

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### MIKE JONES TRIBUTE

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Jones, a Durango paramedic and firefighter, who recently passed away after 40 years of service to his community.

Mike's life of service began at Mercy Hospital where he started working as an orderly. A few years into his career, he became a paramedic with the ambulance service. In 1973, he became a volunteer firefighter for the Animas Fire Protection District and he went on to serve as the Interim Fire Chief for the district. Later on in his career, he was employed with the Durango Fire and Rescue Authority as well as the Durango Fire Protection District.

Mike was known by many for his compassion and empathy, often cooking dinner for the families of patients who had passed away. Mike's many good qualities were what compelled Durango Fire Deputy Chief Randy Black to have all new hires work with Mike. He wanted them to learn how to properly care for the sick and injured from the best of the best, and Mike was the best.

It was not just his work ethic and service to his community that set him apart, he will be remembered for his humor as well. In the early 1990s, he drove a fire truck across a bridge on the way to a fire after being assured that it could hold the weight of the truck. Unfortunately, the bridge collapsed, and the truck got stuck. As his truck was being pulled out, a photographer with a local news outlet snapped a picture of Mike grinning from ear to ear in front of the truck. For all who worked with and around him, it was an expression Mike frequently wore and perfectly encapsulated his positive outlook and light-hearted nature.

Mr. Speaker, Mike's impact on the Durango community will never be forgotten and it is my privilege to acknowledge his achievements and generosity here today. We were fortunate to have such an upstanding individual call the Third Congressional District home. On behalf of everyone in the Durango community, I would like to thank Mike for his service and honor the admirable life he lived.

### HONORING MARY O'KEEFFE

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former longtime member of my staff, Mary O'Keeffe, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Mary started on our team during my first term in Congress, serving as my foreign affairs Legislative Assistant. During her time in

our office, she advised me on a variety of policy issues, served as our lead staffer with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and helped develop numerous pieces of legislation. After leaving our office, Mary went on to work for Rep. ANDY HARRIS and now serves as the Chief of Staff for the Maryland Transportation Authority.

On a personal note, I admire Mary's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. She has been a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Mary's future is very bright. I want to thank Mary for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her and her family.

### THE FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE CORPS OF CADETS: 142 YEARS OF TRADITION

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M University opened its doors to 40 students in 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Created under The Morrill Act, which stipulated that all students participate in military training, all Texas A&M students (at that time, admission was limited to white males) were members of the Corps of Cadets.

Aggies have been serving with honor in the armed forces since the Spanish American War of 1898. During the Spanish American War, 89 Aggies served in the Army, and 63 Aggies served as officers. When the United States became involved in World War I, 702 A&M graduates served in the military, and 668 graduates were officers. Texas A&M also trained over 4,000 troops during World War I.

It was World War II, however, when Texas A&M exhibited its expertise in training soldiers as well as scholars. On December 7, 1941, students were watching a movie at the Campus Theatre. Upon hearing about the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, the theater manager shut off the film projector to announce the attack. "Beat the Hell out of Japan" became a rallying cry across campus, encouraging students to enlist. In order to speed up the process of sending more Aggies to the front lines of the war, Texas A&M instituted a twelve-month, three semester training program to prepare its soldiers. According to an article in the Houston Post in November 1942, courses were scheduled 24 hours a day to prevent crowding in workshops and laboratories. Notably, the entire graduating classes of 1941 and 1942 enlisted in the armed services immediately following graduation.

One of these individuals was Arthur Lowell Lapham. Mr. Lapham was a fourth generation Texan and a proud Fightin' Texas Aggie who enlisted on June 30, 1942. He would go on to fight for the United States in the Pacific The-

ater, serving as a fighter pilot in the Army Air Force in Japan and the Philippines. Mr. Lapham was one of 20,000 Aggies who served in World War II. 14,000 of these men were officers and twenty-nine were commissioned as generals. Close to 1,000 Aggies died in combat for this great nation; seven Aggies were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Membership in the Corps of Cadets is now voluntary at Texas A&M; however, the university continues its tradition of training men and women to serve their country through military service. To this day, Texas A&M is the largest provider of military officers outside of the service academies.

General George S. Patton once said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates, and I'll win a battle. Give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I'll win a war."

And that's just the way it is.

### HONORING THE LATE KEN GNADT, FORMER MAYOR OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

#### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ken Gnad of Grand Island, Nebraska, who passed away in September after many years of faithful service to his community.

Along with his extensive and lifelong volunteer involvement, Ken served as mayor of Grand Island from 1994 to 2002, a member of Rotary International for over five decades, and a Charter Board Member of Grand Island's internationally-attended annual farm show, Husker Harvest Days.

Born in Alma, Kansas, Ken's work in agribusiness included stints in Texas, Iowa, and nearly seven years in Taiwan where he worked to strengthen Nebraska's valuable economic partnership with Taiwan. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University and a graduate degree in banking from the University of Wisconsin.

I offer my condolences to Ken's five children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who survive him. He was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and left a legacy that touched and improved many facets of life in Grand Island and greater Hall County from tourism to education and healthcare.

Ken was named a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander by the NEBRASKAland Foundation in 2012 for his lifetime contributions to agribusiness and neighborly service to the state of Nebraska and the Grand Island community. Ken joined the Grand Island Community Foundation Board of Trustees in 2014.

On behalf of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ken Gnad for his remarkable leadership and commitment to community service. He will

• 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.

be remembered with the gratitude and admiration of many.

HONORING KYLE PIERCE

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kyle Pierce, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Kyle worked in several of my Indiana offices during my first and second terms in Congress, serving as an intern and later as a staff assistant. Kyle is a self-starter and always delivered on whatever was asked of him. He was integral to the success of many of the events we put on around the District. Since leaving our office, Kyle has gone on to work for the Indiana Attorney General, and now works at Hathaway Strategies as an Associate Project Manager. He is also currently pursuing a law degree at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

On a personal note, I admire Kyle's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. He was a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Kyle's future is very bright. I want to thank Kyle for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION  
CENTENNIAL

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, December 1, 2018 marks Romania's Great Union Centennial. It was on this day 100 years ago that members of the Romanian National Assembly gathered together and unanimously voted to unify the territories that they represented.

That same year, as World War I raged on, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Hugh L. Scott, the first American high-official to visit Romania, addressed the Romanian Parliament. Gen. Scott assured the parliamentarians that the United States would fight with them and the other Allied partners until victory was secured.

Today, Romania stands as a country that has faithfully contributed to European peace and shared the burden of our collective transatlantic security. Romania also has contributed greatly to NATO's operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and to the Alliance's capacity to defend against ballistic missile threats.

We Americans are proud to recognize the contribution of many generations of Romanian-Americans to the history and the development of the United States, and to honor their rich cultural heritage as an intimate part of the very fabric of U.S. society.

Therefore, recognizing the outstanding strategic partnership between our two nations, I congratulate Romania and all Romanian-Americans on their celebration of the Great Union Centennial.

MAJOR HOMER L. PEASE POST  
OFFICE

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R. 6621, a bill to designate the post office at 530 East Main Street in Johnson City, Tennessee, as the "Major Homer L. Pease Post Office."

A native of Johnson City, Major Homer Pease lived one of the most interesting lives I've ever seen. Major Pease first tried to join the Marine Corps in 1942 at age 13 but was turned away; so, he convinced a stranger to act as his father at the Army recruiting office instead.

After he successfully joined the Army, he then completed basic training and became a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, landing at Normandy on D-Day. He was wounded shortly after but later rejoined his unit fighting in the Ardennes Forest, the Battle of the Bulge and Berchtesgaden. When he was wounded again, the Army discovered how old he was and sent him home at 15.

He was awarded a bronze star and a Purple Heart for his service and returned home to complete high school. However, on his 16th birthday, he was again called to serve, making it as far as Fort Bragg before the Army sent him home once more. But his commitment to his country wasn't done there. He served in ROTC in high school, and at ETSU, before receiving his commission in the National Guard after college.

Even then, he still felt a calling to serve his country and later became a U.S. Army Ranger at age 36, arriving in Vietnam in March 1966. Unfortunately, on November 19 of that year, while leading a ground combat operation, Homer Pease fell on the battlefield. For the bravery he displayed, he was awarded the Silver Star, another Purple Heart and was promoted to Major.

A picture of heroism, we can all recognize Major Pease's contributions to our country and naming this Post Office in honor of his patriotism is one way to ensure his legacy endures. I urge support for this legislation.

HONORING MIKE LYNCH

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Mike Lynch, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Mike served as my top advisor in Indiana during my first term in Congress. In that role, he helped open our district office, established our constituent service operations, and managed our Indiana-based staff. Since leaving our office, Mike has worked in senior leadership roles at SpaceX, DAQRI, and now works as the Chief Revenue Officer at WaveOptics.

On a personal note, Mike is a talented leader and wise advisor that I greatly admire. We share a love of Wabash College and the life

lessons of sports. But, more importantly, we share a belief that it's never wrong to do things the right way.

I want to thank Mike for his friendship and his hard work in our office. I wish him and Lacy continued success in all that remains ahead for their family.

HONORING THE COALITION  
AGAINST INSURANCE FRAUD

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on their 25th Anniversary.

The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud represents a wide array of consumer groups, insurance companies, and government agencies in combating all forms of insurance fraud. Among these groups, the Coalition's membership includes several companies from Ohio. Cincinnati Insurance and Great American Insurance are both based in my hometown of Cincinnati. It also includes Nationwide Insurance Company, based in Columbus. These organizations work together through the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud to empower public and private groups against our nation's proliferating fraud problem.

Contrary to popular myth, insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. In fact, common fraud schemes often prey specifically upon the innocent and vulnerable. Fraud causes everyone's insurance premiums to rise, and those who commit fraud are estimated to steal at least \$80 billion a year.

I understand the Coalition has helped enact more than 100 state anti-fraud laws and educate millions of Americans on how to protect themselves against damaging schemes. I also understand the Coalition conducts research studies for decision-makers like myself to more effectively target and prevent fraud as we consider relevant policy. I am grateful for the Coalition's efforts to protect Americans from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me in congratulating the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud on 25 years of advice, education, and assistance to the American public and lawmakers alike. Truth and honesty matter.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN EPELDI

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Epeldi, better known as Marty, for his 23 years of service as a United States Postal Service letter carrier.

Marty was born and raised in our state's capital city, Boise, Idaho. Martin graduated from Boise High School and then Boise State University. He is also a proud member of Boise's Basque community. For over two decades, Marty has served our community as a letter carrier, delivering the mail 'neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of