

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR A RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE UNRESOLVED DISPUTES BETWEEN CERTAIN RAILROADS REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL CARRIERS' CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY LABOR CONFERENCE AND CERTAIN OF THEIR EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we're here today to end three years of contract negotiations between the freight railroads and their workforce.

For three years, more than 115,000 essential railroad employees have worked without a new contract or a pay raise, all the while enduring a global pandemic and new work rules that further erode their quality of life.

We shouldn't be here today. But the freight railroads brought us here, and now we have to act.

This all could have been avoided had the railroads been willing to provide their employees with a basic protection and what so many Americans already have: paid sick time.

While 75 percent of private industry workers have paid sick time, more than 100,000 railroad employees who work 24/7 operations in all types of weather don't have a single day of paid sick time. And, let's be clear, it's not because the Class I railroads can't afford it.

In the last three years, five of the Class I railroad CEOs were paid more than \$200 million. One of the CEOs made 144 times what the average railroad worker makes. Since 2010, the seven Class I railroads spent \$230 billion to line the pockets of their owners and shareholders through stock buybacks and dividends. That includes the \$26 billion they sent to shareholders in 2021, on top of \$29 billion they reported in profits.

The railroad CEOs—who I'm sure have paid sick leave—are watching their record profits soar, while worrying that their stock prices may drop slightly if they give their workers paid sick leave. Why? Thanks to the vultures on Wall Street, the seven Class I railroads have all implemented so-called precision scheduled railroading—or PSR—an operating strategy that focuses on cutting costs in order to increase profits, which are returned to shareholders.

In implementing PSR, the seven Class I railroads have cut their workforces so deeply—by nearly one-third—that it has significantly impacted service. While the railroads were dithering on their contract negotiations, railroad shippers, including the agricultural, energy, and construction industries—have all attested to how these workforce impacts have contributed to delayed shipments, disruptions to business, and extra shipping costs that get passed on to consumers.

And what has been the railroads' solution to these self-imposed wounds? To force their remaining employees to work harder and longer, and unilaterally impose harsh attendance policies that penalize workers if they have the audacity to call in sick. This is an industry where an inch in the wrong direction can cost you your life or limb—yet the railroads are incentivizing people to come to work sick. It's as dangerous as it is unconscionable.

The railroads argued to the Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) that their record profits were not due to “any contributions by labor.” Despite a 75 percent decrease in worker-hours and a 602 percent increase in worker-hour productivity, the railroads argued that productivity was not the result of labor and they claimed that their employees are not overworked or fatigued. However, hour-of-service violations have increased by 60 percent over the last decade. It's 2022, but the robber barons are back.

We're here today because we recognize what makes this country run. It's frontline workers. Without them, just under one third of our country's freight would sit idle. We know the current conditions cannot continue—because without improvements to their ability to reliably spend time with family, be sick without punishment, schedule a doctor appointment, or plan a vacation, railroad workers will continue to leave this industry. And when the best of our essential workers leave, we all suffer. I believe it's well past time that these workers have paid sick leave and it's something the railroads can easily afford.

In 2021 the seven Class I railroads could have paid for their workers to have seven days of paid sick leave by spending just 6/10 of a penny for every dollar they reported in profit and shareholder returns. These highly compensated railroad CEOs should not be opposed to paid sick days for their front-line employees—employees who are responsible for their very success.

The reality is that the robber barons are nothing without the labor of their employees, who deserve better. But recognizing that the parties are no closer to a solution today than they were three years ago, and that railroad workers make this country run, the House will consider this joint resolution to bring an end to this fight in its current form, lock in the tentative agreements that provide historic pay increases, guarantee reimbursement for work expenses, and prevent a massive disruption to our economy that would hurt millions of working people and their families.

I will proudly vote to lock in the tentative agreements and provide railroaders seven paid sick days. The CEOs can take a shift in the rail yard to cover them.

RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 10 COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier D. Souto for his exemplary public service to the Miami community. Since his election to the County Board of Commissioners in April 1993, Senator Souto has served District 10—which includes portions of Kendall, Westchester, and Fontainebleau—with distinction for over 29 years. Before that, he was elected twice to the Florida Senate.

Senator Souto's work on behalf of his constituents has been wide-ranging and comprehensive. His passion for our parks and places that bring people together is truly inspiring. He has built a legacy of helping others in need and fighting against the brutal dictatorship of the Castro regime in Cuba. Commissioner Souto is a veteran of the Bay of Pigs Invasion and his contributions to the Cuban exile community are immeasurable.

I had the pleasure of serving as County Commissioner and then Mayor of Miami-Dade County, where I worked with Senator Souto extensively and witnessed firsthand his hard work and determination. His love for Miami is evident through his life of dedication to its people. It is my deep pleasure to honor Senator Souto as he retires from the Board of Commissioners, and I wish him all the very best.

HONORING MICHAEL POWERS,
PRESIDENT OF THE ARC OF THE
OZARKS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Powers, President of The Arc of the Ozarks.

Michael Powers, an advocate, and influencer has been a leader in the disability community for the past 36 years. With a master's in clinical psychology, he has spent his life serving his community, especially people with disabilities. He is currently the President/CEO of The Arc of the Ozarks located in Springfield, Missouri. He started his career at The Arc of the Ozarks, in 1992 as the Director of Programs and has spent the past thirty years with The Arc committed to the needs of people with disabilities. He has been instrumental in the creation of innovative programs like Renovations, which is the first program of its kind in Missouri for individuals with dual diagnosis. His influence has elevated The Arc

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

as an industry leader that continues to improve community access and quality of life to people with disabilities at all stages of life.

Through impeccable financial stewardship and leadership, Michael has built a team of leaders in the disability services industry. Michael displays his dedication to the disability community through his longtime state and federal legislative advocacy on issues that impact individuals with disabilities. He serves on numerous nonprofit advisory and leadership boards with the city of Springfield and the statewide group of industry professionals, the Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (MARF) who has selected him as President Elect.

The Arc of the Ozarks was named the largest local charity nonprofit for 2022 by the Springfield Business Journal and the largest disability service provider in Missouri that provides jobs for 1,460 employees. This organizations' mission is to support individuals with disabilities to direct their own lives as valued members of the community. Michael Powers has embraced and passionately lives out that mission daily.

As a result of Michael's exceptional guidance, he has been instrumental in countless accomplishments that have benefitted thousands of individuals with disabilities over the years with access to a variety of services and supports that empower people with disabilities to live their best lives.

Madam Speaker, his commitment and dedication are exemplified in the lives that have been touched with disabilities and their families. I am proud to honor his lifetime of accomplishments today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, due to a clerical error made by the clerk during an ongoing vote series, my vote by proxy was not counted.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 489.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF GREGORY C. BROWN

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the admirable work done by Leesburg Chief of Police, Gregory C. Brown.

On December 1, 2022, Chief Brown is set to officially retire and conclude a 26-year career of law enforcement service to the Leesburg and Loudoun communities.

Throughout his tenure, he has successfully implemented innovative leadership and management techniques. Additionally, he has expanded the department to include 90 sworn officers and 18 civilians. As described by his fellow colleagues, Chief Brown has "consistently utilized Community Policing philosophies and strongly believes that the needs of the

community should be at the heart of everything we do".

Chief Brown is known for his commitment to building trusting and meaningful partnerships within the community. To do so, he has overseen numerous projects for technological advancements within the department, all with the intent of aiding the general public.

It is evident that Chief Brown embraces the concept of "Servant Leadership". He began his long-tenured law enforcement career with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department in 1996. Later, he joined the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. Here, he served for nearly 20 years, achieving the rank of Captain before being appointed Leesburg Chief of Police. Upon his official retirement, Chief Brown will remain in the area to serve the community in a new role. He will be resuming the title of the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy (NVCJTA), where he will oversee the training of members of the Town of Leesburg Police Department and 16 other regional law enforcement agencies.

I want to formally recognize the contributions that Chief of Police Gregory C. Brown has made to our community and the nation. He is the embodiment of integrity and dedication, consistently striving to improve the well-being of citizens throughout the 10th district of Virginia and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on November 29, 2022, I missed a roll call vote on S. 4003. Had I been present, I would have proudly voted for this bill to provide law enforcement the resources and flexibility needed to train their officers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 486.

TRIBUTE TO KTLA ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to KTLA television station, "L.A.'s Very Own," as it celebrates 75 years of broadcasting from the heart of my district on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California.

Founded on January 22, 1947 as the very first television station west of the Mississippi licensed for commercial broadcasts, KTLA-TV Channel 5 blossomed and flourished right alongside the city of Los Angeles as the area's population grew during the post-war years. Entering a media landscape then dictated by theater and radio, its televised broadcasts were—and remain—groundbreaking, illustrated by an inaugural telecast that featured legends like Cecil B. DeMille and Bob Hope. KTLA has since been an integral force in shaping L.A.'s diverse media landscape,

Southern Californians' conversations around the issues that matter most, and the trajectory of the television news industry writ large.

KTLA is particularly famous for being on the cutting edge of new technology over its many decades on air. Beyond being a pioneer of live, breaking-news coverage, the station prides itself on many firsts: first broadcast on-the-spot news from the field, first telecast from a ship at sea, first simulcast in Spanish, and first use of a helicopter to broadcast news—the latter of which has become an L.A. news calling card.

KTLA reporters have also been some of the first on the scene for every history-making event in Southern California, with a well-established reputation for unflinching, accurate, and reliable coverage. When a three-year-old fell into an abandoned well in San Marino in 1949, reporter and legend Stan Chambers was there to broadcast the tragedy for 27 consecutive hours—the world's first extended broadcast. KTLA was the first to broadcast the tape showing Rodney King's beating at the hands of police, earning the station a prestigious Peabody Award for its handling of the footage. It was the only television station to provide "gavel-to-gavel" coverage of the infamous O.J. Simpson criminal trial. And in more recent memory, the station has provided Southern Californians with invaluable minute-by-minute coverage of local and national politics, wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

These achievements have earned KTLA numerous awards, including many Golden Mikes, over 150 Emmys, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and an Academy Award—the first and only Oscar ever given to a TV station. And beyond its enriching reporting, KTLA finds ways to give even more to our communities by supporting numerous charitable organizations throughout Southern California.

Today, KTLA produces over 100 hours of local programming each week, and the station regularly draws thousands of viewers who rely on its informative daily broadcasts—along with the millions of viewers who enjoy its special coverage of premier events, like the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

Our city and its residents are so fortunate to benefit from such a prestigious, purposeful, and dynamic local news institution right in our backyard. I cannot wait to watch KTLA continue to grow and flourish for many more decades to come, especially as it prepares to air from its revamped set.

I am proud to recognize "L.A.'s Very Own" for its immeasurable contributions to the television and news industry and to the greater Los Angeles area, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating KTLA on its 75th anniversary.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLOTTE NEWFELD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of LGBTQ activist, community leader and friend, Charlotte Newfeld.

Since the early 1970s, Charlotte was a fierce advocate for the gay and lesbian community in Chicago. I first had the pleasure of