

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING KATELYN  
SEELEY, NATALIE PARA, AND  
VICTORIA CHROSTOWSKI

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katelyn Seeley, Natalie Para, and Victoria Chrostowski on winning the 2020 Congressional App Challenge for Arizona's 8th Congressional District. Their app, *How Are You*, asks users key questions about their emotional and physical well-being. Users can receive personalized responses based on their answers to specific questions that include tips and different forms of encouragement. The app also provides resources and guidance for individuals who may require further professional assistance.

They were inspired to create their app in order to mitigate the increasing issue of mental health, especially among those in their age group.

Katelyn, Natalie, and Victoria are all seniors at Xavier Preparatory High School in Phoenix, Arizona.

I am so honored to represent these bright young students in Congress.

IN HONOR OF DEIRDRE MARTIN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deirdre Martin as she departs from the Pacifica City Council where she served for four years, the last year as mayor. Serving as mayor of a small town is never an easy task, but it's particularly challenging during a pandemic not seen in a century. Deirdre took her responsibility to keep the residents of Pacifica safe very seriously and did a remarkable job keeping them informed with regular updates, FAQs and informational videos.

Running for city council takes true dedication to public service. Council members are paid a token amount of \$400 a month and put in long hours of meetings, calls, events, and research, often while holding a full-time job. That is true in Deirdre's case who is a senior IT project manager with the Pasha Group, a transportation and logistics management company based in Marin County. Additionally, she is raising two young children. How she found time to volunteer and serve on the council is a wonder and a testament to her passion to help others.

During her time on the council, Deirdre has accomplished much, and much of it has been informed by her environmental and social activism. She was instrumental in making Pacifica the first city in the county to ban single use plastic and in officially recognizing it

as a "Tree City USA" under the Arbor Day Foundation. Her efforts helped Pacifica receive a grant to make the new Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan a reality. Deirdre served for two years each on the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors, the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee, the C/CAG Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Emergency Preparation Committee. She also worked closely with her colleagues and the community on the Local Coastal Plan and the General Plan of the city. A strong opponent of offshore drilling, she helped implement language that divests the city from the fossil fuel industry.

While working on environmental issues on the council, Deirdre still found time to continue her long membership in the Pacific Beach Coalition and she maintained her role as the site captain for Sharp Park Beach. I truly admire her commitment to clean air, clean water and our fight against climate change. I imagine that the last thing she ever imagined doing is to close down beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep residents and visitors safe.

Deirdre is an avid advocate for government transparency, justice and equity. She has stood up for the rights of minority populations and immigrants. Motivated by the Black Lives Matter marches in protest of the killing of George Floyd this summer, she signed on to the Obama Foundation "My Brother's Keeper" Mayoral Pledge and has collaborated closely with the Pacifica Police Department and community members to create a non-biased, non-racist environment.

Pacifica, a beautiful beach town of about 40,000, has faced fiscal challenges. The Great Recession of 2007, a series of El Nino storms in 2016 and the current COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on the city budget. Deirdre, along with her colleagues, have worked hard to bring new revenue to the city. A short-term rental tax and a sales tax for marijuana is estimated to increase city revenue by more than \$850,000.

Madam Speaker, as Deirdre Martin is retiring from the Pacifica City Council, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service to the residents of Pacifica and San Mateo County. She will now have fewer Zoom calls to attend and will be able to spend more time with her husband Kai Martin and their two daughters Nova and Astra. However, I am certain she will remain active and engaged in pursuit of social and environmental justice for all. It has been my honor to serve with her.

HONORING MICHAEL MILLER, SR.

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of Michael Miller, Sr.

Michael Miller leaves behind a significant legacy of advocacy for his community of

Rodeo, California and on behalf of his brothers and sisters in labor, with Phillips 66 United Steel Workers (USW) Local 326. Mr. Miller's passion for community involvement and activism within Contra Costa County will leave a lasting impact.

Mr. Miller worked for 30 years at the Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery in Maintenance, Oil Movements and Bulk Utilities, as well as on the Renewable Diesel project. A natural born leader, Mr. Miller served as president of USW 326 for more than 10 years, advocating at the state and federal level for 250 workers who serve as the backbone of American industry and fighting to protect wages and jobs. Mr. Miller was a strong supporter of the Phillips 66: Rodeo Renewed Project, which will continue to provide livable wage careers for the next generation of steelworkers.

Mr. Miller's dedication to his community extended beyond his work on labor rights advocacy. For over a decade, Miller donned a red suit and white beard and played Santa Claus, bringing holiday cheer at many Contra Costa County events. He also donated his time to uplift those struggling families and neighbors in his community through his work with the New Horizons Career Development Center and his community engagement work with the Bayo Vista community.

Madam Speaker, Michael Miller was the type of dedicated community member and leader we should all strive to be. His legacy leaves an opportunity for us all to become more involved in our communities and uphold the American dream. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS  
ESTABLISHED BY THE FRAMERS  
FOR THE ELECTION OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a few brief thoughts on the process established by the Framers for the election of the President and Vice-President of the United States and the certain outcome of that process that will be known later today and ratified on in a Joint Meeting of Congress on January 6, 2021.

The impeached and electorally defeated incumbent has amassed a 98 percent failure record (1/50) in his legal challenges to the certification of electors.

Not to be outdone, the Texas Attorney General, joined by 17 Republican Attorneys General and 126 sitting Republican Members of Congress, filed a shameful, desperate Hail Mary action requesting the U.S. Supreme Court to disenfranchise 10 million voters in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin because they claim somehow by the

• 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.

local decision made by those sovereign states to protect their citizens from a lethal pandemic by permitting voting by mail.

The Supreme Court summarily rejected this latest lawsuit, finding that petitioners lacked standing to bring their specious arguments.

Madam Speaker, it defies belief that persons claiming to revere the 10th Amendment and federalism would have taken this action that makes a mockery of their core beliefs and is so inconsistent with the bedrock principle that in America, it is "We, the People" who choose our leaders; leaders do not choose their voters.

The principle behind this most frivolous of lawsuits would allow the absurd result of California suing Texas for not expanding Medicaid, New York suing Mississippi for the way it runs its penal system, Illinois suing North Carolina for gerrymandering election districts, and Minnesota suing Alabama over its school funding mechanism.

This latest Republican led and Trump-inspired law suit, like the preceding 50, was not grounded in reality so it is useful to describe what the Constitution and the law prescribe regarding the process for electing a president.

First, it must be emphasized that while November 3 was Election Day throughout the nation, it was not a national election but a series of discreet and separate elections held in each state and District of Columbia to choose the persons who under the 12th Amendment are to meet six weeks later to cast the votes to elect the President and Vice-President.

The result of those elections was that Joe Biden was the leading vote-getter in more states with more people by larger margins than Donald Trump.

In fact, the latest tally of all votes cast shows Joe Biden has received more votes, 81.2 million, than anyone in history, outdistancing his vanquished rival by an astounding 7 million votes.

Second, the next important date in the electoral process is today, December 14, which is the first Monday after the second Wednesday and the date set by federal law, when the men and women chosen by the voters of their respective states gather in the several state capitals to cast their votes for President and Vice-President.

While there are a number of events yet to take place that are required by the Constitution and our laws, it is beyond any reasonable dispute what the culmination of these events will yield: an announcement on January 6, 2021 at a Joint Meeting of the Congress in the House of Representatives, by the President of the Senate, MIKE PENCE, to the nation and the world that Joseph R. Biden is elected as the 46th President and that KAMALA D. HARRIS is elected the 49th Vice-President of the United States.

While this meeting is popularly known as the Electoral College, it should be noted that this particular term is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution itself.

Instead, the Electoral College should properly be understood as a process, not a place, for electing the President and the Vice-President.

In every state, this process begins with the nomination by the state's political parties of candidates for the position of presidential elector.

Next, is the ascertainment of which slate of candidates were selected to be the electors,

which in every state is determined by the outcome of the presidential election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the preceding November.

After the electors have been ascertained, they are provided a writ of election by the state governor directing them to assemble in the state capital at a time specified on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to cast their votes for separately President and Vice-President.

Any judicial disputes regarding the appointment of electors that are decided in accordance with state laws in place before the election at least six days in advance of the meeting are conclusive as to the validity of the appointment.

Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia by law require electors to cast their votes for the candidate of the political party that nominated them and most of the rest require the elector to sign a pledge committing him or her to do so, but again, since electors are typically faithful members or workers of the political party that nominated them, such pledges merely state the obvious.

As I speak, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have certified the results of the presidential election, and since this was done at least six days before the meeting of electors, under Section 5 of the Electoral College Act, 3 U.S.C. 1 et seq., it is conclusive on the issue of whether the electors in those states were "lawfully certified."

The Certificates of Ascertainment appointing the electors transmitted to the National Archivist and the President of the Senate will document that enough candidates nominated by his party were elected to cast at minimum 306 electoral votes for Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS to be elected President and Vice-President of the United States, which is 36 more than the needed 270 vote majority.

Put another way, Joe Biden is slated to receive the exact number of electoral votes that were deemed to constitute a landslide, blow-out, historic triumph by the current President just four short years ago.

Third and finally, after the electors meet in the various state capitals next Monday, they will transmit their Certificates of Vote to the National Archivist where they will remain until opened on January 6, 2021 by Vice-President PENCE and counted in public before a Joint Meeting of the Congress.

When all the votes are tabulated, the Vice-President will then announce and make official what we all know right to be true: Joe Biden has been elected the 46th President of the United States and KAMALA HARRIS has been elected the 49th Vice-President and President of the Senate.

Two weeks later on January 20, at noon, on the steps of the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, Joe Biden will be inaugurated and will enter office after taking the oath in which he will solemnly affirm that he "will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

This outcome is not in doubt and no amount of suspending disbelief will make it so.

It is all over but the shouting—and the public counting of the electoral ballots in the Joint Meeting of the Congress on January 6, 2021.

The center holds and the system is working as the Framers envisioned it.

We can all celebrate that.

#### REMEMBERING ERVIN JULIAN

#### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evie Nguyen of Glendale, Arizona, on winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Evie's artwork, completed in charcoal and titled "Mutual," highlights the close relationship between humans and nature by showcasing herself with a Cactus Wren, Arizona's state bird.

Evie was a senior at Deer Valley High School when the artwork was completed. Her art is currently being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with the other Congressional Art Competition winners from around the country.

Each spring, I am proud to host the Congressional Art Competition to showcase the incredibly talented students across Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

It is an honor to represent these promising young artists in Congress.

#### IN HONOR OF JESS "JAY" BENTON

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jess "Jay" Benton as he departs the Hillsborough Town Council. Jay is deeply committed to serving his country and his community.

During the Vietnam War, Jay served as an officer on the USS *Lowe*, a destroyer escort. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and is a big Trojans fan. He currently serves on the Board of Leaders at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

He worked for 35 years for ABM Industries and retired as the Chief Operating Officer. In 2003, he was appointed Co-Chairman of the Expert Review Committee for the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and in 2004 he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Performance Review Commission. For several years he also served on the Town of Hillsborough's financial advisory board which, as a practical matter, offers the expert advice of global financial investors to the city council.

Prior to public service, his volunteer work included serving on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of San Francisco, as Chairman, and on the boards of Broadway by the Bay and the Hillsborough Schools Foundation. Clearly, Jay Benton is a man who relishes the challenge of responsibility.

His leap into the role of officeholder occurred when he was appointed to the city council in 2008 and solidified when he was elected in 2010. Since then, he's served three terms and as Mayor from December 2012 to December 2014. He's also been Hillsborough's member on the Central County