

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HUME G. MERRITT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize long-time resident and veteran Hume G. Merritt, as he is joined by his family and well-wishers as he celebrates his eightieth birthday.

A resident of Michigan since 1967 and Southfield resident since 1986, Mr. Merritt has been an active and engaged community member. He is proud of his military service. Mr. Merritt served as a drill sergeant in the United States Army in Fort Lewis in Washington and Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Mr. Merritt enjoyed a long career in finance, working for both General Motors and Bank of the Commonwealth before he retired.

Mr. Merritt remains an active member of his church, True Love Missionary Baptist Church, he also serves as treasurer of the Ravines Subdivision Homeowners Association in Southfield, and volunteers his time with the Urban Bankers of Detroit. He also enjoys spending time with his wife of fifty-seven years, Helen, and his two grown children Nicole Merritt and Hume Merritt, III.

Please join me in recognizing and wishing Hume Merritt, a happy eightieth birthday and his contributions to our communities in Michigan's 12th District.

ST. MARY GRADE SCHOOL WINS  
FOURTH BLUE RIBBON AWARD

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate St. Mary Grade School's fourth Blue Ribbon Award. Located in Southwest Ohio and serving students across the region, St. Mary Grade School was founded by the Sisters of Charity. Opening its doors in 1908 with 100 students, the school has expanded and now has well over 400 students enrolled annually.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program seeks to honor schools from around the country that have a vision of excellence and hold their students and faculty to a high standard, and I can't think of a more worthy school than St. Mary Grade School. For over a century, this school has pushed each and every student to be the best they can be, academically and spiritually, and they continue to serve the local community to this day.

I, like the thousands of other graduates who began their educational and spiritual journey at St. Mary Grade School, owe so much of our educational foundation to the dedicated faculty who have devoted years of their lives to ensuring that future generations of Ohioans will continue to prosper.

I am incredibly proud that the National Blue Ribbon School Program has chosen my alma mater to be one of the forty private schools honored this year as the school is so deserving of this distinction. I am looking forward to their continued success in the community.

NO STOLEN TRADEMARKS  
HONORED IN AMERICA ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARRELL ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2023*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, recognizing and safeguarding intellectual property rights is a vital interest for the United States and a critical component of our leadership, which has historically championed strong IP rights.

Consistent and strong IP rights ensure that business will seek to innovate in the U.S. and enjoy the protections granted under our Constitution and laws.

It goes without saying that strong IP protections require that the government respect IP ownership and the right of IP owners to control who exercises their rights.

Similarly obvious is that the government should not condone IP theft.

That is exactly what has happened with the trademarks stolen by the Communist government of Cuba.

As if oppressing and brutalizing the Cuban people was not enough, the Castro regime also stole IP from legitimate owners during its vicious takeover of Cuba.

This included stealing valuable trademarks, such as "Havana Club," from the Arechabala family.

The Arechabala family for years invested their time and resources building a world-renowned brand for their rum only to have the Communists steal it along with the rest of their property, including all of their production facilities.

The Castro regime then embarked on decades of exploiting that IP, manufacturing and exporting rum using the "Havana Club" trademark they stole.

The Arechabala family never recovered from what happened to them, but they transferred their rightful interests in their trademarks to the Bacardi family and company in the U.S.

As a world leader when it comes to IP rights, it should be clear that the U.S. government would side with Bacardi in a dispute between them and the Castro regime over these trademarks.

But in 2016, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or USPTO, recognized the Cuban regime's claim on the "Havana Club" trademark even though it was stolen by the Cuban regime.

That is why I introduced this bill, which prohibits the executive branch from recognizing, enforcing, or validating any trademark used in connection with a business or assets that

were confiscated without the consent of the original owner or successor-in-interest.

I was delighted to be joined by my Democratic colleague, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, in introducing it, and the bill has since been cosponsored by 17 other Members from both parties on the way to being overwhelmingly approved by the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis.

We all agree that the U.S. government should not reward those who would steal and exploit trademarks, or any other IP, without the consent of the legitimate owners.

Allowing Cuba to propagate its misappropriation of IP also sets a harmful precedent for international IP protections.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM "BILL" GOODMAN

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, Today I want to recognize my friend, William "Bill" Goodman. Bill was an iconic member of our Detroit legal community who never wavered in fighting for the working class, the most vulnerable among us. I met Bill over fifteen years ago when he was President of the Maurice and Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. He was a mentor to many of us young attorneys and a hero to many who were seeking justice.

Born in 1940, Bill grew up in northwest Detroit, where he witnessed the injustices of racism and segregation. This, combined with the values instilled in him by his parents, informed the path Bill would take with his career and life's work. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1964, returned to Detroit during the height of the civil rights movement, and went to work in partnership with his father, Ernie Goodman. Over the course of his career, Bill took on numerous high-profile cases. He worked as legal director for the Center for Constitutional Rights, where he represented Guantanamo Bay detainees, Vietnamese survivors of Agent Orange, and the wrongfully detained. He sought to focus his work on the protection of civil liberties. Bill eventually returned to Detroit as partner at the law firm Goodman Hurwitz, where he continued to represent families and individuals who were victims of police and government misconduct.

Bill worked with a number of legal advocacy organizations, including the National Lawyers Guild, ACLU, and Sugar Law Center, where I got to know him when we both served as board members. I knew Bill to be a fierce advocate, a brilliant legal mind, and a tenacious but kind warrior for justice.

Please join me in tribute to Bill Goodman, remembering his life and distinguished career. May he rest in power.

• 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Monday, November 13, 2023 for the first votes of the week. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on Roll Call No. 643; "Yea" on Roll Call No. 644; and "Yea" on Roll Call No. 645.

## HONORING SENATOR NAN RICH

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize my longtime friend, sister, and someone with whom we've served interchangeably as mentors to one another, Senator Nan Rich, as she assumes the office of Mayor of Broward County, Florida.

Senator Rich was first elected as Broward County Commissioner in 2016 and re-elected, unopposed, in 2020. She was recently selected by her colleagues on the County Commission to be the Vice Mayor of Broward County through November 2023 and now selected to serve as Mayor. Her top priority has been addressing the affordable housing crisis in Broward, as well as ending homelessness.

Prior to her service on the County Commission, Senator Rich was elected to the Florida State Senate in 2004 after serving two terms in the Florida House of Representatives. She was recognized as one of the most passionate and dedicated members of the Florida Legislature and was the first woman to be elected Senate Democratic Leader.

Her years of advocacy and activism on behalf of women, children, and families is admirable and inspiring. She served as the National President of the National Council of Jewish Women, the first Floridian elected to that office. She was also honored to receive an appointment by President Bill Clinton to serve as a Member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council in Washington, D.C.

My friendship with Senator Rich runs deep. When I first ran for office at the age of 25, she was one of the first people I called for advice. She subsequently succeeded me in the Florida House and the Florida Senate. She is someone who paved the way for women to reach and shatter the glass ceiling—helping to break the barriers of gender-bias and discrimination. I am proud to have stood on the shoulders of my friend—Florida's friend—Nan Rich.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 25th district, we are grateful for Senator Rich's leadership and look forward to the progress she will continue to make as Broward County's next Mayor.

## RECOGNIZING KENNETH MURRAY

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Battalion Chief Kenneth Murray for his twenty-six years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Battalion Chief Murray started with Dearborn Fire Department in 1997 as a firefighter. He steadily rose through the ranks, serving as engineer, lieutenant, and captain before he was promoted to battalion chief in 2020. Over the course of his career, Battalion Chief Murray has garnered numerous awards and accolades for his meritorious service, including Lifesaving, Unit Award, Perfect Attendance, and Safe Driving. He was also recognized as the Dearborn Exchange Club's Fire Officer of the Year in 2016. On top of his numerous duties with the Fire Department, Battalion Chief Murray has prioritized his education and pursued specialized training in collapse, rope, and trench rescue.

In short, Battalion Chief Murray has been an outstanding public servant to the communities served by the Dearborn Fire Department. Please join me in recognizing his twenty-six years of commitment to protecting our families' safety across Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EQUITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Government Advertising Equity Accountability Act, which would require all federal agencies to include in their annual budget requests to Congress the amount they spend on advertising contracts with small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs) and businesses owned by minorities and women. Federal agencies would be required to provide prior and projected total expenditures for such contracts. At my request, the Committee on Appropriations has been requiring such information from many agencies for the last several years, but this bill would codify this requirement and apply it to all federal agencies.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined spending on advertising contracts with minority-owned businesses by five agencies—the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—and found that only five percent of the \$4.3 billion available for advertising contracts went to minority businesses. In light of these concerning findings, several Members of Congress and I sent letters to GAO in April 2016 and June 2022 requesting updated information on the amount of federal advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. A GAO report released in July 2018

showed that in fiscal year 2017, only 16 percent of the federal government's advertising contract obligations went to SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. GAO agreed last year to issue an updated report.

The federal government is the largest advertiser in the United States, and it has an obligation to ensure equitable access to its contracts for SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women. The GAO's findings demonstrate that there is still much progress to be made.

The regular collection of information on federal advertising contracts with SDBs and businesses owned by women and minorities is essential to bridging the gap between what current statistics show and a more inclusive advertising landscape. This bill would help achieve this goal while also promoting transparency and encouraging federal agencies to strive to reach minorities, who often receive the news from smaller media outlets that serve communities of color. The requirement that agencies submit prior and projected information on the amount of advertising dollars spent with SDBs and businesses owned by minorities and women would allow federal agencies to evaluate their progress. The regular collection of this information would also demonstrate that the promotion of equity in advertising, and in all areas of government, is a continuous effort and is important to the mission of every agency.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF GARY PETERSEN

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 21, 2023*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gary Petersen, a dedicated leader hailing from the Tri-Cities, who tragically lost his fight to cancer this past month. It saddens me that rather than announcing his next great achievement, I am instead here to mourn his passing.

Gary was known throughout both Central Washington, the U.S. Capitol, and the Department of Energy as a fierce advocate for the interests of the Tri-Cities. His leadership in our communities proved fruitful for decades, sparking both economic development and innovation for the citizens of Central Washington.

His advocacy for the Hanford cleanup mission has been the cornerstone of the success of our region, and I am in awe of the impact he has made over the years. His immense knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of our community's priorities was matched by so few, and I have no doubt his name will go down in history with the likes of Sam Volpentest and Bob Ferguson.

Gary's legacy includes leading advocacy for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's campus, supporting the advancement of the Hanford cleanup mission, and advocating for growing the local economy at TRIDEC; he will also be known as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and personal friend of mine.

While he will be missed, his legacy will continue to live on in every corner of the Tri-Cities and Central Washington.