EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 50 on agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 179) on H.R. 1 (For the People Act) and H.R. 1280 (George Floyd Justice in Policing Acting). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Revitalizing Economies, Housing, and Businesses (REHAB) Act of 2021. This legislation incentivizes equitable transit-oriented development by providing a 15 percent tax credit for expenses related to the rehabilitation of buildings that are more than 50 years old, including adjacent development on the same block, provided that the project is within a half-mile of an existing or planned public transportation center. The legislation also provides a bonus credit of 25 percent for expenses associated with the provision of affordable housing and public infrastructure.

While existing community development incentives do an excellent job at targeting their segment of the market, there is a noticeable gap in equitable transit-oriented development. As more Americans move to urban areas, communities face difficult decisions in accommodating increased congestion and affordability concerns, all while seeking to keep their carbon footprint light. By focusing on the rehabilitation of existing assets that are near public transportation, projects are lighter on the land and residents can more easily access jobs and services via transit. Encouraging affordable housing investments in transit-rich areas will transform areas that are often some of the least affordable. Taken together, provisions in the REHAB Act encourage preservation, accessibility, and affordability and will create more livable communities.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an upcoming infrastructure investment package.

HONORING LORA MILES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman of God, Pastor Lora Miles. Pastor Miles has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to teach the word of God.

Recently, Pastor Miles was recognized by the Yazoo County Regional Facility Chaplaincy's Department as its first African American female prison minister.

Pastor Miles is a native of Elizabeth, Mississippi, and currently serves as the Pastor of the Everlasting Love Ministry in Leland, MS. She has been involved in ministry work for nearly 30 years. It was after the passing of her son in 2014 that she hit the ground running in prison ministry—a safe haven to encourage her heart. She started her prison ministry at the Washington County Correctional Facility of Greenville, where she gives messages of hope and faith to hundreds of female inmates.

In 2019, Pastor Miles decided to expand her prison ministry to Yazoo County, where she now serves as the first female to minister at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, an all-male state facility.

Through her services in Yazoo County, inmates continue to receive Christ and inspirations through her messages of love. On Friday nights, at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, there are not enough chairs to accommodate all the men who are eager to attend the church services led by Pastor Miles. She is making a significant impact at the facility, and the lives of many men are being transformed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Lora Miles for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY J. WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Gregory J. Washington, a New Orleans native, on the occasion of his retirement this year.

Greg began his forty-year career in the energy sector as a "roughneck" in the fields of south Louisiana during his high school summer breaks. For those of us who know Greg, it seems obvious that he would find success in the industry that offered him his first job. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1978, Greg started with Texaco as a "landman" in New Orleans and went on to become the State Mineral Board Representative from 1986 to 1990. Greg was later promoted to be Texaco's Senior Public and Government Affairs Representative for Louisiana and was eventually asked to transfer to Washington, D.C., for what he thought would be a short-term assignment. After many years with the Texaco and Chevron Washington offices, Greg has decided to hang up his hard hat for good and enter retirement.

Throughout his career, Greg has shown his strong Louisiana work ethic and his "come early, stay late" attitude. He has always been eager to share his love of Louisiana and our culture with everyone he meets. He has continued to approach his work with an enthusiastic and positive outlook. As a result, he is well known and well liked, and his decision to retire certainly leaves a void that will be hard to fill. I know all his friends and colleagues will miss him dearly.

Greg and Cassandra, his lovely wife of 40 years, are looking forward to spending more time together in their well-earned retirement. I expect that this will surely include more time in his hometown of New Orleans.

I wish Greg and Cassandra all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great accomplishment—the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. In my role as ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, I've had the great opportunity to learn about the many services the Library of Congress provides—not only Congress, but to all Americans. One of its most notable and inspiring is the National Library Service, or NLS, an institution committed to serving readers with disabilities with the mission of ensuring "that all may read".

The history of the NLS began in 1897, with the seventh Librarian of Congress, John Russell Young, established a reading room for the blind that included more than 500 books and music items in raised characters. By 1913, Congress began to require that one copy of each book be made in raised characters and available at the Library of Congress for educational use, but the collection had its limits, as it was only available to visit in-person.

In 1930, Representative Ruth Pratt of New York and Senator Reed Smoot of Utah led a movement to make the collection more accessible across the country, leading to the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, which, on March 3, 1931, created what we know today as the National Library Service. In the 90 years since then, the NLS has expanded its service to reach children and individuals with additional types of physical and reading disabilities through not only books, but the world's largest accessible music materials collection.

But this 90th anniversary isn't only a celebration of the NLS, it is a celebration of the

central role local libraries play in connecting constituents across our entire country to its collection. In my own state, NLS and the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service provide service to nearly 10,000 individuals and institutions in Illinois. This includes more than 1,000 individual patrons and institutions in my district.

Madam Speaker, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled is one of those magical programs that exemplify the good our government can do for all Americans, especially our sisters and brothers with disabilities. Today, I give them my congratulations on their 90th anniversary, my appreciation of their commitment to access and literacy, and my thanks for all they do.

HONORING ADAM POLITZER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Adam Politzer upon his retirement from a distinguished 20 year career in service to the City of Sausalito.

Adam was born and raised in Sausalito, and he graduated from Tamalpais High School. His career in local government began in 1987 as a recreation manager in Palo Alto. He later joined the City of Sausalito in 2000 as a parks and recreation director and quickly moved up the ranks to become the City's chief administrator. Upon his retirement Adam was the longest serving City Manager for Sausalito.

During his tenure with the City Adam produced substantial improvements to the quality of life for the City's residents and visitors. Among his numerous achievements, Adam successfully led efforts to revitalize Robin Sweeney Park, Dunphy Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and Southview Park; oversaw the consolidation of the Sausalito Fire Department with the Southern Marin Fire District; and managed development projects for new public safety buildings. Adam was also valued by the city council and staff for his skilled stewardship of taxpayer dollars and helping the City maintain financial stability throughout economic challenges including the COVID–19 pandemic.

Over the years Adam became a strong mentor for the next generation of municipal leaders, launching the Southern Marin Management Academy to help train aspiring public servants. Adam is well-known by Sausalito and Marin County residents, business owners, and colleagues for his thoughtful leadership and willingness to thoroughly explore and pursue the best solutions to complex problems.

Adam's commitment to the community of Sausalito has been, and will continue to be, productive and enduring. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Adam for his extensive public service and extending to him congratulations on his retirement and best wishes on his next endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WORKPLACE SOLUTIONS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of designating the week of March 28, 2021, through April 3, 2021, as National Small Business Workplace Solutions Week. While small businesses are always deserving of our support and recognition, this is particularly true during the current COVID–19 pandemic.

The workplace solutions industry is comprised of small businesses across all 50 states. During the COVID–19 pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security deemed workplace solutions businesses essential as they assisted hospitals, nursing homes, schools, law enforcement, and local governments. Additionally, the workplace solutions industry provided critical support to businesses which were forced to move from in-person office to home offices. The industry's work with both the public and private sectors proved to be crucial.

Like other small businesses, the workplace solutions industry has struggled over the course of the pandemic. The industry is grateful for PPP loans and the other federal assistance it has received, but recovery is still slow. Many small businesses face the prospect of closing their doors for good unless the economic picture continues to improve. Times have been tough for small businesses, but we can finally see a bright future beginning to peak over the horizon. The Congressional Budget Office projects over 4 percent GDP growth this year. In other words, our economy is ready to come roaring back as soon as we beat the pandemic.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in support of the workplace solutions industry. The resolution to designate March 28, 2021 through April 3, 2021, as National Small Business Workplace Solutions Week is a signal of support for this recovering industry and small businesses across the United States. Finally, I want to thank America's small businesses for their dedication and sacrifice during the COVID–19 pandemic, and I wish them God's blessings as they continue to serve the American people.

REMEMBERING BONNIE L. PITTMAN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bonnie L. Pittman, of Ravenna, Ohio, who passed away on February 16, 2021 at the age of 82.

Bonnie was born January 2, 1939, in Gassville, Arkansas, to parents Floyd and Florence (McFarlan) Chambers. She married the love of her life, John, on February 15, 1958.

Mrs. Pittman managed Tucaway Lake Campground with John, where she touched many lives and hearts. Bonnie was a member of the First Christian Church and enjoyed traveling. Most of all, she was a people person who loved her family and friends.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, John, as well as her children Sue (Patrick) Pittman, Laurie J. Pittman, Jamie (Keith) Fletcher, John (Vicki) Pittman Jr., Roger (Gail) Pittman, her five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, her sisters Blanche Hart and Betty Bell, her sister-in-law Jill Chambers, along with many nieces, nephews, and countless friends who she considered family. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Floyd ''Butch'' Chambers, Jr.

I am proud to be friends with Bonnie's daughter, Judge Laurie Pittman. My deepest condolences go out to Judge Pittman, Bonnie's entire family, and to all whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING LINDA EIDINGER AND HER SERVICE TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE COMMUNITY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Linda Eidinger for her years of dedicated service to the South Florida community. After twenty years as a union officer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Linda moved to South Florida where she has lived a life of community service and activism. Linda is a proud mother and grandmother, and her roots in union work inspired her to continue to fight on behalf of working families everywhere.

As president and an active member of many civic organizations, Linda engaged her community and brought people together to advance noble causes. As a leader in the American Association of University Women and the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, Linda was a strong believer in the power of education and worked to ensure that everyone has access to an education to enable them to succeed in life.

Linda was also president of the Fort Lauderdale Democrats By The Sea Club where she fought for working families and other causes while making simple meetings enjoyable and memorable. Linda was an excellent moderator and brought a wide range of thoughtful speakers to various events and meetings. Environmental stewardship is also an important cause to Linda, who participated in and organized events such as recycling drives, beach cleanups, and other activities to protect the local environment.

Linda has been a selfless, dedicated, and positive member of her family and her community, fighting for important causes like education, environmental protection, and so many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Linda Eidinger, and her service to Fort Lauderdale and Florida's 22nd Congressional District.