

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TOM BUGNITZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Tom Bugnitz and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. For over 20 years, Tom was a proud resident of Colorado where he dedicated his career to helping manufacturing businesses and their people be and do better.

Most recently, Tom led Manufacturers Edge, a non-profit that positioned itself as the “go to” resource for the manufacturing industry in Colorado. Under Tom’s leadership, Manufacturers Edge built a strong team of dedicated professionals and developed an extensive portfolio of services—all while dealing with economic uncertainty amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom’s inspirational leadership in manufacturing, however, is not confined only to Colorado state lines. Tom was instrumental in forming the Center Leadership Team (CLT) for the National Institute of the Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program that developed and deployed cybersecurity services to manufacturers across the United States. Additionally, as the MEP Center Director for Colorado, Tom mentored, inspired, and supported other Center Directors across the country while working to ensure the voice of Colorado manufacturers were heard by local, state, and federal lawmakers.

Throughout Tom’s career he has been a champion for small- and medium-sized manufacturers both in Colorado and across the country. Further, his coworkers attest that through hard work, integrity, and a genuine passion for making an impact on those around him, Tom changed the staff of Manufacturer’s Edge from a group of people who work together to a family united behind the same mission—to grow and strengthen the Colorado manufacturing community.

Tom’s contributions to the community, the manufacturing industry, and those around him have been enormous. I congratulate Tom Bugnitz on his retirement and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 209, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 826 Divided Families Reunification Act, I would have voted Yea.

KIWANIS CLUB OF WHEAT RIDGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award is given to an organization in Wheat Ridge which has gone above and beyond in the name of service to the Wheat Ridge community. Kiwanis International is a nonprofit organization that partakes in volunteer opportunities all around the world. Their chapter in Wheat Ridge has shown amazing commitment and leadership to our community at a time when they were needed the most.

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge for receiving this award and I thank them for their contributions to our community.

HONORING ANN AWALT

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a key leader and transformative figure in South Texas, Ann Awalt. Ann has over four decades of first-hand experience in developing rural community service systems and has dedicated her time and leadership to the people of South Texas. Her service and passion for her work is reflected in the lasting impact she has had on TX-34 communities and families.

Ann Awalt is a South Texas native, where she attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government. She went on to develop several rural service systems, including the Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST) and its network of resources. Ann then attended graduate school at The University of Texas at Arlington and graduated with a Master of Public Administration.

Ann is now the Executive Director of CACOST, which serves South Texans in 17 counties by providing an integrated range of health and human services. The network includes federally qualified health centers, child and family development services through Head Start and Early Childhood Intervention, and community services for nutrition, housing, and energy assistance.

In 2013, Ann strongly advocated for the funding of Head Start, a federally subsidized program that provides traditionally underserved children from birth through age five,

with meals, educational programs, and other services to build a solid foundation as these children head into their school years. In 2020, over 4,200 children benefited from Head Start programs in TX-34. The program also includes senior nutritional services, which provide elderly residents home-delivered meals; and last year served nearly 16,000 persons through their Federally Qualified Health Center and assisted over 13,000 persons with utility assistance. Her hands-on leadership and commitment to her community has helped CACOST secure funding from contracts and grants at the federal and state levels, including those available through the Head Start model, which have enriched the lives of seniors, children and families.

This past year, Ann led the Community Action Agency’s response efforts to the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside a team of medical experts, she set up six clinics around the Coastal Bend to provide life-saving vaccines and COVID-19 tests for the region. Her perseverance led to over 22,000 vaccinations administered by CACOST. Ann’s collaboration with community partners in the Coastal Bend ensure that these vital health and nutritional services will continue to be available to those living throughout South Texas. Ann also represents South Texas as a member of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, serving on both the Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee.

Ann Awalt is truly a pillar of determination who exemplifies selfless service and dedication to her community. She continues to foster growth and action, while advocating for the people who need it most. It is clear that Ann Awalt is deeply invested in the people of South Texas and we cannot thank her enough for her service.

HONORING BRANDON ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL FOR NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON RECOGNITION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools for their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups and for their overall academic excellence. This year, 325 public and private schools across the country were awarded the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

I am proud to announce that Brandon Elementary School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. Brandon Elementary School’s hard work in closing the achievement gap demonstrates that all students can achieve high academic levels. I am thankful for Brandon Elementary School’s efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, the future

• 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.

leaders of our State and country, is a crucial component of our society.

I congratulate Brandon Elementary School on being recognized for this outstanding achievement and encourage the school's administration to keep up the wonderful work they are doing that is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

HONORING THOMAS HUFFORD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Thomas Michael Hufford, who passed away on August 29, 2021, at the age of 86. Mr. Hufford was a prominent business owner and community leader in the Roanoke area.

Mr. Hufford was born on August 14, 1935 in Huntington, West Virginia to Genevieve Eloise Kirley Wippel Hufford of Huntington and Anthony Wippel. He graduated in 1953 from St. Joseph High School in Huntington, West Virginia where he served as president of his class. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, graduating in 1957. Following college, he was in the army reserves at Fort Knox.

Mr. Hufford was an insurance agent by trade and owner of Hufford Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia. For all his life, he sustained a strong voice in politics and his community. He served as the Planning Commissioner of Roanoke County for several years. He also ran for State Senate and Congress of Virginia in the 1970s. His civic service through business and leadership made a profound impact on his community and those around him.

Mr. Hufford was preceded in death by his wife, Ada D. Hufford. He is survived by his two daughters, Karen Hufford and Jill Hufford, and his younger brother, Frederick M. Hufford. He also has two granddaughters, Morgan Dilling and Samantha Hufford, and a great-granddaughter, Melah Grace Dilling. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ELLA B. SPEED ON HER 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Apalachicola native Ella Breedlove Speed, who is turning 101.

Mrs. Ella is a pillar in her community and a role model for many. For more than two decades, she worked for the Franklin County School District as a bookkeeper. She also has served as a missionary in the Holiness Church of the Living God and is currently serving as an elder and bishop in the Love Center Church.

Bishop Speed's heart for serving others is unmatched and her energetic spirit is infectious. Make no mistake, age is just a number. Mrs. Ella is still just as sharp as she was in her younger days and she has not stopped serving and comforting others.

I want to personally thank this incredible woman for her contribution to Apalachicola and Florida's Second Congressional District as a whole. Happy birthday to Mrs. Ella.

HONORING DR. PATRICK BURCHFIELD

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Dr. Patrick Burchfield, Director of the Gladys Porter Zoo, which is located in Brownsville, Texas. Under Dr. Burchfield's leadership, the Gladys Porter Zoo has grown significantly since it first opened in 1971, and he has served at the forefront of one of the world's most notable international endangered species recovery programs.

Dr. Burchfield joined the staff at the Gladys Porter Zoo in 1971, working in every capacity and eventually became director in 2007, which he earned through hard work and dedication to the Zoo.

As director of the Zoo, Dr. Burchfield has led efforts to make the zoo more inclusive and accessible to all members of his community—but especially those with disabilities. Last year, the zoo opened a newly renovated Giraffe Landing Feeding Experience—complete with an ADA-accessible platform so that all may participate.

Under his leadership, the zoo has added facilities for critically endangered species such as Orinoco crocodiles and threatened species like nurse sharks. Along with creating a safe environment for these imperiled species, the Gladys Potter Zoo has showcased species that are native to the Rio Grande Valley such as diamondback terrapins, black-spotted newts and red-crowned amazons.

Forty years ago, endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles were on the brink of extinction, but this changed shortly after Dr. Burchfield, then the Zoo's Curator of Herpetology, stepped into the picture. In 1981, Dr. Burchfield, at the request of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, accepted the role of Coordinator for the U.S. contingent of the U.S./Mexico Binational Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Program. Program activities included protecting the wild nests and hatchlings of this imperiled species at its primary nesting grounds in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. From 1985 to present, the number of nesting female turtles rose from 283 to an estimated 7,000 to 9,000.

When asked why he cared so much about Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, Dr. Burchfield said, "I saw an opportunity to try and do something meaningful, and that maybe we would have a shot at saving this species. So, my job was to do whatever I could do to help make that happen."

Since 1992, Dr. Burchfield has been an instructor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Department of Biology. He is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the introductory zoo biology course, a prerequisite for all aspiring zoologists. In this capacity, Dr. Burchfield sought to further the efficacy of his animal conservation efforts by inspiring the environmental champions of tomorrow right in the heart of South Texas.

Madam Speaker, not only is Dr. Burchfield a leader in animal conservation, but he is undoubtedly one of the most humble men I have had the pleasure of meeting. His work has never revolved around self-interest or accolades, but rather his genuine desire to save species and raise awareness about the need to preserve our planet's dwindling natural resources. I thank him for the essential role he has played in shaping a healthier future for all and for choosing to make Brownsville, Texas his home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on September 23, 2021. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 284 to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, I would have voted no. I do not believe that a 10 percent across the board reduction in funding, as this amendment proposed, is a responsible way to reduce spending.

SEAN NEELAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sean Neelan of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding volunteer services and contribution to their local community. Sean Neelan is the recipient of this year's award due to his unmatched willingness and dedication to answer the call of his community. Sean went above and beyond and dedicated countless hours of service to the Wheat Ridge community.

Congratulations to Sean Neelan for his public service and I extend my deep appreciation for his contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make Roll Call vote No. 277 as I was required to preside over a subcommittee hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted YES to Roll Call No. 277, Mfume of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 26.