

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CITY OF AMERICAN CANYON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of American Canyon as it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

Nestled between Solano and Napa counties, the City of American Canyon, formerly known as "Napa Junction," was incorporated on January 1, 1992. Since then, the small city has proved itself to be a vital part of the North Bay Area, earning the nickname "The Gateway to the Napa Valley." According to the late John Mikolajcik, often called the "Father of American Canyon," the city is named after the Native American, Hispanic, and Caucasian communities that lived in the area together as one people: Americans.

Since its incorporation, American Canyon and its people have made many contributions to the nearby Napa and Solano communities, including the construction of a water reclamation facility, senior center, Boys and Girls club, community center, public library, high school, and middle and elementary schools. The city also has a 640-acre open space preserve donated by residents Jack and Bernice Newell, where people can enjoy the beautiful nature of Wine Country. Further, American Canyon has acquired its own zip code, 94503, and a post office.

The people of American Canyon are the backbone of this thriving city. From amateur sports leagues to religious congregations to Girl Scout and Boy Scout chapters, the residents of American Canyon have created a strong, interconnected community.

American Canyon's convenient geographical location, steady growth, and vibrant community culture has earned its status as a premier city in Northern California. Over the past three decades, the city's population has grown to 21,000 residents and is now the gateway for travelers from all over the world who seek to experience our famous winegrowing region.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor the City of American Canyon here today to celebrate its 30 years of prosperity.

BARRY M. WRIGHT, SR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, a lifelong resident of Winslow Township, New Jersey, Mayor Barry M. Wright, Sr. grew up working on a farm in Penbryn, New Jersey. He graduated from Edgewood High School in 1970 before attending Camden County Community College.

For nearly three decades, Mayor Wright served as a Police Officer for the Winslow Township Police Department, retiring as a Lieutenant and Adjutant to the Chief of Police. Mayor Wright was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. Among his accomplishments include establishing the Police School Liaison program, working in the Detectives Division, Traffic Unit, Internal Affairs and serving with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He also served on the Tansboro Volunteer Fire Company.

Following his service through law enforcement Mayor Barry M. Wright, Sr., served on the Winslow Township Committee for five years and as Mayor for the past six years. During his tenure, he worked on various community enhancement projects. He helped implement sidewalk projects and ensured intersections were handicap accessible. He worked to execute community police programs through the Junior Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop and Adopt a Cop. Additionally, he committed the Township to sustainability programs and replaced the playground of Calabrese Park and added new exercise equipment.

As a public servant Mayor Wright received several accolades during his public service career such as numerous police citations, the Camden County Martin Luther King Freedom Award and the Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award.

Mayor Barry M. Wright, Sr., passed away on Sunday, February 27, 2022. He was the beloved husband of twenty-five years to Robin (Pennett). Loving father of Makayla, Lee Lin, Ian, Brandon (Amelia), Barry (Kelly), and Wendy (David). Proud Grandfather of Connor, Gavin, Sadie and Jason.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTELLATION THEATRE COMPANY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Constellation Theatre Company on its 15th anniversary, which is today, April 4, 2022.

Constellation Theatre Company was created to tell big, powerful stories in intimate spaces. Constellation Theatre Company showcases diverse stories that reflect the vast range of human experience using visual spectacle, dynamic movement, live music and passionate acting ensembles. These plays and musicals spark the curiosity and imagination of audiences in the District of Columbia metropolitan area.

Constellation Theatre Company believes that the communal experience of live theater promotes compassion, understanding, healing and connection—and that we need it now

more than ever. Constellation Theatre Company "brings a global perspective different from what every other theatre company in the DMV explores." Constellation Theatre Company has brought to life 45 diverse stories from 16 countries. Many of these stories highlight philosophies of religions that are underrepresented in the Western theatrical canon.

Constellation Theatre Company has received some of the top theater awards in the Mid-Atlantic region, including winning 17 Helen Hayes Awards and receiving 81 nominations. Constellation Theatre Company was voted "Best Small Theatre Company" by The Washington Post in 2016 and 2018, was voted "Best Theatre Company" by the Washington City Paper in 2016, won the American Theatre Wing, National Theatre Company Award in 2013 and received the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company in 2009.

More than 100,000 people have attended Constellation Theatre Company productions. Constellation Theatre Company has hired 1,650 artists, the majority of whom are from the District of Columbia. Ninety-three percent of Constellation Theatre Company shows have been directed by women, and many of the actors and artists have come from diverse backgrounds.

Constellation Theatre Company has partnered with top theater professionals from around the world and with national and regional groups to engage audiences and to create change. These groups include: American Red Cross, Humane Society, Whitman Walker Health, Barcelona Wine Bar, Room & Board, Art of Living, Freer-Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Journeys and Thornton Wilder Society.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Constellation Theatre Company founders Allison Arkell Stockman and A.J. Guban and the Chair of Constellation Theatre Company's Board of Directors, Scott Chatham, on 15 years of service to the District of Columbia and the country.

MICHAEL JOHN "MIKE" DONOHUE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Michael John Donohue was born in Cape May Court House, New Jersey. He was the senior class president at Middle Township High School, where he earned seven varsity letters for football and track and field. In 1989, Mike graduated from the Catholic University of America with a degree in World Politics. After college, he graduated Cum Laude from Stetson University College of Law and served as a volunteer teacher at St. Joseph Catholic High School in the Virgin Islands, where he coached the mock trial team. Mike then went on to open his own firm, the Donohue Law

• 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.

Firm. In 2015, he was appointed to Judge on the New Jersey Superior Court. Mike served as Judge in the Criminal and Family Courts until 2020, before deciding to return to practicing law. In addition to these career accomplishments, he was also Chairman of the Cape May County Regular Republican Organization and won Irishman of the year. I am very proud of Mike for his extensive career as a lawyer, judge, and chairman in the South Jersey community. God Bless Mike, and God Bless America.

HONORING MARYLOU HERNANDEZ ARMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Marylou Hernandez Armer in recognition of her service to the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Born in 1977, Mrs. Armer grew up in National City, California, and attended Morse High School. Her aspirations to be a police officer began early when she enlisted in the National City Police Department's Explorer Post 2859.

Mrs. Armer dedicated her career to protecting her community. Mrs. Armer served with the Santa Rosa Police Department for over 20 years. She joined the Santa Rosa Police Department as a field evidence technician in 1999. Nine years of civilian service later, she was sworn in as an officer. Mrs. Armer became a detective in 2016 and was an investigator in the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit. She was a person of deep empathy and compassion and always showed kindness to survivors for whom she pursued justice.

On March 31, 2020, our community and our Nation lost an outstanding citizen when Mrs. Armer passed. She was the first peace officer in the state of California taken by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Armer leaves behind her husband, Mark Armer, and their daughter. Our community and state continue to mourn her loss.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Mrs. Armer dedicated her life to the people of Sonoma County through her service to the Santa Rosa Police Department and the victims of domestic and sexual violence. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, on April 1, 2022, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 103; Nay on Roll Call No. 104; Nay on Roll Call No. 105; Yea on Roll Call No. 106; and Nay on Roll Call No. 107.

REMEMBERING JERRY THORNE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, today I along with Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, ask our colleagues to join us to remember Jerry Thorne, who passed away on March 27, 2022.

Mr. Jerry Thorne spent his career serving the Pleasanton community, first as a councilman for more than seven years and then as the mayor for eight years. Throughout his tenure, Jerry oversaw Pleasanton's city park improvements, Highway 84 widening and safety projects between Livermore and Sunol, and strengthened the relationship among the five Tri-Valley municipalities to achieve regional goals.

Jerry was raised in Tennessee and earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee at Memphis, before serving in the U.S. Army. He then had an esteemed professional career, including nearly 30 years with Hewlett-Packard and its affiliated company Agilent Technologies.

Moving to Pleasanton in his 20s, Jerry first got involved in politics as a volunteer with the Pleasanton Seahawks advocating for swimming facilities. He then served on the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission.

Jerry was a devoted public servant who improved the quality of life and city services in Pleasanton. He not only served in leadership for the city of Pleasanton, but also represented the Tri-Valley statewide and nationally through the League of California Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Kalee Thorne, daughter Keri Thorne Gough and two grandchildren. He will be missed by the entire Pleasanton community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AGAMYRAT AGAMBAYEV

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev. This man, still in the prime of his life, was ruthlessly murdered in broad daylight in Tempe, Arizona. The killer took the life of a husband, a father, and an incredible immigrant to this country who was all set to start his new career working at Intel.

This young man was loved by many and led an impressive life that will not go unnoticed.

Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev was an impressive scholar receiving his second Ph.D. at Arizona State University. He had also recently accepted an engineering job at Intel that he worked so diligently to get. But most importantly, Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev was a friend to many, an extraordinary husband and a dedicated father to his two year old son. Dr. Agamyrat's wife, Sumeyra Agambayev states, "He had a real bright future . . . he was dedicated, smart, and studied tirelessly for years at universities to start giving back to the community here and abroad in Turkmenistan."

I condemn the crime here, and the loss to humanity. I am appalled at the growing crime and homeless problems in Tempe and Phoenix. Our people need to be assured they can live and work in a community without fear of a murderous car jacker lurking to take one's life and property.

I mourn for his young family. His son will be left with little memory of his father. But I hope one day his son will read these words, and the words of others, and know that his father was a bright star in the sky and made the world a better place. He lived and died with honor.

My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones and shall Dr. Agamyrat Agambayev never be forgotten.

HONORING BETTY LABASTIDA AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty Labastida, whom I have named the 2022 Woman of the Year in Napa County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Labastida was born in El Centro, California, to Rosa and Leopoldo Labastida. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles in 1968 with a degree in nursing. Ms. Labastida began her professional career in hospital nursing, and then worked in public health nursing. After earning her master's degree in health service and family nurse practice from the University of California, Davis in 1973, she worked for county medical services and community clinics for 43 years. During her nursing career, she also spent 20 years working with the Department of State Foreign Service.

After retiring from nursing in 2014, Ms. Labastida became dedicated to community service. She is best known for her work as a volunteer at COVID vaccination sites in Napa County, where she utilizes her family nurse practitioner experience and her bilingual speaking skills to help people register for vaccinations and infection screenings. Ms. Labastida has volunteered at approximately 55 vaccination clinics, primarily through Ole Health.

Ms. Labastida has been a devoted volunteer with the non-profit Napa Valley CanDo, which creates and collects donations for food banks. She has volunteered in CanDo's community garden for four years and has served as a Food Project Neighborhood Coordinator for five years.

Ms. Labastida is known throughout her community for her humble demeanor, dedication to others, cheery disposition, and bright smile. When she is not serving her community, she is having adventures abroad. She is also a devoted mother and grandmother to her daughter, Alisa, and her grandson, Sebastian.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Betty Labastida has dedicated her life to the people of Napa County through her community service and nursing career. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.