

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BLUE STAR AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Blue Star (she/her) is an Atlanta native and retired professional ballet dancer that has been curating art in Orlando for over two decades. A creator, business owner, and philanthropist, Blue has helped change the fabric of the Orlando community and creates safe spaces for the LGBTQIA community and their allies. She is the founder of her own 501(c)(3) cancer organization—The Barber Fund—and the owner of BlueLaLa Events Entertainment and Consulting. She is also a former entertainment and board member of Come Out With Pride and Ivanhoe Village. She is currently on the steering committee for Equality Florida, the bidding committee for World Pride Orlando 2026, and the curator of United We Dance—an official week of remembrance event for the One Pulse Foundation.

Blue is an honoree of the Harvey Milk Trailblazer Award, Orlando Magazines Woman of the Year, and 50 Most Powerful. She was recognized by the One Pulse Foundation for her heroic efforts after the Pulse tragedy and sainted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Her artistic recognitions include best performance, favorite dancer, and best actress. Her long-standing show "VariETEASE" has been honored by many organizations for show creation, choreography, and costuming. She is also a City of Orlando honoree of the DTO Golden Brick Award and Business of the Year.

She continues to fight for human rights, create art, make music, and, of course, dance, sing, and act. She does this because art is a tool that can heal a community because we must "KEEP DANCING, ORLANDO," we must keep fighting, and we must "DO SOMETHING."

JOSEPH WOODROW HATCHETT  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE  
AND FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 24, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns regarding the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. While I support the underlying bill and appreciate that several Republican Senators finally came to the table to work with Democrats to address our nation's gun violence epidemic, I remain troubled by the legislation's possible expansion of the federal death penalty and the cre-

ation of broad new criminal offenses that may disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities.

Specifically, with regard to the expansion of the federal death penalty, I have not been given a clear answer as to the impact of the legislation's additions to the definition of "racketeering activity" in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1), commonly known as "RICO predicates." On its face and cross referencing the impacted provisions in Title 18, it appears that murder committed in the furtherance of these new RICO predicates would trigger the federal death penalty. In states that do not have the death penalty, this creates an opportunity for federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty in states where it does not currently exist. It is possible that but for these changes, a new universe of defendants would now be subject to the federal death penalty.

The Senate Judiciary Committee staff circulated a document that appears to confirm my reading of this provision. However, the Department of Justice sent a dismissive e-mail to staff simply stating that "changes to RICO laws do not constitute an expansion of the potential applications of the federal death penalty as a matter of law." While I hope this is indeed the case, DOJ provided no citation to federal law or reference to internal Department memorandum directing charging decisions. I hope that the Department provides Congress with their legal authority on this matter expeditiously.

I also consulted several experts in the criminal justice defense community who also confirmed that this bill expands federal death penalty-eligible offenses. However, there is no consensus as to the magnitude of these expansions. While this may in fact not be a measurable expansion, I have been troubled by the lack of comprehensive legal analysis available for a reasonable understanding of the breadth of this legislation.

While I find this troubling, I will vote in favor of this bill. It should not go uncelebrated that this is the first significant legislative effort in thirty years that attempts to address the scourge of gun violence in our country. I have a long record of supporting measures to curb the epidemic of gun violence and it includes provisions I have long supported. This bill closes the boyfriend loophole for domestic abusers, enhances background checks for those aged 18 to 21 when purchasing a gun, and provides incentives to states to enact red flag laws that protects individuals in crisis from perpetuating further harm on themselves or others. But without adequate time for members and the American public to review the unintended consequences of the many provisions within the bill, many questions are left unanswered where they should not be for such a significant piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, despite my strong concerns, I applaud the bipartisan effort that went into crafting this legislation. With reservations about the bill's potential to expand the federal death penalty, I will vote for yes because of the assurance from the Department of Justice

and the positive strides towards creating safer communities that the bill seeks to achieve.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHAD AUDI

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding work on behalf of the people of Wayne County and southeastern Michigan by Dr. Chad Audi in his more than two decades as president of Detroit Rescue Mission, an organization dedicated to providing food, shelter, and resources to those struggling to overcome homelessness or substance abuse issues.

Dr. Audi first joined Detroit Rescue Mission as a volunteer. He was struck by the transformative impact the organization had on the countless individuals who sought assistance. In 2004, he joined Detroit Rescue Mission as president and CEO, bringing his expertise in finance and management while continuing to serve those who seek help with dignity and humility. I commend Dr. Audi and the Detroit Rescue Mission staff and volunteers on their success in offering wrap-around assistance programming throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. Chad Audi's 20-plus years of service to the people of southeastern Michigan and Michigan's 13th District Strong.

HONORING RYAN ANTHONY BECK  
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Ryan Anthony Beck was born with his sister on August 30, 1991, in Buffalo, New York. His parents are Michael Wayne Beck and Christina Marie Beck. They lived in Buffalo, New York, until he and his sister were 6 years old and then moved to Orlando, Florida. Ryan has always had a passion for standing up for what he believes in.

He first started volunteering with the Central Florida Human Rights Campaign in 2011, one year after graduating from high school, and joined their steering committee a few years later. Diana Iwanski was the first person to ask Ryan if he could be a part of the social media team at HRC Orlando because he is very vocal on social media. Ryan still remembers that first event like it was yesterday—he had a lot of fun picking up trash for the event and it was the first real time he was around a lot of LGBTQ+ folks. Though it is hard for

• 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.

Ryan to believe that it has been 11 years since he first began working with HRC Orlando, he remains as passionate as ever for equality for all.

Diana Iwanski used to say, "Thank you for signing up and showing up" when he would volunteer for an event, and Ryan thinks that is extremely important—getting out into your community and getting involved. Whether working with a community organization or getting out there and protesting, doing something worthwhile in your community is extremely important, especially in this political climate.

#### RECOGNIZING CLARA BREWER

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Clara Brewer, a long-time resident of Southwest Detroit in Michigan's 13th District Strong, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

For more than 70 years, Ms. Brewer has been a cornerstone of not only her family, but her neighborhood-family. She has lived in her home she and her husband bought as newlyweds since 1945. She and her family have grown with our community, and she has without question been a community anchor. Ms. Brewer has remained steadfast in her spiritual faith and in her love for her family, which includes multiple generations in southeastern Michigan. I pray that she continues to shine brightly in our community and be surrounded by the love of her family members near and far.

As the Brewer Family meets for their annual family reunion, please join me in wishing Clara Brewer a happy 100th birthday.

#### HONORING NANCY GOLDBERG

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nancy Goldberg upon her retirement as Board President of the Rhoda Goldman Plaza assisted living facility in San Francisco and more than 50 years of nonprofit service.

As Board President, Nancy has steered Rhoda Goldman Plaza through a difficult three years, demonstrating impeccable leadership and ingenuity as assisted living facilities throughout the country navigated unprecedented challenges and worked to establish a new normal related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The residents and staff fared relatively well through this trying time under the guidance of strong management. This work caps off half a century of advocacy on behalf of the Jewish community and tireless efforts to combat human trafficking and domestic violence.

Nancy has served on numerous boards throughout her prolific career, including as a member of the American Jewish Congress, President of the Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, and Chair of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California.

For her outstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of the Jewish community in California, the Jewish Community Relations Council awarded her both the Earl Raab Award in 2009 and Tom Lantos Memorial Humanitarian Award in 2011 in conjunction with her husband, the late Larry Goldberg.

Dedicating years to fighting human trafficking, Nancy is Co-founder of the Jewish Coalition to End Human Trafficking and Co-founder and first Co-chair of the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCAPT), coordinated by the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). For this transformative work she earned the SFCAPT's Inspiring Leadership Award in 2019 and NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award in 2014. Although she is retiring as President from Rhoda Goldman Plaza, her volunteer pursuits are ongoing.

Nancy's contributions to improving the quality of life for countless individuals throughout the region through public service and philanthropy has been, and will continue to be, productive and enduring. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Nancy for her enduring commitment to public service and extending best wishes for years to come.

#### HONORING RENEE BISHOP AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Renee Bishop is 43 years old and shares her life with an amazing woman, Rebecca, and daughters Sutton and Piper. She has had the honor of serving and protecting the community and citizens of Orlando for 22 years. As a firefighter/engineer for the Orlando Fire Department, Renee has seen the city go through wonderful changes.

Growing up as the oldest of four with two brothers and a sister, all siblings were very familiar with the fire department as her father worked for the Orlando Fire Department for 30 years and one of her brothers chose this career as well.

Renee and her father were the first father/daughter combo hired at Orlando and a couple of years later, she and her brother were the first brother/sister combo for Orlando. Being a native of Orlando and being a gay female, she has watched the city grow and come to have one of the biggest LGBTQ communities around. Renee is grateful for the political leaders the city has and the dedication they give. Creating opportunities without prejudice has helped the city come so far and she believes it is an amazing transition to watch. The ongoing research and desire to make the community safe and accepting for all people is what Renee and Rebecca love about raising their girls in Orlando.

She feels forever fortunate to not only live in Orlando and the state of Florida but to also serve her community and be there to help when needed the most. First responders are often on the front line when tragedy strikes, and Renee has witnessed various organiza-

tions within the community rally together and stand as one when evil strikes. Orlando has such a diverse population and a multitude of different belief structures, but when it is time to stand together, they do it on a scale that is second to none. Renee believes this is because of the leaders.

#### HONORING ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to today to honor St. John's Episcopal Church in Versailles, Kentucky, on their 175th anniversary.

The church was officially established on June 29, 1847, under the leadership of Reverend John N. Norton and Mr. John Amsden. The current church building was consecrated on May 28, 1885. In 1930, the parish house and the chapel, gifts from Senator Johnson Camden and family, were consecrated. The church has been visited by important dignitaries including Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of England in 1986 and President George Herbert Walker Bush, who worshipped unannounced at St. John's in 1989.

As the congregation gathers to celebrate the 175th anniversary, I recognize the impact that this congregation has made on the Versailles community over the years. The church has reached thousands of people with material needs and spiritual sustenance.

I congratulate the Reverend Dana Lockhart and all the members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Versailles on their 175th anniversary and wish them many more years of successful ministry, serving God and reaching out to the community.

#### RECOGNIZING GOWANUS CANAL REMEDIAL ACTION ENFORCEMENT TEAM

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2022*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Gowanus Canal Remedial Action Enforcement Team at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 office. Their outstanding efforts at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site ensured that potentially responsible parties (PRPs) completed the main phase of full-scale dredging in the upper third of the Canal, the first of three phases.

The heavily contaminated urban waterway, a 1.8-mile-long canal in Brooklyn, NY dating from the 1800s, has been contaminated by industrial pollution and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) for over a century. The Site was listed on the National Priorities List in 2010. Since listing, EPA staff assigned to the project include Christos Tsiamis, Remedial Project Manager, Brian Carr, Assistant Regional Counsel, and Natalie Loney, Community Involvement Coordinator. Together, they managed this large complex project in a thorough