

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE
HONORABLE BETTY DAWSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 6, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the Honorable Betty Dawson. Born to Robert and Jane Dawson in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Betty lived a full and vibrant life, deeply rooted in the land and community that shaped her.

Raised in Santa Rosa, Betty moved to San Francisco and attended City College of San Francisco where she met Robert Haden, who she married in 1973. After graduating from San Francisco State in 1975, she attended Hastings College of Law and graduated in 1978 as second in her class, was a member of the Law Review and a recipient of the prestigious Order of the Coif.

She continued to teach legal research and writing at Stanford Law School which led to her becoming a research attorney for Joseph Grodin at the 1st District Court of Appeal. Shortly after 1980, Betty and Robert moved to Merced where they had their two daughters Emily and Margaret.

Both Betty and Robert worked together for Robert's father, Bob Haden, at the firm Haden, Dawson & Haden. Betty specialized in criminal law which included death penalty appeals, happily raised her children and was an active member of the Merced community.

Following 1990, Betty had decided to pursue the dream of becoming a Judge. At first, she was appointed as the Traffic Referee and then eventually became a Court Commissioner. Her accomplishments led to her being elevated to the Merced County Superior Court and became the Presiding Judge by 2002. Leading into 2003, she was appointed as Associate Justice of the 5th District of Court of Appeals.

In 2010, Betty was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and made the difficult decision to retire to prevent the risk of not being able to perform to her own high standards and preserve her love for the law.

Betty is survived by her husband of 51 years, Robert, her daughter, Emily and Emily's husband Oscar Sandoval, her granddaughter Delilah; as well as her daughter Margaret and Margaret's husband, Greg Stalfa and granddaughters June and Cecilia. Betty's brother Robert, sister-in-law Linda, nephew Joren and Joren's wife Joascha along with their son Swae, and all of Adelaide, Australia survive her.

She is also survived by her sisters-in-law Harriet, Catharine and Read. Brothers-in-law Ron and George, their children Sarah, John, Anthony, Andrew, George and Robert, and their children Lucas, Eva, Kayle, Antone, Gia, Callahan, Finnley and Georgie.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S
163RD RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 6, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 163rd Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 36 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 163rd Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 163rd Recruit Class.

Tristan A. Adams
Gavin G. Leo
Jessica V. Almquist
Cory G. Lobo
Matthew C. Atkins
Jason R. Mills
Jake H. Calhoun
Donald L. Montgomery
John P. Ciesinski
John T. Nichols Jr.
Jonathan R. Cochran
Zachary F. Pecoraro

Ian M. Cooke
Aidan J. Pilkington
Michael D. D'adamo
Ethan T. Ritchey
Caitlynn C. D'Ambrosio
Matthew R. Schmidt
Owen N. Donahue
Justin M. Sears
Chase L. Dunlap
Christopher M. Stevens
Zachary E. Gibson
Ben T. Tanner
Jeremy L. Guevara
Pirewa O. Tiyaba
Gabriel J. Hain
Edward N. Vasquez
Zion C. Huntley
Luke S. Wallace
Jacob P. Jones
Caden P. White
Nicholas P. Kingsley
Sean B. Whiting
Ryan J. Lakner
Nicholas J. Yount

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE
HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 6, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Home Rule Act, which would eliminate the congressional review period for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. D.C. legislation takes effect after a congressional review period, unless a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period. The review period imposes significant costs on both D.C. and Congress, but only four disapproval resolutions on D.C. legislation have been enacted since passage of the D.C. Home Rule Act in 1973.

Congress loses nothing by eliminating the review period. Congress can legislate on any D.C. matter at any time, and has done so many times outside of the review period, such as through the appropriations process.

The congressional review period (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) is based on legislative days, not calendar days, often delaying D.C. bills from becoming law for many months. The D.C. Council has had to develop a Kafkaesque legislative process to comply with the review period. The review period forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large city continue uninterrupted.

• 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.

Placing a congressional hold on D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process. D.C. residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan.

In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of my District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM ACT

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 6, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, in late 2022, President Biden signed the bipartisan Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act (“ECRA”) into law, establishing new requirements for the counting of Electoral College votes pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment to the United States Constitution (“Twelfth Amendment”). Congress intended that the ECRA clarify the sometimes-ambiguous existing federal law related to the counting of Electoral College votes, as established by the Electoral Count Act of 1887 (“ECA”). The overwhelming purpose of the ECRA was to prevent another attempt to disrupt or subvert an American presidential election through misrepresentation and obfuscation of the law.

The ECRA, like the ECA before and within it, is the result of a valid and constitutional use of power by Congress. Article II of the United States Constitution allows each state to appoint its electors to the Electoral College in “such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct,” and designates Congress as the body responsible for setting Election Day and the meeting of the Electoral College. Further, the Twelfth Amendment sets the procedures by which the Electoral College must meet and transmit their votes to Congress. Crucially, the Twelfth Amendment empowers Congress—not the President of the Senate, or any other individual or body—to count the Electoral College votes. Furthermore, the Constitution permits Congress to determine the rules for settling any Electoral College disputes, which it has done through the enactment of the ECA and the ECRA. Today’s joint session, during which Congress will certify the Electoral College votes of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, will be the first meeting of its sort since ECRA’s enactment. As such, this will be Congress’s first time counting Electoral College votes in line with the ECRA’s requirements.

It appears that Kansas’s certificate of ascertainment, submitted to the Archivist of the United States, was signed on December 12, 2024—one day past the statutorily-required deadline for such certificates set by the ECRA. It seems certain that Kansas’s certificate of ascertainment would have been signed and

transmitted within the statutory deadline but for a small ministerial error entirely unrelated to the results of the election or the authenticity of the certificate. There is no dispute regarding the outcome of the presidential election in Kansas, nor would the inclusion—or exclusion—of Kansas’s Electoral College votes determine the outcome of the recent presidential election. Despite the error, it is right that Kansas’s Electoral College votes be opened and counted today.

In the infancy of the ECRA’s new statutory order, it is not surprising that states may misapprehend or overlook the law’s requirements. Such minor lapses do not implicate the behavior that the ECRA intends to prevent—the deliberate misapplication or perversion of state or federal law to alter the outcome of a legitimate American election. In this instance, missing the ECRA’s statutory deadline for certificates of ascertainment by a single day—due solely to a ministerial error—without other evidence of election-related irregularities, and in a state that will not be determinative to the overall outcome of the presidential election, is insufficient reason to reject Kansas’s Electoral College votes. As such, Congress’s consideration of the ECRA deadline is limited to the present circumstances.

States are not, however, excused from the requirements of the ECRA, and the parties responsible for their states’ certification and ascertainment obligations should, in the future, make every effort to ensure that their duties are timely and suitably discharged.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY–INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER (IT–ISAC)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 6, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Information Technology–Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IT–ISAC).

In 1998, President Clinton issued Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PPD–63) to address the need for increasing the protection of the nation’s critical infrastructure. PPD–63 called for representatives of the private sector to represent the interests of critical infrastructure owners and operators in the development of infrastructure assurance plans. Accordingly, the IT industry responded to the direction of PPD–63 by creating the IT–ISAC.

The IT–ISAC was established by leading IT Companies in 2000 and achieved operation capability in 2001. The mission of the IT–ISAC is to grow a diverse community of companies that leverage information technology and have in common a commitment to cybersecurity, and enables collaboration and sharing of relevant, actionable cyber threat information effective security policies, and practices for the benefit of all.

The IT–ISAC is the definitive source for security information impacting the IT sector. Members gain and share knowledge, prac-

tices, and insights through trusted, confidential collaboration. A core feature of IT–ISAC membership is the ability to collaborate with subject matter experts from other companies on common security topics. Special Interest Group (SIG) members are able to collaborate through virtual meetings and work on impactful projects related to the group’s concentration. IT–ISAC has SIGs for issues such as data centers, the semiconductor industry, the election industry, insider threats, and more.

The IT–ISAC sits on the National Council of ISAC’s (NCI), where other sector-based ISAC’s collaborate and coordinate with each other. Formed in 2003, the NCI today comprises 27 organizations designated by their sectors as their information sharing and operational arms. The NCI is a true cross-sector partnership, providing a forum for sharing cyber and physical threats and mitigation strategies among ISAC’s and with government and private sector partners.

ISAC’s have demonstrated success in providing operation services—such as risk mitigation, incident response, and information sharing—that protect critical infrastructure. Many ISAC’s have a track record of responding to and sharing actionable and relevant threat intelligence more quickly than government partners.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Information Technology–Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IT–ISAC) on 25 years and thank all its members working tirelessly to keep critical infrastructure sectors like IT, food and agriculture, and elections safe in this ever-changing digital world.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Peter B. Hegseth, to be Secretary of Defense.

SD–G50