

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.) on its 150th anniversary. M.E.B.A. has been the steadfast voice of the men and women who power our Nation's maritime industry, supporting American commerce through their skill, dedication, and solidarity for one and a half centuries. On this milestone, we pay tribute to the generations of maritime professionals who have propelled our Nation's trade in both peace and war.

Founded in 1875 in Cleveland, Ohio, M.E.B.A. arose from the dangerous working conditions faced by mariners at the time. Ship-owners valued profit over safety, leaving workers vulnerable to hazardous conditions. A small but determined group of engineers, led by Garrett Douw, came together to form a union dedicated to creating a safer, more secure, and equitable maritime industry. Their vision laid the foundation for a labor movement that has fought tirelessly for fair wages, job security, and improved safety measures.

M.E.B.A.'s legacy extends far beyond its early struggles. Over the years, its members have answered the call during every major conflict and disaster. From World War II to our engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, from providing humanitarian aid to ferrying people to safety after September 11th, their resilience and professionalism in times of crisis are a testament to the values that define the American mariner.

Today, M.E.B.A. continues to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members while strengthening the American Merchant Marine. Their contributions are vital to our economy and national security, and their dedication to public service remains as strong as ever.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, congratulations to M.E.B.A. on this remarkable 150-year anniversary. May their strength, service, and solidarity continue to guide them for many years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
KATHY MAHAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Mahan for her dedicated service to the people of the Central Valley and to congratulate her on appointment as the Central California Regional Director with U.S. Senator ADAM B. SCHIFF.

Kathy earned her bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from California State University, Sacramento, in 1994. In July of 2000, she started her career in Journalism working at the Fresno Bee. She served in many roles, which included Digital Editor, Audience Editor, Feature's Editor, Metro Editor, and Assistant Metro Editor. She went on to complete her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Fresno Pacific University in 2012. For over 17 years, she dedicated her life to a career in Journalism at the Fresno Bee, leaving an undeniable mark on the company and community.

In October of 2017, Kathy assumed the role of District Director for my 16th Congressional District, serving the residents of the Central Valley. She played a pivotal role in shaping the office's outreach and operations. In this position, she was responsible for managing all district-level activities, including coordinating communication efforts, overseeing constituents' services, and leading a team dedicated to addressing the needs of the local community.

After serving as District Director for two years, Kathy became Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Jim Costa's office in January of 2019. As Deputy Chief of Staff, she served as an adviser as we transitioned to my new district, CA-21. Kathy's insight was invaluable in helping to shape priorities and positions on issues affecting Central California. Kathy's strong leadership and commitment to public service made her an indispensable figure in the office, and her dedication to the community left a lasting impact on everyone she worked with.

Kathy demonstrated the qualities of a strong leader, always making it a priority to ensure the success and development of all congressional staffers under her guidance. With her husband, Kevin Mahan, by her side, she continues to uplift the ones around her and put the community above her needs.

I invite everyone to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of my former District Director and Deputy Chief of Staff, Kathy Mahan. Her dedication and strong work ethic exemplify the true spirit of public service. Seven years ago, Kathy began her career serving the Valley and she continues her commitment to public service in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Kathy Mahan. May her work ethic, vast knowledge and unwavering dedication continue to inspire us all in our mission to serve the people of the Central Valley. Kathy's character and passion stand as a beacon of inspiration for many.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR OFFICER CARLOS PERALEZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Department Senior Officer Carlos Peralez for his service to our community and country. He proudly served our country in the United States Army for six years, with three years of active duty and three years in the reserves, before joining the Euless Police Department in April 1997.

Officer Peralez has exemplified excellence and leadership throughout his career in law enforcement. He has served in various divisions, including patrol and criminal investigations, held key roles as a crime scene technician, bicycle unit officer, and crisis negotiator for the Euless SWAT team, and served on the North East Tarrant County Area SWAT Team. His dedication to public service extends beyond tactical operations—Officer Peralez became a School Resource Officer to build strong relationships between the police and youth in our community. As a neighborhood police officer with the community services division, he works to foster trust in our community through the Euless Police Inspiring Champions (EPIC) program where he and fellow officers visit local elementary schools, joining physical education classes to build connections with students and staff.

Officer Peralez earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Columbia College and holds a Master Peace Officer certification. He has received numerous commendations and accolades, including the prestigious David Hofer Servant Leadership Award and the City Employee of the Month in September 2004 and January 2021. In his free time, Officer Peralez continues to embrace the values of community and family that have defined his career and life, including spending time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and raising cattle.

As Officer Peralez begins his well-deserved retirement, I thank him for his devoted service to protecting our North Texas community and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 28, No. 29, No. 30, No. 31, No. 32, No. 33, No. 34, and No. 35 on February 4, 2025, February 5, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 7, 2025 due to the passing of my father. Had I been present, my votes would have been:

• 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.

Yea on Roll Call No. 28; Yea on Roll Call No. 29; Nay on Roll Call No. 30; Nay on Roll Call No. 31; Yea on Roll Call No. 32; Nay on Roll Call No. 33; Yea on Roll Call No. 34; and Nay on Roll Call No. 35.

CONGRATULATING JEFFREY BUTLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate East Donegal Township Manager Jeffrey Butler on his retirement.

For over four decades, Mr. Butler has dedicated himself to our communities, both in the private sector and in the public sector. After graduating from Millersville University, Mr. Butler worked as Manheim Township's Director of Zoning and Planning, Director of Planning at Dave Miller/Associates, and Assistant Township Manager in East Donegal Township. In 2009, he was promoted to Township Manager, where he has served East Donegal since.

During his tenure as Township Manager, Mr. Butler helped with the Donegal Region's Comprehensive Plan, which coveted the three municipalities within Donegal School District. Mr. Butler has also done much to assist with parks and recreation as well as housing in the township.

As he transitions into a well-earned retirement, the community thanks and honors Jeffrey Butler for his dedication to public service.

HONORING INRESPONSE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inRESPONSE Mental Health Support Team of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I have named the team as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in recognition of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to our community.

Established in January 2022 in response to community calls for a mental health-first approach to crisis intervention, inRESPONSE offers a compassionate alternative to traditional emergency response. The team consists of a licensed mental health clinician, a paramedic, a homeless engagement specialist, and wrap-around service providers, all trained in de-escalation, social work interventions, and both physical and mental health evaluations.

The inRESPONSE team operates under a collaborative model, working alongside nonprofits, county-licensed mental health clinicians, and public safety officials to ensure that each call is handled with an individualized, needs-based approach. Recognizing that mental health challenges vary widely, the team provides bilingual and bi-cultural support, addressing issues such as food insecurity, substance abuse, housing instability, and long-term mental health treatment.

Though inRESPONSE works closely with the Santa Rosa Police Department, they re-

main unarmed in the field, allowing for a response centered on care rather than enforcement. This approach not only alleviates strain on law enforcement and emergency medical services but also reduces the potential for use-of-force incidents while increasing access to essential mental health care. In 2023 alone, inRESPONSE successfully diverted 4,976 calls from traditional police and emergency responders.

In 2024, inRESPONSE expanded to a 24/7 operational schedule, responding to 4,977 calls for service and nearly 1,000 additional calls for resources and support. The team diverted 4,301 calls from police response and 1,772 from fire and EMS, ensuring that those in crisis received the specialized care they needed while preserving vital emergency resources for other community needs.

Mr. Speaker, the inRESPONSE Mental Health Support Team has profoundly improved crisis intervention services in Santa Rosa, creating a safer, more supportive community. Their dedication to serving individuals in their most vulnerable moments exemplifies the spirit of public service. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize and honor them today.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR CORPORAL WILLIAM "BILL" NORWOOD

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Euless Police Department Senior Corporal William "Bill" Norwood in recognition of his more than three decades of service to our North Texas community and country.

Corporal Norwood's career in public service began in the United States Marine Corps, where he served honorably for six years and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He provided security at American embassies in Ankara, Turkey, and Mexico City, Mexico, and completed a special assignment in West Africa with the U.S. Department of State. Corporal Norwood's military background laid the foundation for a lifetime of leadership and service, and he has used those lessons to make a lasting impact on his colleagues and citizens across North Texas.

In June 1991, Norwood joined the Euless Police Department and quickly rose through the ranks, achieving Corporal in July 1995 and Senior Corporal in January 2015. Throughout his career, he took on roles in the bicycle patrol, criminal investigations, the narcotics task force, and as a field training officer. Corporal Norwood also served with distinction on the Northeast Tarrant County Area SWAT Team (NETCAST) as a sniper and an entry team operator. In his current role, he works as a first-line supervisor in the criminal investigation division, where his leadership and expertise continue to inspire those around him.

Corporal Norwood pursued extensive training, specializing in Identity Kit System of Facial Identification, Raid Planning & High-Risk Warrant Preparation, the Texas Narcotic Control Program, and Basic Instruction. He holds a Master Peace Officer certification and is a TCOLE-certified firearms instructor, showcasing his commitment to professional devel-

opment and public safety. Norwood has been recognized on multiple occasions, including a commendation by the U.S. Marshals Service Office in 1991 for assisting in the apprehension of a federal fugitive, recognition as Employee of the Month in July 1995 and April 2013, and achieving the Distinguished Service of the Year (Sworn) Award in 2012. As a proud member of the Euless Police Department Honor Guard, Bill has always represented his department with dignity and pride.

Beyond his professional achievements, Corporal Norwood is a devoted family man who enjoys spending time with loved ones and is an avid outdoorsman. As he begins his well-deserved retirement, I thank him for his decades of service to our community and country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT JURY DUTY FOR SENIORS OPT OUT ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Superior Court Jury Duty for Seniors Opt Out Act of 2025, which would allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service in D.C.'s local trial court, the Superior Court.

Most federal courts allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service, including the federal district court for D.C. A majority of states have similar provisions for their courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the D.C. Council does not have authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts). This bill would amend title 11.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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, February 25, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.