

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 4; YEA on Roll Call No. 5; NAY on Roll Call No. 6; NAY on Roll Call No. 7; and NAY on Roll Call No. 8.

RECOGNIZING MELISSA CONNOLLY AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Melissa Connolly for over eight years of service to the constituents of New York's 10th Congressional District.

Melissa's career in the House began in 2009 as a Legislative Assistant to former Representative Jerry Costello following her graduation from Duke University's School of Public Policy and the University of Pennsylvania. After working with former Representative Shelley Berkley, Melissa joined my office in 2013, rising from Legislative Assistant to become my Legislative Director.

As Legislative Director, Melissa has been a trusted and valued advisor who helped set and manage my policy agenda. She also played a significant leadership role in my Washington DC office, serving as a mentor and a resource for junior staff, and I appreciate and have relied on her skill and experience in managing our team. Melissa also helped staff me in my role as Dean of the New York Delegation, which included coordinating meetings with the New York Delegation and other elected officials from the City and State.

Throughout her tenure in my office, Melissa established herself as an expert on issues relating to women and families and as a critical resource for other staff on Capitol Hill working on those issues. She worked tirelessly with the Education and Labor Committee, women's and labor rights organizations, and businesses to help pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act on the House floor with a strong bipartisan vote. Her countless hours of work building support for this legislation should pave the way for it to become law soon and to improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Melissa also worked closely with my Judiciary Committee staff on several important initiatives, including legislation extending the deadline to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which passed the House twice. She also helped lead the Judiciary Committee's work to protect women's fundamental right to abortion,

springing into action after Texas enacted its abortion ban to help plan a hearing to spotlight the devastating impact of the law. She approaches the topic of reproductive freedom and health with the knowledge, passion, and energy that makes her an extremely effective policymaker.

In addition to these issues, Melissa has managed a broad portfolio over the course of her 13 years on the Hill. She worked to help pass and ensure effective implementation of the Affordable Care Act and helped fend off numerous Republican attacks designed to repeal it. She has worked diligently with stakeholders to build support for the Living Donor Protection Act, which would protect living organ donors from high insurance premiums and remove barriers to organ donation. She has also long led my office's effort to increase funding for both Section 8 housing and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS in the annual appropriations bills. Her efforts to build support for these programs has translated into millions of dollars of additional funding for people in dire need of support. They may never know her name, but she has, nevertheless, improved countless lives through her efforts.

Twenty years later, my office continues to work on issues stemming from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Melissa was essential to our efforts to extend and expand the 9/11 health and victim compensation programs that have distributed more than \$9 billion to the families of first responders and survivors of these attacks. The health care program has helped care for tens of thousands of Americans with 9/11 related health conditions and Melissa helped organize the most recent Judiciary Committee hearings on the programs that led to their long-term extension.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Melissa not only smoothly managed her legislative team's transition to a remote work environment, but she also worked tirelessly to advocate for the needs of New Yorkers and keep my constituents informed of our efforts. She effectively advocated for specific legislative provisions to assist New York's hospitals, mass transit, small businesses, arts institutions and museums, and tenants, and she worked doggedly to see that these provisions were included in the comprehensive bills that were passed to address the pandemic and economic collapse that followed. She also planned and implemented our COVID-19 communication strategy with our communications and community liaison staff, including drafting issue-specific, weekly e-newsletters, setting up web pages explaining the CARES Act and Heroes Act benefits, and creating toolkits for constituents seeking assistance.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Melissa's husband, Mike Connolly, and her children, Maisie and Robert. Both of her children were born during her tenure in the office, and for me and the rest of our team it has been a pleasure watching them grow up, hearing their stories, and occasionally receiving their artwork, many of which are displayed throughout the D.C. office.

Finally, Melissa has a great attitude, a good sense of humor, and is a joy to work with. She has sound judgment, excellent people skills, and a deep understanding of how Congress works. My staff and I are lucky to have worked with her for all these years, and we will surely miss her as she moves on to new endeavors in the private sector.

HONORING CABARRUS COUNTY LIBERTY BELL AWARD RECIPIENT TOM GRADY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Grady on receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A native of Cabarrus County, Mr. Grady graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law before returning home to begin practicing law with Williams, Willeford, and Boger in 1966. He continued work for this firm and its successors for fifty-five years before retiring in 2020.

Mr. Grady quickly became well-known for his skill and success as a motorsports attorney. He provided exceptional legal services to many associated with NASCAR, and his leadership proved paramount in the 1990s and early 2000s when the motorsports industry underwent a significant period of advancement and growth. On account of his excellence as a legal professional and mentor, Mr. Grady had the honor of serving as the President of the Cabarrus County Bar Association and was inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association Hall of Fame.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented by the local bar to an individual who exhibits exemplary or distinguished accomplishments and contributions to the legal profession. Over the course of his career and service to Cabarrus County, Mr. Grady provided a strong and consistent source of legal knowledge to support and assist his clients and community. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him and his family continued success and happiness going forward.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Tom Grady as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to enjoy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JIM ARDIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Jim Ardis for his leadership and

● 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.

dedication to the City of Peoria. Ardis retired in 2021 as the longest serving Mayor in the history of the City, serving for 16 years. Prior to his 4 terms as Mayor, he also served on the City Council for 6 years. We thank Mayor Ardis for his tireless advocacy and dedication to move the City forward through times of prosperity and adversity. His unwavering commitment to the community is a testament to his perseverance and love for Peoria.

During his tenure, Peoria earned the unique distinction of being named an All-America City. Mayor Ardis led the effort to create a one-of-a-kind program called Peoria Promise, which gives all students in the City the opportunity to attend community college with tuition reimbursement. Mayor Ardis's leadership also helped to develop Peoria's warehouse district which has brought economic development to the area and transformed downtown. That effort has continued recently with OSF Health Care's new headquarters also coming to Downtown Peoria. His influence on the City of Peoria over the years is endless.

In addition, Jim is a caring person that has always generously given his time and resources to many charities and philanthropic efforts that help people. One shining example is his dedication to the St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run that raises money for children with cancer. Jim has dedicated his professional and personal life to the Peoria community and continues to do so now after his time as Mayor with his role at the OSF Foundation. I appreciate our friendship and his commitment to public service. I wish Jim great success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING JOSE ALVARADO AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jose Alvarado as Iowan of the Week. Jose has lived in Iowa for over two decades and over this time he has shown a clear commitment to improving the Latino community and Iowa as a whole. With a clear understanding of the issues facing the Latino community in Iowa, Jose has successfully implemented community-oriented solutions.

Jose founded the LatinX Immigrants of Iowa organization in 2016 to help people. With the Latino population of Iowa continuing to grow, organizations such as Jose's have taken on increased importance. LatinX Immigrants of Iowa has been able to provide legal, financial, and civic programs. Lawsuits and mortgages/leases can be quite technical ordeals, and any language barrier only makes for a more complicated situation. Jose recognized this issue, and the organization he founded ensures that no Latino individual is left behind.

Over the past 2 years, the organization has been on the front lines in COVID-19 response. Jose and his organization recognized the need for more Spanish-specific COVID-19 information and community vaccination clinics. Leveraging the organization's resources and connections, LatinX Immigrants of Iowa was able to vaccinate approximately 1,600 individuals in the Des Moines area from COVID-19 in a comfortable and familiar setting. While

this is already an impressive accomplishment, Jose plans to put on another vaccine clinic event in January as well. Ensuring that COVID-19 information is shared with all people is a crucial part of how we can effectively curtail COVID-19 transmission, and I'm thankful for Jose and LatinX Immigrants of Iowa's efforts to cover the Latino community in this critical time.

Jose and LatinX Immigrants of Iowa also organize large community gathering events. These events promote Latino heritage and community-building in Central Iowa. This year, the organization put on a successful Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration in Des Moines with the goal to make it as authentic as possible. As Jose turns towards 2022, they will kick off the new year with a Día de los Reyes Magos (3 King's Day) celebration, which is a popular holiday for the Latino community. These events, in addition to regularly scheduled education classes, help ensure that Latinos know that there is a place for them in Iowa.

Jose strengthens Iowa's community through his dedicated public service. I look forward to following him and his organization as they continue to move forward serving the community, and I am proud to name Jose Alvarado as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF VICE ADMIRAL PAUL FREDERICK FOSTER, USN

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the passing of Vice Admiral Paul Frederick Foster, USN. Over his distinguished 23-year career in the United States Navy, Vice Admiral Foster became the first naval officer to be awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, and our Nation's highest military distinction, the Medal of Honor.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, the son of a Congregationalist minister, he spent his early years traveling the west with his father, living in Kansas, Utah, Oklahoma, and Idaho before his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. At the academy, he reached the rank of cadet commander and served as commander of the Midshipmen Battalion. Upon graduation in 1911, he was assigned to various postings in the Caribbean Sea. In 1914, then-Ensign Foster took part in the Battle of Veracruz during the United States' intervention against Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. At the head of his company, he led his sailors ashore during the fighting on April 21 and 22, 1914. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership, heroism, and courage under enemy fire. His commendation cites that "Ens. Foster was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage".

Upon his return to the United States in 1915, Vice Admiral Foster became one of the first American naval officers to undergo submarine instruction. He served as executive officer on the experimental submarine G-4 and participated in maneuvers along the Eastern

Seaboard. When the United States joined the Allies in World War I, Vice Admiral Foster was sent to England and served on U.S. Submarine L-2. In 1918, he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his part in sinking one of the three enemy submarines sunk during the war.

After World War I, he returned to peacetime duty back in the United States. In 1924, during a training accident on the USS *Trenton*, with total disregard for his safety, Vice Admiral Foster entered a burning gun turret and extinguished the fire both inside the turret and on the clothing of the crew members, saving their lives. For this act of valor, he was decorated with the Navy Cross. He retired from active duty in 1929 but remained a member of the Navy Reserve.

Vice Admiral Foster was recalled to active duty in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor. President Franklin D. Roosevelt directly tasked him to conduct special naval inspections worldwide during the Second World War. As Assistant Inspector General of the Navy, Vice Admiral Foster examined bases across the globe, overseeing operations and ensuring the security, effectiveness, and safety of U.S. naval operations in North America, Europe, and the Pacific. He received the Legion of Merit and Navy Commendation Medal for his essential service. He retired from the Navy fully in October 1946 with the rank of vice admiral.

The end of his military service did not mark the end of his career in public service. In 1954, Vice Admiral Foster was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to be the assistant general manager for international activities at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and later general manager of the commission, advancing the United States' peaceful pursuit of atomic power. Finally, in 1959, President Eisenhower appointed him permanent U.S. representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, furthering U.S. leadership in managing the peacetime development of atomic science and technology through the "Atoms for Peace" initiative. During his service in Vienna, he had the opportunity to meet with several world leaders, including Pope John XXIII. After retiring in 1961, Vice Admiral Foster settled in Virginia Beach. He passed away on Jan. 30, 1972, at the age of 82. In a tribute to his years of service, the Spruance-class destroyer USS *Paul F. Foster* was named in his honor in 1976. A true American hero, Vice Admiral Foster's legacy lives on through his family, friends, and commitment to service to his country. I hope the rest of my colleagues will join me in honoring his memory on the 50th anniversary of his passing on Jan. 30, 2022.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL "MIKE" K. SHIELDS OF THE BAYTOWN-WEST CHAMBERS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael "Mike" K. Shields for his outstanding service to the City of Baytown and