

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAWONA FROZEN FOODS

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Wawona Frozen Foods in the Central Valley. Since its founding in 1963, Wawona Frozen Foods and the Smittcamp family have produced some of America's favorite fruits, including plums, strawberries, pears, and more. However, Wawona is best known for its delicious peaches.

In 1945, Earl Smittcamp returned home after fighting in the South Pacific as a United States Marine during World War II. Like many Americans seeking out the American Dream after the war, Earl and his wife, Muriel, embarked on their own journey and purchased a 200-acre farm at Minnewawa and Nees Avenues in Clovis, California from Muriel's father in 1946. Wawona Ranch was born, and it would soon become a fully-integrated agricultural operation led by Earl and his sons, Bill and the late Bob Smittcamp. Today, Wawona is a third generation, family-owned business located in the congressional district I proudly represent.

Headquartered in Clovis and with additional processing plants in Fresno and Watsonville, Wawona Frozen Foods is a major employer and economic contributor to our community. Wawona ships more than 100 million pounds of food annually to schools, retail stores, and the food service industry. Its delicious products can be found in the nation's largest supermarkets, restaurants, and resorts and are used by pastry manufacturers and in baby food. Most notably, Wawona processes over 65 million pounds of peaches annually.

Aside from the nutritious foods found in stores all throughout North America, the Smittcamp family has made lasting contributions in the community. They are dedicated to improving the quality of life through civic and philanthropic involvement with numerous community organizations, including Fresno State (and its Smittcamp Family Honors College), the Smittcamp Family Foundation, and Valley Children's Hospital. Bill and his wife, Linda, have lived in Clovis for nearly 50 years and have three children: Blake and his wife Cherie, Brad and his wife Courtney, and Blair and her husband Nathan, all of whom work in the family business. Bill and Linda also have six grandchildren: Aubrey Rose, Austin, Beckett, Harvey, Savanna, and Teddy. The Smittcamp family can always be counted on to wish you a "peachy day!"

On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Wawona Frozen Foods and the Smittcamp family on 60 successful years in business and for their contributions to our community, California, and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: CLARENCE MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who laid down their life in service to our great Nation. Memorial Day is a holiday of reverence: a time for us all to come together as a Nation and remember those brave soldiers who died defending our freedoms.

On May 29, 2023, this Memorial Day, 21 names will be added to the Clarence Veteran's Memorial Honor Walls. I am honored to include in the RECORD their names to be remembered forever.

James D. Cottrell—Army
 Bernard J. Fisher—Army
 David C. Hartzell III—Navy
 John W. Hastings—Air Force
 Edwin J. Hens Jr.—Army
 Thomas R. Hens—Marine Corps
 John M. Hens—Marine Corps
 Peter J. Hens—Army
 John L. Leamer—Army
 Cletus F. Leising—Army
 George V. Mesaros—Army
 Ronald J. Michnik—Army
 John S. Nowak—Army
 Arthur O'Leary—Coast Guard
 John E. Pajak—Navy
 Michael A. Pasquarella—Army
 Lee A. Rowlands—Army
 John (Jack) W. Smeltz—Navy
 Michael P. Stockmeyer—Navy
 Robert G. Trowbridge—Air Force
 R. Scott Wilson—Army

Though gone, these men and women will not be forgotten. It is now our duty to remember their sacrifice, courage, and valor as we go forward and continue to grow and build the greatest Nation the world has ever seen.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN BELL'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MILAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ellen Bell, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department of Milan, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement. Her dedication to her local community is worthy of commendation.

Ellen is a lifelong resident of Milan and graduated from Milan High School in 1976. Working as a beautician and delivering newspapers until 1985, Ellen embarked upon a career in public service first as a secretary for the Parks and Rec Department. She quickly

rose through the ranks, becoming an integral member of city government and, through the years, earning the title of Program Director, Interim Director, and finally the Director of Parks and Rec. Ellen has dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for Milan residents. Her legacy will live on through the many projects she pioneered; Ellen's final project as Director of Parks and Rec—a splash pad in Wilson Park—will provide area youth with countless hours of summer fun for years to come.

Ellen is an active and well-known participant in Milan's civic life. Along with her husband, Mike, and her children and grandchildren, her entire family regularly participates in community events, demonstrating the value of volunteerism to the next generations. She regularly donates her time at Milan Seniors for Healthy Living, where she teaches quilting and other crafting projects. She is an active member of the Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan where she is an elected Elder, spending countless hours teaching Bible stories to children, as well as organizing the Christmas Pageant and countless Chicken Broils and Steak Fry's over the years. Ellen was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the Milan Chamber of Commerce in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Ellen Bell's service to the city of Milan. Over the last 38 years, she has dedicated herself to making her city more attractive and welcoming, both in public and in private. She is a tremendous example for all those who serve as a public official and those who wish to serve their community on their own time. I thank Ellen.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my Republican colleagues to stop playing politics with the full faith and credit of our Nation.

Through the threat of a default on our debt in pursuit of draconian cuts, they are prompting a crisis of their own making—one that will have lasting, devastating impacts to our global economy and to the livelihoods of millions of Americans.

We are on the brink of catastrophe, yet Republicans sent Congress home for the Memorial Day weekend. At a time when we should be united in honoring our brave service members, extreme Republicans are willing to trigger a recession so they can cut veterans benefits.

Democrats are ready to pay America's bills without gambling with working people's livelihoods by imposing cruel cuts.

The clock is ticking. Moderate Republicans must join us now to sign the discharge petition, end this crisis, and save our economy.

● 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, 2023, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call No. 233. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on H.J. Res. 39, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to “Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord with Presidential Proclamation 10414.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for personal reasons from votes on May 23rd and 24th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 232, YEA on Roll Call No. 233, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL TREVOR J. BREDENKAMP

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Co-Chair of the Army Caucus, I extend my deepest gratitude for the service of Major General Trevor J. Bredenkamp to the United States Congress as the Army’s Chief Legislative Liaison.

Under his stewardship, the Army maintained strong relationships with members of Congress, committees, and staff. His many accomplishments within the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison are a testament to his leadership, particularly in how his team persevered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congratulations to Major General Bredenkamp on his selection as the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington and Commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region. His dedication and experience will undoubtedly result in a disciplined and prepared force, entrusted with securing our Nation’s Capital.

I extend my best wishes as he transitions to a new assignment and express profound thankfulness to him and his family’s service to our Nation.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FEARS OF DEFAULT

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand that Republicans get back to Wash-

ington and finish the job the American people sent all of us to Washington to do.

House Republicans have fled the Capitol leaving their worries behind, ready to enjoy the holiday weekend. The everyday American doesn’t have that luxury.

My constituents have been calling and writing expressing their anxiety and feelings of uncertainty. Americans are worried about paying their rent, buying their groceries, and caring for their children in the event of a default.

Everyday Americans will spend the weekend worried about whether or not they will receive their next social security check. Everyday Americans will spend the weekend hoping their retirement savings will still be intact by next week. Everyday Americans will use their weekend to figure out how to pay their rent and mortgages in the event of a default.

In the event of a default, at least 7 million jobs will be lost, unemployment will rise, our GDP will decline, and roughly \$10 trillion in household wealth will be wiped out.

The House Republicans don’t have these problems to worry about. The House Republicans don’t have to feel the consequences of their own actions like their constituents will.

The Democrats are here and ready to pass a clean debt ceiling. We are working for the people. It is deplorable that my Republican colleagues won’t do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL POPPY DAY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to re-introduce a bipartisan resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day, with Congresswoman Spartz.

The importance of this day cannot be overstated. This bipartisan National Poppy Day Resolution recognizes the sacrifices of America’s veterans and fallen service members.

In the last several decades, Memorial Day has become synonymous with the start of summer, and not as it was intended as a time to mourn and remember the U.S. military personnel who have fought and died while serving in the United States armed forces. While the United States has great respect for those who serve in the Armed Forces, we often focus on the living veterans. There are many parents, spouses, siblings, and children who still mourn their fallen service member.

Yes, there are ceremonies to remember those we have lost, such as the ones at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at the Pentagon, and small ones at National Cemeteries. However, as a Nation we no longer take the time to remember those we have shed blood in the name of freedom.

The poppy flower has long been a marker of respect and a way to raise awareness and support for members of our nation’s veteran communities, servicemembers and their families, and the families of those who died in service to their country. Poppy Day is widely recognized by America’s allies, especially in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Great Brit-

ain, and Ukraine, but is less recognized here at home.

The red-flowered corn poppy became forever linked to soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefields of World War I, as result of the poem “In Flanders Fields.” The poem, written by a Canadian soldier actively serving on the front-lines of WWI to honor his fellow soldiers killed in battle, reads:

“In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row”

Around the world, the red-flowered corn poppy continues to serve as the living symbol of the blood shed by those who served and is worn as a gesture of gratitude and recognition of the sacrifices people have made in service to their country. Many nations incorporate the poppy into their Veterans or Remembrance Day ceremonies.

In the United States, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars first called attention in the 1920s to the importance of the poppy flower in honoring the fallen. They continue to distribute poppies and promote the importance of a National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day; raising money for disabled veterans.

With wider recognition of National Poppy Day and wearing a red poppy, we honor every servicemember who has died in the name of liberty, freedom, and democracy. Additionally this provides us the opportunity to thank their families, veterans, and current service members for our freedom now and for generations to come. In the words of American Moina Michael,

“And now the Torch and Poppy Red, We wear in honor of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught; We’ll teach the lesson that ye wrought”

Our Resolution, would begin on May 24, 2024. We should honor past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. We should encourage all citizens, residents, and visitors of the United States to join in observing “National Poppy Day.” Wearing a red poppy the Friday before Memorial Day—and through the weekend—is an simple declaration of our admiration for and thanks to those individuals who shed blood to preserve freedom.

In this body we have people who have served and those who have lost. At the very least we should honor them.

We invite all Members of Congress to wear their poppy red, support the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on May 26, 2023 and every year after, to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed for our country—both living and dead. I also invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this resolution.

HONORING DR. TELENA WRIGHT UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Telena Wright upon her retirement as Superintendent of the Argyle Independent School District in Argyle, Texas. Raised by two educators in Ballinger, Texas, Dr. Wright initially chose a pre-pharmacy major before switching to an education major and her ultimate attainment of a teacher’s certification.