

RECOGNIZING RICARDO TORREZ
CASTAÑUELA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Ricardo Torrez Castañuela, Master Sergeant, United States Air Force, of North Richland Hills, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Castañuela enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 and served as part of an ordnance company during the Korean War, running munitions to the front lines. Upon returning to the United States he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954, being awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious actions while in Vietnam. His decorations, in addition to his Bronze Star, include the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster to denote three awards.

The selflessness Mr. Castañuela demonstrated in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force continues with his service to his community. He began his civilian career as a peace officer and corrections officer with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, attaining the rank of Major and becoming the first Hispanic-American Warden of Tarrant County.

Mr. Castañuela's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING MR. JOE SUTTON AND
MR. ROBERT MARLING

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Joe Sutton and Mr. Robert Marling, two long term friends who have emulated the important values of true friendship.

They will always cherish their friendly bets, usually paid in full in the form of 1 dollar bills, for their countless rounds of golf. And even more so, they will cherish the everlasting memories that they've formed together over the years.

Through their friendship, Robert and Joe are both found to be philanthropic spirited and humble individuals, stewards of their communities, and serve as role models for many.

Robert is smart, kindhearted, community-minded, and a great entrepreneur and mentor. He has been a major supporter of the American Heart Association, United Way, and dozens of other major charities.

Joe proudly served in the U.S. Army and retired at the rank of Colonel. During his time in the Army, he held numerous command assignments in armor and aviation, served 2

tours of duty in the Pentagon and was an Army Ranger. Joe authored a children's book and has donated the proceeds from the book to "Children at Risk" focused on fighting child trafficking. It is my sincerest hope that their friendship continues to be a role model for others to see and learn from. In the world we find ourselves living in today, I can think of nothing better to celebrate friends that truly last a lifetime.

PROVIDING RESEARCH AND ESTIMATES OF CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Budget, Judiciary, and on Homeland Security, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437 "Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023", a resolution that provides funding to continue the operations of the federal government through December 23, 2022, and avoids a wasteful and irresponsible shutdown.

Passage of this resolution will avoid an inexcusable and unjustifiable government shutdown that would disrupt the lives of millions of Americans who rely on the resources and support provided by the federal government.

If this resolution does not pass:

Millions of veterans will lose their healthcare benefits.

People relying on Social Security will not receive their checks.

Millions of government employees will lose their wages.

Millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries would lose access to visits and other medical needs.

Food Stamps will not be sent out, leaving millions of Americans who rely on them at risk of hunger.

Health insurance coverage to millions of children through the CHIP program will stop.

All projects created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will pause, and national parks and Smithsonian museums will close.

In addition to these programs, House Democrats have worked tirelessly throughout the 117th Congress to pass legislation that will better the lives of Americans, legislation that has established programs that would also be impacted by a government shutdown.

Our legislative agenda this Congress focused on lowering the price of health care and prescription drug costs, creating better paying jobs, acting on the climate crisis and making communities safer.

For example, in this Congress the House has passed and sent to the President the following legislation that has been signed into law:

H.R. 5376—INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

This historic piece of legislation lowered health care and prescription drug costs for millions. It forces Big Pharma to negotiate lower prices, caps the cost of drugs and insulin for seniors on Medicare, and locks in lower health insurance premiums that will save 13 million Americans an average of \$800 a year. And

the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy provisions will make clean, secure American energy more affordable.

H.R. 1319—AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

This law helped pull the economy out of the pandemic. It put vaccines in arms, money in pockets, and reopened the American economy.

H.R. 3684—INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

This law enacted a historic investment to rebuild our roads and bridges and bring clean water and high-speed internet to more communities and created millions of union jobs.

S. 2938—BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

The enactment of this bill expands background checks for the purchase of firearms, add increased protections for victims of domestic violence, and fund violence prevention in schools and stronger mental health services to stop tragedies like mass shootings before they happen.

House Democrats have also made strides to bettering American life through legislation that has yet to see action in the Senate. These include:

H.R. 1, FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

This comprehensive legislation would promote government transparency, strengthen access to the ballot box and make it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote, secure election infrastructure, and curb the influence of dark money in politics.

H.R. 6, DREAM AND PROMISE ACT

The Dream and Promise Act would protect Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status holders from deportation and provide an opportunity to obtain permanent legal status that would enable these groups to work legally within the United States and continue to contribute to their local communities and economy.

H.R. 7, PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

This bill would strengthen labor protections around equal pay by prohibiting the use of salary history to set compensation, provide more transparent options for joining class-action lawsuits challenging systemic discrimination, and require employers to show that gender pay gaps are job-related and consistent with business need.

H.R. 842, PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE (PRO) ACT

This bill aims to strengthen labor protections for union workers through overriding Republican-led "right to work" laws, promoting free and fair union elections, and holding companies that attempt to restrict union activity accountable.

Mr Speaker, with your leadership, House Democrats have passed historic pieces of legislation that will benefit Americans for years to come, but our work is not done.

If we fail to pass this Resolution, the new programs that we have enacted into law during the 117th Congress, as well as all the other services and programs of the federal government will be shut down and American people in every corner of the country will suffer needlessly and severely.

As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to ensure that the government continues its operations so that Americans may continue to receive the resources services provided by the federal government passed December 16, 2022.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437 "Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023."

HONORING MIAMI/BAHAMAS GOOMBAY HONOREES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today in celebration of the 39th Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival and to pay tribute to a group of remarkable individuals for their historic longevity journey and commitment to Miami's Coconut Grove community.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is a celebration of cultural expression embracing the legacy of Miami's Bahamian-rooted community known as Coconut Grove. The three-day celebration strives to provide a historical overview of the American/Bahamian culture by educating and exposing the public to its rich heritage and traditions.

These pillars of the Coconut Grove community have been an integral part in upholding the mission of the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival and deserve to be recognized: MayBelle Berry, Elizabeth Daniels, Thelma A. Gibson, Beatrice F. Johnson, Mary B. McCray, Delois McGriff, Hattie Mattox, Hattie M. Nelms, Ethel R. Phillip, and Dr. George A. Simpson.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians have played a significant role in the City of Miami representing one third of the registered signatories needed for the city's incorporation. Their rich Bahamian heritage has been preserved throughout the years with the support of individuals like the 39th Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival honorees.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these living legends of Coconut Grove's rich history.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS REGARDING H.R. 2415 AND H.R. 2641

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following exchange of letters regarding H.R. 2415 and H.R. 2641.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: I write concerning H.R. 2415, the "Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act of 2021." This legislation would amend section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to eliminate existing subsection (g) which authorized a technical and financial assistance program at the Department of Energy to help States remedy environmental problems caused by orphaned or abandoned oil and gas wells on State or private land which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In an effort to expedite the filing of the Natural Resources bill report for legislative history purposes, I agree to not seek a sequential referral at this time. The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing a sequential referral request of H.R. 2415 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2022.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: I write to you concerning H.R. 2641, the "Pacific Northwest Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act of 2021."

I acknowledge and appreciate that despite considering seeking a sequential referral on this legislation, the Committee on Energy and Commerce decided not to do so when the Committee on Natural Resources filed our committee report on the bill.

I thank you for your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2022.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: I write concerning H.R. 2641, the "Pacific Northwest Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act of 2021." This legislation would eliminate the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's role in the licensing of non-federal entities development of small conduit hydropower or pumped energy storage facilities at Bureau of Reclamation reservoir which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In an effort to expedite the filing of the Natural Resources bill report for legislative history purposes, I agree to not seek a sequential referral at this time. The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing a sequential referral request of H.R. 2641 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2022.
Hon. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: I write to you concerning H.R. 2415, the "Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act of 2021."

I acknowledge and appreciate that despite considering seeking a sequential referral on this legislation, the Committee on Energy and Commerce decided not to do so when the Committee on Natural Resources filed our committee report on the bill.

I thank you for your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee.

HONORING MS. DEBRA HEMBREE'S SERVICE TO SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district staff, Ms. Debra Hembree, for her 11 years of dedicated service as a congressional staffer. In 2011, Debra began working in my Pascagoula district office as a Congressional Liaison providing casework assistance for constituents in several counties throughout the Fourth Congressional District.

Debra is originally from Canton, MS, and is a lifelong Mississippian. She attended and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University, receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and Master's in Elementary Education, respectively.

Debra served the community, educating young children, the future leaders of our great state, during her 30 year teaching career in the Pascagoula-Gautier School District before her retirement in 2004. Shortly after her retirement, Debra continued her teaching career at the Murray School at Wilmer Hall in Mobile, Alabama. While there, she embraced this new and challenging opportunity as the resource teacher for children in grades 6 through 12.

Debra's life was blessed 10 years ago when she met and married her husband, Tom. Together they share 3 children: Debra's daughter Anna, Anna's husband Chip; Tom's son Mitch, Mitch's wife Diana; and Tom's son Austin. They also have 2 precious grandsons, Jack and Hudson.

The foundation of Debra's life is her faith and belief that we are here to serve others. She is currently a member of First Baptist Church of Vancleave. Through the years, she has been involved in various areas of church service, including the preschool ministry, the Girls' Auxiliary, the Women's Ministry team, and Vacation Bible School. She has also been a member of the choir.

I genuinely appreciate Debra's years of service to the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District. She has always been a loyal team member who has worked diligently