

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GROUND-BASED AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to engage with my colleague, Representative RICK LARSEN, the Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

I thank Representative LARSEN for his hard work to ensure that aviation priorities were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. I am concerned about the many ground-based air traffic management systems that are now operating well beyond their planned service life. This includes the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) network of more than 2,700 navigation and landing systems located at more than 1,500 sites in all 50 states. For the last 20 years, the FAA has been systematically dedicated to the implementation of NextGen to enable more efficient flight operations in the National Airspace System. During this period, investment has shifted away from legacy ground-based air traffic control infrastructure. It is important for us all to recognize that aging electronic systems cannot be sustained indefinitely. I am concerned that accelerating rates of component failures combined with parts obsolescence creates a risk of field failures that would threaten aviation safety and the flying public.

I am pleased that Division J, Title VIII of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides \$5 billion over 5 years for the FAA's Facilities and Equipment account. Included in this amount is funding to address investment and modernization shortfalls in ground-based aviation infrastructure, including landing and navigational aids. These systems are critical to maintaining safety in the national airspace and providing operational resiliency.

Representative LARSEN, I am glad that the bill reflects our shared priorities of providing more funding to the FAA's Facilities and Equipment budget and I want to be certain that a proportionate amount is spent on modernization of crucial infrastructure, such as lighting and landing systems. Is it your understanding that this is consistent with the intent of the committee? Can we continue to work to ensure that the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022 spend plan reflects these congressional priorities?

GROUND-BASED AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I share the concerns of my friend from

Kansas regarding the need to upgrade the Nation's ground-based aviation infrastructure in a much timelier fashion. Aviation is a part of the backbone of the U.S. economy and keeping all aspects of the system up to date is essential to continued growth and quality of life for all Americans. The backlog of ground-based navigation aids that are currently operating past their useful life is real. In fact, at the current slow pace of modernization, some of these systems will be more than 100 years old by the time they are replaced.

As Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation, I am committed to addressing this issue before it becomes a crisis for the aviation system. The funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will give the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) the tools it needs to make significant improvements in the safety and reliability of critical ground-based infrastructure by acquiring, installing, and commissioning new instrument landing systems; distance measuring equipment; tactical air navigation equipment; runway lighting systems; and very high frequency omni-range equipment. Further, this funding supports the FAA's administrative expenses, including salaries, giving the agency the flexibility to bolster its workforce and implement innovative solutions to accelerate the modernization of these systems.

Ensuring the safety and reliability of the Nation's ground-based aviation infrastructure is a priority of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and I am committed to working with Representative DAVIDS on this issue as we move forward, including oversight on the U.S. Department of Transportation spend plan.

HONORING ED AVERILL'S RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edward Averill on his upcoming retirement.

After forty-six years of service with the United States Army as both a soldier and as a civilian, Mr. Averill will retire after serving as the Deputy to the Commander for Letterkenny Munitions Center.

Originally from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Averill has served our Nation with honor and distinction. In 1979, after leaving active-duty status, he continued to serve our country and community by enlisting in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Mr. Averill began his work at Letterkenny Army Depot in 1981 as a Munitions Destroyer, through his leadership and subject matter expertise he rose to the position of Deputy to the Commander in 2013.

Today, I am proud to recognize Mr. Averill for his continued service to our Nation and the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

I thank him, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH WALL FILMS FOR RECEIVING A MID- AMERICA EMMY AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fourth Wall Films for receiving a MidAmerica Emmy Award for their short documentary, "Over & Under: Wildlife crossings."

The Emmy awarded film aired earlier this year on WQPT PBS which allowed viewing for many Illinoisans from the northwestern region, serving the Quad Cities. The Fourth Wall Films is a film and video production company from Moline, Illinois. The Fourth Wall Films serves the Northwestern region of Illinois and specializes in Midwestern Historical documentaries for public television broadcast and other streaming services.

Other awards and accolades earned by Fourth Wall Films are eight mid-America Emmy nominations, video and television Telly Awards, film festival Best Documentary Awards, and abundant amounts of recognition for their excellence and outstanding skill in the film and television industry.

It is because of the wonderful talent of the Fourth Wall Films that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Fourth Wall Films for receiving a Mid-America Emmy Award for their short documentary, "Over & Under: Wildlife crossings."

HONORING SHASTA SHAFFER'S COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF FLOR- IDA'S 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DIS- TRICT

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, today, we honor Ms. Shasta Shaffer, the director of constituent services for Florida's 9th Congressional District. Throughout her years of public service, Shasta has gone above and beyond to help Central Floridians in need. As a paralegal for the law office of Darren M. Soto during his tenure in the Florida Legislature, she worked tirelessly to help clients navigate their legal matters. Once Congressman Soto was elected to the House of Representatives, Shasta embarked on the journey to Congress. It was quickly discovered that public service came naturally to Shasta, and she was promoted to lead the constituent services department during the 115th Congress.

• 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.

After Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, tens of thousands of families were forced to flee and sought refuge in Florida's 9th Congressional District. Without hesitation, Shasta worked with local stakeholders to provide shelter, food, and stability for those in need.

As the daughter of a Vietnam War veteran, Shasta worked especially hard to help veterans and young people applying to the five military academies. For five years, Shasta led the efforts for Florida's 9th Congressional District's Service Academy nominations and took great pride in selecting members for the military advisory board. Several students have been admitted under her tenure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in helping constituents, within and outside of the district, with unemployment and IRS issues. Because of her efforts, thousands of families received much-needed relief during a historically tumultuous time.

For this and more, we honor Ms. Shasta Shaffer.

FAREWELL TO MS. JODI B.
MITCHELL

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, today I honor a superb leader and Army liaison for her tireless commitment to the United States Army with over 14 years of service to the Nation serving in the Army Office of the Legislative Liaison, culminating as the Deputy Division Chief of the Army House Liaison Division. As Ms. Jodi Mitchell transitions to her next assignment as a Department of the Army Civilian, I believe it is fitting to recognize her dedication to fostering the relationship between the United States Army and this Chamber.

Ms. Mitchell's commitment to service and leader development enabled her to excel in numerous leadership positions throughout her time serving as a Department of the Army Civilian. Over the course of 14 years, while serving in many key legislative liaison assignments, she has continued the tradition of strengthening the relationships between Members of Congress and their staffs with the United States Army.

Ms. Mitchell's relentless commitment proved invaluable in providing support to the House of Representatives and our constituents. She has spent countless hours ensuring our Members were educated on Army combat systems, modernization programs and policy initiatives. She also managed and led multiple Congressional Delegations to various locations around the globe. Ms. Mitchell has become a trusted adviser and friend to many of us, distinguishing herself by continuously going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of Congress.

This Chamber will feel Ms. Mitchell's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Mitchell for her outstanding leadership and unwavering support. This nation is grateful for her commitment and the personal sacrifices she has made during her time in the Army Legislative Liaison Office.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States of America, I commend Ms. Jodi Mitchell for her tireless dedication in support of our Army, our Soldiers and this Nation. I congratulate her on an extremely successful career, dedicated to service, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT
THE HONDA CANYON FIRE

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I want to honor those who served diligently to combat the Honda Canyon Fire that occurred on Vandenberg Space Force Base, California on December 20, 1977 on its 44th Anniversary.

The Base, which at the time was known as Vandenberg Air Force Base, had strategic, scientific, and military significance to our military readiness and national security as the Western Space and Missile Center.

In persistently safeguarding the Base, four individuals lost their lives. These heroes include the Base Commander Col. Joseph G. Turner, the Base Fire Chief Billy J. Bell, the Base Assistant Fire Chief Eugene Cooper, and a heavy equipment operator, Clarence McCauley.

Furthermore, sixty-five active duty, government, civilian, and contract workers were injured when they were overrun by the Honda Canyon Fire.

Despite these losses, active duty, government, and contract workers—augmented with local civilian fire fighting forces—continued to battle the flames to prevent the loss of vital military equipment, launch facilities, communications sites, and satellite test facilities.

These personnel encountered an additional seven fire overruns of their personnel and equipment. They rescued injured and burned personnel, then regrouped to modify their tactics and strategies before heroically continuing to fight until the fire was subdued.

Following this tragic fire, military commanders assessed their losses and their response to the fire, prepared a comprehensive mishap report, convened a planning group, and prepared an Operation Plan to address the findings of the mishap report. They enhanced training, firefighting capabilities, and support roles for all base operations groups to help manage similar events in the future.

Unfortunately, the efforts of all those who fought the Honda Canyon Fire—whether active duty or civilian—have never been recognized.

I want to acknowledge the loyalty, integrity, and resourcefulness of the active duty, government civilian, and contract workers who assisted in fighting this fire. I ask all members of the House of Representatives to recognize them for service to their country and specifically for their efforts to quell the historic Honda Canyon Fire and protect critical infrastructure at the Base, which is located in the California's 24th Congressional District and is an asset to the community and integral to our national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 406 through 435 on December 8, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 406 through 435.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, Unfortunately, I did not participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 409, and YEA on Roll Call No. 417.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY RADIO

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Howard University Radio (WHUR) on its 50th anniversary.

After the Washington Post donated WTOP to Howard University, the rebranded WHUR debuted on December 10, 1971, with the mission of "Delivering Excellence In Broadcasting and Community Service."

In January 2004, WHUR was the first radio station in the District of Columbia metropolitan area to convert to digital broadcasting. In September 2016, the station was named "Urban Station of the Year" by the National Association of Broadcasters.

Today, WHUR broadcasts to nearly half a million listeners across five states and the District and is one of the few commercial radio stations in the United States that is owned and operated by an institution of higher education.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing WHUR for 50 years of providing culturally enriching content to the District of Columbia and the surrounding communities. I wish WHUR many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHANIE PORTA FOR HER CAREER AS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, as a community organizer, Stephanie Porta served Central Florida for the past 18 years working to support low-income communities in their fight for equity. Through various strategies including