

to diversity and his general tenacity and grit on the bench.

In his tenure in our courts of law, Judge McDonald displayed a fervent commitment to decency and democracy like no other. At 71 years of age he retired his robes and was remembered by his peers as a dedicated collaborator and mentor, providing leadership and discernment on challenging issues.

A Toledo resident, his life was one filled with love and devotion to family. His three grandsons look onto a great example of a legal legacy and a profoundly sweet man. His Wife, Holly Sydlow, shared his love of law in her career as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Judge McDonald led everyday with the intention of imparting his legal knowledge unto the next generation of impactful lawyers and legal professionals, passing the merits of his valuable tenure unto the future of our courts.

During his time in the courts, Judge McDonald saved all of his jury instructions from his years of trial digitally and passed them on to a currently seated Judge, thus his legacy and institutional knowledge will live on within the systems that miss him so.

Our courts and our hearts mourn the loss of Judge McDonald. I express my great sympathy for his family and all who were lucky enough to call him friend or peer.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISOR BRIAN LOFTUS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian Loftus and his years of distinguished service to Grosse Ile Township. His leadership and community impact are worthy of commendation.

In 2008, Brian Loftus became Grosse Ile Township Supervisor. In this position, Loftus has moderated the Board of Trustees, led the development of the township budget, overseen property assessment, and maintained township records. In addition, he has been a liaison to the Downtown Development Authority, served on the Elections Commission, and has appointed the members of a variety of other township commissions, among other tasks. Supervisor Loftus's leadership has come at a pivotal moment in our state's history. As communities across Michigan are grappling with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, Supervisor Loftus has remained committed to ensuring Grosse Ile Township continues to be a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming residential community for all.

Supervisor Brian Loftus's sense of dedication transcends Grosse Ile Township. Prior to serving Grosse Ile as township supervisor, Loftus served our nation in uniform. Loftus joined the Air Force in 1970 and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974. He served on active duty as a pilot until being transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard in 1981, where he continued serving in several operation and staff duty positions until his retirement in September 2003. Over the course of 33 years of military service, Loftus has come to deeply understand the meaning of duty, sacrifice, and commitment to bettering one's community. Undoubtedly, he applied

these principles throughout his tenure as township supervisor.

In addition, Loftus has been an active member of several community organizations. He volunteers with the Grosse Ile Historical Society, Friends of the Detroit River, and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, to name a few. Throughout all capacities, Loftus has been recognized as a humble and compassionate leader who strives to effect lasting change. He has been a strong voice for Grosse Ile Township and used his authority to bring the community together and positively impact the lives of countless residents. Loftus's impact will forever endure, and we are all grateful for his years of service to our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Township Supervisor Brian Loftus. We are proud to celebrate his work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank him for his outstanding leadership and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING WES AND JUDY PIERCE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Wes and Judy Pierce, two incredible members of our Central Texas community who have devoted their energies and talents toward providing support and aid to our incredible servicemembers, veterans, first responders, and their families.

Originally from Illinois, Wes and Judy married in April 1987. Their journey from child rearing to becoming proud grandparents led them to Texas in 2001. After having five of their own sons serve in the military, Wes and Judy became increasingly aware of the unmet needs of our returning veterans. Through their own children's difficulties with accessing and finding resources, Heroes Night Out was born.

Heroes Night Out is a non-profit community-based organization that is dedicated to enhancing and supporting servicemembers, veterans, first responders, and their family members through programs and services in a caring and safe environment enhanced by the contributions of peers and battle buddies. HNO can quickly address the unique situations they experience by creating an immediate and trusting relationship.

Having nurtured Heroes Night Out into a valued part of the Central Texas community, Wes and Judy are passing the torch to a new generation of leadership. Their richly-deserved retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. I proudly join their friends and colleagues in gratitude for their enormous contributions to those who work and sacrifice so much for us.

RANDY DECKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to remember and honor Randy

Decker, a man of tremendous character who passed away on February 4, 2020 after a brief, yet brave battle with an aggressive illness.

The youngest of 12 children and the first to be born in a hospital, Randy was born on July 25, 1950. Randy was drafted and served in the U.S. Army. After, he attended Illinois State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business. Family was always a priority for Randy. Randy was married to his beloved wife Mona Belle Decker for 49 years. Randy could always be found supporting his children, being involved in their various sports activities throughout the years. Randy spent his civilian career in sales management roles to provide for his family. In his latest years, raising and supporting his five grandchildren was one of his greatest joys. Randy will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery later this year.

Madam Speaker, I thank Randy Decker for his service and the impact he made in his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present for roll call vote number 219, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 327, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, I would have voted "yay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 220, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 3147, the Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act, I would have voted "yay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, November 16, 2020. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

IN HONOR OF JAMES C. WILCOX

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James C. Wilcox of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Marine Corps. James is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great

cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank James for his service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING BLUE KNIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER IV

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Blue Knight's International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club Pennsylvania Chapter IV.

The Blue Knights is a non-profit fraternal organization of active and retired law enforcement officers and veterans who enjoy riding motorcycles. A group of several law enforcement officers formed the first chapter of the Blue Knights in Bangor, Maine in 1974. Today they have over 600 chapters and nearly 20,000 members all over the world.

The Blue Knights are dedicated to developing a fraternal spirit among those in the law enforcement and veterans community who enjoy riding motorcycles. As a group, the Blue Knights engage in charitable activities such as supporting local law enforcement causes, honoring our veterans, and assisting children in need.

The Blue Knights Pennsylvania Chapter IV is very active in supporting the Berks community. Recently the Blue Knights held their 1st Annual Benefit Ride & Pig Roast, raising nearly \$5,000 in support of the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit. This Memorial Day, the Blue Knights also escorted 50,000 American flags that were distributed and placed on the graves of deceased veterans across Berks County. The Blue Knights are steadfast supporters of those who serve our communities and our nation.

Members of the Blue Knights have not only donned the uniform and served our communities and our nation themselves, but they also continue their service as good citizens in aiding law enforcement and veterans causes. Our community and our nation are better for their continued selfless service and dedication.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pennsylvania Chapter IV of the Blue Knights and thank them for their continued service to our nation and our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on November 16, 2020 for S. 327, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act and S. 3147, the

Improving Safety and Security for Veterans Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

HONORING CAROL MARIN

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carol Marin and to honor her distinguished career in print and electronic journalism. Few reporters have done more to build public trust in the press than Carol Marin, and her lifetime commitment to unbiased, in-depth reporting has elevated public discourse and held public officials accountable to their constituents and to the principles of good government.

Born in Chicago, Carol spent her childhood in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, part of the 8th Congressional District that I represent. After graduating from the University of Illinois, she worked briefly as a high school English teacher before moving to Tennessee and beginning a career in journalism, first as a talk show host and reporter in Knoxville, and then as a news anchor and reporter in Nashville.

In 1978, Carol returned home to Chicago as a news anchor and reporter. She quickly established a reputation as a relentless investigative reporter, and demonstrated a deep commitment to the highest standards of integrity and journalistic excellence. In 1997, that commitment became a national news story when she resigned from her news anchor desk to protest the hiring of a controversial talk show host whose presence she believed would undermine her credibility as a journalist and the work of her newsroom. She moved on to national broadcast work, serving as a correspondent on the CBS Evening News and "60 Minutes," covering important stories, including reporting on the September 11 terror attacks while covered in ash from the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

In 2002, Carol formed Marin Corp Productions, an independent documentary company providing content to media outlets including CNN and the New York Times/Discovery Channel. She also authored political commentary for the Chicago Sun-Times, and served as a contributor to Chicago Tonight, an award-winning nightly news show broadcast on WTTW, Chicago's public television station.

Carol Marin has been honored with almost every important award in broadcast journalism. She is the recipient of three George Foster Peabody Awards, two DuPont-Columbia Awards, a George Polk Award, two national Emmy Awards and at least 15 regional Emmy Awards. Carol has been inducted in the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame, and the Silver Circle of the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Carol recently announced that she is stepping away from her work as a broadcast journalist after the November 2020 national elections. I am glad to note that she will continue to inspire and mentor the next generation of journalists as co-director of the Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence at DePaul University in Chicago.

At a time when journalism is under relentless attack by forces that seek to undermine our democratic norms, I am honored to celebrate the career of a reporter who personifies honesty, integrity and a fearless willingness to speak truth to power. Carol Marin's passion for her life's work is best expressed by her own words: "There's a sense of mission for most of us in my business, a sense of purpose . . . the biggest lesson I have learned of all—every story, every day, every year that I do this—is that it is a privilege to be a reporter."

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARTIN FROST

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my great admiration for a former colleague, and friend. Martin Frost, who always rose to the aid of those Texans he served so well for almost 30 years here in the House. He also ably led our party and our Caucus, serving as chair of the DCCC and the House Democratic Caucus.

Following his outstanding service in Washington, Martin Frost devoted much of his post-congressional life to the FMC, the Association of Former Members of Congress. This challenging year, 2020, brought to a conclusion his term as President of the FMC, after many years of serving in various leadership positions within it.

Many of my colleagues are familiar with the democracy building and civic education work the FMC conducts, including its outstanding Congressional Study Groups. Martin Frost provided the leadership for FMC to achieve incredible growth in all of these activities.

He was instrumental in strengthening FMC finances, for example, by creating and growing an Endowment Investment Fund. He greatly increased the number of actively involved Former Members from both sides of the aisle. And with his guidance, FMC now reaches a much greater number of students through the Congress-to-Campus program.

The extent of Martin's tremendous impact cannot be done real justice with these brief remarks, but I speak for everyone involved with FMC—its board of directors, its membership, and its staff—when I state that, thanks to Martin Frost, like every organization which he has led—FMC is better, more effective, and more impactful than it has ever been.

Especially during these divisive political times, when we need more bridges, not walls, Members like Martin Frost and organizations like FMC deserve our gratitude for attempting to bridge the political divide, serving as experts on Congress as an institution, and reconnecting citizens with their representative government, all in the service of strengthening our democracy.

Our political infrastructure, like our actual infrastructure, needs the attention and maintenance to keep our economy strong, our citizens safe and healthy, and to preserve our democracy. I am not planning to join Martin soon as an FMC member, but when I eventually do, I know that it will be a stronger organization because of his dedication. This is a