

YEА on Roll Call No. 561 (H.R. 340— Hamas International Financing Prevent Action, as amended);

YEА on Roll Call No. 562 (Motion to Re-commit H.R. 4364—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024);

NAY on Roll Call No. 563 (Passage of H.R. 4364—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024); and

PRES on Roll Call No. 564 (Adoption of H. Res. 773—Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the House of Representatives).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on November 3, 2023. However, had I been present, I would have voted “NO” on Roll Call No. 597, H.R. 4821, Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill makes significant cuts that hinder the U.S. response to climate change. It exacerbates environmental discrimination and prohibits funding for necessary DEI programs. I do not support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING PENELOPE GROSS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Penelope “Penny” Gross on her retirement after 27 years of serving as the Fairfax County Mason District Supervisor and 21 years of chairing the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

Elected in 1995 to represent the Mason District, Penny has been an advocate for affordable housing, expanded public transportation, and violence prevention. Penny represents Fairfax County on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the INOVA Health System Board of Trustees, and the Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR).

Shortly after becoming the chair of PWR, she encouraged the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to help in developing strategies that will bring the state of Virginia up to the standard that Maryland had already set, regarding efforts that support the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Program. With that, in July 2003, the Potomac River Tributary Strategy was developed by DCR.

In January 2004, Penny led the PWR in discussions for a 2004 vision, whose focal points influenced many water-related issues, such as Stormwater Management, Wastewater Treatment Plants, and Total Maximum Daily Load. In April later that year, Penny was appointed by then Governor Mark Warner to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Funding Panel. A panel tasked with finding alternative sources

for funding the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup. By October 2004, Chairman Gross announced some recommendations on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Bay Ribbon Finance Panel.

On the state and national level, Penny is a past president of the Virginia Association of Counties, vice-chair of the National Association of Counties’ Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee, and past president of the National Association of Regional Councils. She was first appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council, which she chaired from March 2006 until August 2008, and continues to serve.

I had the great pleasure of serving with Penny during my 14 years on the Board, first representing the Providence District and then as Chairman. The work that she has done for Fairfax County is outstanding, and we will continue to honor her legacy as a public servant. Penny Gross’s commitment to our community and the mission of local government is unparalleled. She leaves behind a legacy that will enrich our community for generations to come. Her career in public service is truly commendable and deserving of our heartfelt gratitude. All through her tenure as Chair of the PWR, she proved to be an exemplary leader, and continues to attract very influential and dedicated environmentally minded individuals to the roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, Penny Gross’s commitment to public service is seen through her tireless work on behalf of the people of Fairfax County. Though she may be retiring, I suspect that she will continue to remain active in the causes that are important to her. I commend her for her service and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her retirement.

HONORING MARY ANN RILEY OF INMAN, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Riley of Inman, South Carolina for her decades of service to our community and dedication to the South Carolina Republican Party.

Mrs. Riley moved to South Carolina in 1982. That same year, Mrs. Riley began attending community meetings, getting involved in local campaigns, and was appointed President of the Spartanburg County Republican Women, where she has served ever since.

More than politics, Mrs. Riley is a major contributor to her local pregnancy center, she has volunteered her time with the mental health divisions, the foster care community, and supports Upstate veterans undergoing hospice care. She is also active in her church and other organizations that work to assist our fellow South Carolinians every single day.

She has served the South Carolina GOP in many roles and has attended local, state, and national meetings and conventions. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the “Woman of Achievement Award” from the South Carolina Legislative Republican Women

Caucus, “Woman of the Year” from Spartanburg County Republican Women and has received the honor of “Catholic Woman of the Year” twice.

A former teacher, her life’s work has been to make the world a better place for her students, her neighbors, and future generations.

Mrs. Riley is a true public servant who has made a significant and lasting impact on Spartanburg County, the South Carolina GOP, and the lives of countless South Carolinians. We will never be able to fully thank her for over 30 years of service to the people of Spartanburg County and the Upstate as a whole. She has left an indelible mark on the Palmetto State.

I thank Mary Ann Riley for her years of service and friendship. May God continue to bless her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2023, I was unavoidably detained attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call vote 593, No on Roll Call vote 594, No on Roll Call vote 595, Yes on Roll Call vote 596, No on Roll Call vote 597, and Yes on Roll Call vote 598.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX TREE COMMISSION’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Fairfax County, Virginia Tree Commission.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chartered the Tree Commission as a board of public members in August 1973, and in 1976 it was expanded and incorporated into the county code to advise the Board on implementing the newly enacted Tree Planting and Preservation Ordinance. The Tree Commission’s has operated for 50 years in service to the health and well-being of the county’s urban forest, which in turn affects the health and well-being of all county residents.

In 2005, as then Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I recognized that the county’s population had grown exponentially and so had the stressors on our tree canopy. I appeared before the Tree Commission and asked it to develop a Tree Action Plan the county could use to manage and enhance the county’s forests and trees. That Plan was adopted by the Board in 2006.

In 2008 the county successfully sought new Virginia state legislation to better protect trees, which led to the county enacting the Tree Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 122). It requires a minimum percentage of tree canopy to be preserved or replanted during the development process and established within 10 years.

The Tree Commission worked to update the Tree Action Plan, which the Board adopted in

2020. It includes a detailed description of the health and environmental benefits of trees, as well as a strategic management plan to protect, preserve and expand the county's urban forest. That plan continues to guide the Tree Commission's advice to the Board on policies and procedures affecting trees.

The Tree Commission has long sponsored the Fairfax County Friends of Tree Awards, which are designed to inspire individuals, agencies, organizations, and developers to protect, maintain and expand the county's tree canopy with exceptional and innovative tree actions and tree education programs. The Tree Commission created and continues to update and distribute a public education pamphlet, *Tree Basics*, explaining how to select the right tree, for the right location, at the right time, and how to plant and care for trees so they will survive. It is one of the county's most widely distributed and popular information brochures. Members of the Tree Commission participate in county outreach events, in the Tree Community of Practice as authorized by the Tree Action Plan, in the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund, and in other tree-related activities as needed.

The Tree Commission promotes the equity goals of the county's One Fairfax policy by supporting tree preservation and planning projects that will benefit historically underserved neighborhoods in Fairfax County. And the Tree Commission has supported programs such as the Communitywide Energy and Climate Action Plan, which seeks to expand the overall county tree canopy to 60 percent, with a minimum of 40 percent canopy coverage in every census block by 2030. Everyone deserves to benefit from living near trees.

I am pleased to join the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, which has recognized 2023 as the Tree Commission's 50th Anniversary year, a time to honor and celebrate all its members over the years who faithfully served to preserve, protect, and expand our urban forest for the benefit all county residents, both now and in the future. To honor the Tree Commission's stellar service, the Board has planted 50 trees next to the Fairfax County Government Center, where they will grow and flourish for the next 50 years and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SAM SLOM, FORMER HAWAII STATE SENATOR

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of one of my favorite Republicans, my former colleague, my friend, the late Hawaii State Senator, Sam Slom.

For 20 years, Sam represented East Honolulu's 9th Senatorial District. and for almost half that time, he was the sole Republican member of the Hawaii Senate earning him the self-imposed nickname. "The Lone Ranger."

As one of a handful. or the only, member of the minority party, Sam read every bill, every resolution, and defied time and space to try and get to every committee and vote.

I had the honor and privilege of serving many years side by side Sam. Yes. we disagreed on many things, but more than not, we

saw eye to eye, especially on our commitment to lowering the cost of living for middle class working families and being good fiscal stewards with taxpayer dollars.

Prior to his service in the State Senate. Sam served as the chief economist for the Bank of Hawaii, and for over 30 years he was the President and Executive Director of Small Business Hawaii.

There is much that could be said about the boy from Allentown, Pennsylvania, who found his way to Hawaii in the sixties and made Hawaii his home.

What I can personally share is that he was often the member I could count on to be there. When I needed his vote, even if he disagreed, he'd help me get it to the floor and was open and honest with me on why he disagreed.

He was a statesman till the very end, and given the partisan times we find ourselves in, I truly miss my friend.

Mahalo to Sam for blessing us with his wisdom, his advocacy. and his friendship. There are more Hawaiian hoary bats in our islands because of him and we will forever remember him as the lone ranger who challenged our minds and won our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG LANDSMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 592; NAY on Roll Call No. 591; NAY on Roll Call No. 590; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 586; NAY on Roll Call No. 585; NAY on Roll Call No. 584; NAY on Roll Call No. 583; NAY on Roll Call No. 582; NAY on Roll Call No. 581; NAY on Roll Call No. 580; and NAY on Roll Call No. 579.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 FAIRFAX'S FINEST VALOR AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Gold Citizen Award, Meritorious Award, the Certificate of Valor, Unit Citation, and Unit Citation: Silver Award of Valor.

It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Silver Award of Valor: PFC Maurice Anderson, OFC Patrick Talbott, PFC Olivia Baratto, PFC Larry Luna.

Bronze Award of Valor: Lt. Ben Smith, MPO Joe Pittman, PFC Ryan Foster, PFC Sam Dee, PFC Marissa Fettig, PFC Noelle Becker, OFC Mathias MacFarlane, Dispatch Supervisor Cynthia Tetterton.

Certificate of Valor: Captain Steven Burmeister.

Gold Citizen Award: Mr. Ahmed Alsrari. Meritorious Award: Sgt. James Lewis, MPO Charles Mills.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2023 Fairfax's Finest Valor Awards Recipients, and thank all of the men and women who keep our community safe. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING MS. EVELYN RICE-PEEBLES

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to celebrate and honor Ms. Evelyn Rice-Peebles for her career in public service to Missouri's First District over the last 30 years. Throughout her career, she has been an inspiration to many. Evelyn was the first Black woman appointed as a Commissioner in the City of St. Louis. She has served under several Mayors, most recently as the Commissioner of Recreation for the City of St. Louis, ensuring that all St. Louisans have an opportunity to enjoy recreational activities such as swimming, aerobics, basketball and more.

Her charitable contributions have ranged from providing science and conservation education at the Saint Louis Science Center and Missouri Department of Conservation, to promoting learning opportunities with the National Society of Black Engineers. She has further dedicated her time with BJC HealthCare's School Outreach and Youth Development, St. Louis Transitional Hope House, and the Women's Society of Washington University.

She is a proud mother who is passionate about her faith and is committed to making St. Louis a better place for all, especially our youth. Ms. Evelyn Rice-Peebles has received multiple awards including the Harambee Institute Youth Service Award, the Jodie Bailey and Friends Recreational and Sports Social Inc. Role Model Award, the Hope House Creative Support Award, and the Young Women Christian Association's 2016 Leader of Distinction Award. She is also an inductee of the St. Louis Boxing Hall of Fame and a recipient of a Resolution for Excellence in Office and Service by the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen.

On behalf of Missouri's First District and the St. Louis community, we thank Ms. Evelyn Rice-Peebles for everything she has done for our region. I personally wish her a joyous retirement filled with family, creative writing, spoken word, and the final publication of her collection of short stories.