

HONORING INDIANA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE TOM SAUNDERS

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor State Representative Tom Saunders. Representative Saunders is retiring after nearly three decades of public service, and I am proud to join Hoosiers in celebrating a friend who has had an immeasurable impact on our beloved Indiana.

During his time of service, he had the honor of being recognized as Legislature of the Year by the Indiana Conservation Alliance. He also received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Indiana Department of the American Legion.

Representative Tom Saunders has long served as a distinguished voice on behalf of the people of Henry County and our entire state. He worked hard to bring greater economic opportunity to Hoosiers and was a strong advocate for the improvement of local schools.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor State Representative Tom Saunders, wish him an enjoyable retirement, and to thank him for his many years of public service.

HONORING JAMES RUFUS REED OF
JASPER, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor the life of James Rufus Reed of Jasper, AL after his passing on June 4, 2022. Rufus Reed's dedication to his work, community, family, and especially his faith, serves as an example to us all of the love we should share for each other and those we hold dear to our hearts.

James Rufus Reed was born on August 21, 1940 in Cordova, Alabama. He attended Cordova High School, and upon his graduation in 1959, he went on to attend Walker College. Mr. Reed began working for the Alabama Power Company as an electrician, and retired as a Safety Specialist after 29 long years.

Alongside his career serving the customers of Alabama Power, Mr. Reed served as a trustee for his alma mater, Cordova High School, where he dedicated his time to improving the lives of young people.

He also served on the Walker County Civil Service Board where he was committed to bettering the community that he called home. We will always humbly remember Mr. Reed's service to Walker County and Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

Most importantly, Mr. Reed was also a devoted servant of the Lord. He served as a deacon at Cordova First Baptist Church, and later as deacon at Jasper's First Baptist Church. In his efforts to teach the Word, he faithfully led Sunday School and served as a devout leader in the church throughout the years.

Mr. Reed was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Alma Reed and Marion

and Susannah Wylie; and his parents, Leighton and Mendie Reed.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patsy Collier Reed, who was his constant companion.; Rufus had two wonderful children, Alabama State Senator Greg Reed, who married, Mitsy; and Angie Reed Lum, who married George. His great legacy will also be cherished by his grandchildren, Andrew Reed; James Reed; John Michael Reed and his wife, Kalei Woodley Reed; Reed Lum; and his siblings, Doris Vines, Wilson Reed, Kay Williams, and Darlene Bell.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the life of James Rufus Reed and the love he shared for his community, his state, his family, and especially for his faith.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF FERNANDO
GRAY OF AURORA FIRE RESCUE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Fire Chief Fernando Gray of Aurora Fire Rescue, and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement from the City of Aurora.

During his five exemplary years with Aurora Fire Rescue, Chief Gray remained dedicated to serving our community. He has surpassed expectations—striving to meet any and all challenges with innovative approaches and best practices, while emphasizing personnel safety.

As Aurora Fire Rescue's first Black fire chief, Gray was instrumental in recruiting more minority firefighters to the department, reflecting the diverse community it serves. Faced with an unprecedented pandemic, fire departments across the country were forced to restructure their operations almost instantaneously—a feat Chief Gray tackled seamlessly. He worked with the Colorado Attorney General's office to implement a consent decree agreement to restore public confidence in Aurora's public safety personnel after Elijah McClain was killed.

Chief Gray is a life-long public servant committed to making our community a better and safer place through his work in the fire service. Prior to his appointment as Fire Chief for the City of Aurora, Chief Gray worked for the City of Dallas for over 20 years—serving in nearly every capacity within the organization except Fire Chief. Further, city leadership affirms that Chief Gray's commitment to professionalism in the fire service is unmatched, and I have no doubt the City of Aurora has benefited greatly from his exemplary leadership.

Chief Gray's contributions to our community, Aurora Fire Rescue, and those around him have been enormous. I thank Chief Gray for his service to this community, and wish him the best on his next journey serving the Las Vegas community.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 8294, legislation that would authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 for a number of federal agencies and programs, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD.

I want to thank Chairwoman DELAUNO and Chairman PRICE, among others, for their support and leadership in putting together this strong package. While there are many good provisions in this package, I want to take a moment to highlight one of the key victories for our communities.

Americans nationwide have faced difficulties finding affordable housing long before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic has exacerbated an existing crisis. As rent increases and wages stay stagnant, many members of our communities are facing the threat of homelessness.

Without stable housing, children face challenges in school, adults struggle to maintain employment, and those battling physical and mental health disorders, as well as substance abuse, lack the support they need to adequately address and treat these issues.

According to the Housing and Urban Development 2021 Annual Assessment Report, the number of sheltered individuals that identified as chronically homeless increased by 20 percent between 2020 and 2021. The report also identified that more than 326,000 people are still experiencing sheltered homelessness in the United States on any given night. Homeless Assistance Grants, like the Continuum of Care and the Emergency Solutions grants, help people who are at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness through non-profits, community organizations, government agencies, or other providers. These programs are successfully used by state and local governments, as well as an extensive network of providers of shelter and housing services in hundreds of communities, to reduce homelessness.

I am delighted that the package that passed the House would provide \$3.6 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program. Earlier this year, I led a letter, signed by 140 of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, urging the inclusion of that amount.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, like the Continuum of Care grant, have a profound impact on our communities, including my own city of Milwaukee. According to the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Continuum of Care was able to track a 77 percent decrease in people experiencing chronic homelessness over the last 10 years. This decrease was made possible through robust federal funding of supportive housing programs to end homelessness, including the Homeless Assistance Grants program.

Given the lack of affordable housing across the Nation and the ongoing effects of the

COVID-19 pandemic, strong funding for HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program is necessary to address homelessness and to get more people off the streets and into permanent housing. The increase in this bill is necessary and will provide much-needed resources to state and local governments to address the housing crisis. I look forward to working with the Chair and my colleagues to ensure this increase is maintained and even increased as the FY 2023 appropriations process moves forward.

RECOGNIZING KAREN ROSALES ON
HER ELECTION TO THE NAFCU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Rosales on her recent selection to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Karen currently serves as the President and CEO of Arlington Community Federal Credit Union, serving the financial services industry for more than 30 years. As CEO, Ms. Rosales has guided the strategic direction, service delivery, and operational efficiency of ACFCU. Under her leadership, the credit union now serves more than 23,000 members who live, work, worship, volunteer, go to school, and do business in the Arlington area.

Karen has served on the Board of Directors for many community and Credit Union industry organizations, including Leadership Center for Excellence, Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, and Credit Union Miracle Day. Ms. Rosales also currently serves on the Board of Directors for Callahan and Associates.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Karen Rosales and wishing her the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her in this regard.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES NO. 13

HON. TRACEY MANN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 13th installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series during a time when the effects of a poor wheat harvest in Kansas are only compounded by crushing inflation.

This is insult added to injury for Kansas wheat farmers. Producers are laboring under the burden of skyrocketing input costs while they work hard to keep our country fed, fueled, and clothed, and they deserve workable solutions to this inflation crisis before the situation gets any worse. Farming is already a risky, volatile business without the added burden of inflation, and USDA estimates that input costs will continue to rise to astronomical rates throughout 2022.

For an example of the risk and volatility—the wheat harvest just ended in Kansas, and the results were a fraction of the yield that

farmers in the Wheat State hope for and bank on during normal seasons. The Farm Bill (which Congress will reauthorize in 2023) exists, in part, specifically for situations like this past wheat season—to provide emergency assistance to the people who feed, fuel, and clothe the world even when mother nature doesn't cooperate.

The weather in Kansas can be extreme and unpredictable, which means that growing wheat in the wheat state can be a very difficult prospect sometimes. I had an intern in my office this summer named Parker Vulgamore who is a rising senior at Kansas State University where he serves as the student body president. He is also a member of the sixth generation of his family farm in Scott City, which lies in my district. Vulgamore Family Farms is a wheat, corn, and sorghum operation, with wheat being a staple. This year, due to an exceptional drought and extreme conditions throughout the growing season, much of the wheat never grew past three inches tall. So, what is typically a highly anticipated three-to-four-week wheat harvest only lasted a day and a half. Many wheat farmers in Kansas barely even ran their combines this year—they harvested what they could, cut their losses, and moved on.

This is where Farm Bill emergency assistance programs like crop insurance come in. Crop insurance serves producers and consumers alike because it helps prevent producers from going out of business and grocery store aisles from sitting empty. Farm Bill programs like crop insurance have secured our national food supply and helped generation after generation of producers avoid bankruptcy when times get tough. We're in one of those times right now. Inflation is skyrocketing in America, President Biden is trying to impose his Farm Killer Tax, and producers are going out of business. The chance to reauthorize the Farm Bill for 2023 has come at a critical moment in time.

The farm crisis isn't just about money. It's about morale and spirit. It's about joy. Missing wheat harvest time in Kansas doesn't just mean missing out on the yield of a cash crop—it means missing out on the special Kansas tradition of celebrating the culmination of all your family's hard work. It means missing out on grandma's casserole in the harvest field and missing out on seeing your mom in the semi, your dad in the combine, and your little brother getting to drive the grain cart for the first time. A bad wheat harvest in Kansas doesn't just create financial insecurity, it also leaves a void where a renewal of family camaraderie should be. American agricultural producers are hurting not only from the skyrocketing input costs that come with inflation, but also from the lowered morale that comes with drought, thin margins, and a broken supply chain. In 2023, Congress must reauthorize the Farm Bill with American farm families at the front of our minds, because they are in a crisis.

I'll be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series and highlight more programs and titles within the Bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America. The people who feed, fuel, and clothe us all deserve our unwavering support. They also deserve a robust safety net in the Farm Bill and workable solutions to the inflation crisis before it's too late.

HONORING DAVID KELLER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of David Keller as he retires from the Friends of the Eel River (FOER) Board of Directors after 21 years of service.

Mr. Keller has long been committed to environmental stewardship and public service. During his tenure on the FOER board, he played a key role as an advocate for critical community projects and restoration initiatives, and as an expert on watershed and coastal programs.

Mr. Keller graduated from the City College of New York in 1967 cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a BA in Psychology and Sociology, and completed his graduate degree in Social Psychology at the University of Michigan in 1969. His passion for woodworking brought him to Northern California, and since 1976, he has been the manufacturer of his own specialized woodworking tools, the Keller Dovetail System.

Mr. Keller's public service precedes his time on the FOER board. He served on the Petaluma City Council from 1996 to 2000. In this role, he helped pioneer the first U.S. adoption of form-based building codes for downtown redevelopment and led the defeat of the first full privatization of a municipal wastewater treatment plant in the U.S., which resulted in a city-owned wetland-based treatment facility. He also was a strong advocate for utility ratepayer protections in community choice aggregation programs. In addition to his service on the city council, Mr. Keller also served as an elected member of the Bolinas Fire Protection District Board of Directors, the Sonoma County Conservation Action Board of Directors, and is the founder and former Director of the Petaluma River Council. He also served on the Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee where he led the campaign to reconstruct the Bolinas beach and groin after a 1982 storm disaster.

Mr. Keller's vast and successful service to the community was invaluable during his tenure on the FOER Board. After two years as a general board member, Mr. Keller took on the role of FOER Bay Area Director in 2003. He's worked tirelessly for dam removal on the Russian River, salmonid fisheries and watershed restoration, resolving inter-basin water transfer conflicts, and to help transform the defunct North Coast Railroad's line to the Great Redwood Trail. Mr. Keller also played a role on the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee where he represented Eel River interests to ensure the protection of salmon and steelhead populations.

Madam Speaker, David Keller exemplifies what it means to be a community-minded public servant and environmental steward. His dedicated service both in the City of Petaluma and to the Friends of the Eel River has played a significant role in community action and environmental stewardship in the North Bay. Therefore, please join us in congratulating him for decades of inspiring work and in wishing him a fulfilling and relaxing retirement.