

CONGRATULATING WHITEHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER NATHAN KIRSCH

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Whitehaven High School math teacher Nathan Kirsch for winning the Milken Educator Award and its \$25,000 honorarium.

Mr. Kirsch was surprised with the award at a school assembly Wednesday morning where the entire student body applauded him for being the only teacher in Tennessee to receive the national distinction which some have called “the Oscar Award for teaching.” In accepting the award, Mr. Kirsch called it one “for all of my students,” past, current and future. The Whitehaven High School community is rightly proud of this accomplishment.

It is very encouraging that a program known as a powerhouse in athletics is also being recognized for its excellence in academics. Mr. Kirsch embodies both traditions as the coach of the school’s cross-country and track teams and for being credited for raising the school’s AP Calculus scores.

I also commend Whitehaven High School Principal Vincent Hunter for recognizing the importance of providing excellent educational opportunities across the board. The Milken Award is given to 40 early- and mid-career teachers across the country, often jump-starting careers while inspiring educators and their communities.

I congratulate Mr. Kirsch and all the Whitehaven Tigers on this exceptional achievement.

HONORING MR. ALEX RICHARDSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alex Richardson who recently graduated from college with a degree in Criminal Justice. Immediately following graduation, Alex was hired by the City of Sunrise Police Department and sent to the police academy. On December 9, 2019, he was pinned in a ceremony at the Sunrise police headquarters and is currently undergoing police training in his community.

Alex is known for beating the odds. He grew up without a father and lost his mother to cancer at age four. One of five children, he and his siblings were adopted by Mr. Patrick Hosler, Jr., who mentored him throughout his childhood. Alex played YFL football for his city, and he now coaches other young men and women in four sports. I am delighted that this fine young man lives in my Congressional district. I am confident that he will succeed beyond all expectations at whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue. I wish him all the very best and thank him for his service to our community.

RECOGNIZING JULIUS (“JULIE”) P. KNAPP

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, as we consider this critical 5G security and supply chain legislation before us, on behalf of Ranking Member WALDEN, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chairman DOYLE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member LATTA, I would like to commend Julius (“Julie”) P. Knapp for the wonderful contributions to civil service he has made over his 45 year career.

Mr. Knapp recently retired from his position as the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology. He is well known in our Committee because he has testified before us so many times over the years. We could always rely on his technically precise and straight-forward testimony. Mr. Knapp is an internationally-recognized expert who is known for his pragmatic and fair approach, and his ability to explain, in plain language, engineering issues to policymakers on all sides of an issue.

Julie Knapp’s career ran in tandem with the growth of the American communications industry. In many ways, it was a symbiotic relationship. He graduated from high school in New Hyde, New York, in 1969, and received his engineering degree from the City College of New York in 1974. Less than a month later, he joined the FCC. At 22 years old, he started out certifying radio frequency devices. He then rose through the ranks to become Chief of the FCC laboratory, then Chief of the Policy and Rules Division for the Office and Engineering and Technology (OET), and finally Chief of OET, where he has served with extraordinary distinction since 2006.

It goes without saying that Julie Knapp could have taken the extraordinary skills he perfected at the FCC to Silicon Valley or to one of the trade associations where his work is so well regarded and appreciated. Instead, he chose to serve the United States through multiple administrations as a public servant, and his longtime contributions will make a positive difference for generations to come.

It’s not surprising that Mr. Knapp’s outstanding work has brought him numerous awards and accolades within the government and in the engineering community. In 2012, he received one of the highest honors for a civil servant, the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award. He also received the FCC’s Gold and Silver awards and the Eugene C. Bowler award for exceptional professionalism and dedication to public service.

Here in Congress, we have been the fortunate beneficiaries of that dedication to public service. He has briefed generations of Members and congressional staffers on the intricacies of how spectrum works and why we need to harness it with careful consideration. He has provided significant and substantial input on all of the spectrum legislation passed by Congress in recent memory.

Mr. Knapp helped usher in the modern age of communications. He played an instrumental role in helping us make spectrum available to fuel our nation’s economic and innovative growth. If you are accessing a mobile device right now, using WiFi or buying the latest wire-

less gadget, you are likely benefiting from Julie Knapp’s work.

Julie Knapp epitomizes the non-partisan ideal of a public servant. As the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we are grateful for his invaluable longtime service to our nation, and extend our sincerest thanks to him for dedicating his life to building America’s communications systems.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes on December 12, 2019 and on December 17, 2019. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: on roll call 689, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 688, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 682, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 680, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 679, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 678, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 677, I would have voted Aye; and on roll call 676, I would have voted Nay.

RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF JIM WEILL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Weill, a dedicated advocate who has spent his 50-year career standing up for what’s right, and fighting to end poverty and promote social justice in this country.

As President of the Food Research & Action Center, also known as FRAC, Jim spent the last 22 years as a vital partner in the fight to eliminate hunger—my long-time priority here in Congress.

During this time, he has worked hard to expand programs that are essential to reducing hunger for so many, including SNAP, school lunch and breakfast, after school and summer food programs, child care food, and WIC. He’s also been a champion of poverty reduction measures like the refundable Child Tax Credit.

Madam Speaker, Jim’s commitment to ending the epidemic of hunger in this country cannot be understated, and is exemplified by his tireless efforts to strengthen the coalition to end it. He not only helped bolster FRAC’s network of state and local partners, but he’s also launched and nurtured strong new anti-hunger advocacy groups, including in Maryland and the District of Columbia—bringing more allies into this important fight.

His lifetime of advocacy has led him to other prominent roles as well. Early in his career, Jim served as counsel at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago as the Director of Federal Litigation and Social Impact Projects, where he worked on over 100 federal class action and impact cases. This important work helped protect people on Social Security, Medicaid, AFDC, Food Stamps, and other public benefits. He also worked to improve our immigration system and combat discrimination against racial minorities and women.

As if all that weren't enough, Jim spent 16 years as Program Director and General Counsel at the Children's Defense Fund, where he helped safeguard and expand essential programs promoting youth health and well-being. Jim played a leading role in the fight to expand Medicaid and made major contributions to the enactment of several programs to promote youth health like the Children's Health Insurance Program. His leadership on children's rights helped spur child support enforcement reforms as well as the expansion of federal fair housing laws to include families with children.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and all the people in whose lives Jim has made a positive difference, it is my great privilege and honor to thank and recognize Jim Weill for his tireless efforts to create a more just and equitable world. I'm truly grateful to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SIOUX FALLS VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System for achieving a Pathway Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The Pathway Designation is a global credential awarded to health care organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to a healthy work environment that empowers and engages nurses. Investing in a positive, state-of-the-art workplace for nurses can lead to a greater culture of excellence for the entire health care facility. This has been clearly demonstrated and recognized in Sioux Falls. Therefore, this designation is a win not only for the Sioux Falls VA, but also for the greater veteran community they serve.

This award is a significant honor for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, validating their commitment to sustained excellence, professionalism, and dedication from the nursing staff and their patients. I commend the nurses of this organization for their outstanding record of service, care, and hard work. I extend my deepest congratulations to the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs Health Care System for this designation.

HONORING MAYOR JOE WELLMAN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mayor Joe Wellman upon his retirement. In 1983, Mayor Wellman began his career at People's National Bank in Washington, Indiana. He later became the CEO at Peoples National Bank and served on the bank's board of directors. Once Peoples National Bank merged with German American Bank, Joe continued his

work there before retiring in 2008. After his retirement, Joe spent time as a consultant and served one year with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation before being elected as Mayor of Washington in 2011.

Mayor Wellman has been affiliated with many community development organizations, including the Daviess County Community Foundation, Daviess County Economic Development Corporation, Community Foundation Alliance, Accelerating Indiana Municipalities, Indiana Bankers Association, Radius Indiana, and Rotary, among many others.

It has been a pleasure to work with Mayor Wellman while he led Washington through the development of I-69 and many other projects that have increased economic development in the community. I wish Mayor Wellman and his wife, Elaine, the best in retirement as they get to spend more time with their three daughters—Brenda, Angie and Lindsay—and their 7 grandchildren.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. DORCAS R. HARDY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service of Mrs. Dorcas R. Hardy who passed away Thursday, November 28, 2019. She selflessly served her community through her dedicated work in health services and passionately advocated the need for more financial security education for the public. Moreover, she served her country as the first woman commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1986. Her life was an example of dedication, toughness, love, and service from which all of us would be wise to learn.

Dorcas was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 18, 1946. In 1968, she completed her bachelor's degree at Connecticut College and subsequently obtained her Master of Business Administration degree in 1976 from Pepperdine University. As a natural-born leader, she headed the Health Services Industry Committee, Cost of Living Council from 1971 to 1973 and eventually was appointed to commissioner of the Social Security Administration in 1986 by then-president Ronald Reagan. Later, she continued to help the community by running a consulting firm and becoming a passionate advocate.

In 1996, she married Dr. Samuel Spagnolo and is survived by him and her three stepsons, along with their four grandchildren. Dorcas was a model for all of us not only in her work, but in her personal life.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mrs. Hardy and in thanking Dorcas Hardy's family for their incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our nation; words cannot express our gratitude. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KENNETH KAZUTO TAKEUCHI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Ken Takeuchi, who passed away on December 8, 2019. Ken was the beloved voice of the Central Valley's auto racing circuit for over 60 years.

Kenneth Kazuto Takeuchi was born on January 27, 1927 in Fresno, California. During World War II, Ken and his family were ordered into internment camps in Jerome, Arkansas. Shortly after, Ken and his five brothers were drafted into the military and served their country during the war. Eventually, the family returned to Fresno and their farm. After his military service, Ken worked for the Fresno County Parks Department, before taking a different course in life.

Ken was best known as a speedway announcer and organizer of races throughout the Central Valley. He got his start in the 1950s at the Selma Speedway. His voice graced auto races throughout the state for more than 60 years. Ken was so well known, he was inducted into numerous halls of fame, including in 1995 the San Jose's Speedway Hall of Fame, the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame in 2017, and the Clovis Hall of Fame in 2019.

Ken was also a competitive runner. His passion for running flourished in different avenues. He was the founder of the Valley Runner of the Year series and the Pro Race Group in Fresno. His goal was always for people to come together through running and walking for good causes. In the 1980s, he began directing races. Ken also helped found the Shinzen Run, which supported the Shinzen Japanese Friendship Garden in Fresno, a cause that was deeply important to Ken and the community. In his later years, he worked with Special Olympics and appreciated his friendships with athletes of all ages.

He is survived by his daughter, Cindy Campbell and her husband Duane; brother Leo Takeuchi; sister Erma Aoki; three grandchildren, Lindsay, Chelsea, and Ashley Campbell, and his great grandchild, Melody Haussmann.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Ken Takeuchi. His commitment and dedication to the Central Valley sporting community left an impact on many. We join his family and friends in honoring his great life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast roll call votes from January 7 to 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: on roll call 1, I would have voted Present; on roll call 2, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 3, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 4, I would have voted Aye; on roll call 5, I would have voted Aye; and on roll call 6, I would have voted Aye.