

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HAROLD AND INEZ  
RICHARDS

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Harold and Inez Richards, who are wonderful, loving, patriotic constituents of mine that live in Sun City, Arizona.

Hal and Inez's patriotism started years ago. Harold, also known as Hal, enlisted in the United States Air Force in May 1955. Inez and Hal, high school sweethearts, married in 1956. They raised two sons, Bruce and Eric, and like many military families, lived throughout the U.S. on military assignments.

Hal's military career included serving as the personal pilot for the Iowa Army National Guard's Regiment Commander, graduating from fixed wing flight school as number one in his flight class, serving two tours in the Vietnam war, including as 1st lieutenant assigned to the 1st Cav's CH47 battalion, serving as Inspector General for the 1st Army Headquarters located at Fort Meade, MD, and serving as Professor of Military Science at Sam Houston State University before military retirement in 1984.

After military retirement, Hal and Inez ran a successful business, owned by Inez, called EJR Enterprises that sold custom sportswear throughout the country. They ran the business until they moved to Arizona to take care of Hal's Uncle and Aunt and have been involved in the Luke Air Force Base Retired Officers Association and helping and supporting Arizona elected officials, like myself, ever since.

I thank Hal and Inez Richards for their lifetime of dedication to our country and for their friendship and kindness to me. May God continue to Bless them now and in future years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JOHN  
ZARAGOZA AND HIS REMARK-  
ABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF  
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Zaragoza, the esteemed Mayor of the City of Oxnard, for his outstanding and unwavering commitment to public service, which has positively impacted the lives and livelihoods of all who call this vibrant community home.

Throughout his remarkable career, John has been a dedicated public servant and his work on an array of projects and initiatives have shaped the city for future generations. For almost three decades, he has faithfully served our community, proving himself to be a tireless advocate for the people of Oxnard. From his

time on the Oxnard City Council from 1996 to 2008, to his tenure on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors from 2008 to 2020, and as Mayor of Oxnard since 2020, John has worked relentlessly to address the city's most pressing needs.

During his time in office, John has led efforts to improve public infrastructure, expand community services, and enhance the quality of life for residents. He has played an instrumental role in addressing the region's evolving transit and infrastructure needs. From street restorations to park maintenance to pipeline replacements to sidewalk repairs, John has delivered critical investments that have helped maintain and fortify the city's timeless character, all while ensuring that its residents have safe and equitable access to the resources they need to survive and thrive.

John has also been a steadfast champion for children and families. As Supervisor, he established the Nyeland Acres Center, an invaluable community resource providing after-school and family services. In recognition of his advocacy for the Nyeland Acres community, the County Board of Supervisors dedicated the John C. Zaragoza Community Park in his honor.

John's commitment to improving the quality of life for Oxnard's residents has been evident in his hands-on approach to engaging with constituents and driving community projects that directly respond to their needs.

A long-time resident of Oxnard, John has a deep and personal connection to the city and its people. His life story is a testament to his dedication to service and to the betterment of the community. He has consistently led with integrity, humility, and a fierce commitment to making Oxnard a better place for all.

I must also acknowledge the unwavering support of his wife, Mary Ellen Zaragoza, who has been a steadfast partner in John's public service journey. Mary Ellen's dedication and commitment to their shared vision for the city have been instrumental in his success. Her support, both in public and behind the scenes, has been a pillar of strength throughout the years, and together, they have made an indelible impact throughout the city.

As John steps down from his role as Mayor, I am proud to join our community in acknowledging his immeasurable contributions to our region and expressing our gratitude for his outstanding public service. It has been my sincere privilege to work alongside John throughout my career in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize Mayor John Zaragoza for his invaluable service to the City of Oxnard, and I join the people of Oxnard in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING GRACE NUHFER AS  
OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE  
WEEK

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Grace Nuhfer as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

This summer, Grace won a silver medal in the 100-meter butterfly at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. She also set personal bests in multiple events, including the 200 meter individual medley, 50 meter freestyle, and 100 meter backstroke.

Despite being diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and brittle cornea syndrome, conditions that impact her joints and vision, Grace has not allowed these physical challenges to hinder her success in athletics and academics. Her drive to succeed is commendable. Grace has much to be proud of and deserves the utmost respect for her accomplishment.

Grace earned her spot in the 2024 Paralympic Games by taking first place in the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Trials. Additionally, her exceptional performances at the Parapan American Games and the U.S. Paralympic National Championships leading up to the 2024 Paralympics established her as one of the top swimmers in her classification.

Grace is not only a renowned Paralympic swimmer, but also a college senior at the University of Akron, studying data analytics with a focus on marketing. She is on the university's swim team and is the school's first Paralympian.

Again, I would like to congratulate Grace on this amazing accomplishment and commend her for her hard work and dedication, it is those like Grace who make Ohio's 13th District the birthplace of champions.

HONORING POLICE OFFICER  
THOMAS JOY

**HON. NICK LaLOTA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Police Officer Thomas Joy from the Suffolk County Police Department to recognize his achievement in receiving the 7th Annual U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing. This achievement is not only a testament to Officer Joy's incredible exceptional skills and bravery but also to his relentless dedication to making Suffolk County a safer place for all of us to live, work, and raise our families.

Officer Joy has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges facing

• 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.

our community and a remarkable ability to address them through proactive and community-oriented policing. His work embodies the principle that public safety is not just about enforcement but also about building trust and fostering collaboration between law enforcement and the residents they serve. Suffolk County could not be prouder to have Officer Joy amongst its ranks.

In New York and on Long Island, we know the value of a strong and dedicated police force. Officer Joy's efforts to combat crime, protect vulnerable individuals, and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods have left an indelible impact on our community. We owe him a debt that we could never repay.

On behalf of the people of Suffolk County and the 1st Congressional District of New York, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to Officer Thomas Joy for his outstanding service and his unwavering commitment to justice and public safety. His contributions to Suffolk County serve as an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to honor his remarkable achievements here today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMMISSIONER KATE DEAN

##### HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate Dean for her years of public service to the Jefferson County community. As a member of the Jefferson County Commission, Commissioner Dean demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Jefferson County community as she prepares to step down from the Commission.

Commissioner Dean moved to Jefferson County, Washington in 1999 and spent 10 years farming and working to grow the local food economy through small business development, including co-founding FinnRiver Farm and Mt. Townsend Creamery. She also started a consulting business that focused on natural resource and economic development issues both locally and across the region. Later, she served as the Regional Director for the North Olympic Development Council.

Commissioner Dean was then elected to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners in 2017 representing Port Townsend. While on the board, she became a driving force for rural economic development and environmental sustainability in the county. She has been behind groundbreaking work that has bridged public, private, and nonprofit sectors tackling complex rural issues.

Outside of our region, the impact of Commissioner Dean's efforts has been felt around the state. In 2023, Governor Inslee appointed Commissioner Dean to the Washington State Board of Health, where she advocated for rural healthcare issues and access. She also serves as a member of the Leadership Council for the Puget Sound Partnership.

Commissioner Dean has been a staunch advocate for public funding of major infrastructure projects, increased access to supporting housing, and overall economic growth in a county that desperately needs it. And this advocacy has led to record levels of public in-

vestment, including successful Community Project Funding wins for the Port Hadlock Sewer and Caswell-Brown Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing Projects. The impact of Commissioner Dean's work has been profound and will have lasting impacts for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I have been grateful for Commissioner Dean's leadership, partnership, and friendship—and I applaud her for her successes in working to make her community stronger. Commissioner Dean's leadership and passion for revitalizing rural Jefferson County has forever impacted the future of the communities she served. Her advocacy and energy will be sorely missed.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recognize Commissioner Kate Dean in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

##### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, a vital institution that has provided transformative leadership to Greater Lansing, Michigan, since 1901. Over that time the Chamber has worked tirelessly to help businesses connect, grow, and thrive, while also strengthening local communities and fostering an equitable and vibrant economic landscape.

Through its advocacy, programming, and partnership, it plays an instrumental role in making the Lansing region one of the best places to live and work in Michigan. By collaborating with corporate executives, small business owners, elected officials, and local leaders, the Chamber drives initiatives that promote shared success.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's focus on equity, reflects a commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals and businesses can thrive together. By providing resources, mentorship, and professional development opportunities, the Chamber is helping to shape a future that celebrates and supports diverse and equitable communities. Initiatives like ATHENA Lansing exemplify this mission by empowering women to achieve leadership and professional growth, ensuring that their voices are at the forefront of progress.

What sets the Lansing Regional Chamber further apart is its belief in bipartisanship and its ability to unite people across political and ideological lines. The Chamber consistently brings together stakeholders from all walks of life to find common ground for the benefit of the entire region. Its leadership in tackling issues like infrastructure, housing, education, and healthcare has established it as a trusted voice and a force for positive change. We need more practical, common-sense, solution-oriented influence in our civic life, and I applaud generations of Chamber leaders for their work to put community interest ahead of politics.

For over 100 years, the Chamber has provided valuable tools and resources to members, helping them navigate challenges, inno-

vate, and succeed. By fostering a stronger, more connected, and supportive network of businesses and individuals, it has enriched communities and left an indelible mark on the Greater Lansing area.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I recognize the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and its outstanding contributions and enduring legacy of service here in the official record of the People's House.

#### THOMAS R. CARPER WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 9, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024." I would like to thank Ranking Members LARSEN (D-WA) and NAPOLITANO (D-CA) and Chairs GRAVES (R-MO) and ROUZER (R-NC), as well as their committee and personal office staffs, for crafting the bipartisan "Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024."

This is the sixth consecutive biennial WRDA since 2014, continuing the bipartisan tradition of enacting a new WRDA every two years that meets the water infrastructure needs of communities across the country. This year's WRDA will strengthen community resilience in addressing the climate crisis, improve water resource projects that safeguard human health, and enrich America's vital natural ecosystems.

The legislation before us today would not have been possible without the leadership of my longtime friend and incredible public servant, Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO. Since 2014, Ranking Member NAPOLITANO has led the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, helping protect our communities from droughts, restore our ecosystems, and invest in America's ports and harbors. While her presence on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee will be missed, her commitment to protecting America's water supply will benefit countless communities for years to come.

The "Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024" (S. 4367) includes key priorities for Solano and Contra Costa Counties, the Bay Area, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and all of California's 8th Congressional District. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was pleased to secure several provisions in this bill to create local jobs by directing new federal investment into Mare Island, restore Bay Area wetlands, bolster water supply for local communities in California's 8th Congressional District, and more.

Specifically, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024" (S. 4367):

Expands on my ongoing work to support the redevelopment of Mare Island by directing the Army Corps to complete a feasibility study with the City of Vallejo to deepen the Mare Island Strait Channel;

Addresses the impact of sea level rise on the San Francisco Bay Area, by authorizing

the Army Corps to complete a comprehensive study focusing on the effects of sea level rise on disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area;

Helps restore Bay Area wetlands in San Pablo, Grizzly, Honker, and Suisun Bays by requiring the Army Corps to use at least 70 percent of dredged materials;

Fortifies Contra Costa County's water supply by authorizing \$57 million in federal funding for water supply projects in central Contra Costa County by the Delta Diablo and Ironhouse Sanitary Districts;

Further supports the crucial use of recycled water in the East Bay by investing an additional \$20 million to the East Bay Municipal Utility District's East Bayshore Recycled Water Project and Integrated Recycled Water Program; bringing in a total of \$45 million invested in the District;

Helps restore the Sacramento River floodplain by directing the Army Corps to use natural infrastructure in all Army Corps projects;

Incorporates key provisions from my "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act" (H.R. 7719), expanding the Army Corps' ability to remove abandoned and derelict vessels on the shoreline.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Chairs and Ranking Members, and my colleagues from both parties to get this timely legislation to President Biden's desk for signature by the end of the calendar year.

#### HONORING CARRIE ROWELL

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the very large number of members who have learned and become more educated on important subjects on Aspen Institute study trips for the past years, we honor the service of Carrie Rowell, who has worked with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol for the last 14 years. Carrie has worked diligently as the Conference Director for the Aspen Institute Congressional Program, a nonprofit working to bring members of Congress together with policy experts to solve the greatest challenges of our time around the world.

The Aspen Congressional Program conducts several bipartisan, bicameral conferences around the world throughout the year. Carrie, as Conference Director, has been responsible for all logistics and operations of these conferences, including monitoring late or missed flights for 65 plus conference participants, making sure site visits and educational sessions stay on time, and always personally greeting and sending members back to the United States with a smile. This stalwart programming has been instrumental in many members forming working relationships with each other that might not otherwise exist.

Before the Aspen Institute, Carrie had a distinguished career in journalism, communications, and conference operations. She was the conference coordinator of a University of Maryland journalism foundation, press secretary for former Representative for South Carolina, Butler Derrick, and media relations

manager for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and First Union Corporation of South Carolina. She started her career as a political reporter for a North Carolina daily newspaper and was editor of a South Carolina weekly newspaper. A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, Carrie graduated from St. Andrews University.

Carrie has led with poise, grace under pressure, and kindness for the last 14 years. She expresses these valuable traits at all times to members of Congress, her colleagues, and all those around her, whether before a 5 a.m. flight or after a long, 12-hour day.

We thank Carrie for her years of service and wish her the best in retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. NANCY REICHMAN

#### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Nancy Reichman, Professor Emerita at the University of Denver. On December 4, 2024, Dr. Reichman received the Joyce and Kal Zeff Humanitarian Award, a well-deserved recognition of her dedicated work in academia and to our community.

Dr. Reichman worked in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver for 40 years. Her commitment to education and to the Denver community had a profound impact on undergraduate students at the University of Denver over the years. During Dr. Reichman's time at the University, her research areas included financial regulation, workplace regulation, and white-collar crime.

Dr. Reichman's commitment to the Jewish community is evident through her dedication to relaunching the Jewish Family Services' Refugee Resettlement program. This program assists refugee families in finding affordable housing, providing food and mental health counseling, and supporting overall efforts to acclimate to life in the United States. She also sits on Denver's Racial Equity Council and works alongside her colleagues to address systemic inequalities and racial inequity in our state.

Dr. Reichman's work in academia and across our community created lasting changes in Colorado. I join many others in extending my gratitude for her service to our state.

#### HONORING BRIAN MURRAY

#### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my consultant, Brian Murray, for his years of service to me, our state, and our Nation.

Prior to consulting, Brian worked on Capitol Hill for multiple members, including his last role as Chief of Staff to former U.S. Representative Rick Renzi. Brian also worked in the U.S. Senate as a staff member on the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space and on numerous statewide, con-

gressional, and independent expenditure committees.

Brian was essential in my quest to become a member of Congress and served as a confidant throughout my tenure. No matter the challenge, Brian was already ready to fight and guide me through even the most difficult of days.

I cannot thank Brian enough for his commitment and dedication to me, my district, our state, and our Nation.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF SCOTT PERKINS

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Scott Perkins as he retires from his role with the San Ramon City Council.

Scott has spent his life serving his country and his community. He attended the US Naval Academy and earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering before serving five years in active duty with the Navy. During this time, he spent 3 years aboard the USS *Gray* as a First Lieutenant, Assistant Navigator, and Missile/Gunnery Officer and 2 years serving as an Instructor at the Landing Force Training Command Pacific. Scott remained in the Naval Reserves serving in a variety of roles before he was called back into active duty to support Operation Desert Storm. He served in Germany, Turkey, and Iraq assisting with refugee support activities. Scott retired from the Armed Forces in 2005 with the rank of Captain, serving more than 34 years in uniform. Scott continued to serve his Nation with his acquired expertise, moving into an engineering role at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In this role, Scott worked as the Resource Manager and Facility Manager for the X-Ray Laser Program, served as a Test Engineer for the SLBM Weapon Protection Program, and supported the Lab's Nuclear Materials Surveillance Program. He retired from the Lab after 36 years of dedicated service and continues to consult for their Weapons Complex Integration program.

Scott has also demonstrated his steadfast commitment to our community and improving the lives of San Ramon residents. He was first elected to the San Ramon City Council in 2003, where he has worked to maintain the financial health of the City and improving quality of life in San Ramon. He served as chair of the City's Finance Committee and played a key role in renovating and expanding San Ramon's library. Beyond his work on City Council, Scott has been instrumental in supporting local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Having earned his rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 13, Scott went on to serve as Den Leader and Cubmaster for the pack at Montevideo Elementary School and was a founding leader of Troop 84. He has led backpack trips in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and has mentored over 100 Eagle Scouts.

Throughout his life, Scott has bravely served his country and has worked tirelessly to empower members of our community. Please join me in congratulating Scott Perkins on his well-deserved retirement after decades of public service.

HONORING PASTOR TOM BEERS

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Beers, the longtime pastor of Columbia City Church of the Nazarene and my own childhood pastor, as he retires at the end of this year.

Born in Elkhart, Indiana, Pastor Tom grew up in the church and accepted Jesus as his Savior at the early age of five. After graduating high school and marrying his sweetheart, Deborah Goble, he began to feel the call to full-time ministry. In 1976, he enrolled at Olivet Nazarene College with only \$250 in his pocket, a new job at Arby's, and faith that God would provide for him and his young family.

Pastor Tom graduated in 1982 and began his pastoral journey as an associate pastor at the Lansing Church of the Nazarene in Illinois. He went on to serve as the senior pastor at the Brookfield church for three years and the Waukesha, Wisconsin, church for another three before moving to Columbia City in 1991.

Since then, Pastor Tom's leadership has guided Columbia City Church of the Nazarene, establishing it as a steadfast beacon of faith in the community. Under his care, the church has flourished as a sanctuary of worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship. Pastor Tom's vision and dedication have shaped a congregation deeply committed to both local outreach and global missions, creating a legacy within the community and beyond.

Jeremiah 3:15 states: "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Pastor Tom's ministry has been a testament to the heart of a shepherd, providing wisdom, guidance, and love to countless lives—including my own.

As he prepares to depart from his current role, I wish Pastor Tom many joyful years ahead to cherish time with his family, enjoy the community he has called home for so long, and cheer on his Indiana Hoosiers. His remarkable life of service, faith, and leadership will continue to inspire all who have been touched by his ministry.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF ROBERT DUMAS****HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Robert Dumas. Mr. Dumas was a beloved father, brother, and friend, who passed away peacefully in his home on November 24, 2024.

Born on April 5, 1939, in Safford, Alabama to his parents, Andy and Queenie Dumas, Robert was known all his life for his warm heart, sense of humor, and deep love for his family.

Robert held many jobs throughout his life but was most proud of becoming an owner of

a trucking company where he operated an 18-wheeler truck. In 1980, he founded the Dumas Trucking. His work brought him great joy, and he poured his heart into the work that he loved.

After a long day at work, Robert enjoyed the simple things in life and would often relax in his recliner while watching Westerns. He was an old-fashioned man who appreciated every moment of life. He was a friend to all. Robert was affectionately referred to as "Joe" by his brothers, sons, grandsons, close friends, and nephews because of his pleasant, easy to approach demeanor.

Throughout his life Robert was a devout Christian who lived a life of faith and service to his church, Messiah Temple Missionary Baptist Church. He served as a Deacon, a member of the Brotherhood, and a cherished member of the men's chorus until his health failed. His service and spiritual counsel as a beloved member of his church community will not be soon forgotten, nor will the sound of his voice with his chorus partners.

Robert was devoted to his family and his final message to us was "In your hearts, always remember me as the gentle giant and love me as I always loved you. To me, and to all who knew me, family is and will always be everything."

He is survived by his children: Robert Dumas, Dorothy Wash, Donna Dumas, Tony Wash (Kim), Christopher Zorich, Cedric Dumas, and Tiffany Beard (Edward). He is also survived by his siblings, James Dumas (Lucy), Alice Allen, Maple Moppins, Quennie McEwen, Daisy Moore (Ezekiel), and Ann Cole. He will be lovingly remembered by all his family, including his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Dumas and in sending our deepest condolences to his family and friends at this time.

**TRIBUTE TO SARA PETERS****HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sara Peters, an exceptional staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, whose decade-long service in the federal government exemplifies the hard work and dedication of an esteemed public servant.

Sara's career in government began in 2010 as Legislative Counsel to Senator Thad Cochran. In that role, she advised the Senator on budget, banking, finance, trade, justice, and ethics issues. Her contributions were particularly significant in the vetting of judicial nominees and the development of landmark legislation such as the Dodd-Frank Act and the Budget Control Act of 2011. Additionally, Sara managed all justice-related appropriations issues for the influential Senator.

In 2011, Sara brought her talents to the House Committee on Appropriations as a Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Devel-

opment. Her portfolio included the Federal Highway Administration and transportation safety agencies, such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. She also managed vital programs supporting Native American housing, homeless assistance, and community development.

Following her initial tenure with the House Committee on Appropriations, Sara expanded her expertise in the private sector as a Senior Associate at the King & Spalding law firm. Sara specialized in environmental, energy, transportation, and consumer product safety law. She then served as Assistant General Counsel at the Volkswagen Group of America, with a specific focus on emissions, regulatory, and settlement oversight.

After five years in the private sector, Sara's commitment to public service led her back to government as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Policy, and Strategic Planning for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Focusing on transportation safety initiatives and technologies, Sara bridged the gap between the agency and Congress, managing key policy initiatives and preparing agency leadership for congressional hearings, budget rollouts, and briefings.

In November 2020, Sara returned to Congress where her extensive expertise and knowledge earned her the position of Counsel and Senior Advisor on the House Committee on Appropriations under then Ranking Member KAY GRANGER. It was in this role that Sara successfully advanced House Republican funding priorities in the Minority. When Republicans took control of the House in 2023, she was rightly promoted to Deputy Staff Director of the full committee. Her understanding of the complexities of the federal budget has fostered crucially important reforms in the appropriations process. She has demonstrated remarkable skill in managing complex budget data, coordinating between the twelve Appropriations subcommittees, and facilitating communication with leadership offices, authorizing committees, external stakeholders, and support agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office. Sara played an invaluable role in crafting and negotiating full-year, supplemental, and continuing appropriations legislation.

Throughout her career, Sara has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to navigate complex political landscapes and achieve meaningful results on challenging policy issues. Her deep understanding of government processes and her strategic approach have been instrumental in securing important policy victories, even in times of a divided government.

After countless early mornings and late nights of devoted work to our country, I know Sara is looking forward to a change of pace that allows her to spend more time with her family. Sara will be greatly missed, and I extend my deepest gratitude for her exemplary service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MY SENIOR ADVISOR, BRYAN DOYLE, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Senior Advisor, Bryan Doyle, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Bryan is an experienced leader, executive coach and strategic analyst with a proven track record of effective counsel across multiple industry sectors. His service, first as my Communications Director and then as my Senior Advisor, has been invaluable. Bryan taught our entire team how communications builds influence, influence builds power, and power moves policy.

Bryan has coached business executives, college professors, Congressional staff, students, and fast-food workers in strategic policy communications. A lifelong campaign professional, Doyle's skills as a community organizer complement his ability to communicate and problem-solve with diverse audiences with overlapping interests.

Bryan secured press bookings on Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher, The Today Show, NPR's Morning Edition, Good Morning America, and several hits for multiple shows on CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. He led the charge for my successful Let's Grow! Caucus-wide campaign for Democratic Policy and Communications Committee co-chair in 2022, to which his skills in communications were critical. He has since taken on tech policy for the office, with a special emphasis on artificial intelligence, labor, international competition and small business.

Bryan brings a fresh and outside the box perspective when looking at the long-term trajectory of the office. His love of music and lyrics especially lightens the mood on tough days. He is willing to put himself out there, even dressing up as Teddy Roosevelt to bid farewell to a dear colleague on his last day in the office. Bryan brought his authenticity to work every day. My office wouldn't be the same without his zeal, sharp mind and propensity to break out in song.

Bryan often says, "peace and love are action words," and I'm grateful he lent his considerable talents to our mission to inspire more of both in Congress during his 3 years on my team. His colleagues and I will miss his booming voice and big heart.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership. I wish Bryan all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for three years of faithful service to this Nation.

### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF VINCENT OMAR LEGGETT

### HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Vincent Omar

Leggett, a tireless advocate for the Chesapeake Bay and the founder of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation.

Vince Leggett was a devoted historian and conservationist whose passion for the Chesapeake Bay was unmatched. Through his leadership of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Vince shed light on the untold stories of Black life along the Bay and brought new depth to our understanding of the Bay's heritage.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Vince's family, friends and all who knew him. His commitment to the Chesapeake community inspired countless individuals—including myself—we will honor his memory by continuing his vital work to protect and celebrate the Bay and its diverse communities.

I include in the RECORD an article by Christine Condon.

**'HE WAS THE FIRST': VINCENT LEGGETT REMEMBERED AS A SINGULAR VOICE FOR BLACK HISTORY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**

(By Christine Condon)

Carnelious Jones was volunteering aboard the Amistad, a replica of the historic cargo schooner, when Vince Leggett walked into his life.

Jones, whose company had donated fuel to the Amistad, had been told that an "admiral" would board the vessel before it sailed into Baltimore's Inner Harbor. So Jones, a Navy veteran, expected a stern military man in uniform—not the sedan that pulled up nearby (several minutes late), and the jovial man who climbed aboard in a white captain's hat.

That was Vince Leggett, who had been named an Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay in 2003 by then-Gov. Parris N. Glendening. He was the third Black person to receive the honor, recognizing a lifetime of service to the Nation's largest estuary.

"I saw that he had done some astonishing things," Jones said. "So, I approached him and I shook his hand, I told him I was happy to meet him, and thanked him for his accomplishments."

When the ship reached the shore, Leggett brought Jones to his tent, featuring artifacts he'd collected for his book about the Black history of the Chesapeake Bay. Jones was enthralled.

"I'm from the south—in Tennessee," Jones said. "I was amazed at just how outspoken everything was, and how much development as it relates to the African American story was so publicized and so published."

Vincent Omar Leggett died Nov. 23 at 71-years-old. A pillar of the Anne Arundel County community, who served on the school board, directed the Annapolis housing authority and even became the first Black chaplain of the Annapolis fire department, Leggett was perhaps best known for his work on the Chesapeake Bay.

Beginning in the 1980s, through his foundation, Blacks of the Chesapeake, Leggett gathered and preserved the legacy of Black bayside communities, watermen, captains, seafood industry workers, and sail makers. For Leggett, it began with the recognition that the history books often omitted these stories. So, he told them himself, penning "The Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes," and serving for decades as an encyclopedia of the Bay's Black legacy.

"He wanted everybody else to know that it was more. We were just not shucking them oysters," said Jones, the vice president for new business development at Blacks of the Chesapeake. "We had contributors, to this day, into this maritime industry."

Leggett also had stints at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as chair-

man of the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, as a board member for the Seafarers Yacht Club of Annapolis, and on the list goes. Friends remember him as a talented historian and orator, who also served as a lobbyist, an advocate, and perhaps above all—a leader.

Leggett was also the driving force behind a successful decades-long effort to preserve the historic Elktonia-Carr's Beach Heritage Park, the last remnant of the Black-owned beach land that welcomed Black families during segregation, and hosted music legends such as Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin.

Along the way, Leggett inspired a new generation of historians and environmental advocates, forging a path for Black voices where none existed before, said R. Kenyatta Rowel Jr., CEO of Breaking Boundaries Environmental, a Maryland-based environmental restoration firm he started in 2022.

"Vince paved the way as a trailblazer for all of these activities, all of these places and spaces for people like me," Rowel said. "He was the first."

Rowel remembers a recent event he attended with Leggett at the Whitehall Plantation near Annapolis. For Rowel, who grew up nearby in a historically African American community called Mulberry Hill on the Broadneck Peninsula, the event was already special. But Leggett made it even more so.

"He was talking on the mic, and he introduced me and my company to have a few words. And to me, that was a moment I'm never going to forget," Rowel said.

For Leggett, it began with his upbringing in Baltimore, and family trips fishing and boating on the Chesapeake Bay, Jones said. The experiences tied him to the outdoors, and were the first spark for his eventual effort as a historian.

"It wasn't a research project. It was part of his livelihood," Jones said. "That's the difference." Though he grew up in Baltimore, where he also earned his bachelor's degree from Morgan State University, Leggett ultimately built his life in Anne Arundel County. He and his wife Aldena lived in Arundel-on-the-Bay enclave in Annapolis, according to an online biography, where they enjoyed "beautiful bay views, fishing with their grandchildren and planning their next trip to the golf green." For Jones, that day aboard the Amistad—a reproduction of the ship famous for its 1839 slave revolt—began a yearslong partnership and friendship with Leggett, focused on achieving shared goals for the Bay's Black community and its legacy.

He looks back fondly on their frequent early morning phone calls, beginning as soon as 4 a.m. and continuing for 90 minutes—or until Leggett left to make his wife coffee or breakfast as she headed off to work, Jones said.

To this day, Jones and others marvel at Leggett's ability to balance it all. The early morning and late evening meetings, the positions on countless boards and committees, the appointments with legislators, community members and advocates.

"There are people every now and then that come through, that—it's unexplainable," Jones said.

Much of Leggett's legacy lives on in the vast array of artifacts he amassed amid decades of research on the Bay's Black history. Today, much of the collection is stored in warehouses, but it is being digitized and shared publicly online, thanks to a partnership with the Maryland Archives.

To Leggett, the history of the Bay should include not only Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, but everyday Black Marylanders, who let him into their homes—and into their worlds. In a way, he became their representative—their messenger, Jones said.

"The ones that passed, he would put a book inside of their coffin. The family would give

him the artifacts of the waterman," Jones said. "They trusted that he would do something with it."

In the archives, Leggett himself, and his foundation, is a part of the history. In 2000, the Library of Congress designated the foundation as a Local Legacy Project.

The archive includes not only artifacts and images documenting Black life in the Bay region, but also documenting Leggett and his foundation—photos of him at a book release or a boat show, examples of exhibits and more.

"He had collected a large collection at that time. Papers, posters, his own personal documents, correspondence with different officials, really chronicling the 30-year history of Blacks of the Chesapeake," said Corey Lewis, assistant state archivist at the Maryland Archives.

"You couldn't tell the story without Vince," Lewis said. For the past several years, interns from local universities have helped document the collection, conduct research and find places to put the artifacts on display, Lewis said. Leggett made a point of working with each intern directly, pointing out figures in photos and telling their stories, ensuring the online collection would be complete, Lewis said. "He could have just given us the collection. But he found it important—we found it important—for him to come in, sit down and spend time with them," Lewis said.

Joel Dunn, president of the Chesapeake Conservancy, said he was incredibly proud to work alongside Leggett to preserve Carr's Beach, a crowning achievement for Leggett's legacy.

Today, the beach is set to be transformed into public parkland. The more recent acquisition—a home on the property—could become a visitor center. Dunn believes it should bear Leggett's name.

Getting the land was far from simple, Dunn said, as the waterfront properties were incredibly valuable. It took millions, including from local government, the Conservancy and Blacks of the Chesapeake, to save the land from another fate, such as residential development. Leggett, who had an existing relationship with landowners and a proven track record of preservation, was instrumental in sealing the deal.

"Vince was so knowledgeable about that history, and all the acts that played there. And the years and months that they played," Dunn said. "He just was such a great storyteller. That, I think, was a really key part of winning over the landowner and the elected officials and garnering the resources we needed." There is a particular memory of Leggett that still plays on in Dunn's mind. It was Juneteenth this year, when Leggett planned a celebration at Carr's Beach—complete with music acts, a fish fry and fried chicken. And there Leggett was, in the middle of it all, dancing on the very beach that he helped preserve. "Now, multiple generations ever after Vince Leggett will be able to experience that place and learn about that place and experience that history, because of his hard work and passion," Dunn said. "I'm so glad he got to enjoy that. I wish he had more time."

#### INTRODUCING THE DECEPTIVE DOWNSIZING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2024

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Deceptive Downsizing Prohibi-

tion Act of 2024 (DDPA). This vital piece of legislation empowers the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to protect consumers and small businesses against deceptive downsizing, the act of maintaining a product's packaging while reducing the content size. By defining deceptive downsizing as a prohibited unfair and deceptive practice, the FTC can pursue an action against a manufacturer of a consumer product who deceives everyday Americans and businesses on Main Street.

DDPA bans the deceptive downsizing of consumer products, making it unlawful for manufacturers to sell products of reduced size, volume, or weight in packaging previously used for the same or similar product of a larger size. Holding manufacturers who engage in this deceptive practice accountable will protect consumers and small businesses.

The practice of deceptive downsizing has become a significant concern for American households, particularly during times of economic uncertainty. Food, personal care items, and household products that Americans rely on most are particularly impacted by this deceptive practice. As manufacturers reduce the size or weight of products while maintaining the same exterior packaging, consumers are left with less, often for the same or even higher price.

Most disturbingly, many consumers do not realize that the item they purchased was smaller than expected because the packaging looked the same, further intensifying the financial burden on hard-working Americans. Honesty in packaging is essential in enabling consumers to make informed choices, and misleading the public is unacceptable.

This is not simply an issue of safeguarding the wallets of Americans—it is about fairness. When hardworking American consumers and businesses shop, they expect the product that comes in the same size packaging will remain the same size. When that happens, consumers and small businesses rightly feel duped. I am introducing this legislation to ensure that no American family or business is deceived and getting less than expected.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this crucial legislation that will help protect American consumers and businesses from the practice of deceptive downsizing so they will know that when they buy a product, they get what they expect and deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHAIRWOMAN KAY GRANGER OF TEXAS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to join my colleagues to pay tribute to a true pioneer in the House of Representatives.

My good friend KAY GRANGER has been a trailblazer since she was elected in 1991 as the first female Mayor of Fort Worth, Texas. Just a few years later, in 1997 she was elected as the first Republican woman to represent Texas here in the House.

It's been a privilege to work beside KAY for more than a quarter century. Whether it was advancing American space exploration or enhancing our national security, KAY has always fought for our country and for Texas.

In 2017, KAY was named Chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. As the first woman to chair the subcommittee, KAY always put the needs of our warfighters first, advocating that our military must have the advanced capabilities necessary to deny our adversaries a fair fight.

In 2022, KAY was selected to be the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee—making her the first Republican woman to lead the Committee. As a member of the Committee and her successor on the Defense Subcommittee, I saw first-hand how effective she was at collaborating with fellow Appropriators, navigating an always contentious process to achieve our shared goals to the benefit of taxpayers and our Nation.

I will miss serving with KAY in the House as well as on the Appropriations Committee. I already miss her since she is no longer my neighbor here in Washington—but I know she is looking forward to being back home in Texas, and I wish her and her family the very best in the future.

I thank KAY, for making this institution and our country a better place.

#### HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JERRY BANKS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Warrant Officer Four Jerry Banks, retiring after 40 years of service in the Mississippi National Guard.

Chief Banks joined the National Guard in 1984 while in high school. He mobilized with the 155th for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990, served as an Engineer Technician with the 168th EN BDE starting in 1995, and was Soldier of the Year in 2003 at Joint Forces Headquarters. He became a Warrant Officer in 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 with the 289th EN Co.

His education includes an associate degree in Survey and Design from East Central Community College, where he played football, a certificate in Computer-Aided Drafting, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Liberty University. Chief Banks' awards include the Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, and five Army Achievement Medals.

Outside the National Guard, Jerry has officiated high school and collegiate football for over 30 years and was named Mississippi's High School Official of the Year in 2016. He is deeply committed to his family: his wife of 24 years, Karen; their sons, Jarrott (JJ) and Clifton (CJ); daughter-in-law, Madison; and their respective pursuits in contracting, medical school, and college.

Chief Banks embodies dedication to family, service, and community. He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian, and we are deeply grateful for his service.



## HONORING CHAD WILLEMS

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my longtime friend and consultant, Chad Willems, for his years of service to me, our state, and our Nation.

Chad Willems has managed hundreds of campaigns and public opinion surveys at both the local and national levels. His work has spanned various political offices, from school boards to members of Congress.

Before establishing himself in Arizona, Willems was heavily involved in California politics, particularly as a grassroots organizer and political fundraiser. He also served as the Executive Director of the Adam Smith Institute, a conservative/libertarian think tank, before transitioning to consulting.

Chad has been one of my closest confidants throughout my time in Congress and I am fortunate to have had his counsel during this important time.

I cannot thank Chad enough for his commitment and dedication to me, my district, our state, and our Nation.

HONORING SONOMA COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR SUSAN GORIN**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Susan Gorin who is retiring after an extraordinary career of dedicated public service representing the residents of the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. Her career is marked by a commitment to conservation, to the public's access to parks and to hardening our community against the threat of natural disasters.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ms. Gorin later moved to Sonoma County where she attended the Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State University. In 1991, she earned a degree in Political Science and Economics which set her on a path toward public service. She also established her family in our community. In Santa Rosa, Ms. Gorin married her husband Joe Gorin and raised her two children, Tracey Gorin and Courtney Taylor.

Ms. Gorin's elected and appointed service spans nearly three decades with roots in city governance. Her journey began in 1996 when she was elected to the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Trustees. Ms. Gorin would go on to serve on the City of Santa Rosa's Board of Public Utilities in 2002 and Planning Commission in 2004. Following those posts in City Hall, Ms. Gorin ran successfully to serve as a member of the Santa Rosa City Council. In 2008, her colleagues on the Council appointed her Mayor. She would lead the city through the tumultuous years of the Great Recession.

In 2012, Ms. Gorin ran successfully to represent the residents of Sonoma County's 1st Supervisorial District. Her district includes the eastern portions of Santa Rosa, the

Mayacamas Mountains, the Sonoma Mountains and the Sonoma Valley. She was re-elected in 2016 and 2020 and was chosen by her colleagues to serve as Chair of the Board in 2015 and 2020. Additionally, throughout her three terms as supervisor, she has been a tireless advocate for vulnerable and underrepresented communities.

In 2017, our community was devastated by wildfires that raged throughout California—many lost their homes, and some lost their lives. Ms. Gorin is one of the survivors of the fires having lost her home to the Nuns Fire. In addition to leading her family's recovery, she has been a fierce advocate for fellow survivors. She continues to advocate for fire recovery and resiliency policy.

During her twelve years as a supervisor, Ms. Gorin has served on numerous regional government boards, including the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the Regional Climate Protection Authority, the Bay Conservation Development Commission, the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit Board, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the Local Agency Formation Commission, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Susan Gorin's legacy of public service, her unwavering commitment to our community and her efforts to improve the lives of those she serves exemplify the best of local government leadership. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CONGRATULATING TIM BETE ON  
HIS RETIREMENT**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tim Bete, an outstanding community leader and close friend from my Congressional district, who is stepping down as president of St. Mary Development Corporation. St. Mary Development is a faith-based, nonprofit organization in Dayton, Ohio that provides affordable housing for low-income seniors and families.

As president, Tim Bete has successfully carried the torch lit by Sister Rose Helene Wildenhaus and Dayton businessman Dick McBride, who formed St. Mary Development Corporation in 1989. Tim had worked closely with them for seven years, until they retired in 2013 and turned the management of the organization over to him. Under Tim's leadership, St. Mary has continued its focus on creating affordable housing and connecting residents to the services they need.

Since its founding, St. Mary Development Corporation has created 70 affordable apartment communities with nearly 5,000 housing units, including low-income senior apartments, single-family homes and emergency housing, and \$580 million in real estate investment.

From my time as mayor of Dayton, and throughout my service in Congress, I have strongly supported St. Mary's efforts to revitalize the community by creating affordable housing for the poor and elderly. I was proud to collaborate with Tim to secure resources for a pair of senior housing facilities, with priority placement for veterans, on the grounds of the Dayton VA Medical Center. These facilities

provide safe, secure, and affordable housing for veterans, and easy access to the medical care they need.

Tim has dedicated his entire career to making affordable housing available to people who need it. He has served on the boards of housing and homelessness organizations and a nursing home, and currently serves on LeadingAge Ohio's housing subcommittee. Tim is a graduate of the Achieving Excellence in Community Development at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and has an MBA from Indiana University.

Tim Bete has worked tirelessly to make his community a better place to call home. I wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking this truly outstanding citizen for his lifetime of service to our community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN WAGNER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed Roll Call votes on December 5, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 485 and YEA on Roll Call No. 486.

THE SACRED LIGHTS OF  
CHANUKAH**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

## THE SACRED LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

The fragile yet formidable Chanukah candles  
We tenderly lit, daringly defy the suffocating  
Darkness around us and in us,  
Soothing and softening, we pray, all who  
Their magic of evoked memories of elation  
And trepidation with oil—dripping levivot  
(Potato pancakes) for expectant levavot  
(Hearts) while partaking of sustaining sweet  
Sufganiyot (donuts) to counteract the bitter-  
ness

Of previous and following defeats,  
Celebrating a temporary victory before the  
Hasmonians' intra-feuds hastened the demise  
Of short-lived Jewish sovereignty with warn-  
ing

Lessons for the contemporary scene of  
mounting

Extremism and spreading strife,  
With hostages in death-filled Gaza darkness  
Still-second Chanukah's Festival of Lights  
In captivity, how tragically ironic!—des-  
perately

Yearning for liberating light lagging too  
long

Behind and may not come, and for too many  
Their wondrous light already snuffed out by  
Those adoring the dark with the candle of  
each

Unique life burning down before its time and  
Forever lost is that consecrated inner oil,  
Though only we, today's brave Maccabees,  
Possess the priestly power to extinguish

The miracle of the bright Chanukia (menorah)  
Embedded deep within us.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MILDRED C. CRUMP

**HON. LaMONICA McIVER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mildred C. Crump, a visionary leader and trailblazer from my beloved city of Newark, New Jersey. Mildred was a woman of many "firsts" and her wisdom, guidance, and unwavering belief in justice helped shape my life and career—and transformed the lives of so many others. As the first African American woman elected to the Newark City Council and as the council's first woman president, Mildred broke barriers and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to equity, justice, and community empowerment.

Her dedication to improving the lives of others—whether through her pioneering work as New Jersey's first African American Braille teacher or her tireless advocacy for housing, education, and civil rights—has left an everlasting mark on our city, state, and Nation. Council President Crump was more than a role model. She was a relentless advocate and champion for people, and a brilliant community strategist. She blazed a path for so many and was always a source of unwavering support for those of us who had the honor of learning from her. Mildred's leadership, compassion, and vision will be profoundly missed.

All Newarkers mourn the loss of this exceptional woman. I send my deepest condolences to her children, Larry and Sheri, and all her loved ones. I know Mildred's legacy and impact will live on. It lives on in me and many others.

I thank Mildred C. Crump, on behalf of all the little Black and brown girls she has inspired and provided a light to shine. We love you forever.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF CINDY AUBREY

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Cindy Aubrey from Pikes Peak United Way after ten years of dedicated service to Colorado's Fifth Congressional District. The CEO role at PPUW has been the culmination of a lifetime of service to her hometown. Cindy is known for her strong work ethic, visionary leadership, and her loving service of others. These qualities manifest in numerous capacities: as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a mentor, or a colleague. Cindy's

career and impact demonstrate the rare combination of utilizing her community-minded as well as an individual-focused approach. Cindy has exemplified putting her neighbors above herself and uplifting those around her in every way that she could.

A proud Colorado native, born and raised in Colorado Springs, Cindy graduated from Mitchell High School. Cindy then graduated from Colorado State University where she was and remains a proud CSU Ram. After college, Cindy started her media career at Fox 21 before moving to KOAA, where she led the Creative Services Department and later the News Department. In these roles Cindy helped inform and shape our community, while gaining the respect of the entire community for her outstanding work.

After developing a heart for the Pikes Peak region in her media career, Cindy continued the mission of community service by taking on the role of Chief Communications Officer with the City of Colorado Springs. It was here that she served during some of the greatest challenges in our region's history—the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Working tirelessly with first responders and other city officials, Cindy provided residents with vital, accurate, timely information, and did so with empathy and humility.

In some ways as a culmination of her life's mission of community service up to this point, Cindy took on a new endeavor with Pikes Peak United Way, first as the Senior Vice President of Marketing, and eventually, President and Chief Executive Officer. Under Cindy's guidance Pikes Peak United Way created new initiatives and partnerships that expanded the organization's already extensive impact. This included celebrating 100 years of Pikes Peak United Way serving the Pikes Peak region and partnering with many other organizations to launch the Family Success Center, offering a broad range of services to empower those in need in our community.

In addition to her leadership in the Pikes Peak region, Cindy has been recognized for and awarded the Colorado Springs Business Journal Woman of Influence award, the Public Relations Society of America Vista Award, the Colorado Coaches for Charity MVP award, and the Business Leader of the Year from the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. It is evident that Cindy's impact is broad and deep in our community.

Cindy and her husband Peter are parents to Liam and his wife Tori and now Grammy to their beautiful granddaughter, Azaela Joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating her upon her retirement and celebrating the life and dedicated service of a true champion for the Pikes Peak region, Cindy Aubrey.

#### HONORING VIVICA A. FOX

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Vivica A. Fox, a Hoosier trailblazer whose six decades in the arts has helped shape American culture.

Celebrated for her memorable roles in "Independence Day" and "Set It Off," Vivica

solidified her career as a prominent figure in Hollywood from a young age. Her journey to success began with the "Days of Our Lives" soap opera and later the NBC-TV series "The Young and the Restless." Her continued dedication to her craft as a lead actor has filled a much-needed gap in the entertainment industry for representation of Native American and Black communities. Vivica has inspired and uplifted her heritage throughout her career. This week, she is in Indianapolis for the Red Carpet Screening & Talkback for the film *The Lost Holiday*, a new project she proudly joined to explore and the challenging dynamics of grief, family and overcoming obstacles. She shines in this new endeavor, where she continues to inspire the next generation of artists and audiences.

Known as, "the diva who's done it all," Vivica has recently prioritized philanthropic and literary initiatives. Her partnership with The Fractal Group has nurtured the aspirations of the next generation of actors and provided crucial funding to the arts. In her motivational memoir, "Every Day I'm Hustling," Vivica expands on her message of positivity and drive in hopes of inspiring people to never give up—a message that will continue to resonate with new generations of young artists and leaders.

Vivica's professional trajectory has forged a legacy of leadership, compassion, and inspiration. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vivica A. Fox.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF MRS. BONNA "B" TERSCH

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our dear late neighbor Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch, and her lifetime of devotion to the Fifth District of Illinois' Ravenswood community. Bonna, or "B", was a native of small-town Missouri who found her passion living along the Chicago River with her husband and sons, planting gardens for all to enjoy, and promoting peace and beauty in our world.

B co-founded the Greater Rockwell Organization in 1979 and served as its first Secretary—a role she carried for 44 years. B started and managed Greater Rockwell Organization's popular annual neighborhood-wide yard sales, worked with fellow volunteers to report criminal activity, and rose at dawn to paint over graffiti. This nonprofit civic group was recently voted Best Block Club by the Chicago Reader.

B also partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority to modernize, decorate, and clean the Rockwell El station, the cornerstone of a small business hub that she helped make more vibrant than ever. She secured grants, including awards to establish over a dozen "corner gardens" that add distinctive natural charm around the neighborhood, and to create the Montrose Metra Community Gardens.

Although B preferred to humbly volunteer behind the scenes, her decades of public service were recognized by groups like the Ravenswood Community Council and Greening of Ravenswood.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in



recognizing Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch for her years of service to the City of Chicago, and her legacy of "leaving things better than you found them."

#### CELEBRATING THE NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD

##### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the history of, and the amazing work carried out by the New Testament Temple Church of God (NTT). A Church that has always put community and congregation first, even in its name. In 1976, Jamaican Immigrant, Reverend Albert Edwards and his family founded the church in affiliation with the Church of God. To honor Jamaican naming preferences New Testament was added into the name, and the church added temple to honor the former Synagogue whose space the church bought. The church was officially named the New Testament Temple Church of God in 2013 to reflect the church's rich history. In 1983, the church purchased the location on Seymour Ave. where it resides today.

NTT has always carried the Lord's work across the community. Originally, Edwards attended a church with his family outside of the Bronx, but soon found the travel distance to be too long. So, Reverend Edwards opened his home to provide a space to for a small fellowship to worship. As the congregation grew, so too did the services provided. Since becoming Senior Pastor in 1994, Bishop Paul Peart helped the church establish a non-profit called the Good Neighbors Community Outreach Agency (est. 2002). The organization provides so many social services within the church and to the broader community. Services have included GED courses, computer access, preschool, after school, housing assistance, food assistance, clothing provision, and a host of other critical community services.

NTT played a key role in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the community will be forever thankful for that. The church was deemed an essential organization and provided food pantry services to families. During the pandemic NTT went from assisting 200 families per week to over 2,000 families per week. Without their services many individuals would have been without food, NTT also partnered with United Way of NYC to provide other essential supplies to the community during the pandemic.

Currently NTT is responding to increased migration by hosting up to 120 asylum seekers per week. Giving them access to kitchen and dining facilities, as well as clothing and other necessities. Importantly NTT provides asylum seekers with local community connections.

I thank the New Testament Temple Church of God and reiterate their motto. G—R—O—W—T—H—S Through Joyful Service. G—Glorifying God, R—Religious Life, O—Outreach Evangelism, W—World Missions, T—Training of Disciples, H—Hospitality, S—Supportive Ministries. I look forward to hearing about NTT's continued community leadership.

HONORING CLINT HICKMAN

##### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Maricopa County Supervisor for District 4, Clint Hickman.

Clint, a 4th-generation Arizonan, has served on the Board of Supervisors since March 21, 2013. He also is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Hickman's Family Farms, the largest egg producer in the southwest United States. Supervisor Hickman's experience running a business and his deep roots in the West Valley have guided his actions on the Board of Supervisors, leading the Counties' approach to fiscal responsibility and effective governance. He has been a valuable resource to his constituents and small businesses, and helped lead the county through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

I sincerely appreciate Clint's service to the 8th Congressional District, Maricopa County, and Arizona.

#### CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

##### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend and colleague, Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, on her retirement from the House of Representatives after a 20-year career representing the folks of Washington's 5th congressional district.

I've had the pleasure of working closely with CATHY on the Energy and Commerce Committee for a long time and together we've been able to accomplish some amazing things for the American people. I've admired her determination and strength to get our priorities across the finish line and she has never stopped working tirelessly on behalf of the people she was elected to serve. What I most admire about CATHY is her dedication to her family and the Down Syndrome community. Over the years I've had the privilege of becoming friends with her son Cole, who has inspired me and is one of the reasons I'm so passionate about supporting CATHY's work on behalf of the Down Syndrome community. She has been a tireless champion for the community and left a lasting legacy with her accomplishments on behalf of the people who are differently-abled, so they can live their lives to their full potential with no barriers or bias or obstacles standing in their way.

While her colleagues will miss her dearly, we wish CATHY and her family all the best as she begins this next chapter of her life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS on her retirement from

the House of Representatives after 20 years of service to the people of Washington's 5th congressional district.

#### CELEBRATING THE HOMECOMING OF MR. TIGRAN GAMBARYAN

##### HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tigran Gambaryan and celebrate his return home to the United States of the America, and to his friends and family.

Mr. Gambaryan is an American citizen, a resident of Georgia, and a dedicated former public servant. While on a business trip to Nigeria in February, he was arrested and charged with false accusations of tax evasion and money laundering. Tigran was detained in the notorious Kuje Prison for months, repeatedly denied access to medical care as his health deteriorated, denied basic due process rights, and otherwise treated inhumanely. Despite these severe hardships, Mr. Gambaryan displayed remarkable resilience and an unwavering determination to return home.

Finally, on October 23, 2024, Nigeria dropped all fraudulent charges against Mr. Gambaryan, and he was able to return safely to the United States. I want to thank the hard work and dedication of the Department of State officials for the role they played to bring Mr. Gambaryan home. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their unwavering support and advocacy in urging the Nigerian government to secure his release. Most importantly, I want to commend Mr. Gambaryan for his courage and for never losing hope during this tumultuous situation.

It is an honor to represent brave individuals like Tigran Gambaryan in Congress, and I celebrate his return home to his wife Yuki and their two young children. God bless their family.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COPS/METRO ALLIANCE

##### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to call the attention of the House in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Communities Organized for Public Service/Metro Alliance. Since 1974, the COPS/Metro Alliance has invested billions of dollars into San Antonio families and have fought to make the City a place where everyone's voices are heard.

Led by a West-Side native organizer named Ernesto Cortés Jr., church leaders across the City began to organize and work with one another to secure more opportunities for working class residents. They used their newfound voices to fight for housing for seniors, environmental protections, and safer streets. Members of COPS/Metro Alliance even began running for office, and successfully secured funding for libraries, parks, and public services.

When factories and plants closed in San Antonio, they created job-training programs and worked with businesses to bring more high-paying jobs to the City. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the COPS/Metro Alliance founded an unprecedented education and job placement program called "SA Ready to Work", offering over 28,000 San Antonio residents job placement, support, and retention services, and tuition for high school equivalency, college degrees, and industry-recognized certifications: the first of its kind in the Nation.

While great strides have been made in the last few decades to make San Antonio a more equitable city, there is still more work to be done. As the Representative for Texas's 35th Congressional District, I know that the COPS/Metro Alliance will continue its incredible legacy of uplifting the most disadvantaged among us, and work to create an even greater San Antonio.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN COUNTY, MISSOURI, TREASURER KAREN MATTHEWS ON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Matthews, the Christian County, Missouri, Treasurer, on her retirement. Christian County is home to nearly 90,000 citizens in the southwest part of Missouri, and Ms. Matthews has served as an elected official there for 22 years.

During her tenure, Ms. Matthews has achieved many accomplishments. She manages nearly \$50 million annually in county revenue and transitioned the county's operations from a third-class county to a first-class county due to the area's population growth. She initiated online banking for the county, direct deposit payroll for county employees and implemented premier financial software. She also saved the county thousands of dollars by implementing a more efficient time and attendance software. Finally, despite the millions of annual transactions, the county has successfully passed all of its dozens of audits with 100-percent compliance.

Ms. Matthews was honored by her peers by being elected as the treasurer for the Missouri County Treasurer's Association, a position she has held since 2012. She also is the treasurer for Mt. Zion Baptist Church, serves on the Missouri County Treasurer's Association legislative board and is a member of several area chambers of commerce. In addition to her public service, she has been the co-owner of several small businesses in the construction and home design fields.

I'd like to congratulate Ms. Matthews on her well-deserved retirement. She has faithfully executed her responsibilities as county treasurer and she will be missed. I wish her the very best in the next phase of her life.

#### RECOGNIZING MY SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR, SOPHIE MIRVISS, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Staff Director, Sophie Mirviss, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In October, Sophie departed my office for a new opportunity to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Sophie's journey as a public servant began just after she graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in international studies and a minor in economics. Though she was initially hired as my scheduler, her expertise in foreign policy led her to become my National Security Legislative Assistant. Soon after, she joined the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism in which she served under Reps. Ted Deutch (FL-22) and David Cicilline (RI-01). In this time, she worked her way up from Professional Staff Member to the Subcommittee Staff Director all the while pursuing a master's degree in defense and strategic studies at the U.S. Naval War College. As a Minnesota District Three native, Sophie understands how diplomacy and conflicts in far-away lands can impact our own communities, which has made her a wonderful advocate for our constituents in the foreign policy sphere.

Sophie is a powerhouse. She is not only a master knitter, but also an embodiment of what every congressional staffer strives to be. Confident in her abilities and fearless in her pursuit of peace through better policy, she brings a fire and intensity to her work that inspires everyone to be the best version of themselves. Sophie is just the type of person you would want with you in the case of a zombie apocalypse—she is smart, determined, loyal, and a joy to be around. For that, we've been extremely grateful to have her on our team.

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

#### CELEBRATING DETECTIVE EDWIN HUGH

#### HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Detective Edwin Hugh of the Suffolk County Police Department, who has been honored with the 7th Annual U.S. Attorney

General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing. This prestigious recognition highlights Detective Hugh's outstanding contributions to community safety and his unwavering commitment to making Suffolk County a better place to live. His achievements exemplify the core values of law enforcement: integrity, dedication, and an unrelenting drive to protect and serve.

Detective Hugh has proven himself to be a leader in law enforcement, building trust with residents and strengthening public safety across Suffolk County. Whether pursuing justice for victims of crime or engaging directly with the community to foster partnerships, Detective Hugh consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Suffolk County is a safer place because of Detective Hugh's hard work and steadfast dedication to better our communities.

His efforts to combat crime, reduce harm, and improve the lives of residents reflect his dedication not only to the badge he wears but also to the people he serves. He understands that effective policing is not just about enforcing laws—it is about creating an environment where families feel secure, businesses can thrive, and communities can flourish.

On behalf of the people of Suffolk County and the 1st Congressional District of New York, I extend my sincere congratulations to Detective Edwin Hugh and my heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional service. His work serves as a model for law enforcement professionals across the country, and his contributions to Suffolk County are a source of pride for us all.

#### RECOGNIZING MONIQUEC CONNER AS OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

#### HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Moniquec Conner as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Moniquec is a trailblazing civil rights activist. She was recently recognized with a Humanitarian Stone Award from the National Action Network, an organization dedicated to advancing civil rights issues.

This award reflects the years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance that she has invested in our community and fighting for the advancement of civil rights. Her commitment has remained steadfast—the hallmark of concerned and responsible citizenship.

Moniquec is currently the chair of the Ohio Women in the NAACP, and in 1999, she revitalized the Stark County branch of the NAACP, serving as its president in 2000.

In addition to her work for the NAACP, she is also the interim president of the National Action Network chapter that serves Stark and Summit counties.

As she has throughout her remarkable career, Moniquec continues to focus on issues such as police accountability, voting rights, corporate responsibility, pension diversity, youth leadership, crisis intake, victim assistance, and bridging the digital divide.

I would like to thank Moniquec for her dedication to fighting for change, and the amazing

work she does on behalf of the community. As a woman in a position of influence, she has certainly inspired the next generation of leaders to stand strong in their convictions and fight for justice.

Moniquec's unwavering championing of civil rights exemplifies the very spirit that makes Ohio's 13th Congressional District the "Birthplace of Champions." With this national recognition, she has certainly made our community proud.

RECOGNIZING BRYAN MACDONALD  
AND HIS DEDICATED SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF OXNARD, CALI-  
FORNIA

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bryan MacDonald, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Oxnard, a notable public servant whose unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark on our community.

Bryan's service to Oxnard began in 2008 when he was first elected to the City Council, and his leadership and commitment to public service have been steadfast throughout his tenure. He was re-elected in 2012, 2016, and 2020, demonstrating his ongoing dedication to the city's growth and prosperity. In 2020, Bryan was appointed Mayor Pro Tem, a role that has allowed him to further influence the city's progress and address the needs of its residents. Prior to his time in local government, Bryan served for 30 years in the Oxnard Police Department, retiring as Assistant Chief of Police. His leadership in law enforcement has been a pillar of the city's public safety efforts and continues to serve as a lasting testament to his dedication and commitment to our community.

Beyond his roles in law enforcement and city governance, Bryan continues to share his wealth of knowledge as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Ventura College. His influence extends well beyond the classroom, as he has taken on leadership positions with organizations that impact the entire community. Bryan has served as the Chairperson for the American Cancer Society Gold Coast Community Council, Board President of the Elite Theatre Company, and is an active member of the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board for the County of Ventura Behavioral Health Department. He is also deeply involved with the Knights of Columbus, Council 750, and has contributed countless hours to making Oxnard a better place for all.

A long-time resident of Oxnard, Bryan and his wife Lorraine have called this community home since 1985. Together, they have been a constant presence in our city, investing in its people, its future, and its wellbeing.

As Bryan steps down from his role on the City Council, I join our community in expressing our appreciation for his immense contributions to public safety, education, and the overall commitment to building a better and stronger Oxnard. From his distinguished career in law enforcement to his leadership in governance and his community involvement, Bryan MacDonald has served our community well.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great esteem and respect that I recognize Bryan MacDonald for his invaluable service to the City of Oxnard. I thank him for his many years of leadership and commitment, and I wish him continued success in the next chapter of his life's journey.

HONORING RUSSELL SMOLDON

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my friend, Russell D. Smoldon, CEO of B3 Strategies.

I first met Russell while serving in the Arizona State Legislature in 2009. At the time, Russell was the manager of government relations for Salt River Project (SRP), a major utility and water company in Arizona.

Russell now runs his own company and has over 35 years of public policy experience focused on energy, water, environmental, taxation, healthcare, and economic development issues.

Russell is a respected leader in Arizona and I believe just about everyone knows him and likes him. He serves on the board of the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA) and on the board of CrossRoads. Russell has also served in leadership positions with the Western Business Roundtable, the Greater Phoenix Urban League, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the National Conference of State Legislators' Advisory Council on Energy, and the National Tax Partnership. He also served as a member of the Arizona Supreme Court's Child Support Guidelines and Domestic Relations Committees and the Arizona Highway Users' Association, and has assisted numerous non-profit organizations, including the Arizona Trails Association.

Russell is caring, fun-loving, funny, and knowledgeable. I have called on him for input on Arizona issues for many years.

I thank Russell for his years of support and for all of the times he has provided me with valuable information and advice. Please know that I appreciate him. May God continue to Bless him and his family for years to come.