

Martha and I wish you and Clarinda; your combined families; your three kids, Whitney, John, David; and their families many, many happy days on the trail in the years to come.

You will be missed here in the people's House. You will be missed by your friends. These Halls will be a little emptier without your smile, your voice, and your love expressed daily for the people of east Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING PAUL KRATZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a faithful public servant who served the city of Omaha for nearly 23 years.

Paul Kratz, who led the city's legal department as the city attorney, retired last week to spend his days with his wife of 47 years, Diane. He is also a wonderful friend of mine.

A 1975 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law, Paul oversaw a staff of 35, including 24 attorneys, and negotiated redevelopment agreements and managed litigation. Originally hired by former Mayor Hal Daub, also a former Congressman here, he served during the administrations of Mayor Mike Fahey, Mayor Jim Suttle, and current Mayor Jean Stothert.

Mayor Stothert had this to say about Mr. Kratz:

Paul has been an important adviser, negotiator, and taxpayer advocate for more than two decades. He has guided mayors and city councils to make decisions that make Omaha the great and growing city it is today.

Former Mayor Suttle said this about him:

During my time as mayor, Paul Kratz always told me what I needed to hear, not necessarily what I wanted to hear. Out of this foundation came a strong relationship built on trust and honesty. In addition, it made me a better mayor and a better leader, especially as we led the city through the two major tragedies of a potential bankruptcy and the devastating 2011 Missouri River flood.

Former Mayor Daub said this:

Paul Kratz brought unique skills and a love of public service to Omaha city government. Always the gentleman, his calm and pleasant demeanor provided stability in his well-managed office and earns broad agreement of admiring his objectivity and wise advice. He understood and appreciated the political ramifications of legal advice, the value of compromise, and his insights and creative recommendations to a multitude of tough issues were always helpful. His talent and tenacity in public service is rare, and he will leave very large shoes to fill.

Paul Kratz may have been the man behind the curtain in negotiations, but his legacy will remain because of dozens of projects, including the CHI Health Center, the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, the TD Ameritrade Park, and the College World Series contract.

In addition, the legacy of service of the Kratz family continues with his

children. His youngest son, Gregory Kratz, practices law in Fairbury, Nebraska, and also serves as an officer in the Nebraska Air National Guard. Jeff Kratz, his oldest son, serves as my legislative director and has worked for many years serving the needs of Nebraska taxpayers.

Paul Kratz's dedication to Nebraska has touched countless lives, and his positive example has surely inspired another generation of his family to carry his torch for many years to come.

We thank him for his dedicated service to our city and wish him the best in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STEVE NELSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steve Nelson, a man who has been at the forefront of Nebraska's booming agriculture industry and who retired on December 8 of this year as the president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, a position he has faithfully served since 2011.

A farmer his whole life, Steve has produced irrigated corn, hybrid seed corn, and soybeans at his farm near Axtell in south central Nebraska.

In his work with the Farm Bureau, both before and during his tenure as president, Steve has helped to secure farm bills and worked to reform and lower taxes to help protect farm and ranch families.

He has also fought to bolster animal agriculture against those who want to end it and sought initiatives to grow Nebraska's livestock industry.

While Texas and Nebraska may have had a rivalry on the football field, they also have held a rivalry in livestock. During Steve's time as president, Nebraska was ranked first for several years in commercial red meat production.

Steve has also advocated for Nebraska's agriculture industry to other countries, serving as a delegation member to Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Belgium, and many others.

I am sure his wife, Elma, a retired nurse, is looking forward to spending more time with her husband and is proud of the work he has done, as are his kids: Scott and his wife, Amy, who farm with Steve; and their daughter, Stacy, and her husband, Bobby, who live in Ashland. Sadly, their daughter, Sarah, passed away unexpectedly in 2006. Of course, his four grandchildren, I am sure, will spend more time with grandpa on the farm.

I thank Steve for advocating and bolstering Nebraska's agriculture industry. I thank him for his friendship and his counsel.

Madam Speaker, I wish Steve the best on his retirement from the bureau.

FAREWELL TO PHIL ROE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and colleague who will be retiring from Congress as the 116th Congress comes to a close. I have served with Dr. PHIL ROE since we came into Congress together as classmates in 2009.

PHIL represents the First Congressional District of Tennessee. His pathway to Congress includes being an Eagle Scout, veteran, mayor, and medical physician, delivering more than 5,000 of his future constituents.

PHIL and I have sat next to each other on the House Education and Labor Committee for 12 years. We started at the very end of the seniority seating and now sit prominently as senior members.

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Congressman ROE has left his mark serving the American people as chair and Republican leader of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He authored the MISSION Act, which ensures veterans have the ability to receive the best possible care now and in the future, and the Forever GI Bill, which ensures veterans won't lose access to the education benefits that they earned through their service.

Madam Chair, in his own words, Congressman PHIL ROE said it best: "I'll leave Congress at the end of the year knowing that our Nation's heroes are better served today because of our work."

Thank you, PHIL. And thank you to his wife, Clarinda, and their family for sharing PHIL with us. Best wishes for whatever the next chapter's adventures bring.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN GREG WALDEN

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in 2018, Congressman GREG WALDEN won his 11th term in Congress to represent Oregon's Second Congressional District. When the 116th Congress ends, he will retire after 22 years of service to our Nation.

GREG graduated from the University of Oregon with a journalism degree and took over the operations of his father's radio station in Hood River—and added another—before winning his congressional seat in 1998.

In 2014 and 2016, he successfully chaired the National Republican Congressional Committee. GREG served as chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 115th Congress and currently serves as the Republican leader of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have worked with Congressman GREG WALDEN and share passions with him: his passion to improve forest management and lead reforms to make our Federal forests healthier, make our rural communities more financially solvent, and make our forests more resilient to climate change.

To his wife, Mylene, thank you for sharing this lifelong Oregonian, Eagle Scout, and great public servant with us.

Best wishes, GREG. I know you will continue to make a difference in retirement.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN ROB BISHOP

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a retiring leader and mentor, Congressman ROB BISHOP.

A public schoolteacher turned public servant, ROB BISHOP represents Utah's First Congressional District in the United States Congress. I have had the privilege of serving with and under the leadership of Congressman BISHOP on the Committee on Natural Resources for 8 years.

First elected in 2003, ROB served as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Natural Resources and is now its ranking member. He has been a key player on many public land bills.

Congressman BISHOP is committed to helping Congress strike a balance for wise management of our public lands and resources. Protecting private property rights and State sovereignty and preserving the Western heritage are among his chief priorities on the committees that guided him. There is no stronger fighter to protect the livelihoods of public land users in rural America, while ensuring that we are responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Madam Speaker, Congressman ROB BISHOP negotiated much of the legislation included in the Natural Resources Management Act. This legislation expanded access to public lands, while also shrinking the size of the Federal estate, and provided wins for America's sportsmen, hunters, and fishermen.

Thank you, ROB, for your service, your friendship, and your mentoring. Thank you, as well to his wife, Jeralynn, and his children and grandchildren for sharing ROB with us.

Best wishes in the next chapter of life.

HONORING DR. FRED MULLINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a highly esteemed surgeon, compassionate physician, hero, and an incredible person.

Dr. Fred Mullins, who was president and CEO of the Burn and Reconstructive Centers of America, sadly, passed away at the age of 54. In his over 30 years of caring for thousands of patients, he was a trailblazer in burn care across the Nation and the world.

Dr. Mullins was also a founding board member of the Georgia Trauma Foundation, a member of the Georgia Trauma Commission, and chairman of the JMS Research Foundation. He was a native Augustan and graduated from Augusta College before attending the Medical College of Georgia.

Dr. Mullins was given a foundation for his skills in burn care by Dr. Joseph M. Still, and his focus was on carrying

Dr. Still's legacy to provide the best possible care to patients.

I became acquainted with Dr. Mullins in February of 2008, after the explosion of the Savannah Sugar Refinery in my hometown of Port Wentworth. A number of the victims there were taken to the Augusta Burn Center; and there, I witnessed Dr. Mullins' compassion, his concern, and his care for patients.

Madam Speaker, because of Dr. Mullins' unrivaled work and care for patients, he now leaves behind a legacy that represents dedication to the well-being of patients and improving healthcare across the Nation and world.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his friends, his patients, and all who knew him.

REMEMBERING HARRISON DEAL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Statesboro native Harrison Deal, who, tragically, passed away on Friday, December 4, from a fatal car crash in Pooler, Georgia.

Harrison was a 20-year-old student at the University of Georgia and was expected to graduate in 2022. He was a former intern for Senator PERDUE, and worked in the Athens office for Senator KELLY LOEFFLER's campaign.

Governor Brian Kemp stated Harrison was a member of the "Kemp Strong" family, and was a Kemp son and brother they never had. He has been described as an incredible, magnificent young man by Senator PERDUE and Senator LOEFFLER.

He clearly touched countless lives in the State of Georgia and beyond.

Madam Speaker, Harrison was the son of Bulloch County Commissioner Curt Deal and his wife, Jenni, and was the brother of Hannah and Halli Deal.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Deal family, Harrison's friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS HILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a great American. Marcus Hill retires from serving as a senior executive adviser for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, or FLETC, on January 28, 2021.

Marcus began his career of service as a personnel management specialist with the Department of the Navy in 1983 and was assigned to the naval submarine base located in Kings Bay, Georgia. This position further inspired him to a life of service, so he went on to serve an Active-Duty tour in the United States Air Force.

Before he transferred to FLETC in 1999, Marcus served in several leadership assignments within the Navy. His career in FLETC spanned widely and included joining the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, after the tragic events of 9/11.

Marcus' life has been marked by distinguished commitment to serving his country and fellow man, which is why

he has received numerous awards and honors, to include the 2017 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service among many others.

It is people like Marcus who inspire us to live for something greater than ourselves, and I am thankful for the wonderful example he has set, which will surely outlast his career for countless years to come.

Madam Speaker, I wish him and his family the best as he embarks on his retirement.

NO VOTER FRAUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the treacherous and seditious behavior of some in this Nation who continue to poison the integrity of our democracy.

The voters have spoken. The recounts have spoken. The electoral college has spoken. Joe Biden will be the 46th President of the United States of America. Over 80 million people voted for Joe Biden—more than any other Presidential candidate in American history.

Joe Biden won blue States, like New York and California.

Joe Biden won swing States like Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Joe Biden won red States, like Georgia and Arizona.

Joe Biden is the next President of the United States of America.

And yet there are some in this country who continue to peddle wild conspiracy theories without a shred of evidence:

The Republican Governor of Georgia found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican Governor of Arizona—no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican-led FBI found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican-led Department of Justice found no evidence of voter fraud.

Republican-appointed judges throughout the country have found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Republican Attorney General, Bill Barr, found no evidence of voter fraud.

The Supreme Court, with six Republican-appointed Justices dismissed the baseless lawsuit that contained not a shred of evidence of voter fraud.

Madam Speaker, Joe Biden was duly-elected as the next President of the United States of America, and yet there are some in this Nation who are behaving like members of the Jefferson Davis Caucus, including a former Member of this Chamber, who suggested that Texas secede.

Madam Speaker, it is time to respect the Constitution.

It is time to respect our democracy. It is time to respect the voters.

It is time to respect the rule of law. It is time to respect the peaceful

transfer of power.