

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VICTORIA MOYER
ARDEN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Victoria (Vicki) Moyer Arden on her retirement as the Fine Arts Program Coordinator at Oak Grove Union School District in Sonoma County after over 16 years of exceptional service.

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania and raised in Madison, Connecticut, Ms. Arden received her Bachelor's degree from Towson State University and a Master's in Art Education from the University of New Mexico. In 2001, she and her family moved to Sebastopol where she has resided ever since.

During her tenure at Oak Grove Union School District, Ms. Arden developed a robust and comprehensive Fine Arts program that is a model for elementary and middle schools everywhere. She is well-regarded by her colleagues, students and their families for her passion for instilling a meaningful love of art in her students. She dedicated her entire professional career to supporting and promoting quality education for Sonoma students, where the fundamental subjects always included a well-rounded fine arts program. Her skills, talent and energy helped Oak Grove Elementary receive two prestigious California Distinguished School awards during her tenure there, among other distinctions.

Her philosophy that, "arts offer students a unique language to explore ideas, feelings, subject matter, and cultures" was realized by numerous students over the years, many of whom will be grateful for this influence for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Ms. Arden's extraordinary service to our public school children, and thank her for the indelible marks she has undoubtedly left on the thousands of students she has educated over the years, as well as her own two children, Paul and Gabe, and her husband John, and extend to her best wishes on her retirement.

MCKENNA GUBANICH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud McKenna Gubanich for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

McKenna Gubanich is a student at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by McKenna Gubanich is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to McKenna Gubanich for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DOCTORS WILLIAM
DESTLER AND REBECCA JOHN-
SON OF THE ROCHESTER INSTI-
TUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service of two members of the Rochester, New York community, Rochester Institute of Technology President William Destler and his wife Doctor Rebecca Johnson, Associate of the University.

The Rochester area is home to an intelligent and curious community, thanks to residents who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of higher education. Doctors Destler and Johnson are no exception and thanks to their efforts, Rochester continues to be home to some of the finest institutes of higher learning that have produced notable alumni for generations.

Assuming the Presidency in 2007, Doctor Destler became responsible for a world-renowned university that includes nearly 19,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 foreign nations. One hundred and twenty one thousand alumni around the world are proud to call RIT their alma mater and, at one point, Rochester as their home. RIT is also the third largest producer of undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math among all private universities in the United States.

During his tenure as President, Doctor Destler recognized the symbiotic relationship between RIT and the city of Rochester, serving on multiple civic engagement boards including the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Golisano Family Foundation. Leading his students by example, Doctor Destler is an international authority on high-power microwave sources and is best known for his pioneering work in the collective acceleration of heavy ions. Under his watch, female enrollment has increased 25 percent and international enrollment has increased an astounding 120 percent. Forty-one percent of the freshman class is deaf and hard of hearing, international and African, Asian, Latino, and Native American. These numbers alone are a testament to the strength through diversity of RIT.

Doctor Destler is one-half of an unparalleled team. He is joined by his wife, Doctor Re-

becca Johnson, Associate of the University. In a time when bipartisan discussion is often contentious, Doctor Johnson has served on the committee for the Gray Matter series, which aims to promote civil discussion of divergent views on important topics. She is also the former president of the Board of Directors of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and continues to serve on the board in leadership roles. Her passion also extends to civic engagement, best demonstrated through initiatives such as RIT's 2016 "Roar the Vote." Thanks to her efforts, RIT has made impressive strides toward energy sustainability through programs like the greenRITnetwork and FoodShare.

Over the course of their ten-year term, Doctors Destler and Johnson have truly come to embody the mantra of RIT, "The making of a living and the living of life." It is with sincere appreciation that we thank Doctors Destler and Johnson for their selfless dedication to higher education, RIT, and the proud city of Rochester. We wish them the best in their future endeavors and affirm that they will always be at home in our community.

HONORING SERGEANT JOE MOSS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sergeant Joe Moss for his courageous service to our country. Sergeant Moss grew up in Kerens, Texas where he was drafted by the United States Army.

Sergeant Moss grew up in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, which I have the privilege of representing. After he graduated from Malakoff High School, he began his service in the infantry for the Army during the Vietnam War. During his brave and valiant service to our country he was severely injured. As the squad leader, Sergeant Moss' platoon came in contact with a land mine while on a maneuver. Two of Sergeant Moss' fellow soldiers were killed and several, including himself, were injured. Sergeant Moss lost both of his legs in the explosion, something that would dramatically change his life; it didn't however, change who Sergeant Moss truly was.

There is no doubt that his selfless service to our country saved many lives while in Vietnam. He has helped countless veterans returning from battle by selflessly giving his time and sharing his own experiences to mentor and support those who have fought for our country. While Sergeant Moss returned home in a wheelchair, he did not allow that to confine his tenacious spirit. Thirteen years after he returned, Sergeant Moss, along with a few friends who were also paraplegics, succeeded in climbing the rocky Guadalupe Peak—Texas' highest mountain which reaches 8,751 feet above sea level. The next day, President Ronald Reagan called to congratulate Sergeant

• 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.

Moss. Sergeant Moss is an inspiration and deserves to be honored. I know Sergeant Moss and his fellow soldiers did not all receive the return they truly deserved. So for Sergeant Moss and others, welcome home and thank you.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Sergeant Joe Moss for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

OPPOSITION OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to President Trump's misguided decision to withdraw America from the Paris Climate Agreement. This agreement, which was negotiated and signed by President Obama, was a strong step in the right direction to combat climate change. The deal developed goals to reduce carbon pollution by increasing energy efficiency and investing in energy research and development.

Joining Syria and Nicaragua, the United States is now one of three countries not participating in this groundbreaking pact of 195 nations. With this decision, President Trump has chosen to relinquish America's position as a leader in global environmental policy and thus, forfeits the United States from technological advancements and solar jobs that would drive our global economic growth. To retreat from the world stage gives other countries, such as China and Russia, the opportunity to gain universal influence.

Moreover, President Trump's decision to break America's promise on energy commitment with no plan in place to reduce our carbon footprint jeopardizes our progress toward a more sustainable energy future. Because of the lack of leadership in the White House, citizens across our nation must rely on city and state officials to lead their communities in an effort to combat climate change.

More than 200 mayors from around the United States have joined the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda to adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement as well as strengthen local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I am proud to say that Birmingham Mayor William Bell has joined this initiative.

Our constituents deserve a responsible energy strategy that meets our obligation to protect the environment for future generations. This strategy should also include a proposed plan to eradicate environmental injustice, an issue that affects many Americans today, including citizens of my district.

For example, Perry County is a largely African American community in Alabama where coal ash from around the country is dumped. Time and time again, we see that communities of color, as well as the poor, are burdened with the negative health outcomes that stem from exposure to pollution and industrial waste.

America deserves a President that will work to establish an energy policy that will position the United States as an energy independent country that also leads the world toward a sustainable future.

HONORING DR. KARI MOE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the public service of Kari Moe, my Chief of Staff for over 10 years.

When I was first elected to Congress, many of my friends and colleagues said the one thing I had to do was hire a great Chief of Staff. Kari has been more than great—she has been irreplaceable.

Kari Moe met my personal hero and a mentor, Senator Paul Wellstone, when she was a freshman at Carleton College, where he was a professor. When the college's conservative administration moved not to renew Senator Wellstone's contract in 1975, Kari organized campus protests to grant him tenure. Kari and her fellow activists were victorious, and Wellstone was granted tenure.

That event marked the beginning of a long and successful career in organizing and leadership. Soon after graduating, she moved to Chicago to work for another personal hero, Harold Washington, the city's first black Mayor.

After Paul Wellstone won his Senate race in 1990, he called Kari to ask her to join his team in D.C. As Senator Wellstone's Chief, she helped achieve many progressive victories and helped develop staffers with her signature nurturing leadership style.

Kari has exceeded all expectations in her role as lead staffer for my office. She has, perhaps more than anyone, shaped my Congressional career. She helped us serve the 5th Congressional District, advance our policy agenda, and build the work of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. We have worked together every step of the way and I have appreciated her leadership. I will miss her and know she will continue to advance our agenda in her future work with young leaders.

She will be remembered in my office for her strength, empathy and leadership, always urging staff to act with purpose, and to remember that real change doesn't come from the top—it comes from empowering people at the grass roots.

I thank her for her service and will miss her in my office.

RECOGNIZING MIKE CHRISTOPHER ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Christopher, a devoted public servant in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Mike is retiring after 40 years of dedicated public service as supervisor of Washington Township.

Mike was born March 18, 1952 and graduated from Penn State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environment Resource Management. He married his wife Andrea on May 15, 1976, and began working for Washington Township the next year as Supervisor. In 1993, Mike began serving as the Township Treasurer as well as Supervisor.

Mike is one of those outstanding individuals who is a true public servant, Mr. Speaker, and he didn't stop with working for his local community full time. He's served on numerous boards and committees in the Waynesboro area and Franklin County including the YMCA Board of Directors and Building Committee, as President of the Greater Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce, and as Secretary for the Waynesboro Area Drug Education Consortium. He is also the founder of the Franklin County Crime Solvers Board.

I am certainly not the first to recognize Mike for his outstanding service. In addition to much recognition throughout his career, just this year he was awarded the Chairman's Distinguished Service Award at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors 95th Annual Conference in Hershey.

Mr. Speaker, Mike's willingness to serve his community and Pennsylvania sets him apart as an outstanding individual and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mike on his retirement and wishing him nothing but continued success.

MICKAYLA CUNNINGHAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mickayla Cunningham for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Mickayla Cunningham is a student at Arvada K-8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mickayla Cunningham is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mickayla Cunningham for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BALDOMERO VELA SR

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of prominent Rio