

RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE VETERAN AND FOUNDER OF 2M COMPANY, MR. BILL MILLS

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Mills, a United States Air Force veteran and founder of 2M Company in Montana.

In 1978, Mr. Mills founded 2M Company in Billings, Montana because he was inspired to create a water product and service company that directly meets the needs of Montana's families and farmers.

Over the last 30 years, 2M Company has done just that—while serving Montanans' water-related needs, it became the leading wholesale supplier of pumps and pumping systems within Montana's water industry.

Along with 2M Company's business locations in Montana, it has expanded over the years to serve customers in Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Texas.

The growth and success of 2M Company is certainly a testament to Mr. Mills' exceptional entrepreneurial leadership and 2M Company's excellent service, products, and customer-first philosophy that Mr. Mills established in its inception.

Additionally, I also want to thank Mr. Bill Mills for his service to his country as part of the United States Air Force.

Mr. Mills' hard work, resourcefulness, and outstanding service to his community exemplify the core principles of being a Montanan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NO on Roll Call No. 365 ; NO on Roll Call No. 366 ; YEA on Roll Call No. 367; NO on Roll Call No. 368; NO on Roll Call No. 369; YEA on Roll Call No. 370; YEA on Roll Call No. 371; NO on Roll Call No. 372; NO on Roll Call No. 373; YEA on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; YEA on Roll Call No. 377; and YEA on Roll Call No. 378.

HONORING GLORIETTA ROWLAND

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Ms. Glorietta Rowland after 33 years of public service to Monterey County and her dedication to supporting the Central Coast's unhoused community. Her legacy of service is one of unwavering devotion to improving the lives of others.

Ms. Rowland began her career in 1987 with Domestic Crisis Services, kicking off her admini-

strable and wide-ranging career. Following her departure from the agency in 1988, Ms. Rowland worked with the Salvation Army, providing resources to those experiencing homelessness. She then worked for Sun Street Center, an organization that provides educational services, as well as treatment and recovery opportunities for those battling addiction.

In 2005, Ms. Rowland joined the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, where she assumed the role of Executive Officer. In this position, Ms. Rowland created and developed many programs and campaigns, including the Lead Me Home Ten-Year Plan for Ending Homelessness, Monterey County Stand Down for Veterans, and the Monterey County Homeless Connect Project.

Following her time with the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, Ms. Rowland joined Monterey County Department of Social Services in 2012 as a Management Analyst in the Community Action Partnership and Director's Office. In this role, Ms. Rowland continued her career-long pattern of developing programs to support unhoused people in Monterey County. Here, she influenced programs like the Monterey County Safe Parking Program and was critical in the creation of the Salinas Housing Advancement, Resource and Education (SHARE) Center.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Rowland took the initiative to support our community's relief efforts through the Alternate Housing Site project. She also dedicated her time and talents to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Emergency Food and Shelter Local Board, the Salinas Downtown Community Board, and the Homeless Census Point-in-Time Planning Committee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Rowland's decades of service to Monterey County. Her career will serve as a model for selflessness and compassion for our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Chair, the report accompanying the FSGG appropriations bill includes "an increase of \$6 million above the budget request for USPS to carry out pilot programs to modernize its current postal banking services, including surcharge-free automated teller machines, wire transfers, check cashing, and bill payment."

This "Postal Non-banking Financial Services Modernization Pilot Program" is yet another attempt by progressives in Congress to expand the U.S. Postal Service's core mission into the financial system. This concept is ultimately harmful to American consumers because it will crowd out private sector financial innovation to reach underserved communities.

That's why Rep. LUETKEMEYER and I offered an amendment to prohibit funding in this bill

from being used to carry out the Postal Non-banking Financial Services Modernization Pilot Program. Unfortunately, our amendment was not made in order to the bill we're considering today.

Democrats have long called for USPS to be able to offer consumer banking services such as checking and savings accounts and extensions of credit to consumers and small businesses. These functions are beyond the Post Office's core competencies, will subject taxpayers to potential losses, will undermine the private sector's ability to compete with taxpayer-subsidized banking services, and pose a threat to consumers' privacy when it comes to financial data.

In 2018, the previous Administration created a special task force to specifically review the Post Office and identify necessary reforms. The Treasury Department was directed to release the Task Force's recommendations, which it did in its report, "United States Postal Service: A Sustainable Path Forward." The Task Force's recommendations were clear: "given the USPS's narrow expertise and capital limitations, USPS should not pursue expanding into new sectors, such as postal banking, the USPS does not have a demonstrated competency or comparative advantage, or where balance sheet risk would be added."

Moreover, the Post Office agreed. In response to a widely criticized and highly unusual report by the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Post Office made clear that despite any recommendations to the contrary from the OIG, the Post Office's core mission "is delivery, not banking." Postmaster General DeJoy reiterated this position.

Progressives argue postal banking is needed to address the decreasing number of bank branches and the rise in the number of people without access to a checking account or short-term credit. Democrats automatically believe that means that the government should provide these banking services, including through the Post Office. What Democrats fail to acknowledge is financial institution branch closures and consolidations result from overly burdensome government regulation, which won't be reconciled using more government.

Postal banking has been tried before. From 1911 to 1967, the United States had the "Postal Savings System," run by the USPS' predecessor. The system provided savings accounts with interest rates set by the USPS and funds deposited in national banks near depositors' post offices. The system failed. Postal banking couldn't compete with private sector banking institutions. It did not have the flexibility to meet the needs of customers.

Moreover, American consumers demonstrated recently that they are not interested in banking with the USPS. Just last year, the USPS took it upon itself to create a pilot program to offer check cashing services in the form of gift cards. According to documents submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission, only six gift cards were issued under the pilot program and total fee revenue was \$35.70. The failure of the pilot program demonstrates the fact that it was not designed in response to customer demand and that consumers are not interested in banking with the federal government, including USPS.

Private sector financial institutions are highly regulated and operate competitively and flexibly in a market-based system. The ensures

consumers' demands for innovative financial products and services are met, and they receive the best pricing for them. Congress should not stifle private sector innovation by financial institutions and fintech firms that have already shown promise for reaching underbanked and rural consumers.

The USPS should remain focused on its core mission. The fact that only six people used the postal banking pilot confirms that consumers remain supportive of the free market and look to private firms for technological solutions to meet their banking needs.

Postal banking is harmful to the financial system and ultimately harmful to consumers. It will crowd out private sector financial innovation and ultimately fail to reach the very underserved communities Democrats claim they want to reach.

The USPS should remain focused on its core mission, not creeping into the provision of consumer financial services.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DESTINATION ANN ARBOR
PRESIDENT AND CEO MARY
KERR**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mary Kerr, President and CEO of Destination Ann Arbor on the occasion of her retirement. Her honorable 27 years of dedication to our Washtenaw County community are worthy of commendation.

Ms. Kerr's service to Washtenaw County started even before her time in tourism. Ms. Kerr began her career in hospitality as a manager at the historic Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She served as the Executive Director for the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau before becoming Executive Director for the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau. Under Ms. Kerr, the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureaus were merged into one countywide entity, bringing together our diverse communities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti for good.

During her time at Destination Ann Arbor, Ms. Kerr was instrumental in growing the budget of the organization. She also oversaw the creation of the Ann Arbor Sports Commission, a ten-year destination master plan for Washtenaw County that consists of a strategic plan to boost the local economy and other key initiatives to ensure Ann Arbor is a destination for travelers and locals alike. Outside of work, she continues to advocate for the hospitality industry through her roles on various boards in Washtenaw County.

Ms. Kerr has been recognized for her dedicated service through various awards, such as the Lifetime Achievement Award by Michigan Meetings and Events. She was also named CVB Star of the Year at the Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism. Her stellar work as an ambassador for our community makes her beyond worthy of this recognition.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mary Kerr for her 27 years of service. As we come together to celebrate her retirement, all of us in the Washtenaw community reflect on the great work she has

done that will benefit our area for years to come. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

**HONORING ANDREW PIERCE FOR
HIS SERVICE IN THE PEACE
CORPS**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Pierce for his exceptional leadership and service as the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director of Accounting and Financial Reporting at the Peace Corps.

During his nearly 7 years at the Peace Corps, Mr. Pierce played a vital role in ensuring resources were effectively and efficiently managed to support the important mission of the Peace Corps. He provided solutions during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when global evacuations of thousands of Peace Corps volunteers were necessary.

Mr. Pierce was instrumental in ensuring that the Peace Corps received a clean audit opinion during his entire tenure. This is particularly remarkable because of the inherently transient nature of the Peace Corps workforce and the global footprint of the agency's financial operations. He was highly respected by his colleagues for his keen intellect, professionalism; kindness, dedication to service and being a consummate team player.

President Kennedy said that by establishing the Peace Corps, "[W]e intend to make full use of the resources and talents of private institutions and groups. Universities, voluntary agencies, labor unions and industry will be asked to share in this effort—contributing diverse sources of energy and imagination—making it clear that the responsibility for peace is the responsibility of our entire society." Mr. Pierce answered the call and did his part, enabling the Peace Corps and our nation to strengthen bonds of friendship and foster global peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Andrew Pierce for his service and wishing him continued success in his role as the Executive Director for Budget and Analysis for Maryland.

**RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S 2022
SOMALI-AMERICAN HERITAGE
WEEK**

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state, and in recognition of Somali-American Heritage Week during July 2–17 in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The commemoration of Somali Independence Day is marked by Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, hosted by Rising Impact, a nonprofit dedicated to the safety and success

of Somali-American youth in Minnesota. Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the festivities are a chance to unite and celebrate Minnesota's diversity through a broad range of artistic, cultural and athletic events.

This year the celebrations drew together more than 45,000 participants to enjoy the food, music, dance, films, and the history of the Somali people and the Somali-Americans who call Minnesota home. Some of the most notable events from this year's celebration include a roundtable discussion with the U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Larry E. André and community members about ongoing humanitarian relief efforts and the United States support for democracy in Somalia, the "Xasuuso (Remember) 1960" event which tells the story of Somalia's independence, and the Growth Conference, which is a chance for members of the African diaspora to share knowledge and resources to build up minority-owned businesses.

Led by the Somali Week Chairperson, Daud Mohamed, the organizers and volunteers for Somali Week continue to forge strong ties with various community, corporate and government partners to bring this vibrant festival to life each year.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our Nation, and they are a prominent part of the diverse community that makes Minnesota a great place to call home. Please join me in paying tribute to the community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and who work every day to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

**SUPPORTING U.S. NAVY LT. RIDGE
ALKONIS AND U.S./JAPAN RELA-
TIONS**

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, a sailor currently stationed abroad in Japan. Essential to the economic and political stability of the Pacific region around my home of American-Samoa is the U.S.-Japan alliance. As a significant part of this alliance, the U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-defense Force jointly project power and security throughout the Pacific; and, enabling this naval partnership are the 19,000 American sailors stationed there. While the U.S. and Japanese naval forces have long maintained a strong bond, the relationship is deteriorating as a result of Japanese injustices against U.S. military members. The case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, who is of Samoan descent, exemplifies the disparate treatment American sailors receive in Japan. While driving his wife and three children to get ice cream during a family outing one Saturday in May 2021, LT. Alkonis suffered a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency which resulted in a tragic car accident, causing the