

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Number 289.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER M.C. DEIBERT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher M.C. Deibert for his 23 years with St. Mary Church in South Amboy and to wish him the best of luck in his new roles as Director of Sacred Music for the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen and Diocese of Metuchen Director of Diocesan Liturgical Music.

Following his undergraduate education, Mr. Deibert focused his graduate studies in church music and organ performance at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ as well as organ and harpsichord improvisation at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Additionally, Mr. Deibert has studied under Brenda A. Day, Ronald W. Thayer, Bruce Neswick, Gerre Hancock, and William Porter.

A well-renowned and respected performer and music expert, Christopher Deibert has served on many organizations, including the Middlesex Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Diocese of Metuchen Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and the Royal School of Church Music, among others. He also offers university lectures and teaches at a private studio, and previously served as music department chair at Our Lady of Victories School in Sayreville, NJ. He continues to share his talent and love of music with the community and has received well-deserved accolades for his work.

Mr. Deibert brought his experience and talents to St. Mary Church in South Amboy, NJ, founding the Music at St. Mary's concert series in 2001, which many in the public enjoy frequenting. Throughout his tenure at St. Mary's, he has served as Director of Music and Liturgy, Executive Director of the Music at St. Mary's series and Conductor of the St. Mary Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Deibert has also performed as an organist and has conducted the St. Mary Choral Society. His musical gift has been a joy to experience and will truly be missed by St. Mary's parish and visitors like myself.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to join with the parish community of St. Mary's in thanking Christopher M.C. Deibert for his years of exceptional leadership and congratulating him on his next endeavor. I am confident that the Diocese of Metuchen and the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen will appreciate his talents and I look forward to hearing of his continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 287, YEA on Roll Call No. 288, and YEA on Roll Call No. 289.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL MICHAEL F. BRESLIN

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the service of Colonel Michael Breslin.

Over 30 years ago, Michael began a long and storied career in the U.S. Army. Michael began his career in 1992, attending flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he learned to fly the U.S. Military's premier medium lift tactical transport aircraft, the UH-60 Black Hawk. Michael then went on to serve in a myriad of commands starting at Fort Campbell and Fort Bragg, then moving to several locations in Asia and Europe—ultimately becoming the Commander of the 1-214th Aviation Regiment in May 2005, where he served until May 2007.

At the conclusion of his service with the 214th Aviation regiment, Michael went on to earn his Master of Business Administration degree from Webster University. Upon completion of his degree, he assumed the position of Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization Operations Officer, where he established Army aviation policy and ensured compliance across all mission sets and components. He also went on to plan and execute four separate team deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan to assist deployed commanders and bring back evolving tactics to follow on units. Immediately following this assignment, he served as the Commander of the 1-228th Aviation Regiment in Central America.

In 2012, Michael was assigned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Chief, Current Operations, U.S. Army Aviation G3, and was responsible for the movement of over 1,000 aircraft in and out of numerous combat zones, sequencing all redeployed aircraft to the Reset program while ensuring Commanders were adequately resourced for their mission. While serving in this capacity, Michael simultaneously managed over 300 taskings over the course of his two-year assignment.

Michael was subsequently returned home to Alabama, where he served as Director, Army Medical Evacuation Propensity, defining and articulating Aeromedical Evacuation requirements for the entire U.S. Army. He also managed all programmatic efforts to sustain and improve the aeromedical evacuation fleet of over 600 aircraft, and he successfully collaborated with over twenty different entities—centered on the training, organizing and funding of the Army medical evacuation program.

Colonel Breslin's final assignment came in 2018 as he took on the title of Assistant Dean of the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine. In this position, he oversees fourteen programs of instruction, including 37 staff members and over 2,000 students.

After 30 years of military service, Michael began his hard-earned and well-deserved retirement on June 1, 2022. Colonel Breslin represents the best of what this country has to offer. Michael and his family have given so much over the years, and I could not be prouder to pay tribute and honor his decades of selfless, dedicated service to our country.

PAYING RESPECTS TO DAVID FINGER THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Dave Finger of the National Volunteer Fire Council who passed away on June 3rd following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Prior to joining the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) as its Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs in 2005, Dave served as the lead staffer on first responder issues for the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Dave worked closely with my staff and the staff of my three fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus sharing input on legislation pending before the House Science Committee that benefited our nation's fire and emergency services.

As NVFC's Chief of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Dave represented the interests of our nation's volunteer firefighters on Capitol Hill. His efforts played a critical role in the passage of federal legislation that not only advanced the health and safety of our nation's volunteer firefighters, but all firefighters and emergency services personnel.

Dave was the embodiment of collaboration. While his primary focus was always on advocating for the volunteer fire service, he understood the importance of working together with the other national fire organizations to advance a common agenda. Tributes from his colleagues expressed appreciation for his passion, integrity, and character. Cerebral in nature, he possessed a depth of knowledge and insight on the issues he championed. There was never a time when he walked into a meeting with Members of Congress or their staff unprepared; he was the consummate professional.

Dave was only forty-four when his life was cut short by cancer. He leaves behind his wife, Allison, and their two children: Vivienne, 7, and Sullivan, 2. He also leaves behind many friends and thousands of firefighters across the nation who owe him their deep gratitude for the work he performed on their behalf throughout his career.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, I extend my sympathies to Dave's family and to his colleagues at the National Volunteer Fire Council and throughout the fire and emergency services community for the loss of their loved one and friend.

RECOGNIZING THE TULARE-KINGS POLICE ACADEMY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tulare-Kings Police Academy at the College of the Sequoias on its 60th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1962, the Tulare-Kings Police Academy has been a vital part of training our future law enforcement officers in the Central Valley. The program initially began its operations out of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and trained future recruits there for over a decade.

In 1973, the program moved to the College of the Sequoias campus in Visalia, providing even more access to young students looking to enter a career of public service. The program spent nearly forty years at the Visalia campus, with dozens of students graduating each year eager to begin protecting and serving the Central Valley. In 2010, the program made its most recent move into a state-of-the-art facility on the Hanford College of the Sequoias campus.

After sixty years of operation, the Tulare-Kings Police Academy has produced over 150 graduating classes from its programs across three different campuses. These men and women have gone on to protect our communities throughout the Valley. Their service has been a consistent display of duty, honor, and commitment to their communities—all traits instilled into them by the Tulare-Kings Police Academy.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Tulare-Kings Police Academy at the College of the Sequoias.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Veterans Equal Access Act. This legislation would provide equal access to state-legal medical marijuana for veterans participating in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care by ending the harmful VA prohibition on doctors and healthcare providers giving opinions or recommendations on or completing forms for state-legal medical marijuana programs.

The cannabis laws in this country are broken, including our laws that govern veterans' access to medical cannabis. Many veterans report using cannabis for medical purposes as a substitute for prescription drugs. The VA National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has acknowledged that veterans use cannabis to relieve symptoms of PTSD, and that in many states, PTSD is a qualifying condition for enrollment in medical cannabis programs.

Most states with state-legal medical cannabis programs require some sort of recommendation or approval from a medical provider for patients to enroll in the program. However, VA policy prevents VA physicians and care providers from any participation, including helping with the required paperwork or forms.

This forces veterans to seek care outside of the VA system to receive medical cannabis recommendations, which can interrupt continuity of care, lead to mistakes or gaps in care, and require veterans to pay out of pocket for addition physician visits. VA physicians

should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation that they think may meet the needs of their patients.

Veterans should not be forced outside the VA system to seek treatment that is legal in their state.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would allow VA doctors and healthcare providers to give their opinions or recommendations on medical cannabis and to complete forms in compliance with state-legal medical marijuana programs.

I look forward to working with my co-lead, Representative BRIAN MAST, and my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and provide equal access to state-legal medical cannabis for our veterans participating in VA health care.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCLERODERMA AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the estimated 300,000 Americans living with Scleroderma, an autoimmune disease for which there is currently no cure, and we are unsure of its cause. The actions of individuals like Amy Gietzen and organizations such as the National Scleroderma Foundation have helped—and will continue to help—the community of individuals affected by Scleroderma spread awareness about this disease and work to advance research on a cure.

Scleroderma is an autoimmune disease that affects connective tissue and the vascular system through the excess production of collagen. A localized version of the disease can cause thickening and scarring of connective tissue, or fibrosis, in small areas of the skin. Scleroderma can also be systemic and result in fibrosis in the internal organs. Scleroderma can affect almost anyone and results in issues with the skin, muscles, joints, blood vessels, and in some cases, the heart, lungs, and esophagus. The disease is progressive, presents differently in every individual, and, in many cases, can be terminal.

Amy Gietzen, born and raised in Buffalo, NY, was diagnosed with Scleroderma when she was just 19 years old and has been living with the diagnosis ever since. Today, Ms. Gietzen is on the Board of Directors for the Buffalo chapter of the National Scleroderma Foundation, and she serves as the Chair of the Patient Education and Support Committee.

In addition to her involvement with the National Scleroderma Foundation, Ms. Gietzen is a columnist for the online publication Scleroderma News. She also travels across the country to speak publicly about her experiences with Scleroderma and her personal medical journey. In her quest to raise awareness for the disease, Ms. Gietzen has made it a priority to share her personal story and support others who receive a Scleroderma diagnosis.

Organizations like the National Scleroderma Foundation are similarly working to support those living with the disease. The National Scleroderma Foundation was founded in 1998 to “advance medical research, promote disease awareness, and provide support and education to people with scleroderma, their

families, and support networks.” The Foundation provides resources including research updates and support groups. The National Scleroderma Foundation is focused on building a sense of community and solidarity for those living with Scleroderma.

I am proud to join the National Scleroderma Foundation in recognizing June 2022 as National Scleroderma Awareness Month and celebrating National Scleroderma Awareness Day on June 29, 2022. Throughout this month, the National Scleroderma Foundation is promoting the “#tealforscleroderma” campaign. To show support for those living with Scleroderma and raise awareness about the disease, on June 29th, lights on the Peace Bridge, Niagara Falls, and The Electric Building in Buffalo will turn teal.

It is due to the efforts of individuals like Ms. Amy Gietzen that I speak on this matter today. I thank Ms. Gietzen for her perseverance in the face of this disease and her tireless work advocating for scientific advancements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the courageous work of Ms. Amy Gietzen and the National Scleroderma Foundation and go #tealforscleroderma.

RECOGNIZING DR. SHETAL SHAH, MD, FAAP

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, as I near the end of my Congressional public service, I rise today to recognize my constituent Dr. Shetal Shah, MD, FAAP of Syosset, New York for his sustained and expert advocacy in support of children's health. During my tenure representing New York's third Congressional District, Dr. Shah has been an indispensable resource to my office—and the entire Long Island Congressional Delegation, on issues related to children.

As former Legislative Chairman of the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an expert in the intricacies of children's health insurance, Dr. Shah worked with my office to staunchly defend the gains in children's health insurance coverage made as a result of passage of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. His vigorous advocacy, in partnership with several national medical organizations, assisted our office and other members of New York State's Congressional Delegation in preserving core provisions of this landmark legislation, including the expansion of Medicaid and pediatric-specific tenets of the essential health care benefits package.

He has also worked to ensure reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program, which in New York insures almost 750,000 of our state's children. Dr. Shah has been a vocal supporter of the need to reauthorize this program since its inception and worked with myself and fellow members of Congress to reauthorize this incredibly successful program again in 2018, safeguarding health coverage and access for all children covered by Child Health Plus.

A national pediatric leader in advocacy and child health policy. He has articulated the importance of providing robust federal funding