

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
COLONEL PETER J. WEINA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Peter J. Weina, Ph.D., MD, FACP, FIDSA upon his retirement from the Office of Research Protections at the Defense Health Agency. Colonel Weina has served for 45 years in various federal capacities, and his dedicated service will be sorely missed.

Colonel Weina joined the United States Army right out of high school and completed both a bachelor's and a master's degree in zoology at the University of Wisconsin Madison. As a second lieutenant, he completed a Ph.D. in pathology and parasitology, also at UW Madison. After 4 years at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), he entered medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. Mr. Weina then completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Colonel Weina, a board-certified doctor in both internal medicine and infectious diseases, also holds a Certificate of Knowledge in clinical tropical medicine and travelers' health. From his time as Chief of Pharmacology at WRAIR and subsequently as Director of Viral Diseases, to his fellowships with the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Colonel Weina has proven himself a competent leader and a measured presence in the medical field.

Over his illustrious career, Colonel Weina has published over 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals, five chapters in books, and two books of his own. He has worked to expand the availability and licensure of intravenous Artesunate, the first new anti-malarial drug since the advent of quinine over 300 years ago. In 2020, this life-saving treatment was licensed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Colonel Weina formerly headed the only College of American Pathologists-accredited leishmania diagnostics laboratory in the world. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Federal CDC Silo Buster's Collaborative Award of Excellence in 2008, the Colonel George W. Hunter III Certificate in 2011, and the Bronze Star for Service. Colonel Weina's accolades extend far beyond these, as many have recognized his courage, passion, and dedication to bettering his community. He has combined the opportunity to serve his country with the chance to advance our medical knowledge and capabilities, and our Nation is better off for his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Peter J. Weina for his 45 years of service to the United States. His contributions to our Nation are innumerable and his impact has been felt by

countless Americans. He has been an inspiration and a mentor to the next generation of health professionals, and I wish him the best in his retirement and may happiness and success find him in all future endeavors.

CONCERN OVER RUTGERS REPORT
ON INCREASE IN ANTI-HINDU
DISINFORMATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to express concern following a recent report published by The Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) at Rutgers University on an increase in anti-Hindu disinformation and Hinduphobic rhetoric on social media platforms such as 4chan, Telegram, Gab, and Twitter. As a religious, cultural, and ethnic minority of Indian and Hindu heritage, I am especially concerned that hateful rhetoric and disinformation can serve as a precursor to violence in the real-world.

NCRI's study, which reviewed social media content ranging from January 2019 to June 2022, found that Hinduphobic tropes—such as the portrayal of Hindus as evil, dirty, tyrannical, genocidal, irredeemable, or disloyal—are prominent across the ideological spectrum and are being deployed by fringe web communities and state actors alike.

Among many concerning findings, this report exposes that organized non-state actors such as ISIS have mounted disinformation campaigns to suggest that “Hindu Extremists” are responsible for attacks proven to be perpetrated by ISIS.

In addition, the study found a proliferation of anti-Hindu attacks in white supremacist communities. Specifically, NCRI identified a growing reference on Twitter to the idea that Hindus are “pajeets” who are dirty, backwards, and perverted. Similarly, memes on Twitter in white supremacist channels borrow antisemitic tropes, such as the idea of a “Zionist Occupied Government.” Further, the “pajeet” slur is found throughout the platform 4Chan and has been used by white supremacists in white nationalist podcasts in reference to violence towards Indians and Indian Americans.

We need not search far and wide to understand how hate speech, and specifically Hinduphobia, can translate to real-world violence perpetrated against innocent civilians. For example, John Earnest, the white supremacist shooter of the Chabad Synagogue in San Diego in 2019, repeatedly referenced “pajeets” in his manifesto. This is but one example that warrants our collective attention.

Madam Speaker, we must do everything we can to combat hate and racially and religiously motivate violence against the 2.5 million Hindus living in the United States, the one billion Hindus around the world, and the millions of other religious minorities of all faiths across

the globe. As the proud author of the Hate Crimes Commission Act, and cosponsor of recently enacted legislation to encourage the DOJ to prosecute hate crimes against religious, ethnic, and racial minorities, I will continue to fight to combat hate in all its forms, whether it be Hinduphobia, Islamophobia, or any other form of hate. Similarly, as the author of the Anti-Bullying Act and as Co-Chair of the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, I will continue to fight to combat homophobia and transphobia.

Hinduphobia to date is largely unknown, and the authors of the NCRI study note that “the essential first step in combating hate speech is to call it out.” Today, I am endeavoring to use my platform as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives to call out this disturbing trend, a meaningful preliminary action in combating hatred towards a community that contributes greatly to the cultural fabric and economic prosperity of our diverse nation. To that end, I call on all Members of Congress to stand alongside me in condemning this concerning rise in hateful rhetoric and threats of violence.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LLOYD LEWIS

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representative DIANA DEGETTE, rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lloyd Lewis and congratulate him on receiving the World Citizenship Award from Civitan International for his nearly two decades of tireless advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lloyd made the transition to advocacy following the birth of his son, Kennedy, who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. This diagnosis led Lloyd to leave a successful career in finance to begin his journey as CEO of Arc Thrift Stores of Colorado—an organization that supports advocacy services for Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities since its founding in 1968.

Under Lloyd's extraordinary leadership, Arc has become one of Colorado's largest employers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through their Ambassador program—which Lloyd created. The Ambassador program provides employment with full pay and benefits to individuals with disabilities, in addition to free social, educational, and professional development support.

The impactful work by Lloyd and Arc doesn't stop there. Arc has donated money, supplies, and vouchers to several non-profits throughout Colorado when the need arises. In recent years, Arc has donated to the Boulder Marshall Fire Relief, COVID relief, and to Ukrainian refugees.

With this award, Lloyd joins the ranks of distinguished recipients such as former President

● 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.

Dwight D. Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill. The World Citizenship Award is not given out annually, rather presented based on merit to those who have made a significant difference to mankind.

Lloyd is a shining example for how we should all strive to live our lives—as passionate, dedicated advocates for the diversity and inclusion of all people. There is no doubt our community is a better place because of Lloyd's leadership at Arc. We congratulate him on receiving this award and thank him for his tireless work advocating for vulnerable communities in Colorado.

HONORING MINNESOTA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE CONNIE
BERNARDY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnesota State Representative Connie Bernardy for her hard work, accomplishments, and service as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Within her eight terms at the legislature, Rep. Bernardy has been a champion for her constituents and especially on the issues of Higher Education and Transportation. I had the great pleasure in serving alongside Representative Bernardy in 2017 and 2018.

Rep. Bernardy was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2000. She served until 2006 when she decided to switch roles and work for Education Minnesota as a government-relations specialist. She later returned to the House when she was reelected in 2012. Within her District 41A, she currently represents neighborhoods in Fridley, New Brighton, and Spring Lake Park. Rep. Bernardy is the current Chair of the Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee, where she made significant progress on making higher education more affordable for students in Minnesota.

During her fight for students, she has been a strong advocate on hunger free campuses, improving access through tuition and textbook affordability, dedicated funding for higher ed students of color training to become teachers. As a transportation leader, Rep. Bernardy has pushed for long-term sustainable multi-modal transportation funding. Focused on ensuring safe access to active transportation for Minnesotans who walk, bike, or have a disability.

Having grown-up in the area, Rep. Bernardy truly knows her community and has fought for well-deserved changes. Key legislation that I want to recognize is her work on the Springbrook Wetland Restoration Project, the first urban wetland restoration of its kind in the nation; securing funding to establish the upcoming bus rapid transit F-Line; replacing the Railroad Bridge in New Brighton; enacting an Aquatic Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan for Long Lake; and spearheading the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Citizen Advisory Committee.

Although her time in the legislature is coming to an end, the work put towards her community and its legacy will never end. Representative Bernardy will truly be missed in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

HONORING ALYCE EAGANS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Alyce Eagans, a beloved local activist and civil rights pioneer of Washington's Sixth Congressional District.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1929, Eagans moved to Bremerton with her family in 1946. She married Loxie Eagans in 1949, and together they helped to found the Kitsap Chapter of the NAACP alongside other community activists James and Lillian Walker and Al and Hazel Colvin. They had two children, Phyllis and Loxie, Jr.

She passed away in 2016 from cancer but when she got her diagnosis, she didn't let that slow her down.

Alyce Eagans was a pillar of the community. After settling in Bremerton, she worked in the supply office at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for 20 years and once she retired, she moved on to a career in the Bremerton School District, where she worked in the superintendent's office for 17 years. Eagans continued to volunteer with the school district even after retirement.

During her 70 years in Kitsap County, Eagans took on many leadership roles including PTA president when her children attended school in Bremerton, president of the local NAACP chapter and of the Washington State United Christian Church Ushers. She worked with Dianne Robinson to help found the Black Historical Society of Kitsap County, and was an active member of the YWCA, the Bremerton Central "Lady Lions" and the Kitsap County Historical Society.

Members of our community called her the Mother of the community, go-getter, mentor, activist, stalwart, and full of endless energy.

As the Bremerton NAACP Unit 1134 hosts their annual Freedom Fund Banquet: Black Women are Supreme this weekend—it's my honor to recognize the legacy of a very impactful woman in our community whose legacy will live on for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ROBERT
EICHORN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Dr. Robert Eichorn who is retiring after two decades of work as an educator. While a Prince William County Principal, Dr. Eichorn's dedicated service has led Independence Nontraditional School to be named the first ever model school by the National Alternative Education Association. His work to meet the needs of an often underserved community has made education and achievement more accessible to Virginia's youth.

Dr. Eichorn has pushed to reimagine education for students, instructors, and the broader Prince William community. He is a fierce advocate for the socioeconomically disadvan-

tagged children of Virginia and has implemented a learner-centric curriculum to meet the needs of the individual. Dr. Eichorn has been an advocate and practitioner for over thirty years, and his efforts have been crucial in the fight for educational equity.

For years, Dr. Eichorn has served as the principal at Independence Nontraditional School, which serves students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The school provides a full curriculum, including music, foreign language, Advanced Placement, and engineering courses. The school also offers internships within their career and technical education trades programs. The primary focus at Independence is to meet the individual needs of every student with tailored instruction. For those who may need a little extra assistance or a second chance, Independence Nontraditional School offers the resources that disadvantaged young people need to achieve their fullest potential.

Dr. Eichorn has been the recipient of multiple awards for his tireless efforts. He was named Prince William County Schools' 2017–18 Principal of the Year. In 2020, the National Association of Secondary School Principals named him a Digital Principal of the Year for his leadership through the COVID–19 pandemic. He shepherded navigated his school as they implemented new technologies to expand access to students and to maintain a semblance of normalcy throughout unprecedented hardship.

As the first model school highlighted by the National Alternative Education Association, Independence has illuminated the successes made possible when our educators strive to develop integrity, ingenuity, and intellect in every student. With the right resources, we must hope to recruit more educators who exemplify the dedication and talent that Dr. Eichorn has demonstrated.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Robert Eichorn for his unwavering dedication to the young people of Prince William County. He has made every effort to ensure that all children have access to the resources they need for a rich and promising education. His students and colleagues alike have expressed their sincere appreciation for his tremendous service. Dr. Eichorn has truly lived up to the Prince William County Public Schools motto, "Providing a World-Class Education." I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for the service he provided our community.

RECOGNIZING KINGS COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AGING COUNCIL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kings County Commission on Aging Council as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1970, the Kings County Commission on Aging Council (KCCOAC) was established to provide information, assistance, support, and advocacy for senior citizens throughout Kings County. Originally, their mission was centered primarily on providing community events for seniors and promoting social