

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NATHAN EUGENE FLETCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Eugene Fletcher. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Nathan Eugene Fletcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRENDA HELLYER, CHANCELLOR OF SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional educator, San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer, on receiving the prestigious Quasar Award for Economic Development Excellence from the Bay Area Houston Partnership (BAHEP). BAHEP presents its renowned Quasar Award to an outstanding elected official or business leader who has demonstrated a strong and continual effort to support the business foundations of the greater Bay Area Houston communities.

Dr. Hellyer grew up in Hays, Kansas, a small town of nearly 12,000 in the heart of wheat and cattle country. She is the second of four children—three girls and a boy. Her father was a truck driver for Rainbow Bread and later served as a custodian at the local elementary school. Her mother was a housewife until her youngest sister started school, and then began a career as a school cook and baker.

Dr. Hellyer earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Fort Hays State University, and both her master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin. She received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in spring

2009. Dr. Hellyer is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in Texas. While in college, she received many scholarships that helped finance her education and credits her success to the generosity of University donors.

Working for Fortune 500 companies in accounting and finance, eventually led Dr. Hellyer down to Houston where she met her husband, Rusty. Together, Rusty and Brenda worked with several small businesses they owned in the Deer Park and Pasadena communities. She strongly believes in serving the community, and her first involvement with San Jacinto College was as a volunteer with the San Jacinto College Foundation.

Since 2009, Dr. Hellyer has served as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, a notable Houston institution with nearly 30,000 students, four primary campuses, and an annual budget of \$252 million. Her involvement with the College began in 1996 as an inaugural director for the San Jacinto College Foundation. She later served in a number of executive positions at the college, including Executive Vice President for Resource Development, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice Chancellor.

After becoming Chancellor of San Jacinto College in May 2009, Dr. Hellyer led a rigorous strategic planning process to transform the image of the college. During her tenure, the college has made major infrastructure renovations and developed award-winning programs including its Maritime Training and Technology Center, Generation Park Campus, Aerospace Training facility, and the LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology.

These efforts have transformed San Jacinto College into a modern community college, offering students education in collaborative classrooms and hands on training with equipment they will encounter as they move into the workforce.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Hellyer for her dedication as Chancellor of San Jacinto College, and for her outstanding community engagement in the greater Bay Area.

IN CELEBRATION OF VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR TET 2020

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Tét, Vietnamese New Year, for 2020. The large Vietnamese community in Orange County will gather together in Little Saigon to celebrate the Year of the Rat. I am once again honored to join them in observing their traditions and rich culture.

Tét marks the beginning of a new spring where families can reunite with their ancestors, reconnect with their loved ones, and move beyond their troubles and difficulties from the past year. Furthermore, they cele-

brate and hope for a better year ahead of them. The celebration brings together the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon, the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam. Fifty thousand participants and over sixty organizations will gather to celebrate with food, music, dance, and so much more. The theme for this year's parade is "With Profound Gratitude and Appreciation," where participants will express their gratitude to the ancestors who sacrificed to give forthcoming generations a brighter future. Another aspect of this year's celebration is an expression of the community's appreciation to the United States.

In the nearly fifty years since the fall of Saigon, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees have resettled and built strong communities across the United States. The United States accepted and looked after the Vietnamese community and offered the opportunity to start a new life in this great country. Here in America, they have the freedom to celebrate their basic human rights and enjoy the communities they have built after resetting.

A shining star of the Vietnamese American community of Little Saigon is the vibrant group of media outlets—*Nguoi Viet Daily News*, *Vien Dong Daily News*, *Viet Bao Daily News*, *Vietnam America TV (VNA-TV)*, *Saigon Broadcasting Television Network (SBTN)*, *Little Saigon Radio*, *Central Broadcasting Network (CBN)*, and many more. They are committed to providing reliable news, preserving the Vietnamese language and culture, and enriching the lives and experiences of the Vietnamese community in the United States.

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tét 2020.

HONORING DAVIS S. WELCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Davis S. Welch as he retires following 38 years of distinguished service to the Army and the nation. Throughout his extraordinary career, he embodied the duty, honor, and loyalty that makes the U.S. Army the world's premier fighting force.

Davis' commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities in service of his nation is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted patriot. Throughout his career, he earned numerous academic and military accolades, including the Legion of Merit, that garnered the respect and admiration of his peers. Davis was instrumental in balancing immediate needs within resource constraints while expertly and expeditiously funding peacetime and war-related Theater, Joint, and Operational Needs Statements. His resume tells the story of a man unafraid to embrace the challenges that forge the leaders our nation needs.

● 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.

For near four decades, Davis positively impacted all those around him, while zealously safeguarding the sanctity of our public accounts and our public trust. We have all benefited from his extraordinary guidance, judgment, and character. His dedicated service has greatly contributed to the security of this Country, and of free peoples around the world.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. It is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Davis Welch as he starts this new chapter of his life. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his superb work and wish him the very best.

HONORING COLTON MATTHEW FRENCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colton Matthew French. Colton is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colton has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colton has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colton has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Colton Matthew French for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. This bipartisan and commonsense legislation will level the playing field for older workers in Central New York and across the country by restoring the ability to combat age discrimination in the workplace.

Speaking with Central New Yorkers, I have heard from many older workers who have expressed concern over the prevalence of ageism in the workplace. My constituents are not alone either. According to a recent AARP report, 3 in 5 older workers have experienced age discrimination in the workplace. Despite this statistic, the recent 2009 Supreme Court's decision in *Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc.*, has weakened federal protections against age discrimination, making it more difficult for older Americans to prove age discrimination and rectify these instances. For this reason, I

am proud to support the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. Under this bipartisan legislation, we will take the necessary steps to protect older workers against age discrimination in the workplace by restoring the pre-2009 legal standards for age discrimination claims.

Mr. Chair, age should never be a factor in employment decisions. Whether an older worker is forced out of a job or receiving lower pay due to age, older workers in Central New York and in the United States must be protected from age discrimination in the workplace. Troubling statistics published by AARP make it clear that age discrimination in the workplace is an issue that must be addressed by Congress. I urge my colleagues in the House to act in a bipartisan manner to protect older workers against age discrimination by supporting the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK GAFFNEY FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Mark Gaffney as he retires from his position at Teamsters Local Union No. 214.

As a lifelong Michigan resident, Mark Gaffney has become a cornerstone of the Michigan labor community. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in Philosophy and master's degree in Labor Relations from Michigan State University, Gaffney launched a successful thirty-year career in workforce issues and labor relations. Beyond his role at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, Gaffney has also served as President of the Michigan AFL-CIO, an association of forty national labor unions representing over 700,000 Michiganders. In addition, Gaffney has directed the Economic Alliance of Michigan for twelve years as a co-chair, served as the Chair of the Board of Human Resources Development, Inc., was part of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth, and was appointed by Mayor Duggan to serve on the Detroit Workforce Board. Aside from his work with labor relations, Gaffney also has extensive healthcare experience and even served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. In 2016, Gaffney was elected statewide to serve an eight-year term on the Board of Governors of Wayne State University.

Mark Gaffney's professional accomplishments demonstrate his unrelenting commitment to the people of Michigan. During his time at Teamsters Local Union No. 214, the largest Teamsters Local in Michigan, Gaffney has represented and negotiated on behalf of Michigan municipal and education workers from all walks of life. Yet, Gaffney's dedication is not exclusive to his role within the labor union. Instead, Gaffney has endeavored to represent Michiganders in all capacities, ensuring their needs are being properly met. Gaffney is recognized amongst his peers and colleagues as a compassionate, ambitious,

and humble leader who strives for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Mark Gaffney's career with Teamsters Local Union No. 214. Mark Gaffney's unrelenting commitment to our state is remarkable and I deeply appreciate his continued leadership in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF THE UNION OF THE VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (UVSA)

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California (UVSA) and the organization's tremendous contribution in organizing the highest-attended, longest-running annual Tét festival in the country.

UVSA is committed to fostering awareness of Vietnamese culture, civic engagement, and leadership development within the community. Since its founding, it has shown an unwavering dedication to community service and advocacy for social justice, both domestically and internationally.

UVSA's volunteers are students, alumni, professional, educators, and community leaders. When not organizing the Tét Festival, UVSA provides grants to other non-profits across Southern California, holds leadership development activities at high schools and colleges, participates in Black April commemorations, and holds inter-collegiate events with their respective Vietnamese student associations.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California.

HONORING CONOR ALLEN LITTLETON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conor Allen Littleton. Conor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Conor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Conor has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Conor built a firepit at American Legion Post 58 in Smithville, Missouri, to be used for flag retirement ceremonies.