

County Legislature and the Niagara County Historian's Office. This one-of-a-kind display now stands as a symbol and reminder to Niagara County and all of Western New York of the heroic actions that Frank Gaffney took to preserve our freedoms.

On September 29, 1918, near Ronssoy, France, while serving with Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 27th Division, Frank Gaffney, an automatic rifleman, pushed forward alone, after all the other members of his squad had been killed, he discovered several Germans placing a heavy machine gun in position. He took swift action and eliminated the crew, captured the gun, bombed several dugouts, and, after killing four more of the enemy with his pistol, held the position until reinforcements arrived. Gaffney independently breached a portion of Germany's Hindenburg line helping capture 80 prisoners in the process. Due to his incredible actions, six different countries recognized and honored him including the United States. In 1919 Mr. Gaffney was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 2022 a biographical book was published detailing Mr. Gaffney's life titled *He Charged Alone* by author John Strasburg. According to Strasburg, after WWI, Mr. Gaffney returned to Niagara County, New York, due to a combat injury during his service. Mr. Gaffney had to have his left arm amputated. Despite challenges he faced after the war, he raised a family and continued to advocate for several veteran organizations. He died in 1948 at the age of 62.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. I thank the family of Frank Gaffney and Niagara County, because of their contributions, one of our greatest heroes, Private First Class Frank J. Gaffney will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent the community that Mr. Gaffney called home along with the members of our community who crafted this historic display.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FIRST-EVER U.S.-CENTRAL ASIA LEADER'S SUMMIT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the successful outcome of the first-ever U.S.-Central Asia Leader's Summit. On September 21, 2023, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, President Joseph R. Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan for the inaugural C5+1 Presidential Summit.

Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has increased U.S.-Central Asia dialogue and cooperation to advance an independent, prosperous, and secure Central Asia that addresses common concerns in partnership with the United States. The United States and the C5 stand united and committed to activities in the region that enhance security, improve economic resilience, support sustainable develop-

ment, combat climate change, and promote peace.

Key aspects of the security arrangement discussed at the summit included cooperation on law enforcement through expanded information sharing, cooperation on border security and safe migration, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, and the sharing of best practices on countering terrorism and preventing radicalization. The Parties also agreed to promote the rule of law and improve democratic governance.

To that end, the U.S. and Central Asia are determined to accelerate regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route (or the "Middle Corridor"), advancing efforts to create a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia, and working toward establishing permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).

The Parties remain dedicated to integrating regional energy systems to diversify and expand new energy export routes and reliably supply global markets, integrating energy systems, increasing clean energy production, and developing and securing critical minerals supply chains. The Parties are committed to redoubling efforts to increase clean energy production, mitigate methane emissions, develop sustainable hydropower capacity, and increase energy efficiency, particularly by mobilizing public and private financing for a green energy transition.

Through ongoing dialogue and collaborative efforts, the C5+1 can realize its vision for a more resilient, secure, and prosperous Central Asia, and foster closer people-to-people connections between the region and the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DORIS "DEB" BIESTERFELD TOWNSHEND

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, family, friends, and community leaders will gather to remember one of the City of New Haven's greatest treasures, Doris "Deb" Biesterfeld Townshend, who we lost in September of 2020. At the age of 98, she had lived a full life and passed peacefully at her cherished, historic Victorian home, known as Raynham, on Townsend Avenue.

The Townshend's family line in New Haven stretches back to 1739, when Jeremiah Townshend of Boston, first settled there. Deb met her husband, Henry "Harry" Townshend, while still a student at Mount Holyoke College. In fact, they met on the train—an inspiring meet cute, especially for train lovers like me. Harry and Deb married in 1942 and became the fifth generation of the Townshend family to live in New Haven. Deb loved to tell the story of their homestead, Raynham, which had been in the family since 1798 which it was first established as a farm. The home was used as a summer home by the Townshend family until Deb and Harry made it their year-round, permanent residence. It was there that they raised their five

children and celebrated seventy wonderful years together before Harry passed away in 2012.

Deb loved the Elm City and dedicated a lifetime to ensuring its history was both preserved and celebrated. She was not only a member of one of New Haven's longest tenured families, but she was also a historian, and it was her love of history and her strong belief in community that inspired her to work on a litany of local restoration projects and her service as a member of a myriad of boards, committees, and service organizations. She was a Past President of Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects and the East Haven Historical Society; a Past Vice President and Honorary Member of the New Haven Preservation Trust, as well as the Chair of New Haven's Historic District Commission for fifteen years and the Historian of the First Church of Christ for twenty-two years—just to name a few. Deb also volunteered her time at the New Haven Historical Society and served as a docent at the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Deb was a force of nature, much like my own mother, Luisa DeLauro. They may have come from different sides of the political aisle, but they understood the importance of protecting the community and its New Haven's history. Deb played a critical role in my parent's effort to designate Wooster Square as New Haven's first historic district and she went on to play a key role in supporting historic sites across the City—including Fort Nathan Hale, the Federal Period King's Block in Fair Haven and ensuring the Townshend's ancestral home was placed on the National Historic Registry.

In her obituary, her children recounted a story from Deb's childhood. When she was young girl, Deb was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up and her reply was just one word: "Kind." It was a goal well met. Deb was not just kind; she was a reflection of the very best of us.

She loved her family fiercely and cared deeply for the communities she called home—both New Haven and the Madison Valley of Montana. She was an extraordinary woman who leaves a legacy of service to which we should all strive.

I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to stand today to pay tribute to Doris "Deb" Biesterfeld Townshend. While I extend my deepest sympathies to her five children, Sharon, Cynthia, Hervey, Nancy, and Timothy and their spouses, as well as her ten grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren; I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Townshend family for so graciously sharing Deb with us all. Like for so many others, her energy, enthusiasm and dedication were an inspiration for me, and her memory will continue to inspire for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4821, Interior, Environment,

and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. The overall 35 percent reduction to the top line of this bill is simply irresponsible. With this bill, House Republicans are endangering public health, damaging our public lands and natural resources, and are failing to address the existential threat of climate change.

Communities in Minnesota and across our nation need reliable access to safe drinking water and clean air. The Environmental Protection Agency is tasked with safeguarding the air we breathe and the water we drink, cleaning up harmful pollution, and responding to public health emergencies like the train derailment last February in East Palestine, Ohio, where the EPA is still overseeing the cleanup of toxic contamination today. This bill includes a crippling 39 percent cut to the EPA that will jeopardize our public health. H.R. 4821 eliminates funding for environmental justice grant programs. These programs are designed to ensure disadvantaged communities that have historically suffered from underinvestment have access to clean air and water and climate resilience solutions. Just this October, the EPA issued \$3 million in environmental justice grants across the state of Minnesota to address environmental or public health issues and build a healthier future for all Minnesotans. These grants must be protected.

Our public lands and natural resources must be protected not only for today, but for future generations. H.R. 4821 threatens our public lands and critical watersheds throughout the nation, and specifically harms conservation efforts in Minnesota with harmful policy riders that would overturn two final decisions by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to protect the watershed that flows through the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This wilderness protects a priceless reserve of water so clean that you can drink directly from the lakes. We should not be using a funding bill to ignore settled scientific record and overturn final decisions on mineral leases and mining withdrawals.

As Ranking Member on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am intimately aware that the Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security issue. Why are House Republicans harming our country's ability to respond to this threat? The drastic cuts made in this bill will put us at a severe global disadvantage in responding to climate change and helping communities who are directly affected by it.

Mr. Chair, instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans are moving forward with passing bills that have no chance of ever becoming law. With this bill, House Republicans are debilitating essential government agencies, jeopardizing our public lands and natural resources, and abandoning investments made by Democrats last Congress to address the threat of climate change. For all of these reasons, I must vote against H.R. 4821, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING CAPTAIN CARRIE STEPHENS UPON HER RETIREMENT FOR 33 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Carrie Stephens upon her retirement for 33 years of dedicated service in the United States Navy.

Captain Carrie M. Stephens was born and raised in Newman, California, attending public school there until college. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of the Pacific in June 1986. After working in the mortgage banking industry for a year, Captain Stephens attended McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. In May 1990, she received her Juris Doctorate. While in law school, she was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award in Criminal Law. In November of 1990, she was commissioned in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps. A month later, she was admitted to the California State Bar. Ms. Stephens has served a combined 33 years of active and reserve duty in the Navy, earning the rank of Captain.

From 1991 to 1994, Captain Stephens was stationed at the Naval Legal Service Office Treasure Island. She practiced criminal and civil law and was appointed as Special Assistant United States Attorney, Civil Division. In 1994, Ms. Stephens was transferred to Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme where she served as the base attorney handling civil and criminal matters and was later appointed Special United States Attorney, Criminal Division.

Upon her discharge from active duty in 1996, Ms. Stephens moved back to her hometown of Newman, and joined the Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office. As a Deputy Public Defender, Ms. Stephens handled all types of complex criminal matters. In 1999, she received a position with the office of Stanislaus County Counsel where for 18 years she represented the county child welfare agency, advocating for the protection of abused and neglected children.

In 2018, Captain Stephens was elected Superior Court Judge for the Stanislaus County Superior Court. She is the current Judge, presiding over the felony criminal department.

Despite leaving active-duty service, Captain Stephens continued her affiliation with the U.S. Navy Reserve. In early 2010, Captain Stephens was selected to become a military judge. After receiving specialized training at the Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, she was certified as a Special and General courts-martial judge where she presided over courts-martial from June 2010 to November 2015. She was elevated to Chief Judge, Navy and Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, Reserve Component in December 2013 and for two years, commanded a cadre of military judges. Thereafter, she was selected Commanding Officer, NR RLSO Japan for a two-year billet.

Through a competitive selection process, Captain Stephens was designated an appellate judge assigned to the Navy and Marine

Court of Criminal Appeals from December 2017 to December 2019. From 2019 to the present, Captain Stephens has been with the Navy Reserve NAMARA Policy conducting legal reviews of courts-martial on behalf of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy and has served as a Special Assistant for the Deputy Advocate General for Reserve Affairs and Operations and Awards Board President.

Captain Carrie Stephens exemplifies the highest standards of duty, honor, and commitment through her 33-year career in the United States Navy. Not only is she an inspiration to her community of Newman, but she has also earned the admiration of California's 13th Congressional District. And this well-deserved retirement marks a new chapter in her life that she can cherish with her loving husband Tim Bazar, and their three amazing children: Olivia, Sydney, and Cameron.

HONORING COLONEL GLEN T. HELBERG

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent, Colonel Glen Helberg, whose dedicated service as a military officer for 20 years exemplifies courage and outstanding leadership throughout a distinguished career.

COL Helberg's journey began when he was commissioned as an Infantry Officer after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1999. His first assignment was with the 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Infantry Division, Ft Campbell, KY, from 2000 to 2002. There, he served as a rifle platoon leader and scout platoon leader and was later deployed to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. He eventually returned to Afghanistan on deployment twice in 2010 and 2012. After his command, COL Helberg's leadership was called on for various Joint Special Operations Task Forces.

Throughout his extensive career, COL Helberg has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (4th Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and Valorous Unit Award (4th Award), among others.

In addition to a remarkable career and extensive service to his country, I would also like to recognize COL Helberg as a beloved friend, father, and husband to Colonel Shannon Helberg. For over two decades, the Helbergs have exemplified the sacrifice of what it means to be a military family. Through numerous household moves across the country, changing schools for the Helberg children, and deployments to dangerous places for both Glen and Shannon, the Helbergs have remained steadfast in their dedication to our great nation and to each other.

I wish Glen and the Helberg family good luck in their future endeavors and thank them for their untiring service to this country.