

Force. Ms. Nolta has excelled in both civilian service and as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Most recently, Ms. Nolta served as Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. She also excelled in her reserve duty as Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Public Affairs for the Secretary of the Air Force.

Ms. Nolta has given much to this Nation through her dedicated and selfless service. After graduation from her dream school—Virginia Tech—she answered the calling to join the Air Force and departed for Hahn Air Base in Germany. She started her career as an adjutant in a fighter squadron, was quickly recognized for her talent, and selected to serve as the 50th Tactical Wing Executive Officer. Her dedication and skills landed her in the 513th Airborne Command and Control Wing at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England as a Command Post Controller and then Tactical Deception Plans Officer.

Identified as an excellent officer, Christy was handpicked to train new accessions as an instructor at the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. It was during this assignment that Christy decided to continue to serve her country by transitioning into the Air Force Reserve. Her husband, Mike, was serving on active duty and Christy accompanied him on his assignments, continuing to balance motherhood, home, civilian, and reserve careers. After completing a five year extended active duty tour working for the Secretary of the Air Force, she decided to serve as an Air Force civilian as well as in the Air Force Reserve. She moved up the ranks within the Air Force Office of Communication, then later in Public Affairs.

In 2014, her incredible communications skills were put to good use when Christy became the Deputy Director in the Legislative Liaison Office and we all got to benefit from her hard work. Happily, on the military side, she kept one foot in the Public Affairs Office as a colonel serving as the mobilization assistant to the director. That combination served her brilliantly.

As Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Christy supported Air Force leadership by engaging Congress on programs and weapon systems authorizations, constituent inquiries, and other congressional interests. Among some of her more notable accomplishments during her tenure as Deputy Director, Christy prepared the Air Force team for confirmation hearing for the Air Force Under Secretary and currently is working the confirmation hearing for the proposed next Chief of Staff of the Air Force. She also supported more than 1,000 Air Force senior leader visits to the Hill as well as over 400 wing commander Hill visits, more than 253 congressional delegation and congressional staff trips, over 200 congressional hearings, answering 7,474 constituent inquiries, and countless other Air Force Hill engagements.

Not only is Christy admired and respected within the Air Force, she is a role model to young women of all ages. Recently the Girl Scouts honored her with these sentiments, "For caring, guiding, and helping Girls Scouts through the years and for being a good role model for girls around the world—May 2015."

Christy's family service runs deep. Her father was career Army, her husband is retired Air Force, and two of their three children have

graduated from the United States Air Force Academy. Their third child became a Hokie like her mother and father, graduating from Virginia Tech.

In July, Colonel Nolta will retire from the Air Force Reserve with 30 years of faithful service in uniform. She will continue serving the Air Force in her civilian capacity. Today, I would like to wish Ms. Noel "Christy" Nolta good luck and Godspeed in her next assignment as the Deputy Director of Staff for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank Christy and her family for their unwavering service to the nation, and look forward to their continued success.

FAA EXTENSION, SAFETY, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, five years ago we were in a similar situation with an FAA authorization coming to an end in the middle of the summer. That time we failed to act, causing the shutdown of the FAA. So while I wish we were doing more than this extension bill today, I am happy that we are not going to let a shutdown happen again.

Considering that this is only a short-term extension, this bill contains a number of good policy changes. The enhanced consumer protection measures, improvements in aviation security, and protections for general aviation pilots that are included are all the result of bipartisan cooperation. Third class medical reform is a long overdue victory for pilots. It is commonsense policy that will protect pilots' rights and promote the general aviation industry.

I have worked over the past year to ensure airline passengers are treated with fairness and respect. Simply put, if you pay for a service, you should get that service promptly or get your money back. During consideration of the House's FAA bill, I was a strong advocate for requiring that fees be refunded for baggage that was lost and delayed. While this bill does not go as far as I would have liked, it does require that passengers who don't get their luggage on time get their fee returned.

In addition, this bill works to minimize travelers' frustrations while simultaneously enhancing aviation security by expanding access to TSA PreCheck and optimizing the TSA workforce to improve long lines at security checkpoints. The bill will also make air travel more accessible for persons with disabilities, and will create a set of accessibility best practices for air carriers.

My main disappointment in this extension comes from the fact that a number of important, bipartisan priorities were not included even though they had been worked out in the bill that came through our committee earlier this year. Since work began to reauthorize the 2012 FAA bill, I have worked continuously to reform the aircraft certification process and was the lead Democratic cosponsor of the Small Airplane Revitalization Act in 2013. Streamlining the certification process will ac-

celerate getting products to market, ultimately strengthening job growth and stimulating economic activity. Aviation is an increasingly global marketplace. To compete in this arena, domestic manufacturers must certify their product with the FAA which often takes longer than is necessary. Then they have to work to facilitate acceptance of the equipment by the buyer's respective aviation authority. In recent years, American manufacturers have encountered significant delays during this process. These delays have serious economic consequences for the small and medium sized businesses that make up the multi-billion-dollar aviation supply chain.

The certification titles in the House and Senate FAA reauthorization bills are the product of bipartisan work of the committees and outreach to stakeholders. They address the current inefficiencies by driving certification and regulatory changes, requiring that the FAA be more closely involved in foreign markets, helping to gain expedited acceptance and validation of U.S. products and safety standards, and ultimately better utilizing scarce resources at the FAA and within the industry to enhance productivity. They not only advance safety, but also benefit our economy. We must ensure that the high tech U.S. manufacturing industry, and the skilled workforce it employs, are able to compete in the face of growing global competition.

So I was frustrated to learn that these bipartisan provisions, which directly translate to tangible economic benefits across the entire industry, were not included in this extension. The aviation industry needs stability to confidently allocate resources, make investments, and plan for the future. They rely on Congress to consistently provide that authority to the FAA. While I'm disappointed that these key priorities were not included, I hope that we can work quickly to find a way to pass the aircraft certification provisions in the near term.

Finally, there is a provision that was included that I have concerns about. This bill expands the look-back period for background checks and the list of offenses that would disqualify an individual from eligibility to work at an airport. We need to do all we can to increase security at airports. But I am deeply concerned that this provision was added into the extension outside the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee seemingly at the last minute and without explanation or consultation with House Members.

Mr. Speaker, on the whole, this is a good bill. But much remains to be done. I hope that in the coming months we can continue working to pass a comprehensive long term FAA reauthorization to maintain America's leadership in the global aviation industry.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT EDWARD ANDERSON

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Edward Anderson, an Army veteran of World War II who survived four months as a prisoner of war.

Staff Sergeant Anderson entered his service in the Army and served in the 28th Division of

Pennsylvania. After six weeks of basic training, he was shipped overseas on the North Atlantic Convoy. On December 18, 1944, Staff Sergeant Anderson was captured as a prisoner of war by German forces in Krinklet. During his time as a POW, he endured a forced march of over 105 miles in freezing conditions with little to no rest or food while being moved to different camps.

During his confinement at Stalag VIIA, he was exposed to harsh weather conditions and nutritional deficiencies. Staff Sergeant Anderson was finally freed in April 1945. When asked why many of the POWs of the camp survived, he explained, "we were all young, mentally tough, and in relatively good shape. We had a lot to live for."

After his service in the Army, Staff Sergeant Anderson returned to his home in Wisconsin. Family life was and still is very important to him. He spent time regularly attending church with his wife and two children, going to stock car races, and enjoyed time gardening, fishing, and hunting.

On behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District, I would like to thank Staff Sergeant Anderson for his time serving our nation during World War II and for the resilience he showed during the most dreadful times.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SARANAC LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Saranac Lake Fire Department in Franklin County, New York. The Saranac Lake Fire Department prides itself on saving the lives and property of those who it has served since 1891.

Before 1891, two competing hose companies fought the fires of Saranac Lake separately. However, realizing that the community would benefit more from joining forces, the Woodruff and Miller Hose Companies combined to form the Woodruff-Miller Hose Company and formally establish the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Since that day, the Department has worked together with the community to combat fires in both Franklin and Essex counties. This includes community outreach events to raise awareness for fire safety, a dive rescue and recovery team for lake accidents, and the actual volunteer fire fighters who form the base of the department. Their mascot, Smokey the Dalmatian, has served as the symbol for all that the company does for their Adirondack community.

Congratulations to the Saranac Lake Fire Department on the 125th anniversary of your formation. I want to wish the department and the Village of Saranac Lake continued safety and success in the future.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY SANSONE

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Brooklyn's Mary Sansone.

Mary was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where she became a prominent activist from a young age. Taking part in movements since she was eight years old, advocacy became second nature. Following World War II, she helped the Red Cross provide aid to Italians. In 1964, along with her husband, Mrs. Sansone founded the Congress for Italian-American Organizations (CIAO).

In the 1970s, Mrs. Sansone helped forge alliances between the African-American, Hispanic and Italian communities via the New York Urban Coalition. Mrs. Sansone hosted community leaders at her home serving up her famous meatballs and hoping to find common ground.

At the age of 100, Mary Sansone is still involved in causes that are close to her heart. Her birthday was recently celebrated at Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn with hundreds of friends and admirers coming to celebrate. Mrs. Sansone currently resides in Borough Park, Brooklyn, living in the same home for the past 70 years. She is a true lifelong Brooklynite.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Sansone's decades of activism and advocacy truly show what America is about, regardless of one's political affiliation. I commend her outstanding life and I am proud to honor this citizen from New York's 11th District on her 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUAN RIVERA VELAZQUEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Juan Rivera Velazquez of Kissimmee, Florida. Juan was a resident of my district. His life was cut short in the early morning hours of June 12, 2016, during the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Juan died at the club alongside his life partner of 16 years, Luis Daniel Conde. The two grew up in the same small town in Puerto Rico, and even attended the same school, Jose Campeche High School in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico.

Juan Rivera Velazquez was 37 years old.

Juan and Luis were co-owners of Alta Peluqueria D'Magazine Salon & Spa in Kissimmee where they enjoyed a loyal client base and frequently offered their services to victims of domestic abuse, free of charge. The pair were known to friends as exceptional people and a loving couple. While Juan is remembered as the shy, quieter half, driven and focused on the work, Luis was more the jokester, who was always making people laugh. They valued their clients as friends with their encouraging words, always reminding them that they look 'beautiful' and 'amazing' before leaving the salon.

Juan Rivera Velazquez will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world. His memory and acts of kindness will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

May his family, relatives and friends eventually find solace and comfort, and may he rest in eternal peace.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES "JJ" JACKSON

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Lieutenant General James "JJ" Jackson today in honor of his retirement as Chief of the Air Force Reserve and Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and thank him for his many years of dedicated service to our country.

A 1978 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Lt Gen Jackson completed fourteen years of active duty, flying tours in Europe and the Pacific before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1992. During his years of service, Lt Gen Jackson held numerous wing leadership and command positions as well as staff assignments at the Eighth Air Force and Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters U.S. Pacific Command, and Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Lt Gen Jackson also earned major decorations and awards including the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. As a career instructor pilot and evaluator, Lt Gen Jackson was a command pilot, logging more than 3,600 hours in the F-4 Phantom II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and KC-135R Stratotanker.

Through his years of service and leadership, Lt Gen Jackson demonstrated his unwavering loyalty and dedication to our country and commitment to protecting our freedom. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to thank Lt Gen Jackson for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD R. SMART

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald R. Smart of Haywood County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Mr. Smart for his service to the farmers in Haywood County and congratulate him on his induction into the Western North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame.

A lifelong resident of Haywood County and fifth-generation farmer, Mr. Smart was an