

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKING NORMAN GUGLIOTTA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Norman Gugliotta, a District of Columbia resident who is retiring today after 18 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives in several administrative and support roles.

Norman started as a contractor with the House Child Care Center in 2005 and then worked for various offices of the Chief Administrative Officer, including Payroll & Benefits, Accounting, First Call and the Office of Financial Counseling, where he has been a Financial Counselor since 2007. He provided financial guidance and services to House offices, helping to ensure that their expenditures adhered to applicable House rules and accounting standards.

With his knowledge, experience and courteousness, Norman was an invaluable asset to the House and respected by his coworkers and colleagues. Norman is a big fan of the "Star Wars" movie franchise. He has participated in conventions, Awesome & Comic Cons, parades and charitable endeavors, including visits to children's hospitals while in Star Wars costumes. In retirement, Norman plans to travel with his partner to help coordinate events for the 501st Legion Star Wars Group and Washington Nationals Star Wars Day.

I ask the House to join me in thanking Norman for his distinguished service to the House and the nation it serves. I wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF WALNUT'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 65th anniversary of the City of Walnut.

Walnut is beloved for its historic charm and traditions such as the Walnut Family Festival and Winter Jam. On January 20, 2024, the City of Walnut celebrates 65 years since its incorporation.

A long-time ranching community, the Walnut area was primarily used for cattle and sheep grazing as well as growing wheat, grapes, and fruit trees.

Walnut has since grown into a diverse, successful city that I am proud to represent as part of California's 38th congressional district.

From the iconic windmill in Suzanne Park to the wildlife sanctuary at Mt. SAC to the beau-

tiful groves of walnut trees to its wonderful Senior Center, the City of Walnut has much to offer residents and visitors alike.
Happy Birthday, City of Walnut.

RECOGNIZING KELLE SHULTZ UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Kelle Shultz, a devoted and compassionate leader who has served as president of Knoxville Habitat for Humanity since 1995 and is now entering a well-deserved retirement.

Kelle's work has helped many East Tennesseans who otherwise might not have a place to call home, and her efforts earned Knoxville Habitat recognition as a top 40 Habitat affiliate worldwide. Since she took over, she significantly increased the organization's home-building and repair services for low-income families, peaking at 24 homes a year in 2018. Under Kelle's leadership, Knoxville Habitat also built the 200,000th home built by Habitat for Humanity globally, and Knoxville Habitat became the largest home builder in the city during the 2008–2009 Great Recession.

Knoxville Habitat also implemented a series of Financial Fitness classes to educate Habitat homeowners, and this program is now a prerequisite to Habitat homeowners around the world. Knoxville Habitat has an overall homeowner success rate of 96.4 percent, which is a testament to how well Kelle understands what these homeowners need and how to provide paths to prosperity.

She has also shown leadership for Habitat for Humanity in other ways. She has actively led the East TN Executive Directors group, served on the Habitat Tennessee Board of Directors and the U.S. Council for Habitat International, and fostered collaborations with local organizations. She was named Outstanding Leader of the Year by Habitat Tennessee in 2015 to recognize her amazing work.

Kelle Shultz is a pillar of the Knoxville community and I wish her well in her retirement.

HONORING NEW JERSEY THESPIAN TROUPE 10385

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thespian Troupe 10385 at Hillsborough High School for their commitment to serving New Jersey and their community.

This school raised 603 pounds of food for the Hillsborough Township Community Assistance Network Food Pantry as part of the Trick

or Treat so Kids Can Eat program. With their dedication and persistence, New Jersey was able to collect 8,953.17 pounds of food with 11 schools and 255 Thespians participating. It is students like Thespian Troupe 10385 that exemplify the best of New Jersey, working towards a cause and giving back to the community.

I am incredibly proud of the students in this troupe and thank them for their service.

REMEMBERING ELMORE NICKLEBERRY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay profound respect to Elmore Nickleberry, one of the last two surviving 1968 Memphis Sanitation worker strikers, who passed on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at 92 years old. Mr. Nickleberry and 1,300 other sanitation workers led the wildcat strike after two of their colleagues were crushed in a garbage truck compactor and their nearly unbearable working conditions shocked the nation. Their story so inspired the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., then planning his Poor People's March on Washington, that he joined their cause and was ultimately assassinated on a Memphis motel balcony on April 4 of that year. The efforts of the strikers, with their iconic "I AM A MAN" placards, and of people of good will in Memphis, led to remarkable progress in race relations and labor equity, and forever changed my city for the better. The strike and its aftermath were a defining moment for Memphis and for the country. Mr. Nickleberry stayed on in the city's sanitation department until his retirement three years ago, attending a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the strike in 2018. He and the sanitation workers were inducted into the U.S. Department of Labor's Labor Hall of Fame in 2011. His remarkable legacy will be studied as an important milestone in our nation's history.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KAY PACE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mrs. Kay Pace of Madison County, Mississippi. Mrs. Kay Pace made history as the first and only female elected to the position of Madison County Tax Collector. Throughout her 36 years of serving Madison County, 22 of them were as Tax Collector.

Born and raised in Madison County, Kay has always sought to give back to her community. One of the biggest ways she gave back

• 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.

as Tax Collector was to research and implement Mississippi's first fully automated online county tax sales and online payments. Leading the charge in Madison County, Kay opened the door for easier ways of paying taxes and supporting the local community.

Kay is a member of the former First Methodist Church of Canton, now called First Church of Canton. Kay was a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson where she sang in the choir. Church has been an important part of Kay's life and service to Madison County outside of her job as Tax Collector.

Another way of service has been through her leadership in the Madison County Republican Women. Kay has served in various roles in the organization, including as President and as an officer.

While politics is an important role in her life, Kay also served the Jackson Symphony League as co-chair for Sub Debs. Additionally, she served in other clubs and organizations over the past 30 years throughout Madison, Jackson, and other local communities. She also has been a member of the Madison County League and Foundation.

While Madison County is her home and her lifelong place of service, Kay says her most important relationships are her family. Kay was married to the late W. K. Pace, Jr. for 40 years. Kay is the mother of four children and the proud grandmother of twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Kay is retiring from her role as Tax Collector and is looking forward to spending more time with her family. I am thankful for all the service Kay Pace has given to Madison County through the years. I wish her well in retirement.

HONORING ROBERT COKER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-standing friend and community leader, Mr. Robert Coker, as he retires in his 42nd year of service from U.S. Sugar, working on behalf of farmers across South Florida.

Mr. Coker began his successful career with U.S. Sugar in 1982 in its Community Affairs Department. By 1993, he became Vice President of Community Affairs, ascending to Senior Vice President by 2000. For 23 years, Mr. Coker served as senior Vice President, elevating U.S. Sugar and its Public Affairs department to a new, nationally recognized standard of excellence.

A man known across government, industry, and the South Florida community as a consummate professional; a man of integrity and unwavering dedication to his community, Robert Coker leaves behind a legacy of legislative victories for Florida's agricultural sector. From transportation, tax, and trade to agriculture, environment, and labor policy, Mr. Coker ensured that farmers' needs were well-represented, from Tallahassee to Washington, D.C.

A loving husband to his wife Mendy and dedicated father to his three children, Mr. Coker's impact both personally in his community and professionally has left an indelible

mark on us all. I know his work will serve as the foremost example for all those to follow, and I wish him the very best as he steps into this next stage of his life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to address the House on behalf of my dear friend, Robert Coker, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

HONORING CHIEF RONALD JON SIARNICKI ON HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous firefighter, invaluable leader, great Marylander, and dear friend: Chief Ronald Jon Siarnicki. After 22 years of faithful service as the Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, Ron recently retired. We ought to pay tribute to Ron and his commitment to serving his community and his country.

I've known Ron and worked with him ever since we met decades ago over lunch at a drug store counter below my law office. Even then, it was clear that Ron was a man of strong character, good humor, and selfless devotion to serving others. Indeed, service was a family tradition. Both Ron's father and grandfather were volunteer firefighters. Ron followed in their footsteps, becoming a volunteer firefighter with the Monessen Volunteer Fire Department, Hose House No. 2, in western Pennsylvania as a young man.

In 1978, Ron brought his talents to the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. Over the following 24 years, he rose through the ranks to become Chief of the Department, overseeing all fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in the county. In that time, he also became a revered leader in our community. Prince Georgians knew they could rely on Ron to protect the safety and prosperity of their community. Firefighters and first responders trusted that Ron would always do everything possible to provide them the resources, tools, and direction necessary to do their crucial work as safely and effectively as possible. Ron also served on the county's Joint Fire and Police Pension Board for four years. Additionally, starting in 1997, Ron served as a faculty member for the Fire Service Curriculum at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC)—where he had previously earned both a BS in Fire Science Management and a master's degree from the School of Management and Technology.

Ron's leadership and career in fire services extended beyond Maryland. In 2001, he became the Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. For 22 years, he managed the foundation's day-to-day operations, supported the families of our fallen firefighters, and fought for policy reforms to keep our firefighters and first responders safe. As a co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I was pleased to work closely with him on that mission. As Executive Director, Ron also oversaw the construction of the Na-

tional Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park and the renovation of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Year after year, I've had the great—and solemn—privilege of standing with Ron in Emmitsburg during the annual National Firefighters Memorial Weekend to honor the courageous men and women who gave their lives to protect others.

Ron has received many awards and accolades from a variety of organizations for his contributions to the fire services, including the Fire Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award, Alan Brunacini Fire Services Executive Safety Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Presidents Award of Distinction, UMUC Distinguished Alumnus, American Burn Association's Moncrief Award, and the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Silver Medal of Valor. Ron is a man of great humility, however. He did not become a firefighter out of a desire for recognition or reward. He became a firefighter because he wanted to help others. He became a firefighter because that's who he is.

Ron may be bringing his career as Executive Director to a close, but his contributions will forever endure. Men and women throughout the fire services will continue to look at Ron as a leader and to rely on his wisdom and expertise for many years to come. Knowing Ron, he'll be happy to help however he can. He exemplifies a firefighter's best traits: selflessness, courage, dedication, and intelligence. For that, he has the gratitude of his community, country, and Congress. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his continued service. We wish him and his family well as they start this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WEST POINT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Baptist Church of West Point, Virginia. December 21st marked the Church's 150th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1873, the First Baptist Church established itself as a cornerstone of West Point and the surrounding communities. Today, we recognize the First Baptist Church's service to the people of West Point as a place for the faithful to gather in worship, for those in need to receive help, and for the young to be nurtured and educated.

It was from modest beginnings that the First Baptist Church came into being. In 1870, there were fewer than four hundred people living in the village of West Point. Among them was Mrs. Sue Davis, who dreamed of a Baptist Church in her community. Mrs. Davis travelled to Stevensville to contact Rev. Alfred Bagby about starting a Baptist Church in West Point, which he and a group of fifteen other Baptists did when they met on December 21st at 2 o'clock to baptize Clarence Anderson as the first member received into the Church.

Over the next 150 years, the First Baptist Church has had many great pastors. Among them was Rev. Marvin Kerby, who stood as a true example of Godly integrity during his tenure of more than 31 years as Senior Pastor.