

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF THE MAFFS MISSION SUPPORTED BY THE 302D AIRLIFT WING AT PETERSON AFB, CO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Citizen Airmen serving in the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing, Air at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Today I recognize their 25 years of dedicated support of the Department of Defense's C-130 Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS mission.

In 1993, the Air Force Reserve portion of the MAFFS mission was moved to the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado from March Air Force Base, California.

On October 28, 1993, two aircrews from the 302nd Airlift Wing's 731st Airlift Squadron and maintenance personnel from the 302nd Maintenance Group departed for Point Mugu Naval Air Warfare Center, California for their first MAFFS activation.

Since that first activation, hundreds of Reserve Citizen Airmen have trained, supported and executed the Defense Support of Civil Authorities Mission assisting in the tireless efforts of ground firefighting crews through reaching inaccessible areas by air, supporting the containment of hundreds of wildland fires and saving lives and property throughout the United States of America and Mexico.

In addition to supporting fire suppression efforts across the U.S., 302d Airlift Wing Reservists have responded to fires in their own backyards supporting suppression of major Colorado fires including the Hayman fire (2002), Waldo Canyon fire (2012) and Black Forest fire (2013).

Innovation is in their DNA, and it comes from the diverse experiences our Reserve Citizen Airmen bring to the mission. We honor all who work tirelessly to support and make this special mission possible both in the air and on the ground. We recognize the hundreds of hours of labor expended by the Reserve aircraft maintenance crews who ensure the MAFFS-equipped C-130s, call-signs MAFFS 2 and MAFFS 5, are mission ready. We honor the highly-experienced Air Force Reserve aircrews flying one of the most challenging missions in the U.S. Air Force.

When not supporting the wildland firefighting mission, the 302nd is always ready to answer our nation's call with the agility to shift to its tactical airlift mission supporting rapid global mobility.

Today, it is also important to remember the six Reserve Citizen Airmen who lost their lives in support of the MAFFS mission, specifically the crew of SUMIT 38, a MAFFS support mission from Boise, Idaho that did not make it back to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado on May 13, 1995; and four members of the crew of MAFFS 7 from the 146th Airlift Wing, North

Carolina Air National Guard who were lost during a MAFFS mission in White Draw, South Dakota on July 1, 2012.

Today, the Reserve Citizen Airmen from Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base along with their Air National Guard counterparts continue to provide the surge support to wildland firefighting efforts when requested by the National Interagency Fire Center at a moment's notice. To make it happen, we seek the best and brightest minds from across the nation to fill critical career fields such as Air Force Reserve pilots and maintenance technicians.

Today, in 2018, the continued bravery, sacrifice, expertise and dedication to this mission by our Reserve Citizen Airmen has allowed for 25 years of unwavering support of the MAFFS mission by the Air Force Reserve at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA LINKER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a very special member of my community. For as long as I have been involved in working for Arizona, Paula Linker has been a friend and supporter. Those who know Paula admire her for her courage and determination. She is forthright and dependable. She works every single day to make sure that the causes and people she cares for most have all the support she has to give. And, it is in that spirit that I am so pleased she is being awarded the Lincoln Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maricopa County Republican Committee.

The community celebrates Paula, and it is with great enthusiasm that I include these remarks into the RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM AND THE GLOBAL THREAT TO FREE SPEECH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we held a hearing on China's digital authoritarianism. China has the world's largest number of internet users as well as the world's most sophisticated and aggressive internet censorship and control regime. The Chinese government, under the leadership of Xi Jinping, views digital controls as necessary for its political stability and control of core digital technologies as necessary for its economic future.

The Chinese government spends \$10 billion on maintaining and improving their censorship

apparatus. The U.S. government has an annual internet freedom budget of \$55 million and Congress still has little idea how this money is spent.

Over the past year or so, Chinese companies were ordered to close websites that hosted discussions on the military, history, and international affairs and crack down on "illegal" VPNs (in response, Apple was forced to remove VPNs from the China App store). New regulations were announced restricting anonymity online and the Chinese government rolled out impressive new censorship technologies, censoring photos in one-to-one WeChat discussions and disrupting WhatsApp.

Beijing has also deployed facial and voice recognition, artificial intelligence, and other surveillance technologies throughout the country, but particularly targeting the Uyghur ethnic minority, where between 500,000 to 1 million Uyghurs have been detained arbitrarily.

The Chinese government and Communist Party's attempts to enforce and export a digital authoritarianism poses a direct threat to Chinese rights defenders and ethnic minorities and poses a direct challenge to the interests of the U.S. and the international community.

The U.S. must recognize that we are engaged in a battle of ideas with a revitalized authoritarianism—online, in the marketplace, and elsewhere—and we need up our "competitive game" to meet the challenge.

The Administration's National Security Strategy says quite clearly that the Chinese government and Communist Party (along with Russia) seek to "challenge American power, influence, and interests, attempting to erode American security and prosperity. They are determined to make economies less free and less fair, to grow their militaries, and to control information and data to repress their societies and expand their influence."

[The Chinese government and Communist Party] is using economic inducements and penalties, influence operations, and implied military threats to persuade other states to heed its political and security agenda. . . China gathers and exploits data on an unrivaled scale and spreads features of its authoritarian system, including corruption and the use of surveillance."

The Chinese government and Communist Party want to shape a world antithetical to U.S. values and interests and to export its economic, political, and censorship models globally.

In response, the U.S. and like-minded allies must stand resolutely for the freedom of religion, fairer and freer trade, labor rights, freedom of navigation, the rule of law and the freedom of expression—including online.

A coherent and engaged internet freedom strategy must be a critical part of the U.S. diplomatic toolbox. This strategy should have at its core a commitment to protect fundamental freedoms, privacy, and promote the free flow of news and information.

But it is not a matter of just having a strategy; it should be the right one. The Bush and Obama Administrations pursued cyber diplomacy; yet internet freedom has declined

• 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.

around the world, privacy is increasingly under threat, and the free flow of information has become more endangered.

The right strategy must start with some humility. Cyberspace is a place to spread democratic ideals and a place where criminals, extremists, corporations, traffickers, and governments exploit vulnerabilities with impunity. Online communication can convey our highest ideals and our worst fears. It can shine a light on repression and be the source of hatred, manipulation, fake news, coercion, and conflict. It can bring people together or push us apart.

Despite all this, I agree with the NSS's conclusions which says, "The Internet is an American invention, and it should reflect our values as it continues to transform the future for all nations and all generations. A strong, defensible cyber infrastructure fosters economic growth, protects our liberties, and advances our national security."

Central to a revitalized U.S. internet freedom strategy should be a priority to open gaping holes in China's Great Firewall.

Right now, I'm just not confident that this is the policy of the Broadcasting Board of Governors or the State Department right now.

I think there are certain goals we should prioritize in our internet freedom strategy regarding China.

First, China's netizens require easy, reliable and free access to uncensored information through anti-censorship technologies, so that anybody can freely access information regardless of their technical ability. Reliable solutions should work all the time, regardless of intensified crackdowns or major events (Party Congress, June 4th anniversary) taking place in-country.

Second, solutions should also present difficult choices for the Chinese authorities—if the authorities want to disrupt these solutions, then they must disrupt many online services which they would normally be hesitant and unlikely to block.

Third, Access to solutions should also come at no cost for Chinese netizens, the Chinese authorities often block access to payment providers so even if Chinese can afford a circumvention solution, they cannot get past censorship by their payment provider.

Fourth, holistic anti-censorship solutions should be encouraged, including not just technical circumvention but also distribution of those tools (getting around Google Play being blocked, and censorship in the Apple App Store) and well as helping users share anti-censorship tools, as well as content, through messaging apps, social networks and QR codes.

These are just a few starting principles. I am open to a conversation about these goals with experts and allies. But given the stakes and possible outcomes, moving quickly to fund and distribute anti-censorship technologies should be a priority.

The future of our grandchildren—in the U.S. and China alike—may very well depend on open, interoperable communications online, with minimal barriers to the global exchange of information, data, ideas, and services.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF GAIL
WRIGHT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Eastern Kentucky's greatest champions for economic development and infrastructure enhancement, my friend Gail Wright, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of dedication as Executive Director of the Gateway Area Development District.

Gail was raised on a farm in rural Menifee County, Kentucky, where she learned the value of basic infrastructure, a frugal family life and hard work. She developed a deep passion for helping others while on the farm, which inspired her love for community development.

Gail has been an overcomer from day one, including being first in her family to graduate from college and serving as one of the first female Executive Directors for an Area Development District in Kentucky. Most recently, about ten years ago, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor and a genetic defect in her heart that would ultimately test her strength and tenacity. Once again, she never slowed down, overcoming two major health issues back-to-back.

She has utilized that same determination and courage of conviction to fuel her leadership for the Gateway Area, covering Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, and Rowan Counties. She has been an incredible force in the field of community and economic development; she knows the often-complex inner workings of grant funding and administration; she knows how to bring strategic partners together at the federal, state and local levels; and ultimately, she has a genuine love and understanding for the people, the culture, the talent and the heritage of Eastern Kentucky.

As you look around the communities in the Gateway Area, her fingerprints are visible on countless projects from water and wastewater expansion, industrial parks, transportation enhancements, tourism growth, educational access and other revitalization activities. She has served as Chair of the Kentucky Area Development District's Executive Directors and has dedicated her time and resources to multiple boards in the region, across Kentucky and nationally. Most importantly, she has simultaneously devoted her life to her husband, Dean, with whom she has raised two wonderful sons, Abraham and Jordan.

Gail has been a true jewel for Eastern Kentucky and we will do our best to continue the work she envisioned for the region we all love. As she enters retirement, my wife, Cynthia, and I wish Gail and her family immense joy and blessings in the years to come.

HONORING PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR MARK KOZAK

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Kozak from Kodiak, Alaska. After 30 years of work with the City of Ko-

diak Public Works Department, Mark is retiring on May 18, 2018.

Mark was born and raised in Kodiak. Following high school, he learned to fly and for ten years worked as a commercial bush pilot in Kodiak, operating single and twin-engine aircraft. He was well known for flying the Grumman Goose and transporting fishermen, hunters and villagers to all points on the island.

In 1988, Mark began working for the City of Kodiak as a Utility Worker in the Public Works Department. He was quickly promoted to Equipment Operator and from there became the Maintenance Supervisor. In 2002, Mark was asked to serve as the Public Works Director.

The 27 employees of the Public Works Department have many responsibilities that directly impact the health and safety of the community. These include street, building and equipment maintenance and repair, operation and maintenance of the municipal airport and float-plane facilities, building permits and inspections, a water treatment and distribution system designed for up to ten million gallons per day, wastewater treatment and collection, a United States Council Certified compost facility, and nine regulated dams with a total holding capacity of 1.0 billion gallons of water. Kodiak is one of the top fishing ports in the nation and it is vital that the water system be reliable and of sufficient quantity for processing the millions of pounds of seafood each year.

Throughout his career, Mark has held to the highest standards, and his dedication and commitment to the taxpayers of Kodiak is well known. With his leadership the Public Works Department has accomplished numerous achievements for the community. Major projects have included extensive water, sewer and road renovation and replacement, an ultraviolet plant for the water treatment facility, the planning and building of a compost facility, and a new pump house at the Monashka Dam.

Following retirement, Mark and his wife, Linda, plan to remain in Kodiak where they enjoy boating, sport fishing, hiking, and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Kozak for his many years of selfless service for the people of his community and for the City of Kodiak. Please join me in congratulating Mark on his retirement and to wish him our best.

COMMEMORATING PASTOR B.R.
DANIELS, JR.'S 25TH PASTORAL
ANNIVERSARY AT THE FIRST
GREATER NEW HOPE BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pastor B.R. Daniels, Jr.'s 25th Pastoral Anniversary at the First Greater New Hope Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Pastor Daniels attended and graduated from O.D. Wyatt High School. After completing high school, he answered the call of duty and enlisted in the