

USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 8-4

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, in January, I had the honor of speaking to a group from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 8-4 of Absecon Island, South Jersey. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, all volunteer component of the Coast Guard. Comprised of about 23,000 people, these volunteers work with the U.S. Coast Guard to help with non-combatant and non-law enforcement missions. Specifically, Flotilla 8-4 works to promote recreational boating safety in the South Jersey area, as well as assists the Coast Guard through auxiliary food service assistance, pollution response, search and rescue, communications, incident command, emergency management, and air and surface operations. The service Flotilla 8-4 makes the Coast Guard personnel more available for their duties, while at the same time saving taxpayer dollars. It was my pleasure to speak with this group and I want to sincerely thank them for their volunteer work and all that they have contributed to both the U.S. Coast Guard and the South Jersey community. God bless Flotilla 8-4, and God bless our United States of America.

PROTECTING SPEECH FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 140) to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit Federal employees from advocating for censorship of viewpoints in their official capacity, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 140, the Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act.

Americans know that if they see something, they should say something. Yet Republicans are offering H.R. 140 which will prevent federal law enforcement and intelligence officers from telling social media platforms when they see something that could cause harm. For example, when Russia mounted a state-sponsored campaign to influence the 2016 presidential election, FBI agents were integral in detecting these actions. In order for our democracy to flourish, we must have the ability to stop the spread of misinformation that could cause harm.

What this bill does is prohibit law enforcement and other federal employees from providing information on personal safety and consumer safety. If passed, H.R. 140 will allow the spread of harmful foreign propaganda, promote hateful and violent content online, and undermine our democracy. This bill is proof that House Republicans would rather protect debunked, right-wing conspiracy theories than the safety of our communities and our democracy.

When Republicans held a markup of H.R. 140 last week, they rejected commonsense

amendments, including proposals that would have created a national security exception, an amendment to help law enforcement prevent violence incited by neo-Nazi groups, and efforts to ensure that federal employees could still share essential public health and consumer safety information.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 140 is yet more proof that Republicans would prefer to fan the flames of far-right conspiracy theories rather than bolster safeguards to American democracy.

It should be rejected.

RECOGNIZING THE JACKSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING BACK-TO-BACK 4A STATE TITLES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville High School boys' basketball team for winning back-to-back AHSAA Class 4A state titles.

On March 3, 2023, the Jacksonville Golden Eagles played fast, leaving no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, beating Westminster Christian 51 to 37 to secure their title win. The game was played at BJCC's Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Jacksonville Golden Eagles finished their championship season 29-6. This was head coach Tres Buzan's first year and the Golden Eagles' second basketball state title in school history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Buzan, the Jacksonville High School basketball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Golden Eagles.

RECOGNIZING MCFARLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the McFarland Unified School District (MUSD) for being one of nine districts selected as an Exemplary Dual Enrollment Awardee.

Formed in 1889, McFarland Unified School District was one of the first school districts established in the Central Valley. Since its founding, MUSD has provided students with a safe academic environment where they are equipped with the skills and tools necessary to succeed.

This year, the California Department of Education's Exemplary Dual Enrollment program award was started to recognize school districts who provide successful dual credit opportunities to students, allowing them to receive college credits while still in high school. McFarland Unified School District was selected as an awardee based on the demonstrated excellence of their dual enrollment program, which is provided through a partnership with Bakersfield College. MUSD was one of nine districts to receive the award, as their dual enrollment programs are currently helping hundreds of

students in the Central Valley get a head start on their college education and careers.

MUSD's dual enrollment program gives students the opportunity to advance their education in a variety of different fields such as business, education, agriculture, photography, public health, industrial technology, and Spanish. The many teachers, counselors, and faculty across MUSD who have helped to advance and expand the program play a vital role in helping to make students' dreams come true and are creating the next generation of industry leaders across the Central Valley.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring McFarland Unified School District as they received the California Department of Education's inaugural Exemplary Dual Enrollment award.

JOSEPH VICARI**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the achievements of the longest serving Freeholder in the State of New Jersey, Joseph Vicari. Joseph was first elected to public office in 1979 as part of the Dover Township Committee. He held office in Dover Township until 1994, during which he served five years as a mayor. Because of his experience as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, Joseph made improving education in South Jersey a focus during his tenure. He also worked to protect our beaches, successfully fought for a new veteran's clinic, expanded the library system, promoted small businesses, and eased the burden on county taxpayers by seeking the highest possible number of grants. Additionally, Joseph successfully led the county through disasters like Super Storm Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, after 43 years of dedicated public service, he has decided not to seek re-election. In his retirement, Joseph plans to spend time with his wife of 51 years, Joyce, his children, and his 2 grandchildren. Throughout Joseph's extensive tenure, he has improved Ocean County for the best and I am very proud of him for all his accomplishments. God Bless Joseph, and God Bless our United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE 125 YEARS OF SEASIDE PARK

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, more than a century ago, a group of enterprising self-starters, inspired by the beauty around them, began plans to build a park on the Barnegat Barrier Island in Ocean County.

Although the harsh barrier beach sand precluded their dream of building a park, their desire to create a strong, spirited community centered around the island's natural charm succeeded with the founding of the Borough of Seaside Park exactly 125 years ago today on March 9, 1898.

Throughout this coming year, the residents of Seaside Park are celebrating their 125th anniversary—a remarkable occasion for a thriving community that has accomplished so much over the years and has never lost its beauty or charm while proving to be incredibly resilient in the face of some unfathomable challenges.

Today, the borough is guided by the outstanding leadership of Mayor John Peterson, Jr.—who has served for a total of more than 15 years—and the diligent members of the borough council: President Matthew DeMichele, Frank “Fritz” McHugh, Gina Condos, Ray Amabile, Marty Wilk, Jr., and William Kraft. The Seaside Park community has so much to be proud of as they continue to build on their profound legacy as a community of neighbors who care for each other, warmly welcome tourists and visitors, and cherish the natural beauty of their area.

A life-long resident of Seaside Park and true steward of its breathtaking beaches, Mayor Peterson has embodied the spirit of Seaside and has been outspoken about the dangerous threat posed by the enormous and rushed offshore wind projects to the Jersey Shore, our local environment, the livelihood of local fishermen and the tourism that is the lifeblood of the region. His deep care for the people and our community-wide love for the environment will help ensure Seaside Park continues to prosper well into the future.

Seeing its enormous success today, it's important to note that Seaside Park had a very modest beginning—established first with only a small year-round population.

Reportedly, residents hauled sand to build the first roads in the early days of the borough, and many families raised cattle, horses and chickens.

Just a year after its founding, Seaside Park Union Church—then known as “Chapel by the Sea” was built, soon followed by St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.

Several markets, five movie theaters, a furniture showroom, an automobile dealership and a blacksmith were the foundation of the town's commercial activity, and a small room over Franklin Harris' General Store on Third and Central Avenues was used as the first classroom for students before a one-story schoolhouse was built in 1902.

Seaside Park's Life Saving Service—established in 1872—played a significant role in the development of the barrier island with stations located nearly every three miles from Barnegat Inlet northward. These buildings later became Coast Guard stations upon the creation of the service in 1915, and most of them still exist and are used today for other purposes.

In 1913, Seaside Park's volunteer fire department was founded, and its company built their first vehicle—a horse drawn hose truck. The large iron gong that alerted volunteers of an emergency sits outside the firehouse at the Municipal Complex to this very day.

Undoubtedly, the extraordinary spirit that moved the founders of Seaside Park to build such a close-knit community on this beautiful island continues to sustain its residents, who have overcome unimaginable trials with incredible fortitude in recent years.

Just a decade ago, Superstorm Sandy devastated Seaside Park, forcing families to abandon their homes that bore the brunt of the historic storm's wrath. Less than a year later, a

raging fire caused by a wire damaged from the storm's intense flooding engulfed several blocks of boardwalk that had been finally rebuilt.

Not too long after, Seaside Park came under attack in 2016 when a terrorist inspired by ISIS and Al Qaeda detonated a bomb along the route of the Seaside Semper Five Marine Corps Charity 5k race. Fortunately, no one was injured—but the shocking explosion on the streets of this small town shook the community, which had suffered three losses in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Through all these tribulations and more, the residents of Seaside Park have bounced back with great strength and unbelievable resilience. Despite the years, the storms and even the terrorist threat, their incredible tenacity and enduring perseverance—which is the very foundation of their storied beginning—offers great promise for the future of this vibrant community for decades to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE END OIL AND GAS TAX SUBSIDIES ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2023. This legislation eliminates nearly a dozen of the most egregious tax breaks enjoyed by the oil and gas industry. President Biden proposed a similar initiative in his Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

The climate is changing. This fact is indisputable, as is the fact that humans are the primary cause of the changing climate. The United States emitted nearly 6 billion tons of greenhouse gases in 2020 and the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions comes from the combustion of fossil fuels.

Despite consistent profitability, fossil fuel companies receive billions of dollars in federal tax breaks and subsidies, which underwrite the costs of continued oil and gas production. These forgone revenues undermine the United States' ability to combat the climate crisis and invest in critical initiatives like education, housing, infrastructure, and healthcare.

Recent analysis released by the Stockholm Environment Institute found that just two oil and gas tax subsidies—the expensing of intangible drilling costs and the percentage depletion allowance—increased the value of new oil and gas projects by more than \$20 billion in some years. These two subsidies alone helped spur and sustain the shale development boom in the United States. Follow-up analysis examining the impacts of continuing these subsidies found that the subsidies increase average rate of return by 55 percent to 68 percent and more than 96 percent of the subsidy value goes to excess profits.

Oil and gas tax subsidies are unnecessary and a wasteful use of hard-earned taxpayer dollars. I look forward to working with my colleagues to rid them from the tax code once and for all.

RECOGNIZING THE HEGEMAN FAMILY AS NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jon and Amy Hegeman and their children, Ella Kate and Jon Henry for being named National Outstanding Young Farm family. This award is administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America and sponsored by the John Deere Manufacturing Company along with the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

The Calhoun County farmers received the honor during the Outstanding Farmers of America Awards Congress on February 18th in Appleton, Wisconsin after undergoing an intense application process gauging their farm growth, conservation practices and community involvement.

The Hegemans primarily raise plants for distribution to big-box stores. These plants include Dracaena Spike, English ivy, the polka dot plant, ornamental asparagus plants, Boston ferns, spider plants, purple heart and pothos.

Jon oversees a staff of 42 people in order to satisfy orders. Amy operates an equine business of raising quarter horses and teaching horseback riding lessons while also running the household. The Hegemans attend Grace Fellowship Church in Anniston.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this young family on this great honor. Congratulations to the Hegemans.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARKLAND

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown, the City of Parkland, in celebration of its 60th anniversary.

Parkland is a diverse community of more than 34,000 people that was established in 1963. Nestled in the northwest corner of Broward County at the edge of Everglades National Park, Parkland is unique amongst its neighbors in its dedication to protecting its park areas. Given its name, Parkland boasts nine parks that span the city's landscape, each providing unique opportunities for recreation and relaxation for families. Beyond the parks, Parkland is a picturesque city, with numerous lakes dotting the landscape and tall trees lining the residential streets.

Unfortunately, Parkland has also experienced significant loss. On February 14, 2018, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School my alma mater, which educates many of Parkland's children, became the scene of one of the deadliest mass shootings in American history. But together, the resilience of this community was shown not only by its ability to unite and heal—but by its strength to transform this trauma into change.