

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.

RECOGNIZING GLENN OWENS

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator Glenn Owens for his twenty-five years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

EMS Coordinator Owens began his career as a firefighter with the Dearborn Fire Department in 1998. Over the past twenty-five years, he has served in numerous roles and has remained steadfast in his commitment to service and keeping our communities safe. EMS Coordinator Owens has been recognized many times over the course of his career in Dearborn for his exemplary record, including life-saving and safe driving. He has also been awarded the esteemed Gino Polidori Award for Community Service and the Meritorious Service Award. As EMS Coordinator for the department, Mr. Owens has also obtained numerous certifications in various life support and rescue techniques.

Please join me in recognizing EMS Coordinator Glenn Owens for his twenty-five years of outstanding service to the people of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish him well in his retirement.

CELEBRATING DR. DIETER
MARTIN GRUEN'S 101ST BIRTHDAY**HON. SEAN CASTEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 101st birthday of Dr. Dieter Martin Gruen for his dedication to science, significant contributions to new energy technologies, and devotion to fighting climate change. For over eight decades, Dr. Gruen has worked to enhance American technology development as a former Manhattan Project Scientist and as an Argonne National Laboratory Distinguished Fellow.

Dr. Gruen's story signifies the American dream. Born in Waldorf, Germany in 1922 to a Jewish family, Dr. Gruen would eventually leave his home only fourteen years later when the Nazi party solidified its power. He was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas to live with relatives to finish up his high school education while his parents were sent to concentration camps. Luckily, his mother and father escaped and Dr. Gruen was reunited with them in Chicago a few years later.

The shock of nearly losing his family did not dissuade Dr. Gruen from dedicating himself to his studies and empirical inquiry. Five years after reuniting with his family, Dr. Gruen received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Northwestern University in 1944, his master's degree, and eventually a PhD in chemical physics from the University of Chicago. He studied at night and worked at a machine shop during the day. Shortly after graduating from Northwestern University, Dr. Gruen was recruited to work on the Manhattan Project, the U.S. government's top-secret effort to develop the atomic bomb. He worked on the

large-scale electromagnetic separation of uranium-235, and the nuclear material he helped to produce would later be fashioned into the bomb that fell on Hiroshima in 1945.

After the war, Dr. Gruen helped found the Oak Ridge Scientists and Engineers, a group dedicated to ensuring nuclear weapons were never used again in war. After returning home to Chicago, he began working at Argonne National Laboratory, one year after the establishment of the U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories and during a time when Argonne was a national center for the development of nuclear reactors. Dr. Gruen's work at Argonne focused on nuclear power and led to him serving as a delegate to the Second United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in 1958.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gruen has made significant contributions to new energy technologies, specifically to nuclear fission and fusion, solar energy, energy storage, and conservation. Dr. Gruen has been recognized by the international scientific community and has made key advancements such as the nuclear submarine reactor cooling design and purification of uranium used to end World War II in the Pacific theater.

For these accomplishments and his lifelong commitment to science, I had the great honor of supporting Dr. Gruen's nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom alongside my colleagues, Representatives BILL FOSTER, FRENCH HILL, Jerry McNeerney, and Cheri Bustos. Dr. Gruen's tireless and selfless efforts to solve future clean energy challenges presented by climate change is seldom exhibited by an individual. Humble and unpretentious, Dr. Gruen is the embodiment of a dedicated American and pure scientist.

I have had the great pleasure of learning from Dr. Gruen from his life stories and scientific endeavors in innovation and inquiry. Today, I wish Dr. Gruen a very happy 101st birthday and thank him for his decades of public service and remarkable advancements in and commitment to scientific research and discovery.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS JONES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chris Jones and his service to Virginia's First District, commonly called "America's First District" and the Nation. This is both a moment of reflection and a time to express our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done.

Chris began his career in public service as a District Representative for my predecessor, Rep. Jo Ann Davis, covering the regions of the Middle Peninsula and the Northern Neck. Chris' family has called the Northern Neck home for generations. Chris joined my office in 2007 and worked his way up to Deputy District Director. Chris has been the epitome of public service excellence, a dedication of over 20 years to the betterment of our community, our Commonwealth, and our nation. His journey has been one of tireless effort, navigation through the complexities of government—from the local, state, and federal—to serve citizens

with grace, resilience, and an unyielding sense of purpose.

During Chris' tenure, he has been a beacon of leadership, inspiring those around him to strive for excellence and to uphold the values that define our Congressional office and as a true Virginia gentleman. Chris' genuine concern for the well-being of America's First District citizens, has left an indelible mark on all of us.

Today is not only a farewell; it's a moment to express our deepest gratitude. Chris' tireless dedication has set a standard for excellence that will be hard to match. His infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed, but Chris' legacy will undoubtedly endure in the continued success of America's First District constituent services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Chris Jones. May God bless Chris, and I look forward to seeing his continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING RAY MUSCAT

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Muscat for his public service and commitment to our Dearborn Heights community. He is a lifelong resident of Dearborn Heights and served on City Council for years.

Since 1969, Councilman Muscat has been an active and engaged resident. He was drawn to public service after he retired from a 42-year career with Ford Motor Company. As a public servant, Mr. Muscat served as Council Chairman Pro Tem. He was a fixture at city council meetings for many years prior to taking office. He is appreciated for his passionate commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Dearborn Heights and making it a more beautiful place to live. As a council member, he was appreciated for his no-nonsense approach and for never shying away from asking difficult questions. During his tenure, he made himself approachable and available to community members. No concern has ever been too small for him to address.

Please join me in showing appreciation for Ray Muscat for his service to the people of Dearborn Heights, as we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN
W. JONES**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to recognize the remarkable life of Carolyn W. Jones.

As a woman of faith, Carolyn was a leader of St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church in Dania Beach where she served as a Trustee, Church Clerk, and as a member of the Hospitality Ministry.

Carolyn, along with other prominent church members, was instrumental in ensuring St.