

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### VETERANS MOBILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2015.

As a Veteran with a service-connected disability, I have personally participated in the Automobile Adaptive Equipment Program (AAEP) and I know how valuable this program is to Veterans across the country.

As a mother of a toddler, I care about the safety of my car more than ever. I am committed to making the best choices for my daughter and strive to keep her out of danger.

My story is not unique. There are so many Veterans out there that depend on the AAEP to provide transportation for their families.

Safety and the quality of services provided to our wounded Veterans should be a top priority.

Last Congress, I wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urging them to reevaluate the AAEP because it does not require vendors to meet any standards of quality, performance and safety.

I am extremely concerned that this obvious lack of guidelines exposes our most vulnerable Veterans to vendors who manufacture and install subpar, low quality and dangerous equipment.

It can also lead to higher maintenance costs and wastes taxpayer money.

Unfortunately, this gap in the statute allows improper and unsafe installations for our Veterans and also puts the general driving public in harm's way.

The fix here is simple—we must have high quality and certification standards for those who provide automobile adaptive equipment, installations and maintenance for disabled Veterans.

Veterans with disabilities have earned the right to be able to have safe, quality adaptive equipment in their cars that meets their needs and allows them to live full, independent lives.

I urge my Colleagues to support this measure, and to remedy the VA's lack of minimum standards for the AAE program in order to hold vendors accountable, increase quality of VA healthcare and ensure safe driving conditions for Veterans, their families and civilians.

ELDON LAIDIG

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eldon Laidig for receiving the West Chamber's 2016 Jefferson County Hall of Fame Award.

Known for his passion for education and community service, Eldon has been a pillar of the Jefferson County community for more than fifty years. Before becoming a financial planner, Eldon spent 42 years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves and 27 years working for Jefferson County Public Schools, 25 of which were spent as a middle school principal.

In 1990, Eldon became an associate with Personal Benefit Services Wealth Management, which has been recognized by 5280 Magazine and the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Eldon's involvement in the Arvada community is unparalleled. He was named the Arvada Sentinel's Man of the Year, has served as club president of the Arvada Council for the Arts and Humanities and Arvada Rotary Club and Friendship Force of Greater Denver, as well as vice president of the Arvada Historical Society. In his five decades in the Jefferson County area, Eldon has worked tirelessly to improve the City of Arvada through community service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eldon Laidig for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

### CONGRATULATING MR. RAY JENNINGS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Ray Jennings on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement from the Bedford County Airport in Bedford, PA.

Ray began a distinguished military career in the Air Force Air Defense Command, serving tours across North America. From there, his career advanced as he gained extensive international flying experience. He later attended the Air Force Institute of Technology, Squadron Officers School, the Air Command and Staff College, and the University of Illinois, where he studied aeronautical engineering.

Next, Ray spent time helping develop and test aircraft until he was dispatched to Vietnam, where he flew 138 combat missions. As a result of his courageous service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Purple Hearts, and various Air Medals. After being shot down and rescued, Ray returned home, where he continued to serve his country admirably until his retirement at Andrews Air Force Base.

Following his remarkable military career, Ray was a member of the Bedford County Air Authority from 1985 to 2009, serving as its Secretary and Treasurer from 1994 to 2009. For the past 22 years, Ray has been the Manager of the local Bedford County Airport. Through these experiences, he proved himself instrumental in establishing the Airport as a significant, award-winning asset for the county.

Ray has also provided his extensive expertise and service to aviation and transportation

boards at the state and local levels. Additionally, he has been a member of Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, which has been a notable force in promoting economic and community development in Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton Counties.

It is my honor to recognize the selfless and impactful career of Mr. Ray Jennings, who not only sacrificed for his country but also his state, community, and family. The impact of his service is sure to live on, and I wish him the absolute best in his hard-earned retirement.

HONORING JOANNE WHITE

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is losing a treasure. After more than 41 years of service, Joanne White, or Miss Joanne as she is affectionately known, is taking her well-earned retirement. She has never been elected, she has never introduced a bill and she has never cast a vote on the House floor but she has meant more to this institution than many of us lucky enough to be called members.

It is no secret that so much of what successful Members are able to accomplish is because of dedicated staff. Staff keeps the trains moving, they sweat the details, and they are the experts on so many of the issues of the day. In her 41 years here, Miss Joanne has done more, seen more, and forgotten more than I ever will. Her experience and institutional knowledge is irreplaceable.

I am fortunate enough to have known Miss Joanne during my time as chairman of the House Ethics Committee, where she has served the past twenty five years. As a new chairman, I was the beneficiary of her accumulated wisdom and the recipient of her sage counsel. Miss Joanne is unique because of her dedication to this institution and her bipartisan service to 13 different Committee chairmen.

While she is retiring today, she is leaving indelible marks behind. The Ethics Committee reflects her warm and gracious demeanor. And, there are two generations of staffers who she taught not how to work for Congress, but how to serve in Congress. Finally, like my predecessors, I am grateful to have had Miss Joanne by my side as I navigated the challenges of chairing the Ethics Committee. She taught me lessons that I will not forget either.

I am indebted to her. Her colleagues are indebted to her. The House of Representatives is indebted to her. As she retires, I wish her happiness and joy as she spends time with her family and friends. Thank you, Joanne, for your service.

• 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2016, on Roll Call Number 496 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 847, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives about a national strategy for the Internet of Things to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 847.

On September 12, 2016, on Roll Call Number 497 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 835, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should adopt a national policy for technology to promote consumers' access to financial tools and online commerce to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 835.

## IN HONOR OF JO BARTON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jo Clough Barton. Jo died peacefully, surrounded by her family, in her home in Annapolis, Maryland on August 3, 2016. She was 85 years old.

Born Martha Jo Clough on March 19, 1931 to Sara Jo and Arthur Clough in Oklahoma City, she attended Edgemere Elementary School before her family moved to Ardmore, OK in 1941. She graduated from Ardmore High School in 1949 and then attended the University of Oklahoma where she met and married her husband Gerald (Jerry) Barton. She attended and graduated second in her class from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1955 and was admitted to the prestigious honor society, the Order of Coif. She was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1955.

Jo practiced law in Oklahoma from 1958 to 1968 for the firm Mosteller, Andrews, Mosberg (now Andrews, Davis) and later opened an independent book store in the Avondale Shopping Center. She was a volunteer at Beta Theta Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity at OU, mentoring many young women. She also volunteered in many of her children's activities and at their school. An ardent Democrat, she championed liberal causes and raised money for progressive candidates throughout her life.

She and Jerry later moved to Big Sur, CA where she served as president of the Carmel Bach Festival, on the board of Hospice of the Monterey Peninsula and opened a children's clothing store called Nana's. She moved to Annapolis, MD in 2015 to be close to her children.

She is survived by her children, Joann Vaughan, Doug Barton and Martha Doherty,

all of Annapolis MD; her grandchildren; Barton Vaughan, Elizabeth Vaughan, Christopher Austin, Robert Vaughan, Sam Barton, Alison Doherty, Caroline Vaughan Kreutzer, Sarah Doherty, Kylee Barton and Harrison Barton; and two great granddaughters; Georgina Vaughan and Caroline Vaughan.

We honor and remember Jo's memory by opening a wonderful bottle of wine and cooking a favorite meal. "Grieve not, nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk of me as if I were beside you . . . loved you so—'twas Heaven here with you."—Isla Paschal Richardson

**TEXAS RANGER—LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS****HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the year was 1839 and thousands of families were looking to settle new lands for their families across the prairies and for the Ross family, Texas was where they chose to raise their young children. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was still an infant when they moved to Texas, and he grew up seeing just how wild the land of this fledgling nation was. He was only eleven when he was involved in his first Indian fight, and through the years helped his father protect the area around Waco from attacks. Though he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become an Indian fighter, as a young man he realized the need for an education and enrolled at Baylor University.

After graduation, he joined the Texas Rangers and quickly won favor among many of his superiors, including the governor of Texas, Sam Houston. Houston gave Ross the authority to raise a small militia and Ross spent the next several years fighting against Comanche raiding parties. He only halted his service when the Civil War broke out. He fought in the Sixth Texas Cavalry division and was promoted to brigadier general in 1863, and began commanding the Texas Cavalry Brigade (later called "Ross's Brigade.")

While his health suffered during the war, Ross's desire to serve the state that he loved stayed as strong as ever. So instead of continuing to fight, his friends convinced him to run for public office. He served in the Senate for a full term, but later found that state politics were more agreeable with him, and ran for governor. Working hard to serve those around him, people would later describe his terms in office as "one of good will and harmony." But it wasn't until he left office that he started doing what he considered his greatest public service. After his last term finished as governor, he stepped right into his role as the new president of the small, failing Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Through his leadership the school was able to start growing again, and many new buildings were added on. Today that college enjoys its status as a world-class school, and goes by the name of Texas A&M University. He passed away during his tenure as president in the then-small town of College Station.

His love for the people of Texas was evident in all that he did. Whether it in the armed forces, up here on Capitol Hill, or paving the

way for Texas's next generation, he was always striving to serve his community. Mr. Speaker, I hope that every one of us here, regardless of our party or political stance, would take after his example, always viewing our time here as an opportunity to serve the great people of this nation.

And that's just the way it is.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on September 13, 2016, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5620, NO on H. Res. 859, NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3590, and NO on H. Res. 858. Also, I would have voted NO on final passage of H.R. 3590, YES on final passage of H.R. 5587, and YES on H. Res. 729.

**POLICE LIEUTENANT GARY TOLDNESS****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Federal Heights Police Lieutenant Gary Toldness for his decades of service to the City of Federal Heights, Colorado. For more than forty years, Lieutenant Toldness has been active within the community and the police department serving constituents of Federal Heights.

Lieutenant Toldness started his career in 1976 as a reserve police officer at the Federal Heights Police Department (FHPD). From there he served in various parts of the department including Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Commander. He worked his way up through the Department serving as the Federal Heights Police Department public information officer, the FHPD SWAT team where he served both as a sniper and the Commander, and as the first supervisor of the 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Team. His hard work and dedication each and every day to making the community of Federal Heights a great place to live and work demonstrates his exemplary work as a police officer.

I extend my deepest thanks to Lieutenant Toldness for his dedication and service to the Federal Heights community.

## TRIBUTE TO JAN FRANK-DE OIS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 13, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jan