

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO CAPTAIN TAYLOR BAZE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Taylor Baze, who is retiring from the Coppell Fire Department.

Over the last 30 years, Captain Baze has demonstrated excellent fire service to the residents of Coppell, Texas. Captain Baze's influence over the City of Coppell Fire Department will still be felt in his absence. He was an excellent leader and considered a brother by many. His legacy will not be forgotten as he leaves the fire department better off for having him as a captain.

I thank Captain Baze for his leadership and service to our community and wish him a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE CLOSSER
FOR HIS TREK BETWEEN THE
ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Bruce Closser for his impressive bicycle trek between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. After months of training, Bruce became the oldest individual to complete this 3-month journey at the age of 78. As a resident of Marquette and the great state of Michigan, Bruce shines as both a pillar of health and an example of ongoing resilience.

After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the spring of 2019, Bruce has worked to maintain his active lifestyle. Despite his illness, he has defied all expectations in conquering the 4,200-mile trek between the United States' major coasts. His achievement is officially recognized by Guinness World Records and will be remembered by individuals throughout the world. As lifelong Yooper, Bruce has always valued the outdoors and its numerous activities. In addition to cycling, he is an avid skier, spending many winters at Marquette Mountain. Beyond enjoying nature, Bruce is deeply involved with the Parkinson's Foundation. His efforts have included raising awareness, educational advocacy, and fundraising. To the local communities of the Upper Peninsula and our Congressional District, Bruce is truly an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bruce Closser for this impressive accomplishment. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Bruce and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ELTON MAC HUDDLESTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Elton Mac Huddleston, 79, who passed away on August 27, 2023, in Tupelo, Mississippi, after a life marked by service to his fellow man. He was born September 16, 1943, and was raised in Holmes County, Mississippi, by his beloved grandparents. He graduated from Durant High School.

He studied accounting and was a member of the ROTC at Mississippi State University. After graduating from MSU, he served in the United States Army, flying helicopters in Vietnam and, later, serving as a flight instructor. He held the rank of Captain and was a recipient of the Bronze Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross, among other honors and awards. After his military service, he obtained his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University and worked as a veterinarian in north Mississippi, including Pontotoc. He worked for several years for his alma mater, Mississippi State, in both the College of Veterinary Medicine, where he was among the first faculty, and the Division of Development before eventually settling back in Pontotoc, where he was known by his friends as "Dr. Mac" and worked many years as a large animal veterinarian. He was also the executive secretary of the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association and Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Later in his career, he served the citizens of Pontotoc County as sheriff's deputy and criminal investigator for the Pontotoc County Sheriff's Department before being elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served the people of District 15 from 2008 until his death. In the legislature, he served as chairman of the University and Colleges and Ethics committees and was previously vice-chairman of the Appropriations committee. He was a longtime member of West Heights Baptist Church in Pontotoc and led the Praise Sunday school class for many years.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Elton Mac Huddleston, Sr., and Matilda Claudell Ellington Houston, and his grandparents, Luther Pearson McLellan, Amber Ellington McLellan, John Oliver Huddleston, and Fannie McDonough Huddleston.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Dr. Flavia Ruth Hutchinson Huddleston, of Pontotoc; 4 children, Robert McLellan Huddleston and his wife, Kimberly, of Wren, Mississippi; Meghan West Foley and her husband, William, of New Albany, Mississippi; Dr. Edward Mac Huddleston of Birmingham, Alabama; and Amber Claire Brown and her husband, Griffin, of Southaven, Mississippi; 4 grandchildren, Aubrey Kay Huddleston of Wren, Mississippi, and Stella Ruth Foley, Wil-

liam Deacon Foley, and Charlotte James Foley, of New Albany, Mississippi.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MARTHA DAY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha Day, co-founder and president of The Vitamin Bridge in Coppell.

The Vitamin Bridge is a nonprofit organization that provides expecting mothers of low socioeconomic status with prenatal vitamins and nutritional information. Martha started the Vitamin Bridge following her experiences volunteering at a pregnancy crisis center. She realized there was a need for someone to give access to prenatal vitamins for moms-to-be that could not afford them or were unaware of their importance. If women were given the resources that The Vitamin Bridge offers, then they would be more likely to have a successful pregnancy.

To date, The Vitamin Bridge has helped nearly 50,000 women receive prenatal vitamins and nutrition education at no cost. I thank Martha for providing expecting mothers in our community with an equal opportunity to have a healthy pregnancy. Her selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 GRADUATES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2023 graduating class of Fairfax County High School Firefighter program. In 2016, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools created its High School Firefighter Program to provide training to students who are considering a career as a firefighter.

Students who participate in this program attend courses taught by qualified instructors at the Fairfax County Fire Academy. In fact, they receive the same training as new professional and volunteer firefighters. The course is grueling but upon successful completion, the students will earn a Virginia Certification as Firefighter I & II and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. Should these students decide to apply to the Fairfax County Fire Academy, this program will make them competitive candidates and will have prepared them for recruit school.

Fourteen seniors and one junior are graduating as the Class of 2023 of the High

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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.

School Firefighter Program. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following graduates:

Sydney G. Bates; Braden A. Dasher; Callie J. Desrosier; Alec T. DiLeonardo; Ian S. Dingman; Regan N. Kelley; Peter D. Mangone; Connor J. Marshall; Casey W. Martin; Hunter J. Piotrowski; Eric S. Verrier.

Mr. Speaker, the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department is 1 of the best fire departments in the country and in the world. I commend the department as well as the public school system for partnering in the creation of this program. I also applaud these young people for their desire to learn more about the department and for their interest in protecting our community. Northern Virginia is fortunate to have such dedicated young citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students on their successful completion of their program and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD SEID FOR HIS EFFORTS TO BETTER THE LIVES OF VETERANS ACROSS THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Howard Seid for his numerous efforts to better the lives of veterans across Ontonagon County and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Through his bountiful service, charitable nature, and continued leadership, Howard has become irreplaceable to the people of the great State of Michigan.

None are more deserving of recognition, as Howard has gone above and beyond in his commitment to the local communities of Northern Michigan. Prior to his work with veterans, Howard served in the United States Air Force, where he held the roles of Trainer Pilot, Airlift Pilot, and Wing Commander. After 27 years, he retired at the rank of Colonel. His devotion to the people of his country and fellow servicemen remains steadfast.

It is difficult to fully encapsulate all the ways in which Howard works to better the lives of veterans. Since 1992, he has been an active member of The American Legion Post 92. In 2017, he became the chapter's Commander and continues to hold that position today. Under his leadership, the post has become a profitable and active community center with many veterans attending weekly events. Similarly, he has served both as the Western U.P. representative on the U.P. Veterans Community Action Team and as Vice-Chairman of their Steering Committee for the past 6 years. Furthermore, Howard has been instrumental in ensuring that veterans in the U.P. have access to sufficient medical facilities and treatments. As a volunteer for Disabled American Veterans, he has logged over 10,000 hours transporting individuals to doctor appointments and hospital visits. Additionally, he works to honor veterans across the Upper Peninsula, organizing events like an annual veteran fishing day on a private and handicap-accessible pond. Since retiring from the Air Force, Howard has spent years serving veterans, and his efforts have provided a much-needed support for our military heroes.

Outside of his work for veterans, Howard is an active and charitable community member. He has been responsible for planning and executing Rockland community's annual Christmas gathering for the last 7 years. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, he ensured that every child received a hand-delivered gift from Santa traveling atop a firetruck. In addition, he serves as a member of the Ottawa Lions Club, St. Paul Methodist Church, U.P. Sport Fishing Association, and Rockland Volunteer Fire Department. As a Colonel, a veteran, a volunteer, and a Yooper, Howard has consistently put the needs of others before his own.

Mr. Speaker, It is my honor to congratulate Howard Seid for his decades of service to fellow Michigan veterans. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Howard all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING HOMETOWN HERO
MADDY SEXTON

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Maddy Sexton of Southlake Carroll. Earlier this year, Maddy was in a car heading to school with a friend when her friend began to experience a medical emergency. Maddy demonstrated maturity beyond her years and handled the situation perfectly—she immediately pulled over, called Southlake Fire, and helped take care of her friend before Southlake Fire quickly arrived.

I thank Maddy for going above and beyond to look out for her friend through her vigilance, quick thinking, and maturity. It is an honor to join Southlake DPS in recognizing Maddy for her contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Adam Holliday Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and thank them for their work to preserve our Nations heritage, while educating our next generation on the importance of upholding our constitutional values.

As Constitution Day approaches, we remember the words of Benjamin Franklin who was asked by a group of citizens as he exited the Constitutional Convention what type of government had been created.

He replied: "A republic, if you can keep it." Each day we strive to uphold the Republic that was created that day in Philadelphia.

Both in the halls of Congress, and across the country we must remain committed to protecting our constitutional rights that have helped us to become the most prosperous Nation the world has ever known.

As we celebrate Constitution Day, we remember our founding fathers and strive to uphold their legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANET
AMEND CARVER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of my dear friend Janet Amend Carver, a dedicated public servant who passed away on July 23, 2023, at the age of 90.

Born January 7, 1933 near San Jose, California, Janet graduated from high school in 1949 from Immaculate Heart High School in Hollywood. In 1954, she graduated from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Far East history. While at Redlands, she was the editor of the college newspaper and a stringer for the Los Angeles Times. Janet then pursued graduate studies at the University of Oslo on a scholarship from the Storting (Norwegian Parliament).

Janet moved to Washington, D.C., where she joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1955 and in 1957 joined the staff of Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (CA). Later, she served as the district manager for most of Northern Virginia for the 1980 Census and ended her working career as a staff member for Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland.

In 1963, Janet embarked on an admirable career as a volunteer with many different Virginia Democratic Party organizations. Her tireless efforts earned her widespread recognition. Janet joined the Fairfax County Democratic Committee in 1965, campaigning for progressive candidates in opposition to the then ruling Byrd Machine. She held numerous positions over the years, including member of the Virginia Democratic State Central Committee; First Vice Chair of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Committee (CDDC); First Vice Chair of the 11th CDDC; and 3-time chair of the Springfield Democratic Committee. In 2002, she received the 8th CDDC's Eagle Award for outstanding lifetime achievements in civil rights and public service. In 2008, she was elected to represent Virginia's 11th Congressional District in the Electoral College where she cast her vote for then-candidate for President Barack Obama.

Beyond her professional achievements, Janet was an avid traveler, camper, and bird watcher. She visited all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, and many countries in Europe, Africa, and South America.

Janet instilled in her children their civic duty and sacred right to vote in every election. Her kindness and lively spirit touched the lives of many, leaving a mark on those who knew her.

Janet leaves behind her beloved husband of 65 years, John; her cherished children and their spouses, Wendy, Ted (Mary), and Andy (Terri); her treasured grandchildren, Elisabeth, Derek, and Annemarie; her dear sister and brother-in-law, Carole and Ernie Labastida; nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Janet Amend Carver. Her leadership and commitment to public service was inspirational, and she will be missed by all who knew her.