

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING PATRICK RICKLEY AND HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MACKINAC BRIDGE AU- THORITY

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Patrick Rickley and his upcoming retirement after 30 years of service to the Mackinac Bridge Authority and the state of Michigan. Since starting his employment with the Bridge Authority, Patrick has become a staple of our community in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. His welcoming demeanor, kind attitude, and unwavering drive to serve the community has had a positive impact on countless residents. Patrick's retirement may sadden many across the Upper Peninsula, but his legacy of goodwill is bound to continue shaping and benefiting the local community for years to come.

Patrick will be leaving his post as a Bridge Services Representative when he retires later this month. Having the ability to give a smile and a kind word to all who come into contact with him, Patrick cemented himself as a familiar and trustworthy face for many across the Upper Peninsula and beyond. His dedication to providing high quality work and assistance to travelers will be missed and should not be taken for granted in his final days with the Bridge Authority.

A long-time member of the local community in Saint Ignace, Patrick has become the standard when it comes to community service and individual impact. Over the course of 30 years, Patrick's dedication to his work, his family, and travelers is admirable and all of Michigan's First District owes Patrick our support and gratitude for all he has done.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Patrick Rickley for his steadfast service to the Mackinac Bridge Authority and our great state. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Patrick and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

### CELEBRATING THE ECONOMIC DE- VELOPMENT COUNCIL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Economic Development Council of St. Charles County who is celebrating their 30th Anniversary.

Over the last 30 years, the EDC Council of St. Charles County has offered its tenants an affordable location for to start and grow. The incubator has played an integral role in the regional startup community. Hundreds of busi-

nesses encompassing thousands of jobs have launched in the incubator and gone on to flourish in the community.

Many tenants attribute their success, in part, to the all-inclusive wraparound support received by the EDC. Benefits unaffordable to many start-ups include but are not limited to IT support, staffed reception area, and access to conference rooms. They offer business counseling, in-house financial resources, and month-to-month leasing.

When starting a business there are several things to consider. The incubator allows an affordable option to test out ideas and grow business without sacrificing financial security.

In both 2020 and 2021 the EDC of St. Charles County is named the largest SBA 504 lender in the St. Louis region by the St. Louis Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Economic Development Council of St. Charles County on 30 successful years and in thanking them for their service to our community.

### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF TANZANIA AND DOING BUSINESS IN SUB-SAHA- RAN AFRICA

#### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent successes in doing business in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the potential for future success in the region. Recently, I joined a host of state, local elected officials, business and community leaders in my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana, in coming together to celebrate the historic launch of TanzaNutz, the first cashew nuts grown, harvested and consumer packaged in Tanzania being exported directly for the first time from farmers in Tanzania to the U.S. marketplace. The inaugural seven-ton shipment departed the East Africa port city, Dar es Salaam, and landed in the U.S. on Friday, November 4, 2022, with all shipments arriving through the Port of New Orleans.

In celebration of establishing a sister city partner and bilateral trade agreement, this momentous occasion signals the beginning of a robust business relationship between the United Republic of Tanzania, East Africa, and United States of America, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as the Crescent City, New Orleans was the first major market to launch TanzaNutz. In addition, the U.S. Department of Commerce works closely in presenting business opportunities in Africa. There are eight markets including Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Ethiopia represented with these business opportunities. Africa produces 60 percent of the World's cashew nuts and the U.S. is the largest importer of cashew nuts in

the world. I was proud to join a Congressional Delegation trip (CODEL) to Tanzania and several other African nations with House Foreign Affairs Chairman, Jeffrey Meeks, exploring the growth of future export and trade opportunities, considered sub-Saharan Africa.

Tanzania is the fourth biggest producer of cashew nuts (*Anacardium occidentale*) in Africa and the eighth globally. Indeed, 20 percent of all cashews on the continent come from the country behind Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Guinea. The most extensive cultivation belt is along the coastline in the south of the country. Most farmers are smallholders, and they process their seeds through cooperative societies. Their source of income is mainly the export of the crop across the Indian Ocean. India imports almost all the cashews from the country. Tanzania generates up to 15 percent of its total foreign exchange from this leguminous fruit.

In appearance, the cashew fruit is dual. It has an apple fruit on top that sequesters a small, curved nut's shell at its end. Though the apple makes other culinary products, it is the small nut that measures about 1.5 inches across that is important. It is the chief source of cashew nut oil.

One of the principal reasons for poverty in Africa and the underperformance of African economies, is the export of Africa's raw materials at the lowest prices, into the global market, unrefined, without value additive processing taking place in Africa prior to export. The Congressional Black Caucus strongly supports and advocates for public and private sector policies and practices to reverse this traditional exploitative paradigm in cooperation with the Nations of Africa. The Congressional Black Caucus desires to build on plans and programs advanced by the Biden Administration and African Nations at the recent U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit, designed to encourage greater economic self-sufficiency for Africa and cultivate a stronger trading and investing partner with the United States, and globally.

The Congressional Black Caucus unanimously approved the Tanzania Nut Resolution on Wednesday, June 7th. The Congressional Black Caucus endorses and supports the application of value additive processes taking place in the cashew markets in Tanzania, and the rest of the nations of Africa, with the aim of building agricultural product processing plants in Africa; creating millions of fair paying, safer jobs with fringe benefits for African workers; generating stable and more profitable outcomes for Africa's cashew farmers; partnering with African cashew businesses and boosting African economies across the board, while ending exploitative practices like commodity brokering, low cashew sales, and urging the end of such practices throughout the rest of the African agricultural sector.

The Congressional Black Caucus further supports the creation of large investment returns for Africans, Africans in the Diaspora, and friends of Africa's economic development and the stimulation of trade growth between Africa and the U.S. All such ways that honor

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Congressional Black Caucus' collective vision for honorable prosperity for Africans, African Americans, and the American public in partnership and unity with Africa.

The Congressional Black Caucus commends Ward Holdings International for its leadership and innovation, in cooperation with the Nation of Tanzania and other African Nations, to strengthen the economies of these nations from within and to assist them in adopting and applying value-adding processes to their agricultural crops. By this resolution, we encourage like-minded companies to emulate and deliberately engage in ushering in a new dynamic of African and African American empowerment and partnership that signals tangible progress toward overcoming the sordid history of African peoples deliberately imposed disempowerment and disunity.

The Congressional Black Caucus believes that now is the time for all in the African Diaspora to make an equal commitment toward building Africa together. We declare that a strengthened Africa is a strengthened African Diaspora.

The U.S. is the world's leading importer of cashews—a growing industry. It's a mutually beneficial decision for our city to be the doorway for TanzaNutz to join the market under fair and profitable practices in the region of sub-Saharan Africa. TanzaNutz is an exciting addition to the New Orleans import family, and I'm thrilled to have played a role in welcoming you here. I'm committed to strong advocacy for New Orleans' economic development, and to continue to foster a mutually beneficial relationship with our neighbors in Tanzania.

#### RECOGNIZING TONY ANDERSON FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tony Anderson for his upcoming retirement after 40 years of service with electric cooperatives, including 20 years with the Cherryland Electric Cooperative as their General Manager. During his time at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Tony cemented himself as an indispensable member of their leadership team and a key contributor to their overall success. Tony's career is worthy of celebration and his impact on all he served will continue to facilitate positive change in his absence.

While becoming one of the cooperative's most valuable team members, Tony also directed his energy towards helping others. In an effort to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan, he ran marathons in each state and Washington, D.C., soon accumulating more than \$500,000 to help his community. He was also named Michigan's Volunteer of the Year, attending the Governor's Service Awards in 2012. Tony continues to pay it forward in his new capacity of President of the NRECA Board of Directors, where he will share his insight and wealth of knowledge dealing with cooperatives across the Nation.

Tony deserves immense praise for all he has done throughout his career and the selfless ways in which he's served the commu-

nity. Over the course of 40 years, Tony's unwavering dedication and staunch commitment to both his craft and community has been immeasurable—and for this, I am grateful.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tony Anderson for his steadfast service to Cherryland Electric Cooperative and our great state. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Tony and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING JUDITH ANN O'BRIEN FOWKES ON HER 60TH BIRTHDAY AND HER CAREER IN EDUCATION

#### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in celebration of my dear friend, Judith Ann O'Brien Fowkes of Braintree, Massachusetts, in recognition of her 60th birthday. I want to commend her for her tireless dedication to educating and inspiring hundreds of students in the Archdiocese of Boston for more than thirty years.

Born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territory, Canada on June 14, 1963, to Kevin O'Brien and Patricia Bowser O'Brien, Judith graduated from Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford, Nova Scotia in 1981, before pursuing and earning a Teacher's License from Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1984. One year later, Judith received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Mt. St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After completing her education in Canada, Judith arrived in the United States in 1987, and began her teaching career for the Archdiocese of Boston in the fall of that same year. Inspired and driven to always continue learning, Judith earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts in 2002. Furthermore, Judith continued her call to education by serving on the faculties of St. Brigid School in South Boston, the Sacred Heart School in Weymouth, and is currently serving as an aide at the St. Brendan School in Dorchester.

Through her countless examples of compassion and selfless service, she has inspired many of her former students to become lifelong learners and educators themselves. Many of her former students have gone on to pursue careers in public service, serving as police officers, firefighters, and government officials.

Judith has enriched the lives of her family, friends, and all who know her. Her quick and warm smile, her kindness, her compassion, and sense of humor are impossible to dodge. Judith's sincere empathy and care for each of her students over the years is immeasurable. Judith resides in Braintree, Massachusetts with her adoring co-captain and husband of 32 years, Robert, who served as District Director in my office.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to congratulate Judith on her 60th birthday and to thank her for her over thirty years of dedicated service in the Commonwealth. I urge my colleagues to join with me, and with Judith's family and friends in recognizing Judith's dedicated career in education.

#### SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the right to contraception for all Americans.

Last year, Justice Clarence Thomas' concurrence to the *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health* decision called for the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the right to contraception.

Emboldened by this statement, Republican-controlled state legislatures across the Nation began limiting access to birth control.

Nine states have already adopted restrictions to emergency contraception.

I stand with my colleagues, Congresswoman MANNING and Senator MARKEY, as they reintroduce the Right to Contraception Act.

Last year, this bill passed the U.S. House with a bipartisan vote of 228–195.

I am proud to be a part of the effort to bring this important issue into legislative focus and protect women's health.

This bill sets out statutory protections for an individual's right to access and a health care provider's right to provide contraception and related information.

Generally, the bill prohibits measures that single out and impede access to contraception and related information. However, a party may defend against a claim that a measure violates the bill's prohibitions by demonstrating, through clear and convincing evidence, that the measure significantly advances access to contraception and cannot be achieved through less restrictive means.

The Department of Justice, individuals, or health care providers may bring a lawsuit to enforce this bill, and states are not immune from suits for violations.

This Act would codify into law a person's right to obtain contraceptives and to engage in the use of contraception.

It would also define and protect a health care provider's corresponding right to prescribe contraception and to provide information about the use of contraception to their patients.

The ability to make personal choices about one's own body is a fundamental human right.

The right to contraception is internationally recognized by the World Health Organization, and by the United Nations as intrinsically linked to women's health, economic mobility, and self-governance.

Birth control pills, IUDs, and other forms of contraception are all forms of safe and essential healthcare.

They are central to women's ability to participate equally in the workplace, in academia, and in society.

Contraception allows individuals, couples, and families to be in control of their own futures.

Contraception can allow a young woman to achieve her dreams of earning a college degree.

It can allow a young couple to prioritize their careers before raising a child.

It can allow parents to focus their financial and emotional resources on the care of a special needs son or daughter.