

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL T. PTASIENSKI TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Michael T. Ptasienski, the fifth Inspector General of the House of Representatives, who is departing the House after 13 years of service.

Mr. Ptasienski was appointed the 5th Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives on February 15, 2018. Prior to his appointment, Michael served as the Deputy Inspector General for Advisory and Administrative Services and, upon joining the House in 2008, the Director of the Management Advisory Services. Born, raised, and educated in the State of Illinois, Michael spent over 15 years working in consulting and management roles in the financial services industry prior to joining the House.

Mr. Ptasienski brought great skill, knowledge, and a cooperative, pragmatic leadership style to the Office of Inspector General. Under Michael's leadership and his focus to help improve the operations of the House, the Inspector General's Office worked closely and effectively with other House offices to identify risks, highlight areas for potential improvement, and develop reasonable and sensible recommendations for the benefit of the House.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Ptasienski for his dedicated service to the House, and I urge my colleagues to join me in offering warmest wishes for success in his life's endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puerto Rican Bar Association of New York (PRBA) on the occasion of its 64th Annual Scholarship Fund, Inc. gala.

Founded in 1957, PRBA was created to connect lawyers and judges who shared common goals, ideas and concerns relating to the practice of law, the courts, and the community. PRBA has successfully mentored and helped generations of attorneys develop their careers in line with their core mission of empowering and giving back to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities.

With the Puerto Rican Bar Association Scholarship Fund, the Association promotes opportunities for educational and professional advancement for underserved young professionals. Throughout its storied 60-year history, PRBA has benefited from the leadership of

fantastic board members and presidents. This year's PRBA President, Steven M. Cordero is an esteemed attorney and recipient of the Sanctuary for Families 2016 Above & Beyond Pro Bono Award. PRBA's members have ascended to the highest levels of the legal community within private practice, non-profit and all levels of government including the U.S. Supreme Court by Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in saluting this year's extraordinary honorees: Judge George J. Silver, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts, Judiciary Excellence Award; Juan Cartagena, Esq., outgoing President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, for Public Service Award; Christopher L. Garcia, Esq., Partner, Co-Chair of Global White Collar Defense, Regulatory and Investigations Practice and Co-Chair Diversity Committee at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, for Attorney of the Year Award; and Judge Ruben A. Martino, posthumously, Supervising Judge of Bronx Family Court, for Champion of Justice Award, presented to Joyce Martino.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF MILLER'S BAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miller's Bar located in Dearborn, Michigan, as they celebrate over 80 years of service to our community. Their decades spent as a Dearborn legend are worthy of commendation.

Established 1941 by the George Miller and his family, the current owners Dennis and Mark Miller give credit to Russell Miller who "made it what it is." There's always a Miller around the restaurant, which is open six days a week. This old-school Dearborn establishment with the red booths is a local gem, one that requires that customers abide by the honor system when paying for their meals and accepts only cash. Though the honor system may be a relic of days past, their reliance on honesty and the trust they've built with their customers is a testament to their status as a treasured Dearborn mainstay. For years they've served generations of hungry workers and families.

The restaurant is famous throughout south-east Michigan and is a popular gathering spot for nearby Ford Motor Company employees, known for their iconic made-to-order ground round burgers served on wax paper. Their burger was named one of the top 25 in the country by Food & Wine Magazine in 2012 and named one of the Best Burger Places in America by Thrillist in 2018. Among other fans include acclaimed food writers from GQ, MLive, Click on Detroit, the Wall Street Journal, Pure Michigan, The Michigan Journal, Detroit's Hour Magazine, and even Oprah.

Miller's Bar is nothing short of a Dearborn icon. A family operation to this day, they have grilled for thousands. A place for friends to get together, families to share a meal, and to catch up on the neighborhood news—we have been lucky to have them here at home for the past eight decades.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Miller's Bar. Please join me in congratulating them on eight fantastic decades of business. We thank the Miller family for their commitment to serving our neighbors for the past 80 years. We wish them the best of luck as this Dearborn mainstay goes up for sale and new owners take over and continue the great tradition that the Miller family started long ago.

HOMETOWN HERO—DIVYESH PATEL

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Divyesh K. Patel, an entrepreneur from Irving, Texas who was recently awarded the Presidential E-Star Award and E-Award for Excellence.

Mr. Patel and Bespoke Group LLC are recognized for their outstanding contribution to the U.S. economy, growers, and work on the "From U.S. Farms to World Market Program."

Mr. Patel hails from a distinguished family with a great track record of contributing in many areas. His father, Kanchanbhai M. Patel, has been awarded the Glory of Gujarat, India award which demonstrates their deep commitment to the community in making a great difference from the individual to national level.

Mr. Patel also had a great impact on small businesses and agricultural farming. Both strengthen our economy, create valuable jobs, and provide for communities across the nation.

I thank Mr. Patel for his entrepreneurial spirit and contributions to international trade in Texas—24. We are grateful for the impact he has made on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF REASTER EVERETT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Reaster Everett, a long-time resident of Westland in Michigan's 13th Congressional District as we mourn her passing.

Ms. Everett was best known in the community for her volunteer work. As coordinator for the Wayne County Retired Senior Volunteer

• 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.

Program (RSVP), she recruited, trained, and assigned volunteers to designated sites. She also served as Family Service Advocate for the Wayne County Family Center, facilitating, and expediting adaption to independent living arrangements for residents and aided with placement and health care services. Ms. Everett spearheaded the “No Family Without Christmas” program, collecting donations for the homeless during the winter holiday season.

Prior to that work, Ms. Everett served in many other roles in the community, including as a representative on the Community Development Commission and as a Wayne County community liaison to prevent and assist homeowners facing mortgage foreclosures. Through her work with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association (SWHA), Ms. Everett founded the SWHA Community Center, where for many years, she operated an after-school program for young people. She was an active member of the St. James United Methodist Church, where she served as chairperson of the Outreach Committee and on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Please join me in recognizing the many contributions of Ms. Reasther Everett to Westland, Wayne County, and 13th District Strong, as we give honor to her memory.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIA
NESHEIWAT

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of combat veteran and public servant Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, who has devoted her entire life in service to this country and by every metric, exemplifies duty, honor, and the American Dream.

Born to Ben and Hayat Nesheiwat, Jordanian immigrant parents who worked tirelessly to provide for her and her four siblings, Dr. Nesheiwat graduated from Stetson University. She then went on to earn her M.A. in security studies from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. and a Ph.D. from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. Dr. Nesheiwat is a lifelong member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on the Governing Advisory Council for the World Economic Forum.

After the September 11 attacks, Dr. Nesheiwat was immediately deployed in the U.S. Army military intelligence corps. She served multiple tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq for which she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Dr. Nesheiwat subsequently was selected to serve on the U.S. Presidential Commission on Intelligence Capabilities Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, leading the North Korea and Iran policy steering committee.

She went on to help establish the newly formed office of the Director of National Intelligence as the Chief of Staff for policy and planning, where she managed the integration and collaboration of analysis and reporting with all intelligence agencies.

During her time at the Department of State, Dr. Nesheiwat served as the first Deputy As-

sistant Secretary for Energy where she built a new bureau that addressed the nexus of energy, climate, technology, development, international programs, and public-private partnerships. She then collaborated with the Department of Defense to create a new curriculum on energy security as a visiting professor at the Naval Post Graduate School.

Dr. Nesheiwat continued her call to service as the first U.S. Deputy Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs focused on the release of U.S. citizens legally detained or held hostage abroad. Dr. Nesheiwat’s diplomatic work was instrumental in the release of dozens of Americans illegally held overseas as well as her work with the families of those detained.

Returning to her home state of Florida, Dr. Nesheiwat was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve as Florida’s first Chief Resilience Officer, a cabinet-level position tasked with preparing Florida for the environmental, physical, and economic impacts of sea level rise.

In 2020, Dr. Nesheiwat once again answered the call to serve, this time in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Resilience. At such a perilous time in our nation’s history, she brought her extensive expertise on national security and resilience to develop strategies to help protect America against the COVID pandemic, natural disasters, critical infrastructure protection, foreign election interference, civil unrest, counter-narcotics, and wildlife and trafficking crimes.

Dr. Nesheiwat was later appointed to serve a four-year term as a Commissioner on the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Commission is an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on domestic and international Arctic research. She is also a Distinguished Fellow with the Atlantic Council with the Global Energy Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the lifelong servant leadership of Dr. Julia Nesheiwat and her career spanning the Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations. She has brought great credit to her country and we thank her as she continues to serve the American people.

RECOGNIZING JOE EDMONSON AND
FAMILY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Joe Edmonson who has been named Mississippi’s Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Agriculture expo. I am proud to have him representing our state.

Joe has been a motivated and passionate farmer for his entire life. At the age of fifteen, he purchased his first forty acres of land. Both Joe and his wife Melissa grew up in farming families and have dedicated their lives to Topshaw farms. Melissa is a full partner in the farms and is an essential figure in the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival. Their daughter, Brandi also works in the business side of the farm. Her husband, Shaun manages the packing warehouse line. Son Trent oversees planting and harvesting, and his wife

is a nurse who aids in minor medical incidents around the farm. Son Cody manages sweet potato planting and grain harvesting and his wife Lindsey works in the packing warehouse offices and manages H2A work.

The farm has endured multiple natural disasters that affected their crop and livestock. The Edmonson family has taken these hardships as opportunities to expand and built an impressive packing facility. They have taken into stride changes in agriculture technology and continue to evolve with the modern world. Joe and his family contribute to their surrounding community through the Boy Scouts, Vardaman FFA, Calhoun County 4-H and the state Farm Bureau.

Family is at the core of Mr. Edmonson’s farming career. Joe, Melissa, Brandi, Trent and Cody have been a pillar of the Vardaman community and have made incredible contributions to Calhoun County. I am grateful for their lifetime of service and commend him for his outstanding work in agriculture.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSIE
BACALLAO

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous career and meaningful work of Josie Bacallao, President & CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida.

Founded 39 years ago as a haven for immigrants and refugees, Hispanic Unity of Florida has grown to serve diverse and multi-cultural working families from the United States as well as more than 25 other countries.

Under Ms. Bacallao’s leadership, the agency provides a range of wrap-around services to help more than 16,000 clients of all ages, from preschoolers to adults, successfully transition to a productive new life.

Hispanic Unity of Florida acts as South Florida’s “Ellis Island” for new immigrants arriving in South Florida. Often arriving with little more than the clothes on their backs, a few dollars in pocket change, with no job, language, skills or understanding of the life that awaits them on America’s shores—they still come with hopes and dreams.

And Josie works tirelessly to guarantee everyone is empowered to live their American Dream.

Her commitment to strengthening the physical and financial health and wellness of Florida’s families is extensive, impressive, and inspiring.

Josie Bacallao is a selfless, compassionate, and thoughtful citizen whose commitment to our community is exemplary, and I am proud to call her my dear friend. I wish her a hearty congratulations on her retirement and am grateful for her invaluable work to improve the lives of those in Florida’s 23rd Congressional District and beyond.