

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH H. SOCCIO

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2020*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joseph Soccio, who passed away on September 19, 2020 at the age of 97. A U.S. Army Air Force and Air Force veteran, loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr. Soccio will be dearly missed.

In 1941 Mr. Soccio graduated from West Senior High School, as part of the first graduating class. Shortly after, he entered the U.S. Army Air Force, proudly serving his country during World War II. During the War, he served as Crew Chief on a B-24 Liberator Bomber, and attained the rank of Sergeant. After World War II, he went on to re-enlist in the U.S. Air Force, serving his nation again in the Korean War.

Following his military service, Mr. Soccio returned to Central New York to work for Alco Products. He spent 30 years with the company, and led its Mechanical Laboratories Division.

Outside of his work, Mr. Soccio was a man of faith, and a longtime member of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn. He enjoyed gardening, coaching youth baseball, and was an avid hunter. Most of all, he loved his family deeply. He is survived by his three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Joseph Soccio. A cherished member of our Central New York community, Mr. Soccio will be deeply missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we celebrate his life.

### IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH PETERSON

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the esteemed life of a dear friend, Joe Peterson. He will forever be remembered for his tremendous impact on our Wyandotte community, and he will be deeply missed.

Mayor Peterson was a pillar of Wyandotte. Before beginning his career in public service, Peterson was a long-time police officer in the Wyandotte Police Department. Throughout his twenty-seven years with the police force, Peterson held several different positions including undercover officer, detective sergeant, and probation officer. In 2005, Peterson was elected to serve on the Wyandotte City Council and was elected mayor in 2009. Through-

out all capacities, Peterson endeavored to make Wyandotte a better place for all.

Mayor Peterson was a dedicated, compassionate, and effective leader who humbly strove for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments. As a veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, Peterson knew deeply what it meant to be a committed and loyal fighter. He never stopped caring for others, especially his fellow veterans, and faithfully served his beloved Wyandotte.

Mayor Peterson leaves behind a legacy that will forever endure. He was a true representative of a passionate public servant who was unwavering in his commitment to make Wyandotte a better place. He strove to foster a deep sense of community, and was a steady voice of reason in troubling or challenging times. He encouraged us to see the best in one another and work together for the common good. Undoubtedly, Peterson has left a meaningful impact on the city, and the love he had for Wyandotte will always be remembered. His passing represents a loss to our entire community, but his memory will endure through the countless lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joe Peterson. He was a cornerstone of Wyandotte, and we will forever remember his remarkable life, work, and community impact. May he rest in eternal peace.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2020*

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment in my home state of Ohio. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 196 and YEA on Roll Call No. 197.

### REMEMBRANCE OF MR. VINCENT GIEDRAITIS

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2020*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a remembrance of Mr. Vincent Giedraitis, a member of the "Greatest Generation" from Vernon, Connecticut who passed away at the age of 95 on August 10, 2020. Vin, as he was known to friends and colleagues led an extraordinary life, setting an example of how to really succeed by balancing family, professional success as an attorney, and service to his country at sea in the U.S. Navy.

Vin balanced a long life full of many interests and hobbies with his work, with his val-

ued friendships and his vibrant family life. He was an avid skier and fisherman. He enjoyed tennis, ballroom dancing, boating, golf and making a yearly batch of wild grape jelly. He played, studied and worked with determination and great satisfaction. He graduated from New Britain High School and then served in the Navy as a radar engineer on the U.S. John Boe destroyer in WWII. In the time after the war, he attended Central Connecticut State College and graduated from McGill University with a degree in Philosophy. While at McGill he met the love of his life, Joyce, and they were married for over 70 years. After settling in Connecticut and while raising their family, he went on to earn his Law Degree at the UConn School of Law. He went on to work for IBM, Aetna Insurance, Fuller Brush and then established his own private law practice in Hartford. He became a Public Defender for the City of Hartford and then for the town of Vernon-Rockville.

Madam Speaker, I had a chance to see Vin's work in the Public Defender's Office up close over the years. As a law school intern who worked in the Hartford Superior Court, I helped interview clients and witnesses and assisted him during court hearings and trials. After passing the bar I continued to work with Vin as a public defender myself and in private practice. As most people know, public defenders have to grapple with high caseloads, sometimes difficult clients and limited resources to fully investigate cases. Sometimes public defenders succumb to viewing their role as moving cases along, and not pursuing the fullest defense possible. Not Vin. He took his oath and the constitutional duty under the Sixth Amendment to provide effective assistance of counsel to the fullest degree possible. I saw him press judges and prosecutors harder than they were normally accustomed in his pursuit of fairness and equal justice. It gave me a true insight into his strong character, which I admired deeply. As friendly and affable a person as he was, he had a spine of steel that was always centered on ethics and compassion.

Madam Speaker, Vin was devoted to his amazing, impressive wife Joyce, their eight children and many grandchildren who all loved him dearly and mourn his passing. Madam Speaker, I would ask the members to join me in honoring the wonderful life and legacy of Vincent Giedraitis.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF NORMA J. LEWIS

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2020*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late former-Highland Park City Council Member Norma J. Lewis, who passed away in September, 2020.

Above all, Norma Lewis was a public servant and an advocate for the people of Highland Park, Michigan. A resident of Highland

● 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.

Park for more than fifty years, Ms. Lewis strived to make Highland Park a world-class city. First elected to the City Council in 2003, Norma Lewis served five consecutive terms. She was the longest-seated woman to serve in the history of Highland Park. Her service included terms as City Council President Pro-Tem in 2007 and City Council President in 2009.

Norma Lewis' public service to Highland Park is marked by her dedication to improving access to services for senior citizens and access to clean water for all. She actively worked to improve city infrastructure for improved water service. In addition, Ms. Lewis led several projects to provide holiday meals to Highland Park's most vulnerable residents. Ms. Lewis spearheaded the revitalization of the city's Mark E. Storen Memorial Park, allowing for greater enjoyment of the public space.

Norma Lewis' work has been recognized by dozens of organizations. Please join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Norma J. Lewis, wife, mother, and public servant, as we honor her memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM SLEIGHT FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to William Sleight as he celebrates his retirement and recognize his years of distinguished service with Michigan Works! Southeast. His contributions to Michigan are worthy of commendation.

William Sleight's career in workforce development spans nearly 40 years. After earning a master's degree in Public Administration from Michigan State University, Sleight served in various roles for the workforce programs in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties before starting his career with the Michigan Works! Association. He served as Director of Livingston County Michigan Works! for 25 years, and later was appointed Director of Michigan Works! Southeast in May 2016.

Sleight has also served on numerous state, local and regional boards and committees throughout Michigan. He is the founding co-chair of the Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan and the current chair of the Southeast Michigan Works Agencies Council (SEMWAC). His dedication to Michigan has expanded jobs, facilitated economic growth, opened doors, and created a host of opportunities for thousands of people. His years of devoted work have made a difference in the lives of Michiganders across the state, and his efforts in labor development will leave a lasting impact on the workforce in the years to come.

Without a doubt, William Sleight has devoted his career to serving Michigan and has worked tirelessly to ensure it remains a fruitful and prosperous place. Across all capacities, William Sleight has been recognized as a dedicated, compassionate, and humble leader who strives to make a meaningful difference.

He has been the voice of reason in challenging times and has encouraged all to work together to better our state. His efforts have transformed Michigan, and his impact will forever be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of William Sleight. I am proud to honor his work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank him for his outstanding service and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, due to pre-scheduled travel with the President, I was absent from voting on September 22, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 196 and YEA on Roll Call No. 197.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JACK EVERSOLE

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of T. Jack Eversole, founder of the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) in my district. Jack passed away peacefully last month, and he will be sorely missed.

A World War II Marine Corps veteran who served in the South Pacific, Jack graduated from the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University and was passionate about serving his community. Before founding BRADD, Jack worked in journalism and communications in Glasgow and Bowling Green, was on the Bowling Green-Warren County Planning Commission, and served as a Warren County Magistrate. He established BRADD in 1968 and led the organization for 32 years, growing it from a three-person team with a \$50,000 budget to a thriving agency with a budget of \$7.6 million when he retired in 2000.

Jack was innovative, and he always wanted to help solve problems. He directed many projects that have been instrumental to the Commonwealth and to the region. His hard work continues to benefit Kentuckians, and I am grateful for all that he did during his time with BRADD and serving our country. I join the entire south-central Kentucky community in mourning the loss of Jack Eversole who was a faithful servant to our state and country. My prayers are with his family and friends as he is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

HONORING LITERACYCNY

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, in celebration of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, I rise today to honor LiteracyCNY. In Central New York, LiteracyCNY is making a tremendous impact on our community by working to boost literacy rates for adult students who read, write, or speak English below the 6th grade level.

Founded by Ruth Colvin in 1962, for more than 70 years LiteracyCNY has helped thousands of adults in Onondaga County improve their literacy and English skills by offering free reading and writing instruction. However today, there's still more work to be done. According to the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, there are approximately 60,000 adults in Onondaga County with limited literacy skills and English proficiency. Without these skills, individuals in our community are unable to fully participate as citizens, parents, or employees.

In recent years, LiteracyCNY has continued to make progress, enrolling more than 350 students on an annual basis, with approximately 80 percent of their students making measurable gains on standardized tests. Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, LiteracyCNY has continued their important work. The organization adapted to changing circumstances and provided learners with instruction via teleconferencing.

In addition to its work on reading and writing, LiteracyCNY provides students with lessons to help them thrive in their daily lives. The organization offers information and referrals to human and emergency services, and makes individuals aware of local job opportunities. LiteracyCNY also works to raise awareness about the issue of adult literacy and volunteers advocate to policymakers on behalf of their students in Central New York.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the contributions of LiteracyCNY. Through its work to boost literacy rates, this organization is helping adults in Central New York achieve career success, teach their children, and reach their full potential.

RECOGNIZING TIM HAY FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS THE FLORIDA SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Mr. Tim Hay, who will shortly be leaving his role as Sergeant at Arms of the Florida Senate. Tim's commitment to protecting and serving the Florida Senate is of the highest caliber and I am thankful for his years of dedication to my home state.

A lifelong Floridian, Tim received his bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University, and, in 2012, began his career with