

and Related Agencies as the Majority Clerk and Staff Director until 2018. When I became Ranking Member of the Full Committee in 2019, I asked John to serve as Minority Clerk and Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Accumulated throughout his years of service, John's immense knowledge and experience earned him the position of Senior Advisor to the House Appropriations Committee at the beginning of the 118th Congress. This role presented a range of new challenges that I knew he would handle expertly, advising me as House Appropriations Chairwoman, the Subcommittee Chairs, and the staff—many of whom he intentionally trained and mentored.

John has been an exceptional member of the House Appropriations Committee staff for more than 20 years now, with nearly 5 of those years on my staff. During his time on the Committee, John has successfully developed and implemented strategies for advancing legislation through the Committee and the House of Representatives.

In his various roles, I asked John to work on some of the most complex issues, and he secured key legislative wins during periods of divided government and tense political disagreements by finding common ground with his colleagues. He has more than demonstrated his ability to handle any task put before him.

It is my distinct honor to recognize John as he leaves the halls of Congress and starts his next chapter. It is not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. After many early mornings and late nights as a public servant, I know John is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Gail, and 2 children, Julia and James. He will be greatly missed, and I thank him for his dedicated service to the United States and wish him the very best.

#### RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

### HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman has faithfully served as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Representative to the United States, tirelessly advocating for the mutual national security interests of the Kurdistan Region and the United States; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman has exhibited remarkable leadership during the fight against ISIS and the successful defeat of the caliphate, showcasing unwavering dedication, courage, and strategic acumen; and

Whereas, her role as the KRG Representative has been pivotal in strengthening ties between Kurdistan, and the United States, fostering enhanced cooperation, coordination, and partnership in the realms of political, security, humanitarian, economic, and cultural matters; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman has been a trusted friend and ally to the United States Congress, consistently providing invaluable insights, guidance, and perspectives on critical issues of mutual concern; and

Whereas, her unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy, human rights,

and freedom exemplifies the shared values and aspirations of the United States Congress and the Kurdistan Region; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman's illustrious career, which spans from her previous role as the High Representative to the United Kingdom to her current position as the KRG Representative to the United States, reflects her deep knowledge, expertise, and unwavering dedication to public service; and

Whereas, prior to her remarkable public service career, Ms. Abdul Rahman made significant contributions to journalism for 17 years, garnering accolades such as the Observer Newspaper's Farzad Bazoft Memorial Prize in 1993, highlighting her exceptional talent, commitment to truth, and tireless pursuit of journalistic excellence; and

Whereas, Ms. Abdul Rahman's family legacy, marked by her late father Sami Abdul Rahman's heroic leadership in the Kurdish freedom movement and his critical role in the Kurdish and Iraqi opposition to Saddam Hussein's regime, serves as a testament to her deep-rooted commitment to the cause of freedom, justice, and the rights of the Kurdish people; and

Whereas, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman's personal journey, from being born in Baghdad to becoming an esteemed representative and advocate for the Kurdistan Region, exemplifies the strength, resilience, and determination that defines her character and her unwavering commitment to advancing the welfare and prosperity of the Kurdish people;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, that I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman for her outstanding leadership, tireless dedication, and invaluable contributions as the KRG Representative to the United States. I commend her for being a loyal and trusted friend, ally, and source of wisdom, and I recognize her instrumental role in promoting the shared national security interests of the Kurdistan Region and the United States.

#### URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS

### HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to improve communications between large VA Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Earlier this week, I had a bipartisan amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill pass on the floor that encouraged the VA to do just that.

CBOCs exist to make it easier for veterans to access the healthcare they need in their community and remove the inconvenience of visiting a major VA Medical Center, which is sometimes hours away. Our veterans should not have to jump through hoops to schedule routine appointments in their community.

Too often however, I hear from my constituents that when they call their local CBOC to schedule an appointment or ask a question their call is routed to a major VA Medical Center, or they leave a message and never receive a return call.

The VA healthcare system needs to work for our veterans and ensure they have easy access to the care they are entitled to. I strongly encourage the VA to come up with a plan to improve communications between Community Based Outreach Clinics and their major medical centers.

#### IN APPRECIATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN SHAW FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

### HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant General John Edwin Shaw of the United States Space Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Lieutenant General Shaw is retiring from active service after serving for three years as the Deputy Commander of United States Space Command and 33 total years of service to the United States Air Force and the United States Space Force.

Lt. Gen. Shaw was born and raised in Norton, Massachusetts. He is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He received a B.S. degree in astronautical engineering and a minor in Russian language in 1990. After graduating from USAFA, Lt. Gen. Shaw attended the University of Washington, earning his M.S. in aeronautics and astronautics. He also earned an M.A. in organizational management from the George Washington University, an M.A. in military operational arts and sciences from the Air Command and Staff College, and an M.S. in national security strategy from the National War College. Additionally, General Shaw was a senior executive fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School in 2010.

Lt. Gen. Shaw has held numerous leadership positions in a variety of air and space units, highlighted by operations tours in the 50th Space Wing, the National Reconnaissance Office, the 32nd Air Operations Group, and the Space Warfare Center. His operational commands have included the 4th Space Operations Squadron, the 50th Operations Group, and the Space Wing. Prior to his current position, Lt. Gen. Shaw was dual hatted as the Commander, Combined Forces Space Component Command, U.S. Space Command, and Deputy Commander, Space Operations Command, U.S. Space Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. He also served as the Deputy Commander of Air Force Space Command, United States Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Gen. Shaw has honorably dedicated his life to the service of our Nation and to developing our country's vital space capabilities. On behalf of a grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Lt. Gen. Shaw, his wife, Tonia, and their children, Rachel and Timothy. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in civilian life.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly detained during vote proceedings. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 369.

## HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Established in 1873, the IAFC represents the unified voice of the fire chiefs of career, volunteer, combination, and military fire departments worldwide. With a current membership of more than 11,000 strong, the IAFC has advocated for essential programs that keep our citizens safe from fires, hazmat incidents, structural collapses, acts of terrorism, pandemics, and other tragedies, both human-made and natural.

The year 1873 was a momentous one in the history of the United States. Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis received a patent for their famous jeans with copper rivets. The U.S. Naval Institute was established. And the IAFC was officially formed. Known first as the National Association of Fire Engineers, these brave firefighters were guided by a mission "to bring forward an exchange of ideas and introduce new machinery that would facilitate the workings of fire departments." Later, with the addition of Canadian members, the name was changed to the International Association of Fire Engineers, and it finally became the IAFC in 1926.

The IAFC has been a leader in developing important National fire service initiatives. In 1957, the IAFC petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit universal emergency services number. This decade-long effort resulted in the first 9-1-1 call being placed on February 16, 1968. In addition, the U.S. Fire Administration was created in 1974 in response to the landmark Report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

The IAFC is a trusted partner of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, of which I am a longtime Co-Chairman. When I led the effort to create the FIRE grant program in 1999 and 2000, I worked closely with the IAFC to bring the voices of thousands of fire chiefs to Washington to deliver federal dollars directly to local fire departments for the very first time to afford training, equipment, and fire prevention programs. In addition, the IAFC provided significant assistance to the Congressional Fire Services Caucus's successful efforts to create the SAFER grant program to support the recruitment and retention of career and volunteer firefighters.

Today, the IAFC is a trusted voice to its members, the fire and emergency service

community, legislators, and more. The IAFC remains on the frontline helping local fire departments prepare for wildland fires and emerging technologies such as lithium-ion batteries and autonomous vehicles. In addition, the IAFC is assisting fire departments in harnessing data, developing EMS programs, and recruiting diverse and inclusive workforces to better provide service to their communities. Fire chiefs are the backbone of our cities and towns, and that could not be truer than in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey. Paterson Fire Chief Brian McDermott will retire in August after over 28 years of distinguished service in the Paterson Fire Department. His leadership has been instrumental for the public safety and security of so many residents of New Jersey.

I ask every member to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the IAFC. The organization remains dedicated to providing leadership, expertise, and integrity to its members, its federal partners, and the public. Here's to the next 150 years of the IAFC.

## RECOGNIZING JOYCE HAMLETT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Congress' very own Joyce Hamlett, the Keeper of the Mace as the House of Representatives Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, as she retires from more than 3 decades of public service.

I still remember my first few months here, almost 5 years ago. One of the people who I looked for was a young woman sitting at the left of the House chamber. I would lock eyes with her and when she smiled at me, it was always a warm welcome.

Joyce Hamlett will be sorely missed as she retires as our Keeper of the Mace and Assistant Sergeant at Arms. She took her role very seriously. I know because I was one of the members, she reminded every so often of the rules of House. Ms. Joyce would even take out 1 of those laminated black and white articles from decades ago to remind me, this is how it has been.

Ms. Joyce has worked here in the Capitol for over 35 years. Her story is inspiring. She is the first Black woman to hold the post. From growing up in the tobacco fields of Broadway, N.C., to making history here in Congress, she never forgot her roots, and the strong character that her grandparents instilled in her. In a place that can sometimes be harsh, she always remained kind and fair to all. I will dearly miss Mother Joyce and never forget her hugs on some of the toughest days for me in this chamber. She may have been the Keeper of the Mace for the House Chamber, but she will always be my "Auntie" (Khalto).

Please join me in recognizing Sergeant-at-Arms Joyce Hamlett as we thank her for her many years of public service.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TERRY STONE

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Terry Stone, from International Falls, Minnesota.

Terry embodied the spirit of northern Minnesota throughout his life. He started a radio club while attending Falls High School and later graduated from Bemidji State University.

He was a local businessman who was actively involved in his community, and even served as the president of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Terry also spent time as a volunteer with the International Health Service in Honduras where he helped provide medical and dental care to those in need. He even used his passion and expertise in radio to help set up solar powered radio systems to help clinics in rural villages communicate with each other.

Terry had a servant's heart and a passion for helping out those in need. He will be missed.

May Terry's legacy live on in our communities.

## HONORING COLLEEN DOLAN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2023*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Colleen Dolan, from Chicago, for a successful career and to congratulate her on her much-deserved retirement.

Graduating from Lewis University with a degree in sociology and psychology, Colleen Dolan entered the workforce in 1975 as a bank teller at the First National Bank of Winnetka. After a year, she took the first step in what would be an impressively steep climb up the human resources corporate ladder as a Profit-Sharing Analyst in corporate accounting at the Continental Illinois National Bank. At Continental, she held several positions, rising to the rank of Sales Director—Personal Banking Relations at the end of her 13-year stint at the bank. Along the way, she had two boys, Shaun and Ryan Dolan, and instilled confidence in her late father, a Zenith Business Executive, that her degrees would be useful in carving out a promising career in a field he was only beginning to understand.

In 1989, Colleen made a considerable leap forward as the U.S. Director of Human Resources for Leica Microscope, a position she held for 10 years before transitioning into the world of commercial real estate: first as the Vice President of Compensation & Benefits for a year at Equity Residential before moving to Transwestern, where she would spend the last and most fulfilling 23 years of her career. She embodied the company's purpose statement: empowering good people to do extraordinary things together. Colleen started at Transwestern as Vice President and ascended to hold the roles of Senior Vice President and Executive Vice President before ultimately