

in our communities. While we grieve for those we lost and pray for their families, we must work together to prevent future gun violence atrocities.

While I am a proponent of the Second Amendment, we can no longer accept the status quo. With each mass shooting, a call to action comes and goes until the next shooting occurs. We are beyond the point of waiting. It is time for Congress to act. I urge my colleagues to take up gun safety measures that will protect our families and our communities. We cannot continue to mourn these tragedies without doing all we can to prevent them.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The injustice of gun violence affects each of our constituents and communities. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to set aside party politics and work together in the best interests of our nation to reduce gun violence.

THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
CARMINE SPINELLI

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and contributions of Mr. Carmine Spinelli, a native of Borough of Raritan, Somerset County, New Jersey who achieved an extraordinary record of leadership during his four decades of service to our great United States Army.

His path to making enduring contributions to our national security was apparently established by his father, an immigrant factory worker with a fifth grade education, who encouraged his son to pursue engineering as a profession. Based on that advice, young Carmine found himself in Indiana pursuing studies at Purdue University.

Armed with a degree in metallurgical engineering, Carmine started an entry-level position at Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township back in his home state in 1958. He never left. He earned promotion after promotion until he reached the top research job at Picatinny. As Technical Director of the Armaments Research and Development Engineering Center (ARDEC), a member of the Senior Executive Service, he managed an annual budget of more than \$600 million and a technical staff of over 2000 scientists and engineers and another 2000 support personnel. At ARDEC, his enduring contributions include the areas of armament and systems engineering, innovation, life cycle engineering, acquisition strategy, and national and international policy.

During his distinguished career at ARDEC, Carmine led teams responsible for all varieties of weaponry, from small bullets shot from pistols and rifles to tank ammunition and artillery systems. An early advocate of modeling, simulation, and prototyping, he helped usher in an era of "smart ammunitions" with pinpoint accuracy to help save lives throughout the world.

His was an impressive record of accomplishment. Among his government awards: Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service Award (1998, 1990); Presidential Rank Meritorious Award (1996); Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award (1995); SES Performance Award (1994, 1993,

1992) NDIA Firepower Award (1988); Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award (1987, 1982); Honorable Order of Saint Barbara (1987); Technical Director's Award—ARRADCOM (1981), Army Research and Development Award (1965) and many Merit Performance Awards.

Since my election to Congress in 1994, I have been proud to work side-by-side with Carmine to advance the work conducted at Picatinny Arsenal—the Joint Center of Excellence for Armaments. As noted, he received many awards and honors for his efforts on bombs, bullets and more potent weapons systems. However, I believe he would not dispute that his greatest work was done in the area of human resources. His innovative and creative hiring practices led to the hiring and development of a whole new generation of highly skilled and talented armament engineers—men and women who today are ensuring that our joint warfighters have the tools and systems they need to meet every emerging threat on the battlefield. As Carmine liked to remind us, "every warfighter deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan or some other global 'hot spot' carried a bit of Picatinny with them."

After his formal service at Picatinny ended, Carmine Spinelli still labored every day to boost the Arsenal, the Army and veterans across our State in various capacities, including as the unsung Chairman of the New Jersey Council on Armed Forces and Veteran's Affairs, which advocates for all of the State's military installations and missions.

Carmine Spinelli leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his wife, Roseanne, son, David and daughter, Dina. We grieve along with them and hold them close in our thoughts and prayers.

While he was my constituent for a few short years, he has always been my friend. Carmine Spinelli will be sorely missed in his hometown of Raritan and in the many communities outside the Cannon Gates at Picatinny Arsenal.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
JOSEPH M. MURRAY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Joseph M. Murray for his service as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico. Colonel Murray has served as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico since the summer of 2015, during which time he has provided extensive support and leadership for the Quantico community.

Colonel Murray was born and raised in Washington, D.C., graduating from Gonzaga College High School in the District. He has long been dedicated to serving our great Nation, as he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps following his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University. Since commissioning, he has held many operational assignments, including tours with 2nd Marine Division Camp Lejeune, North Carolina with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st BN 2nd Marines, and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He also served as the Deputy G-3, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and commanded 2nd Supply Battalion during

Operation Iraqi Freedom. Serving as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico is the newest adornment to his extensive list of military accomplishments, and I am extremely grateful for Colonel Murray's service to Marine Corps Base Quantico and our great Nation.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Colonel Murray on several different occasions on behalf of our men and women in uniform residing in Virginia's First Congressional District. I extend my best wishes to Colonel Joseph M. Murray as his Change of Command approaches and he embarks on his next journey with the Marine Corps. He has proven a phenomenal leader, and I am certain that he will continue to lead with the confidence and commitment he has shown as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico as Ftinues his career as a Marine.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me as we congratulate Colonel Joseph M. Murray's service to Marine Corps Base Quantico.

SECURING PUBLIC AREAS OF  
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES  
ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 25, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Homeland Security Committee and former chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I am well aware of the importance of our nation's transportation system.

H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, works to improve the security of public areas of transportation facilities.

Our Nation's vital transportation facilities must be protected.

A safe, well-functioning transportation system is critical to the Nation's prosperity.

Whether it is by road, transit, aviation, rail, or waterway, we rely on our transportation system to move people and goods safely, facilitate commerce, attract and retain businesses, and support jobs.

Everyday millions of Americans travel through airports, train stations, bus terminals, and ports.

Over 2 million travelers per day passed through U.S. airports in 2017.

In Houston, George Bush Intercontinental Airport and William P. Hobby Airport served a combined total of over 54 million passengers in 2017.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport is the 14th busiest airport in the United States.

These airports are essential hubs for domestic and international air travel for Houston and the surrounding region.

It is critically important that their safety is assured.

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Aviation Transportation Security Act (ATSA, P.L. 107-71) was enacted and established the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

TSA is responsible for securing the Nation's transportation systems—both aviation and surface transportation.

Since the creation of the TSA, the technologies utilized at checkpoints and the mechanisms used to acquire them have changed very little.

Given issues from prior Congresses, including the wait time crises and covert testing failures, there are renewed pushes by stakeholders to have TSA continue in a more progressive direction in terms of security policies and technologies and the manner in which these technologies are procured.

The volume of work that the TSA must accomplish is growing each year and so are the threats they must face.

In 2017, over 750 million passengers were screened by the Transportation Security Administration.

In 2017, a record setting 3,957, firearms were discovered in carry-on bags at checkpoints across the country, averaging 76 firearms per week or over 10 per day.

84 percent of those firearms were loaded.

This represents over a 16 percent increase in firearm discoveries from 2016.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport had 142 firearms discovered in 2017.

It is time for us to take action to secure our vital transportation facilities.

H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a working group to promote collaborative engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and public and private sector stakeholders to develop recommendations for enhancing security in public areas of transportation facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to intervene.

The Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018 is a necessary step towards securing our transportation system.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, to protect the safety of our citizens.

#### HONORING PINI ACE HARDWARE

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Pini Ace Hardware, which has served the City of Novato and greater Marin County since 1918, enduring through disasters, including a large fire in 1944, and major world events such as World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression.

Founded by Henri Pini, who immigrated from Switzerland in 1906, Pini Hardware started out as a small grocery store, selling dry goods and produce. Over the years, the store relocated and expanded to respond to the changing demands of the growing community, and was sold by the Pini family after Henri passed away. Currently owned by Tom, Russel, and David Young, not only is Pini Hardware celebrating 100 years of business this year, but also 50 years of Young family ownership.

Well-known for outstanding customer service, Pini Ace Hardware is praised by shoppers for its old-fashioned and community-oriented

approach, and for its enduring community service. The store regularly sponsors school sports teams, hosts monthly Kid Club events, and participates in local events such as the Downtown Novato Tree Lighting and Scream on the Green as well as in Novato's Fourth of July parade with the Pini Plunger Brigade. As a member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, Pini Hardware is a shining example of the Chamber's mission of "Building Business, Building Community."

Mr. Speaker, after a century of outstanding customer and community service, Pini Ace Hardware's legacy to Novato and Marin County is immeasurable, and I wish them another 100 years of success. It is therefore appropriate to honor Pini Ace Hardware on this momentous occasion.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF THOMAS BLANCHARD, JR.

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Blanchard whose knowledge and passion for the water led to a career of accomplishments as an urban and waterfront developer, as well as a tireless advocate promoting the limitless opportunities for preservation, recreation and tourism along the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Tom's professional résumé began in the state of Virginia as Economic Development Planner for the City of Norfolk, Model Cities Program in the early 1970's. He would go on to become Executive Director of the City of Portsmouth Community Action Organization and Director of the Department of Development for the City of Norfolk.

As City of Norfolk Director of Development, Tom was directly involved in the acquisition and redevelopment of several key parcels of land, mostly along the waterfront, that led to revitalization and reuse from beach front residential to deep draft channel ship and barge terminals. As Executive Director of the Norfolk Recreational Facilities Authority, he managed the concept development and feasibility for NAUTICUS, The National Maritime Center, a \$52 million waterfront themed attraction which opened in 1994.

After serving as Executive Vice President of the Greater Norfolk Corporation from 1985 to 1989, he was recruited to New York State and my hometown of Buffalo as the executive director of Erie County's Horizons Waterfront Commission. It was said of Tom that his selection represented a quantum leap forward. He moved forward as well when the work of the Commission was merged into Empire State Development Corporation in 1995. His appointment as Director of Research and Planning for the Western New York Region continued his leadership role in planning, presenting and pushing for approvals to construct the Erie Canal Harbor project in downtown Buffalo and various projects in downtown Niagara Falls.

His familiarity with the historical significance of the Erie Canal, an engineering marvel that has been in operation since 1825, made Tom Blanchard an inspired appointment to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commis-

sion. As has been stated, "the federally-appointed Erie Canalway Commission, created by Congress in 2000, is tasked with managing activities of the National Heritage Corridor with financial support and technical assistance through the National Park Service.

This new kind of national park called for a new kind of private-public partnership to bolster and strengthen the implementation of the Corridor's award-winning Preservation and Management Plan. And once again, Tom stepped up in 2010 as the first Chair of the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, a nonprofit that assists in carrying out the work of the Commission by securing additional private and public resources to preserve its historical significance and bolster its \$300 million impact on the region.

Tom's career has been characterized by excellence, as shown through the honors he has received; he is a member of the Omega Delta Epsilon Honorary Economics Society, an Old Dominion University School of Business and Economics Distinguished Alumni, and received the Edward de Luca Lifetime Achievement Award for Professional Excellence in Economic Development in 2001.

His volunteer service on both land and sea extended beyond the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission to include a stint as chair of the National Council for Urban Economic Development, Norfolk Opportunities Industrialization Center and as Past Commodore of the Buffalo Yacht Club. An avid sailor, Tom also holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master Mariner Credential for 50-ton vessels operating in the Great Lakes and U.S. Inland Waters.

Volunteerism extends to his wife Paula as well as they have teamed up with a dedicated committee to bring the largest concentration of tall ships to visit the Queen City in decades. Seven traditional rig sailing vessels are expected to highlight July 4, 2019 celebrations along our vibrant waterfront as "Port of Call: Buffalo" will serve as a visible link to Buffalo's rich maritime past.

For almost fifty years, Tom Blanchard has been a visible link connecting past and present along the water's edge for the benefit of residents and visitors and we thank him for his expertise, unwavering commitment and service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission and Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board of Directors meet at One Canalside in Buffalo on June 27, 2018, let me add my appreciation for their ongoing good work and join with them in acknowledging the significant contributions of Thomas Blanchard, Jr.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 2018 I was not able to participate in the 6:30 pm vote series. If I were present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 289, and "yea" on rollcall No. 290.