

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and extend my deepest gratitude to the courageous firefighters of Prince William County, Virginia, who exemplified extraordinary bravery and selflessness in the aftermath of the recent tragic accident between American Eagle Flight 5342 and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter over Washington, D.C.

In the face of unimaginable devastation, these first responders rushed to the scene, to aid in the rescue and recovery of victims from the cold waters of the Potomac River. Their actions, alongside their colleagues from the DC Metro Area, demonstrated unparalleled courage. Despite the freezing temperatures, they worked tirelessly through the night, embodying the highest ideals of public service.

The Prince William County Fire Department's contributions were integral to this massive rescue operation. Their courage and professionalism in such a dire situation remind us of the sacrifices our first responders make daily to protect our communities. Though this tragedy claimed the lives of all 67 individuals aboard the aircraft and helicopter, including members of our military and civilians with bright futures ahead, we find solace in knowing that these firefighters did everything within their power to bring dignity and closure to grieving families.

I thank all the heroes who showed up when our country needed them most, but also to uplift their spirits as they continue their vital work.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in honoring: Command 503 of Dumfries, Firefighter Steve Hailey, First Boat 512 Crew, Technician II James McCue, Technician II Greg Klatte, Technician II Neftali Mena, Technician I Mike Woods, Second Boat 512 Crew, Captain Mike Darabond, Technician II Jason Guimond, Technician II Jermye Lomas, Technician II Issac Brooks, Incident Management Team, Battalion Chief Rob Moreau, Captain Barbara Cafani, Lieutenant Nick Feliciano, and all brave individuals who supported their work in their unwavering commitment to duty and humanity. May their example inspire us all to serve with courage and compassion in times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Prince William County Fire Department for their outstanding leadership and remarkable contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF OSLER ARDELL MOORE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

MR. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Osler Ardell Moore. Mr. Moore will turn 99 on February 19, 2025.

Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Moore, and his second wife Billie, have been residents at Autumn Cove Assisted Living in Anniston, Alabama, for nearly two years. They moved to Anniston to be closer to a daughter and son-in-law, Rev. Les and Dani Jones, who live in Heflin. Before Mr. Moore celebrates his birthday, he and Billie will celebrate their 12th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day. The couple originally met when they were college students in Birmingham. Mr. Moore was studying to be a pharmacist and while Mrs. Moore was a Bible and religious education major, she worked in the pharmacy school.

Following the death of his first spouse, Mary Nell, Mr. Moore returned to Birmingham. In the alumni office of Samford University, he found a yearbook that covered his time as a student. He saw and recognized Billie's photo. He learned Billie had also lost her spouse, Rev. Dan Small. Months later, Osler and Billie found themselves in a Kroger supermarket with the manager who officiated their wedding, in the pharmacy on Valentine's Day.

Until retirement, Mr. Moore's life was focused on being in or around a pharmacy. As a young boy, he worked at Mr. Willis' drug store as a delivery boy. He left high school in the tenth grade. The day before his 18th birthday, enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After boot camp, Mr. Moore became a Navy Pharmacist Mate. San Diego was his initial duty station. He was selected to spend the balance of the war on Clemente Island. After the war ended, Mr. Moore was sent to New Orleans. He was Honorably Discharged June 14, 1946. He earned the Navy Good Conduct Medal and the WWII Victory Medal—American Area.

Mr. Moore returned to Jackson after his discharge. His brother John, a pharmacist and a Navy Veteran, hired him to work in the drug store. John was a licensed pharmacist and Osler wanted to be a licensed assistant pharmacist. Osler went to school and got his GED. With his GI Bill in hand, Mr. Moore attended Mississippi College, then subsequently transferred to the Pharmacy School at Howard College in Birmingham. Mr. Moore, who dropped out of high school in the tenth grade and was initially turned away as a college student, was one of the five first Honor Society students at Howard. Before he graduated from Howard, as a Navy reservist, was recalled for military duty during the Korean War. With his second Honorable Discharge and the completion of his pharmacy degree, Mr. Moore returned to Jackson and opened Southwest Drug. Later, in a business partnership with his older brother

John, Mr. Moore opened a series of stores named Southwest Drug Stores of Mississippi in Jackson, Hattiesburg and Laurel.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Moore on his 99th birthday and thanking him for his service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORPHAN DRUG ACT'S EXCLUSIVITY INCENTIVES IN RARE DISEASE THERAPY DEVELOPMENT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in honor of February marking Rare Disease Month, I rise today to reaffirm the critical importance of the Orphan Drug Act's exclusivity incentive to the development of life-changing therapies for patients with rare diseases.

Congress designed the Orphan Drug Act to provide meaningful incentives, including a seven-year period of market exclusivity, to encourage biopharmaceutical companies to take on the significant risks and costs associated with developing therapies for rare diseases that otherwise would not be developed and approved. Orphan exclusive approval generally prohibits FDA from approving the "same" drug for the same use during this exclusivity period to ensure the innovator receives adequate protection to justify the many years of investment in research and development of a product intended for a small population. This protection is especially critical in cases where there previously had been no FDA-approved therapy for the rare disease—or condition. In these instances, the unmet medical needs and the scientific challenges in addressing these needs are the greatest.

Without the exclusivity incentive in the Orphan Drug Act, biopharmaceutical companies would never have invested the resources to develop and commercialize first ever treatments for AADC deficiency, achondroplasia, Batten disease, epidermolysis bullosa, Friedreich's ataxia, metachromatic leukodystrophy, mucopolysaccharidoses, phenylketonuria, and Pompe disease, among many others. The innovators that pioneered these therapies took substantial risks investing in these unserved markets and then therefore should receive the full value of the seven years of exclusive approval.

Despite this, FDA may approve the "same" drug for the same use during an exclusivity period following a demonstration of "clinical superiority" by the sponsor of the follow-on product. Originally established in 1992 through regulation, FDA intended this condition to balance the need to "protect the primary incentive that Congress created in the Orphan Drug Act" with "the development of safer and more effective orphan drugs." In 2017, following two court decisions that concluded FDA lacked the

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