

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COMMANDER VANCE D. SCOTT

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native of Baltimore City who has committed himself to exceptional military service, which has led him to be the 21st Black Submarine Commanding Officer in the history of the United States Navy. Commander Vance Scott will take on the distinguished task of leading the USS *Nebraska* through war and peace. His story of dedicated service is rooted in Maryland's 7th Congressional District and emphasizes, as Commander Scott puts it, "that your present circumstances do not dictate your future potential."

Commander Scott's journey began in Baltimore, where he was raised by his grandparents, William and Delores Swinton, who taught him the critical lessons of respecting authority and treating everyone with respect. As a product of the Baltimore City Public School System, he attended Baltimore Polytechnic Institute where he was a member of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Here he discovered military service as a way to give back to the community and contribute to something larger than himself.

After graduating from high school, Commander Scott attended the Naval Academy, upon nomination from my dear friend, the late Congressman Elijah Cummings. Commander Scott recalls that this was a particularly demanding time for him, but it was the support and guidance of his Naval Academy sponsor parents, Colonel Warren and Harriet Kiilehua, who helped to sustain him through this phase of his maturation.

Commander Scott graduated from the Naval Academy in 2004, but his academic journey did not stop there as he eventually went on to receive master's degrees from the University of Maryland, U.S. Naval War College, and Old Dominion University. Additionally, he has had several supplementary educational experiences that have prepared him for his next assignment, including studying naval nuclear power, participating in submarine officer basic and advanced courses, and joining the Naval Academy's Leadership Education and Development Program.

After his time at the Naval Academy, his first major assignment was in the Naval Academy's Electrical Engineering Department. He was subsequently assigned to the Naval Academy as an adjunct professor and company officer, leaving him responsible for leading and mentoring over one hundred midshipmen through student development. These experiences pushed him out of his comfort zone and prepared him to lead projects and sailors in various settings.

Commander Scott has had several sea tours and duty assignments that have further

prepared him to command USS *Nebraska*. His sea tours have included serving on USS *Albany*, USS *West Virginia*, and USS *Henry M. Jackson*. His shore duties include serving as Force Strategic Weapons Officers and Force Strategic Operations Officers. Additionally, he has served on the Commander Submarine Force Pacific staff as a tactical and strategic department head, where he had the opportunity to work with and learn from senior-level officers. Included in the list of officer mentors to Commander Scott are the first seven Black Commanding Officers within the first one hundred years of the submarine force, known as the "Centennial Seven." Finally, he completed a tour on the Hill in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs and manager of the undersea and strategic programs portfolio.

In July 2020, Commander Scott was selected as a Submarine Commanding Officer. He was humbled by the honor and found it overwhelming at times. He soon will be leading our finest; it is not lost on him the special place in Navy history he is taking on as only the 21st Black Commanding Officer of a U.S. submarine.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Scott's life is a testament to overcoming the odds and using all of life's experiences as opportunities to grow, serve, and give back to the communities that have given to you. He is an inspiration to us all, and I wish him the very best as he continues to represent Baltimore well aboard the USS *Nebraska*.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAVEL FOR CARE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Travel for Care Act.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court upended decades of precedent set by overturning *Roe v. Wade*. In the months since, we've seen the horrific effects of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision including an increase in states implementing abortion bans. As a result, a third of women of reproductive age in the United States now live more than an hour from the closest abortion facility and the average travel time to get an abortion has more than tripled.

After the *Dobbs* decision, President Biden signed an executive order to preserve abortion access, which included protecting people's ability to travel. Additionally, the House of Representatives passed the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act which prohibited states from interfering with people traveling for an abortion. Several major Fortune 500 corporations announced or reiterated that they would offer reimbursement for employees who needed to travel to receive abortion care.

The unfortunate reality is that far too many Americans are now dependent on their health

plan and employer benefits to access care that they deserve to have. The Travel for Care Act would remove additional barriers to implement or within these benefits by ensuring that any reimbursement is not taxable income, raising the dollar limit for related costs like meals and lodging, and allowing employees covered by high deductible health plan to access this reimbursement without having met their deductible.

It's egregious that employers have stepped in where the federal government hasn't. Nobody should be forced to leave their state to seek medical care, but in a world where that's the case, they shouldn't face additional financial barriers. I will continue working to ensure that we are increasing access to abortion care in every way possible and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE TWELFTH ANNUAL COCOA BEACH "FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND" KIDNEY WALK AND THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 13, 2023, thousands of residents from across Central Florida will gather at the Cocoa Beach Pier in Cocoa Beach, Florida, to take part in the Twelfth Annual "Footprints in the Sand" Cocoa Beach Kidney Walk. Katie and I have joined others in our community in participating since the first walk was organized in 2012 by Rich Salick, Bill Hahn and volunteers with the Florida Affiliate of the National Kidney Foundation.

The "Footprints in the Sand" Kidney Walk brings our community together to show our love and concern. So many of us have family, friends and loved ones that are afflicted by kidney disease, and they need our strength and support. The road ahead is not easy for them, but as the kidney walk demonstrates, they do not have to travel that path alone.

The National Kidney Foundation of Florida, its supporters and activists have made a significant difference in people's lives. They not only raise awareness about this disease, but they have helped push for much needed changes in our laws and new innovations to give patients more treatment options and a better quality of life. This year organizers of the kidney walk will recognize organ donors and their families for giving the precious gift of life so that others could receive a second chance and continue with their lives.

Those recognized include:

Nancy Velazquez honoring Pedro Batista, Moncia Beyrooti honoring Seth Anthony Beyrooti, Pat Brown honoring Michael Brown, Mary Carpenter honoring Shawn Carpenter, Kayla Carroll Lopez honoring Keegin Carroll,

• 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.

Sherri Wilson honoring William Garrett Coe, Leslia Collins honoring Jose Collins, Diana Couch honoring Linda Couch, Robin Covello honoring Michael Covello, Crystal Lopez honoring Giovanni Cruz, Laura Dawkins honoring Brooke Dawkins, Kathleen DeLeonardo honoring Anthony DeLeonardo, Shebna Dorsey honoring Andrew Dorsey, Jen Eden honoring Blake Eden, Tamara Edwards honoring Boris Edwards, Lori Evenson honoring Nick Evenson, Dawn Futch honoring Michael-Gene Futch, Annmarie Wong Allen honoring Chadale "CJ" Grey, Cheryl Harrington honoring Brenton Lee Harrington, Jasmin Persaud honoring Anand Persaud, Tammy Lee honoring Dylan Rowe, Irene Seltzer honoring Zachary Seltzer, Amber Shillingford honoring Brad Shillingford, Tonnia Bennett honoring Tekeya Smith, Bernadette Thompson honoring Kayla Marie Thompson, Ellen Tuech honoring Geoffrey "Geoff" Wasden and Cathy Woodall honoring Christopher Woodall.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the strong will of these caring families, their loved ones and all those who have joined the effort and worked tirelessly to raise awareness about kidney disease.

VALUED ALLIES OF UKRAINE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission to have participated in a Congressional Delegation to Germany, Poland, and Ukraine with Ranking Member STEVE COHEN and Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ.

With the leadership of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Executive Director Steven Schrage in Berlin we met with Justice State Secretary Dr. Angelika Schlunck, National Security Advisor Jens Ploetner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Secretary Andreas Michaelis, and Ministry of Defense Director Jasper Wieck. It is inspiring Germany stands firm with Ukraine. This was the same day Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY forcefully announced, "I support aid for Ukraine . . . I do not support killing children."

After visiting Nuremberg, Lt. Gen. Andrew Rohling welcomed the delegation to the 7th Army Grafenwoehr Training Area. Led by COL Matt Braman and COL Kendall Clarke in Poland, we also visited the 10th Mountain Division trainers, who were enthusiastically serving.

Next at Bucha, Ukraine, survivors of the war criminal Putin's mass murder testified coordinated with dedicated Mayor Anatolii Fedoruk. Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov thanked America for its support which was a prelude to a meeting with courageous President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who emphasized his gratitude for American commitment for democracy with attendance by U.S. Ambassador Bridget Brink and U.S. Ambassador Mike Carpenter who both represent America so well.

Warsaw was the concluding visit with U.S. Ambassador Mark Brzezinski and Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Arkadiusz Mularczyk. Poland will always be cherished for welcoming

millions of Ukrainians who have fled war criminal Putin.

Friends of democracy are inspired by courageous Ukrainians capably supported by our appreciated allies of Germany and Poland in the global competition between democracies with rule of law opposing authoritarians with rule of gun.

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY LITTLE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Little of Irving, Texas as she celebrated her 90th birthday last Sunday.

Mary Little is an established woman who has accomplished so much in her lifetime. Today, we come together to recognize the 90 years Mary has spent with us, and the impact she has and continues to make on our lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mary and wishing her a happy 90th birthday.

HONORING FARON K. PARAMORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Faron K. Paramore, Deputy Director of the United States Secret Service, on the occasion of his retirement from Federal service. Over the course of his thirty-four-year career with the Secret Service, Mr. Paramore distinguished himself as a strategic leader and dedicated public servant. From the start of his career as a Special Agent at the Detroit Field Office/Grand Rapids Resident Office in Michigan to his role as Deputy Director, Mr. Paramore helped keep the United States safe from threats to our national security and to our nation's leaders.

As Ranking Member and past Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Paramore for a number of years, and I came to appreciate his forthrightness and commitment to ensuring the Secret Service reflects the diversity of our great nation. During the course of his service, Mr. Paramore worked diligently to help modernize the Secret Service Uniformed Division, ensure Secret Service employees are paid fairly, and improve recruitment of Special Agents and Uniformed Division Officers.

Mr. Paramore's dedication to the Secret Service and its workforce will be sorely missed. Throughout his career, Mr. Paramore worked with Congress to pass laws that strengthen the Secret Service and homeland security, including the Fraud Recovery Act of 2009, Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016, and National Computer Forensics Institute Reauthorization Act of 2022. More-

over, Mr. Paramore served as Acting Director of the Secret Service during a transition period in 2022, and, at the time of his retirement, Mr. Paramore was the highest ranking African American leader in the Secret Service.

I am proud to have worked with Mr. Paramore during his tenure at the Secret Service. I rise to honor his service and wish him well.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN EARL R. SONNIE 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Earl R. Sonnie. As we celebrate his 100 years of life, we think of all the memories and stories that he continues to share, as a citizen of this great country. Earl was born in Philadelphia on June 5, 1923, grew up in the Port Richmond neighborhood, and made his family home on Delwhit Drive in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Earl attended Dobbins Technical School where he landed a technical internship with The Franklin Institute Research and Development Laboratories and Museum in 1940, working part time until his graduation in 1941. He was immediately hired by The Institute and was fortunate to work with engineers on a night navigation project with the Norden Bomb Site/Sperry Gyroscope Instrumentation. At the time, the Sperry gyroscope was used on the B-24 Liberator heavy bombers. Given his exposure to flight instrumentation, Earl continued his education at the University of Illinois in flight instrumentation and mechanical engineering and enlisted in the United States Army Air Force in 1943. During WWII, Earl earned the rank of Sergeant and instructed pilots, copilots, navigators and bombardiers on instrument flying and precision bombing while he was stationed at Tonopah Army Air Field, Nevada and McChord Field, Washington. Also, Earl was proud to earn the Army Sharpshooter Weapons Qualification Badge.

In 1946, Earl returned to Philadelphia to work for the next 42 years with The Franklin Institute Research and Development Laboratories, as a Research Engineer. During his career, Earl worked on many challenging and exciting projects. As a younger man, he provided maintenance on many science museum exhibits including the Foucault Pendulum and the Fels Planetarium. Given his mechanical expertise, Earl was assigned to several classified projects with teams from the U.S. Navy Base Norfolk, Virginia and with NASA at Moffett Federal Airfield, California.

Earl was the devoted husband of 61 years to his wife Margaret (O'Neill); together they raised nine children in their Bucks County home. He enjoyed various little league and scouting activities with his children, many of which at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Earl has 21 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren and is a member of the Feasterville Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church. He has enjoyed participation in the Knights of Columbus, has spent countless hours restoring his 1959 Triumph TR-3, and is a long-time member of the U.S. Chess