, which was on the outskirts of Lexington at that time. Wheeler Pharmacy is a Lexington landmark, enjoyed by many regular patrons including myself. In addition to the pharmacy, customers enjoy the soda fountain, serving breakfast and lunch and providing a warm neighborhood atmosphere.

Mr. Wheeler was an innovator, implementing a computerized dispensing system, compounding service, and a medication management program and much more. He welcomed pharmacy students for their rotations and served as a mentor to them. Mr. Wheeler sold the pharmacy to his daughter in 2020 but remained an active presence. He was known for his unwavering dedication to his profession and for his kindness to all.

Mr. Wheeler is survived by his wife Lucy. They had been married for nearly 70 years.

• 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.

He also leaves 4 children and their spouses: William Kendall (Tammy) Wheeler, Jr., Stuart (Karen) Wheeler, Margaret (Kevin) Meredith, and Claire (Darrell) Lewis. They are all involved in the family business. He also leaves nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Buddy Wheeler will long be remembered as a kind and caring person, and he will be greatly missed. It was my honor to know him and call him my friend. I am grateful for the opportunity to lift up the life of Buddy Wheeler before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD
MAGUDA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Donald "Don" J. Maguda of Rockville, Connecticut. Aged 90, Donald passed peacefully on December 9, 2023, surrounded by family. Donald was a leader in his community and embraced a love for helping others that he held dear throughout his life.

Born July 11, 1933, to Joseph Maguda and Stella Taylor in New Britain, Connecticut. Donald purposed his life toward protecting his community and leading with compassion. He graduated from Rockville High School, immediately after which he began a long and rewarding career as a fireman. Donald began his service with the Snipsic Hook and Ladder Company. Here, Donald was identified as a born leader and rose through the ranks of the Rockville Fire Department. In 1967, Donald's attention to detail and devotion to his work was rewarded when he became Chief of the department.

As Chief, Donald used his leadership to coordinate and oversee the consolidation of the Rockville Fire Department and Vernon Fire District into the Town of Vernon Fire Department. After the merger, Donald served as Fire Chief of the newly formed Vernon Fire Department in 1980, still leaving time for his other passion, running his business, Maguda's Woodworking Shop. After decades of leadership with the fire department, in 1986 Donald transitioned to the role of Town of Vernon Fire Marshal until his retirement in 2002, concluding a remarkable nearly 50-year career during which he never lost a firefighter in the line of duty.

Equipped with extensive knowledge in his field and a desire to share that knowledge with anyone who needed it, it is no surprise that Donald was a member of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association and the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association. Donald presented to numerous groups and individuals for better fire education and community involvement.

Donald's work ethic and dedication to his community rubbed off on his son David, who followed in his footsteps to serve as a firefighter for 42 years—most of which he spent serving under his father.

In addition to this incredible work as a firefighter, Donald spent innumerable hours giving back to his community in other ways as well. In the 1960s, he was integral in starting "Toys

for Tots" in Vernon, assisting children and families during the holidays and "Christmas in April." Mr. Speaker, as a citizen of the town of Vernon who held elective office over the years, I had the privilege to know Don and see up close his intelligence, kindness, and unstinting devotion to duty. Our town was so blessed to know Don and to have his positive, critical contribution that saved lives and protected property.

In his free time, Donald spent time with his family, those most important to him. They enjoyed taking vacations and cruises. Donald could also be found landscaping, wood-working, playing golf, and playing cards with friends and family.

Though we mourn this incredible loss, we can find solace in knowing that Donald's memory and legacy will live on through his family and the countless number of individuals who knew him. Donald is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Gabrielle, his son David and his wife Michelle, his daughter Donna and her husband Jeffrey, and countless nieces and nephews. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know and represent constituents as purposeful in their work as Donald. As we memorialize Donald's faithful service. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Donald Maguda.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
IMPACT OF COACH LANNY BOOHER

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of Anaheim High School Football Coach Lanny Booher. For two decades, Coach Booher has been a beacon of inspiration and mentorship in our Anaheim community, leaving a significant mark on the hearts of his players and community.

Stepping down after 20 years of dedication to our shared alma mater, Anaheim High School, Coach Booher leaves a legacy of transformation and triumph. In 2004, he took charge of a struggling football team—but through his leadership and mentorship, Coach Booher was able to change the trajectory of the program and his players. Over the next two decades, Coach Booher led the Anaheim football team to success on the field, including accomplishing eleven playoff appearances and securing three Orange League championships.

Coach Lanny Booher's commitment and love for the game and his community has been evident in every milestone and achievement. More importantly, his passion for his players has made his two decades of impact a cornerstone of our community. His impact extends far beyond the football field, shaping the lives of young athletes off the field by teaching them the value of teamwork and perseverance.

Throughout his coaching career, Lanny Booher accumulated an impressive 100 wins at Anaheim High, making him the coach with the second-most wins in Orange County. One of his most notable achievements, a 22–10 victory in the Orange County All-Star Football Classic in 2007, is a moment that will surely live forever in local memory.

By honoring the legacy of Coach Booher, we celebrate more than just victories on the

field—we celebrate the profound impact he's had on every student who has played for him. There is no doubt that his legacy while at Anaheim High School will continue to inspire generations of young athletes to give back to their community and put their all into the game.

I thank Coach Booher for his two decades of dedication. Go Colonists.

HONORING RAYMOND FLORES

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mr. Raymond Flores, a World War II veteran and native of San Antonio, Texas who recently celebrated his 102nd birthday at San Antonio's Boss Ross Senior Center. Born February 28, 1922, to Mauro Flores and Dorothea Martinez, Mr. Flores has spent his life dedicated to public service.

Following his graduation from Luther Burbank High School in 1941, Mr. Flores spent the greater part of a year working for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Dallas Texas, helping the country recover from the Great Depression. In December of that year, Mr. Flores answered the Nation's call and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps to help defend freedoms overseas. Mr. Flores completed a tour of duty in the Southern and Western Pacific where he served as Air Freight Master in Papua New Guinea and as First Cook in Australia. Mr. Flores then returned stateside, where he served as First Cook at Camp Kearns in Salt Lake City, Utah, before being transferred back home to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. It was there on September 30, 1945, that Mr. Flores received his honorable discharge along with other accommodations for his time in service.

After his return to civilian life, Mr. Flores attended San Antonio College. In early spring 1948, Mr. Flores met Margarita Gomez and they were married later that year on June 27, 1948, at San Fernando Cathedral. Over the following three decades, Mr. Flores continued his tradition of service, working for the United States Postal Service until he retired, with commendation from President Jimmy Carter, in December 1980.

Mr. Flores is currently living in a VA assisted living care facility where he brings life and joy to those around him. Before his beloved wife Margarita passed in 2019, she and Mr. Flores celebrated seventy-one years of marriage together. When asked what he is proudest of, Mr. Flores cites his fifty-two years of volunteer service to the St. Vincent De Paul Society, where he was an officer from 1952 to 2004 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower. When asked what lesson he wishes to pass onto the next generation, Mr. Flores asked that we all pray and keep the Lord in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the long life and honorable achievements of Mr. Raymond Flores. His story is a testament to his character and his status as the pride of San Antonio. May God bless him and his family for all their years to come.

RECOGNIZING ROB ZERJAV

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Rob Zerjav for being named the 2023 Baseball America (BA) Minor League Baseball Executive of the Year.

A native of Green Bay, Rob began his career in 1997 as an unpaid intern with the team. During this time, his work ethic and love for the team became clear, and in the years following, Rob joined the full-time staff as a group sales representative. After two years in this position, Rob was promoted to Director of Baseball Operations and then to Vice President of Operations. Following the 2002 season, Rob was named Team President and General Manager, and in 2020, Rob purchased the team and stadium with partners Craig Dickman and Brad Raaths. This purchase made Appleton baseball club history as it became the first-ever private ownership group.

Throughout his years with the Timber Rattlers, Rob has remained focused on the organization's success and lived the organization's mission of "creating the best entertainment experience in Wisconsin so that every guest walks away with a smile and the desire to return." I applaud Rob for his dedication and thank him for his years of service to the organization and community.

It is clear that Rob's leadership and skills have played a critical role in the success of the Timber Rattlers. Since Rob assumed the role of General Manager, the Timber Rattlers have been recognized for many different achievements. In 2012, the team received the Larry MacPhail Award, Minor League Baseball's highest award in promotional excellence. The team was also recognized for its success in 2005, 2018, and 2019 when it received the Midwest League President's Award. As Rob marks his 28th year in Minor League Baseball, I wish him many more successful seasons and thank him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Rob Zerjav for being named the 2023 Baseball America Minor League Baseball Executive of the Year. Rob's unwavering service and commitment to the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and Northeast Wisconsin deserves the highest degree of recognition.

CELEBRATING WILLA HARTER'S
101ST BIRTHDAY**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Ms. Willa Harter of Bloomfield, Iowa a very happy 101st birthday.

Ms. Harter was born in Colorado on February 27, 1923. A survivor of scarlet fever at just four years old and left with only half her hearing, she learned to read lips at an early age. Ms. Harter's family moved to Iowa in December of 1933, and she graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1940. Two years later, she married her husband Marion Harter

and together they raised four children: Nancy, Betty, Tom Harter, and Mary Jo.

During her life she wore many different hats. She taught school, worked as a telephone operator at the Drakesville switchboard, and spent 27 years working at the Davis County Hospital. Willa's love and care was shown through her dedication at the hospital and at home with her children. Ms. Harter also has extensive experience crocheting afghans for every one of her children, her twelve grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, and ten great-great grandchildren.

In addition to a full life at home in Iowa, Ms. Harter has seen her fair share of adventures, traveling to all 50 states, as well as Asia, Europe, South America, and Australia. Now, her daily adventure is enjoying retirement by doing puzzles and reading books in her Bloomfield home.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Willa Harter's life and achievements as we wish her a very happy 101st birthday. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her and her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS POST 1136 IN WYANDOTTE,
MICHIGAN**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan on the 100th anniversary of their founding. The support and care that they have shown to our veterans and our community over the last century is worthy of commendation.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States dates back to September 29, 1899, when it was founded in Columbus, Ohio following the return of Americans from the campaign in the Spanish-American war. Founded by a small group of veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded to build upon them a spirit of comradeship only known to those who faced the dangers of war fighting side-by-side.

Post 1136 has a long and notable history of service. Throughout World War II, the Post sent gifts and home newspapers to the men and women serving all over the United States and the world. They continued serving the veterans as they returned home, creating a special Ritual Team to escort the returning bodies of their fallen comrades and to conduct military funerals. Although the Ritual Team was disbanded, in the late fifties, the Service Officer Burial Detail was formed and became known as the "Wyandotte Honor Guard." They still serve their fallen comrades even today. Post 1136 grew to over 1,000 members on March 25, 1970, at the height of the Vietnam War. Throughout war time, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 has been steadfast in its commitment to supporting our troops at home and abroad. With financial struggles and lower membership following the Vietnam War, Post 1136 gained strength once again as the United States liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Renewed efforts by the post allowed for continued campaigns of support for our

troops abroad, with Post 1136 donating food, toiletries, cigarettes, and other items in short supply to those on the battlefield.

Over the decades since its founding, Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan has continued to give back to its community by hosting an annual 4th of July parade that it first started in 1939, memorial services for those lost in the September 11th attacks, charity fundraisers, and the construction of memorials for the brave heroes who lost their lives in the Vietnam War along the main boulevard that features inscriptions and poems written by community members. Committed to the cause of helping our service members, Post 1136 admirably helps veterans with health issues gain access to a variety of medical and social benefits and become comfortable at home following their return from combat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1136 in Wyandotte, Michigan. For the last century, their members have continued serving their community well after being out of uniform. We thank them for their service, both at home and abroad, and are excited to see what they can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING ALEX FERREIRA'S X
GAMES SUPERPIPE VICTORY**HON. LAUREN BOEBERT**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Alex Ferreira, an exceptional athlete hailing from Aspen, Colorado, who has once again earned a gold medal in the men's Ski SuperPipe at the Winter X Games. This is the third time Alex has won the X Games for the United States. He is an inspiration to us all, and he has shown the world what it means to be an American and a Coloradan.

The X Games invite athletes from across the world to compete in extreme sports, including skateboarding, BMX, motocross, snowboarding, and skiing. The SuperPipe event stands out among the events as a monumental challenge, allowing athletes to utilize towering walls to showcase breathtaking aerial tricks. The Winter X Games take athletes to the heart of Aspen to show off their skills to the world. Alex did not have to go far to remind us all, once again, that he had what it takes to win the X Games for a third time.

Alex's journey reminds us of what we can accomplish when we embrace difficulties and continue to push on. Time and time again, Alex kept going after setbacks that would have caused many people to give up. Last year's competition left him with two hard falls, a disappointing finish, and critics calling for his retirement. But Alex never gave up. At this year's X Games, he won not only for himself but for every young athlete across America who looks up to him.

Mr. Speaker, Alex Ferreira is a true inspiration to athletes across our nation, and I am incredibly proud to honor him today. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alex for his spectacular win at the X Games and for redefining what it means to be a Coloradan. Alex is the best that Colorado's Third Congressional District has to offer, and his story pushes us all to strive for greatness.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
KEVIN JOHNSON SENIOR'S LIFE-
TIME OF SERVICE

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Sr.

Originally of Philadelphia, MSG Johnson enlisted in the Army in 1984, marking the beginning of his lifelong career in service to his country. After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, MSG Johnson went on to Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia and later participated in the Home Town Recruiting Assistance Program where he helped to recruit 10 soldiers and prepare them for entry into the Army by assisting them to pass their ASVAB tests and improve their physical fitness.

MSG Johnson would go on to serve in several different posts including as a Station Technical Controller in Germany with the 581st Signal Company and as a member of the White House Communications Agency where he supported the critical Direct Communication Link between the White House and the Kremlin during an era of heightened diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and United States.

Later in his career, MSG Johnson transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, proudly serving with the 80th division for 25 years during which he dedicated himself to training new soldiers, first as a Drill Sergeant and then as a Senior Drill Sergeant with B Company in Suffolk, VA. Deploying with the 80th during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a Platoon Sergeant for the 3rd Iraqi Army Division Basic Combat Training.

Holder of multiple professional certifications in IT and Telecommunications, MSG Johnson has spent his career preparing generations of soldiers for the tasks they face during deployment and building upon his own education to ensure his instruction is of the highest quality possible. Throughout his service, MSG Johnson received a number of awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

The proud father to Kevin Jr., Yasmeen, Courtney, and Kazmir I and husband to Tiniko Johnson, MSG Johnson is a shining example of dedication to service and patriotism. I extend my most sincere thank you to MSG Johnson and his family for their sacrifice and commend him for a career of selflessness.

RECOGNIZING AARON WILLIAMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Aaron Williams as the recipient of Inspire Life's Impact Award. Aaron and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative were recognized at Inspire Life's 2024 Black Excellence Sneaker Ball on February 24, 2024.

Founded by Aaron in 2021, the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative aims to introduce tennis to

local children while instilling the values of discipline, self-confidence, sportsmanship, and leadership. Playing tennis throughout his life, Aaron knows firsthand the benefits of the sport. Recognizing the lack of access to the sport, Aaron established the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative to create opportunities for Asbury Park's students to experience tennis and the life skills it helps develop. He has partnered with local schools, churches, and community organizations to connect with the city's youth, providing not only tennis lessons but also mentoring and community involvement. Aaron's commitment to the success of the program is evident and his dedication is admirable.

Aaron's work with the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative is indicative of his commitment to public service and as United States Marine Corps veteran and an LGBTQ advocate, he has dedicated his life to serving his community and Nation. His passion to help others and improve our communities is commendable and he exemplifies honor, integrity, and professionalism in each endeavor he undertakes.

Mr. Speaker, I join Inspire Life in recognizing Aaron Williams and the Asbury Park Tennis Initiative for their impact on Asbury Park's youth. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking Aaron for his service to our Nation and local communities.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA LOPICCOLO
FOR HER YEARS OF EXCEL-
LENCE EDUCATING HER COMMU-
NITY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional dedication and contributions of Ms. Angela LoPiccolo, better known as "Ms. LoPo" by her students from Dakota High School in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is with great honor that I highlight the exemplary service and educational leadership of a truly remarkable educator, whose passion and commitment have profoundly impacted the academic and personal lives of countless students.

Beginning her career as a student teacher at Chippewa Valley Schools, Ms. LoPiccolo has devoted her life to teaching Advanced Placement United States History, global history, and comparative government courses. After a brief tenure at Fitzgerald High School, she returned to Dakota High School, where she has remained a pillar of knowledge and guidance for the last 18 years.

Ms. LoPiccolo's dedication to the field of political science, government, and United States history was inspired by the influential instructors and mentors in her own life. She has become a beloved figure at Dakota High School, known for her ability to identify and nurture her students' academic strengths, and for her commitment to building meaningful relationships with each of them. Her role extends beyond teaching; she serves as the advisor to the Dakota High School Chapter of Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society and has previously advised the National Honor Society and Senior Class Council.

Her accolades, including being named the 2022 High School Teacher of the Year at

Chippewa Valley Schools and receiving the Excellence in Education Award in 2016 from the Michigan Lottery, are testaments to her exceptional service and dedication to education. Currently, she teaches advanced placement courses in United States history and micro and macroeconomics, continuing to inspire and shape the minds of future generations.

Ms. LoPiccolo holds an MAT from Marygrove College in Detroit and a BA in history and political science from Oakland University. Her educational background, combined with her passion and dedication, has made her an invaluable asset to Dakota High School and the community at large.

Ms. Angela LoPiccolo's life and career represents the values of educational excellence, dedication, and commitment that are so crucial in academics. Her service as an educator during a pivotal time in our nation's history reminds us of the profound impact that one individual can have on shaping the minds and futures of our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful leader for her commitment to education and enabling future generations to uphold the values of knowledge, democracy, and civic engagement that have defined our nation.

HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND,
MATTHEW RUGE, AND ADAM
FINSETH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I joined thousands of people in Minnesota who gathered for the public funeral for Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, and Firefighter-Paramedic Adam Finseth who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

On Sunday, February 18, 2024, these courageous public servants answered a call to protect a family and our community, and were gunned down in a horrific act of violence. This heartbreaking incident occurs amid a crisis of gun violence and domestic abuse, and our first responders are on the front lines every day.

Officers Elmstrand and Ruge dedicated their lives to protecting our community. Firefighter-Paramedic Finseth was committed to saving lives, as he was attempting to do that day. He also served our Nation proudly in the U.S. Army, twice deploying on tours of duty in Iraq. Their deaths in the line of duty are a devastating tragedy that touches their families, their fellow first responders, the Burnsville community, the state of Minnesota, and our Nation.

I extend my deepest condolences to their families and friends who loved them. Their heroic sacrifice will always be remembered and honored.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. ALAN NISHIO

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of a community leader and advocate, Mr. Alan Nishio.

Mr. Nishio was an activist, educator, and tireless organizer. Born in the Manzanar incarceration camp in 1945, Mr. Nishio spent his life uplifting the Japanese American community in his many roles, including as the longest-tenured Board President for the Little Tokyo Service Center. Mr. Nishio was also the founder of UCLA's Asian American Studies program in 1968.

Mr. Nishio advocated for the Japanese community in Little Tokyo and beyond. As founder and co-chair of the National Coalition of Redress/Reparations, Mr. Nishio worked tirelessly to provide rightful compensation to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

Mr. Nishio was not only a mover and a changemaker, but a genuinely kind individual. Mr. Nishio always focused on the bigger picture, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships between the Japanese American community and other communities throughout Los Angeles.

Mr. Nishio's legacy will live on in the Japanese American community in Little Tokyo, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Alan Nishio.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER BRYAN
SZOSTAK'S SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF CANTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Bryan Szostak on the occasion of his retirement from the Canton Police Department after 25 years of service to the city of Canton, Michigan. His decades of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Officer Szostak joined the Canton Police Department in 1999 and has served as a midnight shift officer ever since. For the past 24 years, he has been a member of the department's Honor Guard as one of the founding members and leader, with which he has participated in Posting of the Colors for ceremonies across the state and funeral services for fallen officers. Officer Szostak also served the community's youth as a veteran advisor for the Explorer Unit, a program for teenagers interested in law enforcement. In these roles, Officer Szostak has showed his emphatic commitment to the units he has been involved in.

Most notably, Officer Szostak has been a committed Canine Officer for the past 20 years. His loyalty and passion for this program has been exemplified in his love for his current canine partner Ragnar, who is retiring alongside Officer Szostak, as well as his two pre-

vious canine partners, Poncho and Hoss. In this role, Officer Szostak has set new standards for training and policing, which will not soon be forgotten. Over the course of his extensive career, Officer Szostak earned many department awards, in addition to citizen recognitions for his service and commitment to improving the city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Bryan Szostak for his remarkable 25 years of service. His commitment to the canine program, Canton Police Department, and the City of Canton has been dedicated to the safety and improvement of the community. I join Officer Szostak's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MARK SMAIL

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Mark Smail, who sadly passed away at the age of 62 on February 17, 2024.

A graduate of Hempfield Area High School and the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Mark joined the family business at Smail Auto Group and spent the next 40 years establishing the company as an institutional pillar of the Westmoreland County business community. Mark replaced his father as General Manager in 2018 and became the third generation of the Smail family to lead the business.

Mark distinguished himself through his leadership, business acumen, and dedication to the community. The Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce named Smail Auto Group the 2021 Business of the Year, largely due to the company's ability to keep all 500 employees on staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mark's continuous participation in industry and community associations also earned widespread praise. In recognition of his commitment to civic engagement, the Pennsylvania Automotive Association awarded Mark the 2021 Bud Smail Political Advocacy Award. The award pays homage to Mark's late father, who inspired him to work hard and give back to his community.

Mark shared his father's determination to give back to the community and strived to make southwestern Pennsylvania a better place to live. As a philanthropist, Mark raised millions of dollars for local nonprofits. He contributed to and volunteered with many organizations, including the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, the Magee-Women's Research Institute and Foundation, the Troops First Foundation, the Westmoreland Cultural Trust, and the Westmoreland Food Bank.

As a devoted husband and father, Mark cherished his friends and family. Mark will be remembered by his wife of 35 years, Kelly, and their children, Taylor and Marcus. His memory will undoubtedly serve as an example of love, devotion to one's family, and selfless service.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Smail dedicated his life to the people of Westmoreland County and southwestern Pennsylvania. His legacy is the

epitome of a life well-lived. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I wish his family healing during this difficult time.

HONORING REV. DR. KEITH G.
TYLER, SR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Reverend Dr. Keith G. Tyler, Sr. from Lexington, Kentucky. His church, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, is celebrating Reverend Tyler's 25th anniversary as their pastor.

Reverend Tyler professed a hope in Christ as a child and was baptized at the age of eight by the late Rev. A.D. Jones in Louisville, KY. He was called to preach the Gospel in 1985 and went on to be licensed and ordained. Reverend Tyler accepted the call to serve as pastor at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in 1998. Under his leadership, membership has more than tripled. He encourages the delivery of God's word in a variety of methods, including a feed-the-homeless effort, a neighborhood bazaar and community festival, a Women's Conference, and Children's Church. He launched a live radio broadcast in 2022. He is a motivating speaker, an inspiring preacher, and an innovative leader. He enjoys traveling across the nation evangelizing.

Reverend Tyler is an active leader in the community. He serves many organizations, including the Speigel Hill Community Center, the Black Faith Leaders of Lexington and Vicinity, and the Central KY Council for Peace and Justice. In addition, he is a trustee of Simmons College of Kentucky, and he serves on the Community Police Chaplain "Response Team." He is the proud father and grandfather of four children and three grandchildren.

Reverend Tyler is to be commended for his ministry over 25 years at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. I congratulate him and all the members of the congregation and wish them many more years of serving our Lord. I am honored to recognize Reverend Dr. Keith Tyler before the United States Congress.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOB CORPS

HON. JARED F. GOLDEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Job Corps program on 60 years of dedicated support in changing the lives of young Americans. 2024 marks six decades of ambition and hope for our young Mainers at the centers in Limestone and Bangor, and throughout the United States of America. Maine's Job Corps programs are vital for preparing young people in the Great State of Maine for high demand industry sector employment as well as furthering educational opportunities.

I join my congressional colleagues in honoring and supporting their mission to better the

lives of Mainers through technical and academic training. Since the first class of students in 1997, the Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone has helped students from Maine and across the Nation earn high school diplomas, construct long-term careers, and obtain great jobs. The Penobscot Job Corps has maintained the same mission for the past 45 years.

Education and community service alike are two of the cornerstones of both Job Corps Centers in Maine, resulting in the students not only changing their lives but the lives of those around them. The program's outreach and development with workforce partners has only enhanced its ability to reach out and enrich the lives of young Mainers. The Job Corps program encourages the vital education and creativity of bright young students throughout our country.

It is with great pride and appreciation that I congratulate our two Maine Centers and Job Corps for 60 years of critical work.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CAPTAIN BENJAMIN MOULTON

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five of our precious fallen Marines, including Captain Benjamin Moulton, who were killed in a helicopter crash last week in California.

At 27 years old, Captain Moulton was known for his leadership and determination. Benjamin grew up with family roots in Emmett, Idaho, and received an ROTC scholarship to the University of Washington. Once commissioned into the Marines in 2019, Benjamin continued to strive for excellence and was promoted to Captain in August of last year.

Captain Moulton was a decorated pilot who flew with precision and skill, navigating through challenges with grace and determination. His love for aviation and his commitment to excellence inspired all who had the privilege to serve alongside him.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Moulton family and friends as they mourn the loss of this remarkable Marine. We are inspired by Benjamin's bravery and his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S POLL WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of New Hampshire's poll workers and volunteers, who oversaw a safe, secure election in the first-in-the-nation primary that took place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

For more than 100 years, New Hampshire has been proud to host our country's first presidential primary, an honor our state takes very seriously. This primary would not be possible without New Hampshire's dedicated poll

workers and volunteers. This year, like every time before, our poll workers demonstrated the power of our democracy and the importance of civic responsibility by dutifully and earnestly conducting this year's election.

I want to thank these citizens for stepping up for our democracy. New Hampshire's poll workers continue to set an example for the nation in their tireless efforts to count every vote and ensure that the voices of all Granite Staters are heard at the ballot box. These poll workers prove that despite ongoing efforts to polarize or politicize our elections, our American democracy is strong. Granite Stater poll workers help inspire increased voter confidence and turnout and ensure a smoother process for our state's elections. It is critical that all communities throughout our state are able to have their voices heard in our democracy.

Poll workers, local town officials, and volunteers are instrumental to our electoral process, preserving the right to vote for all Americans by remaining impartial and fair throughout the process, from overseeing voter registration to processing ballots. All Americans deserve to have their voices represented.

Mr. Speaker, I say thank you again to all of the poll workers and volunteers who stepped up to serve their communities and our democracy.

CELEBRATING ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Orange County Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate them on a century of unwavering dedication to the prosperity and success of businesses in Orange County, Virginia.

Over the last 100 years, Orange County's businesses and entrepreneurs have benefitted from the network and expertise provided by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce. A cornerstone of Orange County, the staff and members of the Chamber have been a vital force—driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and championing the spirit of entrepreneurship across Orange County.

Notably, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce has encouraged collaboration through their signature events—the Orange Street Festival and the Orange Uncorked Wine Festival. These events have not only helped nurture countless businesses and forged valuable relationships within the community, but they have also provided families across Orange with memorable experiences and fun activities.

Today, the Chamber boasts a membership of more than 280 Virginians. Each member, alongside Chamber staff, leadership, and volunteers, has contributed to the success and longevity of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce. As their Representative, I wish to extend my greatest appreciation for the work the Orange County Chamber of Commerce does to support the local economy and improve the lives of residents in and around Orange County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Orange County Chamber of Commerce on 100 years of service to Orange County, and in celebrating their growth, resilience, and commitment to excellence. I look forward to all they will accomplish in years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BENJAMIN "BEN" COOPER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inspiring life and noble career of a lifelong Connecticut resident and patriot, Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Cooper. A member of America's "Greatest Generation" who honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II, Mr. Cooper witnessed the unspeakable horror of mass casualties and genocide that occurred in the European theater. Rather than suppressing this experience, he made it a mission to share the unspeakable tragedies he witnessed on the frontlines of the War. He transformed his experience into lessons for high school students and taught kindness and empathy for others. His service and lessons have inspired many generations of American citizens to care for each other with the same sincerity and dedication seen in Mr. Cooper himself.

Born in 1921 to Max and Fannie Cooper, Ben is a lifelong resident of West Hartford, Connecticut. Ben attended Hall High School and graduated in 1940. After attending George Washington University for one year, he returned to Connecticut in 1941 and worked at Colt Arms Factory in Hartford. Despite not having officially joined the military yet, Ben contributed to the war effort through his testing of guns for the Colt Company. Come 1942, Ben had been drafted into the U.S. Army as a combat medic in the 45th Infantry Division. Soon after his drafting, Ben met his wife of 65 years, Dorothy, and they married on July 14, 1944, in a Maine synagogue shortly before he was deployed to serve in the European theater. Ben's selfless nature manifested through his becoming a medic, starting a long legacy of sacrifice and consummate service to those in need. Through his service, Ben served as a shining beacon in an all-enveloping sea of darkness. His service safeguarded the life and liberty of his fellow citizens and the peoples across Europe.

Unforgettably, the U.S. Army 45th Infantry helped liberate Dachau concentration camp in 1945. Alongside his fellow soldiers, Ben bore witness to the deplorable condition of the victims of the concentration camp. Darkness and inhumanity enveloped Dachau. The scent of incinerated flesh hung heavily on the camp's air, and its prisoners stood in front of their liberators emaciated, so weak that any attempt at nourishment was rejected by their broken bodies. The extent of these crimes against humanity and decency left Ben speechless and traumatized. He would not speak of the camp or war experiences for decades to come.

In 1990, Ben began to share his wartime experiences. Through an interview with a Torrington High School history teacher, Ben was able to open up about his personal history. This interview served as the genesis of

Ben's new mission: to teach America's future generations of the impact of prejudice and bigotry, and to promote kindness and compassion. He spoke at many high schools, including Simsbury and Hall, about his wartime experiences. His lessons always included advocacy for kindness. He brought historical events from textbooks to life through his lived memories. Ben hoped that teaching this part of history would ensure that it would never be repeated.

In 2010, Ben met Henny Simon, a liberated victim of the Nazi concentration camps. Until her death in 2017, the two visited high schools in Connecticut and taught classes on WWII. Students across Connecticut gained valuable insight on how precious a thing our liberties and rights are, and how fiercely they need to be defended. The pair were offered to include their experiences in a documentary titled "In Times of War." Fortunately, their stories have been immortalized through their lessons and the documentary and countless news articles.

Mr. Speaker, even in the darkest hour of our civilization, courageous truth tellers like Ben Cooper refuse to be silenced by fear or indifference. Ben's impact on our nation's citizens is immeasurable, and scores of young citizens will remember his stories and examples. Regrettably understanding the savagery of Nazi barbarism is of critical importance in the world we live in today. Our country should honor Ben's gentle kindness and conviction that touched thousands of fellow Americans. I ask that my colleagues join me in immortalizing Ben's story.

RECOGNIZING THE MARITIME SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL'S PLAN TO MODERNIZE THE USMMA CAMPUS

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Congressional Board of Visitors to thank the experts of the Maritime Security Infrastructure Council.

Recognizing the vital role of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in our national security and concerned about outdated and deteriorating conditions across campus, they assembled a straightforward, multi-year plan to bring the campus up to a standard commensurate with its crucial function. I am pleased to include in the RECORD a summary of their plan to modernize the Academy's 80-year-old infrastructure as well as a link to the Full Speed Ahead Plan in its entirety, which can be found at <https://wearetheusmma.com/fullspeedahead/>.

Graduates of the USMMA, one of our Nation's five federal service academies, make up more than 80 percent of the U.S. Navy Strategic Sealift Officer Force. Without these service-committed mariners, the Nation would have no assured source of trained, licensed officers to crew the vessels which move materiel, fuel and supplies to foreign shores in wartime. Without a comprehensive capital improvement plan and its timely execution, conditions on the USMMA's Kings Point, New York campus will continue to worsen, ad-

versely impacting mission-critical training and hindering recruitment of dedicated service-obligated midshipmen.

For far too long, Congress has ignored the infrastructure required to provide USMMA midshipmen the specialized education and training they need to fulfill their mission. It is now time to make the institution worthy of their commitment to serve our Nation.

Maritime Security Infrastructure Council
U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY FULL
SPEED AHEAD PLAN

FULL SPEED AHEAD: A PLAN TO ADDRESS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AT THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Background: In January 2021, the Maritime Security Infrastructure Council (MSIC), a group with expertise in major construction project management and concerned about the deterioration of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) infrastructure, developed a comprehensive plan to bring the campus up to the standards necessary to prepare USMMA Midshipmen to lead our Nation's maritime mission in the 21st century.

The Full Speed Ahead Plan is an intensive 8-year program to execute a decades overdue, comprehensive modernization: new academic buildings, physical readiness/training facilities, midshipmen morale and welfare spaces, parking structures, faculty and senior staff housing, utilities, IT, and campus security upgrades, and renovations of many existing buildings. This plan is adaptable, e.g., it can be adjusted for longer construction timelines and funding schedules, and—importantly—it is intended to be executed while keeping USMMA fully operational throughout construction.

Previous cost estimates were \$611M in January 2021 and \$820M in March 2022. The estimated cost when adjusted for inflation has now risen to \$1.02B; additional delay will only further increase the cost of this urgently needed modernization.

The need: With over 80 years in service to our nation, a comprehensive modernization is long overdue if USMMA is to continue producing world-class, service-committed merchant marine officers who are the backbone of the U.S. Navy's Strategic Sealift Officer Force and a crucial element of defense readiness.

Congress has rightly recognized the necessity of and supported funding modernization projects at the other federal service academies, especially West Point and Annapolis. Long-term low funding levels have left the campus under-resourced, and the result is a deteriorating campus that makes attracting a diverse applicant pool and providing state-of-the-art mission critical training even more difficult. Many of the facilities date back to the Academy's founding in the 1940s and are simply not conducive to the immersive training and demanding coursework expected from our Nation's five service academies.

Modern IT is nearly nonexistent in several buildings; what is available cannot accommodate even the most basic digital needs of Midshipmen, let alone support the increasingly high-tech vessel systems that they must master.

Aside from minor Midshipmen Barracks repairs in the 2000s, there have been no renovations or upgrades since 1988. Nearly every building on campus has exceeded its life expectancy and now requires replacement or major renovation.

This is particularly true of the Academy's physical training, leadership readiness, and athletic facilities. Although USMMA was the first federal service academy to admit women in 1974, no additional athletic or training spaces have been provided for fe-

male teams in the ensuing 50 years, clearly contrary to the requirements of Title IX. Overall, these limited and outdated facilities are inadequate for Midshipmen to maintain physical readiness standards of the U.S. Navy and other services and adversely impact the recruitment of future Midshipmen. Midshipmen need a purpose-built pool, featuring a separate wave pool with high dive/jump capabilities in order to accommodate their specific mandatory training needs for rescue and survival at sea.

The Fix: Our working group of maritime executives, engineers, architects, and construction industry professionals—some USMMA graduates—propose the authorization and funding of a multi-year program of infrastructure replacement and improvement projects.

The Budget and Timeline Snapshot: We suggest directed funding for foundational design work that will serve as the blueprint for an aggressive eight-year construction and project management program. However, the plan can be readily adapted to meet longer construction timelines and funding schedules, along with any potential project modifications. As of January 2024, the current cost of the plan is \$1.02B over eight years.

The Plan: For decades, concerned stakeholders have unsuccessfully sought to upgrade USMMA's physical plant; this plan reflects much of the quality thinking and hard work that went into earlier plans, which regrettably never came to fruition. This document specifically builds on the input of those earlier planning initiatives.

This plan details the facilities necessary for the USMMA to preserve its position as the preeminent leader in maritime education in the Nation, today and into the future. It reflects a long overdue acknowledgment that the campus has fallen woefully behind the other four federal service academies and other peer top-tier institutions.

The plan meets the long-term objectives of the Academy through facilities that will promote modern educational best practices, including globally connected research facilities; engineering powerplant laboratories; 21st century IT-enabled classrooms.

Support mission critical proficiencies: Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) applications laboratories; Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) training pool; Conference and license exam space.

Promote readiness: Accessible modernized fitness facilities sufficient to enable all Midshipmen to maintain physical readiness standards required of USN Reserve officers; NCAA-standard facilities for all athletes; Health and wellness center.

Facilitate leadership development: Weapons range; enhanced waterfront facilities; band facility.

Attract a diverse pool of applicants to ensure USMMA enrolls the best and the brightest.

Provide continuing education and industry engagement facilities: Maritime Center of Excellence for research, innovation, and policy development; MSCE accreditation required post-graduate continuing education opportunities; Maritime industry leadership conference capability.

Maintain a secure facility and a safe environment: secure campus at a level necessary to protect a federal facility; centralized security/access control at main gate and academy facilities; fencing and monitoring of campus boundaries; cyber-secure, modernized IT network.

Master Planning Process and Principles: The 82-acre campus is a unique, historically significant property. Our plan is designed to modernize the campus without expanding its current footprint.

The Education District includes the original 1943 academic buildings, barracks, and

administrative offices that form the hub of the campus.

The Waterfront District includes Eldridge Pool, the Memorial Arbors, the Chapel, Yocum Sailing Center, the USCG Station, Samuels Hall and Crowninshield/Cressy Pier.

The Physical Training and Athletics District includes all the Academy's athletic facilities.

The Community District encompasses all of the McNulty Campus, including faculty housing and the museum. A second community district south of the Education District includes senior staff housing, the Patten Health Clinic, and the Midshipmen Activities Center.

Program Cost Summary:

Construction: Academic Center \$116M; Activity Center \$42.2M; Aquatic Readiness Center \$65.6M; Leadership Development and Readiness Center \$133.1M; Parking Structures \$50.7M; Federal Maritime Center of Excellence \$49.1M; Senior Staff/Faculty Housing \$12.2M; Crowninshield Pier Replacement \$31.7M; Waterfront Sailing Center \$19.2M. New construction subtotal: \$519.8M.

Facility Renovation & Upgrades: Samuels Hall Renovation Completion \$8.8M; Campus Security and Waterfront Improvements \$28.3M; GIS and Upgrade Academy Utilities \$95.4M; Main Gate and Campus Security Upgrade \$53.9M; Bowditch Hall and Steamboat Road Improvements \$76.4M; Existing Building Renovations \$94.8M. Facility Renovation/Upgrades Subtotal: \$357.6M.

Design: \$91.1M.

Program Management: \$51.3M.

Total Program Cost: \$1019.8M.

Maritime Security Infrastructure Council Members:

John D. Cameron, Jr., P.E. Managing Partner, Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP: Mr. Cameron oversees the firm's consulting engineering services, which specializes in public and private sector engineering such as site development, energy management; water quality management planning, waterfront protection and resilience; roadway, drainage, utilities and infrastructure improvement; planning; building systems; building department services, and construction management. The firm's work has included major mixed use, residential, commercial and industrial projects as well as brownfields and waterfront projects. He is a frequent spokesperson on regional planning, sustainability, economic development issues for Long Island and beyond.

LTG Bill Grisoli (Ret.) Distinguished Chair of Civil Engineering and Chair of the Civil Engineering Advisory Board, USMA: LTG Bill Grisoli is currently serving as the Distinguished Chair of Civil Engineering and Chair of the Civil Engineering Advisory Board at USMA. He spent 39 years on active duty and retired in 2015 as the Director of the Army Staff. Prior to his retirement, LTG Grisoli held a wide variety of engineer command assignments at the Company, Battalion, Brigade, and Army Corps of Engineers Division level. His staff assignments include Director of the Army's Business Transformation Office and Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation Office, G-8. LTG Grisoli was born in NYC and graduated from USMA in 1976.

Lloyd C. Caldwell, P.E. SES, US Army Corps of Engineers (Ret.): Mr. Caldwell served until 2020 as the national Director of Military Programs responsible for the policy and technical functions of the Corps' worldwide program for engineering, design, construction, real estate and environmental activities. He was responsible for military construction and installation support at the USMA and the USAFA. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Director of Programs for the N. Atlantic Division responsible for military and

civil works and the Director of Programs for the Gulf Region Division in Iraq. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Building Construction degree from Auburn and holds MS in Civil Engineering and MPW degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

Capt. Eileen Roberson, USN (Ret.) SES, DOT/US Navy (Ret.): Eileen Roberson is a retired United States Navy Reserve Officer. As a long-time member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service, Roberson has served as Director of Total Force Management for the US Navy's Military Sealift Command, Assistant for Administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy, Associate Administrator at the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, and Deputy Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Navy Information Technology. Roberson holds a Master of Science degree in Management Information Systems from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD and a BS degree in Engineering from the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

John O. Arntzen, President, ACTA Maritime Development Corporation: Recently retired as a Senior Program Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York, he helped oversee a \$2.4 billion Military Construction program on U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force bases in Europe. Prior to this, Arntzen was Special Missions Ships Project Officer for the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. From 2015 to 2019, Arntzen was Chairman of the USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation (AAF). Arntzen holds a M.S. in Transportation Management from SUNY and a B.S., with Honors, in Marine Engineering from USMMA.

RECOGNIZING ONA MARIE JUDGE STAINES

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ona Marie Judge Staines, a New Hampshire woman born in Virginia, who was enslaved by George and Martha Washington, and taken by them to Philadelphia during Washington's second term as United States president. Ona Judge self-emancipated from their household, as the Washingtons were preparing to return to Mount Vernon in their semi-annual effort to avoid the Pennsylvania law that enabled enslaved people to sue for their freedom if they remained in the state for more than six months. Recounting her story in 1845 she remarked on her escape, "Whilst they were packing up to go to Virginia, I was packing to go, I didn't know where; for I knew that if I went back to Virginia, I should never get my liberty . . ."

During her time in the city, Ona Judge had become acquainted with members of Philadelphia's large free Black community who provided her contact with a ship captain who would take her north. On May 21, 1796, she boarded the ship *Nancy*, bound for Portsmouth, New Hampshire in search of freedom.

The Washingtons relentlessly pursued her, but Ona Judge found a home among Portsmouth's Black community. Washington learned of her whereabouts and sent one of his wife's relatives to convince her to return. She refused, saying "I am free now, and choose to remain so." Rebuffed, the man determined to

take her and her child back to Virginia by force and admitted his intentions to Senator John Langdon. Whether it was Langdon who alerted her to the impending capture, or his trusted free Black servant Cyrus Bruce, we do not know for sure. But Ona was determined to remain free and fled eight miles from Portsmouth into Greenland, New Hampshire, where she lived with her daughters and friends John and Phillis Jacks and their family until her death in 1848.

Several years before her death, Ona Judge Staines told her story to two abolitionist newspapers. The interviewer for the Granite State Freeman asked her if she ever regretted her decision, and she replied "No, I am free, and have, I trust, been made a child of God by the means." Her journey exemplifies the power of determination in the search for liberty, embodying our state motto "Live Free or Die." On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend the bravery of Ona Judge Staines to assert her right to freedom at any cost. May her story never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT LAMBE'S SERVICE TO THE GREAT LAKES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Lambe on the occasion of his retirement from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. His significant service to the Great Lakes and surrounding communities during his lengthy career is worthy of commendation.

Bob Lambe has been focused on serving and protecting our environment throughout his career. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario and is an Electronic Engineering Technology graduate from the Cabot Institute of Applied Arts and Technology. Bob had a 35-year career within the Public Service of Canada. For 6 years, Bob served as the Regional Director General for the Central and Arctic regions. Bob was also appointed as the first Executive Director for the Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, which focuses on research, mitigation and response planning, and rehabilitation efforts to combat invasive species that hurt Canada's ecosystems. In these roles, Bob has exhibited a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to natural resource management, and his true passion and dedication for protecting and conserving our aquatic ecosystems is clear.

Most notably, in 2013 Bob Lambe joined the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a binational organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Here he served as executive secretary for over a decade, as well as commissioner and chair of the Commission. Bob's work was invaluable, and focused on appropriations, infrastructure, and strengthening relationships with other organizations. Bob was also a board member for the North American Invasive Species Network, and the Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species Network. In all these positions, Bob worked tirelessly to serve the organizations and their ability to serve the Great Lakes. He emphasized the importance of protecting and sustaining fisheries in the Great

Lakes Basin and applying the wealth of knowledge he gained from his career to improve the commission. During his time with the commission, Bob received high accolades and praise, including a Distinguished Service Award from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, for his dedication to conservation and facilitation of effective cooperative fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bob Lambe for his lifetime of public service. His commitment to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has made a lasting change to the conservation efforts of this organization and will not soon be forgotten. Throughout his career, Bob has remained reliable and genuine in his work to protect our environment. I join Bob Lambe's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to resume consideration of S. 3664, to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, S. 3626, to clarify task and delivery order solicitation and contract requirements, S. 3635, to improve the President's Cup Cybersecurity Competitions, S. 3613, to require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, S. 3558, to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, S. 1524, to ensure that whis-

tleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, S. 3654, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to require the timely appointment of agency transition officials, to ensure adequate performance and oversight of required transition-related preparation, to require new guidance for agencies and possible transition teams, S. 3648, to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, S. 3139, to ensure that Federal contractors comply with child labor laws, S. 2367, to improve border security through regular assessments and evaluations of the Checkpoint Program Management Office and effective training of U.S. Border Patrol agents regarding drug seizures, S. 3594, to require Governmentwide source code sharing, S. 3015, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, S. 2143, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South 2nd Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the "Staff Sergeant Robb Lura Rolfing Post Office Building", S. 2274, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 Wyoming Street in Shoshoni, Wyoming, as the "Dessie A. Bebout Post Office", S. 2717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 231 North Franklin Street in Greensburg, Indiana, as the "Brigadier General John T. Wilder Post Office", S. 3267, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Dakota Avenue South in Huron, South Dakota, as the "First Lieutenant Thomas Michael Martin Post Office Building", S. 3357, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5120 Derry Street in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as the "Hettie Simmons Love Post Office Building", S. 3419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the "John Charles Traub Post Office", S. 3639, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Robert Hayden Post Office", S. 3640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office", H.R. 292, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the "William L. Reynolds Post Office Building", H.R. 996, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Blvd., in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office", H.R. 2379, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in

St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office", H.R. 3944, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Church Street in Mount Vernon, Georgia, as the "Second Lieutenant Patrick Palmer Calhoun Post Office", and the nominations of Adrienne Jennings Noti, Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, Danny Lam Hoan Nguyen, Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha, Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine how primary care improves health care efficiency.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the National Transportation Safety Board Investigations Report.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine extended producer responsibility policies for consumer packaging.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine global food security.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and multiple veterans service organizations: PVA, WWP, NASDVA, MRC, BSF, IAVA, BVA, SWAN, SVA, and AMVETS.

SD-G50

MARCH 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans.

SD-G50

MARCH 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA.

390-CHOB