

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ANDREWS BAND
DIRECTOR AND BUS DRIVER

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the families of Darin Johns and Marc Boswell, who were tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

I also want to recognize Marc Boswell, a humble and beloved Andrews public servant, who also tragically passed away in the bus crash.

Marc devoted his life to Andrews—as a high school math teacher, employee of the Andrews school district, involved community leader, and beloved friend, father, husband, and son. After retiring, Mr. Boswell stayed busy running stats for the Andrews football team, timing the swim team meets, and driving buses for Andrews ISD sports and extra-curricular activities.

He was known for his servant heart, incredible work ethic, infectious smiles, and deep love for his wife Carol and his children and grandchildren.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of these two incredible men.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews, to the families of Mr. Johns and Mr. Boswell, as well as the loved ones of Nathan Haile, who was also killed in the crash.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE
AWARENESS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the current mental health crisis.

My home state of Arkansas has one of the highest proportions of individuals with trauma and PTSD in the nation. The COVID crisis has increased the mental health needs of Arkansans and all Americans.

Last year in Arkansas we tragically lost 583 of our neighbors, friends, and family members to suicide. Many personally know the pain of what it is like to lose a person to suicide.

Suicide rates in Arkansas are above the American average. Simultaneously, Arkansas also has a higher rate of adults with mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

There are more resources now than ever to provide support for anyone who needs it. I am proud to have supported funding for these resources earlier this Congress, including funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Mental health can be a tough topic to speak about, but it shouldn't be.

HONORING LEROY WARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Mr. Leroy Ware.

Leroy Ware is the youngest of eleven children, born April 14, 1954 to Mr. Granville and Mrs. Myrtle Ware in the Browning Community. Leroy attended and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School. He was an honor student while still participating in the football program at school and helping the family cultivate and harvest crops.

After graduating from high school, Leroy attended Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, and studied Business Administration. He participated in the Co-Op Program at Mississippi Valley State University and was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. There, he trained to be a systems analyst. Leroy was later employed by the first African American Tax Assessor/Collector of Leflore County.

Leroy worked as a deputy assessor from 1985 until 1999. He then, successfully vied for and won the elected title of Tax Assessor in 1999. He still competently holds that position.

Leroy is married to Mrs. Earlean Davidson Ware. They have three children, Stephanie Davidson, Stephen Davidson, and Krystal

Austin. Leroy has lived by the lessons taught to him by his father: "Family is everything; You don't fight family; and, Always be there to lend a helping hand."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Leroy Ware for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
COMMISSIONER ANDY
KOSTIELNEY FOR HIS SERVICE
TO HOOSIERS

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph County Commissioner Andy Kostielney for his outstanding service to Hoosiers in our community and beyond as he prepares to retire in 2022. For more than a decade, Commissioner Kostielney has been a dedicated, savvy, and servant-hearted leader.

As the District 1 Commissioner, he represents northern St. Joseph County, including Granger, all of Clay, German and Harris townships and parts of the far-north sides of South Bend and Mishawaka.

Throughout his tenure, Commissioner Kostielney—who currently serves as President of the Board of Commissioners—has worked tirelessly to deliver results for St. Joseph County Hoosiers. Since taking office in 2009, he has developed expertise on the issues that matter most to our community—creating jobs, stewarding resources, and building a brighter future for St. Joseph County.

Among his many achievements, Commissioner Kostielney spearheaded the South Shore double tracking project that will make it easier for those who work in the Chicago area to join our community and make a home in Indiana. He also has developed key public-private partnerships, including with the University of Notre Dame, to drive results for Hoosier families.

A lifelong Hoosier, Commissioner Kostielney has deep roots in this region. This is where he and his wife, Joy, have raised their beautiful family and served as active community members. In addition to his official duties in St. Joseph County, Commissioner Kostielney also serves as Assistant Manager of the Robinson Community Learning Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Previously, he served on the St. Joseph County Council from 2003 through 2006. As he prepares to retire, Commissioner Kostielney leaves an outstanding legacy that has contributed to the overall development, growth and modernization of St. Joseph County.

On behalf of the 2nd District of Indiana, it is my privilege to honor Commissioner Andy Kostielney and thank him for his years of service to our community. I am proud to call Commissioner Kostielney a dear friend, and I am

• 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.

grateful for his longstanding partnership in serving the people of St. Joseph County. As he and his family embark on a new chapter, I wish them continued good health and happiness.

HONORING ANTHONY GALAGAZA
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE BAKERSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Fire Department Chief Anthony Galagaza on his retirement from the Bakersfield Fire Department after 30 years of public service to our community.

Anthony's career as a first responder and exposure to firefighting began when he accepted a summer position in 1989 as a seasonal firefighter for the United States Bureau of Land Management. Captivated by the field, Anthony decided to take his talents to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where he would complete over 30 years of service. Indicative of his knowledge of public safety and passion for helping others in times of crisis, Anthony quickly climbed the ladder within the Department. In 1990, Anthony started out as a reserve firefighter and in 1992 became a full-time firefighter. In 2013, Anthony was promoted to Fire Battalion Chief after serving as a fire engineer and Fire Captain. Five years later, Anthony was tapped to become the Fire Chief, overseeing the Department's fleet of personnel, fire stations, and various divisions.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, Anthony has transformed the Department to ensure it had the staff and resources necessary to tackle the challenges of the next decade. Some of his major achievements include significantly increasing the number of rescue squads and arson personnel in the Department, advancing health and wellness programs for Department staff and firefighters, and fostering public trust in the community. The emphasis on public trust and outreach helped the Bakersfield Fire Department maintain its elite status among fire departments as a recipient of a class two rating by the Insurance Services Office, which assesses the ability of a fire department to respond effectively to fires in its area of responsibility. This high rating indicates the effectiveness of the Bakersfield Fire Department and is a testament to Anthony's effective leadership as the Fire Chief.

Anthony's investment in, and passion for, keeping the people of Bakersfield safe is without question. That is why, in August 2021, as House Republican Leader, I had the privilege to appoint him to the Medal of Valor Review Board, which reviews individuals to be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor—the highest national award for valor a public safety officer can receive—and make recommendations to the White House.

Throughout his career, Anthony has dedicated himself to serving others, building trust in the city, and ensuring the safety and security of homes, schools, and workplaces in our community. He has been integral in highlighting the value of our firefighting and dispatch personnel and will be missed by the Ba-

kersfield Fire Department, which he has referred to as his second family. On behalf of the people of Bakersfield and the 23rd Congressional District of California, I would like to thank Anthony for his decades of service to our community and I wish him and his family the very best as he starts this next chapter of his life.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the global competition for ideas between the community of democracies and the People's Republic of China (PRC) is nowhere more apparent than in Kazakhstan, where the PRC has steadily increased its influence in the country since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC wants Kazakh oil, cheap Kazakh labor, and most importantly, Kazakh government help silencing predominantly-Muslim Central Asian peoples, whose reports of genocide on their kinsmen in Xinjiang are inconvenient and embarrassing to the PRC.

While pursuing their goals in Kazakhstan, the PRC pushes its authoritarian governance model, a growing contempt for human rights, and assistance with mass surveillance tools. And too many Kazakh leaders have proven to be all-too-willing accomplices.

Perhaps most troubling is the PRC's pressure on Kazakhstan to keep Kazakhs, Uyghurs, Kyrgyz and other Central Asians silent about the genocide and other gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang. On July 13, 2021, Gulzira Auelkhan, an ethnic Kazakh from the PRC who had emigrated to Kazakhstan but returned to China, gave heart-breaking testimony at the hearing I chaired at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission about her experience as a survivor of China's concentration camps.

Ms. Auelkhan testified that while she was in the camp, Chinese authorities subjected her to physical, mental, and spiritual torture. One particularly disturbing story was that Chinese authorities inserted needles under her fingernails for attempting to cheat on a Chinese language exam. She also testified that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) runs a forced prostitution system inside these camps, where Chinese men routinely rape the female prisoners.

While Chinese authorities released her due to pressure from a Radio Free Asia story that revealed her plight, Gulzira's troubles only increased upon her return to Kazakhstan. Instead of sympathy, Kazakh officials intimidated her, and pressured her family to stop speaking out about the horrors she experienced in Xinjiang. Her refusal to stay silent resulted in her having to flee to the United States in search of a place where she could speak freely about the Chinese concentration camps, and how Kazakhstan rejected her.

The fact that Kazakhstan enables China's genocide in Xinjiang arises from Kazakhstan's dependence upon PRC's massive monetary investments, including in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the malfeasance of kleptocratic Kazakh officials.

Some of these corrupt officials reportedly have ties with the Eurasian Natural Resources

Corporation (ENRC), a Kazakh-based company that three billionaire Kazakh businessmen and the Kazakh government founded. ENRC shares ties with members of the former president's family, particularly Timur Kulibayev, who was part of a questionable pipeline deal brokered with Chinese entities. The company has also been investigated by the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Sadly the record of gross human rights violations by government officials acting with impunity is not new in Kazakhstan. In 2012, at a hearing I chaired, entitled: "Kazakhstan: As Stable As It's Government Claims?", our witnesses provided expert testimony questioning the stability of the country and exposing state-wide corruption and massive human rights abuses sanctioned by the Kazakhstan government—including torture and abuse by government security forces.

At the time, the government of Kazakhstan was headed by the former authoritarian "President for Life" Nazarbayev, who ruled with an iron fist, snuffing out dissent and fighting hard to obscure the serious human rights and democracy deficiencies that marked his reign.

Today, unfortunately, his oldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva reportedly carries on the family legacy of corruption as a member of the Kazakh Congress.

According to the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, Dariga Nazarbayeva used an illegal passport to open multiple Austrian bank accounts containing millions of dollars, tapping her position and her father's to launder ill-gotten wealth out of the country. A Times of London article recently revealed that she and her son owned over £140 million of property, including the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, located on 221b Baker Street.

There is little hope that these oligarchs, rich with money stolen from their own people with the assistance the genocidal foreign regime of the PRC, will even-handedly administer justice or respect human rights when they so readily abuse the rule of law, jeopardizing the rights and security of their fellow Kazakh citizens at the apparent behest of the CCP and for their own financial interests.

The Biden Administration must engage the government of Kazakhstan more forcefully, including the use of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing the Biden Administration to elevate and combat the human rights abuses in Kazakhstan, address corruption in this strategic part of the world, and do everything it can to counter the CCP's baneful influence in Kazakhstan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDAL
S. MACDONALD

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Randal (Randy) S. MacDonald, who died unexpectedly on October 6, 2021. Randy is deserving of recognition for his life-long commitment to protecting our environment, and his passionate efforts to educate and inspire action to address the existential crisis of climate change.