

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROBERT ‘BOB’ TAYLOR FOR HIS DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert ‘Bob’ Taylor for his decades of dedicated public service to our community. This year, Bob will retire after serving as Mayor of the City of Brentwood for the last fourteen years—longer than any other Mayor in Brentwood’s history.

Bob Taylor was first elected to the Brentwood City Council in 2004 and served as a Councilmember for two years until he was elected Mayor in 2006. As Mayor, Bob has shown his unwavering commitment to our community and is well known for his vibrant personality and dedication to the success of the City of Brentwood and its residents. Bob has also been instrumental in ensuring the safety of the community-at-large through his service on transportation committees such as the Highway 4 Bypass Authority. In addition to this and other committees, he serves on numerous boards and commissions, making sure to never miss an opportunity that could improve the quality of life for his constituents.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Bob served twelve years on the Liberty Union High School District Board of Trustees. He has been a businessman and a farmer, and was Past President of Harvest Time Brentwood, a local non-profit farming organization. He is an active community member, participating in Brentwood Chamber of Commerce events, among many other community activities. Bob has made invaluable contributions to our community, and his leadership has made a positive impact on countless individuals and families.

Bob is also a veteran who has served our great nation as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam era. He currently acts as the Brentwood City Council’s liaison to various veterans’ groups, demonstrating his steadfast commitment to his fellow servicemembers and our nation’s veterans. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Robert ‘Bob’ Taylor. His distinguished public service is unparalleled and is as an example to us all.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN ROBERT S. KOBER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Robert S. Kober of the Dearborn Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. His honorable twenty-five

years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

A native of Dearborn and a graduate of Edsel Ford High School, Captain Kober began his career at the Dearborn Fire Department in April 1997, beginning as a Firefighter 1. In 2003, he was promoted to Firefighter 2 and then to the role of Fire Engineer in 2006. Due to his excellence in service, he was named Lieutenant in 2012 and then Captain in 2017. Known for his bravery and leadership, he received the Medal of Valor in 2014. He is also the recipient of several awards, including numerous Fire Chief Unit Commendations and Meritorious Company Commendations.

Involved in the Dearborn community, Captain Kober participates in the annual Dearborn Firefighter Burn Drive and other community events, such as the 9/11 memorial services and Santa at the Firehouse. Caring deeply about public service and helping those in need, he has supported his fellow firefighters and other officers through activism at the Michigan State Capitol. When not at the fire station, he can be found spending time cheering on his kids at sports events. He resides in Dearborn, Michigan with his family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Robert S. Kober for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Fire Department. I join with Captain Kober’s family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service in protecting our community and thank him for his role in serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past twenty-five years. We wish him the best in retirement.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, AND TRANSPHOBIA

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my united and unwavering support of LGBTQI+ people across the globe and their right to live their lives openly, free from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Yesterday, May 17th, we marked the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. I had hoped that by 2022, we would no longer need this day to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTQI+ people around the world.

In too many countries, it is still a crime to be LGBTQI+. At least 68 countries have laws that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults. In six of those countries, people can be sentenced to death for same-sex sexual relations. And at least nine countries have laws criminalizing forms of gender expression that target the transgender community.

In countries like Russia, LGBTQI+ people are targeted for discrimination. And under

Putin’s regime, they also have seen their ability to organize and fight for their rights curtailed.

In countries like Chechnya, LGBTQI+ people are subjected to state-sanctioned torture and violence, including murder.

The United States has a moral obligation to address these human rights abuses against LGBTQI+ people. That is why the House passed—with a bipartisan vote—the Global Respect Act, legislation I authored to deny visas to those who commit human rights abuses against LGBTQI+ people abroad. This legislation will also codify reporting requirements on these issues in the State Department’s annual Human Rights Report. The Senate now needs to send it to the President’s desk.

We need to equip our government with the tools it needs to help secure LGBTQI+ equality and protect the rights of LGBTQI+ people here at home and abroad.

We are fortunate to have strong allies in the White House in President Biden and Vice President Harris. Their administration has stated unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States to “pursue an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.” They have done important work to advance those goals and have also taken meaningful action to ensure we are leading by example here at home as well.

In his State of the Union Address, President Biden specifically asked us, this Congress, to send him the Equality Act for his signature.

The Equality Act will, finally, explicitly prohibit LGBTQI+ discrimination in key areas of our everyday lives—including employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally-funded programs, credit, and jury selection.

The House passed this bill, and I am now asking the Senate to do the same.

As we espouse values of equality abroad, we need to look inwardly too.

In too many states, LGBTQI+ people, especially trans youth, have been under attack. More than a dozen anti-LGBTQI+ bills have been signed into law in the states this year. These laws are discriminatory, and cruel, and are doing real harm to the LGBTQI+ community.

The Trevor Project recently published a study which found that in the past year 45 percent of LGBTQ+ children seriously considered attempting suicide.

Stop for a minute and take that in. Almost one out of every two LGBTQ+ children seriously thought about taking their own life. If that statistic was the same for your child, would you act?

The Trevor Project also found that 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary children attempted suicide and 60 percent of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care couldn’t access it.

We must do better. And for us in Congress, that means strengthening protections for the LGBTQI+ community here at home and abroad. It means taking this meaningful action

● 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 show these children, and all LGBTQI+ people that they are not alone.

And so I would like to thank the LGBTQI+ activists across the world.

Their work is so important. We know how difficult it can be to fight for LGBTQI+ equality, especially in countries where it is a crime to simply be yourself. The work that they are doing will have a positive impact for generations. They are on the right side of history, and we will use every lever of the federal government to support them and the fight for global equality.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the Chairwoman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise to commemorate Police Week, which runs from May 16 through May 22.

It is essential that we honor our fallen heroes each year who gave their lives in service to their communities.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is the nation's monument to law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Dedicated on October 15, 1991, the Memorial honors federal, state, and local law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of our nation and its people.

Nearly 23,000 officers have been killed in the line of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known death in 1791.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 458 federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers died in the line-of-duty in 2021.

In 2021, Texas experienced the largest number of law enforcement officer fatalities of all U.S. states with 84 line-of-duty deaths.

Today there are more than 900,000 law enforcement personnel serving the people of our country, the highest amount ever.

About 12 percent of them are female.

These brave men and women risk their lives to keep the peace and keep us safe but they are too often taken by the violence they are working to prevent.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas in paying tribute to the 220 fallen heroes who will join the gallant men and women who previously gave the last full measure of devotion to the communities they took an oath to protect and serve.

Among the fallen Texan law enforcement officers are those who served the people of Houston and Harris County, including:

Richard Anthony Sepolio Sr., Harris County, Texas, District Attorney's Office, End of Watch: 1/13/2021.

Kareem Anthony Atkins, Harris County, Texas, Constable's Office, Precinct 4, End of Watch: 10/16/2021.

Tomas Infante Sr., Harris County, Texas, Constable's Office, Precinct 6, End of Watch: 8/22/2021.

Joshua James Sieman, Harris County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, End of Watch: 10/21/2021.

Shaun Christopher Waters, Harris County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, End of Watch: 8/1/2021.

Alexander David Gwosdz, Harris County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, End of Watch: 4/22/2021.

Robert Perez, Harris County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, End of Watch: 2/2/2021.

William John Jeffrey, Houston, Texas, Police Department, End of Watch: 9/20/2021.

John David Wilbanks, Houston, Texas, Police Department, End of Watch: 10/13/2021.

Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of the 220 officers whose names will be added to the National Peace Officers Memorial Wall of Honor.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA PERÉZ—
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Patricia Pérez of Elysian Valley, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, with long-time family roots in the city, Patricia Pérez's passion and life has been about art. In her youth, she learned about pottery on the Laguna Pueblo reservation in New Mexico, and while in high school, she had the opportunity to participate in art classes at a renowned Frank Lloyd Wright home in Los Angeles.

In the early 1970's, Patricia taught children at Self Help Graphics & Art, an art studio at the intersection of arts practice and social justice dedicated to fostering the creation and advancement of art works by Chicana/o and Latinx artists, and a catalyst for cultural traditions, preservation, and restoration through the arts. Ms. Pérez attended Los Angeles City College, the Pacific Institute of Commercial Art, and the Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles County, now known as the Otis College of Art and Design, from which she graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Painting and a minor in sculpture. Patricia's art training also included studying art history abroad in France and Spain. In addition to creating her own art, she also worked with Milton Williams Catering and high-end interior designers.

Patricia is a multi-medium artist, working in acrylics, ink washes, pencils, crayons, fabrics, recycled materials, and earth. She has been a long-time volunteer judge for the 28th Congressional District Art Competition and is an active contributor in her distinctive Los Angeles community known as Elysian Valley or "Frogtown." Ms. Pérez is Vice President of the Elysian Valley Arts Collective and opens up her home as a gallery during the annual Frogtown Artwalk. Teaching art classes in her community brings her great joy, as, in her

words, she has lived her life through the arts and enjoys sharing it with others.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Patricia Pérez.

HONORING MONTGOMERY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the members and coaches of the Montgomery County High School Mock Trial Team, winners of the National High School Mock Trial Championship.

The students defeated over 40 state champion high school debate teams to capture the title on May 7, 2022 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. These students worked for months in preparation for this challenging competition. Mock Trial provides students with the opportunity to improve critical thinking and public speaking skills, to gain exposure to the legal system, and to compete at the highest level. Over the years, Montgomery County High School has won 14 state titles.

Special congratulations are in order for Bryce Charles, who was named a National Top-10 Witness, and Ollie Fegenbush, a National Top 10 Attorney.

Thank you to coaches Ryan Allison, Jamie Allison, and Elizabeth Davis for their leadership and for the opportunity they provide for the students. Thank you also to the parents and the entire Montgomery County community for their support and encouragement. Winning against much larger schools from across this Nation brings a great deal of pride and hope to all in the community.

As a former debate team member myself, I appreciate the dedication and hard work of these students. They have learned skills that will serve them well as adults and have made memories that will last a lifetime. I commend them for their wonderful accomplishment as National Champions.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
LIEUTENANT TED DARNALL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Ted Darnall of the Dearborn Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. His honorable twenty-five years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Lieutenant Darnall began his career at the Dearborn Fire Department in 1997, beginning as a Firefighter 1. In 2003, he was promoted to Firefighter 2 and then to the role of Fire Engineer in 2006. Due to his excellence in service, he was named Lieutenant in 2012. Always looking to grow professionally, in 2016, he earned three Professional Certification Awards from the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue