

THANKING MR. EVERETT COLEMAN FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Everett Coleman for his many years of service to the United States Congress and congratulate him on his retirement.

A Navy veteran, Everett served our country in uniform before serving as a civilian. For the last 14 years, Everett has served as a crucial member of the House Armed Services Committee's staff.

Everett's contributions to this committee and the country's national security have been immeasurable. He has worked countless hours, whether late at night or on weekends, to keep the committee running and prepared to fulfil its duties. As the lead for the committee's technology, Everett has served the over 60 members and 70 staff throughout the years with distinction. The Armed Services Committee would not have functioned without him. I can say unequivocally that the committee would not have passed consecutive National Defense Authorizations Acts (NDAA's) each year without the tireless work and support of Everett.

Since 2007, Everett has kept the committee on track. Everett's role on the committee has not been easy. I suspect that no one on staff has ever called to let him know that the network was operating properly and that all the systems were okay. Rather, Everett has stepped up to make last minute fixes to ensure that a hearing started on time and dropped everything to ensure staff had the ability to communicate while abroad. Everett was also instrumental in moving the committee to an all-digital process for the markup of the NDAA. Further, as the Congress grappled with how to safely continue operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, Everett played a critical role to ensure the Armed Services Committee continued to be able to communicate, access data, and most importantly, meet and conduct effective oversight, ensuring the enactment of consecutive annual NDAA's.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee, I extend our deepest appreciation to Everett 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 leaves the committee to enjoy his well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMIE BERRY ON HER LIFE AND WORK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of my constituent

and friend Jamie Berry, who died on November 9, 2022, after a valiant two-year battle with ALS. After exchanging many letters with Jamie, I had the privilege of meeting her on October 6, 2022, at her home in San Jose, California. Her mother, a fierce protector and loving caregiver, asked me to visit Jamie who was by then unable to leave her home. I found a beautiful woman unable to move, but who had a clear voice to tell me her hopes, fears and dreams. Jamie was a great inspiration to me, and she knew that I would continue her work to raise funds for the treatment and a cure for ALS.

Jamie was diagnosed with ALS in 2020. Prior to her diagnosis, she excelled in her sales career, helped run her family's business, and loved to ride ATVs and camp at her family's ranch near the Almaden Quicksilver mines. After her diagnosis, she put all of her energy and determination into her advocacy for ALS patients and their families. Through her superb leadership, infectious humor and kind heart, she recruited a large group of friends from across the country to help her advocate for ALS patients. During my Health Subcommittee hearing on the ACT for ALS legislation on November 4, 2021, I quoted Jamie:

"With ALS, a piece of you dies every single day. We are simply asking for a fighting chance to live the lives we were meant to live."

Thanks to Jamie, the Act for ALS became law on December 23, 2021.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to Jamie's family, especially her beloved husband Jason, her adored daughter Chloe, her devoted mother Deborah, her sister Lesha, and her many relatives and friends. Jamie was a fervent and effective advocate and her work will live on as a testament to her life of love and courage.

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF MR. RALPH ROTELLA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the generosity of Ralph Rotella, owner of Discount Shoe Repair in Syracuse and driving force behind Ralph's Rescue Mission Shoe Drive.

In 2010, Ralph Rotella was inspired to start Ralph's Rescue Mission Shoe Drive after seeing a homeless person outside of his shop, walking in the cold with their toe sticking out. He made the decision to provide that person with a pair of usable shoes. From that day, Ralph began annually collecting, repairing, and donating shoes to the Syracuse Rescue Mission to help more people in need.

In Ralph's first year of operating the Shoe Drive, he donated less than 100 pairs of shoes. Each year since then, he has steadily expanded his operation, and in 2021, donated 37,370 pairs of shoes—one of the largest donations the Rescue Mission has ever received.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Ralph Rotella for his determined efforts to aid underserved members of our Central New York community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CONGRESSMAN KURT SCHRADER

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of my colleague and neighboring Oregon delegation member, Congressman KURT SCHRADER. KURT's long career in public service started in Salem, where he served in both the Oregon House and Senate before being elected to Congress in 2008. KURT has always been known as a practical lawmaker who wants to get things done for the people of his district. As the sole veterinarian in Congress, KURT is a prominent voice in the work to end animal cruelty and advocated for bipartisan solutions to safeguard public health. KURT is also known for his leadership in fighting to uplift Oregon farmers. Through his service on the Agriculture Committee and in strengthening several farm bills, KURT has helped put Oregon's specialty crops in a place to compete and succeed.

I am particularly grateful to have partnered with KURT to hold our government accountable for its long and shameful history of separating Native American children from their families. KURT has thoughtfully led our work regarding the challenges around Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, and our efforts to provide oversight on whether the school can protect the well-being of its students and get them on a path to academic success. KURT has demanded answers from both Democratic and Republican Administrations and has not wavered from the fight to stand up for the students and their families.

KURT will depart with a strong legacy of serving his constituents and championing bipartisan legislative successes. I offer my best wishes to KURT, his wife, Susan, and his hard-working staff in Oregon and in Washington, D.C.

MEMORIALIZING JEAN MONNET

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful, as Co-Chair of the Congressional French Caucus, to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jean Monnet through the legislation I co-sponsored creating a commemorative work in Rock Creek Park to honor his international peace contributions.

Jean Monnet is often referred to as the "Father of Europe" for his role in initiating the dream for the European Union, which today is one of our largest trading partners. During World War II, Jean Monnet took up residence here in Washington, D.C., and contributed to the "Victory Program" with the United States, helping the allied powers retake his home country after its fall in 1940.

After the war, Jean Monnet worked tirelessly to integrate European nations with the United States, and create a lasting transatlantic cooperation. His diplomatic work led to the creation of the European Union.

Mr. Monnet spent his time in the United States appreciating the natural beauty of our country. He notably took daily walks through Rock Creek Park which he fondly referred to as “my park” in his memoirs. His personal connection to the park makes it a fitting location for a commemorative work in Washington. I join my colleagues in extending support for the legislation creating this new capital memorial.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLOSE AGENCY LOOPHOLES TO THE JONES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the “Close Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act,” which would close early 50 years of anti-Jones Act decisions, known as “letter rulings”, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and having served as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018, I am committed to rebuilding the U.S.-flagged fleet including international and Jones Act vessels. For nearly 50 years, Congress has stood idly by while federal regulators made bad decision after bad decision chipping away at the Jones Act, allowing foreign vessels paying poverty wages to take jobs from Americans working in our maritime industry. That stops today.

In December 2020, Congress enacted my amendment to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act as section 9503 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) affirming that the application of the Constitution, laws, and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States to the Outer Continental Shelf also applies to non-mineral energy resources and exploring for, developing, producing, transporting, or transmitting such resources. As I stated in my remarks on September 24, 2020 (Congressional Record, Vol. 166, No. 166), Congress always intended U.S. law to apply to any form of exploration, development, production, transportation, and transmission of energy resources under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953.

On January 25, 2021, President Biden’s first executive order (no.14005) after assuming office directed federal agencies to maximize the use of American mariners, American-built ships, and U.S.-flagged vessels under the Jones Act. In response to my amendment enacted in the FY12 NDAA, Customs and Border Protection issued a headquarters ruling letter “HQ H309186” on January 27, 2021, correctly holding that the transportation of “scour protection” materials from the Port of Providence, Rhode Island to a wind project on the Outer Continental Shelf off the southeast shore of Martha’s Vineyard is a coastwise activity under the Jones Act.

On March 17, 2021, the national trade association for the offshore wind industry sent a letter to the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection requesting that the agency withdraw HQ H309186. In this letter, the off-

shore wind industry mischaracterized my September 2020, remarks from the Congressional Record as somehow supporting its request that Customs and Border Protection withdraw the January 27, 2021, letter ruling. On March 25, 2021, Customs and Border Protection issued a revised headquarters ruling letter (HQ H317289) contradicting its January 2021 letter ruling and the President’s policy to allow foreign vessels to construct energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf.

To be clear, my September 2020 remarks in the Congressional Record state that my amendment to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act simply clarified that all forms of offshore energy development are indeed subject to the same U.S. laws that apply to the offshore oil and gas industry. That does not mean that I accept the validity of the many administrative loopholes to the Jones Act created by decades of bad letter rulings and poor enforcement by Customs and Border Protection. Rather, I have long held that many of the activities regulators have incorrectly allowed the offshore oil and gas industry to engage in using foreign-flagged vessels are clear violations of the plain text of the Jones Act and original Congressional intent.

It is now clear to me that the regulators at Customs and Border Protection are unwilling to fully implement the Jones Act, as directed by President Biden’s Executive Order 14005. My ‘Closing Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act’ would finally force federal regulators to enforce the law as Congress intended in 1920, maximizing job opportunities for American mariners, U.S.-flagged vessels, and domestic shipyard workers. In effect, my legislation would also compel Customs and Border Protection to implement the President’s stated policy by fully enforcing the Jones Act.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the House to cosponsor this critical and long overdue legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEVERLY LANE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the service of Beverly Lane as she retires from the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board of Directors.

Beverly has been a strong advocate for Contra Costa residents and has worked tirelessly to help this community thrive. As former Mayor of Danville, she was committed to preserving open spaces and bolstering the town’s transportation system. Additionally, she spearheaded efforts to protect local sites of cultural and historical significance and to educate others about the Bay Area’s rich history through her work with a variety of organizations including the League of Women Voters (California), Central Contra Costa Transportation Authority, California League of Cities, the Oakland Museum of California History, the Contra Costa County Historical Society, and more. She is the author of four books on local history and led efforts to establish the Calaveras Ridge trail as well as an agricultural park in Danville.

Beverly has received extensive recognition for her outstanding public service, receiving the Association of Bay Area Governments Growing Smarter Together Award for Distinguished Leadership, Save Mount Diablo’s Mountain Star Award, Tri-Valley Hero and Woman of the Year, and many more.

Beverly joined the East Bay Regional Park District Board in 1994 representing Ward 6. During her time with EBRPD, she has worked to extend the Iron Horse Trail, establish the Sycamore Valley Open Space Park, and promoted a range of other projects to support our regional parks. Recently, Beverly has played a key role in the creation of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park—Home of the Port Chicago 50. Throughout her tenure with EBRPD, Beverly has continually advocated for improved access to parks and trails and shown her commitment to safeguarding Contra Costa’s environment and open spaces. Her dedication and service have helped to connect Contra Costa residents to nature within their own communities, encouraging a healthy lifestyle for all community members.

Please join me, Congressman MCNERNEY, and Congressman THOMPSON in congratulating Beverly on her well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades of service to Contra Costa County.

HONORING THE TSA EMPLOYEES AT LOUISVILLE MUHAMMAD ALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the TSA workers at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, and please understand, this is not a token acknowledgment.

I am about to wrap up a 16 year Congressional career in which I’ve flown from my home in Louisville to the Capitol and back around 40 weeks or so in a non-pandemic year. That’s about 1,120 flights, give or take.

I see these folks more than I see most of my colleagues. And it’s great. They’re friendly, they’re funny, they’re kind. If they obstruct, it’s with good reason.

Seriously, they’ve made these encounters a truly enjoyable part of my job. Yes, I’m talking about going through airport security. No easy task.

Of course, being nice for me to talk to is hardly the most important part of their jobs. They’re keeping us safe, our families, our community. Every single person who passes through Muhammad Ali International Airport is their responsibility, both to protect and to ensure is not a threat.

One week a year, 30,000 people pass through in just a few days for the Kentucky Derby, and each one requires attention from our TSA workers.

And people think airport security is stressful for them.

But if they get stressed, you’d never know it. You’ll get a friendly smile, a kind word, and maybe even a joke.

When I ran for Congress, I’ll be honest, I never thought about how much time I’d spend with the men and women of Louisville’s TSA. But now, it’s time I’ll never forget.