

CONGRATULATING TOM CONNAUGHTON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Connaughton, who is retiring from Cook Medical Group in Canton, Illinois. Mr. Connaughton served as Vice President of Government Affairs for Cook Medical Group for 15 years, and has had a stellar career in public service.

Mr. Connaughton served as a staff member for Senator Birch Bayh for many years. He began working for Sen. Bayh in 1969, and in 1970, was called to active duty in Vietnam as a captain in military intelligence, where he was awarded a Bronze Star. He returned to Sen. Bayh's staff in 1974, where he served as Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee. He then served as Issues Director for Sen. Bayh's reelection campaign in 1974 and presidential campaign in 1976. Mr. Connaughton moved to Sen. Bayh's personal staff in 1978 taking on the position of Legislative Director, and later becoming an Administrative Director from 1979 to 1980. After leaving Sen. Bayh's staff, Mr. Connaughton became a founding partner and managing partner of Bayh, Connaughton, and Stewart. From 2000 to 2003 Mr. Connaughton was the President of the American Association for Homecare, and from 2003 to 2018 he served as the Vice President of Government Affairs for Cook Group. I commend Mr. Connaughton on an outstanding career of public service and wish him the best as he begins to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Tom Connaughton that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th District. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Tom Connaughton for an exceptional career and thank him for all of his contributions and service to the community of Canton.

HONORING AMY BURKE

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Amy Burke, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Amy has been on our team from the very beginning, working as our office manager and scheduler in my Washington, D.C. office. Amy is a rock star and has been making sure the trains run on time for years. She is an invaluable part of our team and her service and hard work have been unparalleled.

On a personal note, words cannot express the appreciation my family has for Amy's extraordinary commitment to us over the past six years. We literally could not have made this journey without her.

I want to thank Amy for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and Sean

continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY COTTER

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, upon the occasion of his retirement, I rise today to give special recognition to Lawrence P. "Larry" Cotter, a great friend and an outstanding, hardworking, and dedicated Alaskan. Larry has contributed tremendously to the positive evolution of our fisheries management in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and indeed the entire country. Larry has lived in Alaska and worked in the commercial fishing industry since 1974. He spent over four years as a seafood processing worker in Juneau, and eight years as a labor organizer and representative for seafood processing workers and longshoremen. Larry served on the Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for six years and then as a voting member of the Council for an additional six years. The time of Larry's service on the Council was during the transition years when foreign fishing was being phased out, our U.S. domestic fishing and processing capabilities were stepping up to replace the foreign fleets, and allocation issues among U.S. fisheries interests were first coming to the forefront. These were difficult, challenging, and exciting times—during which Larry was chair of several committees, including the Bycatch Committee and Crab Management Committee. Larry also served as chair of the Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee and Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute's Responsible Fisheries Management Committee.

Most recently, until late this year, Larry has served as founding CEO of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Group, known as the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, or "APICDA." It is in this area of service to APICDA and his helping to develop, implement and sustain, not only APICDA, but the entire CDQ program, that Larry did perhaps his best work, accomplishing goals that will have positive impacts on Western Alaskan Communities for generations to come. Larry's work on the formation of Alaska's CDQ program has benefited all of the participating communities and his more than twenty-five years with APICDA has helped to develop the workforce, build infrastructure, and improve the economy throughout the Western Alaska Region.

Larry's longtime leadership in the seafood industry has helped to guide and shape the policies and programs that many enjoy today. Many observers, myself included, have correctly noted that Alaska has the best managed fisheries in the country, perhaps in the world, and I know we could not have achieved that status without Larry's tireless dedication and devotion to making our seafood industry sustainable for the long haul. Thank you Larry for your tremendous contributions to sustainable fisheries and to the participation of our coastal communities in those fisheries. Enjoy your retirement, and best of luck in your continuing endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ARYA KARNIK

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arya Karnik. Arya and his fellow teammates created the winning app in Iowa's Third District for the Congressional App Challenge 2018. Their team attends Waukee High School and Prairie View Middle School in Waukee, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress for their district. The team's app was entitled "FastLane." It was designed to give students and parents information about their bus routes, bus delays and assist with changing routes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Arya for creating the winning app with his team. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Arya and wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING JENNA KNEPPER

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Jenna Knepper, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Jenna worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving as our political director. Jenna has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our organization. She brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team and was someone I could rely on for on the ground political advice.

On a personal note, Jenna is one of the most positive people I have ever met. She is the kind of leader that makes every team better. And, I have no doubt that her biggest achievements lie ahead.

I want to thank Jenna for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her family.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968

### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great joy and honor to commemorate the impact of The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of The Civil Rights Act. We owe a huge part of this monumental legislation to the Civil Rights workers, President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Congress. Their dedication to ensure equality will never be in vain or forgotten. I

would also like to thank the West Georgia Board of Realtors for taking the time to honor the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Not only do they honor the Fair Housing Act today, they honor it every single day while they serve the citizens of Georgia.

In the midst of a national mourning, The Fair Housing Act landed on President Lyndon B. Johnson's desk just a week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The Fair Housing Act allowed Americans to become home owners no matter their race, religion, sex, or national origin. This had a large impact on the African American community, this allowed them to become first-time home owners. Thus, providing better care for themselves and family.

This Act represents a big triumph for the people, to be heard and to promote the change of an unjust environment. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I am proud of what we have achieved. In 1988 Congress amended the Fair Housing Act to protect disabled citizens and familial status. We have come a long way, but our fight must continue. We must never forget the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and continue to be a champion for justice and equality for all.

---

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 16 DAYS  
OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE

---

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a campaign to raise awareness and spur action to end violence against women and girls.

Over the past year, with the explosion of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements, women around the world have come forward with their own harrowing stories of sexual violence—an abuse of power that often causes emotional and physical distress and harms their ability to care for their family. One in three women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes, ranging from sexual violence and human trafficking to harmful practices like child marriage. The statistics are staggering—nearly 39,000 girls under 18 are married each day and over 200 million women and girls have been subjected to female genital mutilation.

Gender-based violence continues to hold women back from reaching their full potential. In 2012, the United States government released the Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, marking ending violence against women and girls as top diplomatic and foreign assistance priorities. On the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, let's reinforce our commitment to ensuring the safety of women and girls and recommit to women's empowerment worldwide.

Remember this: when women and girls succeed, their nations succeed.

HONORING JAKE VREEBURG

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Jake Vreeburg, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Jake has been a part of our team for the past four years, first as our Legislative Director and then as the Staff Director for the House Republican Policy Committee. Jake writes, reviews, and edits the Legislative Digest, a daily summary of legislation considered by the House of Representatives and distributed to 2,500 staff and Members. As Legislative Director, he led efforts to build support for programs, bills, and events that advanced my legislative agenda. Jake has been a close confidant and trusted adviser throughout my time in Congress.

On a personal note, Jake is a gifted leader who was far more than an advisor to me. He is my friend. I admire Jake's integrity, persistence and loyalty. I wish Jake continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Jake's biggest impact on our nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Jake on in those efforts.

---

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EQ-  
UIITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill, the Federal Government Advertising Equity Accountability Act, to require all federal agencies to include in their annual budget requests to Congress the amount they spend on advertising contracts with small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs) and businesses owned by minorities and women. Federal agencies would be required to provide prior, current, and projected total expenditures for advertising contracts.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined spending on advertising contracts with minority-owned businesses by five agencies—the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—and found that only five percent of the \$4.3 billion available for advertising contracts went to minority businesses. In light of these concerning figures, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the GAO in April 2016 requesting updated information on the amount of federal advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. That GAO report, released in July of this year, showed that in fiscal year 2017, only 16 percent of the federal government's advertising contract obligations went to SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women.

The federal government is the largest advertiser in the United States, and it has an obligation to ensure fair access to its contracts for

SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. The GAO's findings make it clear that there is still much progress to be made.

The regular collection of information on federal advertising contract obligations to SDBs and businesses owned by women and minorities, along with the provision of this information to legislators and stakeholders, is essential to bridging the divide between current statistics and a more inclusive advertising landscape. My bill would achieve these goals while also promoting transparency and encouraging federal agencies to strive to reach minorities, who often receive their daily news from smaller media outlets that serve communities of color. The requirement that agencies submit prior, current, and projected information regarding the amount of advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women will allow federal agencies to evaluate their progress over time. The regular collection of this information will also demonstrate that the promotion of equity in advertising, and in all areas of government, should be a continuous effort that is central to the mission of every agency.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

---

CONGRATULATING GARY PERINAR  
ON RECEIVING THE GEORGE  
MEANY AWARD

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 3, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Perinar who is being honored with the George Meany Award in recognition of his incredible contributions to the community and the working families of union trades. Mr. Perinar currently serves as executive secretary-treasurer of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, which consists of more than 30,000 workers pursuing careers in the trades.

Mr. Perinar completed his apprenticeship with the Carpenters Local 174 before going on to become a 40-year member as a third-generation business representative of the union. During Mr. Perinar's stellar career he has taken on multiple roles, such as becoming a full-time business representative at the age of 32 and then assistant to the president. In addition, Mr. Perinar performed multiple leadership roles on various committees and boards while serving as both a vice president and a delegate on the Regional Council. Under the leadership of Mr. Perinar, an emphasis was placed on both character and skills development in order to embody responsible citizenship. Mr. Perinar recognizes the investment that must be made in young people looking to build a career in the trades and I would like to congratulate him on all his efforts and accomplishments.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Mr. Gary Perinar that I am especially proud to serve Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Mr. Gary Perinar on earning the George Meany Award for his exceptional service and thank him for all his contributions to the community.