

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE PORTERVILLE EXCHANGE CLUB

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Porterville Exchange Club on their 65-year anniversary and thank them for their significant contributions to the Central Valley. The Porterville Exchange Club is a nonprofit organization that plays a vital role in meeting the needs of Tulare County residents. Since their founding, the Porterville Exchange Club has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing individuals and their families with the support they need to live fulfilling lives. For more than six decades, the organization's staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to support Porterville's youth, senior, and veteran populations. The Porterville Exchange Club is passionate about improving the quality of life of all residents of the community. Their programs are instrumental in connecting veterans with permanent housing, helping families in crisis, and supporting the community's brave law enforcement officers and healthcare workers. Every year, the organization hosts the Treasure Trove Dinner Party, which helps to support these essential initiatives. The organization is focused on serving children in Tulare County and hosts numerous fundraising events every year to ensure they have the resources they need to serve our community. Through the annual Child Spree event, the Porterville Exchange Club, in partnership with a local store, provides students with back-to-school clothes and school supplies for the first day of school. Every year, the Child Spree event supports hundreds of students and their families in Porterville. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Porterville Exchange Club on their 65-year anniversary. Their work to improve the lives of residents of the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY KUREK

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Kurek for his 22 years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Assistant Fire Chief Kurek began his career as a firefighter with the Dearborn Fire Department in 2002. He has been steadfast in his commitment to the people of Dearborn and upholding public safety, serving in multiple roles including Engineer, Lieutenant, and Captain before being promoted to Assistant Fire

Chief. Assistant Chief Kurek has been recognized for his outstanding service many times, earning the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation and Firefighter of the Year Award in 2019. These are the highlights of a long and outstanding career, with extensive recognition to public service.

Please join me in recognizing Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Kurek for more than 20 years of service to the people of Michigan's 12th District as we wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING UNION LEADER TOM CASTLEMAN

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Castleman and his 39 years of public service and dedication to the City of Pomona with the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association, Plasterers' Local 200.

Tom joined the union in 1985 and became a business agent for the union in 2003. In 2010, he was appointed as a business manager for the Plasterers' Local 200. Throughout his time with the union, he also served on the Apprenticeship Committee mentoring the next generation of plasterers entering the field.

Tom is officially retiring this year. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his wife, Patti, and family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize union leader Tom Castleman. His years of civic service are worthy of commendation.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF NEW JERSEY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of The Arc of New Jersey, an organization in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District, and its outstanding commitment to supporting children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Since its founding in 1949, the Arc of New Jersey has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), protect their human rights, and enhance their and their families' lives. The Arc continues to achieve these goals through their advocacy and direct assistance efforts.

The Arc of New Jersey advocates for individuals with IDD at both the state and federal

levels. Their thorough evaluation of legislation affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, or care providing agencies, has benefited countless families in New Jersey and throughout the country. I am grateful for their close partnership with the New Jersey delegation as they keep us informed of the critical issues for the IDD community on Capitol Hill.

Beyond legislative advocacy, the Arc of New Jersey provides resources and programs that have a huge impact on the lives of individuals with IDD and their families to support them in reaching their goals. Programs like The Criminal Justice Advocacy Program, a one of a kind program in New Jersey to provide individuals with IDDs with alternatives to incarceration, and Project HIRE, a program to provide post-graduate plans for students in special education programs provide invaluable support to our community.

This year is the 75th anniversary of The Arc of New Jersey, and their decades of service to our community are an inspiration. I am grateful for all they have done to support New Jersey families and look forward to seeing their continued impact.

HONORING PAUL FREDERICK

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Paul Newton Frederick of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Frederick will celebrate his 100th birthday on July 5, 2024.

Mr. Frederick is a lifelong Lexingtonian. He left high school to join the Marine Corps, enlisting on July 30, 1942. He was assigned to the 3rd Division of the 21st Regiment of the United States Marines. Mr. Frederick experienced combat as a bazooka man and machine gunner on several islands in the Pacific. His ship was struck by a torpedo on November 17, 1943, killing many and causing the ship to sink. Mr. Frederick was injured but returned to active duty soon after treatment. He participated in many battles in the Pacific Theater. He was a part of one of the most difficult battles of the war and he lost many friends during the Battle of Iwo Jima. For his service, Mr. Frederick was awarded the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and several more medals. He was honorably discharged on October 18, 1945.

Following his service, Mr. Frederick worked at his father's service station until 1963. He then went to work for the U.S. Postal Service and retired in 1989. Sixty years after he left high school, he earned his high school diploma. He was married to Myrtle Zimmerman Frederick for 71 years. They have two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Mr. Frederick served as a scout leader and a youth sponsor for many years at

• 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.

Broadway Christian Church. He currently resides at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center.

Mr. Frederick is a true patriot. He and his fellow veterans are American heroes. As members of the "Greatest Generation", they willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor Mr. Paul Frederick and celebrate his 100th birthday before the United States Congress.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
SEMICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY
OF FINDLAY BEING DESIGNATED
AS FLAG CITY, U.S.A.

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Semicentennial of the City of Findlay being designated as "Flag City, U.S.A.". Through a community-wide effort, spearheaded by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Findlay was named the Flag Capital of the United States on Flag Day, June 14, 1968. A proclamation by Congressman Jackson E. Betts became part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on June 12, 1968. Findlay was officially declared "Flag City, U.S.A." on May 7, 1974, by House Joint Resolution 1003, which was introduced by Congressman Tennyson Guyer.

The effort started with John B. Cooke, member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), who believed it was important to fly the American Flag. Mr. Cooke had the idea that every house in Findlay should fly an American Flag on Flag Day, June 14, so he went around the city speaking to businesses and individual citizens to make it happen. A fund was created by the John Hancock Chapter of the SAR to help fund Mr. Cooke's goal to buy 14,000 small flags. The goal was accomplished with enough money remaining to dedicate a plaque in memory of those men and women who fought for our nation's freedom.

The media was notified that Findlay would become the Flag Capital of the United States on Flag Day. On Wednesday, June 12, 1968, the Honorable Jackson E. Betts, Member of Congress from District 4, made a presentation in the House of Representatives and requested that a flag fly over the Capitol to mark the occasion. On June 14, 1968, flags waved, and the enthusiasm was set for the future flying of the National Flag. This tradition continued until 1974. By that time, Congressman Tennyson Guyer had replaced Congressman Betts in Congress. The Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce started a campaign to have the flags fly once again and for Findlay to become Flag City, USA. Finally, Congressman Guyer introduced House Joint Resolution 1003, and Findlay was officially declared Flag City, USA. Since then, Findlay's community leaders, businesses, and residents have taken great pride in this designation.

Findlay has become a growing community of over 40,000 citizens. It is an international community with several world-wide corporations and industries located in Findlay. For the last decade, Findlay has been named the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States by Site Selection Magazine. Every year, the

city is proving that its values are based on hard work, patriotism, and a spirit of outstanding American ingenuity.

Mr. Speaker, by celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Findlay's designation, we recognize the outstanding achievements and pride that Findlay citizens have for their city. Congratulations to the City of Findlay on 50 years of being designated as "Flag City, U.S.A."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 2964.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 249.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DRIVE CLEAN INDIANA

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I take this time to recognize Drive Clean Indiana as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary on June 15, 2024. Through sustainable transportation and energy efforts, Drive Clean Indiana has enhanced the quality of life for residents and visitors of Northwest Indiana and throughout the state for the past 25 years.

Drive Clean Indiana, which originated as South Shore Clean Cities, Inc. before its statewide expansion in 2022, is a member-based, nonprofit coalition that aims to encourage the use of domestic fuels, improve air quality, strengthen energy security, reduce dependence on imported oil, and build the state and local economies. On June 15, 1999, South Shore Clean Cities was founded as the 71st Clean Cities & Communities coalition by the United States Department of Energy. Under the initial leadership of Liz Williams and Deb McClelland-Parker, the coalition continued to grow, serving Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties in Northwest Indiana. In 2005, Carl and Lorrie Lisek became co-coordinators of South Shore Clean Cities. Then, in 2011, Lorrie became the Executive Director of Wisconsin Clean Cities while Carl was named Executive Director of South Shore Clean Cities, a position in which he remains today with Drive Clean Indiana. Drive Clean Indiana's dedicated team has been recognized with countless awards and accolades throughout the years, and the organization is truly worthy of each of these honors. And I would be remiss if I did not mention that, in 2015, Carl and Lorrie were both inducted into the United States Department of Energy's Clean Cities & Communities Hall of Fame.

Drive Clean Indiana's transition to the statewide coalition is a testament to its extraordinary results. The organization has consistently exceeded expectations and surpassed its goals, while its membership has seen immense growth. Since its inception, the organi-

zation has managed many programs and projects including NIPSCO's IN-Charge Project, the BP Cleaner Air through Diesel Emissions Reductions Grant Program, and the Green Fleet Program. More recently, the organization has been heavily involved in fostering the use of electric vehicles across the state through its management of the Go Electric Vehicle Indiana (GOEVIN) program and the Indiana Clean School Bus Consortium (ICSBC). The ICSBC recently secured an award announced by President Biden and the United States Environmental Protection Agency that will bring 51 electric buses to Indiana school districts. It has also collaborated on many other projects including the Midwest Hydrogen Hub, which will promote clean energy through the production of hydrogen by leveraging renewable energy, natural gas, and low-cost nuclear energy. These are just a few of the many remarkable programs and projects in which Drive Clean Indiana is involved.

Over the past 15 years, Drive Clean Indiana has helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2 million tons, the number of gasoline gallon equivalents by 300 million gallons, and the number of oil barrels by three million. For their truly innovative and successful energy and transportation initiatives, the organization's members and leaders are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Drive Clean Indiana on this outstanding milestone. For 25 years, the coalition has continued to make great strides toward improving the quality of the air we breathe and, in turn, improving the lives of countless individuals. Its steadfast commitment to Northwest Indiana and throughout the entire state is recognized and appreciated by all.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF MS. JENNIFER BRINKLEY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the retirement of an exceptional individual, Ms. Jennifer Brinkley. With a career spanning over four decades, Jennifer has dedicated herself to public service with unwavering commitment and integrity.

Jennifer began her journey in 1984 as the municipal court clerk for Tupelo. Her exemplary service and dedication quickly became apparent, and in 2012, she joined the District Attorney's Office for Mississippi's 1st Circuit District. Throughout her tenure, she has been a cornerstone of our community, bringing efficiency, dedication and a profound sense of justice to her role.

Her professionalism and demeanor significantly enhanced the productivity of both the municipal court and the District Attorney's Office. Jennifer's legacy will have a lasting impact on our judicial system and community.

Her professional accomplishments are matched only by her dedication to her family, community, and church. Jennifer's active involvement has made her a beloved figure in all these circles, demonstrating that her impact extends far beyond her professional achievements.

As Jennifer retired at the end of May, her legacy of hard work, compassion, and community service will continue to inspire us all.

We wish Jennifer a joyous and fulfilling retirement. May this new chapter be filled with happiness, peace, and cherished moments with her loved ones. I thank Jennifer for her remarkable service and for being a beacon of dedication and kindness.

Congratulations to Jennifer on her well-deserved retirement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
AARON DAVID ATTEBERY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my constituent, Aaron David Attebery, who passed on April 4, 2024, after a long battle with cancer at the age of 35. While his illness was painful and debilitating, he never let it diminish his spirit and contributions to his family, friends, and community.

Aaron lived in the state of Missouri most of his life. He earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout as a youth and attended the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, MO, and graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Missouri S&T.

Aaron began his career working with the John Deere Company where he worked to improve diesel engine performance. He later went on to work for Black & Veatch where he met the love of his life, his wife Rachel Attebery. Aaron will be missed by all, and his legacy will be felt by all who were lucky to know him.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
JACK SIMES

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jack Simes as he retires after more than four decades of federal service.

Mr. Simes has dedicated 43 years of public service to our country and to nine Southern California counties that are home to more than 23 million people. For the last seven years, Mr. Simes served as the Southern California Area Manager for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As Area Manager, Mr. Simes was responsible for implementing water reclamation and reuse projects under the Title XVI authority, conducting water and related resources planning, water conservation field services, and Native American Affairs. Mr. Simes established constructive working relationships with dozens of locally led water and power districts, guiding them through the process of seeking federal financial assistance for much needed infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Simes brought a can-do spirit and commitment to work that inevitably turned his colleagues and stakeholders into friends. Notably, he has a sign in his office detailing his

motto: be good, be kind, and be of service. Mr. Simes leaves behind a legacy that will be impossible to match.

As a direct result of Mr. Simes's exemplary work, the federal government was able to financially participate in and expedite the development of hundreds of millions of dollars in locally developed water resiliency, conservation and water supply projects that are operating today.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Simes has been an invaluable resource to Members of Congress, our staff, and to the constituents and water agencies we represent in the West. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. Simes and wish him and his wife, Karen Simes, a rich and rewarding retirement.

HONORING THE WORK OF BOB
PAUTKE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Bob Pautke, Executive Director of LEAD Clermont Community Leadership Program in Clermont County, Ohio.

Since 2012, Bob has dedicated his time to helping local small business owners and community leaders build their leadership skills to improve the economic vitality and quality of life in Clermont County. He touched the lives of hundreds of LEAD graduates throughout his time.

While Bob's time with the LEAD Clermont Community Leadership Program is ending, Bob's dedication to the Clermont County community continues. He also volunteers with numerous programs throughout Ohio's Second District, including the Clermont County Boys and Girls Club and the Great Oaks Career Campuses Business Advisory Board.

I know Bob's commitment to bettering Clermont County will continue, and I thank him for his tireless dedication to our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAUL
LEBLANC'S SERVICE TO SOUTH-
ERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVER-
SITY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul LeBlanc for his more than two decades of service to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). An immigrant, a first generation college student, an acclaimed author, and a renowned instructor, Dr. LeBlanc's impact as President and CEO of SNHU cannot be understated. I commend Dr. LeBlanc for his enduring legacy as an educator and an innovator in higher education that will continue to enrich the lives of people across our nation.

After earning his master's degree and PhD, Dr. LeBlanc worked at Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company and transitioned to a career in education. Dr. LeBlanc held the title of President at Marlboro College in Vermont be-

fore joining Southern New Hampshire University in 2003.

At the time he took the job, SNHU was a local institution with an enrollment of 2,000 students and was struggling economically. Under Dr. LeBlanc's leadership, SNHU transformed itself and has grown to have a worldwide enrollment of more than 225,000 students. Today SNHU is accessible, equitable, and affordable and is the largest non-profit university in the country. After two decades of Dr. LeBlanc's leadership, SNHU has been named one of the "World's Fifty Most Innovative Companies" by Fast Magazine and Dr. LeBlanc himself received numerous accolades, including from Forbes Magazine, Washington Monthly, and the TIAA Institute.

After decades of hard work, including a three month assignment at the Department of Education in 2015, Dr. LeBlanc is stepping aside from his role as President and CEO of SNHU. As a lifelong learner, Dr. LeBlanc hopes to explore and research the development of artificial intelligence during a year-long sabbatical.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I offer my sincere appreciation to Dr. Paul LeBlanc. Dr. LeBlanc has revolutionized education across the State of New Hampshire and country, and he has helped thousands achieve goals that they never thought were possible. I look forward to seeing what his next chapter holds and wish him the best in his academic and professional career.

HONORING SOUTH BEND POLICE
OFFICER DAN NAPOLITAN FOR
HIS LIFESAVING ACTIONS

HON. RUDY YAKYM, III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize South Bend Police Officer Dan Napolitan, whose quick thinking and decisive action last month likely saved the life of one of his co-workers.

On the evening of May 6, 2024, Officer Napolitan was working the front desk at the South Bend Police Department. Normally, Dan would have been out walking the beat or patrolling the streets of South Bend that night. However, sidelined by a foot injury, Officer Napolitan had recently started light duty assignment while his foot healed.

As he was working, Dan noticed something was wrong when his coworker seated nearby started coughing forcefully. When she stood up from her chair and began walking toward him, Officer Napolitan immediately realized that she was choking. Acting quickly, Dan delivered several back blows to his coworker to try to dislodge the food, but she continued to struggle to breathe. Dan then performed the Heimlich maneuver and some additional back blows, which ultimately cleared his coworker's airway and averted an even scarier outcome. Officer Napolitan's ability to keep a clear head and execute quickly and professionally under pressure likely saved his coworker's life.

For his actions, Officer Napolitan has already been recognized with the South Bend Police Department's Lifesaving Award; an award presented to those who have shown

exceptional courage and learned measures in order to save lives. I am proud to recognize Officer Napolitan.

I and Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District are extremely grateful to Officer Napolitan on this occasion and to all our law enforcement officials serving on the Thin Blue Line for the dedicated—and often dangerous—work they do day in and day out to go after the bad guys and keep our communities safe. God bless Officer Dan Napolitan and all those who protect and serve.

UNWINNABLE RACE: CONGRESS'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT A
NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this body to fulfill its responsibility in addressing an existential challenge facing our nation. For decades, nuclear weapons have threatened the safety of our country and our planet. Today, as nations re-arm and competition re-emerges, we run the risk of repeating our past mistakes and entering a new cold war. A nuclear arms race is well underway, and it poses an existential threat to all. This Congress must stand up and stop the escalatory spiral before it's too late.

It's well past time for our voices, the voices of restraint and risk reduction, to be heard in the nuclear arms debate. The United States, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China are locked into an extraordinarily dangerous nuclear arms race. All three countries are rapidly increasing their nuclear firepower with new and more capable bombs, more long-range missiles, new stealth delivery systems, bombers, and submarines. And as tensions heighten, all of this is dependent on the newest field of warfare: space. All three countries depend upon their space assets to observe, detect threats, and communicate the commands to act.

We must cut through the rhetoric of fear and doomsaying that dominates our nuclear policy debates. We can no longer allow the thoughtful, calm voices to be drowned out by fearmongering cries. We must rise above the noise. Instead of developing cost-effective military systems that provide security while defusing tensions, we have fallen into the fallacy that more missiles make us more secure. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Today, we must call out the failures of our current approach to nuclear modernization and demand that we treat arms control and de-escalation with the same dedication and focus we give to our nuclear weapons development. It is long past time to develop a strategy that sets priorities, recognizes limitations, and strives for a safer future.

It is important to step back and consider the history and broader context of nuclear weapons and Congressional involvement. Since their development almost 80 years ago, the destructive capability of nuclear weapons has terrified and shocked, but also led governments to pursue their own arsenals and develop the capacity to destroy our civilization multiple times over. Governments have justified expanding stockpiles with convoluted

theories of nuclear deterrence that often defy common sense.

It wasn't until arms control programs and treaties were established that Russia and the United States de-escalated this spiral of stockpiling bombs. Through four decades, progress was made, the number of deployed and existing nuclear bombs was reduced, and even the most adversarial countries agreed that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Yet, despite this understanding, we continue to maintain and modernize our arsenals with a belief that these weapons dissuade others from employing theirs. The threat of nuclear conflict remains, and with it, life on our planet ending or becoming dramatically changed.

It would be useful to remind people of the arms control agreements and the leaders that negotiated them. I'm sure that some of my congressional nuclear warriors would be surprised to see that their most ardent national security heroes negotiated the reductions and controls.

I recognize the nuclear threats posed by countries like North Korea, Russia, and China. I do not deny the challenging security environment we face. I am fully aware of the Taiwan/China threat, as well as China's military build-up and South China Sea expansion. The North Korean regime is dangerous and could precipitate a conflict at any moment. I condemn Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, irresponsible nuclear saber-rattling, and dangerous nuclear exercises.

Despite these serious threats, we must be wise in preparing our defense and response. Aggression should not be our first thought when faced with threats, uncertainty, and misunderstandings. Therefore, I strongly support efforts by the U.S. and Chinese governments to engage in meaningful dialogue that results in specific, concrete actions to reduce the risk of miscommunication or escalation.

As we navigate these complex geopolitical landscapes, it is imperative that we pause and reflect on the strategies guiding our nuclear policy. Strategy must be more than a word thrown on top of grandiose statements. True strategy is making the hard choices to align our country's limited resources with our unlimited aspirations.

The greatest problem facing our nuclear strategy today is that we fail to realistically consider that balance, revisit our assumptions, adjust course when programs fail, and figure out new paths forward. Once approved, weapons programs persist, even when they nearly double and triple their budget. No one stops and says, "Enough."

Too often, we allow these debates to be driven by military calculations and how "experts" would fight a nuclear war. But we must not forget that in a democratic society, the military is the extension of the political and not the other way around. When it comes to programs and strategies that threaten our very existence, we, as a whole society, must decide what costs we should bear and what risks we must take. Our nuclear strategy must be balanced and rational, allowing for deterrence and defensive actions while encouraging collaboration for a more peaceful future.

We in Congress are part of the problem. We have bought into the assumption that more nuclear weapons will make us safer. Ever-growing costs reflect the irrationality that has plagued our nuclear policy. In the name of

"modernization," we've taken on hundreds of billions of dollars of additional spending, and the nuclear accounts grow without question or scrutiny.

An example is the nuclear modernization efforts. The political price tag for New START was the modernization of all three legs of America's nuclear triad. Proponents told us the multi-billion-dollar cost was necessary to ensure that we continue to have a viable deterrent. Today, we can and should debate whether every part of modernization is cost-effective and necessary for deterrence. We must also fully understand the reasons for the massive growth in the cost of all these programs.

Let's turn to the new Sentinel ICBM, which is destined to replace the Minuteman III. It has incurred an egregious 37 percent cost overrun, making the program's cost almost 211 percent higher than the Air Force's initial 2015 estimate. This has triggered a critical Nunn-McCurdy cost overrun, forcing a stop and a full statutory review. Despite the new estimated cost of \$130 billion, there are loud and clear reflexive signals that the Pentagon and Congress intend to plow ahead no matter the cost or the necessity. "We'll do whatever is necessary."

While this may be convenient, the law requires a complete and full review that addresses five critical steps. (1) The program is essential to national security; (2) there are no alternatives to the program that will provide acceptable capability; (3) the new cost estimates have been determined to be reasonable; (4) the program is a higher priority than programs whose funding will be reduced to cover the increased cost of this program; and (5) the management structure is sufficient to control additional cost growth. It is imperative that the Pentagon conduct a thorough examination to assess the necessity and feasibility of continuing the program in its current state. Equally necessary is that Congress engage in a full debate to assess the Pentagon's rationale. Without public pressure, it is doubtful that any hearings will occur, and that's why our Congressional Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group will hold its own hearing on July 24th.

For years, Congress has dictated in the annual NDAA that the U.S. maintain a minimum of 400 ICBMs. A number founded not on logic but because "that's what we have always had." The number of ground-based ICBMs should not be set by the number of existing concrete silos but in the honest analysis of nuclear strategy. Such a review must consider the risk of a catastrophic mistake inherent in the Sentinel program. In the event of an attack, it is assumed that the first target is the well-known locations of the ICBMs. It's a use-it or lose-it situation. Therefore, a "Launch on Warning" is the operational imperative. The President has only minutes to decide if the attack is real.

If the nuclear program is for deterrence, then the submarines, airplanes, and their missiles offer sufficient firepower to dissuade an adversary. These systems have the benefit of stealth, and the President has the time to gather all information and then decide to use the nuclear response. If that weren't enough, we also have ample conventional weapons capability to deter potential adversaries.

However, the Sentinel program is not the only problem. The hidden costs of ground-

based ICBM modernization are found in unexpected and little-noticed places like the “Energy and Water” appropriations bill, which would spend \$19.8 billion for “Weapons Activities,” a \$2.7 billion increase from the previous year. So, what is the \$19.8 billion for? This year, the Department of Energy/NNSA requested a \$3 billion down payment for the production of “plutonium pits,” which are the hollow plutonium shells used to trigger the nuclear reaction. On its own, this number is astonishingly high, but it doesn’t include the anticipated \$8 billion to build the production facility at Savannah River, which alone has a projected total project cost of \$18–25 billion, nearly six times the initial estimated cost for construction. It will be the most expensive building in America. And there is the \$1.4 billion requested for stockpile sustainment, the \$1.1 billion dollars for the Sentinel warhead development at Lawrence Lab, which has grown by 63 percent, and the untold cost of the six other warheads and bombs that support the other nuclear modernization programs.

Even proponents of modernizing nuclear programs should be concerned about the high costs. The January 2023 GAO report found that the NNSA has not developed a comprehensive schedule or cost estimate and has not identified all necessary activities or milestones to achieve the required 80-pit-per-year production capacity. And why do we need to produce 80 pits per year when America already has over 4,000 plutonium pits in storage? Has anyone studied the potential of repurposing these pits for the new bombs? The bottom line is this: Senior officials at the NNSA admit they won’t meet deadlines and have no idea what the ultimate cost will be.

I have tried to force common-sense reforms to better estimate cost. For example, I offered a straightforward amendment that would change the current law requiring 80 pits per year to a lower number that represents the realistic number of plutonium pits our country needs and can feasibly produce. To some, this is seen as an “extreme radical position,” and my proposal was voted down. Time and time again, I have been denied the opportunity to bring important nuclear matters to the floor for debate.

Across the nuclear enterprise, costs are soaring, fears are growing, and it remains unclear what goals we are achieving. Yet, amidst soaring costs and escalating risks, it’s imperative to reassess our nuclear priorities. Investing more of the modernization budget into diplomacy, arms control, and education could yield far-reaching benefits, fostering a stronger and more secure nation. Congress must fulfill its duty to allocate taxpayer funds responsibly, avoiding excessive expenses on wasteful nuclear programs that do little to enhance genuine security. Maintaining a “safe, secure, and effective deterrent” does not necessitate these costly modernization plans, especially given the pressing needs in other areas critical to national strength and stability.

The significance of arms control cannot be overstated. Prioritizing de-escalation isn’t just an idealistic notion; it’s a necessity. Arms races cannot be won. When we attempt to outpace our adversaries in weapon development, they inevitably respond in kind, draining our limited resources and fostering international instability as fear predominates and the world’s most devastating weapons become a more likely option.

The critical role of arms control in preserving global stability and security is evident from history’s many close calls. We can’t afford to wait for another Cuban missile crisis to recognize the dangers of miscommunication and the failure to engage in dialogue.

Only a few lonely congressional voices have joined the clarion call put forth by the Arms Control Association, Ploughshares, Council for a Livable World, Union of Concerned Scientists, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Nuclear Threat Initiative, and other well-known arms control organizations. Year after year, funding proposals and resolutions to support non-proliferation, nuclear fissile material control and verification, and weapons negotiations have been made to draw attention to the importance of arms control. Like Sisyphus pushing the boulder up the hill, it is often thankless work, fighting and clawing for progress only to see it roll back down again, as had happened in the Intermediate Range Nuclear Missile Treaty, New START, and the Iran nuclear agreement. But the work could not be more important. Unlike that Greek myth, I do believe that we can get the boulder to the top of the hill and develop robust arms control regimes that will help us all to avoid an existential threat.

There are three key pillars in this endeavor. First, knowledge of the destructive power of nuclear weapons and an understanding of their role in modern warfare. The library is full of studies on nuclear war, deterrence, the risks of misunderstanding, compelling arguments for risk reduction, and the value of arms control. We cannot forget the horrors that nuclear weapons would inflict if they were ever used again. This work cannot be understated. It’s been 79 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki and 40 years since the movie “The Day After” aired, showing Americans and their leadership just how terrible such an event would be. It is a hard truth, but one we must face. We can’t allow nuclear weapons rhetoric to be divorced from the very real consequences of their use.

Secondly, encouraging dialogue and fostering open communication channels are essential. While it may appear impossible to have any arms control negotiations with Russia as it conducts its war of aggression in Ukraine, it is important to remember that many of the previous arms treaties with Russia began at the moment of maximum international tension. The recent dialogues with China’s political and military leaders are encouraging. We should accept China’s offer to discuss “No first use” policy. We don’t know where the discussion may lead, but it’s an opening.

Lastly, garnering political support is crucial. Non-profits and advocacy groups have laid the groundwork; now, we must amplify their efforts and call on Congress to act. For too long, our focus on arms control has waned, and members of Congress have paid too little focus.

This is the moment to redouble our efforts. In a world marked by uncertainty and growing competition, building bridges and fostering understanding is more critical than ever. However, this effort must start at home. Inevitably, Congress must reconcile our infinite desires with our limited means. That means making hard decisions about how and where to spend taxpayer dollars to achieve real security. Hundreds of billions of dollars and 14 years have been spent in the modernization of America’s

nuclear weapons programs, and it has yielded a three-nation nuclear arms and space race. Are we more secure?

The Sentinel ICBM program, now estimated to be \$150 billion, breached the cost escalation limit of the Nunn-McCurdy law. The Pentagon and Congress must now justify the continuation of the program. Congress and the American public must not waste this pivotal moment to study the reality of the nuclear weapon arms race and make a decision to shift course. It’s past time to maximize our efforts to negotiate an end to the race and seek paths to reduce nuclear arms and the associated existential threat.

We face real challenges in this world, but too often, hyperbole and fear are being used to drive our decision-making. Competition need not mean hostility. It is time we returned to reason and rationality. Together, we must confront the challenges before us, not by building ever more dangerous weapons, but by placing the same priority on effective arms control and risk reduction measures that we currently place on modernization. We may face challenges, but we still have the choice of which future we will pursue. We know the risks, we know the dangers that modernizations and the inevitable arms race could hold, but that’s why it is so important we redouble our efforts toward making de-escalation real. Let us take this moment, this opportunity, to engage in a meaningful dialogue and choose the path towards a safer and more world.

HONORING FLORA WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Flora Wilson, a distinguished native of Batesville, Mississippi.

Mrs. Flora Wilson is a prominent Batesville, Mississippi, native who has resided in the City of Indianola since 1969. A respected member of her community, Mrs. Wilson is well known for her dedication, generosity, and service.

Mrs. Wilson is a proud mother of four, a grandmother of twelve, and a great-grandmother of four. She started working at a daycare at the age of 18, marking the beginning of her journey of dedication and service to people. After serving for twenty years at Stapleton-Staple Cotton Cooperative, she worked for nine years at Harvest Select Catfish Farm to wrap off her professional career. She retired in 2004 to take care of herself and her only daughter during a health difficulty.

After retiring, Mrs. Wilson has embraced an active and purposeful life. As the church mother at Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, she has committed herself to full-time church service and serves her congregation by offering spiritual support and advice. She also acts as a caretaker, lending her empathy and support to others in need.

Additionally, Mrs. Wilson has also continued to use her skills as a seamstress, repairing and altering clothing for residents. Her work not only meets a practical need but also fosters a sense of community and care among her neighbors. Moreover, she has been an unwavering supporter of her granddaughter’s,

Marion, gospel music career. Traveling extensively to attend Marion's performances and offering her love and encouragement every step of the way.

Mrs. Wilson has constantly shown leadership and caring traits throughout her life, always volunteering to help her family and the community. Her employment as a seamstress and her nurturing obligations in her family and church are just two examples of the various ways her hands have been endowed.

The life of Mrs. Flora Wilson serves as an example of the strength of love, religion, and devotion. Her daily life will continue to inspire future generations, and her efforts have left a lasting impression on those who were lucky enough to know her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Flora Wilson for her hard work and dedication to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATION OF EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge members of the Association of Equipment Distributors from all over the country who are in D.C. this week for their annual fly-in. In fact, some of them are joining us in the gallery tonight. These great men and women are entrepreneurs who provide millions of pieces of equipment to all kinds of industries in our country every year that help our country's economy. They deserve our admiration and thanks. They certainly have mine.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DR. ROBERT SIMARI

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Dr. Robert Simari, executive vice chancellor for the University of Kansas Medical Center, who will be retiring from the University of Kansas on June 30, 2024.

Dr. Simari's career has been marked by a distinguished commitment to uplifting the medical community and paving the way for critical medical research and advancements.

The staff and students at KU are fortunate to have had Dr. Simari as a part of their community throughout his career. Dr. Simari graduated from the KU School of Medicine in 1986 before going on to serve as vice chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Division of Cardiology Diseases. He then returned to KU as executive dean of the School of Medicine from 2014 to 2019.

Dr. Simari then began serving in his most recent position as executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center, where he has been credited with leading the Center during a particularly transformational period. He took part in hiring the deans of the schools of Medicine and Nursing, helped the KU Cancer Center earn comprehensive designation from the Na-

tional Cancer Institute, led a commitment to building a valued and respected workforce, and helped grow KU's research infrastructure in such a way as to enhance KU's status of one of the Nation's top research institutions.

As KU continues to produce excellent medical professionals, cutting-edge researchers, and lifesaving health discoveries, we will have Dr. Simari's legacy to thank. His service to the Kansas City community and the medical community at large will be forever cemented by these contributions, and I'm incredibly grateful for his lifelong dedication to the health and well-being of our region.

REMEMBERING WAYNE SMITH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life of Mr. Wayne Smith, who passed away on June 6, 2024, and offer my sympathy to his family. I am grateful for his service to our country as a distinguished maritime captain and an influential legislative figure, notably contributing to the U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. His dedication to community service, creative spirit, and transformative mentorship leaves behind an enduring legacy of compassion and leadership. I include in the RECORD the following obituary for Wayne Smith:

Wayne Smith was born on December 10, 1945, in Winchester, Massachusetts, where he grew up alongside his beloved sister Wendy, whom he adored.

Wayne graduated from Abingdon High School in 1963 and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1968. His maritime career was distinguished by his service as a Captain, commanding U.S. Naval Oceanographic vessels and traveling the world.

From 1975 to 1987, Wayne made significant contributions to the U.S. House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. As Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Oceanography and the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, he played a pivotal role in shaping maritime and environmental legislation. Concurrently, he served as Chief of Staff to Congressman and Senator John Breaux of Louisiana, where his leadership and expertise were invaluable.

In 1981, Wayne, joined forces with Senator John Breaux, who was then serving as the captain of the Mystick Krewe of Louisiana. Together, they conceived a grand and ambitious idea: Louisiana Alive! They aimed to celebrate and showcase the vibrant and diverse culture of Louisiana, extending beyond the well-known charm of New Orleans to include the rich traditions and unique flavors of all the state's parishes. Their vision was to create an event that captured the essence of Louisiana's music, cuisine, and heritage, offering an immersive experience that highlighted the best the state had to offer.

In recognition of Wayne's extraordinary creativity, dedication, and inclusive spirit, Louisiana Alive! 2025 is set to proceed as a tribute to his legacy. This event will not only honor Wayne's contributions but also continue his mission of celebrating Louisiana's unique cultural tapestry.

In 1987, Wayne founded the POTOMACGroup, where he served as

President and CEO. Under his visionary leadership, the firm thrived, representing individuals, associations, and Fortune 500 companies with distinction.

Wayne's commitment to community and education was evident in his service as Vice Chair of the Washington International School and his longstanding board membership with the CASI Foundation for Children, where he focused on adoption issues.

Wayne celebrated 37 years of sobriety, during which he dedicated himself to helping others achieve the same, transforming countless lives through his unwavering support and mentorship. His crowning achievement came in 1999 when he and Don adopted their son, Qwan. As a devoted and supportive father, Wayne nurtured Qwan with boundless love and guidance, playing a pivotal role in his development into the remarkable gentleman he is today. Wayne's commitment to both his sobriety and his family is a testament to his character, illustrating the profound impact one person can have on the lives of many. His legacy of compassion and resilience continues to inspire all who knew him.

Wayne's legacy is one of empathy, wisdom, humor, and stability. He will be remembered for his class, style, elegance, and fierce compassion. His cultivated appreciation for art and color enriched the lives of all who knew him.

Wayne is survived by his loving husband, Don Schimanski; his cherished son, Qwan Smith; his nephews, David and Doug Dekker; and many beloved in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Wayne's life was a tapestry of compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to those he loved and the causes he championed. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

RECOGNIZING TED DANSON AND MARY STEENBURGEN

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen for their deep and abiding allyship to the LGBTQ+ community. They did so early in their careers, at a time when we were without many allies who would stand with us. Their courage is to be commended.

Ted Danson is known to many through his leading roles on hit TV shows and movies, like "Cheers" and "The Good Place." He has used his platform as a bully pulpit, fervently championing marriage equality and vocally opposing discrimination against LGBTQ+ people. He has used his star power for good, raising money for LGBTQ+ advocacy groups that fight for a more just and equal society. By bringing the power of his celebrity to bear, Danson exemplifies the profound impact public figures can have in shaping a more inclusive and accepting society.

Mary Steenburgen has built a career on playing warm and wise characters—winning an Oscar along the way—but also one deeply entwined with advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community. From "Philadelphia" to "Happiest Season," she has found ways to use her public persona to advance the cause of LGBTQ+ rights and visibility. Rarely has any one person been able to combine their artistry and advocacy into one, complete body of work. She is a wonder.

Together, Ted and Mary form a formidable team whose combined efforts have significantly bolstered the LGBTQ+ movement. Their enduring commitment to championing LGBTQ+ rights highlights the indispensable role of influential allies in the ongoing struggle for equality and underscores the transformative power of advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these two remarkable artists and advocates, who are true allies to LGBTQ+ people everywhere.

RECOGNIZING DR. AL MIJARES' SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY AS THE OC SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Al Mijares' service to Orange County as the Orange County Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Mijares has served as the Orange County Superintendent of Schools since August 2012, where he led Orange County educators in equipping our students with all the necessary tools to "lead the nation in college and career readiness and success." Under his leadership, the Orange County Department of Education was able to help students from Orange County outperform the state and regional averages. Dr. Mijares should be commended for all his hard work throughout his career and his dedication to educating the next generation of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Al Mijares for his service.

HONORING OFFICER JAMAL MITCHELL

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 36-year-old Minneapolis Police Officer, Jamal Mitchell, who was killed in the line of duty in Minneapolis on Thursday, May 30, 2024. Officer Jamal Mitchell joined the Minneapolis Police Department in 2022. Those who knew Officer Mitchell saw him as a community leader, a changemaker and a peacekeeper.

Officer Jamal Mitchell will be remembered for his compassion, bravery, and love of people. His courageous efforts were apparent early on when he saved an elderly couple from a burning home.

Officer Mitchell showed up to work every day to help keep our communities safe. He was known to have a big heart and chose to use his love of people to help strengthen our communities and support young people. Even as a police officer, Officer Mitchell found time to give back to the community by helping coach first- and second-grade boys' basketball teams.

Officer Mitchell died a hero and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his partner, mother, stepfather, siblings, and his children.

RECOGNIZING BORBA DAIRY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borba Dairy Family as they are awarded the title of 2024 Dairy Family of the Year. Frank G. Borba, Sr. immigrated from the Azores Islands of Portugal to the United States in 1914 at the age of 18. He worked various jobs until he had the opportunity to start his own dairy in 1924. In 1920, Frank married Esperanza (Belmeira) Berberia and they welcomed their son Frank Jr. in 1928. In 1939, the dairy moved to its current location in Porterville, California. Frank Jr. worked on his father's dairy and took over operations in 1951. In 1953, he married Nadine Bettencourt. Together they had 5 children—Susanna, Frank, Chris, Eric, and Mary—who were raised on the family dairy. In 2000, a partnership was formed that established Borba Dairy. Today, the family operates three dairies and takes great pride in their family-owned business. This June, the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, Tulare County Dairy Women, and California Milk Advisory Board are hosting the Annual Salute to Dairy and Dairy Princess Coronation in celebration of National Dairy Month. Each year, Salute to Dairy recognizes a local dairy family for their dedication to the dairy industry and engagement with the community. The Borba Dairy Family is being recognized due to their longstanding commitment to producing quality dairy products and continuing their family legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Borba Dairy Family as they are awarded the title of 2024 Dairy Family of the Year. Their contributions to the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING BRIGHTMOOR CONNECTION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Brightmoor Connection, a community food bank and so much more, as they officially open the doors of their new location in Detroit and announce their newest programming and partnerships within this community space.

Brightmoor Connection grew out of a consortium of 9 local churches who came together in 2008 in order to address growing food scarcity concerns for local families. More than that, their unique client-choice approach affords residents dignity while they receive the help they need. In their new space, Brightmoor Connection will grow its network of partners to serve even more communities and families in need. They will also launch their newest youth programming for young entrepreneurs.

Please join me and the 12th Congressional District in celebrating the opening of Brightmoor Connection's new location and announcement of its new programs and services to our community.

RECOGNIZING UNION LEADER DAVID CASEY

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Casey and his 29 years of public service and dedication to the City of Pomona with the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association, Plasterers' Local 200.

David joined the union in 1995 and became a business agent for the union in 2012. In 2022, he was appointed as a business manager for the Plasterers' Local 200. Throughout his time with the union, he also served on the Apprenticeship Committee mentoring the next generation of plasterers entering the field. In 2001, David was instrumental in leading a "Labor to Neighbor" program in the City of Pomona. This program was designed to help seniors improve their homes while beautifying the neighborhood. Through the Plasterers' Union Apprenticeship Program, led by David, local apprentices would work to re-plaster homes of pre-approved low-income seniors.

David officially retired on March 24, 2024. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his wife, Cyndee, and children, Jason, Kerry, and Stewart. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize union leader David Casey. His years of civic service are worthy of commendation.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER D. BURGOS (USA) SERVICE TO PICATINNY ARSENAL

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Alexander D. Burgos for his selfless service and dedication to the service members, families, and civilians of Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. It is my privilege to honor a leader that has served and supported New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, the State of New Jersey, and our country. I look forward to his continued success and contributions to our Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgos graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), commissioned into the U.S. Army Infantry, and entered active duty in May 2005. He held a variety of leadership positions as an Infantry Officer prior to entering the Military Intelligence Corps at the rank of Captain. As a Military Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Burgos served in a variety of assignments from Company Command to the Joint Chiefs of Staff level.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgos has led with tenacity as the Garrison Commander of Picatinny Arsenal since June 2022. The installation employs more than 6,000 employees, all of whom he cares for as his own family. His leadership has prioritized the quality of life of the soldiers, civilians, and families of Picatinny Arsenal. Lieutenant Colonel Burgos has shaped Picatinny Arsenal into a world class workplace, home, and mainstay of the New Jersey economy.

During his time at Picatinny, Lieutenant Colonel Burgos has also been a valued partner to me and to my team. His expertise, openness, and willingness to think outside the box have strengthened my work in Congress and made me a better, more effective advocate for our service members and their families. I also especially appreciate his service on my Academy Nomination Board to help recognize our next generation of military leaders as they look to attend the military service academies.

I extend my most heartfelt thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Burgos, and his family, for their 19 years of service and sacrifice. I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Burgos on his next assignment at the Army War College and look forward to his continued success.

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, June 13, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025.

SR-222

JUNE 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the National Guard and Reserves.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine unlocking Department of Transportation financing for more transit-oriented housing development.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 4207, to reauthorize the spectrum auction authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine work and Social Security Disability benefits, focusing on addressing challenges and creating opportunities.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an Authorization for Investigation into the Outrageously High Prices Novo Nordisk Charges for Ozempic and Wegovy in the United States Compared to Other Countries, an Authorization for Subpoena of Doug Langa, Executive Vice President of North America Operations for Novo Nordisk and President of Novo Nordisk Inc., for Testimony Relating to the Committee Investigation into the Outrageously High Prices Novo Nordisk Charges for Ozempic and

Wegovy in the United States Compared to Other Countries, and other pending calendar business.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine origins of COVID-19, focusing on available evidence.

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Boeing's broken safety culture, focusing on testimony from CEO Dave Calhoun.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 2944, to enable the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to determine the political status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and S. 3231, to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Middle East and North Africa.

SD-419

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Smithsonian Institution.

SR-301

JULY 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the GSA's Public Buildings Service.

SD-406