

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN CHAPEL AME CHURCH IN YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan on the 180th anniversary of their founding. The services they have provided to the Ypsilanti community and all those seeking a better life are worthy of commendation.

The Brown Chapel AME Church was founded in 1843 with a goal of worshipping God without any form of discrimination. They wanted to be a home for those searching for peace, solitude, and freedom at a time when oppression and religious abuse was extremely prominent in society. This church played a key role in the Underground Railroad, as it was one of the last stops for escaped slaves on their way to freedom in Canada.

The Brown Chapel is the second oldest active AME Church in the state of Michigan. The congregation has continued to serve their surrounding community while maintaining the ideology of a global church with a local touch. The Brown Chapel hosts a Brotherhood Banquet that has focused on brotherhood and racial unity for the past 70 years. The church also has a 30-year-old weekly Good Samaritan Feeding Program that works to provide fresh food, produce, and canned goods for anyone in need in the community. They partner up with educational institutions and nonprofits like Food Gatherers, Growing Hope, Crop Walk, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and more, to help provide care and community for those in need. The chapel also has worked with the Michigan Conference of the AME Church to further impact not only the city of Ypsilanti, but those throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 180th anniversary of the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan. At a time of such discord throughout the country and around the world, the unifying work of Brown Chapel AME Church is more important than ever. We are proud to have such leaders as our neighbors and are excited to see all the good work they can accomplish over the next 180 years.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TINA SCARPELLO WEBSTER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's

Mercy Devotion Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Tina Scarpello Webster. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a staff member at Mount Mercy, Tina has been afforded the rare opportunity to make a tangible impact on the hearts and minds of countless students. Upon graduating from Erie Community College, Tina's brief time working in North Carolina made her recognize her passion and love of our community in Buffalo. Upon her return, Tina eventually found her way to working at the school that she, and her sisters Cheryl ('82) and Joelle ('84), love so dearly: Mount Mercy Academy. She assumed the roles of Recruitment Manager, Director of Admissions and Communications, newsletter creator, class moderator, club facilitator, and social media coordinator, among a myriad of roles. Tina has been the cheerleading coach for even longer, this skill has shaped her work on behalf of her alma mater. There is no shortage of ways that Tina has bettered the Mount Mercy community, and she shares this enthusiasm in Buffalo, as well. She has volunteered with the South Buffalo Football Association for twenty-five years, assisted in the creation of the Brian Bauer Memorial Golf Tournament, and coaches Buffalo Envy, another local cheerleading team. Tina has been an inspiring mentor to young women in Western New York, and her hard work at Mount Mercy makes her an excellent role model.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Tina Scarpello Webster continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2023*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4820, Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. With this bill, House Republicans are cutting vital investments in our nation's crumbling infrastructure, jeopardizing housing supply, and inserting right-wing policy riders into funding bill debates.

Last Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fix our roads and bridges, reduce emissions, and address historical inequities caused by our nation's interstate highway system. Now, Republicans are using H.R. 4820 to undo the progress Democrats made. H.R. 4820 includes a drastic cut to transit programs and zeroes out funding for the RAISE and MEGA grants that are essential to rebuilding infrastructure in our communities. Additionally, Republicans have made a drastic 35 percent cut to Amtrak National Network funding. This will devastate Amtrak's resources, resulting in a cut to train service for the Empire Builder and loss of jobs for Amtrak workers.

This bill fails to address the lack of affordable housing in Minnesota's Fourth District and across the country. Republicans have made a devastating \$1 billion cut to the HOME Investment Partnership Program, the best tool states and localities have to increase the supply of affordable houses for rent and home ownership. As Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I know all too well that a lack of supply in off-base housing has increased competition among military families and driven up housing costs. We see this all over the country. Last Congress, we had to increase the Basic Allowance for Housing to try to offset some of the challenges military families face, but as long as there is a shortage of affordable housing, this is only a band aid and not a permanent solution. The 67 percent cut to the HOME program included in H.R. 4820 will certainly result in less affordable housing options in our communities and drive up the cost of off-base housing for military families and the Department of Defense.

My opposition to the bill is not solely due to the inadequate funding levels. This bill, like all of the Republican appropriations measures, embraces right-wing social policy fights that have no place in the bills that fund our government. H.R. 4820 would explicitly allow discrimination based on same-sex marriages, strips away protections enshrined to all Americans in the Fair Housing Act of 1958, and ties the hands of the Department of Transportation to curb carbon emissions and build climate resilient infrastructure. These provisions must be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, government funding runs out November 17th. Instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond next Friday, House Republicans have once again wasted time considering a bill that is too extreme even for their own party. Republicans don't have the power to pass their own bad bills. H.R. 4820 now joins the Agriculture bill in a purgatory of Republicans own making. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan fashion to cut through this Republican chaos and avoid a government shut down.

• 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.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment that has been included in En Bloc amendment #1 to the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government Funding bill that would ensure the U.S. Postal Service is effectively working to protect our postal employees.

With a continually increasing delivery network of more than 163 million delivery points, the U.S. Postal Service delivered over 129 billion mail pieces on more than 233,171 routes in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

That work would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of many postal employees, including letter carriers, who interact with the public almost every day and are a cornerstone of the service that Americans expect from our Postal Service.

But that work also carries great risks for the men and women of the Postal Service, including assault, robberies, and even death. It was nearly a year ago in December 2022 that a letter carrier was killed in uniform in my district. My thoughts are with his family as they prepare to celebrate their first Thanksgiving without him.

At a 2022 congressional hearing, Frank Albergo, national president of the Postal Police Officers Association testified, "The Postal Service, perhaps America's most beloved federal institution, is in peril. Postal workers are being attacked and mail is being stolen at unprecedented levels."

Earlier this year, police in the Milwaukee area arrested and charged eight members of a mail theft ring, seizing six guns, a bag of opened mail (including personal checks made out to hundreds of different people), and two arrow keys. Earlier this month, at least two postal workers in Milwaukee were robbed at gunpoint while on duty. This remains an ongoing and national problem.

These assaults, threats, and other crimes against postal employees directly impact mail delivery and the ability of the Postal Service to recruit and retain workers.

That is why I have been pushing the Postal Service to proactively use all available resources and tools to better protect its employees, working closely with other federal, state, and local officials. And I know others in this body have also been pushing the Postal Service to do more.

In a response to one of my inquiries on this matter this year, the Postal Service noted a number of steps it was taking including installing more theft resistant mailboxes and heightened mail theft prevention efforts in selected cities nationwide.

My amendment is intended to help ensure that those measures actually work to effectively protect our postal employees and ensure that those preying on them are caught and held accountable. I am pleased that it was included in this En Bloc amendment. And I hope the Postal Service will take very seriously its charge and responsibility to the safety and well-being of its employees.

Our postal employees are working hard to serve communities across our nation, and they deserve to be able to go to work knowing that they can do so safely.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PATRICIA KEANE MARREN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Sister Sally Walz Memorial Award at Mount Mercy Academy, Patricia Keane Marren. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

The recipient of this award requires "an expansive heart," and Pattie Keane certainly fits the bill. She began her career as a programmer at Marine Midland Bank (now HSBC Bank), and after attaining a master's degree in business administration, became Vice President at HSBC in 1997. Pattie worked for over two decades and led several company-wide initiatives and philanthropic efforts. As community leader and avid volunteer, she consistently puts the needs of others before her own. She assisted in fundraising events and organizational activities of O'Sullivan School of Irish Dance, Cazenovia Hockey Association, Canisius High School, and naturally, at Mount Mercy Academy. There she served as Treasurer and Board Member of the Alumnae Association, co-chair (with her husband, Dan) of the McAuley Gala, and an active member of the Board of Trustees. And even in the face of considerable medical challenges, Pattie continues to find new ways to advocate for others. In fact, as a patient at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, she was responsible for improvements to safety practices for patients and visitors with disabilities. Pattie has always embodied selflessness and compassion, and it has been to the benefit of all those who know her.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Patricia Keane Marren has always embodied these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, with her husband, Dan, and children Katherine ('11) and Thomas.

RECOGNIZING SUE SCHOONER'S SERVICE TO THE YOUNG WOMEN OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Schooner, the founder and Ex-

ecutive Director of Girls Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her work to mentor and support the young women of Washtenaw County over the last 20 years is worthy of commendation.

Sue was born in Boston, but her family moved almost every year for her father's Army career. She worked full-time as a high schooler, graduated at the age of sixteen, and worked three jobs to pay for her tuition at Ithaca College. After graduation, she attended the Harvard Business School where she attained her MBA.

Sue is a retired automotive executive and developed mentoring programming at both the Chrysler Corporation and Textron Automotive. What began as a volunteer stint working with girls at Peace Neighborhood Center and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan (now the Jean Ledwith King Women's Center) became a passion. In 2003 Sue founded Girls Group to support young women who face obstacles to completing high school. Its goal is to first get them through high school—and then to help them become first-generation college graduates.

What started as one woman hoping to mentor a few young ladies is now a staff of over 20 helped by interns from nearby universities, numerous volunteers, and 16 board members who do a lot of hands-on work. Today, Girls Group facilitates weekly programs within the public schools, an intensive college prep program that includes college tours, SAT and ACT prep courses, and scholarship opportunities, as well as a returning mentor program created for women who have graduated high school and are now in a position to mentor the next generation. Girls Group now works with over 750 young women, and that number is growing steadily. "The reality is these girls are super smart, but if you can't manage your anger and you can't self-soothe it doesn't matter how smart you are," Schooner says. "You still have to be able to focus in class, not get in fights with other kids, and do your homework."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 20 years of service that Sue Schooner and the Girls Group have provided to the young women of Washtenaw County. Through her efforts and the efforts of all those involved in Girls Group, an entire generation of young women have been given the tools to succeed. We are excited to see what advances can be made in the next 20 years. I thank Sue.

HONORING JEFFERSON COLLEGE

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Missouri on its 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1963, the college provides post-secondary education at its campuses in Imperial, Arnold, and Hillsboro, as well as online. Jefferson College offers customized business and industry training, continuing education courses and technical career programs. The college has adapted to the times, working to adjust its educational opportunities as changes occur in the needs of the workplace.

More than 27,000 students of all ages have graduated from Jefferson College in its first 60