

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ARNOLD LOUIS GRAY WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Arnold Louis Gray of Groesbeck, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Today we honor an exemplary citizen whose continued leadership beyond his active duty has cemented him as a pillar of his community.

In 1966, at the age of 24, Arnold joined the Army and began as a recruiter in New York. His resilience was tested in Vietnam. Amid the Tet Offensive, when a critical helicopter crew met a tragic end, he stepped up as a door gunner. Following Vietnam, during Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia, Arnold stood firm as a Team Commander of tanks at the German border. Throughout these times, he was recognized with commendations including the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Service Medals, among others. He attained the rank of Specialist 5, receiving his honorable discharge in 1969.

Upon returning stateside, he achieved a Bachelor of Business Administration from Sam Houston State University. Arnold and his beloved wife, Penny, reside in Limestone County, raising Brangus cattle. In his community, Arnold's commitment shines through. He's been influential in church activities, notably at the Groesbeck Methodist Church. The duo's dedication to youth is evident in their support for the Limestone County 4H, FFA, and agricultural programs.

A testament to his leadership, Arnold has served organizations ranging from the Limestone County Fair Association to the Groesbeck Masonic Lodge. His service earned him the Golden Trowel award. He's also been active in the American Legion, Tri-County Antique Tractor Club, and has been a driving force behind numerous local boards.

Arnold and Penny's contributions to Limestone County haven't gone unnoticed. They've been hailed as citizens of the year by the Groesbeck Chamber of Commerce, with October 12, 2021, named in their honor. To many, Arnold's wisdom and integrity make him the "Go-To Guy." When questions arise, often the question asked is, "what would Arnold do?"

For his unwavering service to the Nation and continued leadership in his community, I am honored to present the Congressional Veteran Commendation to Arnold L. Gray.

RECOGNIZING BERTHA RAMSEY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bertha Ramsey, a long-time resident of the City of Detroit, as she celebrates 100 years of life.

Born October 2, 1923, Mother Ramsey's loving parents instilled in her the values of patience and hard work, as they raised her and her 12 siblings in rural Laurel, Mississippi. Her compassionate nature shined through in everything she did, and she always held onto faith, especially in trying times.

A move to Detroit in 1942 was pivotal for Mother Ramsey. It wasn't merely a change of address. In Detroit, she witnessed the World War II era, the Detroit race protests of 1943, the milestones of the Civil Rights Movement, the profound impact of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion, Detroit's first Black mayor, and the groundbreaking election of Barack Obama. Detroit was also where Bertha's path crossed with Burnett Ramsey. Together, they raised 4 children in a home full of love. As the family tree expanded to 8 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren, Bertha emerged as the spiritual compass, always emphasizing the importance of faith and kinship.

Please join me in wishing Mother Bertha Ramsey a happy 100th birthday as we recognize her contributions to our community in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING DAVID M. BAIRD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David M. Baird for his selfless dedication and service to the veterans of Eastern Washington. On September 24, 2023, after 13 years of service as Director of the Spokane Veterans Center, David began a new journey as the Senior Social Worker at the Boise VA Medical Center in Idaho.

David is a Navy veteran and therapist with a distinguished record of service. In his role as director, he completely transformed the Spokane Veterans Center from a small, simple office to a much larger and more welcoming facility. As a result, the Vet Center—as it's known to those it serves in our community—is more equipped to keep the promise of supporting veterans than ever.

Under David's leadership, the Vet Center has become a model of best practices. It's home to top-notch social and psychological services, as well as readjustment counseling programs, all of which have received national recognition for the high level of compassion

and care they provide. On average, the facility serves more than 15,000 veterans who walk through its doors each year.

These programs offered at the Vet Center have served as a lifeline for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They connect veterans with one another in open, non-judgemental settings, removing the stigma that is too often a barrier to seeking help. They have also been crucial for Gold Star families who rely on the Center for bereavement counseling as they cope with the heart-piercing grief of losing a family member on active duty.

Mr. Baird also established new therapeutic practices and facilities, including the "Heroes Garden" on the Spokane Vet Center campus, which offers a safe place for peaceful reflection to veterans and Gold Star family members. Additionally, he created a Native American sweat lodge experience for veterans and family members that takes place four times a year. David accomplished all this while successfully implementing a first-in-the-nation childcare program for veterans seeking readjustment counseling appointments at the facility.

David's dedication and tireless efforts have made him invaluable to our community. He has volunteered countless hours as a mental health professional for the Honor Flight Association, partnered with nonprofit agencies to provide stress-reduction wilderness retreats for veterans, and served as the Veteran Entry Coordinator for Spokane's annual Lilac Festival Torchlight Parade—the largest Armed Forces Day Parade in the Nation.

The number of lives David has changed is too many to count. I am deeply grateful to him for his dedication to our veterans, our community, and the United States of America through the years. Mr. Speaker, as David enters this new and exciting chapter, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his incredible contributions and wishing him all the best.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, the Republican FY24 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act.

Less than one week before the government is set to shut down, House Republicans brought forward a slate of funding bills that have no chance of passing the Senate or being signed into law by President Biden. With this bill, Republicans have doubled down on their cuts to the critical rural programs America's farmers rely on. The bill was so extreme

• 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.

that nearly 30 Republicans voted against it when it failed to pass the House Thursday evening by a vote of 191–237.

In July, Republicans passed out of the Appropriations Committee an Agriculture appropriations bill that provides just \$17.2 billion—a funding level so low, it was last seen in 2007—and \$9 billion below what was provided in 2023. It slashes loans that provide support for distressed farmers and funds for rural electric cooperatives. It underfunds direct loans for water and waste removal, money that ensures rural Americans have access to clean drinking water, and cuts the cash value voucher in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), undermining more than 100,000 Minnesotans' access to nutrition assistance.

But Mr. Chair, it seems as though the bill passed out of the Appropriations Committee didn't go far enough. With the passage of the rule on Tuesday, an additional 14.15 percent across-the-board cut was implemented on every program contained within this bill. In addition, another \$1.2 billion was cut from the vital Food for Peace Program, a program that ensures people around the world have access to nutritious surplus food grown by America's farmers.

This bill also contains harmful and partisan policy riders meant to appease the most extreme right-wing members of the Republican Caucus. The bill reverses a decision by the FDA to allow mifepristone to be dispensed in certified pharmacies to patients with a certified prescriber, instead of only in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices. Mifepristone has been safely used by more than 5 million women over the last two decades for safe and effective medication abortion. Congress acting to overturn a science-based decision by the Food and Drug Administration is yet another attempt by the majority to limit women's access to reproductive health care.

Mr. Chair, this bill is dead on arrival in the Senate. Instead of using this final week of Fiscal Year 2023 passing bills that will never become law, House Republican leadership should have focused on keeping the government open for the American people.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL)
EMANUEL BARNABY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) Emanuel Barnaby's 45 years of service to The Doctors Company, the practice of medicine, California, and his country throughout his lifetime and career.

Mr. Barnaby was born in Ames, Iowa. His father was a contractor for the United States military during World War II, which caused the family to move around the Southern, and then Eastern parts of the country until they landed in Syracuse, New York. When Mr. Barnaby was 10 years old, his family moved to California and he graduated from Sacramento High School in 1954 at only 16 years old.

In 1956, Mr. Barnaby joined the United States Army, completed Army basic training, and spent time stateside before being stationed overseas for active duty. The same

year he married his wife, Jean Sanchez, and was stationed near Bordeaux, in the south of France. In late 1957, Mr. Barnaby was transferred from active duty to the United States Army Reserve, California Military District, in which he would serve until his Honorable Discharge in 1963. Upon his transfer from active duty to reserve duty, Mr. Barnaby returned to Sacramento with Jean. While working for the Department of Motor Vehicles and studying at Sacramento Junior College, Mr. Barnaby received an Associate of Arts degree in 1959. He and Jean continued their studies at University of California (UC), Davis, where Mr. Barnaby received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1961.

While at UC Davis, Mr. Barnaby was bitten by the political bug and founded the Young Democrats on the UC Davis campus for the 1960 presidential campaign. Mr. Barnaby then worked in the U.S. Capitol, first for a U.S. Representative from Sacramento, and then as a Congressional Investigator, where he was granted Top Secret Security Clearance by the U.S. Department of Defense. While in Washington, D.C., the Barnabys welcomed their first child, William Emanuel Barnaby III, in 1962.

In 1964, Mr. Barnaby returned to Sacramento and was hired to be a Consultant on the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and by KXTV Channel 10 in Sacramento as an election consultant. In 1966, the Barnabys welcomed their second child, Kenneth Sanchez Barnaby. In 1967, Mr. Barnaby became a Consultant to the Assembly Education Committee. In 1968, Mr. Barnaby was offered a job as Consultant to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. From 1971 through 74, Mr. Barnaby attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, graduating with a Juris Doctor degree and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1974.

Mr. Barnaby left state service in 1976, when the chief lobbyist for the California Medical Association (CMA) hired him as CMA's first in-house lobbyist who was also an actively licensed attorney. Mr. Barnaby did not remain a CMA employee for long, as in 1978 he started his own lobbying firm. Mr. Barnaby added several clients in 1978, some of which he still represents to this day. Since Mr. Barnaby started his lobbying firm, he has worked with all his immediate family members, some longer than others. In 2018, the Barnaby lobbying firm merged with a new firm, which is now known today as Resolute.

Mr. Speaker, William (Bill) Emanuel Barnaby is known around the state capitol as a consummate historian of the legislature and for his deep institutional and healthcare policy expertise that are appreciated by all who know him.

COMMENDING DONNA WATTS FOR
HER SERVICE TO ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Watts for her 38 years of service in the Chamber of Commerce world. Donna has been an integral part of our district's

Chamber of Commerce. She began her career as director of the Bay Minette Area Chamber of Commerce. After 12 years, she moved to the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and has worked there since 1997. Her dedication and contributions to the Chamber of Commerce were incredibly influential to Baldwin County's businesses.

We are so grateful for all that she has done for our community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JOHN RAYMOND KNUE, USAF, RETIRED WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired Major John Raymond Knue, United States Air Force, of Robinson, Texas with a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

John was born the oldest of six children in a large and loving family in rural southern Indiana. Graduating from North Dearborn high school in 1968 and after a short time working in construction in civil engineering, he decided to enroll in the Air Force in December 1968 at the height of the Vietnam War.

He took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and was awarded his tech specialty in civil engineering. During his 22 years on active duty, John was overseas over five years to include tours in the Vietnam War as well as a tour in Germany. He was sent to advanced training for Vietnam, and in November 1970 arrived in Cam Ranh Bay with Unit 554 Civil Engineering Squad in heavy repair construction. This was part of the famous "Red Horse" squad, and in fact, the 554 was the last Red Horse unit in Vietnam.

Through hard work, he attained the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned an appointment at the Air Force Officers Training School and was commissioned in November 1978. Following a very successful career as a Commissioned Officer, he retired at the rank of Major in August 1998.

During his military career, Major Knue earned many prestigious decorations including three Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, four Vietnam Service Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his retirement, he received his Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Texas in 1998 and continued to serve others through employment, charity, and volunteer activities. In education, he was Facility Development Officer at Texas State Technical College and Senior Lecturer at Baylor University Hankamer School of Business. In civic duty, he was a Robinson City Council Member, McLennan County 911 District Board of Manager, and served in various capacities as a Robinson firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician.

For fellow veterans, he works tirelessly for Heart of Texas Waco Veterans One-Stop for earned military benefits as Lead Trainer for new volunteers, assists in holding Baylor University law clinics, and helps coordinate all