

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND BRAVERY OF THE DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of Depew Founders' Day by recognizing the Depew Fire Department and the many volunteer firefighters who keep this community safe. It takes bravery, courage, and skill to run toward a fire while others are moving to safety. It is because of these brave men and women that Depew families can sleep at night assured that a strong, capable, and well-trained force is at the ready to help in their time of need.

Since 1894, the volunteer corps of the Depew Fire Department has grown to become the largest volunteer fire department in Erie County and 1 of the largest in New York State, with over 115 active members serving 5 Hose Companies and 1 Hook and Ladder Company spread across the village:

Hose Company No. 1

Aetna Hose Company

Cayuga Hose Company No. 3

Central Hose Company No. 4

West End Hose Company No. 6

Hook and Ladder Company No. 1

This is a close-knit community with deep ties to Depew, and with generations of firefighters stretching back over a century of service. I thank Chief John Gauthier, for his leadership, and to the many generations of Depew Fire Department volunteers present and represented at the 2023 Depew Founders Day Celebration. Their service and sacrifice are greatly appreciated, and I wish them all safety and success as they continue to serve this great community.

I am honored to join in the celebration of Depew Founders' Day, and to recognize the dedication and courage of the Depew Fire Department here from the Halls of Congress.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 333, NAY on Roll Call No. 334, NAY on Roll Call No. 335, NAY on Roll Call No. 336, and NAY on Roll Call No. 337.

## RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Hempfield Township of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on the 250th anniversary of its founding.

Since 1773, Hempfield Township has grown into 1 of the largest municipalities in Pennsylvania. Currently, it is home to over 40,000 people and is the largest municipality in Westmoreland County.

While Hempfield Township is an important hub for business and industry, the township never forgot its rich agricultural heritage. Hailing from southeastern Pennsylvania, its early settlers were largely of German descent and worked to refine grain. As people moved to the area, Hempfield grew and is now home to several manufacturing facilities, institutes of higher education, and recreational businesses that are important to southwestern Pennsylvania's economy. Above all, the township's people exemplify the values of good citizenship and devotion to their community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Hempfield Township on their 250th anniversary and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 250 years.

## HONORING MATTHEW LIPTRAP ON WINNING THE EVELYNE VILLINES NATIONAL AWARD

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exceptional individual who exemplifies unwavering dedication to supporting our servicemen and servicewomen: Matthew Liptrap. Recently bestowed with the prestigious 2023 Evelyn Villines Award, Matthew's achievements are truly deserving of recognition.

Evelyn Villines, a champion for meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, left an indelible mark through her influential work. From advising politicians to advocating both nationally and globally, she played a crucial role in shaping initiatives like the Americans with Disabilities Act, and her legacy lives on through this award. It honors individuals who have not only attained employment despite significant disabilities but have also excelled in management roles within AbilityOne contracts. Considering Matthew's accomplishments, I firmly believe he is a perfect recipient of this esteemed award.

Matthew's journey began with over 10 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army as an

infantryman. Unfortunately, combat injuries cut short his military career. Nevertheless, he found a new purpose at Professional Contract Services Incorporated (PCSI), an organization committed to supporting both individuals with disabilities as well as veterans. At Schriever Space Force Base, working on an AbilityOne Contract, Matthew dedicated himself to serving his brothers and sisters in arms once again. Starting as a ground's maintenance worker and general clerk, Matthew's determination, willingness to learn, and leadership qualities caught the attention of PCSI, propelling him to the role of Quality Control Manager. In this capacity, he successfully revamped the Quality and Training programs, resulting in decreased injuries, enhanced safety measures, and flawless internal audit reports. Matthew's exceptional achievements have set him apart from his peers, serving as an inspiration to both employees and colleagues.

I take great pride in acknowledging Matthew's unwavering commitment to service, both within and beyond his military career. It brings me great satisfaction to witness his national recognition from SourceAmerica for his outstanding contributions at Schriever through the AbilityOne Program. His story is a testament to the transformative power of dedication and perseverance, and I am confident that his accomplishments will continue to inspire others to follow in his footsteps. Matthew Liptrap embodies the caliber of hardworking and talented individuals that make our great nation, and my home state of Colorado, a better place.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER RAKER

### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Raker who passed away at the age of 78 on July 5, 2023. Christopher was a longtime resident of Mill Valley and beloved member of the community.

Born in San Francisco to John and Elda Jane Raker, Christopher, nicknamed Chris, lived in the Palace Hotel where his grandfather was a general manager. The family later moved to Concord, Massachusetts and Chris enrolled at Columbia University before joining the Navy and serving as a lieutenant during the Vietnam War. After his military service Chris earned a master's degrees in English Literature from the University of Virginia, and a master's degree in architecture from Harvard University. He settled in Mill Valley, California in 1975.

In 1989, Chris opened Raker Architects in Mill Valley. The firm contributed to key modernizations in Southern Marin, including the Corinthian Yacht Club, Mill Valley Lumber Yard, and most notably, Mill Valley Miller Avenue Precise Plan, which resulted in the development of a pedestrian-friendly reconfiguration

● 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.

of the prominent and highly trafficked Miller Avenue. Beyond his architectural profession, Chris made notable contributions to the town as a Planning Commissioner. After 2 years, he served on the Mill Valley City Council from 1996 to 2007, including as its mayor.

Chris also served as president of the American Institute of Architects San Francisco chapter and board president of the Corinthian Yacht Club. In his free time, he was active in the performing arts and enjoyed skiing, swimming, and time spent as a soccer coach.

Chris was known by his colleagues on the Planning Commission and City Council for his direct and open-minded approach to difficult issues and great sense of humor. He was a respected mentor to many. He is survived by his daughter Bianca Raker, wife Donna Raker, brother Edmond Raker, and 3 nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Christopher Raker was a dedicated public servant and active community member who was committed to improving the quality of life for Mill Valley residents. I respectfully ask that my colleagues join me in extending condolences to Chris's family and friends and in expressing my appreciation for his decades of good work.

#### HONORING CARLOS GRAUPERA

#### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and offer my thanks to Carlos Graupera, of Lancaster, for his 50 years of service and leadership. Mr. Graupera retired this year as the Chief Executive Officer of the Spanish American Civic Association (SACA), an organization he founded in 1973 to serve Lancaster's growing Latino community.

In 1961, Mr. Graupera emigrated to the United States with his family from Cuba. He would attend Saint Joseph's College and work in community development, before founding SACA and beginning his tenure as the organization's first CEO.

In 50 years, SACA has grown substantially to support and improve the lives of Lancaster County residents. SACA operates a senior center, behavior and health services, a community radio station called Radio Centro, supports economic development through SACA Development, and operates a network of workforce development training programs called Tec Centro. I've been fortunate to see the good work that they do first-hand.

Mr. Graupera is now assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Tec Centro Workforce Network, which operates workforce development programs in Lancaster, York, Lebanon, and Reading.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Graupera's 50 years of service as CEO of SACA have made a deep and lasting impact on the community and in countless lives of those who have benefited from good works of SACA.

As he steps into a new role, we wish him continued success and thank him for his life of leadership and service to our community.

SALUTING MS. EDNA PEMBERTON,  
A TRUE LIVING LEGEND

#### HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special constituent, Ms. Edna Pemberton. Ms. Pemberton is a well-respected community leader whose tireless efforts have led to creating a better and safer way of life for those around her. As a servant leader, Ms. Pemberton has been at the forefront of several initiatives such as, the City of Dallas' Teen Curfew Ordinance and the Cielo Ranch Apartment Crime Prevention Outreach program.

These programs are just a small part of the expansive work that Ms. Pemberton has produced in the Dallas community. Ms. Pemberton's faith in the power of community service has led her to work relentlessly across the city of Dallas to reach communities in need and to never back down from doing what's right. She's won numerous awards from various organizations recognizing her community service—all of which is a testament to her commitment to improving the lives of our neighbors across Dallas and abroad. In addition to her efforts around community service, Ms. Pemberton has another special gift which includes seeking out the issues that are most pressing our communities and putting action behind them. From organizing food drives to moderating conversations between members of the community and local police, she always puts herself at the heart of several impactful issues. In an environment where social justice is needed now more than ever, acknowledging the impact that relationships between local community members and law enforcement have, Ms. Pemberton eased tensions by creating a foundation of communication between the groups. Equipped with the knowledge, patience and compassion of her community, Ms. Edna Pemberton has continued to enrich the lives of others.

She is an outstanding example of the underappreciated heroes that we have all across our City, State, and Country. I am confident that because of her impact and service that our communities are a better place.

#### HONORING MARCUS MASON

#### HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation recognizing Marcus Mason.

Whereas, Marcus Mason, at the age of 21, worked on a winning Congressional campaign, before beginning his tenure as the youngest Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill. He served the people of California's 37th Congressional District, fighting to save the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and secured federal funding to repair Compton Creek, saving nearby communities from damaging floods.

Whereas, Marcus Mason served as Legislative Director for the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and to this day con-

tinues to serve as a trusted advisor and confidant to elected officials from California, from Sacramento to Los Angeles, and all the way to Washington, D.C.

Whereas, Marcus Mason led the government affairs office for Amtrak and helped shepherd the company through the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Whereas, Marcus Mason became a senior equity partner at the Madison Group in 2007, where he dedicated his free time to mentoring and growing Black talent in the areas of government policy.

Whereas, as immediate past president of WGRG, he founded the Tin Cup Awards, which recognize the contributions of Black public policy and government affairs professionals.

Whereas, he has mentored countless colleagues over the years and provided advice and guidance to new and seasoned professionals alike.

Whereas, in addition to his mentorship work, he has fundraised and secured millions of dollars in support of Black non-profit organizations, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute.

Whereas, Marcus Mason served as an advisor to the campaigns of President Barack Obama and the Obama-Biden White House.

Whereas, Marcus Mason served as Chairman of President Biden's African American Leadership Finance Council and serves as a Senior Advisor to the campaign's Co-Chairman and senior leadership team.

And whereas, President Biden appointed Marcus Mason to serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee, where he continues to advocate for Black staff.

Now, therefore, I, STEVEN HORSFORD, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and Representative of the 4th District of Nevada, do hereby proclaim this official recognition of Marcus Mason for his tremendous work and contributions to government affairs, policy and public service.

#### CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 1288 ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

#### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2023*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Legion Post 1288 on their 50th Anniversary.

The American Legion Post 1288 is part of the National American Legion—the world's largest veteran's organization. Chartered in Bolingbrook on January 17, 1972. The Post 1288 has been serving area veterans and the Bolingbrook community for over 50 years. Post 1288 is active and participates in numerous activities and events such as: local parades and ceremonies; fundraisers to support area veterans; visits to area veterans in hospitals or long-term care facilities; support for youth activities such as Scouting, Boys State, and Baseball; and providing the Honor Guard detail at veterans' funerals or memorials.

Members include veterans from all branches of service who have proudly served their country and continue to serve through participation in the American Legion.