HONORING FIREFIGHTER DAVE LAUVER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Dave Lauver for his 45 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Lauver has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN CARDONI, MY VIRTUAL GUEST OF HONOR FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Cardoni, my virtual guest of honor to President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s first address to a Joint Session of Congress. John is one of the many heroes of this pandemic who I am proud to represent in the House of Representatives. When he fell on pandemic hard times, he refused to give up in the face of adversity.

John lives in Dupont, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Agnes Cardoni, Ph.D. and their son, Christopher. He is the Facility Director for the esteemed Scranton Cultural Center, which was devastated by the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic as so many large event venues were. Although he was laid off early on amid the COVID–19 outbreak, John and his family were able to make ends meet with the help of direct economic impact payments and enhanced unemployment insurance made possible through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. These relief lifelines helped John and his wife keep up with their mortgage payments and meet out-of-pocket medical expenses.

A diabetic and transplant recipient, John also understood that his medical history put him at higher risk for serious COVID–19 infection, and so he was careful to avoid close contact with others outside of his immediate household.

Now, over a year later, and several weeks since the enactment of the American Rescue Plan, John and his family are fully vaccinated against COVID–19, and he has been able to gather with his mother and sisters safely in person once again. Additionally, he has been able to make plans to safely reopen the Scranton Cultural Center's doors and continue providing enriching experiences for Northeastern Pennsylvanians of all ages.

Throughout this past year, President Biden has often warned the world, ''it has never, ever, been a good bet to bet against the American people.'' He is right, and Americans like John are the people he has in mind when he boasts this sentiment.

Although I regret being unable to have John accompany me in the House chamber in person due to COVID–19 safety protocols in place at the time, I am humbled to uplift his comeback story. It is a shining example of American resilience and determination through the darkest of times.

I recognize his story in honor of him, as well as all the Northeastern Pennsylvanians who suffered, sacrificed and persevered through this pandemic.

HONORING TOMMY STEVENSON AND 36 YEARS OF TOMMY'S COUNTRY HAM HOUSE

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Tommy Stevenson on his retirement after 36 years of service to our community. His well-lived life, risk-taking, and hard work paid off, and he achieved the American Dream by establishing the single most iconic restaurant in Greenville.

More than a restaurant, Tommy's Country Ham House became the social and political heart of Greenville. There is a saying that ''the road to the White House begins at the Ham House.'' Over the years, generations of aspiring politicians visited Tommy's in the weeks leading up to South Carolina's ''First in the South'' primary. The many signed pictures hanging on the restaurant ''Wall of Fame'' are a testament to the esteem in which he is held by generations of public servants and other luminaries.

His service to our community has also extended far beyond the political realm, whether it be feeding the Furman University football team before games or providing generous discounts to our law enforcement community. I would also like to commend Tommy for employing individuals with intellectual disabilities or substance abuse problems, who are often forgotten by society when they need a hand.

Tommy treated all of his employees with the same kindness and respect that he showed his own family, and he allowed my staff to establish an ''unofficial'' office at the Ham House to assist countless disabled veterans and widowed constituents in obtaining much-needed Federal benefits. Tommy's giving spirit is truly an inspiration to us all.

Although Governor McMaster has already bestowed Tommy with the Order of the Palmetto, our community will never be able to fully thank him for the past 36 years of service to the people of Greenville and the Upstate as a whole. As this chapter of Tommy's incredibly successful business career closes, my wish is that another, equally fulfilling chapter with his wonderful family opens. May God continue to bless him and his.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, PARKS, AND LIBRARIES ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a call to action regarding the right to clean drinking water. Clean drinking water is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right that should be accessible to all regardless of your socioeconomic status.

There are over 30,000 public playgrounds and parks in major U.S. cities and approximately 17,000 public library locations today. Children and students frequently congregate in those places for learning, borrowing a book, or having fun. But neither they—nor their parents—should have to worry that the drinking water may be unsafe.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. This bill would ensure states, municipalities, and libraries have the financial resources to replace drinking water fountains, monitor them, or replace the Lead Service Line connected to such fountains. While we can test water fountains for lead poisoning, some municipalities, schools, and libraries lack the resources to replace their water fountains; this is simply wrong. My bill will ensure such entities have the necessary financial resources to accomplish this task.

Exposure to lead—even low levels—can have serious health and development consequences for infants, children under six, and pregnant women. For those exposed to this dangerous element, signs of poisoning may include cognitive impairment, behavioral problems, and other health related problems. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, ''there is no safe amount of lead exposure in children . . .,'' which is why it is critical that we advance efforts that prevents lead poisoning.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Safe Drinking Water in Public Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. It is undeniable that the fate of our children and future generations rests on the decisions we make today on access to clean water. Let's ensure all enjoy this fundamental human right.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DAVE RAPALLO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dave Rapallo, Staff Director of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

For the last decade, Dave has skillfully guided the Members and staff of the Oversight

Committee with his incomparable mastery of strategy, oversight, and detail.

Few individuals have impacted this body as greatly as Dave. Countless Members of Congress have sought his counsel and come away more effective for it. Hundreds of staff learned the art of Congressional oversight and how to use the tools of Congress to demand answers on behalf of the American people.

Dave previously served as Chief Investigative Counsel under Chairman Henry Waxman. He led critical investigations exposing wartime contracting fraud in Iraq, the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame, steroid abuse in major league baseball, and the causes of the 2008 financial crisis.

Dave served as General Counsel on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and then was appointed by President Barack Obama as Senior Director on the National Security Council staff.

In 2011, Dave answered the call of the late Chairman Elijah Cummings, who asked Dave to serve as his staff director on the Oversight Committee. I know Chairman Cummings trusted Dave more than anyone to help make our government more efficient and more effective.

When I took over following the tragic death of Chairman Cummings, Dave helped ensure the Committee had a seamless transition.

Dave has never sought the spotlight but instead uses his talents to make those around him shine.

He demands excellence and gives nothing less himself. Dave worked harder than anyone I know, always thinking two steps ahead and finding the best route to get there.

More than anything, he is a dedicated public servant committed to using the powers of Congress to make a difference.

During the last Administration, Dave oversaw the Committee's efforts to ensure every person in America was counted in the Census, every American could exercise the right to vote, and every child separated from their parents at the border was reunited.

For all of this and so much more, we say thanks to Dave Rapallo. He has made a lasting impact on this body and this country.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER AMBER HOMA

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Amber Homa for her 15 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Homa has worked throughout her career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her work to protect life and property in our community and wish her continued health, safety, and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. STANLEY YOUNG LOUIE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Stanley Young Louie, affectionately known as the "Selma Doctor."

Dr. Louie provided healthcare to the community of Selma, California, for 22 years with the Logan Street Medical Group. Shortly after joining, he became the medical director and owner. Dr. Louie also served as the president of the Selma Healthcare District during his career.

Beloved by the Selma community, Dr. Louie was an active member of the Selma Rotary Club and Selma Chamber of Commerce, and he frequently contributed to the local newspaper and participated in community events. Dr. Louie also proudly celebrated his Chinese culture, serving as a member and president of the Fresno Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and participating in Lunar New Year celebrations with the Chinese New Year program at the Confucius School of Fresno.

Dr. Louie is remembered as a family man who enjoyed taking trips to the coast with his wife and daughters and was frequently involved in his daughters' extra-curricular activities. He is survived by his wife, Adriane; his parents, Sammy and Shirley; his daughters, Christina, Danielle, and Samantha; his brother, Stacey; his sister, Sherry; and many loving grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Stan Louie, the "Selma Doctor," as a flag is flown today over the United States Capitol in his memory.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARTHUR B. COOK, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my hometown of Corona, California whose dedication and contributions to our nation are exceptional. On Saturday, May 29, 2021, retired Lieutenant Colonel Arthur B. Cook, Jr. will serve as the 2021 Grand Marshal of the 7th annual Memorial Mile March. The March is an event hosted by the Corona Chamber Foundation to honor our military and those who have proudly served our nation in uniform.

Lt. Col. Cook proudly served in the United States Army for 27 years and 7 months. Early on in his career, Lt. Col. Cook held the honor of Platoon Leader of the Old Guard, the Army unit that performs the funeral services for Arlington National Cemetery and guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On the solemn evening when President John F. Kennedy's body was brought to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Lt. Col. Cook was on duty with the Old Guard.

Later in his Army career, Lt. Col. Cook graduated with distinction from The Infantry School and Officer Candidate School. During a tour of duty in Vietnam, Lt. Col. Cook was awarded the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars for valor in action. He also received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Medal among many others. Upon returning from Vietnam he and his wife, Dickey, and daughter, Noelle, settled in Corona. The Cooks have lived in the same home in Corona since 1969.

In light of all that Lt. Col. Cook has done for our nation and community, it is only fitting to honor him as the Grand Marshal in the Memorial Mile March. On behalf of everyone in the 42nd Congressional District I want to thank Lt. Col. Cook for his service to our nation. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Lt. Col. Cook for being selected as the 2021 Memorial Mile March Grand Marshal.

HONORING PAMELA ANN WRIGHT FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO SARATOGA COUNTY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Ann Wright for her many years of selfless service to Saratoga County.

Born and raised in Galway, New York, Pamela began her career as a Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator in 1988. In 2010, she was appointed Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Since then, Pamela became a member of the New York State Association of Clerks of Legislative Boards in 2012 and was appointed to their Executive Board in 2016. She also currently serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. After 11 years as the Clerk and 33 years total serving within the Saratoga County government, Pamela is embarking on her well-deserved retirement. She has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the Board of Supervisors, and her dedication and perseverance to her role helped ensure her community ran smoothly.

In addition to her service in the county government, Pamela has also prioritized giving back to her community through community service. She currently serves as the President of the Hadley-Luzerne Lioness Club, an organization that works to raise awareness to local needs and pursues solutions through charitable works. She was awarded Lioness of the Month in October 2015 and March 2017. Additionally, she was awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award in June 2017 for her faithful dedication to the community and the Hadley-Luzerne Lioness Club.