

CELEBRATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROCKWALL COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club (RCRW) and commend their advocacy for conservative values.

In 1976, Jim and Gerry Glasgow founded the RCRW shortly after moving to Rockwall, Texas. At the time, there were only a handful of Republicans in Rockwall who regularly met to discuss the future of politics. Furthermore, the community lacked a group dedicated for Republican women interested in political activism. After much deliberation and consultation, Billie Tuttle was soon selected to serve as the first President of the RCRW.

On May 10, 1976, the RCRW held its first general meeting in Lakeside Village. In its first meeting, there were about twenty participants, but this number quickly skyrocketed when the RCRW hosted its first campaign rally in the summer of 1980. Local newspapers estimated that over 5,000 people attended the rally and barbecue, including the Governor of Texas, U.S. Senators, and many more! From knocking on Rockwall residents' doors to phone banking at the campaign headquarters, the RCRW has consistently delivered in its commitment to mobilizing Republican voters and provide essential community outreach. RCRW members have annually participated in numerous community service projects to assist students and families in need, especially during the holiday season.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of this historic occasion. Furthermore, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of the RCRW in its mission to educate, empower, and support the women of Rockwall County. I wish them continued success for many more years to come.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, all fair-minded Americans must agree the rise in antisemitism is despicable and dangerous. Such hatred is against everything the United States stands for. I will never fail to use my office to stand against antisemitism.

While I will vote for this resolution, I condemn House Republicans for politicizing our fight against antisemitism. Specifically, this resolution directly references an incident in Clifton, New Jersey on October 8, 2023. After checking directly with Clifton leaders and police, I found out this incident did not occur as described in the resolution. And while an in-

vestigation was conducted, no formal complaint was ever filed.

We have seen a startling rise in antisemitism since the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023. There is no shortage of genuine examples to draw from, but Republicans included this unvetted falsehood anyway.

The resolution also conveniently ignores how a resurgence in right-wing extremism has long been a major source of increased antisemitic violence. By turning the fight against antisemitism into one more partisan vehicle, House Republicans are threatening to render frivolous true acts of anti-Jewish hate.

### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COACH LISA TAYLOR

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Traverse City Central Coach Lisa Taylor for her incredible career and upcoming retirement. Coach Taylor is leaving behind an illustrious legacy from her 30 years as a coach at Traverse City Central High School for their track and cross-country programs.

Throughout her tenure as Head Coach, Lisa Taylor amassed an impressive list of accolades. Coach Taylor led the Trojans to 16 Regional Titles, 20 Conference Championships, and qualified for 28 State Championship meets. She also led the students to one Michigan State Championship and five runner-up finishes.

As a testament to her character, Coach Taylor has been nominated for the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coach Association's Coach of the Year an historic 13 times, winning the award in 2008. She was also a finalist in the National High School Coaches Association's Coach of the Year awards.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Coach Lisa Taylor as she embarks on her new journey in retirement. I'd like to congratulate her on decades of success and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

### HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I will vote "present" for H. Res. 894, not for a lack of commitment to condemn antisemitism and the Hamas atrocities as well as the outrageous examples of violent antisemitism referenced in the Resolution, but because of some of the language tucked into this measure and some that is omitted.

While Anti-Zionism can be a cover for antisemitism, not all actions that are anti-Zionist are antisemitic. This resolution states "clearly and firmly" that "anti-Zionism is antisemitism"—such a blanket statement is

wrong. It fails to reflect the complexities of the Jewish people or the definition of Zionism and anti-Zionism itself. Undeniably, some in the Jewish community do not support the Zionist movement.

Although I personally believe in Israel as an independent Jewish state, I have often criticized the Netanyahu government. Surely it would only devalue the meaning of antisemitism to misapply it to the many—Jewish and non-Jewish—who strongly disagree with that government.

Much is omitted from this Resolution. Mr. Netanyahu's ultra-right wing government and the Israeli settlers, who have terrorized Palestinians in the West Bank, share a common view with some Palestinians—all want only one country; they differ only on who gets to expel the other. I believe and have long advocated for a future with two states, living in peace and security—one is Israeli and another Palestinian.

Additionally, after the murder of a six-year-old child because he was a Muslim and the shooting of three Palestinians, apparently because they were Palestinian, and numerous examples of hate directed against Muslims, this Resolution fails to acknowledge that Islamophobia is just as wrong as antisemitism or Asian hate or other expressions of racism. Indeed, all these forms of bigotry have historically arisen from ultra-right wing white nationalists like those who marched in Charlottesville shouting "Jews will not replace us." This resolution should have condemned all forms of hate speech. None of us are truly safe unless all of us are safe.

Finally, the timing of this Resolution is troubling. It occurs on a day when the United Nations has described conditions in Gaza as "apocalyptic." Along with demanding accountability from Hamas for its terrorism, we should be focused on how to stop the killing of innocents and secure the release of all remaining hostages.

Because I do not want my views on Hamas, antisemitism or other hate to be misconstrued and because no amendments to correct this defective resolution are permitted, I will vote "present."

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT LADD

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Robert Ladd of Van Alstyne, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Ladd honorably served in the United States Army during the Gulf War and Afghanistan War.

As a young man, Sergeant Ladd knew that he wanted to be a soldier and defend his country. Even though he battled asthma, he excelled and was able to join the Army in 1987. In the Army, he became a Unit Supply Specialist, where he successfully managed logistics for Army equipment deliveries. Sergeant Ladd served for over 29 years, with deployments to Kuwait, Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Southeast Asia.

In Afghanistan, he directed military communications with the Afghanistan Army and provided security for important Afghan military leaders in their fight against the Taliban. Additionally, Sergeant Ladd also partook in dangerous supply runs so that our troops were able to fulfill their duties. On numerous occasions, he volunteered for combat missions so that other soldiers would not be put in harm's way. For his outstanding service and actions, Sergeant Ladd was awarded the Bronze Star three times, along with several other awards.

After retiring from the Army in 2016, Sergeant Ladd continued to positively impact his community in many ways. Sergeant Ladd is passionate about animals, and he would take time to assist animals on the street if he saw they were at risk. Without question, he truly embodies the values of an upstanding American soldier. Sergeant Ladd's exceptional display of heroism and selfless service in the line of duty has saved the lives of fellow soldiers and protected our great Nation.

I am honored to represent Sergeant Ladd in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING DONALD "TOBY"  
PETERSON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Donald "Toby" Peterson.

Born in 1933, Toby spent his childhood growing up in rural Oconto County in the Oconto Falls area, known as "Swedetown." Toby attended Oconto Falls High School and while in school, met Shirley Jean Elbe who he affectionally called his, "Lovely Lady". Following their marriage in 1956, Toby and Shirley started a family that would grow to six children: Lynette, Mike, Kathryn, Mari Jo, Jan, and Beth, who were the center of their world.

Throughout his life, Toby's strong work ethic resulted in his professional success as he and his father owned and operated two gas stations in Oconto Falls that serviced and sold cars and trucks. In 1973, Toby and Shirley purchased the local Ford dealership, which was operated by the family for the next 48 years. Toby and his family built a lasting business that provided many individuals throughout Northeast Wisconsin with stable jobs. Throughout the years, the dealership provided exceptional service and support for the entire Oconto Falls community. I commend Toby and Shirley for their unwavering commitment and dedication to their business and community throughout the years.

As his business grew and nourished, so did his efforts to give back to his community. Toby cherished and devoted much of his time and efforts to his hometown. Toby was a member of the River Island Golf Course, served on the Oconto Falls Fire Department, and on the Community Bank Board. Toby undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the entire Oconto Falls community and built a legacy that will be remembered for years to come. I thank Toby for his years of dedication to our community

and offer my sincere condolences to his family during this time.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Donald "Toby" Peterson for his extraordinary commitment and dedication to the Oconto County community and Northeast Wisconsin. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and to all of the lives he touched.

CELEBRATING THE KANSAS CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) for one hundred and fifty years of service and commitment to the community. For over a century, the Kansas City Public Library has served as a gateway for people to gain knowledge and wisdom. The library offers resources and services that cultivate a love and appreciation for reading and learning. On this momentous occasion, let us reflect on the irreplaceable assets the Kansas City Public Library, and all libraries, have given us.

In 1873, the Public School Library of Kansas City was established as an invaluable resource for fostering a love of reading, allowing all who visit the library to immerse themselves in new worlds. In times of extreme economic hardship, KCPL has stood as a beacon of hope and prosperity. The library offered a sense of culture and sophistication, thereby helping establish the foundation upon which Kansas City was built. This institution started with just a few books and has flourished into what we now know as the Kansas City Public Library, with ten branches, thousands of books, and an immeasurable amount of online assistance.

By offering a variety of children's books, novels, textbooks, and databases, libraries represent different things to different people. Synonymous with education, a library can fuel a student's love for learning, allowing them to better understand themselves, friends, family, and the world. Lending books allows prolonged access to knowledge that may not be available anywhere else. Catalogs and records help us learn from the past and recognize how it shaped our present and future. Libraries inspire creativity and imagination, creating an open space for people to share stories and engage with each other. A place unlike any other where all ages can come together, the Kansas City Public Library is not only a quiet place for students to study but also a place to make a friend, pick up a new hobby, access the internet, and attend educational events.

The Kansas City Public Library does more than just provide access to knowledge. The library system is keenly aware of the needs and hardships of many who enter their doors. Specialists throughout the branches help individuals with common issues that everyday people face, from taxes and budgeting to health and fitness. A safe haven is provided for those who enter any of the Kansas City branches. In 2016, the Outreach Team, alongside the AmeriCorps VISTAs, began "Coffee & Conversations." These meetings invite people experiencing hardships and housing insecurity

to have open discussions about their lives; ensuring they have food, emergency supplies, and the support needed to stay on their feet. Additionally, there is also an initiative to help those who just came to the United States. Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment connects the immigrant community with opportunities, services, and resources to help immigrants gain citizenship and integrate into their new home.

Numerous awards and acknowledgements have been given to the Kansas City Public Library to recognize the extraordinary work being accomplished. Multiple five-star ratings have been given by the Library Journal because of program attendance, library visits, internet computer usage, and circulation. The library system received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2008 in recognition of children's programs and free events. There is no denying the outstanding performance of this library. The awards, ratings, and reviews for all the services this library system offers, proves KCPL is a premier library in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the Kansas City Public Library on one hundred and any years of resilience and engagement within Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. I have no doubt they will continue to foster a love of reading and prove to be an invaluable resource for all visitors. It is fitting to celebrate this milestone and reflect on the significance of libraries in our community. Here's to another hundred and fifty years of the Kansas City Public Library being a shining light for knowledge, inspiration, and opportunity.

CELEBRATING MID-KANSAS COOP-  
ERATIVE AS THE AGRICUL-  
TURAL RETAILERS ASSOCIATION  
RETAILER OF THE YEAR

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2023*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mid-Kansas Cooperative being honored as the Agricultural Retailers Association Retailer of the Year. I am incredibly proud that MKC's commitment to their customers and dedication to their community is being recognized.

MKC is a full-service farm cooperative offering a complete line of products, programs, and services for farm and urban customers throughout Kansas. The cooperative has more than 11,000 members and 8,000 customers, and their connection to my district and constituents is deep and stretches back decades. MKC has several large-scale facilities serving the farmers and customers of the 4th district, including their recently opened executive leadership office in Wichita. MKC's continued investment in the district provides good jobs and new markets for the world-class agricultural products grown in Kansas.

The Agricultural Retailers Association's Retailer of the Year award is given to the agricultural retailer who goes above and beyond in environmental stewardship, community leadership, customer engagement and employee relations. MKC works tirelessly to ensure that it gives the highest level of service in all of