

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING NOAH WEBSTER STUDENT GOVERNMENT

#### **HON. ANDY BIGGS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of five students from the Noah Webster Charter School in Mesa, Arizona. Madisin Bauer, Brody Kelly, Lucas Martin, Kelly Conboy, and Logan Carter were elected by their peers to lead the Wildcat's student government in the 2019–2020 school year. To qualify for the election, each student was recognized by their teachers for outstanding leadership skills and exceptional moral character.

Over the next year, I have no doubt that these young leaders will excel in service to their school and one another. I look forward to hearing about their experiences as they plan town hall-style meetings, run pep assemblies, and organize community projects.

These students' willingness to serve gives me hope for our future. Our country needs people of all ages with hearts of servants to represent and lead Americans who need a voice. I am honored to have such talent and leadership in my district.

### RECOGNIZING PETER VARGAS

#### **HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter Vargas for his twenty years of dedicated service to the City of Allen, Texas.

Mr. Vargas earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Education from the University of North Colorado in 1972, and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, in 1978. Following his graduation, Paul began his career in municipal management in the City of Arvada where he swiftly rose from serving as an Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the City Manager. He would later hold the position of Assistant City Manager for the City of Englewood, Colorado, and eventually be selected as the City Manager in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Vargas would later serve as the Executive Director of the City of Dallas' Trinity River Corridor Project, prior to joining the City of Allen in 1999 as City Manager. As Allen's long-time City Manager, Peter has worked tirelessly to improve the City's financial stability, raise the bond rating, and improve and increase the City's capital infrastructure program. Such efforts to create a high-quality, sustainable community have led to Allen's national recognition as a "Community of the Year" and "20 Best Places to Live in America." Peter is also known for championing the

development of regional economic development programs with area governments in our fast-growing region.

Peter is often lauded throughout North Texas for his efforts to build sustaining relationships with partners in both the public and private sectors. His unique ability to work in tandem with Allen's citizens and City employees to ensure that expectations are exceeded has earned him the respect of his colleagues and all those in the community.

While the list of professional associations and accolades for Mr. Peter Vargas is impressive, perhaps his proudest achievement is serving as husband to Cheryl Dyer Vargas, and the father to his daughter, Jenna.

The Allen community and all those who have had the honor of working with Peter over the years have been witness to the tremendous growth and success of the region due in part to his vision. Today, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Peter for his dedicated and tireless efforts to make Allen a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We wish Peter well as he begins this next chapter in his life.

### ESCAPE ACT OF 2019

#### **HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Enhancing the Strength and Capacity of America's Primary Evacuation routes (ESCAPE) Act," with Congressman WILLIAM R. KEATING (D-MA). I want to thank Congressman KEATING for his leadership as the sponsor last Congress and partnering with me this year.

This bicameral bill would establish a new U.S. Department of Transportation grant program for roadway, bridges, and other transportation projects that strengthen and protect routes essential for mass evacuations caused by natural disasters and other emergency events. With increasingly frequent and severe disasters across the country due to climate change, Congress must provide dedicated funding for resilient evacuation routes.

In 2017, nearly 200,000 Californians were forced to evacuate when they learned that Oroville Dam, the tallest dam in the nation, was on the verge of failing. Thousands of drivers funneled onto a narrow two-lane highway, spending hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic to reach safety along the Sacramento Valley's major north-to-south evacuation route.

Last year, Paradise, California, just north of my district was reduced to rubble by the devastating Camp Fire. As the flames engulfed the single-lane road that served as the city's primary evacuation route, residents were forced to abandon their vehicles and escape on foot—some to their death. The lack of adequate evacuation routes in our nation—par-

ticularly for small rural communities—is costing lives every year. Our bicameral legislation would provide dedicated federal funding for evacuation routes that save lives in times of crisis.

I hope that any infrastructure package passed this Congress will include our "ESCAPE Act." I plan on making this a major priority in my work as a senior member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join Congressman KEATING and me in cosponsoring this critical legislation.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### **HON. CLAY HIGGINS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, during these votes, I was with the President in Louisiana. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 203; YEA on Roll Call No. 204; NAY on Roll Call No. 205; NAY on Roll Call No. 206; NAY on Roll Call No. 207; NAY on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORARY CONSULATE OF LATVIA IN MASSACHUSETTS

#### **HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2019*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official opening of the Honorary Consulate of Latvia in Norwell, Massachusetts.

The United States and the Republic of Latvia share an important bilateral relationship that has only grown stronger with time. The ties that our two nations have fostered over the years remain meaningful, whether it be through security assistance and cooperation, trade agreements, or our shared membership in critical international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nations, and World Trade Organization.

In today's ever-changing international climate, it is crucial to applaud and encourage new opportunities for cooperation, dialogue, and friendship with treasured allies. The opening of this new Honorary Consulate is such an opportunity, and I am thrilled that my district can have a place in this progress. I would like to extend particular commendation to Uldis K. Sipols, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Massachusetts. As a longtime resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a seasoned professional in the business world, I know that he will bring much needed enthusiasm and experience to his new diplomatic role, and I wish him the best.

● 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.

Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize the opening of this important consular office and to call attention yet again to the invaluable relationship between the United States and the Republic of Latvia.

**MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE  
RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION  
ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Congressional Budget Office communication regarding H.R. 312.

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, May 16, 2019.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jon Sperl.

Sincerely,

MARK P. HADLEY,  
(For Keith Hall, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 312, MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT—MAY 15, 2019

[By fiscal year, millions of dollars]

	2019	2019– 2024	2019– 2029
Direct Spending (Outlays) .....	0	0	0
Revenues .....	0	0	0
Deficit Effect .....	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) .....	0	*	n.e.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030? No

Mandate Effects

Contains intergovernmental mandate? Yes,  
Under Threshold

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes,  
Under Threshold

n.e. = not estimated; \* = between zero and  
\$500,000.

H.R. 312 would ratify and reaffirm the status of land taken into trust in 2015 by the Department of the Interior (DOI) for the benefit of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts. The act also would prohibit any lawsuits, including pending lawsuits, related to that land.

DOI is currently holding the land in trust pending ongoing legal review of the acquisition. Using information from DOI, CBO estimates that implementing the act would have no significant effect on the costs of managing the land.

By prohibiting pending and future lawsuits, H.R. 312 would end rights of action related to the land held in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts that are available to public and private entities under current law. That prohibition imposes both an intergovernmental and private-sec-

tor mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The cost of the mandates would be the forgone value of compensation and settlements associated with such legal actions if they would have been successful under current law. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Taunton, and the Town of Mashpee have each entered into agreements with the tribe related to the use of the land. In light of those agreements as well as the land's reported value, CBO expects that under current law it is unlikely that any entity would bring an action resulting in compensation that would exceed the annual thresholds established in UMRA. In 2019 those thresholds totaled \$82 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$164 million for private-sector mandates, adjusted annually for inflation.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jon Sperl (for federal costs) and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

**REMEMBERING ELLEN VAN  
EDWARDS**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Ellen Odellas Van Edwards, a native Washingtonian and my former classmate at Dunbar High School.

On May 11, 2019, Ellen Odellas Van Edwards passed away in the arms of her daughter L. Robin V. Smith, while listening to praise and worship music. Throughout Van Edward's life, she brought joy to the District of Columbia community as a wife, mother and grandmother; a dedicated employee at the Department of Commerce; and later as "Hajji the Magic Clown".

Van Edwards was born in Washington, D.C. and attended Dunbar High School. We graduated together in 1955, the year before the school was desegregated. After graduating from Dunbar, Van Edwards attended the Atlantic Business College and earned her bachelor's degree in Business. She went on to work at the Department of Commerce for 42 years in the Office of the Secretary and the U.S. Patent office, where she was an administrative assistant and the first African American woman to work for the U.S. Board of Patent Appeals. She also worked in the International Affairs division.

Van Edwards lost her husband in 1974 and raised her two daughters, L. Robin V. Smith and Adriene Jordan, alone. Bringing light to a time of sadness, she became "Hajji the Magic Clown." She completed clown class at Montgomery College and magic class at Catholic University. She shared her talent with children around Washington, D.C. and used her clowning abilities to win Ms. Senior District of Columbia.

On June 29, 2003, at the age of 66, Van Edwards was crowned the 21st Ms. Senior District of Columbia. She proudly represented D.C.'s other senior citizens for one year, encouraging them to live active lives. She was said to have won the crown by exemplifying

"the dignity, maturity and inner beauty of senior Americans."

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Ellen Van Edwards.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRANDVIEW BULLDOGS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Grandview High School men's varsity basketball team and their 2019 state championship. This victory has earned the team the honor of being the Missouri Class 4 State Champions for the second consecutive year. This remarkable achievement is a result of strong leadership and dedication from both players and coaches.

This is a significant achievement for Coach Reggie Morris, who was recognized this spring for his outstanding coaching with the Paul Lambert Coach of the Year Award for the second consecutive year. In 2018, Morris led his team to the school's first ever State Championship. Following that victory, many of the team's best players graduated and went on to play at the collegiate level. A mere twelve months later, Morris was able to rebuild his squad and return to Springfield to claim another State Championship.

The new team was headlined by senior point guard DeAndre Sorrells who set the school record for 3-point baskets. With the leadership of Morris and Sorrells, the team cultivated an atmosphere of trust and hard work, establishing a tight-knit team chemistry both on and off the court. Their championship victory in Springfield as the penultimate reward for such a remarkable team and a fitting end to a season that saw them win twenty straight games.

The many accolades of Grandview's basketball team are a testament to the program that they have built. In addition to winning the State Championship, the Bulldogs were the only team from Missouri recognized on the Super 25 Regional Rankings list. Furthermore, Coach Reggie Morris was named the 2019 Class 4 Coach of the Year, and DeAndre Sorrells was recognized as Hy-Vee's 41 Five-Star Athlete of the Week.

The Grandview community rallied around the Bulldogs during the season as they progressed game after game towards their incredible victory in the State Championship. Now, the players look forward to enjoying fruitful careers in various athletic and academic fields after their graduation, and I encourage each of them to continue challenging themselves on and off the court as they move forward in life.

Madam Speaker, please join with Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of the Grandview Bulldogs. It is my pleasure to congratulate each of the players and coaches that helped this superb team claim their title, and I am exceedingly proud to represent such exemplary student-athletes like those of the Grandview High School basketball team.