

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TODD DEGARMO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my good friend Todd DeGarmo on his acceptance of the 2023 William Howard Taft Medal from the University of Cincinnati for notable achievement in the field of architecture.

A graduate of UC, Todd put his blood, sweat, and tears into a career in architecture that has spanned nearly 35 years. Todd has worked for and led STUDIOS Architecture, overseeing numerous projects and renovations during his tenure.

Todd founded the company's New York office in 1995 and, ten years later, was named the first CEO of STUDIOS. Under his stewardship, STUDIOS opened new offices in the United States and around the globe, including in Mumbai, India and Lyon, France.

I want to commend Todd for his career at STUDIOS and his many meritorious projects that earned him the 2023 William Howard Taft Medal. Todd deserves this.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARK
GHILARDUCCI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Ghilarducci on his retirement from his position as the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. He served in this role since 2012 and retired at the end of 2022 and is an extraordinary public servant.

Mark Ghilarducci grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and began responding to emergencies when he was 16 years old as a volunteer on a mountain rescue team. A graduate of UC Davis, he decided to become a paramedic at age 19, leading to his lifetime of coordinating resources, caring for people and cleaning up after various community catastrophes. He worked in Asia, including China and Indonesia, and that work helped shape his career. Responding to the earthquake in Humboldt County, a cyber-attack on the California Department of Finance, dreadful fires and disastrous floods were all part of his job and his mission.

In 2020, when the Santa Cruz Mountains were set ablaze by the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, Mark was instrumental in coordinating with federal and local partners to help put out the fires and get thousands of displaced residents back on their feet. He was steadfast when my constituents needed it the most, and he was one of our strongest advocates in Sacramento, pushing for resources to

be allocated to our region during one of the worst fire seasons in recent history. After the fires, Mark met with me personally to solve individual constituents' problems, which helped Santa Cruz County to rebuild. It was Mark's unique combination of courage and compassion that made responding to this catastrophe possible.

Mark has been a dedicated and dependable partner in working to update California's emergency communications infrastructure. He supported the adoption of FirstNet in California, advocated strongly for implementing the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, and has worked closely with me to secure federal funding for California and other states to transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.

Mark loved his work and he loved the people he worked with. Retirement won't come easily to him and we know he'll be there for us when he's needed. It's now time for him to take some well-earned rest and spend some uninterrupted time with his family.

Governor Newsom trusted Mark to tackle the state's most difficult crises, and he reflected on Mark's distinguished service with the following statement:

"For more than a decade, Mark has expertly guided our state through some of the most complex and challenging disaster conditions in the nation—coordinating California's emergency response to unprecedented wildfires, severe drought, earthquakes and cybersecurity threats, as well as our nation-leading efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Mark's tireless work to improve and modernize our emergency management, preparedness and recovery efforts has protected communities across California and better positioned the state to respond to a myriad of challenges now and into the future. On behalf of all Californians, I thank Mark for his tremendous leadership, perseverance and committed service. Our state is stronger and more resilient because of his efforts."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mark Ghilarducci for his extraordinary service. California is better and stronger, and our Nation is greater because of Mark Ghilarducci and his superb work. He is a national treasure.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN
O'CONNOR FOR HIS WORK IN THE
FIELD OF HEALTH COMMUNICA-
TION AT THE CENTERS FOR DIS-
EASE CONTROL

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. John O'Connor on an outstanding career with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as he retires as Associate Director for Communication Science at CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. While

he will be greatly missed, he leaves behind a legacy of excellence in his work and as a mentor to others. Over the past three decades Mr. O'Connor has been a leader in the health communications space and has developed a high-quality foundation that will continue to be built upon in the near future.

After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and a master's degree from the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications, Mr. O'Connor began his career at a nonprofit organization that worked to improve health conditions for American Indians and Alaska Natives. In 1989, Mr. O'Connor joined the CDC and set the standard for communications regarding infectious diseases and public health emergencies.

Over his more than 30 year tenure with CDC, Mr. O'Connor has served at the National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID) Office of the Director, NCID's Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, the Influenza Coordination Unit within CDC's Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CCID), the Pandemic Influenza Task Force, National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, CDC's National Center for Health Marketing, and various other CDC committees along the way.

Throughout his career, Mr. O'Connor has been a reliable and knowledgeable leader in times of crisis, providing essential guidance and emergency response during outbreaks of Anthrax, Zika, Ebola, and most recently, COVID-19. His dedication, respect, and true professionalism have helped protect public health and earned him a lasting legacy and impact at CDC.

Mr. O'Connor will be deeply missed. He is a true public servant and I am grateful for his service to Atlanta, CDC, and our country.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TOWN OF BUSTI, CHAUTAUQUA
COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the Town of Busti in Chautauqua County, New York.

The Town of Busti, like most of Chautauqua County, has an expansive agriculture history. Busti was the site for the first test cows in the state and where the first field of alfalfa was grown. In addition, the Underground Railroad had one of its most active routes through this region and Busti was an important stop on this route.

Whether they are lifelong residents or new in town, the citizens of Busti can look with pride upon the accomplishments of the pioneers who contributed to this area. A community of seven thousand five hundred and twenty-one, the neighbors in this town look out for

• 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.

each other to ensure the community continues to thrive.

Two hundred years as a community and a town is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Town of Busti for withstanding the tests of time and look forward to many more years of Busti providing a welcoming community for our friends, neighbors and visitors.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the Town of Busti's two hundredth anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 85th Anniversary, as well as incoming 2023 officers, of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1938, the OWLVFD is comprised of committed community members who volunteer their time, energy, and financial resources to ensuring the safety of the families and property in and around Woodbridge. During its 85-year history, the Department has continued to expand and there are now three stations staffed by over 200 volunteers who serve and protect an ever-growing local population. From their bravery in action, to their presence with the youth in the community, OWLVFD is readily available for the families of Woodbridge.

It is with great honor I include in the RECORD the names of the following Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

Operational Officers:

Lt. Aundrea Bonilla, Lt. Mark Powers, Lt. Michael Yankaskas, Lt. Jonathan Baldwin, Lt. Reggie Lawrence, Capt. Melissa Westphal, Capt. Steve Godin, Capt. Scott Shaw, Assistant Chief Sandra Williams, Assistant Chief Kurt Bolland, Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis, Assistant Chief Ryan Williams, Chief Wayne Haight.

Administrative Officers:

Sergeant at Arms—Mark Bauer, Election Officer—Sabrina Brandon Ricks, Treasurer—Debbie Haight, Membership Secretary—Stacey Godin, Executive Vice President—Sue Wessollock.

Board of Directors:

Jonathan Baldwin, Frank Bruno, Mike Clark, Dee Gottman, Brenda Kuhn, Melissa Payne, Stephanie Powers, Steve Simmons, President—Dave Williams.

Auxiliary Officers:

Chaplain—Rita Arrington, Treasurer—Frances Spicer, Secretary—Sara Baldwin, Vice President—Kara Simmons, President—Leslie Quinn.

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department remains the same. These volunteers continue to put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of the residents of the area

and have educated and mentored youth, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 85th Anniversary of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department and their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community and in congratulating the newly elected officers and board members. I thank them for their dedication and to all I say: "Stay safe."

HONORING THE WORK OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RICHARD E. DAVIS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the upcoming retirement of Richard E. Davis, a superb Soldier and citizen who has served our Nation for forty-one years, including, since October 2021, serving as the Command Sergeant Major of Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the largest Reserve Component training site in the United States.

A native of Petal, Mississippi, Command Sergeant Major Davis began his military career in the Mississippi Army National Guard on April 5, 1982, as a 62B, Construction Equipment Repairman. During his career, Command Sergeant Major Davis served in all levels of responsibility, including Track Vehicle Repairman, 3656th Maintenance Company, Camp Shelby, Mississippi; Armament Maintenance Supervisor, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 106th Support Battalion, Monticello, Mississippi; Senior Auto Repairman, 3656th Maintenance Company, Camp Shelby, Mississippi; Battalion Maintenance Operation Noncommissioned Officer, Headquarters, 223rd Engineer Battalion, WestPoint, Mississippi; First Sergeant, Forward Support Command, 223rd Engineer Battalion, in Aberdeen, Mississippi, the unit with which he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2011 through 2012.

Upon return from overseas deployment, Command Sergeant Major Davis was assigned as the Mississippi National Guard Environmental Supervisor with Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard, in Jackson, Mississippi. After completing his staff tenure, Command Sergeant Major Davis returned to the line units he knew and loved serving as the Command Sergeant Major, 890th Engineer Battalion, Gulfport, Mississippi. Following a successful assignment as the battalion level, Command Sergeant Major Davis was assigned as the 168th Engineer Brigade Command Sergeant Major from June 2018 until September 2021, after which time he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in 2021.

During his career, Command Sergeant Major Davis completed all levels of military education including Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, and, ultimately, the Sergeant Major Academy, as well as numerous other maintenance and training courses. Command Sergeant Major Davis distinguished

himself as a tactical and technical expert during his deployment to Afghanistan and while serving at Camp Shelby, supporting mobilizing and deploying units, and, of course, numerous State Emergency Operations.

Command Sergeant Major Davis's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Noncommissioned Professional Development Ribbon with a numeral IV; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Mississippi Medal of Efficiency; Mississippi War Medal; Mississippi Emergency Service Medal; Mississippi Service School Medal; and Mississippi Longevity Medal.

I commend Command Sergeant Major Davis and his family for their dedicated support to our Army, our Soldiers, and this Nation. I congratulate him on an extremely successful career, his dedication to service, and wish him a fulfilling and restful retirement.

RECOGNIZING LOUIS HOELMAN III

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Louis Hoelman III on everything he has accomplished to date in a dazzling teaching and coaching career in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mr. Hoelman is himself a proud graduate of Montgomery County Public Schools. He attended Parkside Elementary School, Highland View Elementary School, Eastern Junior High School (as it was known at the time), and the great Montgomery Blair High School. He went on to Montgomery College and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Kinesiology.

Mr. Hoelman launched his career as an Athletic Director at the Silver Spring Boys and Girls Club. In 1993, he returned to Montgomery County Public Schools as a physical education teacher at Piney Branch Elementary School. In 1999, he joined the staff of Montgomery Blair High School as a physical education teacher and, in 2001, he became the head coach of Blair's varsity girls' softball team. Over the years he has also coached basketball, team handball, field hockey, and cross country. In 2022, he became the head coach of Blair's varsity co-ed golf team and led them to the final round of the State Golf Championship. In addition to his very busy teaching and coaching career, he is the founder of the renowned Takoma Sports Camp for boys and girls.

By the end of Blair's 2022 softball season, Mr. Hoelman had amassed a total of 294 wins over his softball coaching career. I understand that as of today, he stands on the cusp of racking up 300 career wins. He has received numerous Coach of the Year awards, including citations from the Montgomery Gazette, the Washington Examiner, Montgomery Blair High School, and, most recently, the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Beyond his remarkable record of successful coaching, Mr. Hoelman is known for his warm,