

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

years. Many have gone on to become community and business leaders, educators, healthcare and technical professionals or law enforcement officers.

The university is led by Dr. Dena McCaffrey, its 8th president and under her leadership, JeffCo is poised to continue its successful educational mission through the next 60 years. It is my great pleasure to congratulate Jefferson College on this milestone today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS WRIGHT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Christopher Douglas Wright and reflect on the remarkable life he lived. Though a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chris left an impact that can be seen far and wide.

Chris was born on November 13, 1984, to loving parents Greg and Janet Wright. Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Chris attended The Baylor School in Chattanooga beginning in 1997. A significant member of the Baylor community, Chris was widely known for his versatile athleticism, academic prowess, and magnetic personality amongst his peers, friends, and teachers. His athletic achievements, which included a state championship in baseball and two-year All-State football honors, left a legacy that inspired countless future Baylor athletes. However, Chris was also not one to be outdone in the classroom as he was a highly accomplished student, excelling academically as a National Honor Society member.

After high school, Chris continued his academic and athletic career at Yale University, where he was a four-year letterman and 2006 Ivy League Football Champion. A consummate gentleman and scholar, he was known and loved for his sincerity among classmates and friends.

Chris further propelled his business education after Yale by attending the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he received a Master of Business Administration.

Emboldened by a long-term desire to leverage his honed business acumen in his hometown, Chris returned to Chattanooga in 2016, where he most recently served as a Principal at Alderman Enterprises.

I had the opportunity to meet Chris several years ago, and it was abundantly clear that he was a man who possessed a deep devotion to God and his family. He fervently loved his wife, Acacia, and their children, Declan, Abbott, and newborn daughter, Aprilia, with no exceptions. He valued character over image and humility over pedigree. He was a man of discipline and a role model to many.

Chris passed away on September 29, 2023—a life cut far too short but a memory that will live on.

It is an incredible privilege to honor that memory today. Chris Wright blessed so many, and I am certain those individuals will spend their remaining days in deep appreciation of the opportunity to have known him. My pray-

ers remain with his family, friends, and loved ones during this tragic time.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESSICA TURNER

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 Athletic Excellence Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Jessica Turner. 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 leader on and off the court, Jessica has been exemplary in her commitment to service. While playing Division I basketball at Niagara University, she served as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and was selected as an Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar. The skills Jessica gained as a student-athlete were directly transferable to her role in the business world. She has consistently advanced as an employee at New Era Cap Company and was a critical force in the creation of New Era's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI). Jessica was the first person to hold the title of Director of DEI. Outside of work, she spends her time as a mentor with the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars and volunteers with the Festival of Trees, FeedMore WNY, the Special Olympics, Willie Hutch Jones Education and Sports programs, and the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Jessica's love of basketball was formed by her father, and it has shaped the person that is deserving of this award. Though athletics can be seen as an all-encompassing time commitment, Jessica has used her passion of sports as fuel to better the lives of others.

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 Jessica Turner continues to live these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, as a mother to Maya and Kellan.

REMEMBERING RICHARD L. BUTTERFIELD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard L. Butterfield.

Richard was born in Mansfield, Ohio on April 25, 1945. His family moved to New York in the following years, and he graduated from Averill Park High School in 1963. He enlisted in the United States Army the same year, attending the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia and graduated to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in March

1965. He was subsequently deployed to Vietnam as a Pathfinder Team Leader, 11th Pathfinders, 1st Cav. Division. His team directed helicopter resupply, medical evacuations, and rescue missions. When Lt. Butterfield was wounded in action, he refused to leave until all other wounded servicemembers were removed from the battlefield.

Lt. Butterfield returned to duty on his second tour in 1968 as Captain and Commander of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne, later serving as Team Commander with 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Green Berets. He was honorably discharged in 1970; for his valiant service, he received dozens of medals and commendations including the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and several Federal Badges, Vietnamese Medals, and New York State Medals.

Richard continued to serve in the New York Army National Guard as a Commander until 1995. Upon his retirement, he was breveted to the rank of Brigadier General and given the Long and Faithful Service Award (25 Years). From 1970 to 2006, he was also a member of the New York State Police. He worked as a canine officer with his partner Frey, a firearms instructor, rifle sharpshooter, member of the underwater recovery team, delegate to the Police Benevolent Association, and as an undercover investigator with the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. After retiring from the State Police, he joined the Warren County Sheriff's Office as Marine Patrol on Lake George.

When not on duty, Richard was a family man. He had three children—Lori, Hayden, and Eric—and seven grandchildren, and he married his wife Cathy on July 27, 2020. As an active participant in his community, Richard remained a lifelong member of the Castleton Boat Club and the Nassau Sportsman's Club, served as a board member for the Lebanon Valley Speedway, and rode with the Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to share the incredible story of Mr. Richard L. Butterfield, a patriot who dedicated his life to serving his country and his local community.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHRIS MADZIK'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Madzik, Captain of the Northville Fire Department in Northville, MI on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication and commitment to the City of Northville over the last 28 years is worthy of commendation.

Chris joined the Northville Fire Department in 1995 because they were offering free training for a three-year commitment as an on-call firefighter. He fell in love with public service and became a full-time firefighter in 1998. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2002, followed quickly by another promotion to Lieutenant in 2003. He has been a Captain with the Northville FD since 2017.

Armed with a Masters of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Chris has spent his time