

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on November 15, 2024 as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 465 for H.R. 8932.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR VANCE CLARKE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Chief Master Sergeant Vance Michael Clarke of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CMSgt Clarke honorably served in the United States Air Force.

CMSgt Clarke followed in his family's footsteps and joined the Air Force in 1980. For over twenty years, he specialized in material management and successfully managed inventory and supplies for our troops. After being promoted to Chief Master Sergeant, he led Supply Squadron nights and helped coordinate airlifts and other operations in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. For his meritorious service, CMSgt Clarke was awarded the Legion of Merit the Meritorious Service Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device with four oak leaf clusters, and many more.

In 2010, CMSgt Clarke retired from the Air Force, and he has continued to be actively involved in our community. He worked as a Program Manager for L3Harris's aircraft and logistics team to help source critical parts for the Air Force. In addition, CMSgt Clarke is the Northeast Chapter President of the Air & Space Forces Association, in which he assists with recruitment efforts to inspire the next generation of Airmen and Guardians to serve our Nation. He is notable for his extraordinary leadership at AFA, as he has transformed the Northeast Chapter into one of the best in the organization. I am proud of CMSgt Clarke's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

HONORING EAGLE-MATT LEE FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 and the dedicated service of its members. The Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1's origins stem all the way back to 1815 and I am honored to recognize those who have served our community and passed on, as well as the Company's "Old Timers" who have given so much back to the community and possess over twenty-five years of service.

In 1815, the citizens of Ballston Spa gathered to build an engine house. Chimney fires, a top issue for the community, were addressed with the founding of the first fire company named Engine House No. 1 which was located on the southwest corner of Bath and Walnut Streets.

Engine House No. 1 eventually became known as the Eagle Fire Company in 1843. The expansion of the town saw the rise of yet another firehouse and in 1868, the J.A. Harvey Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1. Just one year later, they renamed the organization Matt Lee Hook & Ladder Company No. 1.

To serve the community better, these two houses merged and became known as the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1. In 1933, Charles Duffy was elected Captain of the house, and he passionately served in this capacity for the next twenty-five years. Since Charles' initial captainship, the Company has grown tremendously. It currently employs over 50 firefighters and has access to numerous firefighting tools including a ninety-five-foot aerial ladder truck, an ETA pumper, and an E-one Rescue truck.

The Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1's service to their community is truly inspiring and we are immensely grateful for their work as firefighters in our district. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service and commitment to the community of the Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1 for their years of service and solemnly remember their brothers who have lost their lives in service. I congratulate them on their incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing their future endeavors in the community.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH PAMUNKEY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 250th anniversary of

North Pamunkey Baptist Church in Orange County, Virginia.

North Pamunkey Baptist Church has a rich history that is marked by resilience and courage. Formed in 1774, the church was created after two brave ministers, Elijah Craig and Aaron Bledsoe, were detained for preaching without the permission of the Church of England. Led by the ideals of religious freedom, North Pamunkey Baptist Church advocated for the religious freedom of all throughout the American Revolution. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," supported early American Baptist ministers in their fight for liberty—and North Pamunkey's founders implored Madison to enshrine religious freedom in the Constitution of the United States.

The congregation's unwavering commitment to their faith laid the foundation for the community that still thrives today.

Over the last 250 years, North Pamunkey Baptist Church has grown to be a sanctuary for spiritual nourishment. It is a gathering space for fellowship and support. As we celebrate this milestone, let us honor the legacy of those two early ministers and the countless individuals who have contributed to the church's mission over the years. Their dedication has built a thriving community that will continue to flourish for generations to come.

Today, the North Pamunkey Baptist Church congregation includes the Jones, Pierce, and Pugh families who are descendants of those who had the courage to fight for religious freedom during the church's early days. They are witnesses of its everlasting impact and the countless contributions of the North Pamunkey Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating North Pamunkey Baptist Church on their 250th anniversary. I am honored to represent the families and individuals who make up this caring and loving community, and I look forward to celebrating their continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN JOSEPH TOMANELLI

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of Stephen Joseph Tomanelli, a graduate of Operation Recognition Class of 2024. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education and Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who were unable to complete high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or due to internment in World War II Japanese-American relocation camps. Operation Recognition provides a way to express our appreciation and gratitude for our veterans' significant contributions and sacrifices.

• 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.

Stephen Joseph Tomanelli grew up in the Bronx, New York, and attended public schools in New York City. Economic challenges led him to leave Samuel Gompers Vocational High School after his sophomore year to support himself and his family. His technical skills and interests opened doors for employment in the emerging field of computers and technology. Facing the likelihood of being drafted during the Vietnam War, Stephen enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served from 1969 to 1973. His roles included serving as a ceremonial guardsman at Arlington National Cemetery and working as a fire control technician and ordnance mechanic aboard the USS *Massey*.

After his military service, Mr. Tomanelli earned his GED and pursued various professional opportunities, ultimately relocating to California. He utilized the GI Bill to develop his technical expertise in computers and to purchase a home in the Sunnymead area of Riverside County. His career in the technology sector has been marked by his contributions to providing early computer solutions to municipal and commercial clients in Riverside County. Since 1986, he has owned and operated a computer sales and service business. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Tomanelli has dedicated himself to public service. Since 2005, he joined the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) as a Commissioner and has contributed to various non-profit organizations throughout the region. Mr. Tomanelli is a resident of the Poppet Flats area and remains active in his community, with one of his grandchildren attending public school in Riverside County.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Mr. Tomanelli for his service to our country and congratulate him on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2024.

HONORING JAMES W. PUTNEY, JR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James W. Putney, Jr., who passed away this September at 70 years old.

A Georgia native, James was a born and raised Savannah and is widely remembered for his passion for service and dedication to his community.

For over two decades, James served in the military specializing in information technology, and once said his favorite place he was stationed in was Panama, as it reminded him of his beautiful home of Savannah.

After retiring from active duty, James began working with fellow veterans in the American Legion, and served as the Commander of Post 500, the first African American Legion in the state of Georgia.

James also served as the chaplain on the Chatham County Veterans Council, which was another reason he was chosen as the grand marshal for Savannah's 2023 Veteran's Day Parade.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Putney family and the Savannah area, as we

mourn the loss of a truly impactful member of our community.

HONORING SPECIALIST FIFTH
CLASS MICHAEL ANTHONY
DEBONIS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Vietnam Veteran, Specialist Fifth Class, Michael Anthony DeBonis.

Michael was born on September 7, 1950, in Troy, New York, where he and his three siblings were raised by their parents, Michael and Josephine DeBonis. Michael attended St. Mary's Elementary School and later attended Troy High School.

Michael enlisted in the United States Army on February 24, 1970. Following basic training, Michael attended service school in Fort Eustis, Virginia, where he trained as an Airframe Repairman. He was later assigned to a year-long tour of duty in Vietnam, where he conducted maintenance and repairs on Army aircraft and equipment in challenging conditions, including jungle environments and remote locations.

On March 23, 1972, Michael was honorably discharged from the United States Army at Fort Meade, Maryland. For his honorable service, Michael was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Service Bars, the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar and M16 Bar, and the Expert Marksmanship Badge with Grenade Bar.

Upon returning to civilian life, Michael married Kathleen Agostine on May 4, 1973. Together, they had two children, Michael and Lindsay. Michael was incredibly talented, working in construction with Rocco Testo and as a carpenter at the Watervliet Arsenal to support his family.

In his spare time, Michael enjoyed hunting, playing darts, and excelled at a game of corks. He was an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, the North Greenbush American Legion Post 1489, and the Ciccarelli Rea Agar Bevevino Garrison Post 1954, where he cherished the camaraderie of his fellow members.

Michael passed away on March 22, 2005, but his legacy will always live on through the memories of those dearest to him. Michael DeBonis' dedication to service to the United States is truly remarkable. On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize his incredible life.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR TRACY BREW-
STER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Tracy Brewster of

Rowlett, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. MSgt Brewster honorably served in the United States Air Force.

MSgt Brewster joined the Air Force in June 1982. Over the next two decades, he served as an Air Cargo Specialist and Air Transportation Craftsman to ensure that our troops were safely and efficiently resupplied around the world. MSgt Brewster completed two tours in South Korea and deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. For his meritorious service, MSgt Brewster received the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and many more awards.

After he retired from the Air Force in 2003, MSgt Brewster has continued to serve our community in numerous ways. For many years, he worked in supervisory positions at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and concluded his public service career as an Immigration Services Analyst. In this role, MSgt Brewster led efforts to investigate and prevent immigration fraud. He is also a longtime contributor to charitable initiatives to support disabled veterans, churches, museums, and youth athletic programs across North Texas. Most importantly, MSgt Brewster is a devoted husband and father to two children and two grandchildren. I commend him for his selfless service and dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

CELEBRATING MRS. CLAIRE
SEIFFER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Claire Seiffer, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on November 21st of this year. Mrs. Seiffer has spent her entire life in the State of New Jersey, where she was a longtime public-school PE teacher. Her service to the state and nation was complemented by that of her husband, a World War II veteran. Mrs. Seiffer met her husband at the school that they worked at together after he returned from his military service. Mrs. Seiffer has fond memories of iceboating on their hand-built boat with her husband on New Jersey's famous Lake Hopatcong. Going into her 100th birthday, she continues to maintain an active lifestyle, and her friends and family enjoy her vivacious spirit and sharp mind.

It is my distinct pleasure to celebrate Mrs. Seiffer today, as she continues to be the embodiment of American and New Jerseyan commitment to public service, health, and prosperity.

HONORING MIAMI NORLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Miami Norland Senior High School Boys Basketball Team for their remarkable achievement in winning the 2024 Florida High School Athletic Association 5A Boys Basketball State Championship. This victory marks the seventh championship in the school's history, a testament to the enduring legacy of excellence at Miami Norland Senior High School.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize the dedication, perseverance, and excellence demonstrated by these young athletes. Under the exemplary leadership of Head Coach Lawton Williams, III and his outstanding coaching staff, the team has achieved the highest honor in Florida high school basketball. The Vikings completed the season with an impressive record of 21–10. Their dedication and hard work culminated in a thrilling championship game at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, Florida, where they faced Blake High School. The Vikings showcased their skill and determination, defeating Blake with a decisive score of 61–48.

This championship victory is a testament to the hard work, discipline, and teamwork exhibited by each member of the team. The Miami Norland Vikings have not only brought pride to their school but have also inspired the local community through their commitment to achievement on and off the court.

I acknowledge the individual contributions of the 2024 Viking Championship team: Caleb Clarke, Isaiah St. Preux, Triston Wilson, Marcus Allen, Jamal Ware, Lorenzo Major Jr., Kalanji Taylor, Racari Garland, Marquis Siggers, Kendrick Preston, Karon Hill, Emerson Felicien, Chad McDonald, O'Neal Norleus, and Saige Alcin.

Additionally, I commend the invaluable support provided by the team's trainers, whose dedication behind the scenes ensured the athletes were in peak condition: Yahlonnie Church, Ariyel Haynes, Ti'Ira Hill, Ro'niyah Mathis, Tatiana Macklin, and Chamia Brown.

I also recognize the essential contributions of the assistant coaches, who played a crucial role in guiding the team to victory: Anthony Johnson, Kelvin Farrington, Brandon Williams, and Cleveland Roberts.

The unwavering support from Principal Mrs. Rhonda Gaines-Miller and Athletic Director Mr. Tyronn Johnson has also been instrumental in the team's success. Their leadership and commitment to fostering a thriving athletic program have provided the foundation for these young athletes to excel.

The Vikings' victory in the state championship is more than a reflection of their athletic prowess; it is a celebration of the values of hard work, perseverance, and unity. These young men have set a high standard for future generations and have brought great honor to Miami Norland Senior High School and the wider community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Miami Norland High School Boys Basketball Team. May their success in sports continue to inspire greatness in all their future endeavors.

HONORING CORPORAL KENNETH M. WILSON

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and service of U.S. Army Veteran Corporal Kenneth M. Wilson.

Kenneth was born on October 8, 1921, in Dobbs Ferry, New York. He was the son of Harold and Frances Eschbach Wilson and grew up in Upstate New York with six siblings: Miriam, Dorothy, Gertrude, Harriet, Peggy, and Harold. Kenneth graduated from Van Rensselaer High School in 1941 and enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation on February 6, 1942.

Kenneth's service took him to Europe and Africa at the onset of the Second World War. Earning the rank of Corporal, he heroically fought in the Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, and Rhineland campaigns, serving as a light machine gunner in the 143rd Infantry Regiment, Company D. For his bravery and sacrifices, Corporal Wilson was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on June 12, 1945.

After returning to civilian life, Kenneth married Mary Cornell on October 8, 1949, in Rensselaer, New York. Together, they had three children: Karen, Keith, and Diane. Kenneth's professional career began with Norman's Kill Dairy in 1955, and he remained with the Farm until 1962. He then entered public service that same year, working diligently for the U.S. Post Office until his retirement on July 3, 1984.

Kenneth was an active and lifelong member of his community. He coached for the East Greenbush Little League, the Girls Softball League, and the Babe Ruth League. He was also a proud member of the Elks Lodge 2073 and Melvin Roads American Legion Post 1231, where he cherished the camaraderie and fellowship of his fellow veterans. In his spare time, Kenneth enjoyed camping, gardening, and reading.

Corporal Kenneth M. Wilson's stalwart commitment to service was a testament to his character and dedication to his family, country, and community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life and legacy.

HONORING FORMER FLORIDA CONGRESSMAN ANDY IRELAND

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable life and legacy of Andrew Poyzell Ireland, known to many as Andy—a distinguished former Member of Congress from Central Florida. He was a banking executive, beloved community leader, and someone I had the privilege of calling a mentor and friend. Andy passed away peacefully in Sara-

sota, Florida, at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and a profound commitment to others.

Born on August 23, 1930, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Andy Ireland's journey was marked by distinction from the very beginning. His early years at Cincinnati Country Day School revealed his spirited nature, and his education at Phillips Academy and Yale University solidified his reputation as a man of intelligence, curiosity, and drive. Andy's career began in banking, where his innovative approach and leadership quickly earned him success. Rising through the ranks, he eventually became Chair and CEO of American National Bank in Winter Haven, Florida. He not only transformed the banking industry but also helped shape the community he loved, bringing the Boston Red Sox to Winter Haven for their winter home and later contributing to the creation of the Center for Elephant Conservation in Polk County.

Andy's professional success was rivaled only by his commitment to public service. He entered politics as a Winter Haven City Commissioner before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. During his 16 years in Congress, Andy served with distinction on the Foreign Affairs, Small Business, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees, a tireless advocate for national security, small businesses, and fiscal responsibility. He was one of the rare individuals appointed by President Ronald Reagan to represent Congress at the United Nations General Session—a testament to his deep understanding of global issues and his unwavering dedication to his country.

Perhaps one of the most defining moments of Andy's political career came in 1984 when he made the principled decision to switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. It was a move that exemplified his integrity and courage—qualities that endeared him to colleagues on both sides of the aisle and to the constituents he faithfully served.

Beyond politics, Andy was a passionate conservationist, serving as a Trustee of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium and as President of the Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association. He cherished his retirement years in Boca Grande, where he found joy in his family, friends, and the beauty of Florida's natural landscapes.

On a personal note, Andy played a pivotal role in my life. He nominated me to three service academies, ultimately leading to my acceptance at the United States Naval Academy. That nomination set me on a path of service and leadership, culminating in the honor of representing the very district Andy once served in this esteemed body. Andy and I also shared the same birthday, a connection that further deepened the bond I felt with him—a bond rooted in gratitude, respect, and admiration.

Andy Ireland's life was one of purpose and impact. He was a devoted husband to his beloved Nancy, a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and a cherished friend to many. His warm smile, gentle heart, and welcoming spirit left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember Andy Ireland, let us celebrate a life well-lived and honor a

man whose legacy will continue to inspire future generations. May we carry forward his example of integrity, service, and love for community. I thank Andy for everything. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JACK ASHMORE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Jackie King "Jack" Ashmore of Reno, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Capt. Ashmore honorably served in the United States Navy during the Korean War and Vietnam War.

As a young man, Capt. Ashmore sought to follow in his family's footsteps and serve his country. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1947 after graduating from Paris High School and was determined to pursue a military career that included his longtime passion for aviation. In 1950, Capt. Ashmore completed aviation school and later participated in numerous combat flights over Korea while stationed in the Sea of Japan. During the Vietnam War, he took part in the 1968 Tet Offensive and flew 254 combat missions. For his outstanding service, Capt. Ashmore received numerous awards, including the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, and many more. His final duties as a naval officer was with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he briefed senior elected officials on national security matters.

After retiring in 1973, Capt. Ashmore continued to fly planes as a community volunteer and even taught friends and family how to fly. He also serves as the treasurer for the Paris Junior College Friends and Alumni Board, a position he has held for over twenty years. In recognition of Capt. Ashmore's distinguished career and selfless service, he received the Distinguished Student Award from Paris High School and a position on Paris Junior College's Wall of Honor. He is a man of faith and serves as a lay reader at his episcopal church. Above all, Capt. Ashmore is a devoted husband of over 57 years and compassionate friend to all who know him.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present during November 12 to November 15, 2024, my votes for Roll Call Numbers 456, 457, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, and 465 would have been cast as such: YEA on Roll Call No. 456, Bill Number: H.R. 82; NAY on Roll Call No. 457, Bill Number: H.R. 5342; NAY on Roll Call No. 459, Bill Number:

H. Res. 1568 (PQ); NAY on Roll Call No. 460, Bill Number: H. Res. 1568 (Rule); YEA on Roll Call No. 461, Bill Number: H.R. 8446 (MTR); YEA on Roll Call No. 462, Bill Number: H.R. 8446; YEA on Roll Call No. 463, Bill Number: H.R. 7409 (MTR); YEA on Roll Call No. 465, Bill Number: H.R. 8932.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary. This month, the Daughters of Penelope, an international woman's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), celebrated its 95th anniversary on November 16. Founded in San Francisco, the Daughters of Penelope originally worked to improve the status and well-being of women and their families. They also sought to provide women with the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country. After successfully achieving many of their early goals, the Daughters of Penelope now promote the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence, achieved through community service and volunteerism. I am a proud Greek-American. As a young boy, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles instilled in me an appreciation for our beautiful Greek culture, which focuses on family, community, and faith. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it is with great pride that I see these values shine through the Daughters of Penelope today, across all its 250 chapters worldwide. Through the exceptional Penelope House in Mobile, Alabama and Penelope's Place in Brockton, Massachusetts, the organization vigorously supports efforts to combat domestic violence in Greece, as well as the United States. The development of these shelters brought renewed hope to many areas with suffering families who previously did not have access to the same level of care. As a member on the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am impressed with the organization's efforts to provide financial support and raise awareness for medical research on treatments for breast cancer, Thalassemia (Cooley's anemia), muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimer's disease. The Daughters of Penelope are also a leading sponsor of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which offers affordable housing to senior citizens in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. Recently, the Daughters of Penelope has also demonstrated support for senior nutrition and isolation with support for Meals on Wheels of America. In addition to helping the elderly, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to schools, shelters and churches through the

"Penelope's Books" program. After ninety five meaningful and productive years, it excites me to see what the Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next century.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRANK QUIS ON HIS LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Frank Quis on his retirement after 26 years as a civil servant for the people of Moore County. Frank comes from a long line of public servants with his mother and father both being involved in local governance. Frank Quis started his career in community service as a member of the Southern Pines Town Council before becoming mayor in 1997, a position he would hold for 10 years. In 2016, Frank was elected as Commissioner of Moore County and has a long list of accomplishments to reflect on with pride. One of his proudest achievements as Commissioner was the construction of four new elementary schools, he also confidently and successfully led Moore County through a hurricane and a global pandemic.

Along with serving as an elected official to the community, Frank has also served by lending his time and efforts to many organizations across the sandhills, to include the Moore Coalition for Human Care, Moore Free and Charitable Clinic, the Central Pines Regional Council, and the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills.

Frank credits all of his success to the support of his wife, Missy, who has been with him every step of the way since he decided to run for town council back in 1989. Together they owned and operated Quis Machinery, Inc. for more than 35 years. Once he retires, Mr. Quis plans to spend more time with his children and grandchildren and hopefully play some more golf.

While we will miss him dearly on the commission, I know we will be seeing him around. I wish Mr. Quis and his family all the best as he begins his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his commitment to the folks of Moore County.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Frank Quis on his retirement after a 26-year career in public service.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF FORT EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of Fort Edward High School in Washington County, New York. This institution has stood as a beacon of learning, progress, and community spirit for 100 years and I look forward to seeing its continued success in its next century.

The story of Fort Edward High School's creation is one rooted in the village's unwavering commitment to education beginning early in the 20th century. During this period, the New York State Department of Education conducted inspections of the previous Broadway School building, which was found to be inadequate for proper high school work. These reports led to a strong push for a new, modern facility. In 1924, the present Fort Edward High School was established as one of the best high school facilities in the country.

As the school celebrates 100 years, it remains a vital part of the Fort Edward Union Free School District, serving over 550 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Fort Edward High School's long-standing tradition of academic excellence and community engagement has shaped generations of students, empowering them to excel in higher education, their careers, and civic life.

This centennial milestone is not only a celebration of the school's history but also an opportunity to look forward to the continued success and innovation that will define its future. The school's dedication and perseverance ensure that it will remain a cornerstone of education and a source of community pride for the next 100 years.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students, faculty, alumni, and the entire Fort Edward community for reaching this historic achievement.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JOANNE SCHUMM

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Petty Officer Joanne Schumm of Frisco, Texas, and award her a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CPO Schumm honorably served in the United States Navy.

From a young age, CPO Schumm knew she wanted to serve our Nation and contribute to a greater cause. From 1978 to 1983, she served as a Cryptologic Technician and Intelligence Specialist in the Navy to provide timely communications and intelligence briefs for Commanders. CPO Schumm later joined the Navy Reserves and completed her military service in 2002. For her outstanding service, she was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze stars, and many more.

After retiring from the Navy, CPO Schumm has continued to be an active member of our community to advocate for important issues. She serves as the Commander of American Legion Post 178 and is a member of a military affinity group with State Farm Insurance. In these roles, she works diligently to bring awareness to veteran issues and support fellow veterans in need. Moreover, CPO Schumm works closely with the Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee to help ensure that the City of Frisco is always welcoming and ready to support all veterans. I am proud of her contributions to our community and her dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

HONORING ALBERTO GUTIER

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a respected public servant, Alberto Gutier, the former Director of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Serving under seven Arizona Governors, Alberto worked tirelessly to protect the Arizona travelers and law enforcement officers on our roadways. He passed away on November 2, 2024, at age 84.

Born and raised in Havana, Cuba; Alberto Gutier spent his young adulthood fighting back against communist regimes before emigrating to Florida in the late 1950's. There, he attended the University of Florida and later moved to New Jersey to start his career and his family with his beloved wife, Miryam. In 1968, Alberto became so inspired by the work of U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater that he moved the Gutier family to Phoenix, Arizona, where he would continue to live out the American Dream.

A long-time figure in Arizona politics and policy, Alberto was widely respected by leaders on both sides of the aisle, and he championed the importance of a good compromise. He served as a Republican Party committeeman for 50 years and was a delegate to five national conventions. In addition, he founded the Gutier Group, a lobbying and political consulting firm, and served as state personnel director and administrative services officer for the Department of Administration, acting driver licensing program administrator for the Arizona Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Division, and Chairman of the Maricopa Merit System Commission. Alberto was also an active leader in our community—joining the Arizona DUI Abatement Council, the Phoenix Police Chief Interview Panel, the Legislative Oversight Committee on School Safety, and more—and a frequent contributor to FOX 10 and other local broadcasts.

Over his twenty years as Director for the Office of Highway Safety, Alberto led many successful safety campaigns that minimized the risks of wrong-way crashes, drunk driving, and distracted driving—and was a stalwart supporter of police officers and first responders, particularly in fighting for fair overtime compensation for law enforcement. His commitment to public safety, and his sense of humor, is still often projected to drivers across Arizona on the Arizona Department of Transportation's famous highway safety messages—especially his signature phrase, "Drive Hammered, Get Nailed!"

His dedication to keeping Arizonans safe on the roads will never be forgotten, and his many contributions to our state will be greatly missed. Arizona owes a debt of gratitude to Alberto for his years of service to our community.

HONORING ST. CLOUD RESIDENT
BECKY CARLSON

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Becky Carlson from St. Cloud, Minnesota, who is in Washington this week to receive a prestigious award from the U.S. Department of the Air Force.

Since 2003, Becky has been working tirelessly to send care packages to our brave men and women overseas, through her non-profit Becky's Troop Care Packages. Becky started this endeavor to pay tribute to her brother, who passed away during the Vietnam War.

Becky stated, "It took me a lot of years to figure out what I could do to give back. And I wondered and wondered and wondered. And some of the soldiers coming home and stuff told me how bad it was over there, how the food was so horrible. You know, I thought, 'Well, why can't I send a package or two?'"

Despite health challenges over the years, Becky's resolve has never been stronger. Fueled by the support of local businesses, community groups and volunteers, Becky sends dozens of care packages to service members per month and several hundred during the holiday season. These care packages often include snacks, magazines and personal letters from family, friends and volunteers.

In addition to her work with her non-profit, Becky is a part of several Family Readiness Groups which help support soldiers and their families as these heroes transition from their military careers back into civilian life.

Becky's lifelong commitment to support our military heroes has not gone unnoticed. She was previously named the Woman of the Year by the St. Joseph American Legion Auxiliary Post 328. This week, she is in Washington, D.C. to receive the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award at the Pentagon.

I thank Becky for her years of service to our veterans and community. She makes St. Cloud and the State of Minnesota proud.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR STANLEY SCOTT

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Stanley Bernard Scott of Heath, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Capt. Scott honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy.

Capt. Scott joined the Marine Corps in 1952, where he served as a motor vehicle operator and rose up the ranks to become a Sergeant. He served for eight years in the Marines, but felt that God called upon him to return to service once more. In 1967, Capt. Scott joined the Navy during the Vietnam War and served as a Chaplain in combat. His military service continued for many years through

Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. For his outstanding service, Capt. Scott received the Purple Heart with one star, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, and many more awards.

In 1993, Capt. Scott retired from military service, but he has continued to make a positive impact on the world around him. He served as an Assistant Pastor at his Methodist Church and led weekly Bible studies for over 25 years. Additionally, he led mission trips to India in support of several ministries and helps homeschool his grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am proud of Capt. Scott's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

HONORING THE COMMUNITY
SERVICE OF BELLA ROMANO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the remarkable contributions of Bella Romano, a senior at Broadalbin-Perth Jr./Sr. High School, for her steadfast dedication to the Broadalbin-Perth backpack program. Through her work in this program, Bella has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to fighting hunger in her community.

The Broadalbin-Perth backpack program, in partnership with the Northeast Regional Food Bank and the Broadalbin Presbyterian Church, provides food products for 35 to 45 students during weekends and school breaks in the Broadalbin-Perth Community. Bella's efforts have been central to the success of this initiative.

Since her freshman year, Bella has raised over \$3,000 to support the program with a portion of the funds coming from a can and bottle drive that she organizes at Wally's Driftwood Park in Mayfield. Through this project, Bella has not only raised vital resources for local children in need but also promoted environmental responsibility.

In addition to her work with the backpack program, Bella has dedicated the past seven years to volunteer efforts throughout the community. She will soon begin her annual work with the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive, continuing her legacy of service. Her unwavering dedication has not gone unnoticed as she was named Miss Upstate New York's Outstanding Teen in 2022.

Bella Romano's commitment to the well-being of her fellow students and the greater community is an inspiration to all, and I am proud to recognize her efforts on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District.

COMMEMORATING THE 45TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR ZOO

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum as it celebrates its 45th anniversary. This achievement represents their dedicated years of service since their doors first opened in 1979.

In 1959, Air Zoo founders Pete and Suzanne Parish unknowingly began curating the world-renowned collection of aircraft the Air Zoo possesses today. The first step in assembling the Air Zoo's collection was Pete's purchase of a single-engine 35C Bonanza, later, the Parish's purchased a partially assembled P-40 Aircraft, the same combat plane Suzanne had dreamed of flying throughout her service with the Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP). Twenty years after Pete purchased the 35C Bonanza, the Air Zoo opened its doors for the first time on November 18, 1979.

Today, the Air Zoo offers educational programs and exhibits, displays over 100,000 artifacts and archives, flight simulators, maintains an aircraft restoration program through the Air Zoo's Flight Discovery Center, and processes the world's only SR-71B Blackbird. Mr. Parish's single purchase laid the foundation for the Air Zoo's world-class facility that thousands of visitors enjoy each year.

For the last 45 years, the Air Zoo has been a community leader in inspiring a new generation of aviators, engineers, and all those interested in STEM fields. As we look forward to the next 45 years, the Air Zoo will be a place that fosters curiosity, innovation, and education.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Parish Family, staff, and all those who enjoy the Air Zoo as they celebrate their 45th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY TRUITT
WALK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Dorothy Truitt Walk whose 1960 sit-in at Memphis' Cossitt Library began a transformation of my hometown for the better. Ms. Walk passed in October at the age of 88. Typical of her public-mindedness and humor, she donated her body to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the medical school in Memphis, telling her family it would make her a Tennessee Volunteer. Ms. Walk was a civic dynamo, raising the money to build the Orange Mound Community Center and riding in the parade on the day it opened. She also helped preserve and protect our city's monuments and landmarks. But it was the sit-in at the downtown library and her arrest that began her storied career in public life. Memphis had a segregated library for African Americans and a lawsuit to end segregation was pending when she, then a 24 year-old student at LeMoyne College, and 34 oth-

ers, grew impatient and staged the March 16, 1960 sit-in. Months later, the city integrated its libraires, but her arrest meant she could not work in the city schools, and she got a job teaching across the river in Arkansas. Ms. Walk often wrote to me with ideas, and I was fortunate to receive her thoughts and support. She also wrote thoughtful letters to the editor and to city officials, raising important issues. In response to her suggestions, then-Mayor Dick Hackett asked her to serve on a city board or commission, and she chose the Memphis-Shelby County Landmarks Commission and served there for 10 years. She also worked at International Harvester, the farm-equipment company, and retired when the Memphis plant was moth-balled. Ms. Walk was a lifelong member of the Beulah Baptist Church in Orange Mound. In addition to her civic work, she read the daily newspapers for 14 years on the public radio station WYPL, the Memphis Public Libraries' non-commercial station. St. Mary's Episcopal School named her a Memphis Woman Who Made a Difference in 2001. I extend my condolences to her son Calvin and his wife Christy Walk; her sister Janiece Williamson; stepsister Claudette Flowers; brother Jeff Harrison; and her extended family, friends and many admirers. Ms. Walk truly made a difference and made Memphis a better place. Hers was a life well-lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 15, 2024, I was absent for Roll Call No. 465. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on the FAFSA Deadline Act.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR CLARENCE
JORIF

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clarence Leadore "CJ" Jorif of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW3 Jorif honorably served in the United States Army.

CW3 Jorif joined the Army in 1983, where he served as a military policeman and special agent for criminal investigations. He was inspired to join to serve his country and make a difference in the lives of those around him. As a result of his hard work and leadership, CW3 Jorif quickly rose up the ranks to become a Staff Sergeant in the Military Police Corps within four years. He was deployed to Honduras, Panama, and the Middle East as part of Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm. As a Warrant Officer, CW3 Jorif successfully performed protective missions for the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during wartime and peacetime without any incidents. For his outstanding service, CW3 Jorif received the Army

Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star, and many more awards.

After retiring from the Army Reserves in 2003, CW3 Jorif has continued to be an active member of our community and dedicated law enforcement officer. From 1996 to 2016, he served as a Senior Special Agent for the U.S. Secret Service to provide critical protections for the President, Vice President, and other top officials from foreign nations. CW3 Jorif currently serves as a Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Rockwall. On top of his public service career, he is involved in numerous volunteer activities throughout North Texas to promote youth development and advocate for senior citizens. I am proud of CW3 Jorif's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent CW3 Jorif in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING NAVY VETERAN
ANDREW "ANDY" McTAGUE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Navy veteran Andrew "Andy" Scott McTague. Andy was a cherished member of his community in Thurman, New York, and his life was marked by an unwavering dedication to his country and loved ones.

Andy was born on July 29, 1979, in Glens Falls, New York. He was raised in Thurman, where he attended Warrensburg Central School, graduating in 1997. Andy embodied a spirit of service and followed in his grandfather's footsteps by enlisting in the United States Navy post-graduation. After completing bootcamp at the Great Lakes Regional Training Center, he began his distinguished service in a Naval Construction Battalion, known as the Seabees, where he traveled across both the Pacific and the United States and took part in special projects of all forms.

After his military service, Andy transitioned to a successful civilian career and worked for a variety of companies and institutions in Upstate New York which included Echo Lake Camp Maintenance, Donnelly Construction, Verizon, Warren County, and the New York State Department of Transportation. He also started his own company, Adirondack Services and Maintenance, which allowed him to work with his family members on various projects. Despite his success in civilian life, his commitment to service remained strong and in 2017, he re-enlisted in the Seabees as a reservist and rapidly rose through the ranks and earned recognition as Sailor of the Year in 2022. In September of 2023, Andy was proudly promoted to Chief Petty Officer and left behind a legacy of leadership and dedication that will continue to inspire future generations of sailors.

Beyond his military service, Andy's life was filled with a deep love of his family. He mar-

ried his soulmate, Kaitlyn Witz, in 2016, and together they welcomed their daughter, Lyla Mae, a source of immense pride and joy. As a devoted father, Andy cherished the time spent with Lyla, sharing his love for the outdoors, hunting, hiking, and enjoying the beauty of the Thurman countryside.

Andy's work ethic extended into every aspect of his life, from his career as a lineman for Verizon to the many local projects he undertook through his own business. Whether it was through his military service or the impact he left on those in his community, Andy's commitment to leadership, humor, and dedication was an inspiration to all, and I am proud to honor his achievements on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District.

HONORING DR. ENID PINKNEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Enid Curtis Pinkney, a trailblazing leader, educator, and historic preservationist whose tireless dedication to her community and to preserving the rich cultural heritage of Miami has left an indelible mark on our Nation.

Enid Curtis was born the third of four children on October 15, 1931 in Miami's Overtown neighborhood to Lenora and Henry Curtis. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1949 and later earned degrees from Talladega College and Barry University, along with three honorary doctorates.

Her professional journey began as a social worker and educator, dedicating nearly four decades to the Dade County Public School System, where she retired, in 1991, as Assistant Principal of South Miami Middle School. However, her retirement marked the beginning of another chapter of service, as she turned her attention to historic preservation.

In the mid-1980's, Dr. Pinkney joined the Dade Heritage Trust and, in 1998, broke barriers by becoming its first Black president. She was the driving force behind the creation of the African American Committee, which sought to highlight and preserve the contributions of Black Americans in Miami. Among her many successes was leading the effort to save the Miami Circle, an ancient archaeological site, from demolition, preserving an irreplaceable piece of history.

Dr. Pinkney's commitment to preservation extended across Miami. As president of Natives of Dade, president of the Brownsville Neighborhood Civic Association, and a member of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, she was instrumental in preventing the commercialization of historic sites, including the "Colored" Beach at Virginia Key, safeguarding its legacy for future generations.

One of Dr. Pinkney's most significant achievements was her work as the Founding President and CEO of The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc. Through her tireless advocacy, she saved the Historic Hampton House Motel, a landmark of Miami's Black history, from demolition, ensuring its restoration and continued presence as a vital cultural site.

Her passion for history also led her to preserve the Lemon City Cemetery, an abandoned Black cemetery, where she worked to ensure that the stories of those interred there were not forgotten.

Dr. Pinkney was not only a preservationist but also a prolific writer and producer, contributing to books, documentaries, and television programs that showcased Miami's rich African American heritage. Her contributions earned her numerous awards including induction into prestigious Halls of Fame, recognition from various organizations, and the Peter H. Brink Award for Individual Achievement in Historic Preservation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Not to mention being honored by: The Bahamian Government, and being named by Congresswoman Frederica Wilson as one of the twenty outstanding Bahamian Americans in Miami.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of this remarkable woman, whose impact will be felt for years to come. Dr. Pinkney's legacy is a reminder of the power of one individual to make a profound difference in the world.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK P.
KESSLER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and service of Frederick P. Kessler. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of his passing on November 12, 2024. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the many people in our community whose lives he touched.

Fred's remarkable career began in this very chamber, where, as a high school student, he acted as a Page in the United States House of Representatives. By the time he was 20 years old, Fred had been elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly. Throughout this time, he played a pivotal role in achieving compromise during Wisconsin's redistricting battles of the 1960s. Fred used his position to advocate for equal education, election reform, civil liberties, and fair housing. In the midst of his public service, he earned both a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Following the end of the legislative session in 1972, Fred was appointed to a judgeship in Milwaukee County. After working on the Wisconsin Legislative Council Committee on Court Reorganization in 1978, Fred was appointed as a circuit judge for Milwaukee County. He served with distinction for 10 years, upholding the law and administering justice to the people of Milwaukee.

In 2004, Fred returned to the Wisconsin State Assembly for 14 more years. During this period, Fred once again championed critical reforms in Wisconsin's criminal justice system, elections, and federal relations. Fred's dedication to justice will be dearly missed. His unwavering commitment to public service fills me with honor in recognizing his incredible career and passion for creating a more equal and just nation.

I have long admired Fred's dedication to improving the world around him. His legacy is one of selfless service, a steadfast pursuit of justice, and a profound care for others. Fred's life was defined by his compassion, his integrity, and his unwavering belief in the power of public service to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Fred was always a voice for the voiceless, a champion of fairness, and an advocate for those who needed it most.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I am proud to pay tribute to Frederick P. Kessler today. He has changed the lives of so many people, including my own constituents. The people of the 4th Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States join me in thanking him for his legacy of service and commitment to the public good.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CLAYTON MCGRAW

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Clayton McGraw of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SFC McGraw honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

During the Korean War, SFC McGraw was drafted into the Army. In one incident, he successfully rescued a fellow soldier from drowning during a dangerous river crossing and was recognized for his quick thinking and bravery. For distinguishing himself through an act of heroism, SFC McGraw was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

After retiring from the Army, SFC McGraw continued to make a positive impact in our community. He is the founder and Chairman of the Hopkins County Veterans Memorial Committee to advocate for and support veterans across North Texas. SFC McGraw also served for eight years on the Sulphur Springs Planning and Zoning Board and was a member of the First Baptist mission team in Longview, Texas. His outstanding leadership has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of so many people throughout the years. I am proud of SFC McGraw's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

HONORING CHIEF ALLEN D. ALDENBERG

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the impressive and impactful career of Manchester Police Chief Allen Aldenberg as he retires.

Throughout his life, Chief Aldenberg dedicated his efforts to serving others.

In a military career spanning 30 years, he commanded from the company to the brigade level and deployed in support of key operations to combat terrorism and protect our Nation after 9/11. He was awarded a Bronze Star medal for his service in Iraq from 2009 to 2010.

As a law enforcement officer for 27 years, including the last four years as Manchester Police Chief, Chief Aldenberg has worked with officers, department staff, city leadership, and community members to make Manchester safer and stronger. His commitment to public safety and securing a bright and safe future for the Queen City is evident through his investment toward improving the Manchester Police Department.

Through his leadership, Chief Aldenberg spearheaded the Manchester Police Department's strategic goals to focus on data-driven approaches to public safety, invest in high-quality training and development, put more well-trained officers on the street, and enhance community engagement. Under his leadership, Chief Aldenberg also strengthened the Manchester Police Department's Mental Health and Wellness Program, which serves as a standard bearer across New Hampshire for other departments to emulate.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Chief Allen Aldenberg for his exceptional service in New Hampshire as a law enforcement officer. I join all Granite Staters in thanking Chief Aldenberg for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions to making the community safer. I wish Allen, his wife Emily, and his children all the best as he retires from a career in law enforcement.

I congratulate Chief Aldenberg on a job very well done.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF WARREN COUNTY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Arc of Warren County for its 70 years of service to the 7th Congressional District of New Jersey. By assisting families in addressing the challenges associated with the lifelong care of relatives with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc of Warren County has created an environment where those they serve are accepted and respected in the community. Currently serving over 1,100 individuals annually, The Arc strives every day to ensure that all those associated with the program are able to achieve independence, make friends, and contribute to society. I am honored to have such an amazing organization working to strengthen the lives of New Jersey residents, and I look forward to seeing all that they will achieve in the future.

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER PRIVATE JOHN ADAM STROBECK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Private John Adam Strobeck, a Soldier of the American Revolution and stalwart patriot whose family resides in the Mohawk Valley of New York.

John was born on September 7, 1763, and was a devoted husband to his wife Sophia Merkel Strobeck. He was the proud father of five children: Sophia, John, Paul, Adam, and Catharina. On April 1, 1781, John enlisted as a Private in the Revolutionary War where he first served under Colonel Marinus Willett's Regiment of Levies under Captain Lawrence Gros.

During the Battle of Sharon, John's back and left arm were wounded, but these injuries did not deter him from continuing to fight for our country's independence. He recovered and fought in the Battle of Johnstown before receiving an honorable discharge in December 1781. John went on to reenlist in April 1782 with Colonel Willett, where he served for nine months before his final discharge in December 1782.

After the war, John settled in the Town of Seward and established a tavern where neighbors gathered for horse races and lively outings. He was affectionately known in Seward as "Honorable Adam" for his charitable spirit, always extending kindness to those in need. He was renowned for horseback riding and leading adventures while transporting grain to Albany where friends would join him in spirited competitions.

John passed away on June 16, 1845, and was laid to rest on his property, which was inherited by his son Paul. It was on this land that the "Strobeck Family Cemetery" was discovered more than a century after his passing. John is the only Revolutionary Soldier buried there, joined by generations of his descendants.

In October 2024, the Seward community came together to commemorate John's service and sacrifice. The Patriot Burial Marker on Rhinebeck Road serves as a testament to his contributions to American freedom and a reminder of the values for which he fought. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize John Adam Strobeck.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR GERALD NELSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Ray "Chappie" Nelson of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. LTC Nelson honorably served in the United States Army.

As a young man, LTC Nelson was inspired to serve our country and the Lord, and he joined the Army in 1995. He served as a Chaplain during the Global War on Terror and oversaw other Chaplains to ensure all soldiers' spiritual needs were met. For his outstanding service, LTC Nelson received the Legion of Merit, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three bronze stars, the Army Commendation Medal, and many more awards.

After retiring from the Army in 2008, LTC Nelson has continued to be an active member of our community. He has presided over events as a chaplain for the Frisco Gold Star Family Monument and served as a member of the Frisco Veteran Advisory Council. LTC Nelson also serves on Frisco Lakes Veterans' leadership team to assist homeless veterans and provide scholarships for students throughout North Texas. Over the past four years, he has managed a food bank in Little Elm to help feed families in need. I am proud of LTC Nelson's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

HONORING LOVE'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Love's Seafood & Steaks in Savannah, Georgia, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Since 1949, this family-owned establishment has been a cornerstone of our community, offering exceptional coastal cuisine and Southern hospitality.

Under the dedicated leadership of Donna Love and her husband, Fulton, Love's Seafood has thrived, becoming a cherished gathering place for residents and visitors alike.

Their commitment to quality and tradition has made Love's a beloved institution that is sure to deliver the very heart and soul of Savannah to anyone who steps into its doors.

I congratulate Donna, Fulton, and the entire Love family on 75 remarkable years, and may their legacy continue to flourish for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week and celebrate the Workforce Innovation Network Consortium. This week is an opportunity to honor the incredible apprentices, graduates, employers, and workforce partners that make the American workforce the greatest and most skilled in the world.

In my home state of Illinois, there are over 400 Registered Apprentice programs and over 21,000 registered apprentices. I am proud of these members of our community and thankful for the opportunity they have available to them through Registered Apprentice programs.

As the Representative of Illinois's 1st Congressional District, I am proud to lend my voice and support to these life changing programs and to raise awareness throughout National Apprenticeship Week.

National Apprenticeship Week was established by the U.S. Department of Labor to showcase and promote high quality, inclusive, and in demand career pathway opportunities through Registered Apprentice programs.

This nationwide celebration allows employers, apprentices, graduates, workforce partners, educational institutions, and Federal, State, and Local governments to showcase the success and value of Registered Apprenticeships. These opportunities strengthen our economy, create pathways for career seekers to land good jobs while advancing racial equity.

Apprenticeships play a vital role in developing our workforce and creating opportunities for Americans from every walk of life. Over the last 10 years, apprentices and graduates of apprentice programs have played a key role in modernizing our country's infrastructure, building clean energy technology, and addressing cybersecurity threats. Their skills and expertise continue to move our country forward and they rise to meet the needs of our growing and evolving national needs.

As we look to the next 10 years of apprentice programs and beyond, we should continue to provide the support necessary to continue providing these vital opportunities.

As the American economy continues to be the envy of the world, Apprentice programs will continue preparing the next generation of American workers to face the challenges of tomorrow. This week is a reminder that there is no task too large that we cannot accomplish through diligence and hard work. I am proud to support Registered Apprentice programs that prepare our workforce to face these challenges together while building solidarity and unity among people of all backgrounds.

I ask that my colleagues join me in providing this support and recognizing and thanking all apprentices, graduates, and workforce partners who continue to move our country forward.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR PRESTON RICH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Preston Bernard Rich of Frisco, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SSgt Rich honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Gulf War.

SSgt Rich joined the Air Force in July 1986, where he was responsible for conducting Personnel Management during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. For his meritorious service, he received the Air Force Longevity Award with one device, the South-

west Asia Service Medal with one device, the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one device, and many more awards.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1997, SSgt Rich has continued to make a positive impact in our community. Since 2013, he has served as Quartermaster for Frisco Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8273. In this role, he leads efforts to improve veteran outreach and support veterans no matter where they are located. SSgt Rich has gone above and beyond his duties to ensure that no veteran is left behind during their time of need. He is also a devoted father and outstanding educator and speaker on the topic of cybersecurity. His outstanding leadership and guidance has helped many veterans, students, and peers improve their lives and reach their full potential. I am proud of SSgt Rich's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

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

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM DANIELS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition, of William Daniels, a graduate of Operation Recognition Class of 2024. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education and the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services, that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who were unable to complete high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, or due to internment in World War II Japanese-American relocation camps. Operation Recognition provides a way to express our appreciation and gratitude for the significant contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans.

William Daniels was born on September 18, 1935. Shortly after he was born, William Daniels' brother and mother passed away and he was raised by his grandmother in Long Island, New York. In 1952, at the age of 17, Mr. Daniels decided he would find a way to join the U.S. Army and follow in the footsteps of the father. His father, whom he never met, served during World War II as part of the first Black parachute infantry battalion, the historic "Triple Nickel" 555th Parachute Infantry Company of the United States Army. After Daniels joined the Army, he was deployed, to fight in the Korean War and jumped out of planes as part of the 187th Regimental Combat Team in the 11th Airborne Division. He served as a medic and surgical technician, among multiple roles that included the motor pool and multiple military occupational specialties. He received the Purple Heart for injuries received while in combat. After the war, Daniels earned his GED and continued his service to veterans in his role with Kaiser Permanente—which included providing home health care to veterans. As recently as 1998, he was still known to jump out of planes as a skydiver. Mr. Daniels is 89 years old and has been married to

his wife, Sylvia, for 31 years. They currently reside in the community of Lake Elsinore.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Mr. Daniels for his service to our country and congratulate him on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2024.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
BRIAN S. GENIER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Brian S. Genier for his exemplary military service and subsequent community service to veterans in New York's 21st Congressional District.

Master Sergeant Genier was born on August 26, 1961, in Mineville, New York. At 19 years old, Brian enlisted in the United States Air Force and served admirably until his retirement in 2000. During his time in the Air Force, Master Sergeant Genier was a member of the 89th Security Squadron and deployed to Panama in support of Operation Just Cause. Following his service in Panama, Brian was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base where he continued to serve his fellow Americans. Master Sergeant Genier was honorably discharged from the Air Force after completing twenty years of honorable service.

Throughout his years of service, Brian earned numerous medals including the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with 5 devices, Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 device, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 devices, Air Force Longevity Service Award with 3 devices, Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with device, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Ribbon with 1 device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 4 devices, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 5 devices, and the Short Tour Overseas Ribbon.

After retiring from the Air Force, Master Sergeant Genier retired in Chazy, New York. Today, he serves his community as a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association providing complimentary motorcycle escorts for local North Country Honor Flights dedicated to World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Cold War veterans.

Master Sergeant Genier has also been a member of the American Legion Post 912 in Rouses Point, New York, for the past 18 years. He participates in fundraising, membership drives, and activities which honor and support North Country veterans including the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony each December.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service and commitment to community of Master Sergeant Brian S. Genier.

HONORING ANNIE R. NEASMAN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable career and contributions of Annie Ruth Miles Neasman, MS, RN, upon her retirement from more than five decades of dedicated service in the healthcare industry.

Throughout her illustrious career, Annie R. Neasman has exemplified unwavering commitment and leadership in healthcare, touching the lives of countless individuals in Miami-Dade County and beyond. In 2004, she took the reins as the President and CEO of the Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. (JTCHS), and for the following 20 years she led the successful operation of eleven comprehensive community sites, a women's residential substance abuse treatment facility, and numerous school-based health facilities.

Since its establishment in 1967, JTCHS has been a beacon of healthcare excellence in Miami-Dade County, recognized as Florida's first Federally Qualified Health Center and the fifth in the Nation. Governed by a deeply committed Board of Directors, with over half benefitting from its services, and supported by a diverse and talented team, JTCHS embodies steadfast dedication to community well-being and healthcare equity.

Ms. Neasman's journey in healthcare leadership extends far beyond JTCHS. Her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Health and Chief Public Health Nurse at the Florida Department of Health showcased her exceptional leadership acumen and dedication to public health initiatives. During pivotal moments such as Hurricane Andrew and the aftermath of 9/11, her steadfast leadership played a crucial role in the state's response efforts, ensuring the safety and well-being of countless individuals.

Annie Neasman's influence extends beyond her professional roles. She has been a tireless advocate for health equity, addressing the social determinants of health and championing healthcare as a fundamental right for all. Her commitment to fostering partnerships and collaboration with community organizations has been instrumental in advancing public health initiatives and improving access to quality healthcare services.

Throughout her career, Ms. Neasman has been a trailblazer and a mentor, inspiring and guiding countless healthcare professionals. Her impact has been recognized through numerous awards and accolades, including the National Association of Community Health Centers Grassroots Advocacy Hall of Fame Award and the Miami Chapter Black Nurses Association Lifetime Achievement Award, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition of Ms. Annie Neasman and her outstanding contributions to healthcare and her unwavering commitment to the well-being of communities. As Ms. Neasman embarks on the next chapter of her journey, her legacy of compassion, dedication, and leadership will continue to inspire us all. We extend our deepest gratitude for her exemplary service and wish her a fulfilling and joyous retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OMAR
GALLARDO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Omar Gallardo who passed away on October 23, 2024. Omar was a lifelong community activist, organizer, and leader in outdoor education in Sonoma County.

Born in 1975 in Michoacan, Mexico, Omar's early years were spent in Sonoma County, California and Mexico. He attended Geyserville High School, where bilingual staff and educators encouraged his interest in his Chicano culture, including his participation in Ballet Folklórico.

From a young age, Omar was an active community organizer. He offered translation services with the United Farmworkers Union and led a trip to Delano, California in 1993 for a widely attended memorial march honoring leader Cesar Chavez. In 1994, he organized student marches protesting California's Proposition 187, an initiative to prohibit undocumented immigrants from accessing important benefits. Omar also participated in high school programs offered by Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University designed to mentor Latino students. He later attended both institutions and earned a bachelor's degree in history.

Following college, Omar joined California Mini-Corps as a teacher and spent eight years working with immigrant students in outdoor education. He then spent four years working as a student counselor in Santa Cruz County before returning to Sonoma County to be a site coordinator for the Graton Day Labor Center. In 2012, he was recruited to LandPaths: a Sonoma-based environmental education and conservation organization.

Omar became an integral pillar of the LandPaths leadership team, guiding the organization's approach to community outreach and engagement. He helped predominantly Spanish-speaking youth access Sonoma open spaces and inspired the next generation of environmental stewards through outdoor programs. Omar's efforts were also critical in the development of Santa Rosa's Bayer Farm, a six acre urban farm that is the product of collaboration between LandPaths and the city. He was known for his gentle heart, treating others with dignity, and credited for expanding LandPaths' reach and impact. In 2015, Omar was aptly honored by the Sonoma County Economic Development Board with a Spirit of Sonoma Award.

Omar was also a dedicated Aztec dancer and established his own group, Danza Azteca Xántotl de Santa Rosa, which performed at local events.

Mr. Speaker, Omar Gallardo was a tireless community advocate and champion of environmental stewardship whose life ended too soon. He is survived by his wife Norma Lazaro Hernandez; his two young sons Tandeé, age 13, and Erandi, age eight; his mother Maria Luisa Gallardo; and his sisters Marilu Gallardo, Olga Gallardo, Blanca Gallardo, and Merlinda Gallardo. His enduring legacy in Sonoma County and with future generations cannot be understated. We respectfully ask

that you join with us and his many friends and family in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of leadership and community service.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR CORBETT HOWARD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize First Lieutenant Corbett Howard of Celina, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. 1LT Howard honorably served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

As a young man, 1LT Howard was inspired to follow in his family's footsteps and serve his country. In December 1968, he commissioned into the U.S. Army serving in Military Intelligence. After completing Combat Intelligence school, 1LT Howard deployed to Vietnam in the following year and served as an Intelligence Officer in Kien Giang Province. He was one of thirty four American advisors to the South Vietnamese Army and was responsible for training its troops. During the war, he also flew 108 combat missions in a Huey helicopter and participated in numerous Swift boat operations against the enemy. For his outstanding service, 1LT Howard was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with bronze star.

After he retired from military service in 1970, 1LT Howard has continued to be an active member of our community through his public service and volunteer efforts. Since 2012, he has served as a board member for the Military Warriors Support Foundation to help provide homes to wounded veterans and Gold Star families. Under 1LT Howard's exceptional leadership, they have given over 930 homes and 175 vehicles for veterans in need. Moreover, he has helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the organization to support veterans and ensure they can keep their homes for many years to come. I am proud of 1LT Howard's contributions to our community and his dedication to serving our great Nation.

I am honored to represent 1LT Howard in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BARRY MELANCON

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my fellow Louisianan, Barry Melancon, who is retiring after 30 years from his role as President and CEO of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and CEO of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants.

Barry Melancon has dedicated his 41-year career to the accounting profession, Mr.

Melancon began his role in 1995 at the age of 37, which made him the youngest CEO in the organization's history and now the longest serving CEO of AICPA. Mr. Melancon's professional career began in Louisiana where he practiced as a CPA, eventually leading the Society of Louisiana CPAs before beginning his leadership role at AICPA.

Mr. Melancon achieved an impressive number of accomplishments for his work on behalf of the accounting profession. In addition to testifying before Congress, Accounting Today named Barry Melancon the Most Influential Person in Accounting for 17 consecutive years, as well as the National Association Executive of the Year. Mr. Melancon has served as a member of AICPA's delegation to the International Federation of Accountants, board member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, board member of the Center for Audit Quality, chair of XBRL-US, and board chairman of the Global Accounting Alliance. Barry Melancon also received an Honorary Doctorate of Commerce from his alma mater, Nicholls State University, and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2023 International Accounting Forum and Awards.

It is my honor to recognize Barry Melancon for his passion, longstanding dedication, and leadership in the accounting profession. I am proud that a fellow Louisianan has played such a nationally prominent role in advancing innovation in his industry and mentoring a new generation of leaders. I commend Barry Melancon for his many years of dedicated service and wish him the best in his retirement.

OPPOSING CRITICAL MINERAL CONSISTENCY ACT (H.R. 8446) AND HARNESSING ENERGY AT THERMAL SOURCES ACT (H.R. 7409)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act (H.R. 8446) and the Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources (HEATS) Act (H.R. 7409) would both limit the ability of the American public to have a say in protecting our public lands and determining how our natural resources are used.

H.R. 8446 gives cover for the copper industry to gain access to tax credits and expedited permitting processes. Only critical minerals on the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) list can access these federal supports, and we should not be playing politics with that process.

Foreign-owned mining conglomerates stand to benefit the most from this legislation, as they seek to fast-track copper mines like those that threaten the watershed of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota, or the sacred site of Oak Flats in Arizona. These companies will have no obligation to contribute to our domestic supply with the minerals they pull out of our public lands. But our surrounding communities will bear the costs of pollution that all copper mines create. The least we can do is ensure the public and our federal government has the full opportunity to review these mines.

The American public should also not be subsidizing new copper mines when we have secure supply chains that meet our needs, as determined by the USGS. The USGS list of critical minerals intentionally differs in important ways from the Department of Energy's list of critical materials. Minerals only make it on to the USGS list if their supply chain is at risk of disruption. The tax credits that Congress passed to encourage the development of at-risk critical minerals should not go to support the copper industry, when the U.S. is already a global top-five producer and a top-ten exporter of copper.

The other bill under consideration today, the HEATS Act, would completely exempt certain geothermal projects that impact subsurface federal resources from the environmental review process if less than half of a geothermal project is non-federal. That means that if a project starts on private land but drills underground into publicly owned areas, it would not have to abide by the federal regulations.

I want to be clear that geothermal is an important renewable energy source, and that advancing geothermal energy is a worthy goal. That is why the House has already passed bipartisan legislation, and the Biden Administration has streamlined the process for certain categories of geothermal projects. I secured community project funding for a Geothermal Heat Pump to replace the inefficient natural gas-based system at St. Paul's Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. However, we must ensure that when geothermal projects impact our federal resources, they go through our federal review process. The Bureau of Land Management, who oversees our federal subsurface areas, is concerned that this bill would undermine their ability to ensure public safety, to uphold environmental laws, to consult with tribal nations, and to fulfill their core mission of managing our natural resources for multiple use.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing both these misguided bills and protecting public review of projects that impact our public resources.

FAFSA DEADLINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act and a robust and efficient FAFSA application process. For many of our constituents, this process is the start of determining whether college is a reality or remains a dream. FAFSA can unlock critical financial aid that may make the difference between not only starting college, but also completing it.

As we've seen over the past two years, the FAFSA application process has been plagued by delays and technical issues as the Biden Administration worked to implement a new form. During the 2024 to 2025 processing cycle, processing delays resulted in families struggling to fill out the forms and delayed financial assistance packages being sent to students, causing unnecessary burdens and stress.

By standardizing the FAFSA application launch date on October 1, we not only ease

burdens on Department of Education officials tasked with processing these applications, but on families who rely on federal assistance to be able to afford college.

An efficient FAFSA application process is critical to making higher education more accessible and affordable. However, let's be clear: a better and more reliable timeline while we are cutting and gutting the federal programs that help provide support to students, like the Pell Grant and TRIO, isn't going to do much good for our constituents.

So, while we take this first step, let's not lose sight of all the other steps that we need to take to protect access to higher education for those who choose to pursue it. We must do what we can to improve the processing of these applications in a timely manner, which is why I am in support of this bill.

Rest assured, I will fight like hell in the next Congress to protect the federal programs and funding sources that help the students who will benefit from the FAFSA process stay enrolled and graduate, too.

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 Tuesday, November 19, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 5310, to amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, S. 2315, to provide for the creation of the missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of missing Armed Forces and civilian personnel records, S. 2270, to establish and maintain a database within each agency for executive branch ethics records of non-career appointees, S. 5302, to amend title 5, United States Code, to address the responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services with respect to Federal advisory committees, S. 5312, to require agencies to create consistent organizational hierarchies, S.

5102, to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, S. 5313, to improve section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, S. 5315, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, S. 5321, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, S. 5317, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, S. 5319, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, S. 5028, to require Federal contractors to implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with NIST guidelines, S. 5019, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building", H.R. 6972, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, H.R. 7528, to amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, H.R. 9592, to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, H.R. 3208, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, H.R. 7832, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, H.R. 6231, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 8631, to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, H.R. 255, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, H.R. 9596, to amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award schedule program, H.R. 5867, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building", H.R. 6162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office

Building", H.R. 6188, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building", H.R. 6633, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 6750, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building", H.R. 8057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office", and the nominations of Val Butler Demings, of Florida, William Zollars, of Kansas, and Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and James Graham Lake, and Nicholas George Miranda, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Chairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and 53 General Services Administration resolutions; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, focusing on successes, challenges, and charting a path forward.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine disaster funding needs.

SD-106

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine tax policy in 2025, focusing on implications for the American economy.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing from the Secretary of State.

SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and the nomination of Patrice

H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-628

NOVEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2220, to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, S. 2082, to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Anthony J. Brindisi, and Elizabeth C. Coombe,

both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, Sarah Morgan Davenport, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Tiffany Rene Johnson, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Keli Marie Neary, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Miranda L. Holloway-Baggett, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Alabama, Department of Justice.

SD-G50