

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVEN MATTSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a longtime public servant, Steven Mattson of Lyme, Connecticut. Steven officially retired from his role as First Selectman of Lyme on July 5, 2022, given the end of the town's fiscal year. Initially appointed in 2017, Steven has dutifully filled the role of Lyme's highest official for three elected terms.

Steven has served the town of Lyme in multiple capacities for 27 years since he first moved with his family to Connecticut in 1996. This not only includes his tenure as First Selectman, but also an additional 17 years on the Board of Selectmen as well as positions on just about every other board and commission available in town. A small enclave of Connecticut and the larger New England region, with a local population hovering around 2,300, municipalities like Lyme rely on the leadership example set by Steven, who has acted as a knowledgeable public steward who could be trusted to advocate for the town's long-standing interests. He and the small but effective team at Lyme townhall have kept the municipal government operating like a well-oiled machine, working sharply to keep the community in strong financial shape without having to ask more of its constituents, and enhancing the locality's capacity for financial planning.

A bipartisan figure in the town of Lyme, Steven's impact has reached beyond administering the basic duties of a municipal government. Under his tenure as both Selectman and First Selectman, Lyme has been led by a watchful eye and bolstered by extensive financial planning, undergone a successful referendum toward the reconstruction of its school system, enhanced communications between the townhall and the public at large and experienced invaluable infrastructure improvements. Within the community, there is also a weighted value toward expanding the conservation of the town's small, historic, and environmental culture through its own public trusts and open spaces which Steven has undoubtedly continuously supported. In June 2022, Sustainable CT, a Statewide organization that uplifts inclusive, resilient and efficient municipal governance, recognized the leadership of Lyme and bestowed the town with its bronze certification. Clearly, the town of Lyme has benefited from Steven's leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honor to represent constituents like Steven and his wife Maddy, who have committed a significant portion of their lives to the underappreciated necessity that is responsible governance. I had a chance to see his devotion to his family back in 2014, when his daughter Carly worked on one of my election cam-

paigns. She, like her parents, is a personable, public-spirited citizen who did fantastic work interacting with coworkers and voters. Her parents were extremely proud of her efforts, which were a great reflection of their values and empathy for people. As Steven retires to appreciate more time with his family, his long-standing presence in the public eye of the Lyme community will be sorely missed. And though the void left behind by his departure will be difficult to fill, it is worth emphasizing the impact of his legacy and great standing in which he leaves the town of Lyme. To that end, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Steven Mattson's personal contributions to the town's future and congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the late Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson, a World War II Tuskegee Airman and one of Michigan's most decorated pilots as we honor his memory.

Jefferson's remarkable and heroic service figures prominently in our nation's history. He was considered to be one of the "original" Tuskegee Airmen, which drew heavily from Michigan and were the U.S. Army's first Black Air Corps. Jefferson served as a P-51 fighter pilot with the Red Tails, 332nd Fighter Group 301st Fighter Squadron in Ramitelli, Italy. His unit bravely escorted bombers into action, providing critical protection from enemy aircraft without losing a single plane.

Jefferson was captured as a prisoner of war on August 12, 1944, three days before the invasion of Southern France, after he was shot down while firing at German radar stations on the coast. Presumed dead, he was held for more than nine months. He was liberated by Patton's 3rd Army on April 29, 1945.

After the war, Jefferson served as an instrument instructor in advanced flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, continuing the storied Air Corps' legacy of excellence in flight. He was discharged from active duty in 1947 and retired from the reserves in 1969. In his civilian life, Jefferson worked as an elementary school science teacher in Detroit, where he would retire as an assistant principal in 1979. Jefferson served as a member of various church, educational, and alumni organizations, as well as being one of the founders of the Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. He was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen Speaker Bureau, a life member of the Silver Falcon Association, and has served as an Admissions Counselor for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He has received numerous awards and accolades for his bravery and his selfless service for our country, including the Purple Heart Award. He represented the best of Detroit. We have lost a great American patriot, a hero, and a Detroiter who should always be remembered for his service to freedom for our country. He may be gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GLENDA GLOVER AS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Glenda Glover, Ph.D., JD, CPA, as International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. As a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I could not have asked for a better person to lead our more than 320,000 Sorors spread over at least 1,046 chapters from all over the world through the last four years.

Dr. Glover was born in Memphis, Tennessee the daughter of a civil rights activist and raised in the Civil Rights Movement. She graduated from Tennessee State University, an illustrious Historically Black College and University, before getting her MBA at another incomparable HBCU, Clark Atlanta University, proving that, truly, Atlanta Influences Everything. Not yet satisfied, she moved to Washington, D.C. and obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from George Washington University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

Professionally, Dr. Glover is a star. She spearheaded the creation of the country's first HBCU-based Ph.D. program in business at Jackson State University, and chaired the Department of Accounting at Howard University's School of Business. She has been a leader in the private sector, and currently serves as the President of her beloved alma mater, Tennessee State University, since 2013. Dr. Glover is not just the President either: she was the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's HBCU President of the Year in 2018, and HBCU Digest's 2019 Female President of the Year.

Dr. Glover did all of that while maintaining a leadership role in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Initiated into the Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated at Tennessee State University, where she served as President and Vice-President as an undergraduate. Dr. Glover has also served as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in Jackson, Mississippi before moving up to International Vice-President, International Treasurer, and Treasurer to the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF) of the entire Sorority.

● 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.

Since assuming the International Presidency and CEO role in 2018, Dr. Glover has led our Sorors powerfully to sustain us through the pandemic, and raised our voices on critical issues like Voting Rights and Black Maternal Health—ensuring that Sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated are the VOICE of the movement, not the ECHO. Dr. Glover's Alpha Kappa Alpha Congressional Women's Roundtable continues to lead the charge toward solutions to create a better world for future generations by fighting for continued, meaningful investments in HBCUs, a comprehensive approach to ending the maternal health crisis in America, and protecting our democracy through safeguarding and expanding voting rights.

Dr. Glover has convened meetings with our Soror, Vice-President KAMALA HARRIS, to bring our community's needs to the highest level of our government, and is the Vice-Chair of President Joe Biden's HBCU Advisory Board.

I and every Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Soror, am indebted to Dr. Glover for her service to our Sorority. She is a living pillar of Black Excellence, and her leadership has and continues to lift up successive generations of Black leaders. As we celebrate her enduring legacy, her enriching sisterhood, and her exemplary service, let's remember the purpose that has animated her to succeed and to bring her community up with her.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LEE A. LUFT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of a dedicated and highly impactful public servant in the State of Connecticut and the U.S. Coast Guard, Information Technology Specialist, Mr. Lee Luft. After nearly 43 years of diligent service in the U.S. Coast Guard, Lee retired on March 1, 2022. His retirement is to be honored at the United States Coast Guard Academy Officer's Club on August 12, 2022.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Lee graduated from Wilcox Regional Vocational Technical High School in 1976, certified as an electrician. Lee continued his studies in that trade at Hartford State Technical College in 1979, graduating with an Associate in Science Degree in Electronics and Technology. That same year, Lee changed career paths and pursued a new vocation, joining the U.S. Coast Guard's Research and Development Center (RDC) as a Digital Computer Maintenance Worker. For those who are not familiar with the center, it is the hub of Coast Guard operational analysis and mission execution solutions, located in the Fort Trumbull section of New London, Connecticut. The center is responsible for testing and evaluation in all the mission areas of the Coast Guard, including maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, and national defense preparedness, to name a few. During Lee's tenure, the work of the R and D Center was constantly evolving, as the mission requirements of the Coast Guard changed. The 9-11 attack on our homeland, the rising challenges of climate change, the increase in human trafficking and

drug smuggling at sea all occurred on Lee's watch. Like the entire team at the center, Lee was deeply involved in the Coast Guard's need to competently respond to new roles which hinged on highly functional information systems—his area of expertise. He remained at the RDC for a total of more than 39 years, advancing all the way to the role of Information Technology Specialist by the early 2000s. As a reflection of his ambitious nature and desire to improve his skill, it is also worth noting that Lee completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of New Haven in 1999.

Lee's service extended to several other sections of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). From RDC he transitioned to USCG Command Control, Communications, Computers, and Information Technology (C4IT) Service Center Business Operations Division. He was later reassigned to C5ISC and specialized in Architecture and Engineering Standards. Lee was known to not back down from a challenge while at the Coast Guard, including the several opportunities he took up to represent both the Coast Guard and our Nation as Technical Delegate for the United States National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission in many places in and out of the country over his career.

As someone who began their career with an electrician apprenticeship, Lee has moved up the ranks to become a nationally and internationally recognized presence, representing the United States on shipboard network standardization and communication protocols used by all types of Marine Electronic Equipment. Lee has been a significant player in the development of the USCG Nationwide Differential GPS (NDGPS), as well as a principal in the design and development of the USCG Nationwide AIS Client/Server architecture, and all AIS interface and network protocols. He has been bestowed several awards for his innovative research, including the Hammer Award from former Vice President Gore for his role in the development of the Differential Global Positioning System and a Civilian Service Commendation Medal for his work at the Coast Guard RDC between 1979 and 2018.

Madam Speaker, Lee's contributions to the U.S. Coast Guard and the effectiveness of our Nation's strategic communications are immeasurable. His life's work is clearly deserving of an equal amount of gratitude. His life and career, dedicated to public service, exist as an inspiration to those who follow in his footsteps. Although his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard undoubtedly leaves large shoes to fill, we are grateful that the U.S. Coast Guard will continue to receive his support in retirement. To these ends, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring, thanking, and commanding Lee Luft for his successful commitment to the public well-being and safety by immortalizing his career through the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRAIRIE DU ROCHER, ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of Prairie du Rocher, Illinois.

Three centuries ago, French settlers established roots along the Mississippi River, where an open prairie stretched from near the river's edge to tall limestone bluffs.

They called the settlement Prairie du Rocher—"Prairie of the Rock." It once represented the western boundary of the United States; and it still stands as one of the finest historical and architectural examples of French Colonial Heritage in the United States.

Here they tilled the soil and built their homes, caring for their families, their community, and their land. Traditions, celebrations, and their social fabric have held fast to this day. In its tricentennial year, Prairie du Rocher seeks to preserve the historical significance of this city. In such a fast-moving, ever-changing world, it's more important than ever that we treasure such a unique past, as it moves forward in today's world.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating 300 years of Prairie du Rocher. May there be many, many more.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 HIGH PLAINS HONOR FLIGHT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's heroic veterans and to recognize the Honor Flight Network, which conducts annual trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the memorials built in celebration of their bravery. On May 15, 2022, High Plains Honor Flight gave many of our courageous veterans this extraordinary opportunity, flying them to our Nation's capitol. I am pleased to congratulate the May 15, 2022, High Plains Honor Flight and to acknowledge the World War II, Korean war, Vietnam war, and Gulf war veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Madam Speaker, those who participated in this flight are as follows:

World War II Veterans: Frank Marsaglia and Willis Renter.

Korean war veterans: Frederick Ames, Marion Anderson, James Avgares, Harry Bieber, Eugene Bott, Myron House, Bernard Molley, Rudy Romero, Rupert Ross, Stanley Singer, Albert Vigil, Norman Vissering, and Kenneth Yarberry.

Veteran of both the Korean & Vietnam wars: James Coats.

Vietnam war veterans: James Aschenbrener, Michael Bagley, George Baker, Donald Bauer, Vernon Bauer, Robert Beers, Johnnie Bellington, Gerald Bragg, Kermit Bratten, Charles Breneman, Frank Brooks, Michael Brouwer, Keith Burner, Bruce Chandler, Monserrato Conder, Jr., Jackie Crow, Gary Davis, Barry Dibble, Walter Diehl, Rodney