

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ST. PAUL POLICE
CHIEF TODD AXTELL ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Chief Todd Axtell, upon his retirement on June 1 after more than 30 years of service to the City of Saint Paul Police Department including six years as Chief of Police. A dedicated and respected public servant, his leadership carried the department through many tumultuous times as he worked to build trust and transparency between the police and the Saint Paul community.

Chief Axtell grew up in Northfield, Minnesota, and after pursuing a law enforcement degree landed a job with the Saint Paul Police Department in 1989. Throughout his time with the department, he worked in all three patrol districts, the gang unit, narcotics and special investigations. After 26 years with the department, Axtell was appointed Chief of Police by then Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman in June of 2016.

As Chief, and throughout his prior leadership positions in the department, he worked toward three priorities—community engagement, diversifying the police department and addressing gun violence. He launched the Law Enforcement Career Path Academy to recruit a more diverse group of young people who would normally face obstacles to becoming a police officer, and started the Community Outreach Stabilization unit which pairs social workers with specially trained officers to work with people who are mentally ill, homeless or chemically dependent. He has been a consistent advocate for his officers but also held them to a high standard, overseeing increased training and transparency programs, and always being quick to acknowledge and respond to cases of misconduct.

Well known for his desire to get to know the community he served, Chief Axtell is spoken of highly by the city's religious leaders, elected officials, and many local community groups representing the diverse population of Saint Paul. He has been a steadfast partner to many, and our community has benefited greatly from his steady leadership. Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to pay tribute to Chief Todd Axtell as he retires from the Saint Paul Police Department after more than three decades of public service, and in honor of his ongoing commitment to improving public safety.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE WAGNER,
CASA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE CHAIR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Steve Wagner, General Manager of the Goleta Sanitary District. Steve is currently completing his term as the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Federal Legislative Committee Chair.

While Steve has been a member of the CASA Federal Legislative Committee for many years, his committee leadership during the past two years helped guide the group through unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our successful support for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that will lead our Nation's investment in water infrastructure. Steve's tenure saw the successful implementation of CASA's federal policy priorities that included the introduction of legislation to eliminate nondeteriorating single use wet wipes that contribute to plastic pollution in our environment, working to ensure that the polluter pays principle is preserved when PFAS contamination cleanups are initiated, and supporting commonsense approaches to climate change, such as water recycling assistance.

During his time as Chair, the Federal Legislative Committee fulfilled its responsibilities to establish CASA's position on federal legislation that could impact its members, and keep policymakers informed on these and other vital public health matters. Of special note, in 2022 Steve oversaw the return of the annual Washington D.C. policy forum that was disrupted in 2021 due to pandemic restrictions. Steve performed the duties of Chair while also fulfilling his responsibilities as General Manager and Principal Engineer for the Goleta Sanitary District. As General Manager, Steve oversees the entirety of the District's 132 miles of wastewater collection services, as well as the District's role as the regional treatment facility for Goleta Valley.

Madam Speaker, Steve Wagner leaves CASA and Federal Legislative Committee in a strong place, well prepared to continue to respond to federal legislative and regulatory actions on behalf of CASA and the tens of millions of Californians that rely on CASA agencies to deliver water quality and public health improvements. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing immense gratitude to Steve Wagner for his extraordinary leadership of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies' Federal Legislative Committee.

RECOGNIZING BARRY SCHNEIDER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Barry Schneider, on the occasion of his retirement as longtime board member and former Chair of Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8) after 30 years of dedicated leadership and service.

Mr. Schneider first began his history of community engagement after learning of plans to convert a vacant lot on 63rd Street to a parking facility. Mr. Schneider joined with fellow residents to oppose the plan and express the negative impacts it would have on the area especially on the congestion at what was already a busy intersection. This group became the East Sixties Neighborhood Association, Inc. (ESNA). ESNA was successful in its efforts, and the lot was instead converted into a community garden.

Seeking to have a larger impact on more community issues after the success of ESNA, Mr. Schneider was appointed to CB8 in 1992. Throughout his time on CB8, Mr. Schneider was an advocate for community accessibility. Mr. Schneider instituted CB8's attendance at District Street Fairs in order to promote familiarity and open communication between CB8 and members of the public.

Mr. Schneider carried his dedication into the work he performed on many of CB8's Committees and Task Forces. Mr. Schneider co-chaired both the Transportation Committee and the Parks and Waterfront Committee, as well as serving as co-chair of a joint committee between CB8 and Manhattan Community Board 6 to address issues affecting both communities. Mr. Schneider presided as chair of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Task Force, the Park Avenue Armory Task Force, and the Second Avenue Subway Task Force.

During the construction of the Second Avenue Subway, Mr. Schneider acted as a voice for the community. After attending meetings with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and seeing concerns go unaddressed, Mr. Schneider advocated for a new meeting format that would focus on communities being heard, listened to, and respected. The new format created meetings where the MTA would be present at individual tables for the proposed neighborhood sites, allowing for direct, local communication with those neighborhoods. The format was effective, with community members being able to express the unique needs of their neighborhood and the MTA responding accordingly directly aiding the successful completion of the Second Avenue Subway and its opening in 2017.

Mr. Schneider served as Chair of CB8 from 1998 to 2000 and focused a lot of energy on ensuring that all interactions at the Board were respectful especially when issues heightened passions. He supported frequent interaction between members of CB8 and the public,

● 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.

while maintaining that discussion should be carried out with polite conduct and consideration of others. He is known for his Civility sign, which he frequently hung on lecterns to facilitate respectful and productive discussion. He sought to encourage individuals to speak who normally would not, increase engagement, and promote kindness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Barry Schneider. His dedication and leadership have helped shape a vibrant community for Roosevelt Island and Manhattan's Upper East Side. His presence on Community Board 8 will be missed, and he leaves a lasting impact with his devoted service to his community.

CONGRATULATING ST. ELIZABETH'S BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2022 CLASS I STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Elizabeth Hornets baseball team for winning the Class I State title.

As the father of three St. Elizabeth graduates and a graduate myself, I couldn't be prouder of this program. This is the baseball team's second state title in three seasons. These great players and coaches should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state title to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the St. Elizabeth Hornets baseball team for a job well done.

HONORING ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rosemont Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky on their 75th anniversary.

The church was founded in 1947. At that time, it was the entry point to south Lexington. There weren't any houses or other buildings in the area when the church was built. The neighborhood grew up around the church.

As the congregation gathers to celebrate the 75th anniversary, I recognize the impact that this congregation has made on the Lexington community over the years. The church has reached thousands of people with food, financial assistance, and spiritual sustenance.

I congratulate Senior Pastor Eddie Benton and all the members of Rosemont Baptist Church in Lexington on their 75th anniversary and wish them many more years of successful ministry, serving God and reaching out to the community.

HONORING RHETT ROBINSON

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Rhett Robinson, upon his acceptance to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

As a future midshipman, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most elite naval force, guided by the motto: "Acta Non Verba."

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

A vital part of our Nation's maritime operations, the Merchant Marine's duties are dynamic—transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime and serving as an auxiliary to the United States Navy during times of war.

I was glad to sponsor Rhett's nomination, as his dynamism reflects the mission of the branch which he will soon serve. I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers during his time at the Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Rhett, and know that he will make this Nation proud.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN HILTON RAISER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable philanthropist and community leader, Helen Hilton Raiser. Through sheer will and determination she helped restore a wasteland into a major new public attraction in the City by the Bay: Francisco Park, a new 4.5 acre jewel at the corner of Hyde and Francisco Streets. Helen contributed in countless ways by fundraising, assisting in design and promoting her vision for this new park during its development.

In addition to Helen, credit goes to hundreds of neighbors and the leadership of the Francisco Park Conservancy, including board president Leslie Alspach and all of the original and successor board members. \$27.5 million was raised by these leaders and Helen as they sought to turn a long-neglected area into a new destination in San Francisco.

For 80 years this site was a deserted reservoir hosting poison oak, raccoons, and an occasional coyote, but otherwise inhospitable to visitors. The reservoir was San Francisco's first, built in 1860 and it was crucial during the 1906 earthquake and fire. However, it was abandoned in 1940 after a newer facility was built a short distance away. This old reservoir remained an eyesore for decades, only to begin its renaissance after neighbors organized in 2011, and after the San Francisco Recreation and Parks department assumed formal responsibility for the location in 2014.

What makes Francisco Park so special is that numerous community meetings over many years led to a special place that will serve both residents and likely hundreds of thousands of visitors, annually. The park is ad-

acent to the Hyde Street cable car and visitors from around the globe will probably disembark and enjoy the inspirational views from this place of urban greenery. There is also a children's playground, a fenced dog run with artificial turf, and a community garden. A "heart of San Francisco" sculpture is on display, donated by Helen Hilton Raiser. It was created by the artist Laura Lineback. Early settlers and the harbor of what was then known as Yerba Buena were located nearby, so history is at the fingertips of visitors. Interpretive signage offers visitors important historical facts about the site, educational lessons about water conservation, a description of views from the location, and other features that make the park as much a classroom as it is recreational open space.

While I rise to highlight this park, Ms. Raiser and her neighbors, I also note Helen's long history of philanthropy and activism. She is well known as a leader at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and as a major benefactor, over decades, of community groups from the peninsula through San Francisco.

It was my good fortune to meet her decades ago as she led her campaign against handguns and gun violence. She personally led a 1982 effort on the California ballot to sharply reduce the number of handguns in California, and was a board member of Handgun Control, Inc. We became personal friends after that effort. Locally, she was a major volunteer with the Girl Scouts of America, the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County, at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, numerous school associations and she served on the Board of Directors of the Junior Statesman Foundation as well as the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County. She has been a major advocate for affordable housing through the nonprofit Human Investment Project. In recognition of her outstanding leadership, Helen Hilton Raiser was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 1987.

Madam Speaker and members, we have known great adversity in these past years as a scourge of nature visited our streets and our homes. We watched as nations yielded to the pressure of the pestilence, and as national and personal economies crumbled under the weight of our times. At moments such as these, it is important to remember that the makers of history are not always those whose names are in the headlines. They are often neighborhood activists, intent upon improving our country one park, one block or one school at a time. Throughout her life, whether via art or philanthropy, in schools or hospitals, in the halls of Congress or the state capitol, Helen Hilton Raiser is one of those makers of history. Let me express my gratitude for her friendship and leadership. There is nothing truer to our purpose as a nation than civic virtue, and Helen Hilton Raiser is its embodiment.

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ALLIANCE OF INDIA AND AMERICA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the strong and vibrant relationship