

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AOWYN SIELER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aowyn Sieler for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aowyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Aowyn, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aowyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aowyn Sieler on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
REBECCA "BECKY" BOYD

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Rebecca "Becky" Boyd. Becky has dedicated her life to the citizens of Rankin County through her 32 years of service. Having served three consecutive terms as Rankin County's Circuit Clerk, she will officially retire on December 29, 2023.

Born in Louisiana, Becky learned the value of hard work at an early age as sales representative at Morgan & Lindsey. She graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a degree in Business Education. While in college she met Bill Boyd, and they married in 1973.

Together Bill and Becky had three sons: BJ, Randy, and Buddy. Raising her family was important to Becky, and she spent many years navigating motherhood and her career. Becky spent her early motherhood years teaching GED classes to adults who desired to continue their education after dropping out of high school. Her passion was to see students pursue their dreams, regardless of their backgrounds.

In 1987, Becky and Bill moved to Rankin County, Mississippi. There, Becky was introduced to the Circuit Clerk, Phillip Warren, who was looking for an assistant to help with the Census. Becky started her job "literally on the ground floor" by reading Census maps with a magnifying glass.

Due to her dedication and hard work, Becky was hired full-time after the Census to work in the Circuit Clerk's office. She assisted in all aspects of the office and learned the ins-and-outs of how the office operated. She said the

best part about her job assisting the Circuit Clerk was knowing she helped people each day.

Becky was elected to the position herself and made her mark on the County by working to modernize the office's technology and equipment. Her commitment to the people of Rankin County has been shown throughout her years of dedicated service. I am proud to honor her faithful work today and remind Rankin County of Becky's famous advice to find someone to help every day.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STEPANOS ARMENIAN CHURCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the consecration of St. Stepanos Armenian Church in Long Branch, New Jersey and the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Armenian parish in the Elberon section of Long Branch. I would also like to join with the church community in welcoming His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, to New Jersey for this auspicious occasion.

The Armenian parish began in Elberon in 1956, with 25 members worshipping during summer services as St. Mary Armenian Church. Seeing the growing Armenian population in the area and their aging worship building, Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian proposed construction of a new church. The new sanctuary, parish hall, and school was constructed on the site of the former St. Mary Church and consecrated in 1987. Its architecture mirrors that of ancient Armenian churches, paying homage to its history. The 12-sided pyramid-shaped dome represents the twelve apostles and its patron saint is depicted in a stained-glass mural at the entrance of the nave.

Today, the church is led by Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian, who has served as Pastor at St. Stepanos since 2013. Rev. Fr. Karadjian is supported by the Parish Council who together oversee a community of approximately 500 members. The clergy, staff, and members of St. Stepanos Armenian Church endeavor to carry on its mission and ensure a viable future.

St. Stepanos provides a welcoming place for the Armenian community to learn, pray, and connect with others. Committed to supporting and enriching the lives of its members St. Stepanos offers several organizations, as well as social and cultural activities, including the Women's Guild, Sunday School, holiday celebrations, and bake sales.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my privilege to pay tribute to St. Stepanos Armenian Church. St. Stepanos continues to serve as a

place of worship and inspiration and its commitment to faith and service to the Armenian community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 673.

BRANDYN POTTER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brandyn Potter for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Brandyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Brandyn, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Brandyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Brandyn Potter on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT.
COL. CRAIG HAYES MANDEVILLE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of a true American hero, Lieutenant Colonel Craig H. Mandeville, U.S. Army (Retired), who passed away at the age of 83. Lt. Col. Mandeville was not only a decorated Vietnam War veteran, but also a dedicated advocate for the valor and sacrifice of those who served alongside him.

Lt. Col. Mandeville distinguished himself as a two-tour Vietnam veteran, earning two Silver Stars and four Purple Hearts for his extraordinary courage and commitment to duty. His service during the An Loc battle, where he

• 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.

served as an advisor alongside Colonel Ho Ngoc Can and Brigadier General Tran Van Nhut, played a pivotal role in securing victory. Even in the face of adversity, Lt. Col. Mandeville exemplified resilience and unwavering dedication.

During the An Loc battle, when American forces attempted to extract Lt. Col. Mandeville, he refused evacuation and chose to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with his Vietnamese comrades, continuing to fight with the people he had proudly served alongside. His selflessness and determination in the midst of danger embodies the highest ideals of military service and camaraderie.

Lt. Col. Mandeville's contributions extended beyond the battlefield. In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, he played a crucial role in the creation of the Vietnam War Memorial in Freedom Park, located in the City of Westminster. His commitment to preserving the memory of those who served and sacrificed, both American and Vietnamese, reflects his deep sense of duty and compassion.

As we mourn the passing of Lt. Col. Craig H. Mandeville, we also celebrate his life and the enduring impact he has had on our nation. A great man has left us, but his legacy will live on forever within the hearts and minds of those who knew him and in the collective memory of a grateful nation.

May Lt. Col. Mandeville rest in peace, and may his family find solace in the knowledge that his contributions to our country will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING PHIL FARCO'S 45 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Farco for his 45 years of leadership in the construction industry. Mr. Farco's company, Mason-Dallas, provides a variety of services by selling market-leading brands of acoustic and vibration isolation components and through custom fabricating solutions for unique installations.

Mason-Dallas was founded on October 23, 1978, initially a small family business that was founded as a single-source manufacturer's representative dedicated exclusively to providing sound and vibration isolation that prevented large HVAC units and related equipment from disrupting the offices and tenants on the floors below. Phil Farco took his business beyond just a manufacturer's representative, entering the custom manufacturing sector by fabricating unique solutions for specific acoustic and vibration projects. Mr. Farco's vision and hard work led Mason-Dallas to grow beyond its original scope, earning the company a reputation as an industry leader for innovative manufactured solutions.

Thanks to Mr. Farco's leadership, Mason-Dallas is a trailblazer in the industry, providing state-of-the-art solutions for a wide variety of venues. Among its portfolio of premier facilities are iconic landmarks such as the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, renowned as the home of the Dallas Cowboys, and the corporate offices of American Airlines. The Charles Schwab

DFW Corporate Campus in Westlake, DFW International Airport Terminals D and E, and the distinguished George H.W. Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University also bear the imprint of Mason-Dallas's cutting-edge expertise. Furthermore, the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Field, the Toyota North American Headquarters in Plano, the TCU School of Music, the Texas A&M College of Dentistry, and the Winspear Opera House in Dallas all stand as a testament to the company's commitment to facilitating optimal functionality across diverse and prestigious venues.

It is an honor to join the many congratulating Phil Farco on his 45 years of leadership and innovation at the helm of Mason-Dallas.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SALADO, TX CITY MANAGER DON FERGUSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate Salado, TX City Manager Don Ferguson as he embarks on his richly deserved retirement after decades of devoted public service. He leaves behind a noble legacy of accomplishment and will remain an example of excellence for all who follow.

City Managers are the unsung heroes of local government. Responsible for planning, directing, managing, and reviewing all activities and operations of towns large and small, they are committed to ensuring financial integrity as well as providing policy advice and administrative support to the Mayor and City Council. With his "can do" spirit, Don embraced these challenges and served Salado with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

During his tenure as the Salado Village Administrator, Don oversaw the creation of a centralized wastewater system, the Main Street beautification project that included sidewalks, decorative streetlights, landscape and drainage, and additional street and drainage improvements across the Village. He worked tirelessly to guide the village through rapid growth and other challenges such as COVID, wildfires, tornadoes, ice storms, hailstorms, and drought. Under his leadership, Salado saw steadily increasing sales tax revenues and property values, low crime rates, and managed growth. His work has been essential to making Salado a great place to work and call home.

While Don isn't tired of the privilege of public service, he knows that everything has its season. But stepping away from work won't give him much idle time as looks forward to watching Salado's growth and spending time with his beloved wife Stephanie and their family.

Retirement marks not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. As Don Ferguson embarks on this new chapter in life, I thank him for his exceptional work, remain grateful for our friendship, and wish him the very best.

ISABEL RICE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Isabel Rice for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Isabel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Isabel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Isabel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Isabel Rice on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING HOWARD W. SMITH III

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I seek to recognize Mr. Howard W. Smith III, who is retiring after a remarkable 43 years of dedicated service at Walker & Dunlop Inc.

Howard's journey began in Alexandria, Virginia, where he graduated as a proud alumnus of Episcopal High School in '76 and later from Washington and Lee University in '80.

Howard started his career at Walker & Dunlop in 1980 and now serves as the company's President. Over his 43 years, Howard has been a successful loan originator and rose through the leadership ranks at W&D as COO and a member of the Board of Directors. As President, Howard oversees the company's entire nationwide loan origination and investment sales operations. Howard has mentored dozens of colleagues at W&D and has been integral to the growth and success of the company throughout his distinguished career. I know his colleagues and fellow board members will deeply miss his sage advice, his humor and his vast knowledge of the industry.

In addition to his accomplished W&D career, Howard is deeply engaged with his community and alma maters. He actively contributes to the academic landscape as a member of the advisory board to the Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics at Washington and Lee University. He also served as a Former Trustee and Finance Committee Chair of Episcopal High School and as the Former Senior Warden of Christ Church Georgetown.

Howard is the proud husband of Page Lane Smith; together they have built a family in the heart of Washington D.C. with their five children Martha Macon Ashburner Smith, Marion Hungerford Smith, Howard "Worth" Smith IV, Anne de Graffenried Smith, and Elizabeth "Syndey" Smith.

I am honored to congratulate Howard as he retires from an extensive and accomplished career, and I wish him the best of luck in this new chapter of his life.