

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KELLY MCCLEARY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary contributions of Kelly McCleary, a beloved educator, community advocate, and mentor from Aurora, Illinois, who recently passed away. Kelly's unwavering dedication to her family, students, and community has left a lasting impact that will be felt for generations.

Born on December 30, 1961, in Augusta, Georgia, Kelly graduated from East Aurora High School in 1980. She earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from North Central College in 1985 and a master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University. Kelly married Scott McCleary on September 5, 1987, and they had two children, Ian and Kara. She built a life centered on service, education, and community betterment.

Kelly's career in education was marked by a deep commitment to nurturing the growth and development of young people. She taught elementary physical education, coached track, and served as an assistant principal and principal in the East Aurora School District. In recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication, she was named the Kane County School Administrator of the Year in 2006. Later, Kelly continued her work in education as a teacher and director of Wesley Preschool in Aurora, where she continued to inspire and shape the lives of young learners.

Outside of the classroom, Kelly's influence extended into the wider community through her service in both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, serving as a den, pack, and troop leader, and leading numerous district and council activities. Her contributions were recognized with awards, including the Girl Scout Gold Award, the Thank Badge II, and the Hall of Fame Award. From the Boy Scouts, she was awarded the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award—both testaments to her dedication and leadership.

Kelly's commitment to her community was further exemplified through her involvement in organizations, including the Aurora Public Library District Foundation's annual gala. She was a champion for causes that enriched the lives of those around her, particularly children.

In her personal time, Kelly enjoyed traveling with her friends and family, especially to Disney World, and creating beautiful quilts. Her love for these activities was only surpassed by her passion for enriching the lives of others.

Kelly McCleary touched the lives of countless individuals throughout her life, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, leadership, and service. She was a tireless advocate for children, a devoted educator, a loving mother, and a cherished member of the Aurora community. She will be remembered fondly for her remarkable ability to inspire, her selfless con-

tributions, and the profound impact she had on the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Aurora and grateful for Kelly McCleary's service to her community. Her legacy of kindness, service, and dedication will live on in the hearts of those who knew her. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her family and invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating her extraordinary life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENE PELOWSKI

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative Gene Pelowski. First elected in 1986 to represent then-District 34B, Representative Pelowski has served the people of southeastern Minnesota honorably for the past thirty-eight years, making him the longest-serving member of the Minnesota State House.

Most recently serving District 26A, Representative Pelowski has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents in Houston and Winona counties for nearly four decades.

During his time in office, higher education was a top priority for Representative Pelowski, championing a number of pieces of legislation for the expansion of Winona State University.

Representative Pelowski has done an exemplary job representing the people of 26A, and it was a true honor to have previously served alongside him in the Minnesota State Legislature.

I am grateful for Representative Pelowski's years of dedicated public service, and I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call Nos. 480, 481, 482, and 483. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 480 and Roll Call No. 481 and voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 482 and Roll Call No. 483.

CONGRATULATING RONALD PEEBLES

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ronald Peebles for receiving the 2024 Fire Chief of the Year Award. Ronald has served as Fire Chief since 2013 and continues to serve in this role. While Ronald has worked with the Atmore Fire Department, he has led efforts to acquire a new radio system to enhance public communications, collaborated with city leaders to purchase 4 new cab pumpers, and promoted fire safety education for elementary students. His commitment to the Atmore community is admirable. I am honored to have such a courageous and selfless individual residing in our district. I am proud to congratulate Ronald on achieving this outstanding award.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN VETERANS OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI, AMERICAN LEGION POST 1214

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate American Legion Post 1214 located in Springfield, Missouri, on the 10-year anniversary of the organization's charter for Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri.

The post has grown from 12 initial Legionnaires to 97 Legionnaires thanks to the outreach and recruitment skills of a number of women including Adjutant Shellie Jones, Treasurer Nancy Fazzino, past Commander Louise Hansen, current Commander Jennifer Tyes and a host of other dedicated women. Ninety percent of the post's membership are women who have active duty service in one of the Nation's four military branches, while ten percent are men who also have served our country and been honorably discharged.

The post works to foster community building, and to provide outreach and support for fellow veterans by supporting programs such as Quilts of Valor, Harmony House Domestic Violence Shelter, Honor Flight of the Ozarks, and the United Way of the Ozarks' Veteran's Emergency Aid Program. The post also supports Junior ROTC programs at four area high schools: Willard, Hillcrest, Greenwood Laboratory and New Covenant Academy. The post also has sponsored some 56 candidates for Boys State and Girls State over the last 10 years. It also engages with the public and several local veterans organizations for Wreaths Across America, where they place holiday wreaths at each of the headstones in the national and state cemeteries in Springfield.

• 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.

These are just a few of their many service projects.

American Legion Post 1214 is an asset to Southwest Missouri, and I am grateful for their selfless service and tireless dedication to improving the lives of veterans of every era, as well as inspiring the next generation of military service members. Please join me in congratulating them for their 10 years of service.

HONORING FREDDIE JOHNSON

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a special man, Freddie Johnson, from Frankfort, Kentucky. Mr. Johnson is well-known in the bourbon industry for his service as Distillery VIP Visitor Lead for Buffalo Trace Distillery.

Mr. Johnson was born in Bourbon County and his family moved to Frankfort when he was 5 years old. His grandfather, Jimmy Johnson, Sr., began working at Buffalo Trace in 1912. He was there for 52 years and became the first African American warehouse foreman. His father, Jimmy Johnson, Jr., joined him at Buffalo Trace in 1936 and served as warehouse supervisor. Young Freddie played at Buffalo Trace as a child. In 2002, Johnson retired early from a job in Atlanta to return home, work with his father, and become the third generation of his family to work at Buffalo Trace.

Mr. Johnson has become famous for providing entertaining and informative tours of Buffalo Trace to thousands of guests each year. For his contributions to the bourbon industry, he was inducted into the Bourbon Hall of Fame in 2018. He is a recipient of the 2015 ROSE (Recognition of Service Excellence) award and the 2017 Lexington Hospitality Award. In 2024, he was chosen to be part of the Whisky Magazine Hall of Fame, becoming their first Black member. The Kentucky Black Bourbon Guild has a scholarship named in his honor.

Mr. Johnson has contributed greatly to the success of the bourbon industry, one of Kentucky's signature industries. It is my honor to lift up the life of this true Kentucky treasure, Mr. Freddie Johnson, and celebrate his iconic career at Buffalo Trace.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE GERALD E. LOEHR

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Honorable Gerald E. Loehr, a public servant who served with distinction and dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice.

Hon. Gerald E. Loehr was born into a Yonkers family with a longstanding tradition of politics and public service on May 19, 1943. His great-grandfather, John J. Loehr, served as a Yonkers Alderman (Councilman); his grandfather, Joseph F. Loehr, was the Mayor of Yonkers from 1932 to 1939; his mother, Ger-

trude Sweetman, was a civil servant; and his father, John F. Loehr, was an attorney and an Administrative Law Judge. With passion and principle, he proudly followed the family tradition.

He graduated from Manhattan College in 1965 and Fordham Law School in 1969. He began his distinguished career as a New York City Assistant District Attorney under the legendary Frank Hogan from 1969 to 1973. He then moved into private practice at the firm of Nobile and Magarian from 1973 to 1975.

Returning to the public sector in Yonkers, Loehr served two terms as the Third Ward Councilman from 1975 to 1979 and one term as Mayor from 1979 to 1981. Upon leaving the Mayor's office, he returned to private practice as a founding partner of the law firm Ecker, Loehr, & Ecker, LLP, where he worked until 2004.

In 2005, he was elected as Judge in the Westchester County Court. In 2006, he was appointed as an Acting State Supreme Court Justice, and in 2012, he was elected to serve as a State Supreme Court Justice in the 9th Judicial District.

Loehr was a devoted husband and father, survived by his beloved wife, Susan Newman Loehr, also a public servant and retired Westchester County Commissioner of Jurors. He is also survived by his older brother, John Loehr, and six children from two marriages: Peter, Janine (Barbanell), Melissa, Jonathan (Newman), Cariana (Bulman), and Gerald E., II. He also leaves behind 15 grandchildren, who will miss him dearly.

Today, Yonkers, the State of New York and our Nation, have lost a dedicated protector of justice. It is my hope that his wife, children, and grandchildren can draw strength and comfort from his many contributions. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to a lifetime of service and in remembering the Honorable Gerald E. Loehr.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF GERALD MORRIS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 70th birthday of Gerald Morris. Gerald was born to Emma Lois and Toby Lee Morris on December 4, 1954, in Anniston, Alabama. He is one of six children. He graduated from Saks High School in 1972.

On February 22, 1985, Gerald married Waltina Morris. They were blessed with five children and seven grandchildren.

Gerald was inspired by his uncle, Edgar Morris, who was a tailor. He had his shop in downtown Anniston. Gerald worked at a men's clothing store named Phil's Men's Store and began doing alterations for customers there. He attended trade school and opened his own shop in downtown Anniston named Morris Alterations in 1981. As life would have it, his son was able to open a men's clothing store right across the street from his own storefront. Two of Gerald's daughters work alongside him daily.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Morris switched gears at the shop and began making

a variety of popular masks that sold from Alabama to Connecticut. After the pandemic, work was busier than ever as people went back to their social engagements, proms and weddings, they needed his artful craft to make their clothing perfect for them.

Gerald has been in business for almost 44 years and attributes his success to all of his hard work and loyal customers. He has no plans of retiring. Gerald and his store are a fixture of downtown Anniston and Gerald gives back to his community by helping local schools.

The Morris family attends New Jerusalem AFM Church of God.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Gerald on this milestone and wishing him a very happy birthday.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT GAROFALO

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative Pat Garofalo. First elected in 2004, Representative Garofalo has honorably served in the Minnesota Legislature for the past twenty years.

During his time in office, Representative Garofalo exhibited a profound willingness to serve his fellow southern Minnesotans, not only as their voice in the House Chamber, but also by his leadership on numerous House committees throughout the years. In 2008, Representative Garofalo was elected to the position of assistant majority whip for the legislative session, and later became chairman of the Education Finance Committee, as well as the Job Growth & Energy Affordability Committee.

Representative Garofalo has done an exemplary job representing his constituents in Dakota, Goodhue, and Rice counties for the past two decades, and I consider it a true honor to have previously served alongside him in the Minnesota State Legislature.

I am grateful for Representative Garofalo's years of dedicated public service to southern Minnesota, and I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GENE R. MOFFITT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Gene R. Moffitt. Gene was an individual full of ambition, compassion and dedication towards his community. I urge us all to celebrate and remember the life of this incredible community leader, husband, friend, father, and grandfather.

Born in Independence, Missouri on August 6, 1941, Gene attended William Chrisman High School before heading to Central Missouri State University to continue his academic journey. Eventually, he began what

would become a stellar career spanning across four decades at Block & Company, Inc. Realtors. Starting at an entry level position as a Sales Associate in 1974, Gene was active in sales, leasing and development projects. Through the years, his expertise in the industry grew as he oversaw the completion of various projects in retail, office, commercial, and investment projects.

As he continued to work his way up the ladder at Block & Company, Inc. Realtors, Gene brought along his enthusiasm, knowledge and work ethic to create new approaches to real estate. Most notable, Gene became a leader in the industry when he initiated the first new life-style center in the region, Zona Rosa, a mixed-use retail, office, and industrial complex in the Greater Kansas City area. His experience was sought after and highly regarded among those in the industry.

Among his many achievements, Gene played an important role in relocating the St. Joseph Hospital, which later became the Linwood Shopping Center, revitalizing an inner-city area that was facing decline. The finished project became a new and expanded retail development which led to the City of Kansas City to be designated in 1986 as an "All American City" by the Citizens Forum on Self Government/National Municipal League and USA Today. Additionally, Gene worked as the Development Consultant for the Blue Parkway Town Center, a redevelopment project spearheaded by the Swope Parkway Health Center.

Though Gene has passed, his legacy and impact on Kansas City will remain long past our mortal lifetimes. I am reminded of Mark 10:45—"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Gene's life was one dedicated to serving others and bettering the lives of countless people. Gene is survived by his loving family, friends, and wife of 58 years, Pamela. As we celebrate and remember the decades of devoted service from Gene, let us be inspired by his commitment to better his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 480 and YEA on Roll Call No. 481.

RECOGNIZING STEVE YEAKEL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Steve Yeakel, who is retiring as President and CEO of the Virginia Association of Community Banks (VACB) after 13 years of distinguished service to Virginia's community banking industry.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Yeakel has been an unwavering advocate for Virginia's commu-

nity banks, which serve as the economic backbone of our local communities. Under his leadership, VACB has grown to represent more than 100 community banks and vendor partners, providing essential financial services to families and businesses across the great Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Yeakel's commitment to excellence was recognized by his peers when he received the 2021 CEO Award of Excellence by from the Virginia Society of Association Executives. His leadership style, emphasizing relationship-building and collaborative problem-solving, has strengthened the voice of community banking in both Richmond and Washington. During his stewardship, VACB successfully navigated serious challenges in the industry, from regulatory changes to technological transformation. Mr. Yeakel has been able to achieve such impressive accomplishments particularly due to his ability to foster productive dialogue between VACB members and Congressional delegations over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Yeakel's significant contributions to Virginia's banking industry and the communities it serves. His legacy of leadership, advocacy, and service will continue to benefit Virginians for years to come. I wish him and his family all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

MILLIE DUNN VEASEY POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9580, to name a post office in North Carolina after Millie Dunn Veasey. As has been noted, she was one of the 855 women from across our country who would serve with the historic Women Army Corps 6888, Central Postal Battalion (Six Triple Eight) during World War II.

The Six Triple Eight was the only African American Women's Army Corps Battalion unit deployed overseas during WWII. Their efforts to resolve a monumental months long backlog of millions of pieces of mail played a critical role in maintaining morale for those fighting in the European Theater.

In England and then France, they sorted millions of pieces of mail while facing challenging social and war conditions. They not only completed their mission but did so in record time.

Each of these women have their own individual stories but many of them are similar to Ms. Veasey's. A desire to serve their country. They didn't set out to make history but they did so anyway.

They served their country honorably and extraordinarily. And came home with little fanfare or ceremony, which they did not mind. And many, like Ms. Veasey, continued to contribute to their communities after they came home.

I am pleased that we are recognizing these women and that this story of service will no longer be lost to history. This postal designation will help ensure that Ms. Veasey's service and dedication is remembered in her local community.

A few years ago, I was pleased to spearhead a successful effort in Congress, along with Senator MORAN, to award the Six Triple Eight with the Congressional Gold Medal so that their service cannot only be appropriately acknowledged but remembered across our Nation.

Ms. Veasey passed away at the age 100 in 2018 and was buried in Raleigh National Cemetery. Sadly, there are less than a handful of surviving members of the Six Triple Eight, including Anna Mae Robertson of Milwaukee, WI.

Through efforts like this, we ensure that their story of service and sacrifice does not remain lost to history and help to inspire the next generation to military service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN DANIELS

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative Brian Daniels. First elected in 2014 to represent then-District 24B, Representative Daniels has served the people of Minnesota honorably in the State House for the past ten years, most recently representing District 19A.

Representative Daniels has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents in Dodge, Goodhue, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties, particularly with his leadership in championing the priorities of the blind and deaf communities across Minnesota.

Throughout his time in office, Representative Daniels introduced numerous bills advocating for greater language access statewide; including legislation that would increase proficiency standards to teach American Sign Language, as well as legislation that would require elementary schools to screen for dyslexia.

Additionally, he authored legislation to place signage on Interstate 35, directing drivers to Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf and Minnesota State Academy of the Blind in Faribault, bringing awareness to travelers from across the country about these outstanding educational institutions that we are proud to have in southern Minnesota.

Representative Daniels has done an exemplary job representing the people of District 19A, and all of us across southern Minnesota have been well-served by his time in office. I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

CELEBRATING INEZ BEISWANGER'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special birthday to Inez Beiswanger, who will turn a whopping 105 years old on December 9, 2024.

Born in Nappanee in 1919, Inez is a resident of Milford, Indiana and one of the many

Hoosiers I have the privilege of representing in Congress. Earlier this month, some friends, family, and other members of the Milford community came together to throw a surprise celebration for Inez, which was a fitting testament to such a special, memorable, and impressive milestone.

As she reflects on more than a century of life well lived, Inez is full of gratitude to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on her. Especially around this time of year, embracing the disposition of gratitude that Inez embodies is something that our Nation could use a lot more of.

Inez also credits her long life in part to trying to always be an optimist about everything, as well as being content and happy with what you have. This mindset has clearly worked, and it is a refreshing antidote to the culture of despair and restlessness that we all too often witness.

As she celebrates more than a century of life lived to the fullest, I join her family, including her three children, seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, and many other Hoosiers in wishing Inez Beiswanger a very happy 105th birthday.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS ENGLISH

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Louis English for being named Career Firefighter of the Year for 2024. Louis began his career in 1985 as a Firefighter 1 and received Firefighter 2 certification in 1999. In 2013, he was appointed as Captain. He retired from active fire service in March of 2016 but chose to remain as a volunteer. In June of 2016, he was reinstated as an Active Reserve. With 28 years of full-time service and 8 years of service in the Active Reserve, Captain Louis English has dedicated his life to helping others. I am so proud to have such a selfless individual residing in our district. I congratulate Louis English on this outstanding award.

HONORING DAN MCCORQUODALE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Dan McCorquodale of San Jose, California.

From 1953 to 1956, McCorquodale was a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from college, he served as a public school teacher in Chula Vista, California. In 1964, he became the youngest person ever elected to the City Council in Chula Vista, where he served as Mayor from 1968 to 1969.

After moving to San Jose, McCorquodale spent a year walking precincts in the third district and was elected to three terms representing north and east San Jose, a portion of the City of Santa Clara, and the cities of Milpitas and Sunnyvale. During his three terms on the Board, he distinguished himself in the

issues of environmental protection, transportation, water reclamation, parks, justice, and health and human services. In 1982, McCorquodale was elected State Senator of the 12th district.

Throughout his political career, he was recognized for his effective policymaking. In 1986, he was recognized as Legislator of the Year by the California Trial Lawyers Association. In 1987, he was awarded Humanitarian of the Year by the Humane Society. In 1988, the California Planning and Conservation League named him Legislator of the Year and in 1991, the National Organization for Women recognized him as their Legislator of the Year. In 1991, the California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons named him Elected Official of the Year and in 1992, he was named Legislator of the Year by the California Park and Recreation Society.

It has been my great pleasure to work with Dan throughout the years and I honor and thank him for his years in public service and wish him the best.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LLOYD B. PLUMMER

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Lloyd B. Plummer a very happy 100th birthday, who will be celebrating his milestone on December 15, 2024.

In 1943, Plummer, the recipient of two Purple Hearts, joined the Army among many courageous men to serve our country. His heroic efforts will never be forgotten.

For those who may not know Lloyd, he was one of the first brave Americans to serve as a paratrooper during World War II, as a member of the 509th Infantry Regiment. Throughout the war, the Fighting 509 was assigned to numerous operations, many of which are now recognized as suicide missions. Lloyd was faced with many battles, where he suffered from frostbite, trench foot, burns, and shrapnel. At all times, he was ready to put his body on the line to serve the country he loved. He is the true definition of a patriot, willing to sacrifice his life for our country.

In 1945, he was discharged from active duty in the Army and returned to Idaho. Lloyd and his family have consistently embodied the traditional values we cherish in Idaho.

I thank Lloyd B. Plummer for his unwavering heroic efforts, and I wish him a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, SAMANTHA SNUGGERUD ANDERSON FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Communications Direc-

tor, Samantha Snuggerud Anderson, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In September, Sam was appointed as Communications Director for the Minnesota Department of Education under the transformational leadership of Governor Tim Walz, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

A Minnesota native, Sam graduated from Minnetonka High School before attending Northeastern University in Boston where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Sam has been an essential member of my leadership team since the very beginning, and like me, came to this work with a background in marketing and a belief in the politics of improving people's lives.

Spanning impeachments, pandemic, and unrest, the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses were historic by any measure. Just when we thought we had cleared the most unprecedented news cycle of our careers, another would rise, and I leaned on Sam's counsel to navigate each. She is a one-of-a-kind professional whose sound judgement, smart instincts, reliable execution, and strategic thinking have been critically important to the success of this team.

We could always count on Sam's calm confidence and level perspective to ground us, but also benefitted from her creative spirit and knack for innovation. She is an architect and keeper of the Dean Team brand, instilling in our community a sense that representation begins with listening and a renewed faith in their government.

Preferring to work behind the scenes, Sam is quick to share kudos and credit, but her invisible hand left its mark in every aspect of our work. She is a skilled manager who built and led a pioneering communications team by identifying potential, carving out space for creativity, and challenging herself and others to do their best. When pitching a communications idea to Sam, her colleagues have learned to have a better strategy than, "this is the way it has always been done!" She has helped countless staffers grow into communications thinkers, coaching even the workiest members of our team on meeting—and making—moments.

From Good Morning America to the Star Tribune, Sam has been there to help pitch, prep, and powder my nose for moments big and small. Under her leadership, our communications team became a branding powerhouse, crafting powerful messages, landing big interviews, producing captivating content, building a mass communications program so strong I regularly receive thanks from constituents on the receiving end of unsolicited emails, and even going viral for a TikTok dance or two. Sam did it all with an eye for authenticity and improvement, and each success became a new foundation on which to build.

Her work helped earn me a seat at the leadership table in 2022 when I was elected Co-Chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC), and her reimagining of communications staffing and budgets has been recognized by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House as best in class. Sam has been invited by the CAO to coach new Chiefs of Staff on modernizing their own communications teams, leadership that will surely leave this institution operating better than she found it for generations to come.

In addition to her many professional talents, Sam is a genuine and thoughtful human, pottery aficionado, gluten-free bread enthusiast, and we're all better for having served alongside her.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she is dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that she will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and the people of Minnesota at the Minnesota Department of Education. I wish Sam all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for six years of faithful service to this Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN PFARR

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Minnesota House Representative Brian Pfarr. First elected in 2020 to represent then-District 20A, Representative Pfarr has served the people of southern Minnesota in the State House for the past four years, most recently as the representative for District 22B.

Prior to his service in the State Legislature, Representative Pfarr honorably served our state as a colonel in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Since his retirement in 2021, he has brought the same tireless work ethic to

representing the people of Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Rice, and Scott counties.

The priorities of his constituents have always been at the forefront of Representative Pfarr's service in the State House, particularly through his continued leadership in the many House committees on which he has served throughout the years, including Ways and Means and Commerce Finance and Policy.

Representative Pfarr has done an exemplary job representing the people of District 22B, and all of us across southern Minnesota have been well-served by his time in office. I am grateful for his many years of dedicated public service, and I wish him the warmest congratulations on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULING AND OPERATIONS, MAE HOUGO FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Director of Scheduling and Operations, Mae Hougo, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Mae was raised in Minnesota and graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall. She ventured off to attend the College of Holy Cross where she

earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government. Mae's passion for politics led her to many interesting and informative experiences that ranged from City Hall in Saint Paul, the Minnesota State Capitol, and Washington, D.C. Her experience of both campaigns and official side work have been invaluable.

Mae has worked as a political scheduler for over five years in Minnesota. Her unofficial title is the "keeper of space and time." From busy session weeks, to packed August recesses, if things were going smoothly for my team and me, it was due to Mae's tireless work. Her foresight and creative thinking in a pinch saved each of us from more than our fair share of mishaps. Her colleagues will always remember Mae's organized and strategic thinking. Mae is dependable, determined, fiercely passionate about the work, and incredibly hardworking.

Mae has grown her role immensely during her tenure in this office—she began her time with us as District Scheduler and ended it as Director of Scheduling and Operations, overseeing the scheduling process in both Minnesota and Washington, D.C. Mae's sound judgment and critical thinking have led her to become a trusted advisor to me. Her talent combined with her heart for the work have made her an invaluable part of this team.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Mae all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for five years of faithful service to this Nation in my office.