

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RENEE SPAAR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Ms. Renee Spaar and recognize her for the tremendous work achieved in the Odessa community. Renee loved her community and would stop at nothing to help the people within it. She truly was an amazing person to work with and a pioneer in education for the Odessa School District and school districts throughout Lafayette County, Missouri.

Her career began after graduating from Southwest Missouri State University in 1982 at The Odessan, where she would go on to develop the Newspapers in Education program. Through this program Renee was able to link real-world experiences to the classroom, promote lifelong learning, and develop reading habits by advancing the use of a newspaper in the classroom to promote literacy for kids across the Odessa area. Additionally, she was one of the founding members of the Odessa Outreach, an organization created to help serve and fund local non-profits in the area who need assistance. Renee's life will be remembered for her passion for education and outstanding work for everyone in her city. She always found a way to overcome any difficulties she faced in her long, dedicated career to service, and in doing so remained positive no matter what.

Renee was loved by many and in return loved all that she encountered. She was described by her peers as always having a bright smile on her face, a joke to tell, and uplifting for those who needed it. She was an enjoyable person to be around and would light up every room she walked into. We should all strive to be as happy, loving, and gracious as Renee was in her admirable 61 years of living. She will be deeply missed, but her long-lasting impact and legacy will live on for years to come. I would like to offer my condolences to all that knew Renee and her loving family and remember her for the outstanding work she did for the Odessa community. May her memory be a blessing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURATION OF BAY PATH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SANDRA J. DORAN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sandra Doran on being inaugurated as the sixth president of Bay Path University in Longmeadow,

Massachusetts. As Bay Path marks their 125th anniversary, I could not think of a more appropriate platform to celebrate the inauguration of President Doran.

Over the past 18 years, President Doran's experience in academics has culminated in her becoming a leader in higher education. Most recently, President Doran served as President of Salem Academy and College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the nation's oldest women's college. In just two years, President Doran helped develop and implement a plan to bring financial stability to Salem College, while transforming their academic programs to educate future generations of female leaders. Prior to beginning her academic career in 2004, President Doran worked in the private sector for 18 years, building a unique skillset that will serve her well in her new position at Bay Path.

In 1897, Bay Path University was founded upon the ideals of providing career-focused educational programs and providing students with the resources needed to affect real change in their communities. Offering 71 all-women undergraduate programs, and 33 co-educational graduate programs, Bay Path prides itself on empowering its diverse student body of more than 3,000 students to help women close the wage gap and stem the cycle of poverty. President Doran has demonstrated her commitment to these fundamental issues throughout her career, and that is why I am confident she will be a strong leader and outspoken advocate as Bay Path begins a new era in the institution's history.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate President Doran on being inaugurated as the sixth president of Bay Path University. Bay Path is a cherished institution in Massachusetts' First District, and I wish their faculty, staff, student body, and new president, Sandra Doran, many more years of success and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2022 CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE RAY PICARD AWARD RECIPIENT NORMA JEAN VALDEZ

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Norma Jean Valdez.

As Senior Management Analyst with the Los Alamos County Fire Department (LACFD), Ms. Valdez has demonstrated a deep commitment to public safety through her work on fire accreditation.

Our state is all too familiar with the devastation that fires can cause. Ms. Valdez's work is so important for keeping New Mexicans and their property safe.

Ms. Valdez's leadership in the fire and emergency service is well-recognized among her colleagues and community.

This leadership earned her the 2022 Center for Public Safety Excellence Ray Picard Award.

I would also like to recognize the historic nature of Ms. Valdez's selection as the first civilian, woman, Hispanic, and New Mexican to ever receive this prestigious award.

Ms. Valdez's work is commendable, and I'm proud to represent such a dedicated public servant in Congress. I join the Los Alamos community in congratulating her on this incredible accomplishment.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER RUSS NORRIS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Commander Russ Norris's dedicated service to his country. Commander Norris served in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 22 years and brought his spirit of service home, maintaining active participation and leadership with Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Commander Norris has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his service to his country, as in addition to the many milestones of Marine Corps training, he has achieved over a dozen advanced certifications. These include completing the Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management's Security Cooperation course, and the Commanders Responsibility Course. Amongst his many accolades, Russ earned the Korean Defense Service Medal, was selected to be a Staff Sergeant (E-6) and became a commissioned officer. Norris rose to the rank of Major and served at the highest echelons of the US military, before retiring in 2011.

Commander Norris currently holds a B.A. in Government & International Studies, a master's degree in Operations Science and, while serving as Commander at the Post for Veterans of Foreign Wars, is pursuing his Doctorate.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I would like to thank Commander Russ Norris for his service and wish him the best in his work toward the completion of his degree.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM AFTER 21 DAY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 21 as national "Autism After 21 Day". As many of my colleagues know, April is Autism Acceptance Month, so it is fitting and crucial that we take a moment today

• 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.

to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by adults with autism after the age of 21.

The transition to adulthood is challenging for many young people. However, this transition period can be especially difficult for autistic young people, who often face a formidable challenge—the so-called “services cliff”—as they age out of the school system. Federal support services drop off, and young adults with autism and their families often struggle to find meaningful educational and job opportunities, face challenges in obtaining essential support services, and experience what can feel like an overwhelming loss of their community.

In light of these pressing challenges, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the important work being done to support adults with autism in my community. Two extraordinary constituents of mine, JaLynn Prince and Dr. Gregory A. Prince, founded the Madison House Autism Foundation, which works to improve the health and wellbeing of autistic adults throughout their lifespan. The Madison House Autism Foundation is expanding choices and opportunities for adults with autism through housing initiatives, employment partnerships, and many other innovative efforts, including the Autism After 21 movement.

Madam Speaker, we must continue working to achieve a more inclusive and enlightened society that provides equitable opportunities to autistic individuals of every age. This month, as we celebrate the contributions of so many adults with autism and their allies, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing April 21st as national “Autism After 21 Day”.

IN HONOR OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLYING TIGERS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Flying Tigers. Originally named the American Volunteer Group (AVG), the Flying Tigers were a group of American aviators who were recruited by China during World War II to fight Japanese forces in China and Burma from 1941 to 1942. The 100-member company assisted in the transport of vital supplies, provided air cover for the Burma Road, helped protect China's capital region, and opposed Japan's invasion of China. The unit is credited with 297 enemy aircraft destroyed despite a lack of medical support and maintenance crew. Over the course of the unit's service, 14 dedicated crew were killed, captured, or deemed missing in combat.

The Flying Tigers were led by Retired U.S. Army Captain, Claire Lee Chennault, whose training enabled the utilization of high-speed diving and climbing techniques to exploit the weaknesses of the larger Japanese aircraft. The unit was lauded for their ability to inflict damage on Japan's superior force despite the significant disadvantages they held. The success achieved by the Flying Tigers on the battlefield was a morale boost for the Chinese and American allies at a time when the war appeared to be going in Japan's favor.

Madam Speaker, I honor the bravery of the Flying Tigers, and I celebrate the efforts of the

Asian Pacific Public Affairs Association and the Sino-American Heritage Foundation to memorialize the Flying Tigers' legacy.

THANKING PHARMACIES AND HEALTH CENTERS FOR THEIR ROLE IN EQUITABLE VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend pharmacies and health centers for their efforts in distributing COVID-19 vaccines to underserved communities throughout Southern California, including in the Coachella Valley.

In February of 2021, I called upon retail pharmacies, including Rite Aid, to expand the number of their vaccination sites located in high-risk, underserved communities in eastern Riverside County, where my district lies. Twelve communities in my district are defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as Medically Underserved Areas, including Blythe, Hemet, San Jacinto, Coachella, Indio, Idyllwild/Pine Cove, Banning, Beaumont, and Chiriac Summit/Desert Center. Many of these same communities were hit particularly hard by the pandemic and began to experience disparities in vaccination rates.

I am grateful to the businesses and organizations that answered this call and stepped up to promote vaccine equity. Following my letter, several additional vaccine sites and mobile vaccine clinics in vulnerable and underserved communities were opened in my district, increasing access for high-risk individuals.

I was honored to collaborate with organizations including Rite Aid Pharmacy, Desert Healthcare Clinic, Eisenhower Health, and the Riverside University Health System on multiple on-the-ground mobile clinics throughout 2021. As an emergency medicine physician, I was able to directly administer vaccines to my constituents, while observing the vital work that these groups brought to our region. Thanks to pharmacy organizations, health centers, several wonderful local organizations, President Biden's federal retail pharmacy program, and the Health Equity Task Force, we were not only able to bring COVID-19 vaccines to pharmacies located in the hardest-to-reach communities, but also take vaccines directly to the people.

Over the last 12 months, the Coachella Valley's vaccination rate for residents 12 and over has risen to over 80 percent. These high vaccination rates have proven to be lifesaving as the region continues to face challenges presented by COVID-19 and its variants. I am grateful for the collaborative effort that played a critical role in addressing vaccine equity and am happy that my high-risk constituents now have much-needed access to COVID-19 vaccines.

On behalf of the great people of California's 36th Congressional District, thank you to the pharmacies, health centers, health systems, and local organizations for your work to bring equitable health and vaccine access to our district. I look forward to continuing our shared work to address health disparities and protect underserved populations throughout communities across the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF RITA MCCABE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rita McCabe's years of service for Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2010, Rita made history as the first President of the John H. Hargreaves Pelham Memorial Auxiliary 10722. In her time with the organization, Rita has provided Officer Training Sessions, as well as earned several distinctions, including an Outstanding President award.

Rita became a business owner in 2014, opening the first Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream shop in Nashua, New Hampshire, and has expanded the franchise to add locations in Ashland, Worcester, Cambridge, and Manchester.

Rita's community involvement and impact do not end there. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 7 years, a Pastoral Council member for St. Patrick's Church twice and served two terms as Director-at-large for the Veteran Business Owners Initiative. Her commitment to bettering her community led Rita to provide unique hybrid training opportunities for officers at the John H. Hargreaves Pelham Memorial Auxiliary. Rita is a dedicated supporter of our troops, businesswoman and volunteer. The Granite State is thankful for her years of commitment and service.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Rita McCabe for her continued dedication to the Auxiliary and congratulate her on her many well-deserved awards.

IN RECOGNITION OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ADVANCE TECHNICAL SKILLS INSTITUTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 18, 2022

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, for two generations now, the promise of college is one on which we as a nation have largely failed to deliver. At a time when seven of ten undergraduate students and nine of ten Pell Grant recipients must take on debt simply to graduate college—a debt load which averages \$30,000 per borrower—many families have begun considering alternatives. However, the WPA is gone, and with it even rhetorical concessions to the idea of full employment. More disappointingly evanescent is the yeoman idea which once accompanied manual labor. The artisans and mechanics of whom Jefferson wrote so fondly—the ideal American citizen—theirs has become an almost antiquarian way of life. The Great Emancipator once wrote, “Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.” In this vein, and on behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional district, I rise to honor Metropolitan Community College's Advanced Technical Skills Institute's Early College Program.

The Early College Program allows students to consider their options, rather than locking them into a field of study, and allows them to