

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REFLECTING ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH 2023

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to look back on Gun Violence Prevention Month. During this time of mourning and remembrance, I have had near constant nightmarish images in mind. Images of human carnage in the aftermath of shootings involving military-style assault weapons like the ones we now witness on a regular, predictable basis.

Families are unable to simply run errands on the weekends or interact with their neighbors without fear of losing their lives.

And yet, most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tolerate this uniquely American carnage without hesitation.

We know that the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban was effective at reducing crime and getting these military-style weapons off our streets.

And we know that after the ban was dropped, between 2015 and 2022, mass shootings where an assault weapon was used accounted for a third of all mass shooting deaths and more than 80 percent of all injuries.

AR-15s and other assault weapons are the tool of choice by gunmen in nearly all of the 10 deadliest mass shootings since 2015, including the gunman in Uvalde, Texas, who shot and killed 19 children and 2 teachers in their elementary school.

This is a crisis of law and order. We must return safety to our streets.

Gun violence leaves a mark on each individual and community it impacts, and it spares none of our constituents. It also spares none of our minds these days as we await news of the next atrocity.

May we find the political courage to do better for you. For our brave first responders and law enforcement officers. For our kids. For our devastated communities across this nation.

By using our power as legislators, we can create a safer society where individuals can exercise their rights responsibly, while also curbing the senseless loss of innocent lives. It's time to prioritize human lives over political divisions and enact the change that our communities so desperately need.

HONORING ATR2 RONALD J. OTTENWESS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, Ronald J. Ottenwess enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1966. After recruit training at Great Lakes

Naval Training Center, he trained as an Aviation Electronics Technician at Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

Then-AT Airman Ottenwess arrived in Rota, Spain in May 1967—just in time for Israel's Six Day War—for his assignment to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2). During his assignment in Rota, he trained as an Electronic Warfare Operator and served as a Special Projects technician.

During his three-year tour with VQ-2, he deployed to five different aircraft carriers and a dozen countries. He amassed nearly 2,000 flight hours and completed over 400 missions in EA-3B and EC-121M aircrafts. On deployment in 1969, he received a temporary assignment to VQ-1 Detachment Bravo in Danang, RVN, where he flew more than fifty combat reconnaissance missions "up North." He was promoted to Petty Officer Second Class in March, 1968.

After his release from active duty as a Petty Officer Second Class in February 1970, Mr. Ottenwess received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics and Business. Following graduation, he spent the next forty years as a manufacturing systems engineer, executive, and consultant; and travelled to 45 U.S. states and ten foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring him for his distinguished military service during the Vietnam war. He is one of the many American heroes that this great Nation is so fortunate to have.

COMMUNITY IS STRONGER THAN CANCER DAY 2023

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with people across America who marked June 28, 2023 as Community Is Stronger Than Cancer Day.

For those whose lives have been impacted by cancer, the community that is found in this shared experience is an opportunity for hope, for comfort, and even joy. Toward this end, I want to recognize the Cancer Support Community, a global non-profit network of 190 locations, including Gilda's Clubs, hospital and clinic partnerships, and satellite locations that deliver more than \$50 million in free support and navigation services to patients and families. They also provide a compassionate and engaged community for people who experienced a cancer diagnosis themselves or who support a loved one.

The Cancer Support Community reaches more than one million people each year, providing both in-person and virtual services as well as educational and digital resources. My district is home to those who can seek support and programming at one of two Cancer Support Community locations in Florida, and I ask all my colleagues to review where there cur-

rently are locations in or near their districts and to learn more about the important services being provided in their communities.

The Cancer Support Community also maintains a toll-free national Cancer Support Helpline. It is crucial to note that all their services are led by licensed healthcare professionals and resource experts. Additionally, their headquarter staff conducts cutting-edge research that sheds light on the realities of coping with a cancer diagnosis, including the emotional, psychological, and financial impact. So I encourage all my colleagues to learn more about them.

There are more than 18 million cancer patients and survivors in the United States, and for every one cancer patient, there are at least three others impacted by the diagnosis—spouse, partner, child, caregiver, and employer. A cancer diagnosis is life changing and, for some, can be overwhelming and distressing. I applaud the Cancer Support Community and its network partners for the extraordinary work they do every day easing the burdens of cancer and eliminating barriers to care. I commend their unwavering commitment to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer know that there are individuals and organizations that are ready to support them as they cope with the challenges that come with this complex diagnosis.

As the Cancer Support Community emphasizes: "While we have witnessed many significant advances in treating this devastating disease, nothing takes the place of the power, inspiration, companionship, and connection that comes from community. We are here to provide relevant and highly personalized support when and where it is needed most because Community Is Stronger Than Cancer."

RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DARYL BOHAC

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Daryl Bohac, the Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard, on the occasion of his retirement after serving in this position since July of 2013 and as an Air Force officer for 35 years. As the Adjutant General, he is the senior military officer for the more than 4,500 Army and Air National Guard personnel serving in the state of Nebraska and during his tenure, the Nebraska National Guard deployed over 1,300 Soldiers and over 2,000 Airmen for worldwide combat and peacekeeping missions.

General Bohac is a visionary leader who successfully garnered more than \$45 million to modernize and enhance the National Guard in Nebraska to meet and sustain future requirements by constructing a new vehicle maintenance facility in North Platte, Nebraska, a new multi-mission Readiness Center in Bellevue,

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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.

Nebraska, and new barracks in Mead, Nebraska.

General Bohac and the Nebraska National Guard's disaster response capabilities were tested most notably when a state of emergency was declared following a "bomb cyclone" that hit the state in March of 2019, causing severe blizzard conditions in the western panhandle with extreme thunderstorms and historic flooding in the east. More than 450 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen executed 113 flood-related missions, the most significant disaster response operation in state history. In the wake of the 2019 historic floods, he successfully advocated for more than \$43 million in funding to rapidly reconstruct the decimated facilities at Camp Ashland in record time, while also rebuilding the levee to be more robust and resilient to future floods.

On the heels of this historic disaster, the Nebraska National Guard was called upon to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic and response. The National Guard partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center in providing Camp Ashland facilities as an initial housing location for 57 Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China. Further, Major General Bohac worked with the Governor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other state agencies to set up a State Emergency Operations Center to coordinate and manage COVID-19 emergency actions in Nebraska, directing Soldiers, Airmen, and Emergency Management civilians in response planning, mobile testing teams, personal protective equipment distribution, food bank support, and housing accommodations.

I thank General Bohac for his many years of sacrifice and service to our Nation and the state of Nebraska. We owe him a debt of gratitude we can never repay for his impactful leadership and achievements that will be felt for many future generations.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ACT TO EXPAND THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO INCLUDE ACTIVE USE OF SYSTEM UNITS LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would expand the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) to include active use of National Park System units located in urban areas. The idea for this bill came from a new report authored by George Washington University's Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness that examined strategies to create a more equitable and activated park system in the District of Columbia.

As the report notes, NPS parks in D.C. are "inconsistently managed and inequitably maintained" and "do not meet the needs of people who both live near and experience the park system as a part of their daily lives." Efforts to activate and improve local parks have been hindered by limitations on NPS's statutory authority. NPS's primary mission is to preserve spaces for the enjoyment of future genera-

tions. This noble mission was crafted for the purpose of wilderness preservation, allowing nature to remain untouched by time. However, in addition to grand national parks, NPS also owns neighborhood parks in urban areas. For example, more than 20 percent of D.C. land consists of parkland, and NPS owns nearly 90 percent of it, over two-thirds of which is local, neighborhood parks, smaller than one acre. These parks could benefit from improvements that prioritize community engagement, including trails, playgrounds and benches. However, NPS's mission is limited to preserving land as it currently exists. This mission is ill-suited to address the unique and immediate needs of urban neighborhood parks.

This bill would expand the mission of NPS to include the promotion of active use of its parks located in urban areas. Active use prioritizes current enjoyment by people and improves quality of life, including playgrounds, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure, sports and recreation facilities, community events, programming and concessions. This expanded mission would only apply to parks located in areas that have been defined and designated as "urban" in the most recent decennial census by the Secretary of Commerce, and would not impact wilderness areas.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING NHC KINGSPORT FOR 2022 NHC CENTER OF THE YEAR

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend NHC Kingsport on their outstanding achievements in healthcare and their recent recognition as the 2022 NHC Center of the Year.

Located in Kingsport, Tennessee, NHC Kingsport is a vital 60-bed healthcare center that has steadfastly served the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities for many years. Their commitment to quality patient care and family support is a testament to the positive impact that dedicated healthcare professionals can make in the lives of those they serve.

Under the proficient leadership of Administrator Debbie Hubbard and Director of Nursing Eva Grapperhaus, NHC Kingsport has flourished. Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Grapperhaus have held their respective positions since the center's opening in 2014. Notably, Ms. Hubbard was also recognized as the 2019 NHC Administrator of the Year.

NHC Kingsport is distinguished as a CMS 5-Star Center, a prestigious rating that signifies it ranks within the top 10 percent of all skilled nursing centers. Additionally, in 2022, NHC Kingsport was recognized as an NHC 5-Star Center of Excellence, boasting an exemplary Consumer View score of 96.82 percent, a Patient Care Component of 96.75 percent, a pressure ulcer rate of only 0.59 percent, and a net patient satisfaction score of 68 percent.

Their consistency in excellence is demonstrated by NHC Kingsport being ranked among the top 10 in the NHC Center of the Year rankings for the past six years. More-

over, they have received numerous NHC Honor Club and Legends Awards, further solidifying their standing as a paragon in the healthcare industry.

National HealthCare Corporation, based in Murfreesboro, TN, operates 68 healthcare centers and nearly 8,500 beds across the Nation. Their comprehensive services include assisted living, home care, hospice, mental health, pharmacy, insurance, and management services.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NHC Kingsport for their unwavering dedication to providing the highest level of care to their patients. Their achievements are not only a credit to the city of Kingsport, but a shining example for healthcare centers throughout our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING STOP PENTAGON PRICE GOUGING ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Stop Pentagon Price Gouging Act" with Representative DELUZIO (D-PA-17) as the original cosponsor. I thank U.S. Senators ELIZABETH WARREN (D-MA) and MIKE BRAUN (R-IN) for sponsoring the companion bill. These important reforms will protect taxpayers from being overcharged for goods produced by the Department of Defense.

Our bicameral, bipartisan bill would close loopholes in current acquisition laws, tie financial incentives for contractors to performance, and provide the Department of Defense (DoD) with the information necessary to prevent future rip-offs. Our bill would make several key reforms to achieve those goals.

First, our bill would ensure competitive and transparent pricing by closing a loophole and ensuring that defense contractors provide the federal government cost or pricing information in all cases where there isn't adequate price competition that results in at least 2 competitive bids. Second, the bill would restore market dynamics and ensure that commercial goods are those actually sold to customers other than just the federal government, revising the definition of commercial item for federal procurement by the Department of Defense. Third, the bill would ensure payment is tied to performance by creating a new pilot program for progress payments, which will help to tie payments to performance by providing contractors the opportunity to receive advance payments only when they meet certain conditions such as providing timely responses, disclosing important data, and meeting small business subcontractor goals. Lastly, the bill would ensure that our defense dollars are being spent to provide our armed forces with the resources they need and not to line the pockets of defense contractor executives, requiring disclosures from defense contractors mirroring those already required by publicly traded companies.

Taken together, this bill will be an important step in tackling price gouging, overbilling, or outright fraud by defense contractors. As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know how much we pay for parts to keep military equipment ready. We know