

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DR. JENNIFER
OLSEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jennifer Olsen for her many years of outstanding service promoting the health and wellbeing of caregivers in Georgia and across the Nation. As 2024 comes to a close, Dr. Olsen will retire as Chief Executive Officer of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) after six years of impactful service.

Under the leadership of Dr. Olsen, RCI, which is based at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, has called for a robust public health strategy to support our Nation's caregivers at all levels of government. Following in the footsteps of our former first lady and RCI's late founder Mrs. Rosalynn Carter, Dr. Olsen led the call to place caregivers at the heart of our Nation's public health strategy. By shedding light on the stories and everyday struggles of caregivers and their families, Dr. Olsen also championed the creation of an Office of Caregiver Health in the federal government—an initiative I am pleased to support. Year-on-year, Dr. Olsen made tremendous strides in her efforts to improve working conditions for caregivers in every state in the Nation.

Prior to joining RCI in 2018, Dr. Olsen managed the Ending Pandemics in Our Lifetime initiative at the Skoll Global Threats Fund; co-created the internationally utilized Epihack™ process; and served as Fusion Division Director in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Olsen also directed disease surveillance activities for G-8 and G-20 summits, State of the Union Addresses, the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, and Democratic and Republican National Conventions. In addition, she advised on the development of a Federal Interagency Information Collection Plan for the 2009 H1N1 Influenza outbreak and served with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Dr. Olsen has accomplished so much throughout her life and career, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her family.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said the purpose of life "is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." Dr. Olsen has lived a life well spent, serving those who care for others. Her unwavering service has transformed RCI, enabling it to successfully carry on Rosalynn Carter's legacy on behalf of family caregivers nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing Dr. Jennifer Olsen's extraordinary career of service to

America's caregivers. May God continue to bless her and her family as she moves to the next chapter of her remarkable life.

TRIBUTE TO LESA SOBEK

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Lesa Sobek, who is stepping down from the Menifee City Council after many years of serving in that role. Lesa has been a true leader in Menifee for decades and served as an effective advocate for her community.

Along with her husband, Jim, and three children, Lesa has been a resident of Menifee, California, for more than 30 years. Lesa spent many years working for the Menifee Union School District in various roles, where she helped develop a literacy program known as GREAT (Grandparents, Reading, Enriching, and Tutoring). Lesa successfully advocated for the establishment of the Menifee Military Banner Program, which honors the community's veterans and military service members from past to present.

After serving as on the Planning Commission, Lesa was elected to serve on the Menifee City Council in 2015. She was later re-elected to serve as the Council Member representing District 3 in 2016 and again in 2020. On the Council, Lesa worked with her colleagues and city staff to support residents and local businesses. She has championed youth programs, senior citizens, and increased awareness about domestic violence and backed many efforts for Menifee's local shelter.

Lesa clearly possesses a passionate belief in public service and a dedication to the community she has served so faithfully. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Lesa's significant contributions to Menifee. I wish Lesa and her family the very best in the years to come.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, the Congressional Black Caucus and people across the country in extending my gratitude, appreciation, and congratulations to the great Congresswoman BARBARA LEE as she prepares to leave the House of Representatives.

As a friend, mentor, and collaborator to so many of us, Congresswoman LEE will be truly

missed in the House of Representatives. However, Congresswoman LEE's legacy and impact will long endure—not just in these halls, but in the lives of the people that she fought for.

I am honored to have served alongside Congresswoman LEE. Her incredible life and career connects us to so many landmark moments and shining heroes of the fight for civil rights and justice, including Shirley Chisholm, John Lewis, and Ronald Dellums.

Congresswoman LEE championed causes that were right before they were popular, causes that were difficult before they were easy, and causes that were marginalized before they were mainstream.

As we face the inauguration of a new president, there will be calls for Democrats to capitulate on our principles. However, Congresswoman LEE showed us time and time again that we should always listen to our constituents, vigorously advance our values, and never stop standing up for liberty and justice for all. We endure by championing what is enduring.

Mr. Speaker, we need more Barbara Lees in this institution. As we celebrate her legacy, may we all draw upon her courage, compassion, and foresight, and her unstinting defense of the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.

I thank Congresswoman LEE for all that she has done for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 9th to September 12th, I was unable to travel to Washington, D.C. due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 401—YEA; Roll Call No. 402—YEA; Roll Call No. 403—NAY; Roll Call No. 404—NAY; Roll Call No. 405—YEA; Roll Call No. 406—YEA; Roll Call No. 407—YEA; Roll Call No. 408—NAY; Roll Call No. 409—YEA; Roll Call No. 410—YEA; Roll Call No. 411—NAY; Roll Call No. 412—YEA; Roll Call No. 413—NAY; Roll Call No. 414—YEA; Roll Call No. 415—NAY; Roll Call No. 416—YEA; and Roll Call No. 417—NAY.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF VAN A. HURST

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank my constituent, Van A. Hurst of Kent, Washington, for his advocacy on an important issue that will impact thousands of transportation workers. This

• 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.

week, the House of Representatives will consider the Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act.

This legislation addresses a long-standing issue affecting transportation workers like truck drivers, pipeline operators, longshoremen, and warehouse managers. These workers are often required to obtain multiple TSA-managed credentials, each with different expiration dates, fees, and redundant background checks. Not only is this process duplicative and time-consuming, but workers also bear the financial burden of maintaining these credentials, preventing them from fully participating in the workforce.

The Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act cuts through red tape by allowing workers to apply existing valid background checks to multiple credentialing programs. This will significantly reduce costs and administrative hassle for these essential workers.

Mr. Hurst, a former truck driver and Teamster, met with my office to share his expertise and firsthand experience with this issue. His advocacy played a key role in shaping this bipartisan, commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as the House considers this critical legislation, I want to thank Mr. Hurst again for his leadership on this matter. It is an honor representing him in Congress, and I am proud that this legislation has passed the Senate and is on its way to becoming law, bringing much-needed relief to our Nation's transportation workers.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE LAURINE BLAKE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Laurine J. "Lauri" Blake of Bonham, Texas. Judge Blake has faithfully dedicated herself to serving and protecting our community.

Judge Blake received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice studies from the University of North Dakota in 1987. She began her distinguished public service career as a police officer for the City of Dallas after graduating at the top of her police academy class. In 1993, Judge Blake earned her Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University School of Law and was selected to serve as the Assistant Criminal District Attorney for Collin County. Over the next eleven years, she rose up the ranks to become the First Assistant District Attorney in Grayson County and successfully helped prosecute numerous criminals to keep our communities safe.

In 2004, Judge Blake was elected as District Judge for the 336th Judicial District Court in Fannin County, making history as the first female judge elected to this district court. Under her leadership, she established a rehabilitation program for parolees struggling with addiction and worked closely with Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates to protect child welfare. For her outstanding work, she received the Better Leader Award from the Texoma Council of Governments and the Texas CASA Judicial Innovation and Leadership Award. I am pleased to recognize Judge Blake today

for the positive impact she has made on our community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Judge Blake's exceptional service to the people of North Texas. I thank her for all she has done.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL C. BURGESS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, it's a privilege to recognize my colleague and dear friend, Congressman MICHAEL BURGESS. For over 20 years, Dr. BURGESS has served with dedication, determination and an unbreakable commitment to his constituents, Texas, and to our great nation.

When MICHAEL came to Congress, he brought with him a physician's expertise, a sharp intellect, and a deep sense of duty. But beyond those skills, he brought something rare in this chamber: humility and grace. Whether working on complex healthcare policies, immigration issues or standing up for his district, MICHAEL has always been a steady hand and a thoughtful voice.

I've seen MICHAEL's leadership firsthand, especially when he stepped up to chair the powerful Rules Committee. In his first act as the Rules Committee chairman, he achieved something remarkable—passing the most bipartisan rule in congressional history. That's pretty rare. In fact, I think it may be the first and only time.

But MICHAEL's impact goes beyond the Rules Committee and legislative wins. His work with families, especially those facing life's hardest battles, speaks volumes about his character.

MICHAEL worked with me and joined the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus that I chair, to help pursue legislation that would bring new and innovative care to help eradicate childhood cancer. He introduced me to Sadie Keller, a Childhood Cancer survivor and my star lobbyist. Together, we wrote a book called *Better Angels*, detailing our journey together. MICHAEL helped me give a voice to fighters like Sadie, who never had a voice in Congress. As a physician, he knew the importance of fighting for these children. His work with the Childhood Cancer Caucus has brought hope to so many, and that's a legacy we will never forget.

MICHAEL's intellect, judgment, and his demeanor will be missed. He has shown us what it means to serve with integrity and dedication.

I thank him for his service, his friendship, and his unwavering commitment to the House of Representatives, Texas, and the United States.

HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, for the last eight years, I've had the privilege and honor to serve the people of Puerto Rico as their sole Member of Congress.

During this time, we faced significant challenges. In early September 2017, a few months into my first term, Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Irma, followed two weeks later by Hurricane Maria—the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the island in over 80 years—which completely devastated our communities, destroyed our infrastructure, and produced the largest power blackout in U.S. history.

In late 2019, Puerto Rico's southern region began experiencing a seismic sequence that ended with a 6.4 magnitude earthquake on January 7th, 2020. This further damaged public and private infrastructure and left residents of the area in a constant state of fear and uncertainty.

And in 2020, like the rest of the world, we were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

These were all formidable challenges for Puerto Rico that needed to be addressed with a strong sense of urgency, and we met them head-on.

Working alongside my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we secured historic levels of federal funding to assist Puerto Rico's recovery process. These include nearly \$73.5 billion in hurricane-relief funding, \$1.6 billion to address the impact of the earthquakes, and close to \$44.1 billion in pandemic relief allocations.

As we worked to respond to these emergencies, we also had to focus on other competing but equally important priorities. Chief among them was addressing the Medicaid funding gap that provides health care coverage for 1.5 million residents in Puerto Rico.

I'm proud that during my time in Congress we were able to secure \$29.5 billion to stabilize Puerto Rico's Medicaid program while increasing the federal matching rate, more recently from 55 to 76 percent.

I'm also proud that we were able to address longstanding disparities under federal programs to help combat poverty and grow the economy. For example, we were able to include Puerto Rico in the Child Tax Credit for families with one or two children, who did not previously qualify, and secured a \$600 million annual federal funding allocation to supplement the island's local Earned Income Tax Credit.

I'm also pleased to have secured \$33.7 million in Community Project Funding for 29 local projects across Puerto Rico. And as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I supported the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, under which Puerto Rico is expected to receive at least \$2.2 billion over five years.

I've also introduced legislation to provide the island equal treatment under critical programs like SNAP, Medicaid and Medicare, SSI, and EITC.

I've led efforts to resolve our political status dilemma and end our territorial status. This is

the underlying reason behind most of the social, economic, and fiscal challenges we've faced and what allows the federal government to treat our 3.2 million American citizens unequally under federal laws and programs.

I led negotiations on the Puerto Rico Status Act, which passed the House with bipartisan support in December 2022 and would have authorized a binding plebiscite among the constitutionally viable, nonterritorial status options—statehood or independence.

This bill served as the basis for the local referendum held this past November 5th, in which Puerto Rico supported statehood with 57 percent of the votes. This is the fourth time since 2012 that we have voted to express our desire to become a permanent part of the Union.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the issues I have worked on, but I just want to thank the people of Puerto Rico for giving me the opportunity to serve as their voice in Congress.

I also thank my colleagues, who've worked with me, visited the Island, and have taken the time to understand and support our needs and federal priorities.

I thank my family, especially my husband, José, and our children, who inspire me to work harder every day.

There is much to be done and much progress to look forward to in Puerto Rico. As I begin to serve as Governor early next year, I look forward to remaining engaged with Congress to continue advocating for the Island, responsibly expedite the use of recovery funds, and foster economic growth.

HONORING DR. DANIEL N. BAKER FOR THREE DECADES OF OUT- STANDING LEADERSHIP AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Daniel N. Baker, who, for the last three decades, has served as the Director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), one of the longest-established and top-funded research institutes at the University of Colorado Boulder. In this position, Director Baker has been instrumental in advancing LASP and the university into an epicenter of space science research and aerospace workforce development crucial to Colorado and our Nation.

Director Baker simultaneously serves as a professor in three University of Colorado Boulder departments, including Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences, Aerospace Engineering Sciences, and Physics. During his tenure, Director Baker has published more than 900 papers, edited nine books, and won numerous prestigious awards for his research and leadership. He also has continuously contributed to the international advancement of topics in space physics.

Director Baker has built LASP into one of the top academic space research centers and the only one in the world to send an instrument to explore every planet in our solar system. Under his leadership, LASP grew from approximately 180 to 750 employees, about

one-quarter of whom are students. Over the years, the institute has provided hands-on training on numerous NASA missions for hundreds of CU Boulder students. Some of these students have returned to LASP as employees, while others now work at NASA centers and in aerospace businesses across the country, extending Director Baker's legacy for decades to come.

Under his guidance, CU's laboratory has helped revolutionize our understanding of the cosmos, conducting numerous important missions, including NASA's Cassini mission to Saturn, the New Horizons mission to Pluto, and SNOE, one of the space agency's first small satellite missions.

Director Baker's contributions will continue to be felt in Colorado, across the country, and throughout the world for decades to come. I want to congratulate him as he shifts to a new focus on space policy at the university and thank him for his stellar service to our community, Colorado, and the Nation.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dedicated leader, public servant, and good friend—Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS.

For nearly two decades, CATHY has been a champion for the people of Washington's 5th Congressional District and a powerful voice for rural America. From delivering for our veterans to advancing clean energy initiatives, she has left a lasting mark on our Nation.

Outside of her hard work as a Member of Congress, CATHY is a good friend. Over the years, we have joined forces in protecting the Pacific Northwest's hydropower operations and even hosted a high-turnout "Save the Dams" rally together in 2022 for the Lower Snake River Dams. I'll never forget shaking cowbells as we rallied the public behind our precious dams.

As she begins her well-deserved retirement, I extend my gratitude for all the work she has done for the Washington Delegation and wish her the very best for this next chapter of her life. I thank CATHY, for her service to our Nation and the communities across Washington's 5th Congressional District. She will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN McKEE SPRATT, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great South Carolinian and good friend. Congressman John McKee Spratt, Jr. transitioned to eternal rest on December 14, 2024, in York, South Carolina. His compassion, generosity, and wisdom will be remembered and cherished by all who were fortunate to meet him.

John Spratt was born on November 1, 1942. He grew up in York, South Carolina, a small

mill town where his family has roots dating back to the Revolutionary War. John was a precocious child, known for his inquisitiveness and curiosity. After graduating from York High School in 1960, where he served as Student Body President, John attended Davidson College and pursued a degree in history. John's peers at Davidson saw the same intellect in him as his friends did in York, and similarly elected him Student Body President of the university. After graduating, he studied philosophy, politics, and economics on a Marshall Scholarship at Oxford University before attending Yale Law School in 1966. Following law school, he served three years as an Army Captain at the Pentagon, earning a Meritorious Service Medal. In 1971, John returned home to York to practice law at his father's firm and pursue various business interests. Over the next decade, he became a leader in the York community.

John's exposure to politics came at a young age. His father was an influential figure in the York County and South Carolina Democratic Parties, and he encouraged John's participation in the political process. Although John served as a delegate to the 1964 Democratic National Convention, it wasn't until nearly two decades later, in 1982, that he pursued elected office. When Representative Ken Holland of South Carolina's 5th Congressional District decided not to seek reelection, John won the Democratic primary handily and breezed through the general election to become the 5th District's Representative. He would hold that seat for the next 28 years.

A man of profound decency, extraordinary intelligence, and an unmatched work ethic, John became one of Congress's most effective legislators. He never feared working across the aisle to get things done and perfected the art of finding common ground while standing firm on his principles. His unique ability to find that common ground allowed him to fend off challengers time and again even as the political environment in South Carolina shifted beneath him.

During his service on the House Armed Services Committee, John chaired multiple subcommittees and eventually became the second highest-ranking Democrat. His interest in nuclear issues led him to lead the first foreign delegation to the Soviet Union to tour nuclear weapons plants, and he played a central role in passing the 1992 moratorium on U.S. nuclear testing. John also played a key role in helping the Catawba Tribe gain long-sought federal recognition, bringing together Catawba leaders and local landowners to negotiate a deal that met both sides' approval.

John's proudest accomplishments in Congress came when he assumed the powerful role as the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee in 1997. When President Bill Clinton expressed support for a balanced budget, John and his friend Erskine Bowles, Clinton's Chief of Staff, were tasked with negotiating with Republicans on a bill that preserved critical investments in education, health care, and social programs while cutting government spending. The resulting Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created the first federal budget surplus in 30 years and the budget hasn't been balanced since.

When Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, John became chair of the House Budget Committee. When President Barack Obama made health care reform a

central focus of his first term, it was the House Budget Committee, with John as Chair, that helped shepherd the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act through Congress in 2010. John knew his role in pushing the bill forward would likely cost him his seat in Congress—and it did—but it was a price he was willing to pay for the good of the country.

John is survived by his childhood sweetheart and wife of 56 years, Jane Stacy Spratt; three daughters, Susan, Sarah, and Catherine; and five grandchildren. When he retired from Congress, John returned to his home community of York and served as a Visiting Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Winthrop University and on the board of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Mr. Speaker, serving in this Body with John Spratt was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. He was a friend and confidant, a colleague and counselor, a mentor and partner. His love of country and respect for humanity were always on display. He was an inconspicuous genius and the most ordinary, extraordinary person I have ever known. I will always remember his wise counsel, quick wit, and endless kindness. John represented the best of America, and America is better off because of him. We will miss John dearly, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE WILLIE EARL LOCKETTE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding public servant, Judge Willie Earl Lockette, on the occasion of his retirement as the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Dougherty County.

A native of Turner County, Georgia, Judge Lockette received his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Fort Valley State College (now University) where he began his lifelong journey as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Following his time at Fort Valley State College, Judge Lockette completed his juris doctorate degree from the University of Illinois, College of Law at Champaign.

For almost three decades, Judge Lockette has been a distinguished jurist and public servant in Dougherty County. He has built quite an impressive career, which began with his position as a Staff Attorney with the Albany, Georgia Regional Office of Georgia Legal Services Programs, Inc. (GLSP), where he litigated federal and state cases on behalf of indigent Georgians. In 1991, he was appointed as an Associate Judge of the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County, and in 1993, he was appointed to Chief Judge. In 1996, Lockette declared his candidacy for Judge of the Superior Court of Dougherty County, and won a decisive victory over a well-established, well-financed opponent. Judge Lockette's win was historic. With his election he became the first African American to win a county-wide contested election in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. Judge Lockette would go on to win six additional terms, be-

coming the Chief Judge of the Superior Court in 2009.

In addition to his legal background, Judge Lockette has served in several other leadership roles in the Albany-Dougherty County community. In 2001, he answered the call to gospel ministry and went on to become an ordained minister. For 12 years, he served as a Pastor's Assistant at the New Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Today, Judge Lockette is the Pastor of the Greater Pines Chapel Missionary Baptist Church where he continues to shepherd his congregation and serve the greater community. Additionally, for nearly 10 years, Judge Lockette served as an Adjunct Professor of Political Science, History and Public Administration at Albany State University.

In addition to his extensive career, Judge Lockette was the recipient of several awards and distinctions. He was the inaugural recipient of the coveted Dan Bradley Award for Public Service and has also been nominated for appointments to several judgeships, to include the Georgia Court of Appeals, the United States Magistrate Court, and the United States District Court.

Judge Lockette has accomplished so much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Helen Hamilton Lockette and their four children, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Southwest Georgia is truly a better place because of Judge Willie Lockette's service to his community as an attorney, judge, pastor, professor, and neighbor. His dedication and his expertise as a public servant are unparalleled, but his heart for helping others has made his life's work truly special.

On a personal note, Judge Lockette has been my friend for many years. He never told me what he thought I wanted to hear; he told me what he thought I needed to hear. I will forever cherish his sage counsel and advice which has been invaluable to me as I have served in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Judge Willie Earl Lockette upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN JEFFRIES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate Riverside County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries for his 12 years of dedicated service to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Kevin will be stepping down from the Board of Supervisors this month, marking the end of a decades-long career in public service.

Kevin has been a resident of Riverside County since 1971 and was a successful small business owner. His first foray in public service came in 1977 as a Volunteer Fire

Captain for the Riverside County Fire Department. Just a few years later, in 1980, Kevin was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of a local Park & Recreation District. Eager to improve local water infrastructure and protect residents from water and sewer rate increases, Kevin successfully ran for a seat on the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors in 1990, and on the Western Municipal Water District Board of Directors in 1998.

In 2006, Kevin was chosen by voters to represent Riverside County in the California State Assembly. In Sacramento, Kevin took on the challenging task of fighting to stop the regulatory and tax onslaught on California's small businesses. In 2012, Kevin was elected to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. As Supervisor, Kevin has made an effort to balance Riverside County's growth with investments in necessary infrastructure and public safety. Thanks to his advocacy, Riverside County continues to be a source of affordable housing, safe family-friendly communities, and economic opportunity, and is well-positioned for years to come.

On a personal note, I count Kevin as a close friend. I have appreciated his advice, humor, and support over the years and look forward to many more. I thank Kevin for his friendship, leadership, and his lasting impact in creating a better future for Riverside County.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF OWATONNA MAYOR TOM KUNTZ

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Tom Kuntz, a friend and fellow southern Minnesotan who has served the Owatonna community for the past twenty years.

In 2004, Tom was elected Mayor of Owatonna, where he found his true calling in public service. Throughout his five-term tenure, Owatonna experienced remarkable growth, with a revitalization of the city's downtown area, the relocation of Owatonna Hospital, an expanding industrial park, completion of the four-lane U.S. Highway 14 project between Owatonna and Dodge Center, and the construction of a new, state-of-the-art high school—just to name a few.

Tom has been a fixture in Owatonna for decades, fiercely advocating for the city's economic growth and development, bringing his vision to the role of mayor. A good leader knows it's not about the position, it's about listening to people. Tom listens more than he speaks, and in his twenty years as mayor, has undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of many Owatonians, displaying the kind of leadership we should show to our kids and grandkids. He is a true embodiment of who we are in southern Minnesota.

Tom not only leaves behind enormous shoes to fill, but also a legacy that Owatonna will remember for generations.

I congratulate Tom on his well-deserved retirement, and wishing him and his wife, Shelby, the best in this next chapter.

CONGRATULATING THE MACON
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOT-
BALL TEAM ON WINNING STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Macon County High School football team for securing their first state championship.

The Tigers advance to the playoffs often. They've done so 20 times in the last 55 years. But this year they captured the big Class 4A BlueCross Bowl Title after defeating Melrose 45 to 15.

Twin brothers, Zach and Gabe Borders are credited as standouts. Gabe ran for 117 yards and completed his team's only pass for a touchdown. His brother, Zach, earned MVP after his 250-yard performance, which included four rushing scores in the second half. The Tigers were fortunate to have both brothers on the field, especially considering Zach has undergone surgery and pins after multiple breaks to his collarbone.

I would now like to recognize everyone who carried the team to victory. Players included: Anthony Johnson, Cooper Carlisle, Isaac McClard, Baylon Hesson, Zach Borders, Kelby Wheeler, Bradyn Hasse, Gabe Borders, Kelen Hire, Kilian Jetton, Ty Young, Michael Bentley, Andrew Comer, Corey Underwood, Bradley Crawford, Mathew Wheeley, Hunter Jones, Taylen Swaffer, Luke Gammon, Braylon Flowers, Brennan Flowers, Jayden Cook, Michael Pelico, Braxton Boles, Tanner Gilmore, Tre McClain, Dakota Ridgeway, Hadyn Hasse, Trey Gann, Roberto Perez, Logan Tirjan, Mathew Brawner, Koen Kindle, Lamoney Mosley, Cooper East, Kade McKinney, Eli Gammon, Kellan Craft, Corbin Stephens, Dakota Hackert, Nicholas Goodrich, Owen Pitts, Dawson Whittemore, Brody Frye, Ethan Parker, Levi Edgmon, Jaxon Frye, Bo Warner, Hunter Griggs, Cooper Dunn, Emmerson Hubbard, Gavin Johnson, Ethan West, Bryson Wauford, Javier Rodriguez, Courtland Shrum, Zvi Rotstein, Colton Clark, James Clark, Aedan Hopson, Brock Buckalew, Wyatt Walrond, Ruben Valdez, Dayton Demmink-Harwood, Christian Sanchez, Dylan Stone, Jeremiah Vaughn Gilpin, Tyler Mossbarger, Gael Amaral Sanchez, Dillon Crutchfield, and Camren Miller.

I'd also like to recognize Head Coach Kyle Shoulders and assistant coaches: Isaac Belton, Lionel Borders, Sean Corbitt, Chris Escamilla, Ethan Jenkins, Ty Lowhorn, Brandon Nix, Jack Painter, Brandon Robertson, Drew Scott, Eli Stephenson, Chase Whittemore, and Spencer Young.

I congratulate all the players, the coaches, and their families. And congratulations to all who prayed over the health of the senior class.

HONORING MRS. CLEOPATRIA
PRYOR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Cleopatria Pryor, in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Pryor, known as Opatria to her friends, has been an unwavering advocate for justice, equality, and civil rights, dedicating herself to ensuring a brighter future for generations of African Americans in her community. As we commemorate a century of life, we recognize her invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement and her lifelong commitment to service.

Born on December 29, 1924, in Lafayette County, Mississippi, Mrs. Pryor grew up witnessing firsthand the harsh realities of systemic racism, which sparked her determination to fight for change. As a young mother of 11, she acted to secure bus service for Black children in Marshall County, strengthening equal access to education. Her advocacy didn't stop there. In 1966, she played a pivotal role in integrating Holly High School, where her children became two of the first Black students to attend.

Mrs. Pryor also led efforts to increase voter registration in Marshall County, traveling door-to-door to ensure African Americans could exercise their right to vote. Her work was instrumental in the elections of Osborne Bell and Lawrence Autry who served as the first African American sheriff and school superintendent in the county.

Mrs. Pryor was a lifelong homemaker known for her gardening and cooking just as well as for instilling in her children the values of justice and service she held dear. Her legacy of courage, resilience, and advocacy continues to inspire generations, especially through her encouragement for others to engage in their communities and exercise their rights.

Today, we celebrate Mrs. Opatria Pryor not only for the profound impact she has made in her community but also for the countless lives she has touched with her compassion, leadership, and dedication to justice. She is a true pioneer, and her contributions will continue to inspire generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Mrs. Opatria Pryor as she celebrates her 100th birthday. We are grateful for her tireless commitment to making the world a better place for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF HENRY C. GARRETT, JR

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Henry C. Garrett, Jr., a devoted Chief of Police, Mayor, husband, and father who passed away on December 8, 2024, at the age of 84.

Mayor Garrett dedicated over 30 years to the Corpus Christi Police Department, rising

from patrolman in 1963 to Chief of Police in 1989, earning the title "*The People's Chief*." After retiring in 1996, he continued serving his community as a three-term City Council Member and later as Mayor for two terms, from 2005 to 2009.

Above all, Mayor Garrett was a loving husband, father, and leader whose life exemplified service and a deep commitment to his community. His contributions have left a lasting impact on Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, so many of America's public servants today—especially our police officers—have a tremendous responsibility of serving our constituents and to do so with grace and integrity. All who knew Henry Garrett would tell you: he exemplified what it meant to be a public servant. His was a life well lived.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mayor Garrett's family and all who were blessed to know him. May God bless and comfort them during this time.

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND
TRANSFER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2024

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, S. 3857, the *Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act* is a technical correction to my bill, H.R. 6443, which passed out of the House by voice in April of 2024.

The bill is a traditional fee-to-trust agreement that will allow tribal members to move back onto their ancestral lands—so they can raise their families, carry forward their culture, and add to their history.

This is the right thing to do, the smart thing to do, and it empowers not government, but individuals to take new charge and best care of their lives.

I ask for passage of this bill, and I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranker GRIJALVA, and Senator PADILLA for their support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 502, on H.R. 7213.

CONGRATULATING THE BLAIR
OAKS FALCONS, THE MISSOURI
CLASS 3 FOOTBALL STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the Blair Oaks Falcons football team's remarkable achievement of clinching the Class 3 championship. They ended their

season with a 13–1 record and a come-from-behind 38–28 victory against Seneca High School. This championship is the culmination of all the work they put in and the great talent on this team.

This championship marks the sixth in program history and the fourth won within the last seven years. Coach Todd LePage and these student-athletes continue a tradition of winning at the highest level. This championship exemplifies what you can accomplish with unwavering determination, consistency, and teamwork.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Blair Oaks football team, coaches, and fans. Winning a championship is a collective effort that requires all hands-on deck. Their community recognizes and highly values their dedication and passion for football.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on:

H. Res. 863—Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 43.

HONORING TROY A. MILLER'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION AND THE NATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose dedication and sacrifice have helped to secure our Nation. I would like to recognize Troy A. Miller, a remarkable individual whose 31 years of service to this country have culminated in his final role leading U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner. In this position, he directed CBP's 65,000 employees in executing its three core missions of counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement, while facilitating \$4 trillion in trade and facilitating travel of over 410 million people through ports of entry.

As he prepares to retire, I rise to recognize a career defined by integrity, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Every time he was asked to fill a critical leadership role, he quickly answered the call and served with distinction.

I also want to extend my appreciation to his family who have supported him throughout his incredible career. I offer my sincere thanks to his wife, Jennifer, and his daughter, Alexandria.

Troy led CBP, the Nation's largest law enforcement agency, through a myriad of challenges, to include the COVID–19 pandemic, surges of migration along the Nation's borders, and hurricane relief efforts.

Among his many notable achievements, Troy confronted the scourge of fentanyl by

evolving CBP to not only match but surpass the sophistication and persistence of the criminal organizations responsible for trafficking this lethal drug across our borders and into our communities. His efforts brought together coordinated intelligence and special enforcement operations to find and intercept fentanyl wherever it attempted to infiltrate our borders—whether in cargo, among travelers, or through small packages. Furthermore, he extended these efforts beyond our borders, taking the fight to local cartel leaders and dismantling the foreign supply chains responsible for aiding the proliferation of this criminal activity.

Troy also made his mark as a true champion of the dedicated CBP workforce. He was not only a fierce advocate for the agency's technology, infrastructure, and resource needs, but also a driving force in fostering a culture that prioritized the health and well-being of its people—CBP's greatest asset. Troy recognized the critical importance of mission readiness and understood the intense pressures associated with a career at CBP. He spearheaded the development and expansion of CBP's workforce care program, making significant investments in the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of its personnel. He focused on removing stigmas, delivering services directly to employees across the Nation, and providing specialized support to help CBP's workforce navigate the tough operational situations they face every day.

Through his distinguished career at CBP, Troy made significant advancements to the national and economic security of the United States.

Between December 2021 and November 2022, Troy served as CBP's Deputy Commissioner, the agency's senior career official, responsible for overseeing the daily operations of CBP's expansive mission.

Prior to his role as Deputy Commissioner, Troy served as the Director, Field Operations for CBP's New York Field Office where he was responsible for CBP's national security, anti-terrorism, immigration, agriculture, and trade enforcement operations at two of the country's busiest international airports—John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport—the East Coast's largest container seaport in New York/Newark, and CBP's Pharmaceutical, Health and Chemicals Center of Excellence and Expertise.

Troy also served as the first Executive Director of the CBP National Targeting Center, where he expanded CBP's targeting, research, and analysis capabilities, and strengthened interagency and international coordination to screen, vet, and mitigate high-risk cargo and travelers. He established Counter Network and Counterterrorism Divisions within the National Targeting Center, transforming CBP's approach to identifying threat actors and dismantling the transnational criminal and terrorist networks that support them. Under his leadership, and pursuant to National Security Presidential Memorandum–9, the National Vetting Center was established as an interagency solution for vetting support and strategically located at the National Targeting Center. To this day, Troy's national security targeting expertise is recognized worldwide.

From 2013 to 2015, Troy served as the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Intelligence and Investigative Liaison, where he ini-

tiated an organizational restructuring in direct support of field components and border enforcement entities that partner with them and promoted initiatives to transcend physical borders. In addition, he has held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Port Director, Seattle; Director of Targeting and Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination; and Director of the National Targeting Center-Passenger.

Troy began his federal career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1993 as a Customs Inspector. He received the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2016 and was awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2021.

Troy's 31 years of devoted service to our great Nation is a shining example of a life to which we should all aspire and is deserving of our gratitude. His meaningful contributions to CBP have strengthened the organization and his legacy will be the foundation for future leaders. Troy will be missed, but we wish him well as he enters this new chapter of life alongside Jennifer and Alexandria.

HONORING MR. ALFRED WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. Alfred Williams, a pioneer in the world of professional bass fishing and an inspirational figure in the ongoing struggle for racial equality in America.

Although federal laws and court rulings of the 1950's and 1960's mandated racial desegregation, the reality on the ground in many parts of the South, particularly in Jackson, Mississippi, remained starkly different. Persistent and often insurmountable barriers continued to divide communities. It was within this challenging environment that Mr. Alfred Williams grew up, demonstrating resilience, quiet determination, and extraordinary skill that would ultimately break barriers and inspire generations.

After bravely serving our country in the Vietnam War, Mr. Williams returned home and turned his attention to bass fishing. Entering a predominately white arena, he became a trailblazer, competing in bass tournaments where he was often the only Black angler in the field. Despite the obstacles he faced, he consistently demonstrated his talent and tenacity, earning victories and accolades that spoke louder than any words.

In 1983, Mr. Williams made history as the first Black angler to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic, the pinnacle of professional bass fishing. Competing against 42 of the world's best anglers on the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he finished in an impressive 10th place, surpassing legendary names like Hank Parker, Rick Clunn, Denny Brauer, and Roland Martin. This groundbreaking achievement opened doors for future Black anglers, paving the way for figures such as Ish Monroe, Mark Daniels Jr., and others to follow.

Mr. Williams was not only a pioneer in breaking racial barriers but also a visionary innovator in the sport itself. He is credited with popularizing the use of hollow-body frogs in

bass fishing. His innovative techniques, including modifications to weight, hook, settings, and lure design, revolutionized the effectiveness of these baits. These innovations were so impactful that Snag Proof incorporated them into its tournament models, further cementing his legacy in the sport.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, Alfred Williams competed in nearly 300 BASSMASTER and FLW events, achieving four pro-level victories, more than 200 tournament wins on Ross Barnett Reservoir, and numerous Top 10 finishes. Beyond his personal achievements, Mr. Williams has dedicated himself to mentoring and inspiring other African American anglers in Mississippi and across the Nation, becoming a beacon of hope and perseverance.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred Williams' legacy transcends the sport of bass fishing. He is a testament to the power of resilience, skill, and quiet confidence in overcoming barriers and achieving excellence. On behalf of the people of Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District and the entire Nation, I am honored to recognize and celebrate his contributions to our society.

HONORING CHANCELLOR DR. PHIL DISTEFANO'S CAREER OF LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Dr. Phil DiStefano, a man whose 15 years of leadership as Chancellor of the University of Colorado Boulder and a half-century of dedication to CU Boulder have left an indelible mark on the university. I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound impact that Chancellor DiStefano's leadership has had on CU and across our state.

Phil's journey is nothing short of inspiring. A first-generation college student from Steubenville, Ohio, his academic and professional path has taken him from Ohio to the heights of leadership at one of our Nation's top universities. His journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and the potential that lies within each of us. While he may have started in Ohio, Colorado is his home today, and our state has greatly benefited from his presence.

Throughout his tenure as Chancellor, Dr. DiStefano was committed to making CU Boulder a nationally recognized research institution that shapes tomorrow's leaders and positively impacts society. Under his leadership, CU Boulder has awarded nearly 117,000 degrees and raised over \$2 billion in philanthropic gifts. Through his work in technology transfer, Chancellor DiStefano has paved the way for substantial growth in the university, including the creation of 40 startup ventures and the signing of 223 license and option agreements.

The university's research and innovation efforts have had a significant influence not only on the local economy but also on the entire Nation. Over the past five years, CU Boulder's commercialization activities alone generated a domestic economic impact of \$1.9 billion, supporting an estimated 11,545 jobs and contributing \$1.2 billion to the state's economy, and has ensured that CU Boulder remains at the forefront of research.

As Dr. DiStefano transitions to his new role as Senior Executive Director of the CU Boulder Center for Leadership, we know that his legacy of student success, faculty excellence, and campus sustainability has elevated CU Boulder to the top tier of academic institutions, making it a beacon of excellence across the country. I want to personally express my gratitude to Chancellor DiStefano for his service to our community, Colorado, and our Nation. His contributions will be felt for decades to come.

I thank Phil for his leadership and dedication to CU Boulder. It has been an honor to work alongside him.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER DANIEL T. PETERSON

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the loss of retired Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Peterson—a champion for southern Nevada's veteran community.

Chief Peterson was a highly decorated Army Veteran and unrelenting advocate for those around him.

After flying helicopters in the Army for more than 20 years, he came home to serve as Commander of the Henderson Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, be a member of the Henderson Vietnam Veterans of America, and attend as many Unaccompanied Veterans Burial Ceremonies as he could find. He also attended every Veterans Treatment Court graduation and never hesitated to offer his support to fellow veterans in need.

To be clear: it is impossible to sum up Chief Peterson's decades of service in just one speech on the House floor. That's part of the reason why I had the privilege of working with the Library of Congress for his story to be part of the Veterans History Project.

But while he has too many medals to name here, I can say this: Chief Peterson, you were a mentor, leader, a friend, a protector, and a servant to both southern Nevada and our entire country.

We all owe him a debt of gratitude, and we will all miss him.

TRIBUTE TO BILL ZIMMERMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bill Zimmerman, who is completing his term as mayor of the city of Menifee, California. Bill has been a true leader in Riverside County for decades and served as an effective advocate whose many tireless efforts to better our region will be missed.

Bill attended Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California from 1981 to 1984. In 1989, along with his wife Julie, Bill purchased a new home in the community of Menifee. After the town incorporated in 2008, Bill was appointed to serve on its first Planning Commission. He also served on the City's Parks, Recreation & Trails Commission. Bill was first elected to

serve on the Menifee City Council in 2012 to represent District 3.

In 2020, Bill was elected to serve as Menifee's directly elected mayor. As mayor, Bill has worked tirelessly to support the infrastructure and recreational opportunities required from a growing residential community. My office and I have been proud to work hand-in-hand with Bill and city staff to support these efforts with federal resources. In addition to his role at city hall, Bill serves on the Board for Boys & Girls Club, Menifee Valley Historical Association, and is President of the Antelope-Menifee Rural Center Board.

Bill clearly possesses a passionate belief in public service and a dedication to the community he has served so faithfully. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Bill's significant contributions to Menifee. I wish Bill and his family the very best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 388, my vote was mistakenly not recorded. I would have voted NO.

HONORING CATHERINE (KATIE) RICE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of more than two decades of extraordinary public service by Catherine (Katie) Rice to the County of Marin Board of Supervisors, as an aide, supervisor, and president.

Supervisor Rice has deep roots in Marin County. Raised in Mill Valley, she graduated from Tamalpais High School and received degrees in both Liberal Studies and English from Sonoma State University. After college, she worked as a journalist for several North Bay publications and developed professional skills researching complex community issues. She settled in San Anselmo where she raised her three children and became an active community leader.

An effective advocate for high-quality education, land preservation, and environmental stewardship, Supervisor Rice co-founded the Ross Valley Schools Foundation, served on the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association Board, and assisted in the creation of a master plan for San Domenico School.

In 2003, Supervisor Rice expanded her public service work as an aide to former Marin County Supervisor Hal Brown. Her connections throughout the greater Ross Valley community made her an important asset to Supervisor Brown. After helping him win reelection, he chose Supervisor Rice to lead his office as Chief Aide, a role she held for eight years. When Supervisor Brown was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2011, she was appointed to his seat by Governor Jerry Brown. She was then officially selected by voters in 2012, 2016, and 2020.

Supervisor Rice is known for her critical thinking skills and professional style, always applying informed decision making and attention to the concerns of her constituents. She doesn't shy away from complicated issues. She has taken lead roles in a multitude of initiatives, including flooding in Ross Valley and developed a keen understanding of how to work with agency partners such as the United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Always steadfast in her values to protect our vulnerable communities, she was largely responsible for the completion of major projects including Project Homekey, permanent supportive housing in Larkspur, and the establishment of the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority, which organizes countywide wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts.

It was my privilege and honor to work with Supervisor Rice. She is not afraid to rise to the occasion and embrace complex challenges from mitigating sea-level rise and greenhouse gas admissions to improving community health and reducing homelessness. I appreciate her collaborative leadership style, strong work ethic, and wit.

Mr. Speaker, Katie Rice was a tireless advocate for Marin County and her legacy cannot be overstated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my sincere gratitude for her decades of good work and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE PATRIOTISM OF JORDAN RAMIREZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the patriotism of Jordan Ramirez.

Jordan Ramirez resides in La Puente with his parents and older sister. He and his family started participating in 5K races when Jordan was 4. Their first race was at Disneyland, where Jordan dressed up as Captain America because he loved superheroes and would often talk about showing support for firefighters, police and military members.

Jordan broke a world record by doing seven marathons in seven continents by the age of 10. As he's gotten older, Jordan's mindset about showing his support to military and first responders has remained the same. When races were canceled due to the pandemic, Jordan found the walks to be another way to express that support.

When Jordan first began his appreciation walks in September 2020, his father, Dimas Ramirez, created an Instagram account to document the journey, called "thankyouforyourservicewalk."

The account has connected Jordan with many of the departments they have honored, and continues to be a means for other first responder departments' requests to build morale.

Jordan's purpose behind the walks is twofold: to thank first responders for their service,

and to show appreciation and respect for what they do. The walks are different from the marathons he's run because with those, he would "usually just run for the fun of it, but the walks . . . it's doing something else for our military and first responders."

Most of these walks are in southern California, but the walks have also taken him to San Francisco, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

Jordan is currently a high school sophomore and working on his next goals: earning a nomination to the Naval Academy to become an officer in the Marine Corps and then to become a firefighter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contributions and patriotism of Jordan Ramirez.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID WINNACKER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Winnacker as he retires from his role as Chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

David has worked tirelessly to promote public safety and improve quality of life for residents of the East Bay. David served with the Fresno Fire Department and Alameda Fire District before joining the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in 2017. David also served in the Marine Corps and remains in the Marine Corps Reserves. He has earned the rank of Colonel, serving as the Commanding Officer for the Fourth Reconnaissance Company and as the Deputy Commander of the Twenty-Third Marine Regiment.

During his time with MOFD, David has shown his dedication to mitigating wildfire risk and making our community safer. Under his leadership, MOFD developed a strategic plan to implement early warning systems and provide real-time fire spread modeling. He has worked to expand MOFD's outreach to the community, providing critical education and resources to property owners to implement fuels mitigation techniques at their homes. Further, he has worked collaboratively with local elected officials, insurance industry representatives, and other key stakeholders to improve emergency preparedness throughout the fire district. David's efforts have been critical in reducing wildfire risk and keeping residents safe.

Please join me in congratulating Chief Winnacker on his well-deserved retirement after years of outstanding service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARK ROSS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative JOHN GARAMENDI to

recognize Mark Ross as he retires from his role with the Martinez City Council.

Throughout his life, Mark has been a strong advocate for the City of Martinez in California and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Contra Costa residents. Mark grew up in Martinez, attending Alhambra High School, and earned his degree in English Literature from UC Berkeley. He went on to start Ross Company Realtors where he has helped guide clients through Contra Costa's real estate market for the last 30 years.

Mark has been a devoted public servant and has continually shown his commitment to Martinez residents. He has served on the Martinez City Council since 1996 where he has been critical in fostering a strong sense of community throughout the City. During his time on Council, he has worked to improve public safety, bolster Martinez's historic downtown, and protect Martinez's open spaces and environment. Further, Mark has spent much of his time focusing on California's environment. He played a critical role in the Alhambra Creek Restoration Project, which has helped to protect the watershed and native plant life. Additionally, Mark has served as a Director on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) board since 2001, where he has worked on reducing emissions, supporting the health and safety of Bay Area residents, and leading regional efforts to address the challenges associated with climate change.

Please join me and Representative GARAMENDI in thanking Mark Ross for his many contributions to our region and in congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

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