

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SHAWN
CHRISTIANSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great local leader in my district, Shawn Christianson, as she leaves the Hillsborough Town Council after eight years. She is departing public life after a quarter century of volunteer and elective service to her community. She will be deeply missed.

Shawn Christianson is brilliant, honest, upbeat, and leaves a whirlwind in her wake as she moves through life. She brought her boundless energy and positive attitude to an extraordinary number of activities, all while working full time in a San Francisco legal practice, where she is now a partner, I might also point out she raised two children, Spencer and Conor, at the same time.

For over 14 years before being named Citizen of the Year in 2010, Shawn served on the North School Site Council and on the North Parent Group Executive Board. She was President of the Association of Parent Groups and then became Vice President of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation. In 2001/02, she was part of a small group of persons who led a successful effort to pass school bonds. Even after her children graduated, she remained committed to the schools and in 2005 was elected to the school board, serving four years including one as board president. In her role, she was instrumental in the design and reconstruction of four schools.

As if working full time as a bankruptcy attorney and raising two children were not enough, Shawn also advised the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, an agency serving children in families with little or no income. At one point she was on the board of directors of a local children's museum, and on the Cal Berkeley Parents Board. To top off her frenetic pace, she coached a mock trial team at her son's high school. These activities were in the days when "Zoom" was a description of speed and not shorthand for pandemic reality. Just imagine the number of hours spent by Shawn in study and advocacy as she met—in a group at countless points on the map—to uphold these commitments. Her husband, Philip McLeod, might be forgiven if he thought he'd married a Ferrari instead of a loving wife, mother and formidable attorney.

Shawn was elected to the Hillsborough city council in 2012 and has served continuously since, including as Mayor since 2018 (her second time as Mayor), and Vice Mayor from 2016 to 2018. When presiding during council meetings, she handled difficult matters with grace and tact, seeking consensus despite the passions of the moment. We know Shawn as a voice of reason, but as she wields the gavel during a tense meeting her pitch is authoritative because she always comes prepared. Woe be to advocates who try to gloss over

weaknesses in a proposal hoping that no one will notice. Shawn Christianson reads footnotes. She'll notice.

Like the residents she serves, Shawn is dedicated to maintaining the natural beauty of Hillsborough, its small-town atmosphere, preserving its architectural heritage and maintaining strong finances. Despite upheavals in our nation's economy, Hillsborough's budget is balanced each year and its long-term fiscal outlook is bright.

As a partner in the Buchalter law firm, Shawn focuses her practice on insolvency, receiverships, and complex litigation with an emphasis on technology related issues. She's argued at both the trial level and at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her list of professional accomplishments takes up a full page of small type, but includes serving for two terms on the Board of Directors and as a Director-At-Large of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and as both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy section. Shawn is a trained mediator and has been a Resolution Advocate on the Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution Panel.

With one notable exception, I can think of no one in the country who seems to enjoy going through bankruptcy. With Shawn on your team, I can think of no one better to be at your side.

Madam Speaker, in our modern economy, billions are made through the construction of fictional heroes of boundless powers proving themselves through unending challenges. Shawn Christianson is the real deal. As she retires to private and professional life, we thank her for a generation of contributions on our behalf. If you turn off the electricity to the world of a fictional hero, it fades to black. If you remove Shawn Christianson from public life, her accomplishments will live for decades. I thank Shawn for her friendship and outstanding example. In a democracy, there is no higher compliment than to say that you made a difference. She certainly did and we—her friends and neighbors—are forever in her debt.

CONGRATULATING MS. ANGELE
GILROY ON 47 YEARS OF PUBLIC
SERVICE WITH THE CONGRES-
SIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Angele Gilroy, and to congratulate her on her retirement following 47 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Congress and our nation as an analyst with the Congressional Research Service.

Ms. Gilroy began her federal service in 1974 and has since become CRS's principle analyst

on telecommunications policy. In this role, she has served all 541 Congressional offices and multiple committees who have all benefited from her expertise gained through decades of research. Ms. Gilroy has consistently provided accurate, nonpartisan analysis to Congressional Members and staff to inform policy decisions during high-profile events including broadband deployment for COVID-19, Net Neutrality debates, the landmark Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Bell telephone system dissolution in 1984.

But one of the most important services that Ms. Gilroy has provided is what she has given to the future generations at CRS. Ms. Gilroy has formally mentored new employees and provided informal guidance to others on writing, briefing, and research, ensuring CRS will continue to provide the highest-quality policy analysis to Congress. The standard of excellence she set will be upheld and her legacy will go on through the continued efforts of those she trained counseled.

Ms. Gilroy has served under eight U.S. Presidents, continuing to excel in her professional duties as the country progressed into new ideals, advanced technologies, and increased security measures. The changes that Ms. Gilroy has been a part of have been instrumental, and her dedication to accurate data and robust nonpartisan policy analysis have been pillars for others to emulate. I am proud to represent Ms. Gilroy in Congress, and I thank her for the invaluable contributions she has made during her distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Gilroy and in thanking her for her nearly half a century of public service.

REMEMBERING ARTIS GILLAM SR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Artis Gillam Sr., of Youngstown, Ohio, who passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at the age of 78.

Mr. Gillam was born July 17, 1942, in Moultrie, Georgia, a son of Rufus and Vallie Edmondson Gillam. He was a 1961 graduate of North High School and attended Youngstown State University, majoring in business administration.

Artis was a lifelong member of Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, where he served on the steward and trustee boards. A man who always sought to be a leader and never a follower, Artis' goal was definitely to be an extraordinary businessman. An entrepreneur, he was owner/operator of many ventures: Gillam & Associates, Inc., Life Skills Carpentry and Painting (LCAP), Artis' Tender Love and Care (a safe haven for young girls), and Mr. G's Eastside Tire, Lube and Wash.

He also served in many community capacities, including as a Mahoning County deputy

• 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.

sheriff (reserves) and on Youngstown City Council for the 1st Ward. In early years, he had been employed at Packard Electric, Ohio Fast Freight, and Stallworth Real Estate and Construction Co. Inc. Artis was also very instrumental in getting the Covelli Center built and opening up Federal Street to through traffic.

In addition to his many jobs and positions, Artis found time to volunteer on many boards and other organizations important to Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

He leaves to carry on his legacy and cherish his beloved memories, his wife, the former Annie L. Spooner, whom he married March 15, 1962; four children, Artis Gillam Jr. of Cleveland, Arnold Gillam Sr., Adrienne (Rodney) Davis and Andrea Gillam, all of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Tamica Gillam, Artis Gillam III, Arnold (Hannah) Gillam Jr., Rodney Davis, Jr., Alexis Gillam, Andre (Shalena) Davis and Denzel Davis; and 15 great-grandchildren, Andre Davis Jr., Amire, Amira and Alena Davis, Armani Johnson, Talaya and Reggie Dunlap, Artis IV, Nariah, Gianna, Markez, Amiah, Kayel, Amari, and Kenna Gillam. He also leaves six sisters-in-law, Juanell (Sylvester Sr.) Patton, Janice Burroughs, Joyce Dean-El, Linda Jenkins, Brenda Boudreaux and Margie Ann Leonard; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Homer Jenkins, L. V. Jenkins and Douglas Gillam; his sister-in-law, Shirley Gillam; his brother-in-law, Charles Spooner; and his favorite uncle, Ruben Edmondson.

There is no doubt that Councilman Gillam was a giant in Youngstown and dedicated his life to our community. I was very proud to represent the great people of Youngstown alongside Mr. Gillam. My deepest sympathies go out to Mr. Gillam's family and to all whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was notified that I was exposed to COVID-19 and am following quarantine guidelines set by the CDC. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 (HR 8900); and YEA on Roll Call No. 241 (HR 5758).

REMEMBERING REVEREND JAMES L. NETTERS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a giant of the Memphis community—the Reverend James LaVirt Netters Sr., who passed on Sunday at the age of 93. Reverend Netters served more than 60 years as the senior pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Westwood. Reverend Netters graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington

High School, which produced other noted alumni such as civil rights activist Maxine Smith and civil rights attorney Judge Russell B. Sugarmon Jr. He went on to graduate from LeMoyne-Owen College, a historically Black college. He was a Memphis City Schools teacher when he responded to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s clarion call for jobs and freedom and attended the 1963 March on Washington. He returned to Memphis galvanized to address integrated public accommodations, getting arrested, like Rosa Parks, and encouraging other ministers to join him, in sitting in whites-only sections of buses in demonstrations that resulted in desegregating the system. Determined to make a difference in the lives of Black people, he turned to electoral politics. He was one of the first three Black City Council members sworn into office in January 1968, along with the Reverend J.O. Patterson and Fred Davis, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the Sanitation Workers Strike that led to the assassination of Dr. King that year. After his Council service, he was an administrative assistant and served as a community liaison for Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler from 1972 to 1975. He later received a master's degree and a doctorate in Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary, where a faculty chair in Rhetoric and African American Studies is named in his honor. Reverend Netters was a stand-up pastor whose friendships and influence knew no bounds. He was the longest-serving pastor of a single church in the City of Memphis and was respected for his moral authority. Other pastors and ministers held him in high regard for his leadership, activism, commitment to ministry and the community, and his focus-driven life. Noted for his work outside the church as well, Reverend Netters served on the board and as chairman of the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division. MLG&W's business center building is named in his honor, as is a portion of Third Street—James L. Netters Parkway. An open-minded leader and a man of impeccable character, he respected all people; there was not a prejudiced bone in his body. He reached across all religious, gender, political and racial groups as a respected bridge that brought all of Memphis together. I appreciated his friendship and his solid support, especially during my early runs for Congress. I was honored to take him as my guest to the annual Congressional Prayer Breakfast where he was pleased to meet with President Obama. I express my profound condolences to his family and to the Mount Vernon Baptist Church community he served so well. He led an exemplary life and will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "JOE" ALEXANDER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Joseph "Joe" Alexander, a pivotal Northern Virginia leader who passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2020 at the age of 90.

Joe Alexander was born in Pittsburgh, PA on December 21, 1929 to Celia and Milton Alexander. When Joe was young, the family

relocated to Northern Virginia where Joe would spend his life. In 1956, Joe married the love of his life Davina, and together they raised their two daughters Cathy and Cheri.

Joe dedicated his life to bettering the community in which he grew up by serving others. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the Air Force where he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Afterwards, Joe returned to the Franconia section of Fairfax County where he owned and managed Franconia Hardware. He was urged by other local business owners to run for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and began his first term in office in 1964. He served a total of 32 years, finally stepping down when his 8th term ended in December 1995.

During Joe's years of service on the Board, he was affectionately known as "Pothole Joe" because no level of constituent service was too small for him to personally address. He shaped the transformation of his district from one of un-regulated gravel pits to an area known for its vibrant planned communities.

Joe believed that an integrated transportation network was critical to the continued growth and prosperity of the region. In 1964, Joe was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on which he served for 25 years representing our region in mass transit systems such as WMATA, VRE, and the Fairfax Connector. Working with others he was instrumental in transforming four separate privately owned bus companies into the Metrobus system. In recognition of his immeasurable contributions to public transportation, the Joe Alexander Transportation Center (commonly referred to as the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station) was named after him, and in 2008 after serving as its Chair, Joe was inducted into the American Public Transportation Association Hall of Fame.

Public service was at the core of who Joe was. In addition to his contributions in transportation and community planning, Joe was a volunteer with the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. His love for his community and its history led him to donate his time as a volunteer and a Board Member with the Franconia Museum. Joe also had an adventurous spirit—he loved to travel, enjoyed good food and wine, and football. But above all Joe was a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joseph Alexander. His leadership and commitment to public service helped lay the foundation for the county and he will be missed by all who knew him. I also extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Davina; his daughters, Cathy Stevens (Ed) and Cheri Roth (Rich); and granddaughter Stephanie Roth. May his memory be a blessing.

COMMISSIONER MARY HODGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Hodge, a former Colorado State House Representative, State Senator, current Adams County Commissioner, and a great Coloradan.