

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
DALE 'JIM' POLITIS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life of James Dale 'Jim' Politis, who passed away on October 10th, at the age of 76.

A native of Chicago, Jim joined the Air Force in 1966 for four years, before attending Olympia Community College in Washington State. In 1974, he joined the family business at CB Centers of America. He met and married his wife Janice (Jan) a year later and they remained married for 47 years. Eventually, while living in Knoxville, Tennessee, Jim and his wife started their own business, J&F Distributing.

The family moved to Riner, Virginia in 1992, where they owned and operated the Brush Creek Buffalo Farm, Jan's family farm, raising Buffalo. They also ran the Brush Creek Buffalo Store in Riner.

Jim was on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors from 1998 until 2013, serving as Chair for four of those years. During his time on the Board of Supervisors, I represented the Riner area, both when I served in the Virginia House of Delegates and then as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I had the pleasure of working closely with him on a number of issues of concern.

One of the issues that Jim worked on was the legalization of Industrial Hemp. This is the product used to make fiber. The fiber product does not include very much THC (the active ingredient that gives the marijuana plant its potency). Industrial Hemp, thanks in part to Jim's lobbying efforts, was legalized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

He is survived by his wife Jan, Stepmother Lorraine Politis, Children James D. Politis II (Stephanie), Jeannetta Politis (Luis Prado-Roman), Jason Politis (Callie), grandchildren Emma, Andrew, Gavin, and Jenna Rae. Siblings Evelyn Bluemke, Karen Kaufman (Kevin), Sue Kaufman, Michael Kaufman (Debbie); as well as many nieces and nephews. I wish them all my deepest condolences on the loss of their loved one.

May Jim remain in the hearts of his loved one for years to come. He will not be forgotten for the positive impact he made on the Montgomery County community.

### DECLARATION OF MURDER

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, enemies of civilization are gruesomely bold and clear on their murderous in-

tentions. A heinously revealing declaration of their barbaric intentions by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) is detailed in the Hamas Covenant of August 18, 1988.

In the midst of insane provisions is Article 7: "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'"

The goal of Hamas, financed by Iran, is murder of Jews worldwide. It is fake news they care about the Palestinian people. This is not about territory. Suffering by the Hamas-oppressed people of Gaza is solely Hamas-dictated, and a two-state solution without non-terrorist domination is not possible.

Hamas and also Hezbollah is Iran in a war we did not choose between Dictators With Rule of Gun attacking Democracies With Rule of Law. Active war began with war criminal Putin's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and led to the Hamas invasion of Israel on Putin's birthday, October 7th.

Bold and clear are the dictators with Putin's treatise of July 2021 that Ukraine does not exist. The Chinese Communist Party threatens Taiwan does not exist, and Iran chants in English, "Death to Israel, Death to America."

Democracies will prevail building Peace Through Strength.

### RECOGNIZING THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to honor the Pancretan Association of America (PAA) on their many achievements throughout their 94 years of dedicated service. I am thrilled to congratulate the PAA on the establishment of their first-ever National Headquarters at the Hellenic Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and on the recent election of their organization's first female president, Diane Kounalakis.

The PAA and the Pancretan Youth Association (PYA) offer a rich array of programs to cultivate and preserve the extraordinary heritage of the island of Crete. The PAA and PYA have supported the enrichment and personal development of both Cretan Americans and the general public through educational events, study abroad scholarships, dance and music workshops, and translations of Greek literature. The PAA also has a long and storied history of advancing essential causes on the island of Crete and throughout both Greece and the United States. From helping to establish Crete's first public hospital in the 1950s to supporting orphanages, food pantries and disaster relief today, the PAA has made immense contributions.

I have no doubt that President Diane Kounalakis, a longtime PAA member and vol-

unteer, will be an exemplary leader for the PAA. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding the PAA for its many decades of service, and in wishing the PAA all the best in the years to come.

### RECOGNIZING THE MIDWEST ISMAILI ARTS FESTIVAL

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize The Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival hosted by the Ismaili Council for the Midwestern United States. The Ismaili Arts Festival will be held at the Copernicus Center in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

The Ismaili Arts Festival stands as a testament to the profound impact of the arts, serving as a platform for Ismaili artists to share their unique visions and creations with our community. This festival celebrates creativity, and promotes dialogue, diversity and understanding among residents of Illinois and visitors. These events elevate and illustrate the pluralistic values that are held by residents of Illinois and make Illinois a more vibrant and stronger community.

This year, the Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival will bring together over 200 Ismaili artists showcasing their artistic expression in the categories of performing arts, film festival and art gallery. The theme for this year's festival is "care," in which the artists will explore their personal interconnectivity with care for the environment, care for one's heritage, and strengthening one's identity.

I am proud of the Ismaili Council for Midwestern United States and the Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival organizers, Ismaili Artists and Ismaili Volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge, and passion to promote the arts.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th District of the State of Illinois, I proudly recognize the impact of the Ismaili Arts Festival and its contributions to the State of Illinois' arts and cultural stage and celebrate this showcase of Illinois' diversity and commitment to inclusion.

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO WILLIAM SMARR

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, retired United States Secret Service Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) of the Dallas Field Office William Smarr. SAIC Smarr has spent more than two decades protecting our nation's leaders before retiring on October 13, 2023.

• 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.

Mr. Smarr began his career in 1999 in the Pittsburgh Field Office with subsequent assignments in the Houston Field Office and the Presidential Protective Division in Washington, D.C. In addition to providing protection to our nation's leaders and investigating threats against the President, Mr. Smarr managed high-profile transnational fraud investigations involving the targeting of U.S. financial infrastructure and private industry victims. During his time as the Senior Executive for the North Texas District, SAIC Smarr led all operations involving executive protection and criminal investigations with offices in Dallas, Lubbock, Tyler and Waco. Before assuming his role in the Dallas Field Office, Mr. Smarr led as the Deputy SAIC in Houston, TX, where he oversaw the Secret Service's investigative and protective portfolio covering all southeast Texas and the country of Mexico. SAIC Smarr has dedicated his life to the integrated mission and responsibilities of the United States Secret Service and fulfilled his role with honor. I thank SAIC Smarr for all he had done to protect and serve our great Nation. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

**CLOSE AGENCY LOOPHOLES TO  
THE JONES ACT**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I reintroduce the "Close Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act of 2023," which would close nearly 50 years of anti-Jones Act decisions—known as "letter rulings"—by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and having served as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018, I am committed to rebuilding the U.S.-flagged fleet including international and Jones Act vessels. For decades, Congress has stood idly by while federal regulators chipped away at the Jones Act, allowing foreign vessels paying poverty wages to take jobs from Americans working in our maritime industry. That must stop.

In December 2020, Congress enacted my amendment to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act as section 9503 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) affirming that the application of the Constitution, laws, and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States to the Outer Continental Shelf also applies to non-mineral energy resources and exploring for, developing, producing, transporting, or transmitting such resources. As I stated in my remarks on September 24, 2020 (Congressional Record, Vol. 166, No. 166), Congress always intended U.S. law to apply to any form of exploration, development, production, transportation, and transmission of energy resources under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953.

On January 25, 2021, President Biden's first executive order (no. 14005) directed federal agencies to maximize the use of American mariners, American-built ships, and U.S.-flagged vessels under the Jones Act. In re-

sponse to my amendment enacted in the FY21 NOAA, U.S. CBP issued a headquarters ruling letter "HQ H309186" on January 27, 2021, correctly holding that the transportation of "scour protection" materials from the Port of Providence, Rhode Island to a wind project on the Outer Continental Shelf off the southeast shore of Martha's Vineyard is a coastwise activity under the Jones Act.

On March 17, 2021, the national trade association for the offshore wind industry sent a letter to the Commissioner of CBP requesting that the agency withdraw HQ H309186. In this letter, the offshore wind industry mischaracterized my September 2020 remarks from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as somehow supporting its request that CBP withdraw the January 27, 2021, letter ruling. On March 25, 2021, CBP issued a revised headquarters ruling letter (HQ H317289) contradicting its January 2021 letter ruling and the President's stated policy, allowing foreign vessels to construct energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf.

To be clear, my September 2020 remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD stated that my amendment to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act simply clarified that all forms of offshore energy development are indeed subject to the same U.S. laws that apply to the offshore oil and gas industry. That does not mean that I accept the validity of the many administrative loopholes to the Jones Act created by decades of bad letter rulings and poor enforcement by CBP. Rather, I have long held that many of the activities regulators have incorrectly allowed the offshore oil and gas industry to engage in using foreign-flagged vessels are clear violations of the plain text of the Jones Act and original Congressional intent.

It is now clear to me that the regulators at CBP are unwilling to fully implement the Jones Act, as directed by President Biden's Executive Order 14005. My 'Closing Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act' would finally force federal regulators to enforce the law as Congress intended in 1920, maximizing job opportunities for American mariners, U.S.-flagged vessels, and domestic shipyard workers. In effect, my legislation would also compel CBP to implement the President's stated policy by fully enforcing the Jones Act.

On April 26, 2023, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed two key sections from my bill in the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2023" (H.R. 2741). Sections 8 and 9 from my bill are now incorporated as Section 312 (Notification) and Section 313 (Publication of Fines and Penalties) of H.R. 2741.

Section 312 requires foreign-flagged vessels purporting to operate under a Jones Act exemption to notify CBP and post online its legal basis for operating on the Outer Continental Shelf. Currently, CBP uses an honor system for foreign vessels operating on the Outer Continental Shelf and their legal basis for doing, which undermines the agency's ability to enforce the Jones Act properly and enables outright fraud. Section 313 requires CBP to publish online any penalties against foreign-flagged vessels operating illegally on the Outer Continental Shelf, including for failing to notify the agency of the purported Jones Act exemption in advance.

For this Congress, I also require in my bill that offshore energy developers on the Outer Continental Shelf pay a prevailing wage.

Under current law, project developers operating in the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone at sea can pay poverty wages, exploiting foreign workers and undermining American mariners' ability to compete for this work. After decades of failed promises, we are finally building the clean energy economy of the future. American mariners are ready, willing, and able to work in the burgeoning offshore wind industry. But they cannot be expected to compete against foreign-flag vessels paying poverty wages to workers with no legally guaranteed collective bargaining rights or labor standards.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I encourage all members of the House to cosponsor this critical and long overdue legislation.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID  
NIXON**

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2023*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to honor the life of David Nixon, who passed away on October 1, 2023, at the age of 64 after a courageous seven year battle with cancer.

Growing up in Roanoke, David and I first crossed paths in high school when we were on opposite sides of a political battle. He went to Glenvar High School, and I went to Andrew Lewis High School. Throughout the political debate to name the new high school in Salem, David always presented his views in a calm, honest manner. I knew from that experience that I had met a man of honor.

I often think of the Abraham Lincoln quote when thinking of David, "the best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend." Instead of vilifying each other, we got to know each other and came to have deep respect for one another.

It is remarkable to me how much our lives mirrored one another. After attending Roanoke College and Wake Forest University law school, he returned home to practice law, as I did to Salem after attending law school. He served as Chairman of the Roanoke City Republican Committee while I was Chairman of the Salem Republican Committee. I am thankful that he was a strong supporter of my many political campaigns over the years.

During his life he was appointed Escheator by Governor Allen for Roanoke City, 1994, for 23rd Judicial District, 2001. He also served as Vice President of Legal Affairs, Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation; Chairman, Roanoke City Fair Housing Board; and Member, Roanoke City Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board.

A devout member of New Century Church in Roanoke, Virginia, David served many years as a volunteer greeter. After being diagnosed with stage four cancer in 2016, David used his remaining years to grow closer to Christ, finding peace and joy in his diagnosis.

David is survived by his son Kirk Nixon (Darlene Smith) and granddaughter Ella Nixon; daughter Jessica (Nick Blandy), grandchildren Finn and Declan Blandy; siblings, Carolyn "Kack" Lynch, John, and Debbie Nixon; twin sister, Denise "Cee" and Alan Campbell; as well as many nieces, nephews,