

spent free time organizing and tracing his family's genealogy.

LeRoy dedicated his life to the service of his country and leaves behind a tremendous legacy. He will be dearly missed. We offer our sincerest condolences to Mary and the rest of the Elfmann family, and pray LeRoy's memory will comfort them during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on January 24 and 25, 2023. I was not in Washington, D.C. on these dates due to the death of my father and subsequent mourning period. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 32 on H.R. 159, the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more efficient.

Roll Call No. 33 on H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make our federal government more transparent.

Roll Call No. 34 on H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American aviation stronger, safer, and more reliable.

Roll Call No. 35 on H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, I would have voted yes. The bill enjoys strong bipartisan support to make American businesses stronger.

Lastly, Roll Call No. 36 on H. Con. Res. 7, Commending the Bravery, Courage, and Resolve of the Women and Men of Iran Demonstrating in More Than 133 Cities and Risking Their Safety to Speak Out Against the Iranian Regime's Human Rights Abuses, I would have voted yes. I am a cosponsor of the resolution, which enjoys strong bipartisan support.

HONORING 'ALFIE' ALVARADO-RAMOS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and to wish a happy retirement to one of my constituents and a longtime friend, 'Alfie' Alvarado-Ramos. Alfie is celebrating her retirement after a lifetime of service.

Alfie was born in Puerto Rico and served 22 years on active duty retiring as the Command Sergeant Major of Madigan Army Medical Center and Troop Command, Joint Base Lewis McChord.

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos joined the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) in 1993 as the Associate Superintendent of the Washington Soldiers Home. She then became the Superintendent of the Washington Veterans Home, where she later served as the agency's Assistant Director and Deputy Director before Gov. Jay Inslee appointed her as Director in 2013.

She established new programs and services to meet the needs of Washington's veterans and their families—from opening the new State Veterans Home in Walla Walla in 2017 to creating new programs to serve military spouses and LGBTQ+ veterans. In recent years, Alvarado-Ramos worked with state elected officials and leaders to create a framework for suicide prevention efforts statewide, and most recently unveiled a 988-suicide prevention emblem to generate awareness for the 988 Crisis Lifeline.

Alfie is the recipient of the Army Legion of Merit Medal and Military Order of Medical Merit and state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She is currently serving as executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and National Association of State Veterans Home.

In addition to her work in our community, Alfie's passion for ensuring women veterans have a voice in the veteran's community has resulted in annual women veterans' conferences, monthly learning sessions, and Washington State's participation in the I Am Not Invisible Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to celebrate Alfie Alvarado-Ramos on her retirement. Her extraordinary leadership and love for her community has never wavered. She has made a tremendous difference in the state of Washington. Her service to our country and community is greatly appreciated and will be long remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF MARK WIEGERT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of retiring Calumet County Sheriff Mark Wiegert. Throughout Sheriff Wiegert's 31 years in law enforcement, he has proven to be a remarkable leader and mentor to those in his department. Beginning as a part-time officer in Brillion and Valders, Sheriff Wiegert has obtained immense knowledge while serving in different capacities and departments in law enforcement, including as a sergeant in the investigative division and a lieutenant managing the jail and investigations. The many positions he held along the way surely played a role in obtaining his most recent leadership position, Sheriff of Calumet County. I commend Sheriff Wiegert's unwavering service for the past 31 years to the people of Calumet County and Northeast Wisconsin.

During his time leading the Calumet County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Wiegert was committed to ensuring that the department expand while also identifying ways to better serve the community. While in office, Sheriff Wiegert oversaw the \$35 million project to build the new sheriffs office and jail. In addition to the building expansion, the department added new positions, a swearing-in ceremony for officers, and a wellness committee that assists officers in navigating mental health challenges. In recognition of Sheriff Wiegert's efforts, he has re-

ceived several awards, including the Wisconsin Officer of the Year Award and the Outstanding Victim Advocate Award from the Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. It is evident through these many accolades that Sheriff Wiegert has committed himself to serving the people of Calumet County with a sense of duty and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Wiegert for his extraordinary service and commitment to his community. Sheriff Wiegert will surely be missed, but I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

GUAM-NORTHERN MARIANAS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Guam-Northern Marianas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for 25 years of valued service supporting our islands' service men and women seeking civilian employment. Since 1997, the Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR has been instrumental in connecting our islands' National Guard and Reserve members with employers that understand and cooperate with one's commitment to military service. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of our Nation's Guard and Reserve units, should they be called upon for duty or disaster emergencies.

The Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve are on the frontlines of securing our Nation from threats around the world. In fact, the National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of our U.S. military strength. Recently, Reserve Component forces have been activated across America to assist efforts to respond to, mitigate, and control the COVID-19 pandemic. And, with more than 2,700 service members on Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, Guam and the Marianas enjoy the highest Reserve membership per capita anywhere in the United States.

That is why the work of Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR is so important to supporting the well-being of our islands and our Nation. Our service men and women make tremendous sacrifices answering the call to serve, as do their employers whose deployed Guard and Reserve members can no longer offer their skills and services for months at a time. Yet because of ESGR, these service members are comforted by the knowledge of job security upon returning home and their employers are rewarded with a uniquely dedicated workforce.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking and celebrating Guam-Northern Marianas ESGR for their exceptional service and commitment to our islands' service men and women.

HONORING FOUR CHAPLAINS
SUNDAY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Four Chaplains Sunday.

February 3, 2023 will mark the 80th anniversary of the sinking of troopship *USAT Dorchester*, which carried to their deaths 672 men, including 4 United States Army chaplains of 3 faiths who stood united in prayer as the ship went down.

These 4 chaplains, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, gave their life jackets to 4 soldiers and thus sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of others.

The heroic deeds of Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. Johnny P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling, and their combined act of supreme devotion and sacrifice for American liberty and human freedom, are an inspiring and shining example of real brotherhood for all time to the people of the world.

In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains' next of kin, and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal for heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

We must all see to it that their supreme sacrifice to the common cause of human freedom and justice for all shall not have been in vain. May their memory be everlasting.

RECOGNIZING SARTELL POLICE
CHIEF JIM HUGHES

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes. Chief Hughes is retiring this March after more than 32 years of service to the Sartell community.

Chief Hughes began his career as a patrol officer in Kasson, Minnesota, and later served as the interim Chief of Police for the City of Claremont, Minnesota. He began his career in Sartell in 1991, holding key positions in nearly every area of the department. Chief Hughes served as a field training officer, a sergeant, and a lieutenant before being appointed chief in 2004. He also currently serves as the Chair of the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force and Chair of the State of Minnesota Violent Crime Coordinating Council.

After more than 30 years in Sartell, Jim has seen the city grow from a few thousand to nearly 20,000 residents. This increase has resulted in both a shift in the needs of the community and the responsibilities of the department, which Chief Hughes has handled masterfully.

In his resignation letter, Chief Hughes described the importance of connecting with and being engaged in the community. "My favorite part of being with the Sartell Police Depart-

ment is that we've remained committed to our community via outreach programs and the interaction we have with residents on a daily basis," he said. Clearly, Chief Hughes understood what it meant to not only protect his community but truly serve them.

I thank Chief Hughes for the incredible impact he has had on the Sartell Police Department and the community of Sartell at large. Congratulations, and we hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 on January 24–25, 2023, due to the shooting in Half Moon Bay, California in my Congressional District. I would have voted as follows:

Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 32, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 33, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 34, I would have voted YES; on Roll Call No. 35, I would have voted YES; and on Roll Call No. 36, I would have voted YES.

CELEBRATING ROBERT "BOB"
WIECKOWSKI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former California State Senator Robert "Bob" Wieckowski, who left office Monday, December 5, 2022, after 12 years serving in the California State Legislature.

Bob was born in San Francisco and grew up in Fremont, California. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1977 and moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as staff for Congressman Don Edwards until 1982. He returned to school and received a Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University Law School in 1985. From 1986 until 1988, Bob studied Polish in Krakow, Poland.

While practicing bankruptcy law, Bob began his political career serving on Fremont's City Council from 2004 to 2010 and served as vice mayor from 2008 to 2010. From there, Bob was elected to the California State Assembly to serve District 25 in 2010. He served as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Insurance Committee, Health Committee, Public Employment and Retirement Committee, and Social Security Committee. He also launched his "Made in California Jobs Initiative" in 2011.

In 2014, Bob was elected to the California State Senate to represent District 10. In that chamber he served on the Judiciary Committee, Transportation Committee, Appropriations Committee, Budget, and Fiscal Review Committee, Housing Committee, and Chaired the Environmental Quality Committee. Notably, Bob passed legislation that expanded housing by removing barriers and allowing residents to construct accessory dwelling units through, in-

creased wage garnishment restrictions, and pushed for more robust climate adaptation.

For 12 years, Bob Wieckowski diligently served in the California State Legislature, serving our mutual constituents. His work has left a lasting impact on the Tri-City community and California more broadly. I wish him well-deserved rest and relaxation with his wife, Sue, and son, Luke, as he enters this new chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
KITTY HAWK POLICE CHIEF
JOEL JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative GREG MURPHY, to honor the 30 years of service of Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson to the Town of Kitty Hawk and the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Chief Johnson started his career with the Kill Devil Hills Police Department in North Carolina in 1989 and served there until 1993 when he decided to attend a school of higher education. He then served in Wrightsville Beach from 1997 to 1998. Soon after, he began his service with the Kitty Hawk Police Department in September 1999 as a Patrol Officer. He briefly moved to the private sector in 2004 before returning to the Kitty Hawk Police Department in 2006. He then worked his way up to Patrol Sergeant, and ultimately up to Police Chief.

Chief Johnson accomplished a great deal as Police Chief. Some of his many accomplishments include successfully applying for over \$400,000 in federal and state grant funds, creating and implementing a new Field Training Officer Manual for rookie officers, creating and hiring the first Narcotics Officer for the Kitty Hawk Police Department, and installing an RX Drug box in the department's lobby for people to discard their prescription medications.

Chief Johnson frequently went above and beyond his expected duties. He conducted ride-alongs, served as part of the Nags Head Police Chief Assessment Board and the Kitty Hawk Fire Chief selection committee—and even changed a distressed tourist's flat tire.

Throughout his career, Chief Johnson helped a countless number of people, who described him as compassionate, professional, and dedicated—the ideal Police Chief. Under his command, the department excellently served and built a strong, trusting relationship with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others in honoring the service of Kitty Hawk Police Chief Joel Johnson. May God bless Chief Johnson and his family.

HONORING JACK GIBSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jack Gibson's 28 years of service as Marin Municipal Water District's (Marin Water) Division I Director.