

can be awarded by the nation of France and is awarded for excellent military conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and legacy of Frank R. Capuano. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his service and to honor his memory.

HONORING DOUGLAS CATER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and dedication of Douglas Cater, Director of the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair and President of the Cobleskill Agricultural Society. For nearly 50 years, Mr. Cater has been a leader in his community and a staple of Schoharie County for his efforts overseeing every aspect of the Fair and his deep roots in Schoharie County.

Mr. Cater has been involved with the Schoharie County Sunshine Fair since his youth as an exhibitor and an auctioneer and has been on the Fair Board since 1975. As a 1966 graduate of the Reisch American School of Auctioneers, Mr. Cater has the voice and tempo needed for what he is best known for; he has announced the New York Sire Stakes Harness Races in Schoharie since 1973.

Mr. Cater has also been a long-term member of the Cobleskill Agricultural Society and is a very active fundraiser in the community. He works with many local organizations, such as the Albany County Community Caregivers, Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter, and the Schoharie County ARC.

For his years of dedication, Mr. Cater has been awarded the United States Trotting Association Blue Ribbon Fair Award, the New York State Association of Agriculture Fairs Hall of Fame Award in 2013, was named the President of the New York State Association of Agriculture Fairs in 1992, and the Sunshine Fair was named the Business of the Year by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce in 2010.

I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Cater on a lifetime of achievement and success, and it is my honor on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District to recognize the commendable life and inspiring legacy of Douglas Cater.

SPORTS LEAGUES' CONCERNS ON FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS WAIVER

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy about protected airspace over major sporting events. Temporary Flight Restrictions over stadiums and related facilities have been in effect for over 20 years, since Congress first enacted them into law in 2002. Congress acted not to protect the stadiums themselves, but the millions of fans who attend events and the athletes who compete in them. I submit as

well a letter from the security directors of the National Football League, Major League Baseball, the National Collegiate Athletic Association and NASCAR, in which they affirm that the Temporary Flight Restrictions, which Congress created, form an essential part of the security architecture that protects these events. Section 813 of the pending bill opens up this airspace, putting those fans and athletes at undue risk. There is no valid public policy reason for it. I urge that before this legislation becomes public law, the decision to weaken these restrictions be reversed and the current law be left undisturbed.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY H.R. 3935—SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT July 17, 2023

The Administration supports enactment of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill and applauds the bipartisan work of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Administration is focused on ensuring that the aviation sector works well for the American people, and reauthorizing the FAA in a timely manner will help achieve that goal. H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, would enhance aviation safety; invest in, and improve on-the-job safety for, our aviation workforce; integrate into the national airspace system new entrants such as Advanced Air Mobility and Commercial Space operators; strengthen passenger rights; and improve our aviation infrastructure.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to address the Administration's concerns with this legislation, a number of which are outlined below.

PROTECTION OF AVIATION CONSUMER RIGHTS AND PROMOTION OF COMPETITION.

The Administration is strongly committed to protecting the rights of aviation consumers and promoting competition in the aviation industry. The Administration opposes provisions in the bill that would reverse important gains made by this Administration to combat junk fees in the airline industry and would eliminate longstanding consumer protections. The Administration believes that the disclosure requirements currently in place for passenger tickets are necessary to help consumers comparison shop for a ticket. The Administration encourages the Congress to include the Administration's proposals to expand consumer protections by banning family seating junk fees, requiring up-front disclosure of add-on fees, and requiring automatic refunds and additional compensation for controllable flight cancellations and delays. The Administration further supports opening up airport gate access and preventing anticompetitive practices that block new entrants.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

While the Administration appreciates the language aimed at ensuring continued U.S. implementation of Open Skies agreements while promoting labor standards for U.S.-based aviation sector workers, the Administration also urges the Congress to add provisions to implement U.S. international commitments and ensure our aviation partners follow suit. The bill should be amended to include provisions for U.S. implementation of global market-based measures of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and to establish U.S. leadership relating to the understanding and mitigation of the non-Greenhouse Gas climate impacts of aviation.

AGENCY RESTRUCTURING.

While the Administration supports the goal of improving the efficiency of the orga-

nizational structure of the FAA, it does not support the proposed changes in FAA rulemaking review and the weakening of the Administrator's ability and authority to determine the appropriate size and allocation of the air traffic controller workforce. The Administration also has concerns with provisions that would make fundamental changes to the agency's structure, eroding the discretion of the Administrator to manage the agency in the most efficient manner.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES AND PROGRAM CHANGES.

The legislation includes multiple rulemakings, reviews, reports, and other requirements with aggressive time lines, along with the creation of numerous programs that are not conditioned on the availability of appropriations.

The Administration is also concerned that proposed major structural changes to airport infrastructure programs are untested, and may be difficult to implement depending on the level of resources made available. The bill would also reduce the amount of competitive airport grant funding, which would reduce the FAA's ability to address important safety and capacity issues.

STANDARDS FOR AIRPORT SERVICE WORKERS.

The Administration urges the Congress to include provisions that will improve job quality for, and therefore aid in the recruitment and retention of, those who clean planes, handle baggage, assist passengers who use wheelchairs, and provide other services critical to safe, stable, and timely operations for aviation customers.

AGE STANDARDS FOR PILOTS.

The bill includes a provision that would raise the retirement age for pilots in commercial operations. Making this change without doing research and establishing any necessary policies would be outside the international standard.

MAINTAINING SAFE AND SECURE AIRSPACE DURING MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS.

While the Administration supports the goal of providing accessibility to and public use of the national airspace, it is concerned that provisions proposed in the bill could introduce unnecessary risks to those attending major sporting events if the effectiveness of safety and security buffers currently provided by temporary flight restrictions were to be decreased. To the extent that the proposed provisions are intended to accommodate airshows, the Administration urges the Congress to consider alternative methods to deconflict airshows and major sports events rather than potentially put aviation operations in close proximity to events attended by millions of Americans each year.

JULY 18, 2023.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: We write to urge you to oppose the weakening of a law that protects the millions of sports fans and spectators who attend professional and collegiate sporting events each year. The current statutory ban on aircraft—including unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS") or drones—flying over large stadium sporting events throughout the country provides necessary safety and security protections against real and potential threats.

We are deeply concerned about section 813 of the House version of the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") Reauthorization Act. If adopted, the language would establish a broad and complex waiver program that would permit countless aircraft to fly near and over stadiums during games, putting millions of fans at risk, and unnecessarily so. Congress wisely eliminated a similar waiver program back in 2003, after discovering troubling and persistent failures, gaps, and vulnerabilities in the process for conducting background checks and issuing waivers.

The FAA first established flight restrictions over large stadium sporting events immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in response to concerns about terrorists using aircraft as weapons. Congress subsequently twice codified and strengthened these restrictions, providing specific criteria for aircraft operations permitted within the flight restricted area. Section 813 would effectively eliminate the specific criteria and replace it with an open-ended waiver program.

The long-standing, congressionally mandated flight restriction enhances the safety and security of large stadium events, while minimizing the disruption to the National Airspace System (“NAS”). Specifically, airspace over large stadiums—with a seating capacity of 30,000 people or more and where a NFL, MLB, and NCAA Division I football games or major motor speedway events, such as NASCAR and INDYCAR races, are taking place—is closed to all aircraft from one hour before until one hour after a major sporting event. The flight restrictions extend to three nautical miles from the center of the stadium and from the surface to 3,000 feet above the stadium. The flight restrictions do not apply to authorized aircraft, such as Department of Defense, law enforcement or air ambulance flight operations, or those in contact with air traffic control for take offs and landings at nearby airports, among others.

Having devoted substantial resources to secure our stadiums on the ground, we regard the stadium flight restriction as essential to safeguarding the airspace overhead. Moreover, given the proliferation of UAS in our NAS, as well as the continuing need to remain vigilant to other current and emerging risks, the stadium flight restriction is as vital now as ever to our national security and public safety. We believe section 813 complicates the airspace over stadiums, compromises public safety and security, and courts potential disaster.

We, therefore, urge you to uphold current law and maintain existing flight restrictions that protect the safety and security of millions of fans who attend large stadium sporting events every year.

Sincerely,

CATHY LANIER,
*Chief Security Officer,
National Football
League.*

DAVID THOMAS,
*Vice President, Security and Ballpark
Operations, Major
League Baseball.*

BILL RHODES,
*Managing Director,
Security, National
Association for Stock
Car Auto Racing.*

DAN GAVITT,
*Senior Vice President,
National Collegiate
Athletic Association.*

RECOGNIZING TOM SIGMUND

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Sigmund for his service and accomplishments as the executive director of NEW Water and president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Mr. Sigmund has committed his career to improving water quality throughout Wisconsin,

as well as promoting a national water policy to create a more equitable water future. On July 13, 2023, Mr. Sigmund completed his service as president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. I stand today to recognize Mr. Sigmund's impressive leadership at NACWA as well as his service to the clean water industry.

Since 2007, Mr. Sigmund has led NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, as its executive director, facilitating the delivery of the utility's wholesale conveyance and treatment services to 238,000 people throughout 15 municipalities in Northeast Wisconsin. Under Mr. Sigmund's leadership, NEW Water has achieved 100 percent permit compliance and ushered in a new era for the utility in recognizing that material sent to the facilities is a valuable resource to be recovered and reused. He orchestrated the Resource Recovery and Electrical Energy, or R2E2, project, which recovers valuable resources from the wastewater stream to produce electricity and recovers heat for processes that run the facility.

Mr. Sigmund aided in creating a circular reclaimed water system that was developed with a national paper mill, boosting economic development for the region, and providing a sustainable solution for the industry. Mr. Sigmund launched an adaptive management approach to achieve water quality improvements more cost effectively by working collaboratively across rural landscapes in the Green Bay watershed. These efforts target a reduction of sediment and excess nutrient run-off into impaired waterways, an improved ecosystem, and a pathway for continued success.

Under his leadership, NEW Water entered a partnership with NASA to advance scientific knowledge of harmful algal blooms and their impact on public health. This initiative is housed under NEW Water's Aquatic Monitoring Program, which was established in 1986 and is one of the longest running water quality monitoring programs on the Great Lakes. Mr. Sigmund also supports his community by creating an educational STEAM Superheroes Camp with the local Boys & Girls Club to build critical skillsets, inspire water stewardship, and establish a talent pipeline for future employees.

During the early stages of the pandemic, NEW Water joined the Wisconsin Wastewater Surveillance Program to advance public health efforts to understand COVID-19 in the community. Mr. Sigmund received his Bachelor and Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. A licensed professional engineer in Wisconsin and Ohio, he has served and continues to serve on board and leadership positions at various organizations. He chaired the Water Resources Utility of the Future Task Force, which developed the Water Resources Utility of the Future Blueprint for Action. He served as a member of the Utility Advisory Group, where he helped develop publications on Effective Utility Management related to water and wastewater utilities, as well as other sustainability efforts. A recipient of the NACWA President's Award, Mr. Sigmund is also a Water Environment Federation, or WEF, fellow. He has received the WEF William D. Hatfield Award and the WEF Schroepfer Innovative Facility Design Medal.

These accolades and awards attest to Mr. Sigmund's dedication to the clean water indus-

try. His strong character and visionary leadership have been instrumental in charting a course for improved water quality, particularly in Lake Michigan's Green Bay. I thank Mr. Sigmund for his commitment to Northeast Wisconsin, and I congratulate him on completing his service as NACWA president.

HONORING PRESIDENT EMERITUS GARY LAMAR “SPARKY” REEVES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, doting grandfather, astute entrepreneur, esteemed educator and friend of longstanding, South Georgia Technical College President Emeritus, Gary Lamar “Sparky” Reeves. Sadly, President Reeves transitioned this life from labor to reward on August 2, 2023. A funeral service celebrating his remarkable life was held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at First Methodist Church in Americus, Georgia.

The genesis of Sparky Reeves' life began on March 27, 1949, as he was born to the union of Earl and Odessa Devereaux Reeves in Zebulon, Georgia. Born a fighter, as an infant, he defied the odds with the removal of an intestinal tumor at Eggleston Hospital. His parents were told by doctors that he would not live to be four years old, but he did. Sparky, as he was named by his little league baseball coach because he reminded him of a spark plug, was a dedicated Boy Scout, ultimately becoming an Eagle Scout in 1964. He graduated from Robert Lee High School on May 30, 1967. Sparky then attended Georgia Southwestern College where he was active in intramural sports, was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and was elected Archon of the Gamma Xi Chapter. Sparky graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and obtained his Master's degree in 1973. A lifelong learner, Sparky also attended the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Dekalb College. The most significant experience of his life was during his college years when he met the love of his life, Patricia Allene Camp. They were married on August 8, 1971, and enjoyed 52 years of marriage. Today is the anniversary of that blessed union.

After graduation, Sparky worked as a salesman for Altair Homes. His professional career ascended when he came to South Georgia Technical College in 1973. He served as an instructor, supervisor, and Vice President of Economic Development prior to being named President in 2004. Sparky served as President from August 2004 through September, 2015. He had many accomplishments during his time as president to include: growing the college's foundation from \$3.7 million to \$8.2 million in assets; increasing the number of endowed scholarships from 8 to 22; increasing the scholarships from 52 to more than 150 and founding the President's Club which exceeded \$1 million in annual gifts. The ultimate collaborator and facilitator, President Reeves established “Two Great Choices”, an initiative that created a partnership between South Georgia Technical College, Georgia Southwestern State University, the City of Americus,