

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUPERVISOR ROBERT
WEYGANDT

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative McCLINTOCK, to recognize the decade spanning work and now retirement of Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt. Since his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1995, Robert has been an integral part of Placer County Government and business development; from his work to establish business centers in the community, to creating a citizen focused county government center, to work on the Lincoln Highway 65 bypass linking residents from Northern California to Interstate 80. Robert has always put the interests of his community first.

Since the beginning of his public service, Robert has led the efforts to drive new business into Placer County. Working to establish the Sunset Area Plan in 1997, which would later become known as the Placer Ranch, has created a 400-acre business park including a satellite campus for California State University, various commercial and industrial developments, and residential housing units.

Robert has also worked to create innovative government solutions for Placer County, helping the everyday citizen navigate the governmental process. This includes working with the Placer County government center to form a vibrant place for residents to conveniently obtain services and conduct county business. Today, the government center is home to several state-of-the-art amenities including a new Health and Human Services facility that will open in 2024.

Robert has also been instrumental in developing business partnerships with the United Auburn Indian Community during their bid to develop Thunder Valley Casino in Lincoln. This partnership continues today with United Auburn committing to develop the first few miles of a bypass from Highway 65 to Highway 99 in Sutter County linking these busy corridors and benefiting many in the northern part of the state.

Robert was also instrumental in gathering support for the Lincoln Bypass, a throughfare for Highway 65 that opened in 2011. The bypass, which encompasses 11.7 miles and cost \$325 million to construct, moves traffic around the City of Lincoln and improves regional connections between business and residential centers. This is just another example of Robert's tireless efforts to develop Placer County.

I am proud today to congratulate Robert on his numerous accomplishments and to thank him for his decade long commitment, dedication and service to the citizens of the United States and the residents of Placer County.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAIN UNO BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 5th District of Virginia, I am privileged to recognize the 100th year anniversary of Main Uno Baptist Church in Madison County, Virginia. Main Uno Baptist Church celebrated their 100th birthday on October 9, 2022. One hundred years of a church serving the spiritual needs of a community is truly significant and worthy of celebration. I truly hope that this day is special for the each of the church members, and that each one of you remembers with fondness and gratitude everything God has done amongst your congregation and in your community.

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD DODGE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague ANNA ESHOO to honor Richard (Dick) Dodge upon his retirement from the Board of Port Commissioners of the Port of Redwood City after 42 years of service to the public. Dick is deeply dedicated to commerce and to the efficient operation of the port, a jewel on San Francisco Bay.

Redwood City's port was first established in 1851 by timber harvesters seeking an efficient route to move redwood from the hills of the San Francisco Peninsula to a new and thriving city, San Francisco. Today, over two million tons of cargo typically moves via the port, annually. Located only 18 nautical miles from San Francisco, and qualifying as a deep-water facility, both liquid and dry cargo transit the docks. These shipments often consist of imported construction materials and metal destined for overseas recycling. Redwood City plays an important role in the orderly operation of the Port of Oakland, allowing shippers to obtain timely service for cargoes not otherwise amenable to being shipped to Oakland via containers.

Dick Dodge was first appointed Commissioner in 1980. At the time of his retirement in July 2022, he was one of the longest-serving port commissioners in the United States. He is also the port's institutional memory and helped shape its Vision 2020 planning document. Through Vision 2020, the port committed to maximizing its value to the public by enhancing public access, preserving the environment, and upgrading its commercial facilities. Dick Dodge has long advocated for ferry service to Redwood City, and the plan reflects his vision. Before the pandemic, Google briefly tested

ferry service to the port, and service is identified by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority as a future expansion opportunity. Deepening the channel so that it may handle larger vessels was also a priority for Dick. The United States Army Corps of Engineers continues to work on a determination of the cost of this important improvement.

Over his 42 years of public service, Dick Dodge was past president of the Association of Pacific Ports, and he made numerous presentations before the American Association of Port Authorities. In the community, he served on the Board of Directors of Chamber San Mateo County, the Sequoia YMCA, the Redwood City Rotary Club, a bank advisory board, and the Water Emergency Transportation Authority's Technical Advisory Committee.

Serving as a port commissioner is a volunteer position. In his professional life, Dick Dodge has owned T.H.E. Office City since 1976. It is one of the largest independent office products dealers in northern California. Before founding his own business, he worked for Airborne Express for 12 years. He has a business degree from the University of Southern California. He and his wife, Ginny, have three adult daughters, Kristine, Suzanne, and Michelle, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is rare for busy people to volunteer for serious work. A port commissioner's job is certainly serious. The operations of the port are essential to many businesses and fill an important role in our regional economy. Dick Dodge and his fellow commissioners make multi-decade decisions to maximize the impact on commute patterns, recreational opportunities, commerce, and the environment. The people of Redwood City and the Peninsula were fortunate to have Dick at the dais for over four decades. We wish him well in the years ahead and thank him for his years of public service that will benefit all of us for decades yet to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. TONY AZEVEDO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Tony Azevedo, the recipient of the 2022 Greater King's County Chamber of Commerce Agriculturalist of the Year award.

For generations, the Azevedo family has been involved in the Central Valley agricultural community across both Kings and Tulare counties. That trend has continued because of Mr. Azevedo, as he has been a farmer in the Central Valley for most of his adult life. Before he had even graduated college, Mr. Azevedo had already begun his first agricultural company—a commercial spraying business, which is still being operated to this day. That passion for the agricultural industry has only grown throughout his life.

• 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.

Mr. Azevedo is not only a dedicated farmer, but he is also heavily involved in advocating on behalf of the Central Valley Ag community. He has served on the board of the California Water Alliance—an advocacy organization focused on uniting water leaders in the community to achieve equitable and reliable water supplies from Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Additionally, he currently serves on several local irrigation district boards—doing all he can to achieve reliable water for Valley farmers.

For Mr. Azevedo and his family, farming is not simply a job or a way to earn a paycheck, but it is a way of life. Their family operations have faced droughts, bad harvests, constantly changing environmental regulations and unreliable water supplies for years. Through it all, Mr. Azevedo has learned to adapt to changing circumstances, and always find a way to keep his farms alive and well.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Tony Azevedo for being named Agriculturalist of the Year. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

**DAMARIS DEVORA'S 20 YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE**

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to honor Damaris Devora, a dedicated public servant, as she celebrates her 20 years of service to our communities in Chicago.

For two decades, Damaris has embraced and nurtured everyone that has walked through the doors of the office of Illinois' 4th Congressional District with a sole mission—to provide quality, thoughtful and much needed assistance to anyone that seeks it out.

Damaris proudly hails from Humboldt Park in my district, a community that is as culturally rich and vibrant as she is. She's a daughter of the 4th; from the district through and through. An expert on all things Humboldt Park and Chicago, she'll tell you there is nowhere else she would rather be. Outside of our office, she is a devoted mother and grandmother who fiercely defends, supports and protects her family and loved ones.

Service above self is Damaris' mantra. She is passionate, humble, yet unassuming. She's the type of individual that rocks your world with a clever comment, an astute observation that makes you laugh, or an outburst of joy and energy that is simply contagious. Her co-workers, past and present, love her as much as our constituents do.

The quality of her service to our constituents is truly unrivaled. She has been so effective in helping the federal government work for constituents that people ask for her by name when they need help, often choosing to face wait times rather than leave without seeing or speaking with her. She is, effectively, the embodiment of what public service means.

The amount of individuals she has assisted over the years is impossible to count, but they hail from all parts of Illinois, the United States and even the world. She has fought tirelessly to keep families together and to reunite loved ones from all across the globe. Her service

transcends the borders of the 4th Congressional District. There is no greater joy in Damaris's eyes than that of a favorably closed case, signaled by her signature bell ring in the office. When you hear bells in our office, you know Damaris has worked her magic. She deserves a medal for her work, yet she's only motivated by her deep desire to help her community, not by recognition.

Damaris Devora reminds us that a life dedicated to public service is beautiful and rare. This is why Damaris must be celebrated and appreciated. Having good, kind hearted, and selfless people in our team will always be our greatest asset as Members of Congress, and we're lucky to have Damaris on our side. Damaris is an important member of our team, and her abilities and contributions have been crucial to our continued success. I thank Damaris for all that she does. Congratulations on 20 Years of Service.

REGARDING H.R. 139

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I must say that I am perplexed by the Chairwoman's statements on the COCOA Act. Her interpretation of the COCOA Act is misleading and inaccurate. There have been instances in past election cycles where election officials were not aware of Congress' role and responsibility in having its own observers on site to watch the election administration process and, as a result, were denied access. As I stated earlier, this bill fixes a bi-partisan problem by providing a citation of convenience for existing law that gives the House authority to deploy official observers to watch the conduct of congressional elections in the States and territories. This way, there is no question regarding Congress' authority to have observers present.

To my surprise, the Chairwoman identifies two late breaking concerns she has with the bill. First, she states that while the bill provides broad authority to Congress, it fails to provide election officials with the ability to protect personally identifiable information. This concern appears to be a novel one, particularly in light of the long history of the Congressional observer program. We certainly would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss it further in our multiple efforts to work with majority staff on this topic.

Second, the Chairwoman expresses concern over an election official's inability to remove congressional observers that are disruptive to the process. Contrary to the Chairwoman's statement, the bill outlines the role of congressional observers and specifically prohibits these individuals from handling ballots, elections equipment, advocating for a position or candidate, taking any action to reduce ballot secrecy, or otherwise interfering with the elections administration process. The bill also permits state and local authorities to remove any observer who misbehaves. As such, state and local election officials across the country would have appropriate protections in place and should not be distressed by the presence of congressional observers.

Over the course of the past two years, my staff made a concerted effort to engage major-

ity staff on the COCOA Act as we view this as a bi-partisan measure. We provided draft language to them for review. They did not reference either of the aforementioned concerns or flag any language that they believed to be problematic in the few conversations we had with them. My staff repeatedly offered to confer on any issue that majority staff may have with the bill and received nothing but radio silence.

It is important to note that we had an initial agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act together with the PAVA Act. However, at the eleventh hour, the majority reneged on our agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act forward. Again, here on the House Floor is the first time we are learning of any issues with the bill.

This bill benefits both sides of the aisle and serves as an additional layer of transparency and integrity in the elections process. I am concerned that, without the COCOA Act in place this fall, the majority and minority's ability to execute this House's constitutional responsibility will continue to face serious challenges.

**HONORING SUPERVISOR ROBERT
WEYGANDT**

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