

Jerry has been a strong partner and advocate for the needs of the Delta, and I have enjoyed our working relationship. Please join me in congratulating Jerry for his dedicated service, and in wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, December 3rd, and Wednesday, December 4th.

On Roll Call Vote No. 643, on passage of H. Res. 546, disapproving the Russian Federation inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 644, on passage of S. 178, the Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act (UGHUR Act), if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 645, on ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 739, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 646, on passage of H. Res. 739, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 647, on passage of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FRANCES BARBER McCOMMONS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Frances Barber McCommons from the City of Anaheim, California.

Born on November 10, 1919 in McCrory, Arkansas, Frances has lived a rich and blessed life filled with raising her five children and serving others in her neighborhood and at her church where she was a Sunday School teacher of 4- and 5-year-olds for more than 50 years.

Frances spent her childhood in Arkansas as the eldest of seven children. She graduated at 16 as class salutatorian. At 18, Frances married her childhood sweetheart, J.R. McCommons, and started life as a farmer's wife. Frances, J.R., and their first four children were honored in 1949 as "The Farm Family of the Year for Woodruff County." Frances and J.R. were married 58 years and were true life partners.

In 1955, the family moved to California, settling in Anaheim, where they lived in a neighborhood in East Anaheim surrounded by or-

ange groves. It was here that they had another child. All five of their children would later attend and graduate from Anaheim High School.

Frances and J.R. were lay leaders in the Orange County Southern Baptist Association and helped start two churches: Crescent Southern Baptist Church in Anaheim and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Orange.

In 1966, Frances and J.R.'s son, Michael McCommons, was killed in Vietnam while serving in the United States Army. He was posthumously awarded The Bronze Star with the V Device for Valor and Heroism in Combat and The Purple Heart. As a Gold Star Mother, Frances served veterans' organizations and worked with other Gold Star Mothers to support veterans and families of those who were killed in service to their county.

For many years, Frances's personal ministry was encouraging and celebrating others' achievements, birthdays, and other life events through personal notes, cards, and letters. Frances remained involved in the lives of the children she taught in Sunday School and continued to celebrate their lives with them through adulthood.

Her life revolves around her immediate family and her large extended family, including eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is still an avid reader and remains interested in current events and the news. As someone whose livelihood was once dependent on the farm, Frances still loves watching the changes in the weather.

Please join me in wishing my constituent, Frances Barber McCommons, a happy 100th birthday and many more years of good health and happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANK MERGER REVIEW MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Bank Merger Review Modernization Act.

When big banks get bigger, consumers and taxpayers usually end up losing.

Unprecedented concentration in the banking sector is hurting consumers, who pay more for critical financial services when their banks are merged out of existence. Since the 1980s, consolidation has swept the banking industry, with the number of FDIC-insured banks in the United States dropping from more than 15,000 in 1984 to less than 5,000 in 2018. Numerous studies have shown that bank mergers are associated with higher costs of credit, reductions in lending, and decreases in small business formation and local property prices.

Concentration in the banking sector also poses risks to financial stability. A wave of bank mergers by Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan, and Wells Fargo in the late 1990s created the "too-big-to-fail" banks that became so central to the 2008 financial crisis.

Rather than scrutinizing the considerable risks that bank mergers pose, the regulatory agencies tasked with reviewing these mergers have increasingly "rubber stamped" them. Bank merger approval rates are at historic highs.

Last month, the Federal Reserve and FDIC approved the largest merger since the crash when they gave the green light to the merger between BB&T and SunTrust.

I am concerned that the reviewing agencies are not giving adequate attention to the systemic risks that these giant megabanks pose. I am also concerned that the considerable harms to consumers are not being considered when mergers are reviewed. The Bank Merger Review Modernization Act strengthens the bank merger review process to give the CFPB and consumers a voice, and to require that the systemic costs of too big to fail institutions are taken into full account.

I urge this body to curb the creation of too big to fail banks and pass this bill.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER FOSS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my constituent, Dublin City Manager Christopher Foss, on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 40 years of service in local government.

Chris began his career in local government as a deputy city manager for Burbank, California, where he eventually served as the economic development director. In these roles, he enriched Burbank's economy and local business environment.

In 1999, Chris began serving as the economic development director for my hometown of Dublin. He implemented a variety of economic development programs to bolster and retain the business community. Under Chris, Dublin's economy flourished, and his work has had a lasting impact on the economic endurance and vitality of the Tri-Valley.

Chris served five years as assistant city manager before being promoted to city manager in 2014. His five-and-a-half-year tenure as city manager can be characterized by his superb relationship building, sound fiscal practices, and collaborative leadership style.

Under Chris' leadership, Dublin vastly expanded its network of parks, constructed a new affordable housing project as well as key commercial projects, and increased its footprint in the medical and biotech communities.

Our community also has Chris to thank for the construction of several community facilities. One such example is the School of Imagination, to serve children with special needs. The influx of new jobs and services through these projects supports the sustainability of economic progress in our community.

Chris draws support from his amazing family. That network includes his loving wife Lisa, son Jordan, daughter-in-law Lizzie, and grandson Henry.

I want to thank Chris for the contributions he has made to the communities he has served, especially Dublin. His passionate leadership and enduring commitment to our community are very much appreciated.

RECOGNIZING JERRY REVISH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Ohio's Third Congressional District, I salute Jerry Revish on his illustrious broadcasting career of 42 years.

In 1972, Jerry got his start in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio at WBBW Radio and in June 1980 he became a reporter for WBNS-TV.

Over the course of his more than four decades in journalism, Jerry won 13 Emmy awards, four Edward R. Murrow Awards, and the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In addition, he was recognized by the Associated Press for best feature, best documentary and best spot news coverage; honored with the Carl Day Award for Outstanding Achievement; and was the recipient of the Best International Reporting Award from the National Association of Black Journalists for a series of reports on the liberation of Haiti and a half-hour documentary on the new South Africa.

His reporting skills have taken him around the world.

He was the first Columbus TV reporter to go to Saudi Arabia to cover the Persian Gulf War, and he has reported from Haiti, Barbados, South Africa, Bosnia, Bahrain, Cuba, and Japan.

Among his numerous career highlights, Jerry covered many national political conventions, Ohio State University bowl games, the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, the Lucasville State Prison Riot, and the September 11th terrorist attack. He also interviewed President Barack Obama and helped Columbus bodybuilder Walter Smith—wrongfully convicted of rape—win his freedom through DNA testing.

In 2005, Jerry was inducted into the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Outside of the newsroom, Jerry is the founder and senior pastor of the Unity Temple Church of God in Christ in Columbus, Ohio alongside his wife of 45 years, Danielle.

As he signs off at 10TV, I salute Jerry Revish for his commitment to excellence and service to Central Ohio—and wish him all the best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SEBASTIAN J. ARESKO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to a very special member of the Middlefield, Connecticut community, Sebastian J. Aresco, who lost his battle with cancer late last week. Public servant, veteran, friend, and mentor, Seb's loss will be felt by many.

Born in Middletown, Connecticut, Seb was a member of the United States Air Force and

proudly served our country with distinction during the Vietnam War. He did not speak a lot about his time in the service, however, he spent countless hours with his fellow veterans throughout his life. He could often be found at events and programs sponsored by the local VFW. Seb was also very dedicated member of the Saint Colman Church community. In his professional life, Seb was a proud employee of the State of Connecticut—an auditor with the State Treasurer's office for several decades before his retirement just a few years ago. In his spare time, he could often be found at the shore, enjoying a day of fishing, grabbing a lobster or whole belly clam roll at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale, or simply enjoying the tranquil beauty of the ocean.

Seb took great pride in his military and state service, but he was perhaps best known for his work in the political arena. He was raised to understand the importance of our political process and his life experiences highlighted them even more so. He wanted to make a difference in his community, and he did so through the art of politics. He served on various Boards and Commissions in Middlefield, but it was his leadership as the Chair of the local Democratic Party—a position which he held for more than thirty years—where Seb excelled. Seb was one of those rare individuals who volunteered his time, energy, and even his home to ensure that every member of his community was encouraged to participate in the political process. He was a mentor to many as they became involved in local government and navigated elected office. He also had a unique understanding of how local, state, and federal government could work together to improve the quality of life for all. Though Middlefield is one of the smaller communities in Connecticut, Seb's dedication, passion, and commitment earned him the respect and admiration of political leaders across the state.

Put simply, Seb was one of the good ones. He had a quiet strength and heart of gold. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have known him and to have called him my friend. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, and the community to which he dedicated so much of his time and energies. His tireless efforts as a veteran, state employee, and community leader made a real difference in the lives of others and I am honored to have this opportunity to stand and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Sebastian J. Aresco. I extend my deepest sympathies to his daughters, Amanda and Andrea, as well as his long-time companion, Joan, at this most difficult time, and hope that they can find comfort in knowing that Seb's legacy of public service, generosity, and kindness will continue to inspire all of those privileged enough to have known him.

CELEBRATING RIVER ROUGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a hearty congratulations to the River Rouge High School Football on winning their first-ever state championship.

In a dramatic game, the River Rouge Panthers prevailed over setbacks early on to defeat a formidable opponent. This hard-earned victory is a testament to the countless hours of training put in by this dedicated team, as well as the support of its coaches and parents. As legendary basketball Coach Phil Jackson once said, "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

Please join me in recognizing the River Rouge High School football team, Coach Corey Parker for this outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SEAN CASEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time community advocate, Sean Casey as he begins retirement.

Sean Casey has dedicated his life and career to children and families. After graduating from Oberlin College and getting his master's degrees from UC Berkeley in both social welfare and public health, Sean worked at UC San Francisco, developing better data and analysis for maternal and child health programs. He also created Fetal/Infant Mortality Review programs in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Quickly after joining First 5, Sean became Contra Costa's Executive Director. Throughout his tenure, First 5 Contra Costa provided life-changing services to over 500 families.

While he was Executive Director, Sean oversaw the development of a county-wide preschool planning process which implemented a Quality Rating and Improvement System. He supported the development of three parent advocacy groups, which identified and addressed issues related to early childhood development including affordable housing, immigrant and racial justice, and the safety of neighborhood parks.

Sean also worked to establish Contra Costa County's Help Me Grow system to help parents identify potential developmental challenges their children may have and connect them with the necessary resources and services. He also developed Ready Kids, which helps young children prepare for kindergarten and their academic lives. On top of that, he helped establish the Children's Leadership Council, the Family Economic Security Partnership, the Early Learning Leadership Group, the Budget Justice Coalition, and the Contra Costa Funders Forum. Sean also served as the Chair of the First 5 Association.

Sean has always been a leader in the community and someone I have enjoyed working with greatly. Over my years in public service, I have visited First 5 and many of the other programs he is associated with and am always impressed by the impact he has on the children and families he works with. As he retires from First 5, we wish him well knowing that his legacy will continue to enrich the lives of Contra Costa families. We wish him great luck and joy in retirement.