

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SCHOOL TESTING IN DISTRICT

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is going to help get kids back to full, in-person learning in the Massachusetts Fourth. Since even before taking office, opening the schools has been my top district priority.

With the Rescue Plan, we are not only boosting the production of vaccines that protect teachers and staff, we are also providing money for HVAC upgrades and for ongoing COVID surveillance testing in the schools. This testing catches outbreaks early and breaks transmission chains. It provides confidence and transparency as we reopen. I'm proud that scientists & operators in my district are developing these cutting-edge, low-cost school-testing technologies, including at Ginkgo Bioworks, CIC Health and Project Beacon. Classrooms must be open, and they must be safe for students and teachers alike. With vaccines and testing, they will be.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHELSEA KERR VENESKEY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chelsea Kerr Veneskey on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional of the Year Award, which recognizes a leader who is making Blair County a better place for young people to live and do business.

Chelsea consistently is involved in community service projects and regularly mentors other young professionals as they develop professional strengths. She also promotes participation in our region's civic and business organizations, and she serves on numerous boards. Chelsea is immensely dedicated to our community's growth.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Chelsea on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK WALTON ALLEN

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Frederick Walton Allen of Peoria, Illinois, who passed away on January 24, 2021, at the age of 97.

Fred Allen, born on June 10, 1923, in Ripon, Wisconsin, had a long and distinguished career as a plaintiff's attorney. A self-made businessman, Fred built his law firm in Peoria around respect and integrity, virtues admired by both his clients and community. These priorities helped him become the first downstate Illinois lawyer to win a \$1 million award for a client and become a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an elite national group limited to plaintiff's attorneys who had won seven-figure awards.

Fred lived a full life and his accomplishments were not limited to his legal career. As a young man, his studies were halted early due to the start of WWII. Mr. Allen enlisted on December 7, 1942, exactly one year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and became a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces. After his military service, he signed a contract as a pitcher with a minor league affiliate for the Cleveland Indians. In 1949 when Fred graduated from Law School at Northwestern University, he immediately took the "rocket train" to Peoria where he applied for his first job at a firm. He continually served others through countless years of membership at the Elks Club, the American Legion, the Country Club of Peoria, and the First United Methodist Church of Peoria. He loved central Illinois and made many quiet contributions to better the lives of those in his community.

Fred will also be remembered for his love and commitment to his wonderful family. He was preceded in death by his wife Tilley, who said Fred's love and devotion to her throughout their 66 years of marriage were beyond measure. He was blessed with three daughters, Diane, Rita, and Laura, 7 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Fred's fondest memories in life were ones spent with his family and his love and pride for them were boundless.

I want to offer my condolences to the Allen family and the people of Peoria on the loss of a great man. Fred left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing him. May his memory be eternal.

RECOGNIZING MARGARITA "MARGIE" NELSON IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Margarita "Margie" Nelson, whose dedication towards bettering Southern Florida and giving back to her community has had a significant impact on Florida's 25th Congressional district.

Born in East Chicago, Indiana in 1958, Margie moved to Naples, Florida in the 1970s. It is here where she met her husband, Kevin, and together they have three children, Teresa,

Sheri, and Billy. Margie began her long career with the Collier County Sheriff's office in 1970, where she worked for the Department of Investigations. While working and raising her family, Margie received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Hodges University. She continued her career with the Collier Sheriff's office until her retirement in 2014.

Unable to stay away from serving her community, Margie returned to school and received her teaching certificate. Then, in 2016, she rejoined the workforce as an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teacher for the Hendry County public school system. Presently, Margie is the guidance counselor at LaBelle Middle School, where she uses her wisdom and experience to assist and support her students. Her commitment towards helping her students cannot be matched, and, if Margie wasn't busy enough, she is currently in the process of receiving her master's degree for school guidance counseling.

Her passion for serving others is not limited to working with students, she is also an active volunteer in several organizations within her community. She is an integral member of a sewing group at the First Baptist Church of LaBelle, where she creates activity bags for her local children's hospital and participates in projects to help an orphanage in Guatemala. Additionally, she volunteers to acquire and assemble boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which provides gifts to needy children worldwide during Christmastime.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong public servant, Margie's commitment to giving back knows no bounds, and it is truly a privilege to know and work with her. Her determination to help others has never wavered, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, at a time when all families are struggling with the threat of COVID-19, various communities are also suffering from the rise in hate crimes. In the last year, nearly 3,000 firsthand accounts of physical, verbal, and online attacks against those of Asian descent were reported. Asian Americans are fighting not just the COVID-19 pandemic, but an additional pandemic of hate and bigotry.

One third of Americans have witnessed someone blaming Asian Americans for the coronavirus. Eight out of ten AAPI youth report being bullied or verbally harassed due to their race. Elderly Asian Americans are being assaulted—tragically resulting in even death. Online hate speech and cyberbullying against Asians has increased by 900 percent during the pandemic. This is horrific—and it goes against the moral fabric of our nation. We

• 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.

must address these ongoing hate crimes and incidents with urgency.

That is why I reintroduced the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. My bill would designate a point person at the Department of Justice to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19, specifically crimes of violence motivated by the actual or perceived relationship to the spread of COVID-19. My bill also includes initiatives to establish online reporting of hate crimes or incidents in multiple languages and to expand public education campaigns to encourage and empower ethnic communities to feel comfortable and report these incidents.

My bill also directs the Attorney General to work with Health and Human Services, the COVID-19 Healthy Equity Task Force, and community-based organizations to issue best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madam Speaker, during this time of heightened anxiety and fear surrounding COVID-19, we cannot lose sight of protecting the health and safety of every single person—no matter their race, ethnicity, age, or background. The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act is a necessary step to confront the second pandemic of racism and discrimination in this country. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to keep all Americans safe.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE
ECKENRODE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Debbie Eckenrode on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Joseph P. Rosenhamer Chamber Spirit Award, which recognizes a longtime Chamber member who embodies the traits we hope to see in business leaders.

Debbie has been an outstanding member of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce and frequently leads efforts to support the chamber's community events. Additionally, she mentors new chamber members and entrepreneurs in the region. Debbie is a dedicated member and ensures that the organization maintains its robust presence in the community.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Debbie on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1276, VA
VACCINE ACT OF 2021

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 1276, the VA VACCINE Act of 2021.

HONORING GABRIELLA GONZALEZ
AND MORGAN HARVEY UPON RE-
CEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL
OF HONOR LIFESAVING AWARD
FROM THE GIRLS SCOUTS OF
THE USA

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize two young women from Virginia Beach, Gabriella Gonzalez and Morgan Harvey, who were awarded the National Medal of Honor Lifesaving Award from the Girls Scouts of the USA.

After practice on a hot summer day in August 2019, Morgan and Gabriella's rowing club team decided to take turns jumping from a rope swing into Virginia Beach's Lake Joyce. The summer fun took a turn for the worse when their coach, Dr. Mark Winters, severely fractured his ankle on the bottom of the lake. Gabriella and Morgan both sprang into action to assist Dr. Winters. Gabriella swam along with other crew members to help her coach, holding his body above water and comforting him as he went into shock. Morgan rowed back to shore, helped guide rescue crews to the location, and organized team members to provide additional support. With their help, Dr. Winters was able to receive prompt medical attention, likely saving his life.

Both Gabriella and Morgan credit their experience as girl scouts in preparing them for the intense situation. With the poise and bravery that they displayed in such a critical moment, Morgan and Gabriella are more than worthy of the National Medal of Honor Lifesaving Award.

It is important that we recognize individuals in our communities who go above and beyond to make a difference. I am proud to represent these two young heroes in Congress, and I congratulate Gabriella and Morgan on receiving this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING DOUG BUSH FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS AND AP-
POINTMENT TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF THE ARMY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Doug Bush for his years of service to the United States Congress and congratulate him on his appointment to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, former Army officer, and long-serving congressional staffer, Doug has served our country in uniform and as a civilian for nearly 30 years. Though he started his congressional career as a Senate staffer, something we try not to hold against him, Doug has spent the last 14 years as a valuable member of the House Armed Services Committee's professional staff.

From 2007 to 2019, Doug supported the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee's

oversight of aviation and ground-based weapon systems, equipment, and programs. Doug's work with committee members helped the committee accelerate the development and fielding of weapon systems and equipment that enhanced the capabilities of our Armed Forces and terminate under-performing programs. More recently, Doug served as the Deputy Staff Director of the Armed Services Committee from 2019 to 2021 where he managed the day-to-day operations of the committee and the development of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). As the Congress grappled with how to safely continue operations during the COVID-19 pandemic this past year, Doug played a critical role to ensure the Armed Services Committee continued to conduct effective oversight while also enacting the 60th consecutive NDAA.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Doug for his dedicated service to the committee, the Congress, and the military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces. We wish him well as he continues his public service at the Pentagon with the Department of the Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW
FOWNES

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Matthew Fownes, a Dairy Queen franchise owner, on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Person of the Year Award. This honor recognizes individuals who have responded well to adversity while serving the Blair County community.

Though businesses in the hospitality and restaurant industry faced extraordinary challenges due to COVID-19, Matthew remained committed to growing his business and to protect his employees' livelihoods. He persevered through challenges and adapted to serve Blair County residents efficiently and safely under the COVID restrictions, saving jobs in our community.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Matthew on winning this accomplishment and thank him for his service to the Blair County community.

HONORING JOHN DOUGLAS AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. John Douglas, Executive Director of the Wilkie House in Des Moines, as our Iowan of the Week.

John's gift for working with kids and helping them reach their highest potential is immediately evident upon visiting with him about his work. He speaks with passion and expertise on issues such as the importance of quality