

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH IRON PANTHERS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the South Iron Panthers of Annapolis who are the 2021 Missouri Class 1 Boys Basketball Champions.

The Panthers achieved a 25–4 record for their season and in the game for the top prize they beat Mound City 69–50. That gave South Iron their first state championship since 1965.

Coach Dusty Dinkins praised his team for their hard work and passion to play their best. Indeed, that dedication to excellence paid off on the court.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Coach Dinkins, Assistant Coaches Delbert Jackson, Jason McMurry and Jared Middleton, and their championship players Jermarco Burse, Jr., Jermarquis Burse, Drenin Dinkins, Kolton Dinkins, Jacob Leverett, Luke Lunyou, Champ McMurry, DJ Prater, Gabe Ruble, and Brock Wakefield.

It is my great privilege to recognize the South Iron High School Panthers as the Class I Missouri State Championship Boys Basketball team today before the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOMELAND PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT OF 2021

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce this bipartisan legislation to reform the way the Department of Homeland Security procures uniforms and protective equipment for its personnel. The aim is to improve the quality of uniforms and equipment issued to Department frontline personnel by encouraging the procurement of domestically sourced uniform items.

Today, OHS has tens of thousands of uniformed officers, but not all of those uniforms are made here in the United States. Under this legislation, at least a third of OHS funds spent on uniforms are to be used to purchase goods manufactured by American small businesses.

Madam Speaker, my bill is good for homeland security, and it is good for small American businesses.

Additionally, in response to concerns expressed by frontline personnel about how quickly they exhaust their annual uniform allowances, my bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to take a hard look at the adequacy of the allowances. In studying the issue, the Secretary is required to determine

what improvements can be made to the current allowances and what impacts the current allowances have had on employee morale and retention

RECOGNITION OF HOPE OF DETROIT ACADEMY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students at Hope of Detroit Academy for their outstanding achievement in STEM and being recognized as a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition semifinalist.

Under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Allie Langwald, students Abraham Salas, Yaritza Campos, and Itzel Martinez worked diligently to find innovative solutions to address issues in their community in Southwest Detroit. I had the opportunity to meet with them earlier this year and was impressed with their dedication to addressing environmental issues, like illegal dumping and abandoned buildings open to trespass.

Their hard work culminated in the creation of the Green Warrior app which utilizes technology to help residents quickly and easily report illegal dumping sites in need of clean up and dangerous buildings. In partnership with the City of Detroit and other community-based organizations, their app will ensure that neighborhood streets and parks are cleaned up and dangerous building boarded up so the community can enjoy the use of public spaces.

Please join me in recognizing the hard work of Hope of Detroit on behalf of the communities of Detroit, Wayne County, and Michigan’s 13th Congressional District and congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY BELL AWARD RECIPIENT HOWARD IRVIN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard Irvin on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Irvin graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Law School before beginning his legal career in 1965 as a lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps for the United States Navy. After his service to our nation, Mr. Irvin joined the law practice of his father, E. Johnston Irvin, before limiting his practice to real estate law in 1971.

Mr. Irvin is a consummate professional and boasts over fifty years of legal service to his

community and has continuously adapted to changes in real estate law to best protect his clients. He has handled over thirty-five thousand real estate closings during his career.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an individual that goes forth to educate on and upholds laws that support American freedom. Throughout his involvement in Cabarrus County, Mr. Irvin has helped many people regain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource of knowledge. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Irvin will continue to help the people of Cabarrus County with his unwavering commitment to the law and serving others.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Howard Irvin as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to uphold our American freedom.

TRIBUTE TO SHELIA PAYTON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shelia Payton who is retiring from my district office on April 30, 2021, after 16 years of dedicated and distinguished service to my office and the constituents of the 4th Congressional District.

I have known Shelia for over 30 years. She joined my district office in 2005 immediately after I began my first term in the House of Representatives where she worked as a caseworker on the following issues: small business and minority business matters, Internal Revenue Service concerns and outreach to business groups and faith-based organizations. She assisted constituents in obtaining their money on their federal returns and she created awareness and shared resources to small businesses and minority businesses looking for opportunities. Over the years, she established and maintained strong working relationships with many federal agencies, business groups, business chambers, and community based and faith-based organizations. Shelia took immense pride in her work product and throughout her tenure in my office ensured the constituents of the 4th Congressional District were well served.

I am happy that Shelia will start a new chapter in her life having had such an illustrious career as a journalist, business owner, marketing and copy freelance producer, author, playwright, and most recently as a public servant in my office.

Shelia began her career by earning a bachelor’s degree in Journalism from Syracuse University and working for the Miami Herald. She also received a master’s degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She worked in public relations for Miller Brewing and went on to work for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Minority Entrepreneurship Program. She also held jobs as a

• 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.

freelance producer for Milwaukee Profiles, a program on Milwaukee Public Television. She has owned the Wisconsin Black Pages for the last two decades, which not only serves as a directory for African-American owned businesses, but also provides resources to the community.

Shelia's belief in the power of education inspired her and her parents to create the Payton-Price Family Scholarship Fund. The scholarship helps African American students from the City of Milwaukee pursue higher education at historically black colleges and universities. It is clear that Shelia has a passion for education, community, advancing the economic power of African Americans and people of color.

She also possesses a strong interest and numerous accomplishments in the creative arts. She authored two non-fiction books, *Cultures of America: African Americans and What Counts Most Is How You Finish: Thoughts on Living Life to the Fullest*. As a playwright she wrote her first professionally produced play, *Facing the Shadow*, which was staged in 2012 at the Black Rep in St. Louis. Shelia has also written a libretto for an African American themed opera, *Black Caesar*.

Shelia is devoted to family, especially her mother, brother, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, and other extended family members. She was close to her late father and serves as a loving companion and sometimes caregiver to her elderly mother, Gertrude Payton. Shelia is very active in the community and her church. In addition to previously being an avid skier, Shelia loves writing, attending the theater, traveling, and other hobbies.

Madam Speaker, after 16 years of dedicated service on my staff, I wish Shelia well in her retirement and continued success in all her future endeavors. I am so proud to honor my dear friend and thank her for her service to the constituents of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District. While she has closed this door, another one is opening for her so that she may pursue life at her own pace.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1996

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

DUE PROCESS INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC.

SUPPORT H.R. 1996—SAFE BANKING ACT

Due Process Institute supports the SAFE Banking Act, H.R. 1996, and urges you to vote in support of this bipartisan bill when it comes to the House floor this evening.

Nearly every state has legalized a form of marijuana, including medical marijuana or cannabidiol (CBD). Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have either decriminalized marijuana or legalized recreational use for adults. The cannabis industry is growing. The American cannabis industry saw \$17.5 billion in sales in 2020, a 46 percent increase over the previous year. The industry, which already supports 250,000 jobs, is expected to continue to grow, particularly as more states legalize marijuana.

Although nearly every state has taken some step to liberalize marijuana laws, Con-

gress has not yet taken action to support their self-governance, which creates a problem for businesses operating legally under state law. Because of the federal treatment of marijuana, the owners or employees of legitimate cannabis-related state businesses are forced to make cash-only sales rather than doing business with federally regulated banks. Additionally, proceeds from any legitimate state cannabis-related business can currently be considered unlawful "proceeds" from a crime and subject to federal anti-money laundering and forfeiture laws.

The SAFE Banking Act provides safe harbor and other protections for financial institutions—banks and credit unions—that transact with legitimate cannabis-related and hemp-related businesses. (Hemp was federally legalized in 2018.) The bill also protects ancillary business entities that transact with legitimate cannabis-related legitimate businesses and creates a regulatory framework.

The legislative history of the SAFE Banking Act shows broad bipartisan support. In the 116th Congress, the SAFE Banking Act passed with 229 Democrats and 91 Republicans voting for the bill. The SAFE Banking Act the House will vote on this evening has 168 co-sponsors, boasting diverse support from across the ideological spectrum.

Due Process Institute encourages Members to vote YES on the SAFE Banking Act, H.R. 1996.

Due Process Institute is a bipartisan non-profit that works to honor, preserve, and restore principles of fairness in the criminal legal system.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JEFF MERKLEY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE DAINES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS, AND DAVIDSON AND SENATORS MERKLEY AND DAINES:

On behalf of the members of the Electronic Transactions Association (ETA), I am writing in support of the bipartisan Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021 (SAFE Banking Act). We appreciate your leadership on addressing the conflict between federal and state laws to allow states that have legalized medical or recreational use of cannabis to bring that commerce into the banking system.

ETA is the leading trade association for the payments technology industry, representing over 500 companies that offer electronic transaction processing products and services. ETA's members include financial institutions, mobile payment service providers, payment processors, mobile wallet providers, and non-bank online lenders that make commercial loans, primarily to small businesses, either directly or in partnership with other lenders. ETA member companies are creating innovative offerings in financial services, revolutionizing the way commerce is conducted with secure, convenient, and rewarding payment solutions and lending alternatives—employing millions of Americans and enabling over \$22 trillion in payments in 2019.

Forty-seven states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of recreational or medical cannabis, including CBD. Yet current law restricts legitimate licensed cannabis businesses from accessing financial industry services and products, resulting in businesses operating in all cash—posing a serious public safety risk for communities.

The conflict between state and federal laws forces businesses to operate on a cash-only basis and has created significant legal and compliance concerns for financial institutions that wish to provide banking services to cannabis related businesses in states where it is currently legal. The SAFE Banking Act would allow legitimate cannabis businesses to access the safety and security of the banking ecosystem in states that have legalized cannabis. This legislation is an important step toward enabling financial services for cannabis-related businesses. By directing FinCEN and the federal banking regulators to issue for financial institutions doing business with cannabis-related legitimate businesses. Having access to the banking system makes it easier for businesses to track revenues for taxation purposes, decreases a public safety threat as cash intensive businesses are often targets for criminal activity, and allows proper tracking of finances for BSA/AML compliance.

ETA takes no position on the legalization or decriminalizing cannabis at the state or federal level for medicinal or recreational uses. However, ETA does support legislation that would resolve the conflict between state and federal laws to allow financial institutions to serve cannabis related businesses in states where these businesses are legal under state law.

ETA is pleased to support the SAFE Banking and urges Congress to quickly consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

JEFF PATCHEN,
Manager of Government Affairs.

NATIONAL ARMORED CAR ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the National Armored Car Association (NACA), I write to express our support for H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021. While NACA's members do not take a position in favor of or opposed to the legalization of cannabis or marijuana, we support H.R. 1996 because it would address the existing conflict between federal and state law with respect to proceeds from marijuana-related businesses and allow for safer transportation, storage and oversight of such proceeds.

Formed in 1929, NACA is a business association that brings together the three major companies of the armored car industry—Brink's, GardaWorld, and Loomis—with a focus on protecting and promoting the common interests of the industry. These three organizations comprise approximately 90% of the armored car industry in the United States, and NACA members have handled virtually every dollar and coin in circulation. They provide secure transportation and cash management services for the Federal Reserve, financial institutions, state and local governments, and private businesses and individuals across the United States and internationally.

Currently thirty-six states and several territories, including the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, have legalized the