

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY CAPTAIN DAVID A. CHRIS-
TIAN'S INDUCTION INTO THE OF-
FICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL HALL
OF FAME

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent and National Hero from my district, Captain David A. Christian, whose service and dedication as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain of the United States Army provides a testimony to selfless service and valor achieved through acts of courage that place the lives of his fellow servicemen before his own, and the security of the United States as his utmost priority.

Raised in Levittown, Pennsylvania, David enlisted in the U.S. Army following graduation from Woodrow Wilson High School. Enlisting at 18, he rapidly attained the rank of Captain in only 2 years at 20 years old.

David's courage demonstrated through combat is ratified by his prolific award record. He has been nominated for every valor award offered by the U.S. Army, including the Medal of Honor and 7 Purple Hearts. During his tours of combat deployments, David discovered more than 52 enemy camps. It was often said of David and his team that "they owned the jungle".

While David is exceedingly proud of his accomplishments in combat during his military service, he is also distinguished by his continued dedication to the armed services by authoring the first legislation pertaining to Agent Orange and PTSD. David, throughout his military and civic career has dedicated himself to service of the Military and Veterans, evidenced by his crucial role in raising \$9 million in donations to construct and maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On May 1, 2023, at Fort Benning, Georgia, David will be inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. This honor is truly fitting for a man whose life is fully dedicated to selfless service to our great country and his fellow Veterans. Our entire community is immensely proud of this incredible achievement, and we are fortunate to call him a friend, neighbor, and mentor.

OPPOSING THE DEFAULT ON
AMERICA ACT

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I proudly cast my vote against the Default on

America Act. This reckless debt limit proposal would force Americans to suffer pandemic-level pain once again due to brutal cuts put forth by House Republicans. If we thought the COVID-19 pandemic was bad—impacts on life, learning, health, and economic security—the "virus" being unleashed on our country by this Act has potentially more dire and devastating consequences.

But there is a way forward on this issue. Pass a clean debt limit increase. To blatantly ignore Treasury Secretary Yellen's stark warnings of default back in January and three months later celebrate the passage of a bill that seeks to buy us less than a year's reprieve on the backs of hardworking American families, children, kūpuna, and veterans is offensive and unacceptable.

I gave my inaugural floor speech on January 25th on the debt limit and urged House Republicans to join us in making good on our commitments to millions of Americans who've worked hard, sacrificed, and defended this country by passing a clean debt limit increase. People, families, and entire communities that rely on social security, Medicare, and other critical federal programs—they were looking to us to do the right thing.

Like my constituent from Hilo, who called every day during my first weeks in office, scared that after a lifetime of work, he'd lose the social security check he relied upon each month.

It is now April 27th, and more than 100 days after the warnings from the Treasury, the Republican Majority is only now looking to come to the table on this looming default crisis, which could come as soon as June.

Instead of cleanly raising the debt ceiling as Congressional Republicans did without preconditions on three separate occasions under President Trump, Speaker MCCARTHY is doubling down on holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage and risking economic chaos and catastrophe to force draconian cuts that will endanger public safety and worsen public health, raise costs for families and students, and harm seniors and veterans.

Instead of seriously coming to negotiate, House Republicans are willing to level pandemic-level pain and suffering on everyday Americans in every community in this country.

The legislation introduced by the Speaker would lead to across-the-board cuts of at least \$142 billion for critical programs. This could lead to the Veterans Health Administration providing 13 million fewer visits and veterans would have to wait longer to receive benefits. 200,000 children could lose access to Head Start slots and 100,000 children could lose access to childcare. Services such as Meals on Wheels could be cut for more than 1 million seniors, while over 1 million participants could drop from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

In Hawaii, these devastating cuts would be felt immediately by some of our most vulnerable residents. 43,000 Hawaii residents would lose food assistance.

In a State where 1 in 10 people are veterans who have served and sacrificed, there would be 38,000 fewer veteran outpatient visits. College would be more expensive and out of reach for 15,000 Hawaii students. Over 3,000 families in Hawaii would lose rental assistance and be at severe risk for or resulting in homelessness. We'd lose 1,000 Preschool and Child Care Slots in Hawaii, where we are already short tens of thousands of seats. At least four air traffic control towers in Hawaii would be shut down, which would prevent my constituents from getting to work or accessing basic services like healthcare, leaving our islands less connected.

And if Republicans don't get their way, they're threatening to default on our Nation's bills, unleashing an economic catastrophe and putting vital government services at risk. Nationwide, a default could kill more than seven million jobs, jeopardize Social Security payments for 94,000 families in my district, and put health benefits at risk for 297,000 veterans, kūpuna, and keiki in Hawaii's Second Congressional District.

It's important to remember that the debt limit reflects the spending and revenue decisions debated and enacted in prior years by prior Congresses. It's about paying our nation's credit card bill, not making additional purchases on it.

The full extent of negative repercussions is unknown because the United States has never defaulted on its obligations. Economists expect the fallout to be widespread and catastrophic for the U.S. and global economy.

Congressional Republicans need to stop playing political games with our debt limit for a partisan political wish list and cleanly raise the debt limit.

Congress should focus on investing in our Nation and its people. We should be focused on decreasing child poverty and hunger, helping our kūpuna on Social Security and Medicare, and increasing veteran access to services. This bill does the opposite.

My Republican colleagues may claim this proposal was the first step towards negotiating with President Biden. But the chips they were willing to gamble in this mockery of a proposal should be a warning to us all about where their priorities lie. It's not with everyday Americans or neighborhoods and communities throughout our country.

With their Default on America Act, House Republicans have shown us the moral bankruptcy of their MAGA ideology and their willingness to abandon the very people they were elected to represent.

Democrat or Republican, Blue, red, purple, and everything in between—we have the opportunity to put people above politics and not gamble with their lives and livelihood. We have less than 60 days until default. America is waiting for us to do the right thing and pass a clean debt limit increase now.

• 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.

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION
SQUADRON, THE BLUE ANGELS

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation.

Whereas: The Blue Angels were formed by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Chester Nimitz, on April 24, 1946, to raise the public's interest in naval aviation and boost Navy Morale.

Whereas: The Blue Angels are recognized as the second-oldest formal aerobatic team in the world.

Whereas: The 2023 season marks the 77th anniversary of this impressive outfit.

Whereas: The United States Navy Blue Angels have called Pensacola home since 1955, practicing daring and awe-inspiring maneuvers from the cockpits of F/A-18 Super Hornets in the skies above the city.

Whereas: The mission of the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to the country through flight demonstrations and community outreach.

Whereas: An estimated 11 million spectators view the squadron during air shows each year.

Whereas: The 2023 season marks the first in which the Blue Angels welcome their first female demonstration pilot, Lieutenant Amanda Lee, to the left-wing Number 3 position. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: On this occasion of their 77th, birthday, the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, are recognized for their contribution to Northwest Florida, as they have distinguished themselves as ambassadors for the Cradle of Naval Aviation by inspiring and entertaining millions of Americans each year. It is an honor to have them call Florida's First District home. Bravo Zulu and Happy Birthday, Blue Angels.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week, founded in 1989, to salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for the extraordinary progress over the last four decades to destigmatize infertility and bring awareness to the many barriers people face when trying to start and build their families.

Most Americans are not aware that approximately one in five Americans are impacted by the disease of infertility. The disease affects both men and women of all races, religious backgrounds, and economic status; it knows no barriers and impacts millions of individuals.

Through the revolutionary contributions of research scientists and considerable medical advancements, fertility treatments have vastly

improved since the first successful IVF pregnancy and live birth occurred in 1978. Such advancements include early infertility detection through detailed and data-driven testing, advanced egg-freezing technology, and progressive procedures that allow young cancer patients to preserve their fertility prior to undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments. Organizations like RESOLVE: the National Infertility Association, advocate for millions of individuals and couples in this country who need medical assistance to have a family. Other groups, such as the Military Family Building Coalition (MFBC), have focused on raising awareness for active-duty service members and their spouses facing unique challenges with family building. They are actively working to bring awareness to these unique challenges and advance laws and policies that will help our servicemembers sacrificing for our country achieve their dream of building or expanding their own family. There are also organizations such as the Alliance for Fertility Preservation, who stand up to voice on the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. In fact, in the absence of comprehensive and reliable fertility preservation and family building healthcare coverage, the option of having children may not otherwise be available for millions of Americans without the financial assistance of organizations like RESOLVE, AFP, and MFBC, and countless other worthwhile organizations.

Since 1978, and because of extraordinary medical advancements and steadfast advocacy organizations, millions of Americans have been able to receive life affirming treatments that have resulted in the delivery of babies. And while advancements have been a substantial step forward for family building, significant medical, financial, and health equity barriers still exist for others who require medical assistance to combat infertility.

During this National Infertility Awareness Week, I am calling on my colleagues in Congress to do more to remove many of the barriers that currently exist for those experiencing infertility challenges in their pursuit of having a child. The ability to have children and the timing of building a family is a basic human right, and thus we must work together to pass legislation to create a path for these American families. I also applaud my colleagues including Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Congresswoman BROWNLEY, Congresswoman DELAURO, Congresswoman STRICKLAND, and Congressman RICK LARSEN for introducing legislation devoted to eliminating obstacles to building families. I salute the millions of infertility warriors throughout the country and the world, who advocate on behalf of that most precious of gifts, that of family.

HONORING VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN THE INAUGURAL
LONE EAGLE HONOR FLIGHT
FROM PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize 21 veterans from my District who from April 12th to April 14th vis-

ited our Nation's Capital as part of the inaugural Lone Eagle Honor Flight from Puerto Rico.

The Lone Eagle Honor Flight honors American veterans all over the Nation for their courage, and outstanding achievements in defense of the ideals of the United States of America by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the veterans memorials, paying tribute to bold servicemen and women who have served our Nation. This recognition is well-deserved and a testament of our gratitude for their sacrifices.

This inaugural Lone Eagle Honor Flight from Puerto Rico is special, because on April 13th we celebrate National Borinqueneers Day and honor the bravery and valor of the 65th Infantry Regiment, better known as Borinqueneers. This unit composed of Puerto Rican soldiers, led by their motto of Honor and Fidelity, served throughout the liberation of Europe in World War II and the Korean War. The history of Puerto Rico is rich with the example of individuals whose accomplishments inspire us today. They are men and women from all walks of life whose shining example attract the attention of the world to our small island. The Puerto Rican veterans recognized by the Honor Flight Network who served in the U.S. Army in World War II, in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, belong to a long line of American Citizens who did not hesitate to step into cauldron of war when duty called.

Please join me in honoring Ángel Acevedo-Bernard, Juan Acevedo-Carrión, José Adorno-Román, Francisco Berrios-Jovet, Fred Buendía-Izquierdo, Rafael A. Cajigas-Morales, Wilfredo Cardec-Ramos, Andrés Dávila, Jesús Dávila-Colón, Luis G. Padilla-Gautier, Cielo Guerrero, José I. Irizarry, Víctor M. Labarca Lugo, Santos Martínez-Larriuz, Wilfredo Menéndez-Quintana, Rubén Ortiz, Heriberto Ortiz-Ruiz, Salvador Rosado, Walter Santoni-Acevedo, José Torres and Ramón Torres-González for courageously protecting our freedom and democracy.

I am beyond proud of these heroes who have so selflessly served our Nation.

HONORING CSM. (RET.) MARCUS B.
WHITT, II

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Command Sergeant Major Marcus B. Whitt, II of Morristown, Tennessee who has dedicated his entire life in service to or in support of our Armed Forces.

As a Special Forces Green Beret radio operator, CSM. (Ret.) Whitt and his unit gathered intelligence for highly classified operations during the Vietnam War in Cambodia, Laos and North Vietnam. In 2001, all prior members of MACV SOG were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, great combat achievement regularly conducting guerrilla warfare, and unwavering fidelity while executing missions deep behind enemy lines.

After Vietnam, he furthered his academia earning multiple degrees in Education and Masters in Criminal Justice. He also continued his calling by joining the Reserves in service to many Army Special Forces units. Later, he