

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LOWER SOUTH-AMPTON POLICE SERGEANT RAYMOND BRANDEN'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent from my district, Sergeant Raymond Branden of Lower Southampton Township. His distinguished career as a law enforcement officer spans an impressive 37 years and now culminates in his well-merited retirement.

Raymond was born in Philadelphia and currently resides in Holland. He started his career in 1987 working part-time for Chalfont Borough, Newtown Borough, and Yardley Borough. Raymond secured a full-time position as an officer in 1988 and by April 1989, he joined the Lower Southampton Township Police Department.

Over the course of 15 years, Raymond was a member of the South-Central Bucks County SWAT team, serving as a valuable and esteemed team leader. Concurrently, he was a member of the Lower Southampton Township Police Honor Guard, exhibiting unwavering reliability as an accident investigator and reconstructionist.

During his tenure with Lower Southampton Township, Raymond's ascent within the police department was marked by commendable rapidity. Elevated to the rank of Corporal in 2004 and further to Sergeant in 2006, his trajectory underscored his exceptional leadership and dedication to duty. Noteworthy among his myriad achievements are instances where he displayed promptness and efficacy in responding to medical crises, deftly averted threats posed to fellow officers, and apprehended perpetrators of burglary.

Along with this patrol sergeant duties, Raymond was also the traffic safety coordinator for the police department. Tasked with scheduling traffic and DUI enforcement details, he led numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the force and community as a whole.

Sergeant Branden plans to enjoy his retirement by spending quality time with his wife Tami, daughters Nichole and Morgan, and grandchildren Luna and Rory. I express profound gratitude to Sergeant Branden for the life of dedicated service he has given to our community, district, and country. His noble character is an example of civic stewardship for new generations of law enforcement to embody.

Raymond's devotion to the force will be greatly missed, but I wish to congratulate him on his 37 years of service to the citizens of Bucks County and his deserved retirement from the Lower Southampton Township Police Department. I am looking forward to seeing him embark on this new journey and I sincerely hope that all his future endeavors are met with great success.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL KINEMATICS FOR RECEIVING THE ROBERT O. COVEY AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General Kinematics for receiving the Robert O. Covey Award for embodying the spirit of American ingenuity and community engagement. From its humble beginnings in a Barrington storefront in 1960, General Kinematics has blossomed into a global leader, serving clients across the world with innovative solutions.

General Kinematics' success story is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to continuous improvement. What started with a small team of six employees has grown to a robust workforce of over 192, with countless retired employees who have contributed to the company's legacy. This remarkable growth is a result of General Kinematics' unwavering dedication to its employees, fostering a culture of innovation and providing opportunities for professional development.

The company's commitment to its employees extends beyond the workplace. General Kinematics actively invests to the growth of young people in the community, providing training programs and mentorship opportunities that empower the next generation. This dedication to community development is reflected in their positive impact on Crystal Lake and beyond.

General Kinematics' journey is one of constant evolution. From its initial focus on the foundry industry, the company has expanded its reach to serve mines, recycling plants, and a diverse range of global clients. This expansion is driven by innovation, with General Kinematics continuously developing new equipment and products to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging General Kinematics and its employees for their remarkable contributions to the community, their dedication to innovation, and their commitment to building a sustainable future.

HONORING PETE BOUDREAUX

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who selflessly served his alma mater for more than 50 years. Coach Pete Boudreaux, Catholic High School track coach, teacher, guidance counselor, and legend, is a member of the Catholic High

School Class of 1959. After a stint in the Army and an SEC Championship-worthy track career at LSU, Coach Boudreaux returned to his alma mater to begin his service career. Over his career, Coach Boudreaux brought home 52 state championships between cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. He is the first man to be inducted into both the Catholic High School and St. Joseph's Academy High School Athletic Halls of Fame and is also a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

Beyond his legendary coaching career, Coach Boudreaux is a man who passionately worked to get the most out of his students. Some of the constants in Coach Boudreaux's approach are to work to prepare his students for the future and mold them into good people. Coach Boudreaux's ability to evolve and contribute to the lives of young men over the course of generations is unparalleled, and Catholic High has been fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher, guidance counselor, and coach. As a former sprinter under "Coach Boo," I join thousands of Catholic High graduates in wishing him a huge congratulations on his retirement and go Bears.

SUPPORTING THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, in the more than ten years since the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in the Shelby vs. Holder case, state legislatures have targeted voters and erected deliberate barriers to the ballot box in what amounts to the most coordinated effort to restrict voting access in generations. These new laws would: Close polling stations without advanced notice, purge voter rolls, curb early voting and voting by mail, impose strict ID requirements and limit multi-lingual voting materials.

If we are to gather here today and discuss solutions to rid this Nation of voter disenfranchisement, then I suggest that instead of the Republican misguided bill, the House finally take up H.R. 14, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Named for our late great colleague and Civil Rights hero, the bill would establish a modern-day formula to prevent states with a recent history of voter discrimination from enacting restrictive voting laws.

Generations of Americans marched, fought and even died for the right to vote, many in my hometown of Selma, Alabama. We cannot let the continuation of unjust practices threaten their legacy and undermine our democracy.

The right to vote is the most fundamental right in our democracy. With the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, we're ensuring that every eligible American can make their voices heard in fair, accessible, and transparent elections.

• 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.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will finally join me and fellow Democrats in this worthwhile endeavor.

It was John Lewis who said “that the right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool in a democratic society. We must use it.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in defending this precious right so that H.R. 14 can finally be brought forward for a vote; and show once and for all to our constituents that we are united in defense of our democracy and our most sacred right to vote.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR BENJAMIN JONES

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Major Benjamin Jones' impressive record of service to our country. Ben was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and attended high school at Clayton High School in North Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University and received his commission as an Armor Officer through Officer Candidate School in 2010.

Major Jones has served on active duty for just over ten years. He has served as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader within 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He commanded two Cavalry Troops within 1st Armored Division in Texas. After command, he served as an exercise planner for Joint Modernization Command, within Army Futures Command. He also has an operational deployment to Kuwait in 2017 as a Troop Commander. Prior to his current assignment in the Army House Liaison Division as a Legislative Liaison, Major Jones served as the Defense Fellow/Military Legislative Liaison for Representative Filemon Vela of Texas' 34th Congressional District.

As a Legislative Liaison, Ben was the face of the Army for 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, with direct influence over 10 states spanning 85 individual members. Ben built, promoted, and facilitated lines of communication between Congress and the Army that were instrumental in maintaining the relationship between the executive and legislative branches. Through his ability to clearly define the Army's message and help navigate the needs of Congress to provide essential oversight requirements, Ben has had a lasting and outsized impact on the government and the nation's ability to respond to global threats, ensure the military modernizes, and maintains readiness at the highest level.

In June, Major Jones will be attending the National Intelligence University as he continues his career as a strategic intelligence officer continuing his post graduate studies and continues to honorably serve our great Nation. I wish Ben, his wife Lauren, and his two children Colin and Harper, the best of luck in their future endeavors and their continued dedication to this great country.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA DEMEREST FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF AMHERST AND WESTERN NEW YORK AT LARGE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Demerest for her many years of community engagement and civic duty as a tireless conservative advocate in the Town of Amherst and across Western New York.

Barbara graduated with a master's degree and Advanced Certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work, and a Certificate in Supervisory Studies from the Cornell School of Industrial Relations. She went on to work in the healthcare sector, serving the region as both a clinician and administrator. As she advocated for stronger measures to combat family violence, Barbara connected with longtime State Senator Mary Lou Rath. Barbara Demerest's voice on community issues was appreciated, and Senator Rath later brought her on as the Director of Community Services, where she continued to have a large impact on policy, advising the Senator and working with the community on a wide range of issues, with a special emphasis on her background in healthcare.

Even in retirement, Barbara Demerest continues to be a trusted advisor to candidates and elected officials as a leader in the Town of Amherst Republican Committee and respected advocate in the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I thank Barbara Demerest for her tireless efforts to improve Western New York through her community engagement and activism.

RECOGNIZING BOB BLAZIER FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Blazier for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce. This recognition acknowledges Mr. Blazier's unwavering commitment to serving his community in various capacities.

Bob Blazier's career in Crystal Lake began in 1962 as the Principal of Lundahl Middle School. His passion for education extended beyond the classroom, as he became a founding member of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in 1977.

From 1985 to 2002, Bob served as superintendent of District 47 in Crystal Lake, leaving an enduring legacy on the district's educational system. After his tenure as superintendent, he continued making a difference by serving as Vice President of the Northern Illinois Medical Center where he played a piv-

otal role in establishing the Centegra Foundation.

Bob's involvement in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce reached its peak when he served as President from 1990 to 2008. During his presidency, he spearheaded the creation of the Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation, which has since awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

Even at the age of 97, Bob remains actively engaged in the community, working at Home State Bank. His unwavering dedication to Crystal Lake is a testament to his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bob Blazier's lifelong leadership and dedication to serving others. His unwavering commitment serves as an inspiration to all who strive to make a lasting difference in their communities.

RECOGNIZING LOWER SOUTHAMPTON POLICE SERGEANT MICHAEL WOJNAR'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Sergeant Michael Wojnar of Lower Southampton Township Police Department who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer.

He started his career in 1996 working for Jenkintown Borough and Rockledge Borough Police. He attended Bucks County Community College for his Associates of Art Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from 1992 to 1995 and enrolled in the Police Academy at Montgomery County Community College in 1995. By June 1997, he joined the Lower Southampton Township Police Department.

For 18 years, Michael served as a valuable asset within the South-Central Bucks County SWAT team, fulfilling pivotal roles in HAZMAT SWAT operations and crisis negotiator. Additionally, he was a member of the Lower Southampton Township Police Honor Guard, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to excellence in law enforcement.

During his tenure with Lower Southampton Township, Michael quickly rose through the ranks of the police department, promoted to Corporal in 2014 and Sergeant in 2018. Michael Wojnar has an array of worthy achievements, exemplified by his courageous rescue efforts at the Ridgecrest Nursing Home amidst perilous conditions of heat and smoke, and his adeptness in providing key information leading to the arrest of a serial bank robber.

Along with his patrol sergeant duties, he was extremely involved in accident investigation and reconstruction. While performing these responsibilities, he was also at Peirce College getting a Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Administration in 2021, and earning a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Corrections from the University of Arizona Global Campus from 2022 to 2023.

I express profound gratitude to Sergeant Wojnar for the life of dedicated service he has given to our community, district, and country. His exemplary character serves as a model of civic stewardship and sets a precedent for future generations of law enforcement to emulate. Michael's devotion will be greatly missed, but thankfully he has continued to serve for the Bucks County Sheriff's Department as Deputy Sheriff. I wish to congratulate his service to the citizens of Bucks County, and I eagerly anticipate witnessing his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING KATHY DAILY'S
DEDICATED SERVICE TO HOOSIER
VETERANS

HON. RUDY YAKYM, III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kathy Daily for the incredible work she does day in and day out caring for those who have worn the uniform of the United States Military.

As a registered nurse for mental health at the Jackie Walorski VA Clinic in Mishawaka, Indiana, Kathy serves on the frontlines in the ongoing battle to make sure Hoosier veterans are well-cared for and receive the quality mental health treatment they need and deserve. When our veteran heroes return home from battle, they often struggle with invisible scars and wounds that are not physically noticeable. Kathy works tirelessly to bind up and heal those wounds and support veterans in crisis situations.

Kathy's extensive background in the military and with veterans' groups is part of what makes her such an effective advocate for them. From serving in the U.S. Army during Operation Desert Storm to now serving as Vice Commander of the Edwardsburg VFW Post in Cass County, Michigan, along with various veteran suicide prevention groups, there are few people who better understand the veteran community and their challenges and needs better than Kathy does.

One of the veterans who Kathy went above and beyond for in a time of crisis is someone I have also had the privilege of getting to know well: retired Sergeant Ted Grubbs. An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, Ted was diagnosed with service-connected complex post-traumatic stress disorder and complex traumatic brain injury after returning home from duty. In April 2023, Ted experienced a severe mental health crisis and put a pistol in his mouth before, fortunately, putting the pistol down.

In the immediate aftermath of that incident, Kathy was there and available for Ted 24/7, and she made sure he was supported and received the treatment he needed. It is not hyperbole to say that Kathy saved Ted's life, and there are other veterans who woke up this morning and can say the same because they had Kathy in their corner. As we reflect on all the tremendous sacrifices our veterans have made across the generations defending liberty and preserving this great American experiment, it is equally important to express our gratitude to those individuals who care for them when they return home.

I, and many others, are extremely grateful to Kathy Daily for being a voice for veterans when no one else will speak up for them, and to make sure crisis situations don't turn into tragedies. I thank Kathy and all those doing diligent, dedicated work supporting and caring for America's veterans.

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE
HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH 2024

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month 2024. Each May, our Nation commemorates the anniversaries of the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Since a commemoration of these anniversaries was first proposed in 1977, we have celebrated the history, accomplishments, and contributions of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in America. On Wednesday, May 29, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join Gwinnett County's 2024 Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration.

Gwinnett County is home to Georgia's largest AANHPI community. I am proud to represent such a beautiful tapestry of ethnicities, nationalities, faith traditions, and experiences, and I am truly privileged to know and work with so many of these individuals in Georgia every single day. Whether running a business, working with students, or inspiring civic participation in our political system, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in our community have made an indelible mark in their professional fields and in the lives of those they serve. Since 2023, I have also been a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to fight for the AANHPI communities here in Georgia and across our country. Together, we can support the hard-working Americans who bring their unique experiences to our Nation, advocate and advance our shared goals, and celebrate the many contributions that have made America a more perfect union.

This month and always, I am honored to represent the cultures, nationalities, and spoken languages that make up this vibrant community. Happy Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF BRIAN MCCORMICK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mr. Brian "Mac" William McCormick of Colleyville, Texas, who peacefully passed away on April 15, 2024.

Mr. McCormick was born on June 8, 1942, in Oneida, New York, to Aaron and Berniece

McCormick. After graduating from Norwich High School, he attended Powelson Business School in Syracuse to study accounting. In 1966, Mr. McCormick was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Although he could have denied the draft due to his younger brother already having enlisted, he nevertheless heeded the call to serve his country. During basic training in Fort Riley, Kansas, Mr. McCormick was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, which was known as the "Old Reliables". In Vietnam, he served as a forward observer on an armored personnel carrier and performed numerous search and destroy missions in the Mekong Delta. For his exemplary service, Mr. McCormick received several awards, including the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

After returning home in 1968, Mr. McCormick was waiting to be processed out in Fort Meade, Maryland, during the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. This led to riots and civil unrest across the country, and he was temporarily called back to service to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C. In civilian life, Mr. McCormick remained active with his American Legion Post and volunteered in his community. He also helped organize company reunions and spoke at these events, in which he was recognized for his outstanding work and community service. Mr. McCormick was a loving father whose selfless service and compassion will be remembered for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Mr. McCormick's extraordinary life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ANTHONY
WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Anthony W. Williams, Jr. as he concludes his tour as Army Legislative Liaison in the Office of Congressional Legislative Liaisons. Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Captain Williams attended Fort Valley State University where he graduated as a 2013 Distinguished Military Graduate. Today, Captain Williams resides in Albany, Georgia, and I am proud to call him one of my constituents.

Throughout his life, Captain Williams has attained an impressive list of educational degrees, to include a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Fort Valley State University, a Master of Science Degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master's in Policy Management from Georgetown University.

During his career in the United States Army, Captain Williams has served in several duty stations across the country where he was selected to fill mission-critical roles. His first duty station was Fort Campbell, Kentucky, followed by Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the Pentagon where he served as a General Bradley Fellow, leading

the Department of Defense in the Global Posture Executive Council's Military Construction Prioritization Process before moving on to the Office of Congressional Liaisons in the U.S. House of Representatives.

As a Congressional Liaison, Captain Williams was responsible for liaising with 72 Members of Congress and their staff, covering eight states and two U.S. territories. He was a key player for developing engagement opportunities between Army Senior Leaders and Members of Congress, and he promoted legislative objectives and programs with a unique style of his own. Captain Williams did an exceptional job at executing communications and logistics support for Members and congressional staff as they attended CODELS and STAFFDELS. In fact, he received exceptional acclaim from my colleagues for his strategic excellence and logistical attentiveness during their CODEL to the INDOPACOM theater.

Beyond his adept coordination and organizational skills, Captain Williams proved to be innovative in his approach to the role of liaison. He took the initiative to incorporate his own strategies and programming that left a mark on Army Senior leaders and Members of Congress with whom he worked. Following his roots as a graduate of Fort Valley State University—the State of Georgia's 1890 land-grant university—Captain Williams promoted and facilitated lines of communication with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Bipartisan Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Caucus. Through his ability to clearly define the Army message, Captain Williams was able to assist the caucus members with questions about national and international issues pertaining to the Army and discuss Army issues impacting the African American community.

Truly, Captain Williams' personal example, commitment to excellence, and exemplary performance of duty reflects distinct credit upon himself, the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and the United States Army. Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy here on this earth." Captain Williams has paid his rent, and he has paid it well. Undoubtedly, he will continue in his service to the American people in whatever role he takes next.

Captain Anthony Williams has accomplished so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the enduring love and support of his wife, Courtney, and their three children, Trey, Journey, and Sydney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing the tremendous contributions Captain Williams has made to help serve the U.S. Army and the American people during his career. We wish him and his family all the best as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING HEREDITARY
ANGIOEDEMA DAY AND THE
HAEA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 16th as Hereditary Angioedema Awareness Day and to call attention to challenges and opportunities faced by this patient community. Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) is a rare, severe, and potentially life-threatening genetic condition in about 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 50,000 people. HAE symptoms include painful and disabling episodes of edema, or swelling, in all body parts including the abdomen. Throat swelling can close the airway and cause death by asphyxiation. While minor trauma or stress may trigger an attack, swelling often occurs without a known trigger. Symptoms of hereditary angioedema typically begin in childhood and worsen during puberty. Untreated individuals may have an attack every 1 to 2 weeks with most episodes lasting 3 to 4 days.

HAE used to be associated with an incredibly high mortality rate, but recent breakthroughs in medical science have taken the condition from a death sentence to a manageable chronic illness. With the advent of innovative therapies, HAE patients no longer experience disability and dependency, but rather live full, productive, and largely suffering-free lives. HAE affected individuals require near constant access to life-saving care and medication and additional research advancements are needed to sustain progress toward an elusive cure.

Loss of productivity at work and school is one of the many side effects of those suffering from HAE, particularly when it is not managed correctly and comprehensively. In an earlier survey conducted by the U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association (HAEA), 57 percent of patients reported as not having equal advancement in career pathways and 48 percent stated they did not achieve the educational level that they wanted. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue to improve coverage and access and lowering out-of-pocket costs for patients with rare and chronic illnesses.

I am also proud to recognize the HAEA. This organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary and the tremendous advancement in research and patient care improvements over that time. They are an exemplary patient research advocacy organization in terms of support for the community and impact for the patients they serve.

I call on my colleagues to continue to support efforts to advance medical research, improve coverage and access, enhance patient care, and join me in recognizing May 16th as Hereditary Angioedema Awareness Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to the unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast

my votes for H.R. 5863 or H.R. 3019. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219 and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

RECOGNIZING BECKY ARBAUGH'S
BRAVERY AND HEROISM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable actions of a constituent in my district, Becky Arbaugh. Becky is a dedicated manager at a Taco Bell in Richboro where on the afternoon of April 13th this year she demonstrated unparalleled courage and quick thinking, saving the life of an eleven-week-old baby in a moment of crisis.

It was an ordinary day at 4:45 PM, at the Taco Bell where Becky works, until an extraordinary event unfolded. A frantic scene emerged as screams were heard outside of the drive through window from mother, Natasha. Baby Myles Long suddenly stopped breathing. Without hesitation, Becky sprang into action upon realizing how dire the situation was. In those crucial moments, Becky's actions proved to be the difference between life and death. Becky began performing CPR on Myles, working tirelessly to revive the infant. Becky's own daughter had faced a similar life-threatening situation in the past. Drawing from the lessons learned during her daughter's ordeal, Becky approached the situation with a unique blend of empathy, experience, and unwavering determination.

As the ambulance arrived and whisked the baby away to receive further medical attention, Becky's actions stood as a testament to the power of compassion and selflessness. Her bravery serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the impact that one individual can make in the lives of others.

Becky Arbaugh's actions that day are a beacon of hope, embodying the true spirit of heroism. Today, we honor Becky and extend our heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering commitment to the well-being of others.

HONORING HEIMAN CHEIM

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of respected businessman and lifelong Yuba-Sutter resident, Heiman Cheim who passed away at the age of 86 years old.

Heiman was born on May 27, 1937, in Sacramento, California, to parents Harry and Lea. Heiman's Yuba-Sutter family roots run deep, as his maternal great-grandfather William G. Murphy was a member of the 1846 Donner Party. His father's side immigrated to Marysville in the mid-1800s from Germany.

Heiman attended Marysville High School, where he was active in sports and played the trombone. After graduation in 1954, he would first attend Menlo College in Palo Alto, CA, and was later recruited to play football at Westminster University in Salt Lake City, UT.

While at Westminster, he would meet his wife, Kaye, who he would marry in 1958. They would go on to have five children, along with many pets and countless family memories.

Heiman spent much of his early adulthood working with his father and uncles at the Union Lumber Company and Cheim Ranch. Heiman would eventually buy the company from his uncles and continue the family-owned legacy with his son, Harry. Heiman was a hard worker, his 64-year career was a testament to his tireless work ethic, and his deep connection with the community.

Heiman had an endless appetite for life, which included trips around the country and learning to ride a Harley-Davidson. His favorite place to be with family was Jackson Hole, Wyoming; together they would: flyfish, ski, track down bear jams, and enjoy our country's National Parks. After his wife passed away in 2004, it was imperative to carry on that tradition and make every holiday and birthday special. He shared many of these moments with his companion of twenty years, Donna.

Heiman is survived by his children, Heidi, Lorie, Harry, Charlotte, and Alison; twelve beloved grandchildren and one great grandchild. He is also survived by Donna Helms, along with many extended family and friends. His humor, generosity, drive, and joy in life inspired everyone around him. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING DENISE SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE CARL E. WEHDE AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denise Smith for receiving the esteemed Carl E. Wehde Award. This award, presented in memory of the late Mayor Carl E. Wehde, acknowledges individuals who embody the spirit of service, leadership, and dedication to improving the quality of life in the greater Crystal Lake area.

As the organization chair for the Downtown Crystal Lake Association, Denise plays a vital role in promoting the city's downtown area. She is also an active volunteer with numerous local charities, including St. Thomas Catholic Church, the Jake Keitner Memorial Blood Drive, the Family Health Partnership Clinic, and Girls on the Run.

Denise's passion for community involvement extends to her coordination of four premier races in the area. Three of these races, the Crystal Lake Aquathon, Crystal Lake Half Marathon, and McHenry County Santa Run, are dedicated to supporting charitable causes. The McHenry County Patriot Run benefits Veterans Path to Hope and the Veterans Assistance Commission.

In addition to her community service, Denise is an adjunct instructor at McHenry County College in the Physical Therapist and Assistant Program. She also owns a business in Crystal Lake, which she established in 2015 with the support of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Crystal Lake Association, and the broader community.

Denise's commitment to her community extends to her role as a recently elected rep-

resentative on the Crystal Lake City Council. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Greater McHenry County organization, demonstrating her dedication to the region's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Denise Smith for her selfless service to the Crystal Lake community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHEF SILVANA SALCIDO ESPARZA

HON. RUBEN GALLEGO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza's retirement and all her accomplishments. Since opening Barrio Café, she has been featured in *Sunset Magazine*, *Esquire Magazine*, and *Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, and has been a finalist for the James Beard Award several times. Throughout the years, Chef Silvana has shared her expertise, mentoring the next generation of chefs and small business owners. Inducted into the Arizona Culinary Hall of Fame, Chef Silvana has left her indelible mark on the Phoenix food scene.

Chef Silvana is a community leader and civil rights advocate in her own right. She has tirelessly advocated for the rights of all in Arizona and against abusive and discriminatory legislation like SB1070. Chef Silvana cooked and distributed food to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership and vision have transformed a stretch of 16th Street into 'Calle 16,' a hub for local economic development, flourishing with Mexican art, murals, culture, and food.

Since 2002, Barrio Café has been a Phoenix institution, serving world-renowned Mexican food—'comida chingona'—and promoting Mexican American arts and culture. Chef Silvana's story lives on with her autobiographical book, 'La Hija de la Chingada: Chronicles of a Mexican Chef in the U.S.A.' I am lucky to call Chef Silvana a friend, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SCHARMEL ROUSSEL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scharmel Roussel.

In 2009, Ms. Roussel became a founding member of Arkansas Affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light which fights to protect the Earth and our environment.

In March of 2024, Roussel received the Peace Activist of the Year award from the Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Roussel's dedication to environmentalism has earned her several grants, including such from the EPA and the USDA.

Scharmel Roussel is more than deserving of this award, and I thank her for her important

work to help preserve the world's ecosystems through faith.

HONORING PASTOR EUGENE ROBERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 30TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Pastor Eugene Roberson, an esteemed leader and dear friend in our community as he marks his 30th pastoral anniversary at First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago. In 1994, First Corinthian named Pastor Roberson as the Shepherd of their congregation, beginning a tremendous period of growth in faith and service to our community. Thirty years on, I am proud to formally recognize his service and dedication to his congregation, a truly remarkable achievement.

Pastor Roberson's faith journey began in his home state of Mississippi, where he was the fourth of ten children born to John and Lula Roberson in Tutwiler. Educated in Clarksdale, Mississippi, Pastor Roberson earned his B.A. in Social Studies from Jackson State University. He entered into the ministry in 1979 where he ascended in service to his faith from Deacon to Assistant Pastor to the late Pastor Peter Goudeaux, Jr., and ultimately becoming his successor.

I have the privilege of knowing Pastor Roberson as a friend, community leader, man of faith and servant of the community. His passion and leadership are consistently a source of inspiration for me and countless others. I am grateful to have joined Pastor Roberson and his congregation on many occasions. During each visit, I feel at home and leave with a renewed feeling of hope and determination.

Pastor Roberson's work extends well beyond the doors of his church. Through his work on the Lake County Commission on Government Reform and Accountability, the Workforce Development Board, and twice as the elected President of the North Shore Baptist Ministers Alliance, he has had great impact lifting up the lives of Lake County residents.

Pastor Roberson is a regular fixture at service initiatives that make our community stronger, such as back to school giveaways, annual Christmas food basket giveaways, weekly soup kitchens and assisting families in crisis.

Pastor Roberson also holds the honor of being a guest chaplain for the House of Representatives, opening a session of Congress on October 24, 2001.

Under Pastor Roberson's leadership the congregation at First Corinthian has built a strong and resilient community that has touched the lives of people throughout North Chicago and Illinois's Tenth District. Setting an example for many to follow, and I am honored to be his representative in Congress.

Congratulations once again to Pastor Eugene Roberson, his remarkable wife, Sis. Geraldine Roberson, and his entire family. I am deeply honored to congratulate him and First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church on their 30th pastoral anniversary, and I wish him only

great success in his future. I look forward to sharing the Journey with him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
SERGEANT JESSE CLAY, JR.

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Texan, Sergeant Jesse Clay, Jr., who recently passed away. Born on September 16, 1929, in Kirbyville, Texas, Jesse exemplified dedication and bravery. Mr. Clay was a devout and dedicated member of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Dickinson. He was baptized there and served throughout his life as an usher and member of the male chorus.

In 1952, he enlisted in the United States Army, and on June 14, 1953, during the Korean War, he was wounded under intense artillery fire. For his bravery, Jesse was awarded the prestigious Purple Heart Medal.

Despite his injury, Jesse's commitment to our Nation didn't end there. He reenlisted, serving another two years with distinction before being honorably discharged again in 1955. His dedication to duty and country is a shining example of the American spirit.

After his military service, Jesse continued to contribute to his community. He worked at Gay Pontiac, McRee Ford, and retired from NASA Clay Holt and Dickinson I.S.D. after 30 years of service. His meticulous care for the Dickinson High School football field was well-known around town, and his efforts ensured that the field was always in pristine condition.

Jesse's legacy is one of service, dedication, and community. His story is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans and the enduring impact of their service.

Sergeant Jesse Clay, Jr.'s life and service to our country will never be forgotten.

HONORING GARY GREEN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gary Green, a long-time constituent of Palm Beach County, for being inducted into California's Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Mr. Green, known as the "Outlaw Folksinger" created music with an important message.

Mr. Green's artistry in lyrics served as a rallying cry for social change and inspired a generation of writers to utilize music as a tool for organizing and activism. Mr. Green's albums are a part of the Smithsonian Institution's Folkways Collection. His musical significance and impact as a musician were recognized when the late Pete Seegar said, "There should be a ballad of Gary Green." In turmoil times, where speaking out on social issues was frowned upon, Mr. Green continued to press forward. He is a true trailblazer, performing music of inclusive and transformative lyrics, at civil rights, labor, anti-war, and LGBTQ+ movements.

I am honored to congratulate Mr. Green for his successful contributions to both the art and

social movements. I am confident that he will continue his life path of exceptional work.

HONORING DENTON COUNTY
CHAMBERS WASHINGTON, D.C.
FLY IN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Denton County leadership delegation who are visiting Washington, D.C. this week. The Denton County Chambers come to visit every two years, and I am once again honored to host them this year.

I value these trips as they give our local leaders an insight and first-hand experience of what's happening here on the Hill. Legislation that we work on highly affects our communities back home. I am pleased to offer this opportunity and welcome the members of the Denton County Chambers to our Nation's Capitol.

I would like to thank them for their continued collaboration with my office in ensuring the economic prosperity of Denton County, making Texas the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

I would like to include in the RECORD the following names of the Denton County delegation:

Lisa Carignan, Doug Carignan, Erin Carter, Lori Fickling, Nina Hernandez, Kelly Heslep, Cindi Howard, Jon Kixmiller, William Meredith, Jim Moll, Kelly Murray, Scott Murray, Claire Powell, Sally Quezada, Ingrid Rex, Ryan Schroer, Kristi Tucker, Elliott Tucker, Ben Utley, Lori Walker, Neal Walker, and Charlotte Wilcox.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE RICKE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bernie Ricke, former president of UAW Local 600, based in Dearborn, Michigan, for his hard work on behalf of workers across Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Ricke joined UAW Local 600 as a member in 1973 when he was hired at Ford Motor Company's Detroit Parts Distribution Center. He rose through the ranks of the union's leadership, serving in many roles including Financial Secretary, Bargaining Committee-person, and Vice President before holding the role of President from 2009 until 2023. Mr. Ricke played a key role in negotiating national labor contracts for Ford laborers over the past twenty years, amassing gains for workers and keeping jobs from being eliminated. He drew experience from his start as an hourly worker while keeping an eye towards the future to lead with compassion and advocate for the workers' best interests.

Please join me in recognizing the numerous and remarkable contributions of Mr. Bernie Ricke to Southeast Michigan, and Michigan's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING DR. SAM HILL AND
MRS. LILLIAN HILL

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sam Hill and Mrs. Lillian Hill for their lifetime of service to their community.

Throughout their lives, Dr. and Mrs. Hill have dedicated their time and energy to serving their community. Throughout their career in the field of education—Dr. Hill as the provost of Northern Virginia Community College and Mrs. Hill teaching students who are deaf and hard of hearing—they continuously provided students with guidance and instruction that prepared them for their next steps. Along the way, they have also volunteered with countless local organizations, donated their expertise and time as board members of various organizations, and have been involved with the Hylton Performing Arts Center since its inception. Their commitment to service is clear and worthy of recognition.

Their devotion to the betterment of their community, and the selfless mentality they bring to their volunteer work, serves as a shining example that we all can strive to follow. To pay tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Hill for their years of dedicated service, the Hylton Performing Arts Center honored them both at their 14th Anniversary Gala. It is my pleasure to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Hill on this well-deserved recognition of their legacy of public service and commitment to education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating and thanking Dr. Sam Hill and Mrs. Lillian Hill. Their contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia will continue to uplift our neighbors for generations to come and I look forward to celebrating their continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO
MAVERICKS

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's NCAA Division Two Men's and Women's Basketball Champions: the Minnesota State University Mankato Mavericks.

Both Mankato's men's team and women's team took home this year's championship trophy—making the Mavericks the first school in forty years to win a double national championship. In fact, it's only the third time in history that any school won both the men's and women's championships in the same season.

Under the leadership of Coach Matt Mergenthaler, Mankato's men's team earned their first national title by defeating Nova Southeastern 88 to 85, finishing with a 35 and 2 record, while Coach Emilee Thiesse's women's team defeated Texas Woman's University 89 to 73, securing their second-ever national title and ending the season with a record of 32 to 5.

Thanks to the tireless leadership and encouragement from the teams' coaches, staff, families, classmates, and community—these talented young men and women earned a state championship title and all of us across southern Minnesota are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to the Mavericks on an unbelievable season.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LORAIN COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Lorain County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Lorain County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

In 1822, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating Lorain County; however, the county became judicially independent in 1824. The original proposed name for the county was "Colerain", but the final name "Lorain" was chosen by Heman Ely, who had previously founded and named the City of Elyria. The county's name is based on the former German and now French province of Lorraine and encompasses roughly 923 square miles. The county is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufacturing and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 200th Anniversary of Lorain County, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their county through the principles on which it was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Lorain County on this significant milestone.

HONORING PRESTON SHARP

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special young man, Preston Sharp, for his passion, commitment, and accomplishments in honoring our nation's veterans.

Preston is a resident of Shasta County, a loving son, and grandson with a heart of gold. His hard work and devotion to honor veterans in his own community and our country will be felt for generations.

On Veterans Day in 2015, when Preston was just 10 years old, he visited the grave of his grandfather, a Navy veteran, at a local Redding cemetery. He placed a flag and flowers on his grandfather's headstone to thank him for his sacrifice. As he looked around, he was troubled by the lack of flags and flowers at the gravesites of all the other veterans. With encouragement from his loving mother and grandmother, Preston used that compas-

sion to make a positive change in the world. He set a goal, and in just 5 months, by doing odd jobs and chores, he had earned enough to purchase flags and carnations to honor all 500 veterans in that cemetery in Redding, California. This gratifying success prompted him to set another goal, to honor veterans in all the Redding cemeteries. He began speaking at local groups and organizations who enthusiastically donated to his worthy objective, seeing in this young boy with a passion to honor and appreciate those who served. Soon, Preston was honoring veterans in cemeteries all around our North State, throughout California, and beyond.

Preston has organized the placement of more than one million flags and red carnations on veterans' headstones throughout the homeland. His crusades have inspired citizens in communities across the United States to participate in similar acts of patriotism and respect for veterans by coming out to clean headstones, replace weathered flags and flowers, and say "Thank You" to those that have served our country.

Preston does not just honor our fallen veterans. He often visits veterans at the local veteran's home or takes them out to lunch and enjoys listening to their stories. His goal is clearly to honor and help all veterans in any way possible, as evidenced by his current initiative, to help prevent and spread awareness of veteran suicides, which has become a top priority.

Preston's contagious ambition has spurred him to start other movements like the Flag and Flower Challenge to encourage everyone in the United States, especially youth, to honor veterans in their own hometowns. He also established Veterans Flags and Flowers, a non-profit organization with a vision to "honor veterans across the country" and a mission to "honor veterans every day, not just the holiday". As a teen member of the Sons of the American Legion, Preston helped inspire the Flying Flags for Heroes program and became their national spokesperson.

Preston was invited to the White House and was honored with a seat beside the First Lady during President Trump's inspirational State of the Union Address in 2018. President Trump commended 12-year-old Preston Sharp for "a job well-done" and praised young patriots like Preston who teach all of us about our civic duties as Americans.

Preston has been recognized and is supported by nearly every local club, organization, school, and business in northern California. He has been an honored guest, speaker and advocate at countless events, services, and fundraisers. He has been featured on the History Channel and highlighted social studies curriculum such as Inspire My Kids. He continues to collect accolades around the country for his work such as being awarded the title of Legacy Keeper by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and is allied with the Wreaths Across America program.

Preston's goal was to honor veterans in all 50 States which sent him travelling across the country, meeting veterans, visiting cemeteries, inspiring communities, and sharing the experience of planting flags and flowers along the way. Despite setbacks during the COVID-19 shutdowns, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, Preston Sharp officially met his goal by presenting flags and flowers in honor of veterans in all 50 of our U.S. states. Quite a celebrated accomplishment.

Preston is now planning on taking his cause overseas to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. He will be placing 17,000 American flags and red carnation flowers at every gravestone, saying each veteran's name out loud, and thanking them for their service.

This young man reminds us that we all have a sacred duty to honor and remember those who served and sacrificed for our nation, no matter how old we are.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPPING CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act. This bill would give the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) more authority to protect consumers from fraud in the interstate transportation of household goods. Specifically, this bill would give FMCSA the authority to assess civil penalties against unregistered shippers and against entities that hold consumers' personal goods hostage, give FMCSA the express authority to reimburse states for enforcing federal consumer protection laws related to the transportation of household goods and establish requirements to ensure that motor carriers, brokers and freight forwarders that seek registration are operating legitimate businesses. Representative MIKE EZELL is co-leading this bill with me.

FMCSA receives thousands of complaints every year from Americans who are the victims of fraud in the shipment of household goods. Fraudsters have launched moving companies with fake 5-star online reviews to draw in customers, intending to overcharge customers or to hold their personal goods hostage until an additional fee is paid. After receiving negative reviews, fraudsters open a new moving company under a new name and a new FMCSA license. FMCSA lacks the authority to prevent and punish these types of fraud.

In 2019, a Department of Transportation Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruled that FMCSA lacks authority to assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations and registration requirements, including unauthorized brokerage and for failure to return household goods to consumers. Under current law, as interpreted by the ALJ's decision and final agency order, FMCSA may not assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations. Instead, the Department of Justice must initiate an action in federal court. This bill would reverse the ALJ's decision and provide explicit authority for FMCSA to adjudicate and assess civil penalties for unfair business practices and consumer protection violations, as well as give FMCSA authority to enforce roadway safety regulations against fraudsters.

This bill would also provide explicit authority to FMCSA to withhold registration from any applicant that fails to provide a valid principal place of business or disclose common ownership with any other registered entities at the time of registration. Household goods carriers, brokers and freight forwarders have registered

with addresses where no legitimate operations take place, often designating their official address as a retail package store, vacant parking lot or business address unrelated to the registered entity. FMCSA already requires motor carriers to designate a principal place of business and disclose common ownership. However, FMCSA may only take enforcement action after the entity is already registered and refuses to cooperate with investigations at the designated address.

This bill would also permit states to use Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program and High Priority program funding to conduct commercial regulatory and consumer protection standard reviews and enforcement actions against household goods motor carriers, brokers and freight forwarders. It would also clarify that states may retain the penalties and fines imposed in proceedings relating to violations of household goods statutes and regulations. These provisions would support states in their efforts to protect the American people from predatory practices.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote due to being stuck in traffic. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call vote No. 219. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 219, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEN AXELSON

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ken Axelson; a World War II veteran and cherished member of the Wanamingo community, who passed away on April 11th, just a week after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Ken graduated from Red Wing High School in 1943, and afterwards—like many in the Greatest Generation—he answered the call to serve his country.

As a combat medic for the U.S. Army, Ken landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, and was later transferred to the 101st Airborne Division. During the Siege of Bastogne, he and his unit were held captive by German forces for five months before they were liberated by U.S. troops.

When he returned home from the war, Ken married his wife, Billie, and raised their six children in Wanamingo, where Ken was active in the community, working as a carpenter, building inspector, and photographer.

When he wasn't doing what he loved—spending time outdoors—Ken was giving back to those around him. He served on the Wanamingo City Council, while also giving his

time to the volunteer fire department and the Wanamingo VFW.

Ken was a true embodiment of who we are in southern Minnesota. He served his country, put his family first, and was never too busy to lend a hand to a fellow neighbor.

He leaves behind a legacy that will long be remembered. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAPERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Naperville Fire Department as they mark 150 years of dedicated service across the Naperville community. With more than 200 employees, ten active fire stations, and six consecutive years of international accreditation, the department is an outstanding model of excellence in its field.

Established in 1874 after Naperville's first purchase of firefighting equipment, the department has pursued its mission of responding to calls and promoting public education programs. Over the years, the Naperville Fire Department has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, adopting new technologies and techniques to ensure the highest level of safety and protection for its residents.

The Naperville Fire Department has played a crucial role in educating the public about fire safety and prevention. Through its various outreach programs and initiatives, the department has empowered residents with the knowledge and skills needed to protect themselves and their families in the event of a fire. This commitment to public education is vital and has undoubtedly saved countless lives over the years.

As we celebrate the Naperville Fire Department's 150th anniversary, let us take a moment to recognize and appreciate the tireless efforts of its employees. Their dedication to the community is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for their unwavering commitment to keeping us safe.

I am proud to represent such a distinguished department, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Naperville Fire Department for its outstanding service and dedication to the community in their remarkable 150 years of service.

RECOGNIZING DARREN CORSON'S RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE IRS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a notable constituent from my district, Mr. Darren Corson of Newtown, Pennsylvania who is retiring after over 40 years of dedicated service as a Public Servant.

Darren graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. After graduation, Darren made the decision to de-

vote his career to public service and joined the Department of Treasury's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) where he remained for over 40 years.

During his career, Darren spent time working in many parts of the IRS, including Criminal Investigations Division, Exam, and Problem Resolution. In 2000, Darren joined the Taxpayer Advocate Service after Congress ordered the creation of a Taxpayer Advocate as an independent organization within the IRS.

Since then, he has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of taxpayers facing individual and systemic issues. However, after forty years of dedicated government service and leadership, Darren is retiring.

Today, I am proud to recognize Darren Corson as an individual who has devoted his career to public service in an organization that impacts all Americans across the country. We are incredibly grateful for the impact Darren Corson has made throughout his long career at the Internal Revenue Service. As an avid sports fan, he will enjoy spending more time rooting for the Phillies.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Darren has had through his long career, and we wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT LAI CHING-TE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people extend congratulations to the Honorable Lai Ching-te on being sworn in as President of Taiwan on Monday, May 20, 2024. His successful 28-year career in politics as Vice President and Premier under President Tsai Ing-wen, Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 1st Mayor of Tainan, and Member of the Legislative Yuan demonstrates his ability to be a strong leader for the people of Taiwan.

Additionally, the vibrant democracy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has elected Hsiao Bi-Khim as Vice President. During her four terms in the Legislative Yuan, she focused on agriculture and transportation in her district of Hualien, along with championing issues such as gender equality, foreign affairs, and human rights.

My appreciation of the people of Chinese heritage is personal as I am the only member of Congress serving as the son of a Flying Tiger in World War II to liberate China. My father, First Lieutenant Hugh deVeaux Wilson with the U.S. Army Air Corps developed a great affection for the people of China.

Lai Ching-te's presidency extends the rule of the DPP, which China views with skepticism, as the party promotes Taiwanese nationalism and identity, and supports the people of Taiwan's right to decide their own future.

Taiwan continues to face rising threats from China, as almost daily, military warplanes and vessels are sent toward them, many of which crossing the median line in the Taiwan Strait. Sadly, incursions into Taiwan's air defense zone nearly doubled in 2022 and continued at a high pace in 2023 with 1,738 incursions. In December of 2022, 71 Chinese aircraft flew

into Taiwanese airspace, the largest breach in history. On May 15, 2024, Taiwan's National Defense Ministry reported 45 Chinese military aircraft around the island, in just one day. With these growing tensions, the pressure on President Lai to balance security risks with promises of protecting the independence of Taiwan are high.

Though the United States does not have official relations with Taiwan, the people of Taiwan have our unwavering support. We remain the island's most significant arms supplier and international backer, having approved over \$8 billion in military aid last month in the National Security Supplemental Aid Package to support Taiwan and other key allies in the Indo-Pacific confronting Chinese aggression.

President Lai's priorities for Taiwan align with his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen, with plans to boost defenses, including increasing military budgets, improving its military force structure, and concentrating on economical mobile weapons systems and more vigorous civil defense. Domestic reform is one of his top priorities, including social spending for the improvement of national health insurance and re-directing economic policy from motives for certain industries to developing more service sector jobs and encouraging domestic consumption.

Lai has retained the majority of the Tsai team, including her foreign minister, Joseph Wu, who now leads his National Security Council, and former NSC head Wellington Koo, who now is the defense minister. He also recruited several private-sector executives for his cabinet, prominently JW Kuo, chair of Topco. Along with the Lai administration, I look forward to working with Taiwan's ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Alexander Yui.

The inauguration of President Lai Ching-te at the presidential office building in central Taipei featured an overwhelming amount of sup-

port for him, as crowds, including a show of marching bands and performers, gathered in a nearby plaza to show their support and listen to his inauguration speech. A bipartisan delegation of former senior U.S. officials, including former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, also attended the inauguration.

Sadly, we are in a war we did not choose, between dictators with Rule of Gun invading democracies with Rule of Law. We must stand firm to protect the borders of Taiwan, Ukraine, Israel, and the United States.

I am confident in the leadership of President Lai Ching-te as Taiwan continues to face adversities to keep their allies who acknowledge them as a sovereign nation, amidst pressure from the Chinese Communist Party.

I look forward to working with President Lai Ching-te on achieving Peace Through Strength, advancing our shared interests, strengthening our longstanding informal relationship, and maintaining stability across the Taiwan Strait.

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, May 23, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 29

2 p.m. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on Ukrainian culture in wartime. RHOB-2359

JUNE 4

2 p.m. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine supporting Georgia's sovereignty and democracy. TBA

JUNE 5

10 a.m. Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the budget of the Federal Highway Administration. SD-406

JUNE 12

10 a.m. Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Fish and Wildlife Service. SD-406