

HONORING THOMAS “TOMMY”  
ELLIOTT

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Tommy Elliott, who was cruelly taken from us too soon at the Old National Bank Shooting in Louisville on April 10th.

Tommy was a pillar of the Louisville community and a friend to all. Most importantly, he was a friend of ours.

I knew Tommy for a long time, and my wife, Chris, worked with his wife. Tommy loved life, and we loved sharing our life with him. He was the definition of a true friend.

An Elizabethtown High School and University of Kentucky alum, he devoted his life to helping others through serving on the board of numerous organizations and nonprofits throughout Kentucky, as well as mentoring some of the most prominent members of our community. Tommy will always be remembered as a true public servant, dedicated father and husband, and inspirational leader to all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 238—H.R. 2792; YEA on Roll Call No. 239—H.R. 2795; and YEA on Roll Call No. 240—H.R. 2796.

HONORING COLONEL THOMAS O.  
PEMBERTON

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and celebrate Colonel Thomas O. Pemberton, Commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base, for his retirement from the U.S. Air Force Reserve this month.

Colonel Pemberton's distinguished career in service to our nation has spanned nearly four decades. During that time, Colonel Pemberton's professionalism and persistence has advanced the mission of the United States Military and inspired countless other men and women to be the very best they can be.

First entering active duty in 1985, Colonel Pemberton has flown numerous aircraft in his career, amassing more than 5,800 flight hours as a navigator and a pilot. Colonel Pemberton's service has taken him bases across our country, including numerous roles at Grissom alone. It has also included mobilization and deployments in support of Operations Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom as well as other contingencies across the globe.

For the past two years, Colonel Pemberton has served as the 38th commander of the 434th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), a unit responsible for operating and maintaining all of Grissom Air Reserve Base. In this role, Colonel Pemberton has ably commanded the largest KC-135R Stratotanker unit in the Air Force Reserve Command, which runs refueling missions around the world. With nearly 1,900 military, civilian, and contractor personnel at Grissom, Pemberton's steady leadership has proved instrumental in the success of the Hoosier Wing. In addition to his upstanding service in the Air Reserve, countless Hoosiers have testified to another important aspect of Colonel Pemberton's life: his commitment and devotion to his family.

Indiana's Second's Congressional District, the Hoosier state, and our entire nation are all better off because of Colonel Pemberton's service and leadership. I am proud to call Colonel Pemberton a friend and to congratulate him on a mission well accomplished. I and Hoosiers throughout the Second District and beyond, wish Colonel Pemberton and his entire family nothing but the best as he prepares to embark on the next exciting chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN MAYSAA  
OUZA

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Air Force Captain Maysaa Ouza, a native of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District Strong, a trailblazer for religious freedom and advocate on behalf of victims of crimes.

Captain Ouza is a graduate of University of Michigan-Dearborn and the University of Toledo College of Law in Toledo, Ohio. She first became interested in serving in the U.S. Air Force in 2018. An Arab American woman who wears the hijab, Captain Ouza blazed the trail for those who would follow in her footsteps by successfully petitioning the Air Force to reconsider its nationwide policy regarding religious accommodations. She is the first Air Force judge advocate (JAG) to wear a hijab in uniform. Captain Ouza currently serves as a JAG officer at the Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Dayton, Ohio, where she advocates on behalf of survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Please join me in recognizing Captain Maysaa Ouza, for her outstanding service, as we welcome her back to Dearborn, Michigan as the Grand Marshal of the City of Dearborn's ninety-seventh Memorial Day festivities.

HONORING DEANA ECKERT

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Deana Eckert, who was cruelly taken from us too soon at the Old National Bank Shooting in Louisville on April 10th.

Deana was a selfless person above all and found the most joy in pouring love into her friends, family, and everyone she encountered. A Kentucky native and Western Kentucky University alum, Deana truly devoted her life to uplifting others. She had worked for Old National Bank since 2016 and was a beloved wife and mother to two children.

Deana's father said he would always remember his daughter for her generosity and “how good and sweet she was.” Her husband and daughter said that “she never met someone she didn't leave a lasting positive impact on,” and that she was the “kindest, most loving and compassionate” person.

Deana will be remembered by her family, friends, and neighbors in Louisville as “a rainbow of love.”

RECOGNIZING ELBIT SYSTEMS OF  
AMERICA—30 YEARS OF SERVICE,  
PERFORMANCE, AND INNOVATION

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of one of America's critically important defense technology companies—Elbit Systems of America, of Fort Worth, Texas. I congratulate the company and its 3,400 employees nationwide for their three decades of service and performance.

The men and women of Elbit Systems of America embody the spirit of innovation and have made invaluable contributions to our national defense and the welfare of our communities.

Founded in 1993, Elbit Systems of America has become a beacon of success within the defense industry. Over the past three decades, the company has continuously embraced innovation and leveraged cutting-edge technology to deliver superior defense capabilities to our aimed forces.

As a leading provider of innovative defense solutions, Elbit Systems of America has consistently demonstrated its commitment to excellence and has played a vital role in ensuring our national security. Through its unwavering dedication, Elbit Systems of America has established itself as a trusted partner in equipping our military with the tools they need to safeguard our nation.

Beyond its impressive track record in defense technology, Elbit Systems of America has also exemplified a deep sense of corporate social responsibility. The company's commitment to giving back to the community is commendable, and its charitable contributions have had a profound impact on numerous organizations and causes.

I must also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of its employees, many of whom have worked there from the company's modest beginnings, accumulating decades of expertise while simultaneously supporting key charitable organizations. As a Fort Worth native, I have known a number of Elbit Systems of America employees for many years. They are my neighbors, fellow parishioners, and friends. I can attest that they are joined together by a shared commitment to the company's mission to create and deliver innovative

solutions that protect and save lives. It is because of their expertise, creativity, and tireless efforts that the company has achieved its remarkable success.

Through initiatives such as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Habitat for Humanity, and the Tarrant Area Food Bank, Elbit Systems of America employees have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and tens of thousands of service-hours. By investing in these important areas, the company has helped improve the lives of countless individuals and strengthened our society as a whole.

Please join me in congratulating Elbit Systems of America on this significant occasion and wishing them continued prosperity in all their future endeavors.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on May 30, 2023 due to 2 positive COVID-19 tests. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 238, YEA on Roll Call No. 239, and YEA on Roll Call No. 240.

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HONORING PAUL HUBER, THE J. CARTER WALKER AWARDEE

### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Huber, the J. Carter Walker awardee, at Woodberry Forest School. For the past 55 years, Mr. Huber has served his students, the school, and his community, through his long-standing commitment to education and learning.

Mr. Huber's educational journey at Woodberry Forest started as a student at the school in the Fall of 1964. In 1968, he graduated from Woodberry as the class valedictorian. In his valedictorian speech, he asked the class not to leave Woodberry "without feeling not only has the school done something for you, but also that you have done something for the school." In accordance with this statement, the 1968 senior class announced at graduation that their class gift could not be used by the school until the board of trustees opened admission to all students, regardless of race or religion.

After graduation, Mr. Huber attended Yale University. He returned to Woodberry Forest School in 1972 to teach French, and throughout his 55-year career at Woodberry, he taught every language offered by the school. He also served as an academic dean and as associate headmaster from 1980 to 1996. In this role, he oversaw student scheduling and academic affairs. Since 2001 he has served as Woodberry's senior master. Finally, in 2018 he returned to the academic dean's role while continuing to teach French.

Mr. Huber is known for his ability to connect with his students. He remains in contact with hundreds of alumni—he is known for remembering birthdays, staying up to date on their

professional advancements, and offering advice when asked. His office is often the first stop for visiting alumni.

After 55 years of service to Woodberry Forest School, Mr. Huber is being honored with the J. Carter Walker Award, Woodberry's highest honor. J. Carter Walker, for whom the award is named, served Woodberry for more than 50 years and was the school's first headmaster. The award is given by the board of trustees to an alumnus or friend of the school who has exemplified the personal standards of Mr. Walker in devotion and long service to Woodberry Forest School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Paul Huber. His commitment and passion for education and for Woodberry Forest School are admirable—and may he keep inspiring Virginia students to learn.

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#### CONGRATULATING HOLLY JOHNSON

### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Holly Johnson for a remarkable 24 years with the Adams County Economic and Community Development, including the last 12 as Economic Development Director. Throughout her service to the county, Holly has worked with and met people from different backgrounds, led many community collaboration efforts, and built important partnerships throughout the county.

Holly is well known in Adams County, Ohio. Her selfless service has been a beacon of hope, integrity, and diligence.

Never touting her own accomplishments, Holly always acted in the best interests of all those she chose to serve. She leaves an incredible legacy in the community and leaves the job where the next Director will be in a position to thrive.

Holly Johnson served all around with dedication and honor throughout her career. I thank Holly for her service to the good people of our community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

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HONORING AND RECOGNIZING IDA TIMMONS ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 34 YEARS ON THE EASTERN SUFFOLK BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (BOCES)

### HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Ida Timmons on her retirement after 34 years on the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Throughout her career, Ida has been a Student Assistance Service Counselor with Eastern Suffolk BOCES at the South Country Central School District as well as a Volunteer at numerous Not-for-Profits Agencies and Churches.

Ida has been an asset to Eastern Suffolk BOCES and to our community. I thank her for 34 years of incredible public service and wish her the best on her upcoming retirement.

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#### FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN TO SUMMIT MOUNT EVEREST

### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the first Native American to summit Mount Everest, Dr. Jacob Weasel from Rapid City, South Dakota.

Dr. Weasel is a surgeon at Monument Health and a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Five years ago, he became the first known Lakota surgeon and is now also known as the first Native American to summit the Earth's highest peak.

Dr. Jacob Weasel wants to set an example for Native American youth, showing them, they are capable of accomplishing whatever they set their mind to. This recent accomplishment is only a part of his goal to be the first Native American to summit the Seven Summits. Additionally, Dr. Weasel hopes to build a playground in Rapid City's Lakota Homes neighborhood and fund three women's health centers in rural Nepal.

I want to congratulate Dr. Jacob Weasel on his recent accomplishment and wish him the best of luck in completing the Seven Summits.

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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER SMITH: A TRAILBLAZER IN MEDIA, ECONOMICS, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

### HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable educator and dear friend, Professor Christopher Smith, who has recently passed away at the age of 55. Christopher was a clinical professor of communication at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, where he passionately served for more than 20 years, inspiring colleagues and students with his innovation, leadership, and vision.

Throughout his tenure at USC Annenberg, Christopher proved himself to be an innovator and a leader. Christopher's passion for teaching was clearly demonstrated in the variety of comprehensive courses he developed. These included engaging and thought-provoking subjects like "Communication, Culture and Capitalism," and "Media, Money, and Society." These courses and seminars, unique in their focus and design, opened doors of opportunity for students to investigate the pressing issues of our time and devise innovative solutions.

Christopher's contributions extend far beyond the classroom. He was a trailblazer in creating links between academia and industry, leveraging his professional network to establish partnerships with prominent technology