

CELEBRATING MR. CAAL SKONOS
UPON HIS GRADUATION AND
COMMISSION

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Caal Skonos upon his achievement of Army Second Lieutenant ranking in the United States Army. The awarding of this rank signifies years of hard work and dedication to serving our country, and it is a pleasure to celebrate Mr. Caal Skonos as he accepts this distinction.

Mr. Caal Skonos has been honorably serving the United States as an active service member for almost a decade. While dedicating himself to our Nation's defense, Mr. Caal Skonos continued sharpening the skills the military developed within him as a leader and professional by also attending Eastern Michigan University to pursue a degree in Political Science with a focus in International Relations. A few short years later, it is a pleasure to now celebrate Mr. Caal Skonos as he graduates from Eastern Michigan University at the end of April and assumes his commission as 2LT Caal Skonos, Military Intelligence Officer.

Earning this rank is a remarkable accomplishment, and it is a pleasure to join with Mr. Skonos' friends, family, and community to congratulate him upon the occasion of this significant career milestone. His passion and commitment to serving our country is a testament to his character, and there is no doubt that he will continue to succeed in his life of service.

Mr. Caal Skonos' dedication and service to our country is an inspiration to many, and the entire country is grateful for the selfless sacrifice and commitment to our Nation that is demonstrated daily by brave military service members like Mr. Caal Skonos. I ask my colleagues to share their congratulations and thanks with Mr. Caal Skonos as he embarks upon this next, exciting chapter of life.

HONORING ROBERT ERVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Robert Eves. Robert Eves has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Eves coached Vicksburg's football, track, and powerlifting teams at levels ranging from eighth grade to varsity for nearly 30 years. He had an undefeated season with Vicksburg's eighth-grade football team and led the school's powerlifting team to the MHSAA Class 5A championship in 2003.

Eves also had a standout football career as a student in the VVSD. He played at Temple High School, then Warren Central from 1969 to 1972, before starring at Mississippi Valley State.

Eves was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert Eves for his passion

and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate American President Lines on its 175th Anniversary. Founded on April 18, 1848 as the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the company began with three ships and ran the first shipping line between Panama and California. Authorized by Congress under the Mail Steamer Bill in 1847, Pacific Mail operated under a U.S. contract to carry mail from Panama City to the west coast.

In 1867, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's SS *Colorado* was the first steamship to start regular service across the Pacific sailing from San Francisco to Yokohama and Hong Kong. In the 1880's and 1890's Pacific Mail modernized its ships again replacing iron-hulled ships with steel and installing electric lighting on the SS *Columbia*, the first ship in the world to have electric power.

In 1921, the company renamed ships after presidents, with the first five named as the President Cleveland, President Lincoln, President Pierce, President Taft, and President Wilson. These ships were sold to Dollar Steamship Lines in 1925, where they continued in the TransPacific service and expanded the line with seven additional ships named after presidents Adams, Garfield, Harrison, Hayes, Monroe, Polk, and Van Buren.

Under new management in 1938, the name was changed to American President Lines with an eagle as a mascot. American President Lines played a critical role in World War II by managing ships for the newly created War Shipping Administration and transporting troops and materiel in support of the war effort. Through World War II, APL lost nine vessels due to enemy attack or stranding in war zones.

As the world's post-war economy grew, American President Lines provided around-the-world cargo and passenger services and was a leader in Transpacific transportation between the U.S. west coast and Asia. Ever since, American President Lines has led industry innovation by pioneering containerized transport, developing the concept of seamless integrated intermodal service, implementing stacked containers on rail cars to improve operations and efficiency, deploying the use of RFID tags to track shipments, and, as a partner with the United States government, supporting critical sealift capabilities and U.S. military operations and personnel around the world.

We are proud to have American President Lines headquartered in Virginia, and I want to again congratulate American President Lines, their employees, and the U.S. merchant mariners who crew the ships, on their 175 year heritage and remarkable legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of April 19, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Passage of H.J. Res. 42, and YEA on H.R. 1149.

SUPPORTING FREEDOM IN RUSSIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I met with Evgenia Kara-Murza, the courageous wife of Russian patriot Vladimir Kara-Murza, and Kara-Murza's Moscow attorney Vadim Prokhorov, along with Bill Browder, the visionary sponsor of the Magnitsky Act. We discussed the outrageous sentencing of Vladimir Kara-Murza which has been so accurately exposed in the following lead editorial of the Washington Post yesterday.

The sentencing of our opinions contributor, Vladimir Kara-Murza, to a quarter-century in prison on Monday by a Moscow court, raises three very loud alarms. The first is that his health is fragile and he might not survive 25 years in prison. The second is that Mr. Kara-Murza, who committed no crime, received one of the harshest sentences since Joseph Stalin's time, a shocking, vengeful strike from President Vladimir Putin. And lastly, the time has come for the United States to step up on behalf of Mr. Kara-Murza—not only because he represents this country's democratic values, but also because he and others like him are the best hope for a free, post-Putin Russia.

Mr. Kara-Murza should be designated by the United States as unlawfully or wrongfully detained, which will facilitate negotiating a prisoner exchange with Russia. Mr. Kara-Murza is a permanent resident of the United States, and his wife, Evgenia Kara-Murza, and three children, are U.S. citizens. He clearly meets the requirements for such a designation, which Ms. Kara-Murza has been seeking for months. She told us Mr. Kara-Murza would accept an exchange, and recalled that dissidents were sometimes swapped during the Cold War.

Mr. Kara-Murza returned to Moscow last year, knowing the risks he faced. He did nothing wrong. He has committed free speech, not treason. His arrest, conviction and sentencing were entirely contrived.

However, his deteriorating condition is real. He was the target of attempted poisoning in 2015 and 2017 by Russia's secret services, using some kind of nerve agent, and now suffers from polyneuropathy, caused by damage to the peripheral nerves throughout the body. The numbness began on his left side and is spreading to his right, with loss of feeling in both feet and his left hand. According to one of his lawyers, Vadim Prokhorov, this malady should preclude being incarcerated in a Russian prison, but so far the wardens have turned a deaf ear to his appeals. "I do realize that he doesn't have five years, let alone 25" in prison, Ms. Kara-Murza told us. "Now it is a question of life and death."

"If we lose him, if we lose people like Vladimir, who is going to be there to rebuild

the country from ruins, to make sure that Russia does not return to an authoritarian or totalitarian regime after the collapse of this one?" Ms. Kara-Murza said. "Vladimir kept on despite two poisoning attacks. Vladimir kept on despite the assassination of his friend," Boris Nemtsov, the reformist former deputy prime minister, "and that did not scare him. He went back to continue his fight time and again, and I believe that he has shown he would not give up the fight for a free Russia. The free democratic community has a responsibility to stand with people like this."

Ms. Kara-Murza said the sentence was "absolutely pure and cynical revenge" for her husband's effort to win approval of the Magnitsky Act, a U.S. law, similarly adopted by other nations, that sanctions individuals who commit grave human rights violations. Bill Browder, the investor who is the architect of the Magnitsky sanctions, said Canada has added nine Russians to the sanctions list and the United States six over the Kara-Murza case, but there should be many more. "It absolutely helps," said Ms. Kara-Murza, noting the asset freezes are a particular threat to Russian officials. "They prefer to steal in Russia, but hide that money in the West."

Mr. Putin's draconian laws against free speech since the invasion of Ukraine—punishing supposed infractions as minor as a child's drawing—have cast a pall of fear. There are no large protests. "That society does not have freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, free and fair elections," Ms. Kara-Murza said. "There is nothing. No rights are respected in Russia." But, she added, the strong demand for virtual private networking software indicates a continued demand for independent information from outside. She suggested that in addition to sanctions, the United States and its allies should do everything possible to defend the remaining free channels of information, including support for independent journalists, both inside Russia and outside, and to help Ukraine push out the Russian invasion.

Ms. Kara-Murza recalled that her husband worked as a journalist but in 2012 discovered he had been barred from the Russian Embassy in Washington, a retaliatory move because of his public support of the Magnitsky Act. "He decided, well, I've got things to say and I will continue," and plunged deeper into politics.

Hopefully, he will continue to have things to say—the unvarnished truth—and say it in freedom. There is much to do to rescue Russia's freedom, too.

RECOGNIZING DE PERE'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the De Pere Boys Basketball Team for winning the WIAA Division 1 State Boys Basketball Championship.

After an impressive undefeated season, the De Pere Boys Basketball Team traveled to the Kohl Center in Madison to compete in the 2022 WIAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. After quickly securing a 55–44 win in the semifinals over Kettle Moraine, the team advanced to the finals where they faced No. 2 ranked Arrowhead in the State Championship. The boys' strong defense led them to an im-

pressive 69–49 win over Arrowhead in the State Finals, bringing a state championship back to De Pere.

Congratulations to Coach Winchester on a perfect season and the coveted state title. A special congratulations to the senior boys on the team, Johnny Kinzinger, Hogan Demovsky, Gabe Herman, Caleb Dietsche, Trey Plos, Ethan Ramos and Zack Kane. I wish them all the best in the next steps of their careers.

A state title is an outstanding achievement and the pinnacle of high school sports. Achieving this goal is a testament to the tireless efforts and commitment displayed by every member of the team throughout the season. By finishing with an undefeated season, the Redbirds also set a record with the first-ever 30–0 season in WIAA history. This is a season that will be remembered by the De Pere community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Brian Winchester and the entire De Pere Boys Basketball team for this remarkable accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize the De Pere Boys Basketball Team and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their outstanding season.

HONORING MR. RICHARD BUFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Richard Buford of Jefferson County, Mississippi, for his love, compassion, and service.

Richard Buford was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1966. He is the first-born son of Horace Mac "Shorty" Buford and Ella Mae Henderson Buford. His grandparents moved him to Stampley, MS, 12 minutes from Fayette, MS, at the age of 2.

Richard is a 1984 graduate of the Jefferson County School District and the former football team captain and student government president. He is a retired Career Recruiter of the United States Marine Corps; a Desert Storm Combat Sergeant; with an Associated Degree in Supervisory Leadership from Hawaii Pacific University (Honolulu, HI) with further Leadership Development from Chicago State University (Chicago, IL).

In 2001, Richard returned to Jefferson County, MS, and became a small farm lobbyist while still desiring to serve. He became a: 1) Volunteer Firefighter and now Chief; 2) Minister in church and serve the elderly and shut-in the county; 3) Fire Coordinator and Fire Consultant (Jefferson & Claiborne)—established new Fire Grading Districts; Earned Class 8 and 9 Ratings and enlisted over 100 volunteers in each county.

Richard is married to Carla Robinson Buford, who is a special education teacher in the Jefferson County Elementary School District. They are the proud parents of three adult children—Marilyn, Richard Jr. and Ella.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Richard Buford, the 2022 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year, for his outstanding service and commitment.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 25

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and the United States Capitol Police.

SD-124

APRIL 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine building consensus to address housing challenges.

SD-538

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the health costs of climate change.

SD-608/VTC

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve project reviews for a cleaner and stronger economy.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Secretary of Labor, and other pending calendar business.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight

To hold hearings to examine 10 years since the Boston Marathon bombings, focusing on lessons learned.

SD-562

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine a post-*Dobbs* America.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for