

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVITA VANCE-COOKS' EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Davita Vance-Cooks, the Director of the Government Publishing Office (GPO), both to this institution and to the American people, on the announcement of her retirement from Federal service. A seasoned business executive with over 35 years of private sector and Federal Government management experience, Ms. Vance-Cooks was nominated by President Obama in May of 2013 to serve as the 27th Public Printer of the United States and then swiftly confirmed by the Senate in July 2013. Upon her confirmation, she became the first woman and the first African-American to lead the GPO in the agency's more than 150 year history dating back to the Inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln. Ms. Vance-Cooks is a trailblazer in so many ways.

Her appointment to this prestigious position was well earned. Prior to her confirmation, Ms. Vance-Cooks had capably served as acting Public Printer for 19 months, the longest such tenure in GPO history, and in a number of senior management roles since she first joined the agency in 2004, including Chief of Staff, Deputy Public Printer, Deputy Managing Director of Customer Services, and Managing Director of Publications and Information sales.

Ms. Vance-Cooks' service to the GPO began at a time of great change and uncertainty at the agency, as information technology and digital media challenged GPO to move from a primarily print-centric focus to a more content-centric one. In her senior management positions, and then as the head of the GPO, Ms. Vance-Cooks helped guide a fundamental and comprehensive transformation of the agency.

She also articulated a vision for the future of the GPO as the Official, Digital, and Secure source for producing, protecting, preserving, and distributing the official publications and information products of the Federal Government in an age of rapid technological change. Today, thanks to her dedication, and that of so many committed GPO employees, that vision is being realized.

In recognition of the GPO's successful transition to digital publishing technologies that Ms. Vance-Cooks championed, Congress passed legislation to rename the agency that was signed into law in 2014. From that point forward, the Government Printing Office would be known as the Government Publishing Office to more accurately describe its capabilities in this age of digitization, and the anachronistic Public Printer title would be replaced as well. Ms. Vance-Cooks would subsequently serve as GPO's Director, the position from which she has retired this week.

The transformation Ms. Vance-Cooks helped lead at GPO was broad in scope, and the accomplishments she helped achieve are impressive. First and foremost, she leaves a legacy of cutting agency costs while improving services, and generating positive net income for the agency while modernizing its operations and expanding the availability of Government information to the public.

She oversaw the creation of a new, dynamic website, *govinfo.gov*, where over 2 million Federal titles are available free of charge to the general public, and spearheaded GPO's move to become the first legislative branch agency to move to cloud technology. Under her leadership, GPO also became a key participant in the Legislative Branch Bulk Data Task Force, working closely with legislative branch agencies to expand the transparency and openness of congressional information.

Her commitment to expanding the accessibility of GPO products also extended to the development of mobile applications, eBooks for GPO publications, the digitization of historical issues of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and the Federal Register, and the enhancement of GPO's relationship with its 1,100 partners in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). Just this spring she offered testimony on how to strengthen that partnership by modernizing the laws that govern the FDLP.

Ms. Vance-Cooks also successfully executed an expansion of GPO's production capacity to incorporate the newest, state-of-the-art printing capabilities to deliver greater value to the American people. These enhancements have reduced the cost of printing congressional and agency documents, and provided GPO with the capability to produce next generation U.S. passports and secure identity cards for other Federal partners.

A strong believer in the importance of strategic planning, Ms. Vance-Cooks chartered a course for GPO that dramatically improved the agency's capabilities and productivity in a fiscally responsible way. Under her leadership, the agency reversed a previous decade-long pattern of requesting ever greater appropriations from Congress and achieved clean opinions from annual independent audits of its finances. It also endured an unprecedented 13-day shutdown of Federal operations without incident, and managed two employee buyouts that reduced GPO's total staffing to 1,700, the lowest level in more than a century.

It is a testament to Ms. Vance-Cooks' commitment to employee engagement that GPO was able to meet these challenges while maintaining a "best place to work" rating among Federal agencies and an "innovative agency" designation from the Partnership for Public Service. That commitment formed a bedrock principle of her leadership and was demonstrated in her quarterly town halls with GPO employees from each of the agency's three daily shifts. At each step of the way along the path of GPO's transformation, Ms. Vance-Cooks sought the support and input of GPO's dedicated workforce, and that collaborative approach paid enormous dividends.

There is no question that Davita Vance-Cooks provided transformative leadership at the Government Publishing Office, and that she rendered a great service to the Legislative Branch, the House of Representatives, and the American public. She should look back on her tenure with GPO with great pride, and we express our gratitude to her today. She will be missed, and I join the hardworking men and women of the GPO who thought so highly of her in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2017, and November 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed Roll Call Votes 623 through 628. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

on Roll Call Vote 623, on passage of H. Res. 599, I would have voted No;

on Roll Call Vote 624, on passage of H.R. 3071, I would have voted Yes;

on Roll Call Vote 625, on approval of the journal, I would have voted No;

on Roll Call Vote 626, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted No;

on Roll Call Vote 627, on approval of H. Res. 616, I would have voted No; and

on Roll Call Vote 628, on approving the journal, I would have voted No.

RECOGNIZING THE DEEP AND ABIDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which was one of the most pivotal moments in the founding of the state of Israel.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives approved a bipartisan resolution that I introduced with several of my colleagues to recognize this truly historic anniversary.

Passage of this resolution reaffirms our unbreakable bond with the nation of Israel—a bond this administration is committed to guarding and strengthening. Israel was the first country President Trump visited after he took office, and Vice President Pence is traveling to Israel next month, making this resolution especially timely.

As the Vice President works on several important issues on his trip, this resolution sends a clear message that the U.S. House strongly

• 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.

supports our national partnership, the Vice President's trip and the nation of Israel.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for their unanimous support of this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR UWE
REINHARDT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Uwe Reinhardt, a leading health economist whose work has shaped health care policy. Professor Reinhardt passed away this week at the age of 80, leaving behind a legacy of scholarship and dedication.

Professor Reinhardt was a longtime member of Princeton University. He started in 1967 as an assistant professor before rising through the ranks to become the James Madison professor of political economy and professor of economics and public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School.

Throughout his career, Professor Reinhardt became known as a leading expert in health economics. He served on the governing council of the Institute of Medicine and on the Physician Payment Review Commission, and won countless awards for his work.

Born in Germany in 1937, Professor Reinhardt later moved to Canada. He earned his bachelor of commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1964, and his Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

While I did not always agree with Professor Reinhardt, I always found him to be agreeable, and I always learned something from each encounter with him. He will be missed.

HONORING W. TERRY LINDLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize W. Terry Lindley for being honored as a distinguished community leader by Santa Rosa Junior College at their 2017 AgStravaganza.

Mr. Lindley was born and raised on a family ranch in Humboldt County. He graduated from Ferndale High School in 1976 and Santa Rosa Junior College in 1974. He retired earlier this year from American AgCredit where he was chief marketing officer and senior vice president. Mr. Lindley lives in Healdsburg, California with his wife, Misty. They have four children, Lily, Quincy, Abbi and Jake.

During his 40-year career at American AgCredit, Mr. Lindley became a respected leader in Sonoma County agriculture, business and education. Through his leadership and support, he has helped grow our agriculture education, advocacy and farm youth programs. Mr. Lindley has served many years on the board of trustees for Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) and is a longtime director of the SRJC Ag Trust Foundation, which raises

money to enhance the college's agricultural program and the 365 acre Shone Farm, where students gain hands-on experience in such fields as viticulture, livestock production and sustainable crop farming.

Mr. Lindley was instrumental in building the Saralee and Richard's Barn at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. The three million dollar "barn" is an agricultural center where students learn about the source of their food and Sonoma County's diverse agricultural community. Mr. Lindley is a major supporter of the 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Sonoma County Fair. He has provided scholarships to deserving agriculture students and is a major buyer of 4-H and FFA animals at the fair's Junior Livestock Auction.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Lindley has a strong work ethic and is a leader in our agriculture, business and educational communities. It is fitting and proper that we recognize him here today for his achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on October 3, 2017, I was unable to be present for the vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 36, offered by Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Had I been present for Roll Call No. 548, I would have voted "AYE."

I was also unable to be present for the vote on passage of H.R. 36, offered by Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Had I been present for Roll Call No. 549, I would have voted "NAY."

I was also unable to be present for the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, S. 782 offered by Mr. CORNYN of Texas. Had I been present for Roll Call No. 550, I would have voted "AYE."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
PHILANTHROPY DAY

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the National Philanthropy Day Awards held on this day to honor the millions of great Americans across the country and around my district in Northwest Florida who selflessly dedicate their lives, time, money and talents for the benefit of others.

Each year a special event is held by the Association of Fundraising Professionals to honor those who impact our community on a daily basis without want of reward, recognition or return.

The West Florida Chapter announced the nominees for this year due to their philanthropic community efforts. They include: The Ambersley Foundation; Audi Pensacola; Baptist Health Care; Terry Berling; Randy Bricker; Carol Carlan; Madrina Ciano; Cross Faith Church; Escambia County Council of PTA/

PTSA's; Junior League of Pensacola; Levin Rinke Realty; David Lorenzo; Harold Marcus, Jr.; David Peadar, II; Pen Air Federal Credit Union; Michelle Salzman; Sunday's Child; and Todd Torgersen.

This may just be a list of names to those lending an ear, but to me and my constituency this list is comprised of organizations and individuals who lead by example, inspire those around them and leave a lasting impact on our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate these individuals and organizations on their selfless acts of giving, and to thank the National Philanthropy Day Awards for hosting a day to honor individuals who give all but ask for nothing in return.

HONORING DELPHINE METCALF-
FOSTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delphine Metcalf-Foster, upon the occasion of her selection as the National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Ms. Metcalf-Foster is the daughter of a U.S. Army veteran and a graduate of Vallejo High School, Solano Community College and Sonoma State University. She served with the U.S. Army Reserve, 689th Quartermaster Unit, 6253rd Hospital Unit, 6211th Transportation Unit and at Letterman Army Medical Center. Ms. Metcalf-Foster was injured during her service in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in January 1991. She retired after 21 years of dedicated service.

As the new National Commander of the DAV, Ms. Metcalf-Foster will represent nearly 1.3 million disabled veterans. Her duties include traveling around the country to speak at conferences, meeting public officials and advocating for our veterans. She will serve in this position for one year. She has already visited the Sam Houston Training center for medical personnel in Texas, where she was stationed in 1996. She lives by the DAV motto, "I'm here to serve my fellow veterans." Ms. Metcalf-Foster is the first woman and first African-American woman to serve as National Commander.

In addition to her new duties, Ms. Metcalf-Foster will continue to volunteer with the VA Clinic on Mare Island. Vallejo, California Mayor Bob Sampayan has proclaimed November 18, 2017 "Delphine Metcalf-Foster Day."

Mr. Speaker, the Disabled American Veterans have selected Delphine Metcalf-Foster as their National Commander. As a disabled combat veteran, myself, I am proud to represent a constituent who works hard to serve our veterans. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.