

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was unable to make votes on Monday, July 27th. Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA” on Rollcall No. 167.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, which impacted my flight options, I was not present in the House and unable to vote on July 27, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted “YEA” on Rollcall No. 167.

### CENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN LEGION EARL GRAHAM POST 159

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year anniversary of American Legion Earl Graham Post 159. American Legion Post 159 was chartered 13 February 1920 and named after First Lieutenant Cyrus Earl Graham, Texas A&M University class of 1916.

Lieutenant Graham was a member of the United States Army Air Corps and was killed in action in France on 9 November 1918.

From the beginning, The American Legion created an egalitarian organization open to membership regardless of race, gender, or religion. Post 159 has embodied these goals and has been a community-minded organization since its inception 100 years ago.

During this period, Post 159 has been dedicated to serving the local Brazos Valley community through events such as the Brazos County Fair and the historical Juneteenth Celebration, both of which were hosted on The American Legion grounds. These events saw over 1,000 people come together to embrace our community.

Post 159 of The American Legion continues its commitment to the community to this day, with programs that provide activities for local youth and veterans, as well as support for Active Duty military members currently serving overseas.

The annual Resource Fair and Veterans Assistance program provides over \$20,000 in financial assistance to veterans in need.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that The American Legion Earl Graham Post 159 has had a

significant and positive impact on the Brazos Valley during its 100-year history.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize this significant milestone and their contributions to our veterans and to our community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, and for our military men and women who protect us and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF BULLHEAD CITY CHIEF OF POLICE BRIAN WILLIAMSON

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Bullhead City Chief of Police Brian Williamson, ending a career serving our country for 32 years in law enforcement.

Chief Williamson began his honorable career in 1988 by enlisting in the U.S. Army as a military police officer. He would leave the Army in 1992, only to enter public law enforcement to protect the people of Western Arizona.

After serving with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Chief Williamson became a patrol officer with the Bullhead City Police Department, working his way through the ranks to eventually achieve the position of chief of police, where he has served for the last nine years. This year, Chief Williamson is entering a much-deserved retirement and we in Western Arizona deeply thank him for his tireless service to Mohave County.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chief Williamson for his lifetime of service to our nation and offer my warmest wishes for a happy retirement. Western Arizona is safer and stronger on the back of the service provided by Chief Williamson and his officers, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chief Williamson well in the next adventures life brings.

### H.R. 2, THE MOVING FORWARD ACT

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of medium-sized cities in Washington state and across the country who play a critical role in driving the nation’s economy.

In Washington state, transportation and infrastructure mean jobs and are key to economic recovery as the nation grapples with the

COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, the House passed H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, a comprehensive package that invests more than \$1.5 trillion in America’s transportation and infrastructure over the next five years. This includes nearly \$7 billion for Washington state’s transportation network. The Moving Forward Act is part of a long-term vision to put Americans back to work, jumpstart the economy and make the transportation network smarter, safer and greener.

Although H.R. 2 significantly increases surface transportation funding, it falls short in helping the nation’s medium-sized cities, like Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood and Oak Harbor in my district. Congress must recommit to supporting medium-sized cities’ efforts to improve their transportation systems and foster economic development. We can do this by increasing federal infrastructure investment.

Previously known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program awards grants to local surface transportation projects across the country. However, the BUILD program’s structure can force medium-sized cities to delay or indefinitely postpone vital transportation projects.

The City of Mountlake Terrace, Washington is one example. The city applied for a BUILD grant in 2011 and 2012 to help fund the redevelopment of Main Street to facilitate economic development and affordable housing connected to the planned Light Rail station. Despite receiving among the highest economic benefit ratios by DOT, the city’s population size was the main reason DOT did not fund the project.

The City of Shoreline, Washington faced a similar problem. For the past two years, Shoreline has submitted a BUILD grant application for a project to rebuild a highway interchange that will help reduce congestion and improve mobility. Although this project was highly rated and advanced to the Transportation Secretary’s desk for consideration, it has not received federal funding due to its medium-sized population.

To help address these issues, I introduced the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development for Underfunded Projects (BUILD UP) Act earlier this year. The BUILD UP Act would require at least 30 percent of funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s BUILD grant funding be awarded to cities with 10,000 to 75,000 residents. Over the past two years, cities with populations between 10,000 and 75,000 have received approximately 35 percent of BUILD funding. The BUILD UP Act would codify current DOT distribution practice and not re-route funding from other rural or urban areas.

As the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress must ensure medium-size cities can access the federal resources necessary to proceed with shovel-ready infrastructure projects and to help put Americans back to work. I encourage House leadership

● 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.

and the Appropriations Committee to include a similar BUILD UP set-aside in a final FY2021 appropriations package.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ROBERT EDINGTON**

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert Edington, a military veteran, former Alabama State Senator and Representative, prominent Mobile area lawyer, dedicated community leader and devoted husband and father. His many years of service to his state and to his country demonstrate his patriotism, his servant heart and his commitment to our American values.

Robert Edington was born in Mobile, Alabama to Judge David Henry Edington and Cornelia Owen Edington on November 18, 1929. He studied at Rhodes College as an undergraduate and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama. In addition to his distinguished military career, Robert practiced law in Mobile, Alabama for over sixty years, establishing himself as one of the pre-eminent lawyers in the area.

A veteran, Robert served on active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955, and in the Navy Active Reserve from 1955 until his retirement as a Commander in 1980. Robert's exemplary service record was evident in the many awards, medals and accolades he earned throughout his years of selfless service. As Navy Air Operations Officer, Robert was awarded the Korean Service Medal with two Battle Stars; the China Service Medal; the United Nations Service Medal; and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Robert further served his state and his country in the Alabama State Legislature, first as a State Representative from 1962 to 1970; and then as State Senator from 1970 to 1974. During his time in the State Legislature, Robert was instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama, the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and the development of Bishop State Community College. He also played a lead role in establishing the Alabama Historical Commission and was recognized for his efforts by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. with their national award.

Robert also authored legislation which created the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. Seeing his vision through, Robert served on the commission in during its creation in 1963 through 1972 and later served as its Chairman. During this period, Robert also located and arranged for the Alabama OS2U's transfer and relocation. Owing to his leadership and dedication, Robert was again appointed to the Battleship Commission in the year 2000.

Robert has also served as State President and National Director of the Navy League of the United States. In this capacity, he actively supported port visits of U.S. Navy vessels for important occasions, including Mardi Gras. He has also served as President of the CSS Alabama Association USA, where he has overseen tremendous fundraising and artifact re-

covey. Notably, he oversaw the restoration of a historic cannon which is now on display in the History Museum of Mobile.

A dedicated member of the Mobile, Alabama community, Robert was Mobile's Consul to Guatemala for twenty years and organized Mobile's first trade mission to Central America. For his efforts, he was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce's Achievement Award.

Robert served on the National Advisory Board for the U.S. Small Business Administration. He was a member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Legion. He was named Alumnus of the Year in 2008 by Rhodes College; and served as Director of the Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer's Program. In 2007, Robert's outstanding contributions to the community were acknowledged when he received the Mobilian of the Year Award. In 2012, Robert received the distinguished honor of being named the 2012 Mobile Area Veteran of the Year.

Robert married the love of his life, Patricia Gentry, on June 2, 1962, and together they raised a son Sherard (Courtney Hollins) and a daughter Virginia. He is also survived by his beloved granddaughter, Courtney. Robert was an elder at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church where he taught Sunday school for many years. He also chaired the board of the Montreat Association.

On personal note, I am honored to call Robert and Pat Edington my dear friends and I am blessed to be influenced by their wise counsel and infectious commitment to community service. Robert led by example, dedicating his life to love of God, country, family and community. He was always willing to work to improve the lives of others. From his military career to his political and civic engagement, Robert has left an indelible mark on the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama. May we find comfort in knowing that his extraordinary legacy will live on in the many people he impacted.

On behalf of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exemplary life and accomplishments of Robert Edington.

**HONORING CLIFFORD  
SPIEGELMAN, PH.D.**

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman of College Station, Texas, who passed away on 14 May 2020.

Dr. Spiegelman, known as Cliff to his family and friends, was born on 15 May 1948 in Long Island, New York, to Charlie and Doris Spiegelman.

In school, he was an accomplished athlete and won numerous awards for track and other sports. He also excelled in the classroom and pursued a career in academics, receiving his bachelor of science from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1970, his master's degree in managerial economics from Northwestern University in 1973, and his Ph.D. in statistics and applied mathematics from Northwestern University in 1976.

Cliff started his career with the agency now known as the National Institute of Standards

and Technology, commonly called NIST. He later became a tenured professor at the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University.

Serving on the faculty at Texas A&M for over 30 years, Cliff became renowned in his field and a highly sought-after expert in the application of statistical expertise to forensic science, chemistry, and medicine. In 2009, he was named a distinguished professor of statistics, the university's highest rank for faculty. His contributions to the field of statistics were further recognized in his appointment as a regents professor in 2019.

Cliff was particularly known for his helpful nature and deep commitment to justice and fairness in the criminal justice system. He was nationally recognized for his research on statistical interpretation of criminal evidence, such as bullet fragment analysis and firearm tool marks.

He was a fierce advocate of accuracy by investigators to prevent false convictions. He further expanded his advocacy through his work with the Innocence Project, testifying pro bono in evidentiary admissibility hearings and providing research that played critical roles in overturning false convictions of innocent individuals.

His commitment to justice extended outside of the courtroom as well. He served on the Texas Forensic Science Commission as well as the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, where he worked to ensure that the death statistics of the Holocaust and other genocides are reliably reported.

Dr. Spiegelman leaves a professional legacy that is unmatched in his field. However, his proudest accomplishments were outside of the workplace.

Cliff married Dr. Katherine Bretzlaff in 1990, a fellow professor at Texas A&M. Together, they raised two daughters, Lindsey and Abigail, who each carry their parents' commitments to academic excellence, strong work ethic, and kindness to those around them.

In the tributes written by the many individuals and organizations positively impacted by Cliffs work, nearly all spoke of Cliffs pride in his family and his frequent excitement to share the achievements of his daughters.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Clifford Spiegelman's life was defined by his outstanding accomplishments as a professor, mentor, and expert in statistics, as well as his commitment to his family and friends. He will be forever remembered for his strong principles and commitment to excellence and as a devoted husband, father, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Spiegelman family. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Dr. Clifford Spiegelman.

**CASE FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS**

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2020*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, without question, student success starts in the classroom. For months, kitchen tables have turned into study areas, living