

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives and congratulate them for reaching the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House's most important asset is its exceptional and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively, allowing legislators and their staff to focus on their primary mission. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents, and for their day-in and day-out efforts and impacts to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is primarily performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities, skills, and knowledge that supports the legislative process, ensures the security of this great institution, maintains our technology and service infrastructure, and contributes to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished noteworthy and essential work in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the following individuals for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed have provided 250 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trena Gates, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Karen Granger, Office of the Clerk of the House; Gregory Holland, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Tanya Hughes-Goins, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Steven Johnson, Office of Inspector General; Kathleen Joyce, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Jimmy Lambert, Office of the Clerk of the House; Justin Supon, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Stanley Turek, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Wood, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I once again congratulate, acknowledge, and express our gratitude to these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer or the Inspector General, and collabo-

ratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House sets an impressive example for their colleagues and for the employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great Nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

COMMEMORATING THE SKY TOP TOWER AT MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sky Top tower on the Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County, New York. For over a century, Sky Top has been a testament to our region's natural beauty and a symbol of home for many in the New Paltz area.

In 1870, the twins Albert and Alfred Smiley constructed the original Sky Top tower on the grounds of the Mohonk Mountain House resort. Although severe weather and fires destroyed the original tower, it was rebuilt three times. The fourth and current iteration of Sky Top, built in 1923 as a memorial to Albert Smiley, celebrates its 100th birthday this year.

Located on a high point of land overlooking Lake Mohonk, Sky Top provides a view of nearby states New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Over the years, the tower has been a beacon for hikers and nature lovers from New York and all over the country. Today, Sky Top stands as a symbol of the collaboration and determination of our community.

Sky Top owes its continued existence to the commitment and hard work of countless individuals who have contributed to the project over the decades.

Among them are the Smiley brothers, stonemasons John and Frank Lawrence, architect Francis Allen, and Charles Miller, who led the committee to construct the current tower. Their efforts embody our shared history and our commitment to preserving our community's abundant natural wonders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this enduring landmark and the hard work of the community that sustains it.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF RIVERVIEW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Riverview, Michigan on

the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their founding. The growth of the city over the last century and the contributions it has made to Southeastern Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Riverview began as limestone quarry and source of lumber for the nearby city of Trenton. As the quarry grew, so did the local population, but the area lacked city water. With that in mind, the people of the area decided to incorporate the Village of Riverview in 1923 with a population of 704 and an annual budget of \$20,000. The first thing they did after the vote was to start a city water system, allowing for the growth of their village well into the future. The Village of Riverview remained intact until the late 1950s, when some residents drew up petitions to become a city. At the same time, the city of Trenton was trying to annex Riverview to become part of their own city. The petitions arrived in Lansing in 1958 only an hour apart, but Riverview's were submitted first. On March 24, 1959, Riverview officially became the City of Riverview.

From 1956 to 1963, the city of Riverview was home to a Nike Missile site, one of many that dotted our homeland during the height of the Cold War. Crucial to our home defense, the site at Riverview was tasked with protecting the automobile and steel industries in the Detroit area from a Soviet missile strike. The current Riverview Community Center was once the barracks for the men serving at the Nike missile site.

Riverview has been called home by some of our most famous Michiganders. These names include Woody Widenhofer, defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won four Super Bowls with their famous "Steel Curtain" defense in the 1970s and Lloyd Carr, who served as Michigan's head football coach from 1995 to 2007, including leading our 1997 team to the national championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the centennial of the city of Riverview. From their humble beginnings, they have developed into a modern, progressive city that is crucial to the cultural fabric of Southeastern Michigan. We are excited to see what the residents of this great city can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI JI FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize His Holiness Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his lifetime dedication to promoting peace, religious tolerance, and universal values.

At a young age, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji committed himself to the study and teaching of Jainism, Buddhism, and Vedic philosophy.

• 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.

Dr. Lokesh eventually received the title of Acharya, the highest honor in the Jain faith. He founded an organization called Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, which supports Acharya's various initiatives related to interfaith cooperation, environmental, and physical and spiritual wellness. Acharya has also written dozens of books to spread his message of peace.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji has dedicated himself to the promotion of peace and tolerance among different faith groups. He has helped defuse communal violence on multiple occasions and recently opened the World Peace Center in Gurugram, India. With the support of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji leads interfaith dialogues with the goal of finding common ground among the participants.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji's work has positively impacted individuals throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his many accomplishments.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT
JOHN H. WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant John H. White of Sullivan County for his heroic military service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Lieutenant White first received his Naval commission as an Ensign in 1966 following his completion of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He then attended the Communications School at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and continued his education for Officer Electronics Communications at the Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan, Illinois.

In March of 1967, Lieutenant White received his first deployment aboard the U.S.S. *Pocono* (AGC-16), serving in the Communications Department as an assistant communications officer. The U.S.S. *Pocono* was the command ship for all amphibious forces in the Atlantic Ocean. From September 1968 to September 1969, Lieutenant White served ashore in Chu Lai and Danang, Vietnam with the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), overseeing the arrival of shipping supplies in support of the war effort.

Following his deployment to Vietnam, he joined the Kingsport Naval Reserve Unit, where he served an additional seven years and received the "Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device," presented by Vice Admiral L.P. Ramage. Lieutenant White recalls his experiences aboard a naval destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea and conducting a Summary Court Martial in Philadelphia as memorable occasions while on active duty in the Reserves. Lt. White resigned in 1976, after having served his country proudly for more than a decade.

Please join me in recognizing Lieutenant White and his valiant military service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING SARAH GARD

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sarah (Meyer) Gard as she is inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame.

A graduate of Lena High School, Sarah started four years for the Lena Varsity Girls Basketball Team. During her career at Lena High School, she surpassed the 2,000-point milestone and ended her career with a total of 2,176 points. The team made appearances at the Wisconsin Girls State Tournament twice and Sarah was named First Team All-State. Sarah's career at Lena High School is one that will be remembered for generations.

After Sarah's very successful high school career, she continued her education and athletics at UW-Green Bay, where she joined the Women's Basketball Team. During her seasons at UW-Green Bay, Sarah excelled and was named to the Mid-Continent Conference Second Team in 1995. The UW-Green Bay record books reflect Sarah's hard work and commitment as she remains in the top 10 for Field Goals Attempted, Scoring Average, and Three-Point Field Goals Made. It is quite evident through these many records that Sarah's talent and dedication to the game never wavered.

Since graduating from UW-Green Bay, Sarah has remained in Northeast Wisconsin and has been teaching in the Peshtigo School District for 18 years, where she is currently a second-grade teacher. I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah as she receives this outstanding honor and for her years of dedication and commitment to our community.

I once again congratulate Sarah Gard for being inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame and wish her, her husband Peter Gard and sons, Simon and Sam, nothing but the best for years to come.

HONORING TEPHRA INSTITUTE OF
CONTEMPORARY ART'S ALLOY
PROJECT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its Alloy Project, a fundraising initiative that offers both art and art experiences for audiences of all ages. The event brings together artists, collectors, art enthusiasts, and professional leaders from not only the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, but from many unique parts of the country.

This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia. Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting in-

novative contemporary art and innovative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

The event will include many unique aspects for a diverse audience that includes works for purchase, an opportunity to listen to artist dialogues, live music, and more, promising attendees a jubilant and interactive night of fun.

Tephra's "Choosing to Portage" is an exemplary collection that emphasizes diversity. The raw authenticity of this project is palpable as it delves into topics such as the absurdities of white masculinity, the erasure of indigenous cultures, police killings of Black men, the visibility of Iraqi culture in the U.S., the ravages of war, and the loneliness of grieving. This dedication to creation around such vital and urgent topics that simultaneously are difficult for many demonstrates the necessity of contemporary art.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its Alloy Project and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

RECOGNIZING IAN "SHIGE" AINOA

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a standout member of our South Sound community, Mr. Ian "Shige" Ainoa. An Air Force veteran, a steward of our South Sound waters as a scientific diver, and a Little League coach, Shige brings Aloha, goodwill, and good spirits to everyone he encounters.

Shige currently works for the Environmental Protection Agency as an IT specialist and a scientific diver, working to support the preservation of our Sound's ecosystem through his skilled fieldwork. A leader in advancing equity and fighting for justice, Shige also served as the manager of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Program for the EPA's Northwest region.

Outside of his day job, Shige goes above and beyond as an active board member of the University Place Veterans Plaza and volunteers his time to engrave and install new commemorative tiles. He has also coached Little League softball for the last three years.

I thank Shige for his commitment and service to our Nation, our waters, and our South Sound community.

RECOGNIZING RESPONSIBLE
GAMING EDUCATION MONTH

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September as Responsible Gaming Education