

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VELETER M.B. MAZYCK
FOR HER SERVICE TO CONGRESS

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an individual whose service, character, and dedication have left an indelible mark on this institution and the people it serves.

I first met Veleter M.B. Mazyck in 2017 when I was selected to participate in the CBC Institute bootcamp. I could not have known then that four years later Veleter would become not only my chief of staff but also a trusted advisor, confidant and an unwavering partner in serving the people of Ohio's Eleventh Congressional District.

A steady hand who had served my predecessor for more than a decade, Veleter has been vital to the success of my office ever since.

As she prepares to retire, I rise to recognize a career defined by integrity, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Too often, the contributions of Congressional staff remain behind the scenes—unnoticed by the public, but essential to our democracy.

Far from the cameras, the House chamber, or the committee dais, staff work long hours—they are driven by a deep and abiding sense of duty.

Veleter Mazyck personifies this culturally, spiritually and professionally.

She is known for being both wise and witty, spontaneous and strategic, careful and kind, thoughtful and thorough but most importantly a loving, loyal, steady and steadfast steward of our Nation. And a calm and commanding force behind every success.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Veleter Mazyck ensuring her legacy endures for years to come.

An unsung hero of this institution, Veleter committed herself to honing the skills and talents the Lord had blessed her with . . . To bending the moral arc of the universe that little bit closer to justice . . . And to ensuring our government serves its people with respect, dignity, and compassion.

After a celebrated career as a General Counsel to large metropolitan school districts, Veleter agreed to serve as Congresswoman Fudge's Chief of Staff—for one year or maybe two.

And yet—a decade later . . . Veleter was still here—a cornerstone of the office, the Congress and, dare I say, the country and the constitution.

Through her efforts, legislative priorities were championed with purpose and passion, crises were managed with character and charisma, and partnerships were forged both publicly and privately—all with the goal of creating a better future for the people of Ohio's Eleventh District.

Following my predecessor's appointment to President Joe Biden's cabinet, Veleter skillfully

managed the office during the transition, ensuring constituents continued to receive the support they needed.

Upon my swearing in, her wealth of experience and knowledge allowed me to confidently step into my role. Ever since, Veleter's deep understanding of this institution has been invaluable.

In moments of uncertainty, Veleter was the steady hand, navigating challenges with poise and resolve. In moments of triumph, she celebrated not personal accolades, but the victories achieved for the people of Northeast Ohio. And in every moment in between, she exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and dedication.

What truly sets Veleter apart is her ability to bring out the best in those around her.

Whether mentoring young staffers or building coalitions with colleagues, she led with patience, humility, and a genuine belief in the power of collaboration.

After 13 years, the countless individuals she has impacted, from colleagues to constituents, are a testament to the lasting influence she has had on all who have worked with her.

Those testimonials include the following reflections from former colleagues:

Eyang Garrison: "Veleter once told me she believed smart people could do anything and I've never forgotten that. I often think back on her saying that to me when I interviewed with her back in 2019 after I expressed doubts about newly taking on a managerial role. To feel that someone as well respected as Veleter, saw something in me that at the time I didn't see in myself, was one of the most influential moments in my professional career. There really is no one like Veleter. Thank you for your love and support for both me and my family throughout the years. Love you!"

Kellie Adesina: "When I reflect on my career on Capitol Hill, I often refer to my time in former Rep. Marcia L. Fudge's office as the transformative years that helped shape me into the government affairs professional I am today. My experience was, in large part, due to the guidance, firm support, and encouragement from Veleter. As her Legislative Director, she empowered me to lead, never allowed me to settle for mediocrity, and demonstrated through her actions what it meant to guide a team with grace, humility, and compassion. I'm forever grateful for the impact she's made on my life and wish her the very best of everything as she retires from federal service because she deserves it and more."

LaDavia Drane: "Veleter and I shared an office back in the early 2010s. I can recall so clearly the day she was introduced to the team by our member of Congress. Veleter inspired me, and demanded of me, to do my very best at work every single day. She modeled the high standards of a woman in politics on the Hill, providing me with a safe place to learn and grow. I miss those days and will always fondly remember our time together. I wish Veleter the best as she journeys forward. I hope she'll continue to teach, mentor and coach, as she did for me, wherever she

spends her time after her retirement from the Hill. Love you, Veleter!"

Kim Edwards: "Veleter is the kind of person I wish I had met earlier in my professional journey. From the moment I joined Congresswoman Brown's team, she quickly became not only a role model but also a source of clarity and focus. One of the most striking things about Veleter is her ability to cut through the noise. She expected clear, concise communication, particularly when it came to goals and direction for the team. To her, everything else was secondary. Her straightforward, no-nonsense approach taught me the importance of focus, discipline, and above all, staying priority driven. Veleter and I also made a great team—she, a Green from the Pace Color Pallete, always demanding excellence from our staff, and I, a Blue, often seeking to find the best in everyone. Together, we struck a balance that helped us elevate the work we did while maintaining a positive, collaborative environment. At the end of the day, Veleter always knew how to analyze the situation, identify the key priorities, and get the work done. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the work she did for the people of OH-11. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her and to have learned so much along the way. Wishing you all the best in your retirement, Veleter. You will be greatly missed."

Jasmine Butler: "Veleter has been one of the most impactful mentors in my life. I had no idea what to expect or how to prepare to work in a Congressional office when I arrived on the Hill on November 15, 2021. What I appreciate most about my experience with Veleter is that she required a level of excellence that pushed me beyond what I thought I could achieve. She embodies unapologetic excellence, refusing to shrink for the sake of others. To witness another Black woman so fearless and bold in the presence of those who may consider themselves more prominent helped me subconsciously eliminate personal beliefs of unworthiness. She showed all of us that we can do and achieve anything. It was no cliché. It was our reality because she required excellence, innovation, and the highest level of service to the constituents of Ohio's Eleventh Congressional District. I cannot thank her enough for her impact on me as a professional, a confidant, and a friend. I wish her all the joy, love, excitement, new adventures, and peace her heart can hold. She truly deserves that and so much more."

Imani Edwards: "Without the mentorship, correction, and love from Veleter Mazyck, I would not be the woman or professional I am today. Veleter has a way of always making you want to try harder and show up as the absolute best version of yourself. As a young Black woman navigating Capitol Hill, Veleter reminded me that if I could find a way to excel in midst of chaos, trial by fire is how she put it, then no person, place or thing would ever hinder my success. She gave me a confidence that I continue to carry with me in any professional arena I enter. I wish her all the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

best in her well-deserved retirement! Thank you for everything, Veleter!”

As Veleter steps away from Capitol Hill, I know that her contributions will continue to ripple outward. The legacy she leaves is one of progress, integrity, and hope.

Throughout her career, she has often spoken about the importance of getting off the dance floor. It was, as she says, your role as a leader is to get to the balcony—to better see the bigger picture.

As she retires, it's time to leave both the balcony and the dance floor behind. Now, the stage is her's to set. Whether it's traveling, writing, or pursuing new passions—retirement is her front-row seat to a life of her own design.

On behalf of a grateful Congress, a grateful district, and a grateful Nation, I thank her. I thank her for her vision, virtue and vigilance. We are better because of her sacrifice, and for her unwavering commitment to seeing our Nation not for what it was—but for what it could be.

We wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement, with full confidence that her impact on this institution and the Nation it serves will live on for generations to come.

HONORING SHEQUITE JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mrs. Shequite Johnson.

Shequite Johnson leads an extraordinary and busy life, balancing her career, volunteer commitments, and her roles as a wife and mother—all with a radiant smile. She is married to Derrick Johnson and is the proud mother of four children: Jameshia, Semaj, Derrick Jr., and Nathaniel.

A dedicated member of Ruleville's Delmar Church of Christ under Pastor Billy Moore's leadership, Shequite serves on the Benevolence Committee, embodying her deep commitment to service and community.

Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta, Shequite has faced numerous challenges throughout her life. Yet, with courage and determination, she has transformed those experiences into a powerful source of inspiration, encouraging others to believe in themselves and turn both triumphs and trials into fuel for progress.

Professionally, Shequite has devoted herself to roles within the helping professions, using each opportunity to foster community advancement and personal growth. Her journey reflects her deep commitment to community empowerment and personal growth. Her impactful AmeriCorps service, where she supported individuals facing generational poverty and limited resources, ignited her passion for economic and social transformation. This inspired her to pursue higher education, earning degrees in Criminal Justice, Rural Public Policy and Planning, and now a Ph.D. in Public Administration.

Professionally, Shequite advanced through roles in the Sunflower County Consolidated School District and later joined Higher Purpose Co. (HPC), a nonprofit dedicated to em-

powering Black communities. As Chief Program Officer, she contributes to reshaping narratives around poverty and fostering financial and cultural empowerment.

Beyond her career, Shequite is an active volunteer, leading Girl Scout Troop 30123, serving with the Sunflower County Freedom Project, and participating in organizations like the Mississippi Valley State Alumni Association, the NAACP, and a plethora of meaningful and educational organizations. Her dedication to education, leadership, and service inspires others and creates meaningful change in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Shequite Johnson for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

RECOGNIZING MIKE NELSON

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank one of my constituents, chief meteorologist Mike Nelson, for his service to Colorado. For 33 years, Mr. Nelson has appeared on our TVs, providing informed and crucial weather reports to help Colorado families prepare for blizzards, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. Mr. Nelson has also been there in the moments of calm—when a day spells blue skies, warm sun, and for many, time spent in Colorado's great outdoors.

Mr. Nelson, chief meteorologist of Denver7 since 2004, has not only informed Coloradans of weather reports but has profoundly affected how we receive weather reporting in the U.S. In 1979, he and his colleague Terry Kelly devised one of the first computer weather graphics systems—one which continues to be the most widely embraced system in the country. Mr. Nelson also introduced the first weather computer to Colorado in 1982.

With 20 Emmy awards, including 18 for Outstanding Weather Anchor, Mr. Nelson has served Colorado by making weather and climate change reporting more accessible. His dedication to weather reporting has gone beyond the TV screen. He has been actively involved in educating hundreds of thousands of students, including with his tornado dance, and, most recently, writing 'The World's Littlest Book on Climate,' a book geared towards climate outreach and education.

I join Coloradans in congratulating Mike Nelson on his retirement after nearly 50 years on television and thank him for his commitment to our state.

TRIBUTE TO MARY WITHERSPOON BLANDING

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time public servant in my hometown of Sumter, South Carolina. Mrs. Mary Witherspoon Blanding is retiring as Clerk to the Sumter County Council after 34 years.

Mrs. Blanding was selected as County Clerk in April, 1990 and is the longest serving Clerk in Sumter County Council history.

Mrs. Blanding is the third child of the late Dea. John Ivory Witherspoon and the late Deaconess Dorothy Mae Smith Witherspoon. She grew up in South Sumter and attended Sumter County schools during the days of segregation. After graduating from Sumter High School, she received a Diploma from Palmer Junior College and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Morris College. She later attended Phoenix University, and earned her certification as a Certified Clerk to County and Certification as a Master Clerk to County Council from the Riley Center of the College of Charleston. Mary is also certified as a Dean of Christian Education through the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education (SCBCCE), where she also earned her teacher Certificate and a Diploma for Christian Education.

Mrs. Blandings public service stems from many years of volunteer services rendered toward grassroots efforts, in schools, and faith-based activities throughout Sumter and Clarendon Counties. She has served as a committee member of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the former Secretary and Treasurer of the Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Board of Directors, and a member of the Business and Office Advisory Board for Central Carolina Technical College. During her tenure on the S.C. Clerks to Council Association, she was selected as President and served on the Certification Committee. She is also an active member of the newly established Women Pioneer Luncheon Committee and, in 2020, served as an Honorary Wing Commander at Shaw Air Force Base.

Over her career, Mrs. Blanding has been selected for numerous honors and awards, such as the J. T. McCain Public Service Award, the American Association of Women in Community and Junior Colleges Award, a TWIN Honoree (Tribute to Women In Business and Industry), a Government Honoree for Mt. Zion Baptist Church Black History Month, and the Woman of Excellence Award by the Social Justice Consortium.

Prior to her professional career, Mrs. Blanding became the first student to be honored as Miss Sumter High School in 1970, and the first Black student crowned as Ms. Palmer Junior College in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mrs. Blanding is married to Kenneth Orlando Blanding. They have four children, Jamie (Carl), Kimberly (Eric), Elijah, and Zoie, and two grandsons, Brian and Micah. She is a member of Hopewell Baptist Church where she serves as a Deaconess, Program Committee Chairwoman, Christian Education Director, Church School Teacher, and a member of the Praise and Workshop Ministry, Sanctuary Choir, and Women Ministry.

She loves gardening—especially herbs, peppers, and tomatoes—and traveling and trying new dishes during her travel. Mrs. Blanding has fostered peace and prosperity for the entire Sumter Community throughout her decades of service. One of Mrs. Blanding's life mottos is “as much as possible within you, live peaceably with all persons.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the remarkable career of Mrs. Mary Witherspoon Blanding, and wishing her continued success and many

blessings as she begins the next chapter of her life.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5012—SHINE FOR AUTUMN ACT

HON. YOUNG KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on stillbirth which is a maternal and infant health crisis that tragically accounts for the deaths of over 21,000 babies every year in our country. Studies indicate that at least 25 percent of U.S. stillbirths are preventable, and addressing these preventable cases could save at least 5,250 babies each year. Sadly, despite these alarming statistics, stillbirth is one of the most underfunded and underresearched public health issues today.

To address high stillbirth rates, we need to improve data collection, research, and awareness. I introduced the bipartisan Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act, H.R. 5012, with Rep. KATHY CASTOR that would do just that. The SHINE Act creates the first comprehensive federal-state partnership to streamline data collection on stillbirth across the Nation.

I would like to include in the record a link to more than 1,500 testimonies from parents and families affected by stillbirth: <https://youngkim.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/H.R.-5012-SHINE-for-Autumn-Act-Testimonies-1.pdf>. I hope for swift action from Congress to ensure healthier pregnancies and decrease stillbirth rates.

HONORING KAY GRANGER

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chairwoman KAY GRANGER on her retirement and congratulate her on three decades of dedicated service to the 12th Congressional District of Texas and the United States of America.

Chairwoman GRANGER has been a great friend and confidant to me, providing guidance and giving helpful advice. As a senior member of the Texas delegation, Chairwoman GRANGER has been an influential, conservative leader who prioritized the 12th Congressional District of Texas and has led the Appropriations Committee with ample experience, wisdom, and grace.

From being the first Republican Congresswoman from Texas to being the first Republican woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman GRANGER will be leaving with an impactful legacy. She has always fought for our national security, our troops, and Veterans, to provide all the support they need for their daily sacrifice to our Nation.

I have been honored to work with the Chairwoman on advancing legislation that benefits Texans and strengthens our state economically. On behalf of her constituents, the Texas

delegation, and Republican colleagues, KAY will be greatly missed and our Nation thanks her for her commitment to America.

RECOGNIZING MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, JULIA LOPEZ, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Executive Assistant, Julia Lopez, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud of grateful for her service.

Born and raised in Athens, Georgia to proud Filipino immigrants, Julia attended the University of Georgia, where she studied Anthropology and Asian American Studies. While in Georgia, she spearheaded the COVID-19 vaccine program at her family's pediatrics clinic and was one of the earliest programs in northeast Georgia to have vaccines available for under-represented communities and low-income families of color. She was active in Filipino student organizations while at UGA and has brought her passion for Asian American communities to the Hill. Julia first started in my office through the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS) placement program in spring 2022 and joined our team full time in February 2023 as our Executive Assistant.

A proud Filipina American, Georgian, and student group extraordinaire, there's nobody better at bringing positive energy a room than Julia. Julia is a great role model for all our interns and one of the biggest reasons why they have such a great experience in our office. Julia has been a critical part of making sure the office runs smoothly. Julia's commitment to ensuring students visiting our office in Washington, DC have an engaging and informative experience is admirable. She has personally ensured that hundreds of MN-03 students have met with me and toured our Nation's Capitol.

Julia exemplified Radical Hospitality by always going above and beyond for constituents and spreading joy to those around her. She is credited with starting the "Joke of the Day" tradition in my daily briefing books, which provided much needed moments of levity during particularly stressful days. She was willing to take on any and all tasks and do it with a smile. Julia's role has shifted at multiple points during her tenure with our team—and she has been willing and eager to ride the waves as our needs as an organization have changed. From working with my Senior Advisor during my time on the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, to assisting my Staff Assistant with tours, Julia's flexibility has been a critical asset.

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

HONORING LIEUTENANT GEORGE T. MCCREE, III

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true American hero, Lieutenant George T. McCree, III, from Clinton, Maryland. Lt. McCree's service to our Nation and to this Capitol deserves our highest praise and recognition.

In his various roles with the United States Capitol Police, Lt. McCree protected not only this hallowed institution, but also the principles it represents: democracy, justice, and opportunity. He served in many capacities here on the Hill including as a dispatcher, special agent, instructor, sergeant, and lieutenant. Those who worked alongside him remember his professionalism, his quiet strength, and his unshakeable commitment to ensuring that the Capitol remained a beacon of freedom and governance. Lt. McCree's story reminds us that the legacy of those who serve is not just written in the battles they fight, but also in the lives they touch and the barrier they break. As we stand here today, in a building he has protected, let us remember his myriad contributions. I know that even as Lt. McCree retires from the United States Capitol Police, that he will continue to serve his community and our region as an involved citizen, parent and proud military veteran.

RECOGNIZING SARPY COUNTY SHERIFF JEFF DAVIS

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis, who has selflessly given 51 years of his life to "protect and serve" the residents of Sarpy County, Nebraska. Sheriff Davis started as a dispatcher in 1973 at the age of 18. After getting his law enforcement officer certification, Davis became a deputy sheriff for Sarpy County in 1974. Working his way through the ranks, he became a sergeant in 1985, lieutenant in 1989, captain in 1990, and chief deputy in 1999. In May 2005, Sheriff Davis was appointed to serve the remaining term of Sheriff Pat Thomas, who retired. He subsequently won reelection in 2006 and has served diligently in that capacity since then.

He was recognized in 2019 for his work when he was inducted into the Nebraska Sheriffs Association Hall of Fame. Davis's other achievements include serving as the past president and vice president of the Sarpy County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 and receiving the "Michael J. Elman Officer of the Year" Award. He received the Bellevue Kiwanis Chapter "Officer of the Year" award. While serving a term on the Bellevue City Council in 1996, Davis was presented the "Jewel of Bellevue" award by Past Bellevue Mayor Boyd.

Sheriff Davis has worked on many initiatives to handle the growing population of Sarpy County. The department routinely trains in Standard Response Protocol, working with

schools, first responders, and medical facilities. Another area of focus for Sheriff Davis has been the Sarpy County Sheriffs Sex Offender Registry, which allows residents to locate sex offenders on a website. He has also focused on resources to identify and treat mental illness, with a goal of reducing crime and to better assist victims of mental health illness.

Sheriff Davis is proud of these accomplishments and more, but the one he is most proud of is the "Project Life Saver" program. Through this program, over 80 autistic children and adults with dementia have been fitted with bracelets so they can easily be found when they wander.

A native of Bellevue, Nebraska, Sheriff Davis also serves on the Nebraska Crime Commission, Nebraska Crime Victims Reparations Program, and the Nebraska State Council for Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision. He is also a member of the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department and a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

I thank Sheriff Davis for his longtime service to Sarpy County and the entire state of Nebraska.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF COLORADO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office of Colorado, led currently by District Attorney John Kellner, and serving Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties.

In January 1962, the 18th Judicial District was established. Initially comprised of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, Elbert County was added in 1965, followed by Lincoln County in 1969.

The 18th Judicial District, with a geographic size larger than the state of Connecticut, has grown more than any other Colorado judicial district during that time and now has a population exceeding one million people. Within the next decade, Arapahoe County's population is expected to grow to be the most populous county in the state.

In 2020, the Colorado General Assembly established a new judicial district. Next year, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln Counties will form a newly created 23rd Judicial District, while Arapahoe County will be the sole county in the existing 18th Judicial District.

Officials of the 18th Judicial District—prosecutors, victim witness specialists, support staff, and law enforcement officers—work hard every day to pursue justice, advocate for victims and support our community. As a Member of Congress, I look forward to continuing to work with our local law enforcement officials to promote public safety.

REMEMBERING LEWIS W. ESSEX

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lewis W. "Sparky" Essex, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 92. A leader on all fronts, Lewis was dedicated to his family, his work, and his community.

After graduating from Columbus High School, he attended Purdue University and Harvard Business School, and he served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War. Lewis started in business at Golden Foundry, eventually serving as President for five years before founding his own company, Essex Castings, Inc. His compassionate leadership was unmatched, governed by wisdom and understanding.

He was an active participant in his community, serving countless organizations, including as a member of the Purdue Board of Trustees, the Bartholomew County Hospital Board, and the Mayor's Advisory Committee, and as director of the Bartholomew County Red Cross, Rotary Club, and Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Lewis and his late wife Margaret left a legacy through their four children, Stephen, LuAnn, Michael, and Patricia; their fourteen grandchildren, and their fourteen great-grandchildren. As we remember Lewis, I'd like to thank them for sharing this servant leader with us and God bless her and family.

RECOGNIZING MY STAFF ASSISTANT/LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT, ERIN DAILEY, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Staff Assistant/Legislative Correspondent, Erin Dailey, 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.

Although she was born in Wisconsin, Erin was raised in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. After graduating from Armstrong High School, she attended Wesleyan University, where she played varsity soccer and received her degree in Government with a minor in Economics in 2023. Her experience studying abroad in Amman, Jordan, cemented her goal to move to Washington, D.C. after graduation and work in the public sector.

After interning for my office in the fall of 2023, she returned full time as my Staff Assistant in February of 2024. Being a constituent herself, Erin has been a natural at making visitors to our office feel right at home when they walk through the front door. From organizing Donuts with Dean to assisting with D.C. tours, Erin has been a critical part of my mission of Radical Hospitality. Her recent promotion to Staff Assistant/Legislative Cor-

respondent was an easy decision, as she has always been happy to handle constituent communications, even during the most challenging times in our office.

Erin has been an amazing Staff Assistant that always keeps the trains running on time. She is full of life, vitality and positive energy. She is always looking to help the team and constituents make the best of their time in D.C. She practices the ethos of Radical Hospitality regularly to whoever she may meet. She always is learning and growing to broaden and develop her skill set even more. Hiring Erin was one of the best decisions we've made. As our final D.C. Staff Assistant, she is proof that sometimes the best is saved for last.

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

HONORING JAMES LOTT III

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Alderman James Lott III, a dedicated veteran, educator, and community leader, who has exemplified the spirit of service and commitment to uplifting others. Currently serving as the Alderman for Ward 6 in Clinton, Mississippi, James represents the city's only minority-majority ward with distinction and purpose.

In his professional role as the Student Coordinator of Campus Culture and Diversity at Hinds Community College, James has been instrumental in fostering inclusivity and enhancing student success, particularly for underrepresented populations. His leadership extends beyond the classroom, as he strives to break down barriers and create opportunities for marginalized students to thrive in higher education.

James' commitment to public service is deeply rooted in his diverse and impactful career. From inspiring and mentoring young minds as a high school teacher and coach to leading efforts as the Commander of the Hinds County COVID-19 Vaccine Site during the pandemic, his work has consistently made a tangible difference in the lives of those around him. His military service with the Mississippi Air National Guard further underscores his dedication to the community and country, where he was recognized as National Recruiter of the Year for his exemplary performance.

As he works toward his Ph.D. in Urban Higher Education at Jackson State University, James is channeling his expertise into building pathways for student populations often left on the margins. This pursuit reflects his unyielding belief in the power of education as a tool for empowerment and progress.

James' election as Alderman was powered by the very democratic principles, he passionately champions. He is a fervent advocate for civic engagement and voting, inspiring young people to understand and exercise the power of their voices at the polls.

Today, I commend James Lott III for his enduring service, his visionary leadership, and

his tireless efforts to uplift his community and beyond. May his legacy of service continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alderman James Lott III for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING HOWARD CHAIM TARLOW

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mr. Howard Chaim Tarlow. Mr. Tarlow, a resident of Edison, New Jersey, passed unexpectedly in his home following 16 years of valued service as a New Jersey Firefighter. It is my privilege to recognize Mr. Tarlow's life as an inspiring father of two girls and a son, who raised his family in Edison and gave back to the community as a dedicated member of distinction with the Edison Fire Department.

Howard Tarlow was employed by the Edison Division of Fire, teaching a lifelong goal to be a career firefighter and give back to his community. This began in 2008, when he first joined the Highland Park volunteer the service. Two years later, Mr. Tarlow transferred to Raritan Engine Company 1 to courageously serve the community in which he and his family reside. Mr. Tarlow was known for his continuous pursuit of fire service education, regularly attending naming classes, and earning a Bachelors in Fire Science from New Jersey City University.

The community is deeply saddened for the loss of Mr. Tarlow as they now miss a beloved friend, changemaker, and community leader. He will be remembered for his selflessness serving as a delegate for the Local 1197 Professional Firefighters Association of NJ State (PFANJ) union, leading as Treasurer, charity account administrator, and team problem solver.

Perhaps the most exemplary impact Mr. Tarlow brings to the Edison community is the inspiration he shared with his son, Mark (Mordy). In 2020, Mark was appointed to be a member of the Edison Division of Fire, following in his father's footsteps. At age 47, Howard Tarlow is forever a valued community member, beloved father, and generous labor rights advocate for New Jersey firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Howard Tarlow for his lifetime dedication to his family and community.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BERNARD CALVI

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to include in the record the obituary of Private First Class (PFC) Bernard Calvi of North Adams, Massachusetts. 82 years after he passed away as a prisoner of war in the Philippines, modern

technology was finally able to identify his remains and return him home.

As the family and community are finally able to honor PFC Calvi in North Adams, I want to personally offer my thanks for his service and sacrifice on behalf of a very grateful Nation.

PFC CALVI OBITUARY

Private First Class Bernard Joseph Calvi, of the US Army Air Forces, died on July 16, 1942 at the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp in the Philippines, where he was interned as a Prisoner of War by Japanese forces during World War II. He was born in North Adams on March 3, 1919, son of the late Joseph and Lena (Cantone) Calvi. He attended North Adams schools and graduated from Drury High School with the Class of 1936. While at Drury, he was a standout member of the Baseball and Football teams.

Pfc. Calvi entered the US Army on September 12, 1940, and was serving with the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group of the Army Air Forces in the Philippines when the United States entered World War II. During the battle for the Philippines, he was wounded at least once but returned to full duty as an Infantryman as there were no airplane's left operational. When Bataan fell to Japanese forces in 1942, he was taken prisoner and forced to take part in the infamous 65-mile Bataan Death March into captivity. After four months of captivity in deplorable conditions, he succumbed to Starvation, Malaria, and loss of hope. Following the efforts of his family and the US Army over many decades, and with advances in identification technology, Pfc. Calvi is finally returning home, 82 years after his death.

He is survived by his nephew, Bruce P. Calvi and his wife, Joan (Titegens) Calvi, of Clarksburg; a cousin, Sylvia Keehnle, of Pittsfield, great nieces and nephews, including Springfield Fire Commissioner Bernard J. Calvi and his wife Carrie of Springfield, Jennifer Belisle and her husband Bruce of Stamford, VT and Jeffrey Calvi and his spouse Chris Schaper of Bridgeport, CT; and great grandnephew and nieces Elijah Calvi, Lucia Calvi, Ashlyn Belisle and Camryn Belisle. He was predeceased by brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond Calvi and his wife, Pauline, Atty. Julius Calvi and his wife, Mary Ann, and Joseph Calvi, who died in infancy.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 10th at 12 Noon in St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 70 Marshall St. North Adams. Burial with full military honors will follow in the family lot in Southview Cemetery, North Adams. A calling hour will be held IN ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH on Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM, directly before the Mass. The PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, Adams, is assisting with arrangements. To leave a message for the Calvi family, please go online to www.paciorekfuneral.com.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF SERVICE OF CHRISTINE FRENCH CULLY OF HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN MAGAZINE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the remarkable three decades that my constituent, Christine French Cully, served as an editor, editor in chief, executive vice president, chief purpose officer, and brand

ambassador at Highlights for Children, Inc., as edited in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

Chris Cully contributed immeasurably to the success and growth of Highlights, as well as to the public esteem of the brand, by her wise decisions and extensive contributions to the Highlights editorial and business departments. She maintained the highest level of quality in her own work, serving as an advocate for children and keeping their best interests in mind throughout her career. She dedicated herself to helping millions of children become their best selves—curious, creative, caring, and confident—and personally answered thousands of their letters and emails, some of which have been compiled into her book, *Dear Highlights: What Adults Can Learn from 75 Years of Letters and Conversations with Kids*.

Chris' foresight, vision, and deep understanding of the goals and philosophy of Highlights magazine helped her oversee the expansion of the way the company served children, reaching to include a wide range of communications realms, including digital formats, licensing partnerships, international initiatives, products to support parents and teachers, and a robust presence in other media, including podcasts and videos.

Chris always labored to elevate and unify the children's publishing industry through her founding and hosting of annual retreats for magazine editors and through her personal and professional support of the Highlights Foundation and its workshops at the Chautauqua Institution as well as at its Boyds Mills campus. She also dedicated her time and energy in service to our region of the state through organizations such as Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Habitat for Humanity, and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Time and time again, Chris proved herself to be a masterful participant at functions and events of import to the community. She gave speeches and workshops, and she was regularly interviewed for national news media. She truly lived her cause and commitment. I am proud to express my heartfelt appreciation for her life's work and enduring legacy.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Texas State Representative Tracy King. King has served in the Texas state legislature since 1995. We actually served together for a few years in Austin, Texas. I want to wish him well as he enters retirement.

Representative King graduated from Carrizo Springs High School, Southwest Texas Junior College, and Texas A&M University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering.

He spent his professional career providing hearing aids across south Texas and later sold his business to spend more time with his beloved family.

He served his first term back in 1995 representing nearby Uvalde, Texas. In 2005, he was elected to represent the 80th House district, which covers much of my district—parts

of Webb County along with the entirety of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, Uvalde, and Zavala counties.

Representative King has had a storied history in the Texas State House. Over the course of his fifteen terms, King has served as chairman of the committees on Border and International Affairs, Agriculture and Livestock, and Licensing and Administrative Procedures. He currently serves as the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee.

King has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the First United Methodist Church and is a past president of the Kiwanis Club and the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

I am proud to honor the career of this great public servant. South Texas owes him a great debt for his decades of hard work to improve the lives of all his constituents.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS SHAKURYOR PEOPLES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples, a proud native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, who serves aboard the aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan*. Equipped with a full flight deck and more than 60 aircraft, including attack fighter jets and helicopters, aircraft carriers like the *USS Ronald Reagan* are among the largest warships in the world.

Peoples graduated from Vicksburg High School in 2014 and joined the Navy 10 years ago. Today, he serves as a boatswain's mate. Reflecting on his decision to join the Navy, Peoples stated, "I joined the Navy because I wanted to experience life. It allowed me to improve myself and experience the world." Peoples' service in the Navy is a continuation of the values instilled in him growing up in Vicksburg.

Peoples serves in a Navy that operates forward, around the world, and around the clock, promoting the Nation's prosperity and security. During his service, Peoples has had many opportunities to achieve his personal and professional goals. Serving in the Navy has given him the chance to grow as a person and to aspire for greatness.

Aircraft carriers have been the centerpiece of America's naval forces for more than 100 years, projecting power, sustaining sea control, bolstering deterrence, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maintaining enduring commitments worldwide. Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples embodies the spirit of service, commitment, and leadership that our Navy stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples for his dedicated service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TONY RUSSELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Tony Russell, the Superintendent of FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama.

As Superintendent, Mr. Russell has provided executive level management and leadership for the CDP, which provides unique, hands-on training to more than 60,000 emergency responders a year from state, local, tribal and territorial agencies. He oversees operations of the CDP's 176-acre campus, which is home to the only training facility in the country where civilian responders can train in a toxic agent environment and the Nation's only hospital training facility dedicated solely to preparing the healthcare, public health and environmental health specialists for mass casualty events related to terrorism or natural disasters.

Mr. Russell previously served as the Superintendent of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. During his tenure at EMI, he was deployed in support of critical agency priorities. In 2012, Mr. Russell assisted with the Superstorm Sandy response and recovery activities in New York. In 2014, he was designated as the Acting Region VIII Administrator, serving as the Senior Executive for all FEMA priorities and requirements in the states of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Utah.

In 2009, Mr. Russell was appointed by the President as the FEMA Region VI Regional Administrator and served in that capacity until 2012. In this role, he was responsible for all FEMA operational decisions within the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana.

During 2003 and 2009, Mr. Russell served as a Federal Coordinating Officer for FEMA's Region VIII. In addition to his FCO duties, in 2009 he assumed the role of Acting Director of the FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office for Hurricane Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, with offices throughout the state. He also managed FEMA operations in many complex disaster response and recovery operations across the country, including potential hurricanes in Texas, the Pandemic Influenza Regional Team, and the agency's support to the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Russell, a former United States Marine Corps Officer, holds an undergraduate degree in political science and management from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He earned two master's degrees from National University in San Diego in the areas of business administration (MBA) and management (MA). He also received a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and completed Executive Leadership Education at Harvard University.

Mr. Russell is an active member of the emergency management community, including the International Association of Emergency Managers, and holds the designation of Certified Emergency Manager.

Mr. Speaker, please Join me in recognizing this milestone for my friend, Tony Russell.

URGING ACTION TO CONFRONT THE STILLBIRTH PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the stillbirth public health crisis, with over 21,000 stillbirths every year—almost 60 babies dying every day. At least one out of every four stillbirths is estimated to be preventable, but there is still too much we don't know. That's why we need real change that will lead to measurable improvements in outcomes for families.

H.R. 5012, the Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act I introduced with my colleague Rep. YOUNG KIM, would improve data collection, invest in research and raise awareness of the causes and risk factors associated with stillbirth.

I would like to include in the RECORD a link to the stories of more than 1,500 families impacted by the stillbirth crisis: <https://castor.house.gov/UploadedFiles/H.R.-5012-SHINE-for-Autumn-Act-Testimonies-1.pdf>. I urge my colleagues to bring the SHINE for Autumn Act to the floor to confront this crisis and improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

LIBERTY IN LAUNDRY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7673, the Liberty in Laundry Act. This bill is the latest Republican attempt to manufacture a crisis and reject commonsense rulemaking from the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, why would we want less efficient washers and dryers? Americans want home appliances that are going to save them money on their energy and water bills. I learned this lesson well when I worked at Sears selling home appliances. The customers who I helped buy a new appliance would ask me about the energy efficiency of the new appliance they were considering and how it compared to the one they had at home. That is why I support the commonsense energy efficiency standards set by the Department of Energy. The Biden administrations' past and planned energy efficiency actions are estimated to save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next thirty years.

This bill would tie the hands of the Department of Energy (DOE) as they finalize and enforce efficiency standards for laundry machines. Contrary to the fearmongering of the Republican House majority, the Biden Administration did not create these rules to take away your home appliances. Congress mandates that DOE sets efficiency standards for appliances. The proposed rules would update twelve years old energy efficiency standard. The new standards were part of a consensus recommendation made by appliance manufacturers and efficiency advocates. H.R. 7673

would prohibit DOE from finalizing these new standards.

With only six legislative days to go until temporary funding expires for the federal government, the House Republican majority has thus far failed to complete a spending package for Fiscal Year 2025. They also failed to act on the Farm Bill, which is now 14 months overdue. Yet, this week, the Republicans are wasting precious time considering a bill to ban energy efficiency standards for laundry machines. This is a disappointing, yet unsurprising, end to what has been a historically unproductive Congress. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7637 should be rejected. I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE SHIKANY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Chief Mike Shikany for his outstanding 31 years of service to the Bedford Police Department and to recognize his well-earned retirement.

Deputy Chief Shikany devoted his career to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, beginning his journey with the Bedford Police Department in October 1993 as a Police Officer, and through hard work and perseverance, rose through the ranks. From Police Corporal in 2003, to Sergeant in 2008, Lieutenant in 2020, and ultimately to Deputy Chief in 2024, his leadership has been a guiding force for the department.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Shikany has played a pivotal role in shaping the department's success, leading the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, and mentoring countless officers. His commitment to professional development is reflected in his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, the Master Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, and graduation from the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police.

Deputy Chief Shikany has earned numerous accolades, including Employee of the Quarter in 2014, a Certificate of Merit in 2013, and Patrol Divisional Employee of the Year in 2005. His career is further distinguished by numerous letters of commendation, each underscoring his exceptional dedication to law enforcement and the safety of our community.

Deputy Chief Shikany's remarkable service has left a mark on the Bedford Police Department and improved the lives of the people he has served. I thank him for his tireless commitment in protecting North Texans. On behalf of a grateful community, I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best in this next chapter of his life.

HONORING LEONARD LOWINGER
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Leonard Lowinger on his 90th birthday.

This month Leonard Lowinger—who normally goes by Lenny or Len—turned 90 years old. Born on December 4, 1934, Len was raised in Mount Vernon, New York. Growing up he attended AB Davis High School where he played as a defensive guard and a kicker on the high school's football team. After graduating high school, Len enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a radar operator out of the Wadena Air Force Station in Minnesota during the Korean War. Len left the Air Force with the rank of Airman 2nd Class.

After his time in the service, he met his soulmate, Harriet Robbie, and the two were married on September 21, 1957. They had three wonderful children—Marci, Jeff, and Judy.

Len went into the dairy industry working for Belford Farms for forty years. When Len was not with his family or working, he filled his free time by bowling and playing golf. He also loved being a referee for high school football and basketball.

Today, Len lives in Somerset, New Jersey in my congressional district where he is loved by his three children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, Harriet passed away in 2023 after 65 wonderful years together.

Most recently, Len was just elected the Resident Council President at his assisted living community The Bristol in Somerset—Congratulations.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Len a happy and healthy birthday.

HONORING SGT. GARNETT FRANKLIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired, tenacious, and self-motivated U.S. Army veteran, Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin. Sgt. Franklin enjoyed a long career in serving and teaching.

Garnett T. Franklin was born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He graduated from JFK High School in Mound Bayou in 1969. After high school, he enlisted in the Army, dedicated over two decades to serving in the U.S. Army Active Duty as a construction engineer. His military service offered many opportunities to serve at various Army bases and stations, such as Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Benning, Georgia for Jump School. He also traveled to Japan, Korea, Belvoir, Germany, and participated in the Return of Forces to Europe. He retired at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1993.

After retiring, he relocated back to Mississippi and began teaching JROTC in Jack-

son Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, which included Murrah High and Lanier High School. Later, he returned to Belgium to join his family and worked with the Department of Defense in Washington State for 17 years as a fitness specialist at MWR.

Upon returning home to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, he spends his time volunteering in the community and surrounding areas. He also volunteers with a male group of concerned citizens known as the Development Committee. This group started by cleaning up the grounds of a long-standing local service station, cutting grass, pulling vines, and refurbishing an old neighborhood house. They also maintain the facility building and the Taborian Hospital grounds. Now known as the unofficial "beautification committee," this volunteer group takes pride in completing various projects around the city. As the holiday season approaches, they are preparing by putting up lights and decorations in the Milburn Crow Memorial Park and on the grounds of the Taborian Hospital for the entire city to visit and enjoy.

Volunteering in his hometown allows him to give back to the community and enjoy the pleasures of retired life. Sgt. Franklin firmly believes that the military offers valuable pathways to personal and professional growth. His life's path has shown that the military is a great career starter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin for his passion for leadership, service and volunteerism to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LAREDO
DAYBREAK ROTARY CLUB

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor forty years of the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club. Their civic and community engagement has been a force in south Texas for decades, and I cannot wait to see what they can accomplish in the future.

Founded in 1984, the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has kept a keen focus on the healthcare of the community. And that focus has produced incredible results.

The club's first major initiative, helping Rotary International eradicate polio, raised more than 100 percent of their chapter goal. They then raised \$125,000 to establish aerobic exercise courts on several school campuses across the district.

Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club also put on annual screenings for glaucoma and assisted with Shots Across Texas. In districts like mine, such work is extremely important in promoting a healthy community. They are also involved in international health projects like building a clinic in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I applaud them for it.

I also want to take note of perhaps one of their greatest accomplishments. The Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has presented \$100,000 for the endowment of Texas A&M International University and another \$100,000 for Laredo Community College.

These funds, which were raised by an annual raffle originally started to help eradicate

polio, are integral in promoting higher education in south Texas.

The club also presents \$1,000 scholarships each year to a graduating student from all eight of Laredo's high schools.

Mr. Speaker, Laredo has been forever changed by the incredible work of our local Rotary organization. It's been an inspiring four decades: I look forward to their continued work in the local community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote in the first vote series on 12/10/24. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 493; YEA on Roll Call No. 494; YEA on Roll Call No. 495; and YEA on Roll Call No. 496.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHANELLE SCALES-PRESTON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shanelle Scales-Preston for her decades of service to the House of Representatives as she departs to begin her new role as a Contra Costa County Supervisor.

Shanelle has lived in and served the East Bay of California her whole life. After graduating from California State University East Bay, Shanelle worked for Contra Costa County and joined then-Congressman George Miller's staff, working diligently on behalf of district residents for more than ten years. When Congressman Miller retired, I was thrilled to welcome her onto our office's team. She has served as my District Director since 2015, helping lead our efforts in the district to provide outstanding service to constituents.

Shanelle has also shown unwavering devotion to her hometown of Pittsburg, California where she resides with her husband, Damon, and their sons Jaden and Ashton. She has served on Pittsburg City Council since 2018, working tirelessly to foster a strong and diverse community throughout the City. In this role, she has spearheaded efforts to expand access to affordable housing, improve public transportation, empower Pittsburg's youth, and build a vibrant hub in downtown Pittsburg. She has been a regional leader, working with a number of key groups and agencies, serving as the Chair of MCE and TransPlan and President of the League of California Cities East Bay Division. On top of it all, Shanelle is active with several community groups including the Gateway Rotary Club and Pittsburg Reads initiative.

Shanelle was chosen by the voters to serve as the next Contra Costa County Supervisor for District 5. While I am sad to see her go from our team, I'm confident that in this role, she will continue to be an effective leader for our County. It has been a joy to work with Shanelle throughout the years and I'm incredibly grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP McDEVITT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders on their incredible State Football Championship victory on December 6, 2024.

The Crusaders prevailed in hard-fought overtime against the Roman Catholic Cahillites at Cumberland Valley's Chapman Field. Crusaders' head coach Jeff Weachter and Quarterback Stone Saunders—bolstered by the Team's incredible endurance, discipline, focus, and skill—led the Team to their monumental victory.

After the Crusaders were leading 14–3 at halftime, the Cahillites rallied to take the lead by 31–28 with just under 6 minutes left in the fourth quarter. The Crusaders then tied the game with a field goal before making a critical defensive stop and sending the game into overtime. After halting the Cahillites' offense one last time, the Crusaders found their way again into field goal position, where Kicker Aidan Grella solidified the Crusaders' championship—their second in only three years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Bishop McDevitt Crusaders Football Team on yet another State Championship victory, and wish them Godspeed in their individual and Team aspirations.

RECOGNIZING MY LEGISLATIVE AIDE, CAROLINE KENNEY, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BE- HALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Legislative Aide, Caroline Kenney, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

Caroline is a Minnesota native, hailing from the great city of Minneapolis. Upon graduating from DeLaSalle High School, she followed her ambition to Washington, DC, where she attended George Washington University. In 2022, she graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Starting in my office as an intern in her senior year of college, Caroline quickly stood out as an invaluable asset to the team. She envelops and promotes Radical Hospitality, which made hiring her as Staff Assistant an easy choice. As a self-proclaimed animal lover, she took it upon herself to write a letter to the Smithsonian Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute about the future of the Giant Panda Program when its future was still an open question. This year Caroline was promoted to Legislative Aide, a position in which she has thrived, introducing multiple pieces of priority legislation including the Voter Choice Act and the Porch Pirates Act. She proudly embodies the Minnesota spirit and greets all who come to meet with her with warmth and a friendly smile.

Staff and constituents alike know that Caroline is here for all the right reasons and is a tireless advocate for those without a platform. She's a pleasure to work with and our senior staff members certainly appreciated her keeping them updated on all the latest memes and pop culture trends. As an avid watcher of The West Wing, Caroline reflects that same good faith and passion in everything she does. Watching her grow from an intern to an accomplished legislative staffer has been an absolute joy.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Caroline all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for two years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. STEVE E. LANDIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Mr. Steve E. Landin of Laredo, Texas. A lifelong civil servant, Mr. Landin has dedicated his career to the people of South Texas.

He began his career with the City of Laredo in April 1990 and obtained an Associate's Degree in Fire Technology, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Economics with an emphasis in Fire Administration.

Over the course of his 30-year career with the City of Laredo, Mr. Landin served as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for twelve years.

He retired from the city in May 2020 and joined Webb County to serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for two years.

Then, in August 2022, Mr. Landin rejoined the City of Laredo to serve as Assistant City Manager and Acting Chief of Police. In his role as an Assistant City Manager, he oversees more than ten different departments in his current role.

This makes him one of only 22 people in American history to serve as both Police Chief and Fire Chief in their community.

He's also giving his expertise back to the community. Mr. Landin is an instructor in rescue, EMS, Haz-Mat, Peace Officer, and Fire Service.

He is also a Catholic Deacon. He serves the Diocese of Laredo at St Patrick Catholic Church in Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, let us all dedicate ourselves to public service just as Mr. Landin has.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMA GRIFFIN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Norma Griffin.

Norma was born in New York City where she was raised with her sister Rita. Norma

earned her B.A. from Hunter College and her M.A. from Teachers College at Columbia University. She married her husband, Ralph, in 1960 and the couple moved to California shortly after. The Griffins settled in Concord, California where they raised their two sons, Ralph and Steven.

Throughout her life, Norma was deeply committed to her community and empowering young people. She was a devoted educator for over three decades, teaching in the New York public school system, Oakland Unified School District, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and overseas in Japan and France. On top of her teaching, Norma was also dedicated to serving her community and was a leader in Contra Costa County. She was a founding member of the Black Families Association of Central Contra Costa County, a member of the Friends of the Concord Library, and served as president of the American Association of University Women's Concord Chapter. Norma received a number of accolades for her contributions, including the 1995 Mason McDuffie Teacher of the Year award and being named Woman of the Year for State Assembly District 11 in 2008.

Norma was a multifaceted woman with many interests and hobbies. She was a talented musician and was a member of the Schola Cantorum of New York, Oakland Symphony Chorus, and a piano student at Julliard School of Music. She also enjoyed reading, crocheting, and traveling. She visited 36 out of 50 states and traveled to six continents.

Sadly, Norma passed away, leaving behind her sons, niece Michelle Cambridge, cousin Joyce (Edwards) Palmer, longtime friend Cheryl Hazell-Small, and her godchildren Monique and Shadrick Small.

Norma will be remembered for her courage, kindness, and determination. Please join me in honoring Norma Griffin.

CONGRATULATING MR. JACK NANCE ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 32 YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CAROLINAS GOLF ASSOCIATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jack Nance, Executive Director of the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA) after 32 years of dedicated service in this role.

Jack is a proud North Carolina native, he was born and raised in Clinton, North Carolina and attended high school and college in our great state. Jack is an avid golfer and has been a huge fan of the sport ever since his college days where he played golf at Wake Forrest and even served as the assistant coach for the golf team following his graduation.

Throughout his tenure at the CGA, Jack has seen the organization grow to over 700 affiliated clubs that represent over 200,000 members. We will always appreciate the dedication Jack has shown to ensuring that golfers in the Carolinas have a great sporting experience and North Carolina maintains its reputation of the best state for golf.

Jack has worked for the CGA since 1984 and has served as a rules official, communications point of contact and a course rater, before finally serving as Executive Director, a position he has held since 1992. Jack even qualified for the 1980 US Amateur as a player. Nobody knows our courses quite like Jack and we will certainly miss his unique perspective.

We know Jack is looking forward to being able to spend more time with his wife DeAnn and his two daughters Caroline and Liza. While we are sad to see Jack go, we wish him and his family the best as he begins this new and exciting chapter in his life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Jack Nance on his well-earned retirement after 32 years of serving as the Executive Director for the CGA.

HONORING BETA PHI CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. AS CENTENNIAL PARTNER TO NCCU

HON. VALERIE P. FOUSHEE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of The Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their outstanding service, leadership, and brotherhood. Since its chartering in 1924, the Beta Phi Chapter has been a beacon of excellence, making significant contributions to NCCU and the Durham community by upholding the high standards of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Over the past century, the Beta Phi Chapter has achieved numerous milestones and accolades, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the fraternity's cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. The chapter has been instrumental in fostering academic excellence, providing scholarships to deserving students, and supporting various educational initiatives.

In addition to its support and countless contributions to NCCU, the Beta Phi Chapter has been a pillar of community service. Members have dedicated countless hours mentoring youth, organizing health and wellness programs, and participating in civic engagement activities. The chapter's efforts have positively impacted countless lives, reinforcing the fraternity's mission to uplift the community. There are many buildings and structures named after Omega men on campus and in Durham to include:

Buildings On NCCU Campus Named in Honor of Omega Men: Farrison-Newton Communications Building (William E. Farrison); H.M. Michaux Jr. School of Education Building (Henry McKinley "Mickey" Michaux); Dr. LeRoy T. Walker Physical Education Complex (Dr. LeRoy T. Walker Sr.); McLendon-McDougald Arena (John B. McLendon); W.G. Pearson Dining Hall (William Gaston Pearson); William Jones Building (J. William Jones); A. Leon Stanback Jr. Legal Clinic Conference Room in Turner Law Building (A. Leon Stanback Jr.).

Buildings in Durham Named in Honor of Omega Men: William Daniel (W.D.) Hill Recreation Community Center; Rencher Nicholas Harris Elementary School; Charles Clinton

Spaulding Elementary School; Lucas Middle School (John Harding Lucas, Sr., and House Senator Jennie Lucas); John H. Wheeler Federal Courthouse; Lowell Siler Administration Building II Lobby; Carl Dubois Hodges, Sr. Durham County Cooperative Extension; Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity (Duke University); Dr. J. Randaldo Lawson Community Bench at Hillandale Golf Course; McDougald Terrace, Durham, North Carolina (Richard L. McDougald); A. Leon Stanback, Sr. Middle School, Hillsborough, North Carolina.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we reflect on the rich history and legacy of the Beta Phi Chapter. We honor the trailblazers who laid the foundation for our success and the current members who continue to uphold the fraternity's values with pride and dedication.

On behalf of North Carolina Central University, we proudly recognize the Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as our Centennial Partner.

HONORING THE WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wellington High School football team for making it to the Colorado 2A State Championship game in only their third season with a record of 10-3. The town of roughly 12,000 residents last had a High School between 1926 and 1964. Wellington Middle-High School opened in August of 2022, choosing to honor the previous school's colors and mascot, the Eagles.

The combination of the players' determination and their coaches' admirable leadership throughout their playoff run culminated into a remarkable season. They are great examples of the extraordinary potential of the young people of Colorado.

I thank the players for setting an example that will serve as an inspiration for future generations of high school athletes. They should all be extremely proud of what they have accomplished and know that this is just a precursor for the many great achievements each of them will have in their lifetimes.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 17

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine legalized sports gambling.
SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine a bipartisan path forward for antitrust enforcement and reform.
SD-226

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the climate-driven insurance crisis.
SD-608

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Bernard Coughlan, of Il-

linois, Halie L. Craig, of Pennsylvania, and William Patrick J. Kimmitt, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.
SD-215

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
To hold hearings to examine the RE-STORE Patent Rights Act, focusing on restoring America's status as the global IP leader.
SD-226

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine trade wars and tariffs.
210-CHOB