

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CAPTAIN THEODORE
CHESTER KALAGIAN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Captain Theodore Chester Kalagian of Russellville, Tennessee for his service to our country. Mr. Kalagian was drafted on Friday, May 13, 1966, and graduated from Officer Candidate School as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After his commission, he was assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington Training Center as the Motor Officer for 2 years. He was then assigned to the 330th General Support Company of the 765th Transportation Battalion in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he was awarded a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation Medal.

He returned to the U.S. and was assigned to Ft. Stewart, GA, as well as Frankfurt, Germany and Ft. Ben Harrison, IN, and was released from active duty on September 13, 1973.

HONORING CAROLINE MASON FOR
HER LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO
PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCEL-
LENCE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Caroline B. Mason for her extraordinary lifetime and legacy of public service and leadership in education.

A dedicated, lifelong scholar, Caroline proudly earned her undergraduate degree from Denison University and master's degree from Case Western University. Additionally, she pursued graduate studies at University College Dublin in Ireland, one of Europe's pre-eminent research-intensive universities.

Caroline began her teaching career in the classroom at the all-girls Laurel School and continued to excel as an instructor in classrooms at hallowed educational institutions including the Boston Conservatory of Music and Harvard College. Known for her academic rigor and leadership, Caroline was appointed to serve as principal at the all-girls Mount Saint Mary High School. Caroline continued her pursuit of academic excellence as Head's Fellow at the Klingenstein Institute Teacher's College at Columbia University.

In 1993, Caroline was appointed Head of School for Albany Academy for Girls, the oldest continuous all-girls school in the United States founded in 1814. During her tenure, Caroline increased enrollment, brought fiscal discipline, strengthened the curriculum, developed a comprehensive faculty evaluation pro-

gram, constructed the new library, gymnasium, and Slingerland Wing. She strengthened cherished Academy traditions such as Bacon Bat, ring sisters, the 4th and 8th grade plays, Was-sail, Thanksgiving lunch, senior May term, and senior speeches. Caroline brightened the hallways with fresh flowers, art exhibition posters, and warmly greeted the students at the curb every morning with a welcoming smile. Perhaps above all, she invested in extraordinary faculty to instill intellectual rigor, challenging curriculum standards, and true academic excellence. She frequently sat in to observe students and teachers in classrooms. Caroline was formative and determinative to what it means to be an "Academy Girl" for thousands of girls and women.

In 2003, due to her effective leadership, Caroline was appointed to Head of School for Albany Academy earning the distinction of being the only individual to head two schools simultaneously. She combined the academic departments under a single head ensuring that course standards were equal, increased enrollment, and organized the multi-disciplinary Melville Symposium and the Memorial Day Chapel Service. Caroline stepped down as Head of Schools in 2007 and she remains deeply dedicated to the Albany Academies community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Caroline's immense contribution to academic excellence and the pursuit of the American Dream for tens of thousands of students. Caroline embodies what it means to be a patriotic American who has given so much of her intellectual gifts to generations of young students who excel as leaders in all fields today. We, and I, cannot thank her enough for her lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING LEE VERNON
NEWBY, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Lee Vernon Newby, Jr., a veteran of World War II and long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong, as he celebrates 100 years of life.

Mr. Newby is a United States Marine Corps Veteran who served from April 1, 1943 to January 8, 1946. He served and was wounded at Guadalcanal during World War II. Mr. Newby is one of the illustrious Montford Point Marines, the barrier-breaking first African Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps who fought prejudice and hostility while completing training and serving our country. The Montford Point Marines provided critical power to the victories won in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Mr. Newby proudly serves as a member of the Montford Point Marines of America, Detroit

Chapter and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest civilian award in the Nation, under President Obama's administration.

Please join me in commending Mr. Lee Vernon Newby, Jr. for his outstanding service to our country as we celebrate his 100th birthday.

HONORING SPECIALIST KEITH
SEVIER JONES, SR.

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Specialist Keith Sevier Jones, Sr. of Johnson City, Tennessee for his distinguished service as a partner of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Drafted in the summer of 1966, SPC. Jones reported to basic training in Ft. Riley with the 9th Infantry Division.

Following his training, he deployed to Vietnam as a combat medic where he earned the Combat Medic Badge.

He continued his tour of Vietnam in the Mekong Delta, prior to deploying to Ft. Campbell, where he concluded his service.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
DR. WILLIAM HUFFMAN

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. William Huffman, CPA, a professor of accounting at the Robert W. Plaster School of Business at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri.

Professor Huffman recently received the 2023 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Missouri Governor Mike Parson. The award is presented annually to an outstanding faculty member who has shown a commitment to high standards of teaching and advising, and has provided years of service to the university, the local community, and the university's students.

Professor Huffman holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with an emphasis in accounting from Pittsburg State University in Kansas, a master's degree in accounting from Kansas State University, and a PhD in accounting from the University of North Texas.

Following a successful career as an accountant in the private sector, Professor Huffman began his teaching career. He has taught at Missouri Southern State University for 23 years where he is the faculty adviser to

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the university's accounting club and serves on several other university committees. He previously was recognized as the MSSU Outstanding Teacher and was awarded the Regional Teaching Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. His research interests include accounting humor and accounting ethics.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Dr. Huffman's commitment to excellence in teaching. There can be no more noble calling than preparing the next generation of young people for a productive work life.

CONGRATULATING SASHA COLBY
OF WAIMĀNALO, RUPAUL'S
DRAG RACE SEASON 15 WINNER

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hawaii-born Sasha Kekauoha, more famously known as Sasha Colby, on being crowned the winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season 15. I am so proud that a fellow Windward girl, hailing from the homesteads of Waimānalo, has earned the title of America's Next Drag Superstar.

With her historic win, Sasha became the first person of Native Hawaiian ancestry to compete and win the competition, the fourth trans contestant to ever win Drag Race U.S., and the first American Drag Race winner to have also won the annual Miss Continental drag pageant. RuPaul herself even referred to Sasha as, "the kind of talent that comes around once in a generation."

Born and raised in Waimānalo, Hawaii, Sasha is the youngest of seven children and attended Kailua High School. Her drag journey began when she started taking dance classes at a local studio. Having grown up in a very religious household, Sasha spent much of her youth as a closeted trans person, living in constant fear of being found out. However, dance gave her the opportunity to be herself and meet and be with others that identified as LGBTQ+.

Through that dance studio, Sasha met her drag mom and made friends who would become her second family. Together, they showed her what life could be like living as a trans woman and helped introduce Sasha to the drag performance scene.

Sasha, a seasoned drag legend with 20 years of experience, had one of the most accomplished runs on RuPaul's Drag Race. She showed an undeniable confidence in her approach to nearly every challenge. Sasha came into the finale with the strongest track record of any of her competitors—along with never landing in the bottom in any of the show's challenges, she also racked up four challenge wins over the course of the season, more than any other queen on the show.

From the very start of the 15-week-long competition, Sasha put her vulnerabilities front and center for the world to see, often drawing upon her Native Hawaiian and Irish heritage and childhood trauma as sources of inspiration for her performances.

Throughout Drag Race, she authentically represented her Hawaiian culture both in her looks and interviews, talking about the legacy

she's building for her home state and about being mähū. Mähū are "third gender" individuals who fulfill spiritual and social roles in traditional Hawaiian culture. Centuries ago, four large stones were placed on Waikīkī Beach to honor four mähū, "extraordinary individuals of both male and female spirit," who brought their healing powers to O'ahu from Tahiti. Today, trans people are still among the most revered members in the Hawaiian community.

Sasha also used her platform to share with the nation and the rest of the world the stories of Hawaii, Polynesian culture, and the trans experience in America. For example, on the show, she introduced audiences to the history of Honolulu nightclubs like The Glades Nightclub in the 1950s and 1960s. The Glades would get raided weekly by police and for "misrepresenting" themselves as female drag queens and trans women would have to wear a button that read, "I'm a Boy," or face the possibility of being arrested and paying a hefty fine.

Seventy years later, we are seeing increasing attacks on LGBTQ+ rights that particularly target trans people and drag queens including state laws banning drag queen performances and gender affirming care. In her own words, Sasha says, "I am literally the living embodiment of what they [state legislators] want to eradicate." But these anti-trans attacks have not deterred Sasha at all. She said it best during the Drag Race finale: "This goes to every trans person, past, present and future," she said. "Because we are not going anywhere." Sasha's win is not only well deserved; it gives us hope.

I look forward to all that Sasha will accomplish as a leader, a proud mähū, and an activist, and I know that she will continue to serve as a beacon of light and hope to so many people across the country and around the world who are afraid or unable to be fully themselves.

Congratulations to Sasha Colby. She is truly every drag queen's favorite drag queen.

HONORING ENSIGN STEPHEN
DICKMANN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Naval Officer Stephen Dickmann of Greeneville, Tennessee for his distinguished service during the Vietnam War, from May 1965 to August 1967.

Ensign Dickmann served as Supply and Disbursing Officer and General Quarters Cryptography Officer aboard USS *Richard B. Anderson*, named after Medal of Honor recipient USMC PFC Richard B. Anderson. Anderson was deployed in the area of the Mekong Delta and the waters off the coast of Vietnam, the South China Sea, the Gulf of Siam, and the Gulf of Tonkin. Anderson engaged in search and rescue and surveillance operations and shore bombardment in support of ground troops.

Ensign Dickmann's Supply Department was responsible for maintaining the inventory of repair parts, as well as paying and feeding the crew, the ship's laundry, the ship's store, and the ship's barber shop until he was medically

discharged. It was subsequently determined he had been exposed to Agent Orange.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE NA-
TIONAL CENTER FOR THE AD-
VANCEMENT OF AVIATION ACT
OF 2023

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague, Rep. STAUBER, in re-introducing the bipartisan and bicameral National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2023. Our Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation has worked for years to make American skies the safest in the world, and to strengthen the industry workforce to maintain the highest standards of aviation excellence.

Our legislation, the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation (NCAA) will support and promote collaboration among civil, commercial, and military aviation sectors to address the demands and challenges associated with ensuring a safe and vibrant national aviation system through research, education, and training. This will also contribute to the economic growth of \$4.7 billion in the aviation industry as noted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA, 2022). According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the global economic impact could be impacted either directly or indirectly. This suggests that the NCAA Act would increase opportunities in the job market impacting the economy positively. Furthermore, the National Center for Advancement in Aviation could support the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Flight Plan 21 through optimizing training opportunities to provide the aviation industry a pool of diverse and qualified professionals from varied backgrounds.

Too often in the past, innovation and lessons learned from various aviation sectors have not been shared in a collaborative or timely manner, especially with rapid developments in new technology. Our bill helps break down silos across commercial aviation, general aviation, and military aviation sectors. This will not only improve safety and best practices, but also expand opportunities for those interested in the aviation workforce—for the young and not so young, from those just starting out, to those with experience who want to move into other fields within aviation.

The NCAA Act focuses on four key areas with an emphasis on aviation workforce development. First, it will support education efforts and provide resources to curriculum developers so educators at all levels have the tools and training to educate the next generation of aviation professionals.

Second, the National Center for Advancement in Aviation will provide a forum to leverage and share expertise across industry sectors, including the dissemination of existing high school education curriculum to develop and deploy a workforce of pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft system operators, aviation maintenance technicians, or other aviation maintenance professionals needed in the coming decades.

Third, it will serve as a central repository for economic and safety data research and analysis allowing a comprehensive perspective of