

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NORA RIKEL

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nora Rikel of Paducah, Kentucky, for her retirement from Greater Paducah Economic Development after 34 years of service.

Nora Rikel first began working with Greater Paducah Economic Development in 1989, assisting in the recruitment of Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation project (AVLIS). Serving as the CFO, Nora provided endless institutional knowledge of local government and steadfast commitment to her community that made her invaluable.

As a veteran of Paducah-McCracken economic development, Nora's leadership and contributions will be missed deeply. I commend her for an outstanding career. I join with the community of Paducah in celebrating the service and dedication of Nora Rikel. I want to thank Nora for being an extraordinary leader to her community and the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.  
KEITH LILLIS

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Lillis who has served six terms as the District One Supervisor on the Board of Supervisors for Neshoba County. Keith Lillis previously served as president of the Board and will retire as vice president of the Board.

Mississippi born and raised, Mr. Lillis graduated from Neshoba County High School and attended East Central Junior College where he played football for the East Central Warriors. Mr. Lillis met and married Union, Mississippi native Marcha Howle, and together they have two sons and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Lillis has committed his time and expertise to the supervisor community in Mississippi, serving on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors since 2012. He also attended and graduated as a member of the inaugural class of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Institute for Excellence in County Government. Since 2020, Mr. Lillis has also served on the Board of Directors of the East Central Planning and Development District.

Mr. Lillis's career of service is appreciated throughout Neshoba County, and I am thankful to honor his service here today. I wish Mr. Lillis well in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY  
OF WWII VETERAN  
CHARLES PLATZER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Williamsville, New York resident and World War II Navy Veteran Charles Platzer.

Mr. Platzer was born on December 24, 1923 in Depew, New York and worked at the Chevrolet plant on Delavan Avenue. At the young age of 18 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was sent to bootcamp in Sampson, New York. He then received training at the quartermaster school in Newport, Rhode Island where he learned to navigate the ocean. Afterwards, he began his amphibious training in Virginia where they learned the important skill of attacking the land from the sea which would obviously prove to be important during World War II.

When it was time to put his skills to the test he sailed through the Panama Canal, around through the West Coast and eventually ended up in the Marshall Islands. They landed during a battle.

Eventually he headed back to the United States and went through the Panama Canal again on his way to the Philippines where he waited to invade Japan. He was part of the armada that was about to invade Japan but thankfully the war ended, and he was one of the lucky ones who headed safely home on January 12, 1946.

After the war he returned to school to finish what he started and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University at Buffalo and his master's degree in education from Canisius College. The skills he learned in the military helped him focus on pursuing an education while raising his family and working. When he was 46 years of age, he began teaching at Erie Community College as an assistant professor and eventually became a full-time professor. He believes that living honestly is the key to living a long life. Today, I am asking all present to join me in celebrating the wonderful life of Charles Platzer.

HONORING JACK MIDDLETON ON  
HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 95th birthday of Jack Middleton, an attorney and senior member of McLane Middleton's Litigation Department. A dedicated member of the New Hampshire legal community, Jack's storied career and his dedication

to his colleagues has inspired countless individuals.

Born and raised outside of Philadelphia, Jack attended Lafayette College before earning his law degree at Boston University. Camping in the New Hampshire mountains as a child and working for the Appalachian Mountain Club as a young adult solidified his love for the Granite State. In 1956, Jack joined McLane Middleton, then just a firm of ten lawyers that today boasts approximately one hundred. Jack's keen interest in civil litigation allowed him to form long-lasting bonds with lawyers from around New England that carried him throughout his career.

Throughout his more than sixty years in the legal profession, Jack has remained committed to public service and the pursuit of justice. A certified trial specialist for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Jack served on the National Center for State's Courts Lawyer's Committee and as a New Hampshire District Court Judge. Jack has consistently displayed a level of professionalism and altruism throughout his career and has served as an inspiration to the Granite State legal community.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I wish Jack a very happy 95th birthday and commend him for his lifetime of hard work and dedication to our community. I hope he has a wonderful birthday and year.

HONORING MR. LAFON CRAVENS

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lafon Cravens of the 1st District of Kentucky for his dedicated service to our country and his community of Liberty.

Mr. Cravens courageously served in the United States Navy From 1951 through 1955, while being deployed to Korea, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. While on a destroyer escort, Mr. Cravens was aboard the USS *Ernest G. Small*, which struck a mine and sank. Mr. Cravens was in the water for several hours before he was able to be rescued. Upon his rescue, he was able to return to shore and continued to serve his country for the coming years.

I join with everyone in Casey County and throughout the Commonwealth in thanking Mr. Cravens for his valorous service and sacrifices. I am honored to represent Mr. Cravens and appreciate his service to the United States Navy.

• 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.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO INSTALL THE D.C. SEAL IN THE MAIN READING ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that would require the Library of Congress (LOC) to install the District of Columbia seal in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the LOC. The LOC provides not only D.C. residents but visitors and researchers from across the nation access to incomparable resources. The bill would require the LOC to depict D.C.'s seal on the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, where the seals of all the states and territories that existed when the Thomas Jefferson Building was constructed are depicted. The seals of Hawaii and Alaska are not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time argues for the inclusion of D.C., which, after all, was the nation's capital at the time. This omission was brought to my attention by a D.C. resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the LOC.

D.C. residents have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the LOC, was burned, prompting construction of the Thomas Jefferson Building. It is, therefore, without question that D.C. and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained-glass windows that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized

There is existing evidence that the D.C. seal should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Thomas Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, has a painted depiction of the D.C. seal included with state seals on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces our request to be represented among the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public.

Congress already includes D.C., or has corrected the omission of it, when honoring the states. For example, each state is entitled to two statues in the Capitol, and D.C. has two statues in the Capitol. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the D.C. flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation gave D.C. a coin after D.C. was omitted from legislation creating coins for the states. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal with the seals of the states in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY MOSSER

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, Major General (MG) Gregory Mosser on his retirement from the United States Army Reserve.

For exceptionally meritorious service while serving in positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in a 36-year career as the Deputy Chief of Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, Washington, DC. MG Mosser's leadership significantly and positively impacted the lives of countless service members, and his career of service and achievements will have a lasting impact on the Army's future ability to fight and win the nation's wars. Upon retirement, MG Mosser is recognized for distinguished performance of duty that represents exemplary achievement in the finest traditions of the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. GEORGE THOMAS HAYES

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 26 years of service of George Thomas Hayes to Newton County, Mississippi.

George was born in 1948 near Trenton, Tennessee, and graduated in 1966 from Peabody High School. After graduation he attended the University of Tennessee and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science. His first job out of college was with Massey Ferguson Tractor Corporation where he worked as a salesman until 1982. George then decided to embark on his own and bought a tractor dealership in Union, Mississippi. Upon moving to Mississippi, George met and married Lynn Hayes in November of 1982. Together they had two children and five grandchildren.

George fell in love with the Newton County community and dedicated much of his life to service within the County. In 1987, George was elected as the Justice Court Judge where he served for five years. In 1992, he was elected as the Newton County Tax Collector and served there for four years. George then ran for Newton County Chancery Clerk and was elected in 1996. He served from 1997 until December of 2023.

I am thankful for the many years of service George has dedicated to Newton County, Mississippi, and wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING THADDEUS L. BETTNER

**HON. DOUG LaMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Thaddeus L.

Bettner, the General Manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID). Thad has served as the GCID's General Manager since 2006.

Thad is a registered Civil Engineer with the State of California and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Thad has an unparalleled wealth of experience from a 33-year tenure within irrigation and water agencies. During his career, Thad has served with many different water agencies in planning, design, operation and management of water delivery systems on local, state and the federal level.

Thad has also worked on almost every water issue in the state, serving with water agencies in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Imperial Valley.

During those many years, Thad has also worked alongside the Northern California Water Association, served on the Board of the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, and as a Board Member of the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority. Thad has also published several papers on agricultural water use efficiency and irrigation systems efficiencies.

Thad has been a critical advocate and resource for the development of Sites Reservoir, even serving as the Chair of the Sites Reservoir Committee for a time. The Sites Reservoir project would not be where it is today without his efforts and leadership.

Thad has always been someone my office and I could turn to for answers on the many ongoing water issues we face in this state. I thank him for his work in serving our rural North State community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING GLADES COUNTY COMMISSIONER DONNA LOU STORTER LONG

**HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Glades County Commissioner Donna Lou Storter Long, who sadly passed away in December after a hard-fought battle with cancer. A Hendry and Glades County native, Long pursued her calling to serve her community through impactful public service.

After a career in office management and financial accounting, Long became a devoted civic servant for nearly two decades. She was appointed to the Glades County Commission in 2004 by former Governor Jeb Bush. Her passionate leadership reverberated throughout her community as she consistently advocated for the betterment of Glades County. She served as a mentor to many who knew her.

Long is survived by her husband, two sons and stepdaughter, along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews who all enjoyed spending quality time together playing cards and getting together for Sunday dinners.

May Donna rest in peace. She will be remembered as one of the most dedicated community leaders in the state of Florida and will be deeply missed.