

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WALTER MILLER LAVENDER II, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender II, of Lorena, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His remarkable accomplishments reflect a life dedicated not only to the greater good but also to his community and his country, exemplifying the values that define true patriotism.

Walter began his journey at Cisco Junior College on a football scholarship and gained recognition as an award-winning boxer. He later transferred to Midwestern State University but chose in 1961 to enlist in the United States Navy, answering a higher call to serve.

Trained as a medic, he was first stationed in Guam, where he honed his medical skills and survived the devastating Super Typhoon Karen in 1962. His resilience and commitment were further demonstrated during two tours in Vietnam. In 1965, as a Combat Medic with the 7th Marines near Quy Nhon, he provided critical care to wounded soldiers under fire. In 1970, aboard the helicopter carrier USS *Iwo Jima*, he was responsible for evacuating casualties, ensuring that injured service members received timely medical attention.

Walter also served aboard the USS *Dewey* and the USS *Ward*, showcasing versatility and leadership across multiple assignments. After over 22 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1983 as a Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman from the Marine Corps Reserve in Waco, Texas.

His exemplary service is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, five Good Conduct Awards, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross, and the Seventh Fleet "Shell Back" Recognition aboard the USS *Dewey*.

Following his military career, Walter continued to serve his community as a Radiologic Technologist in local hospitals until his retirement in 2014. He also served as a Municipal Court Judge in the 1980s, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to public service.

Today, he remains actively involved as the treasurer of the Heart of Texas Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1012 and serves as a health and wellness advisor and PTSD mentor at the Waco Veterans One-Stop and the Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network. His dedication to supporting fellow veterans and their families highlights his belief in service beyond self.

Those who know Walter describe him as embodying the values of duty, honor, and country. His selfless commitment to helping others continues to inspire all who meet him.

To honor his sacrifice and service, I am pleased to award retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender II with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TMCO

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate five decades of innovation, excellence, and leadership by one of Nebraska's foremost industrial leaders and economic drivers: TMCO.

Over the last half century, TMCO has earned a reputation as a cornerstone of Nebraska's growing economy. What began with just eight machines in a small shop—smaller in square footage than most apartments—has grown into a symbol of economic opportunity, proving that hard work and vision are still rewarded in our country.

TMCO'S impact extends far beyond creating jobs and fueling Nebraska's economy. Its commitment to community engagement has built a legacy of uplifting the very communities that it serves. From mentoring the next generation to supporting local events and art installations, TMCO and its employees have always put Lincoln and Nebraska first.

Given all of this and more, it's no surprise that TMCO has thrived for five decades. From its leadership to its employees, the company's reputation for quality manufacturing, coupled with its deep community involvement, has made it a pillar of the Lincoln economy.

On behalf of the people of the first district, I want to extend our best wishes for TMCO's continued success.

I look forward to another five decades of remarkable leadership and community engagement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MS. LAURIE HADLEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the career of Ms. Laurie Hadley as she retires after nearly 14 years of service as the City Manager of Round Rock, Texas. With over 37 years working in local government, Ms. Hadley has been an integral part of Round Rock's transformation into one of the most dynamic and well-managed municipalities in Texas.

During her tenure, Round Rock grew to 140,000 residents and became a major hub

for economic development, attracting international industries and serving as the world headquarters for Dell Technologies. Under her leadership, the city expanded its medical facilities, welcomed two university campuses, and bolstered its transportation infrastructure.

Notably, Ms. Hadley spearheaded the largest bond election in the city's history, securing \$274 million to enhance public safety, parks, and infrastructure. Her focus on cementing Round Rock's reputation as a destination for business and tourism is further exemplified by her role in bringing Kalahari Resorts & Conventions to the city—one of her many achievements that will leave a lasting legacy.

Beyond infrastructure and economic development, Ms. Hadley's commitment to the people of Round Rock has fostered a stronger, more connected community. Ms. Hadley announced her plans to retire in December 2024, marking the end of a remarkable era of leadership. Her pride in Round Rock's transformation is evident, and her visionary leadership will continue to benefit the community for years to come.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Hadley for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING NEW JERSEY'S SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S HOMETOWN HEROES

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hometown heroes, first responders and law enforcement, who keep us safe every day. In recognition of National Police Week in May, my office put out a call for nominations for the first NJ-07 Law Enforcement Hometown Heroes initiative. Twenty-two law enforcement professionals from across New Jersey's 7th Congressional District were nominated by their chiefs and supervisors for the outstanding work they do every day. It is my honor to play a small role in recognizing their efforts as a token of appreciation for the difficult and often thankless task of keeping our communities safe. I will always support these men and women in blue. In recognition of their bravery and commitment, I would like to include in the RECORD the names of these twenty-two Hometown Heroes: Officer Alyse Brown, Sparta Township Police Department, Staff Sergeant Brent Hawkswell, New Jersey State Police, Officer Connor Strohm, Readington Township Police Department, Sergeant Daniel Kern, Hopatcong Police Department, Lieutenant Donald Sretenovic, New Providence Police Department, Lieutenant Douglas Baylor, Phillipsburg Police Department, Detective Elizabeth Savnik, Westfield Police Department, Corporal

• 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.

Gretchen Malone, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jarren Mann, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jessica Gutsick, High Bridge Police Department, Officer John M. Simonetti Jr., Mount Olive Police Department, Captain Jonathan Rachel, Springfield Police Department, Captain Michael Jackson, Mountaintop Police Department, Captain Miguel Acabou, Clark Police Department, Officer Nicholas J. Villa, Raritan Township Police Department, Patrolman Peter Zabita, Hopatcong Police Department, Corporal Ryan Kamieniencki, Far Hills Police Department, Captain Scott Rayack, Rahway Police Department, Lieutenant Thomas Polito, Bedminster Township Police Department, Sergeant Timothy Richard, Bernardsville Police Department, Sergeant Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department, Officer Vincent Conti, Scotch Plains Police Department. We are grateful for the commitment and sacrifice they make every single day.

HONORING COLONEL TIMOTHY
EARL BOOK

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to recognize the distinguished career and tireless service of Colonel (Col.) Timothy Earl Book, United States Air Force, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement after 30 years of selfless and loyal service to our Nation.

Col. Book's legacy—most recently as Assistant Professor and Director of Strategic Management Systems at the United States Army War College—is a testament to his unwavering commitment and dedication in myriad ways.

Col. Book's service began in 1989, when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He initially served as an F-16 crew chief in Misawa, Japan and Spangdahlem, Germany. He separated briefly to pursue higher education, while working in aviation maintenance, and was commissioned in 2000 through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. On the horrific day of September 11, 2001, then-Second Lieutenant Book was in pilot training. He served in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, Inherent Resolve, and Enduring Freedom—where his exceptional performance earned him numerous awards and commendations, to include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, six Air Medals, and an Aerial Achievement Award. His talents were further used as Branch Chief at United States Strategic Command, where he successfully integrated the Joint All-Domain Command and Control with the Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Branch, streamlining operations and eliminating redundancies.

Col. Book's military career concludes as a command pilot with 4,152 flight hours—1,376 in combat—a flight instructor and evaluator pilot in the RC-135 and E-3 AWACS aircrafts, and having served in theaters around the globe. He has served in key positions across Squadron Wing, Headquarters Air Staff, and Combatant command levels, and notably deployed to U.S. Central Command as Director

of Operations for the 763rd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron—leading over 1,000 Airmen in the operation and maintenance of a \$712 million aircraft fleet, finally executing 645 critical missions. He went on to lead the 55th Operations Support Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, commanding 234 personnel while providing operational support to twelve active component and two Air National Guard squadrons across five worldwide locations—further demonstrating his leadership and excellence at all levels.

In addition to his exceptional service, Colonel Book is fiercely dedicated to education; he's earned three Masters Degrees, and currently is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Command, Leadership, and Management at the United States Army War College. His instruction of graduate-level Joint Professional Military Education for Joint and Coalition Officers and select civilian members of the U.S. Government, and his contributions to the design, execution, and evaluation of care and elective curricula and research projects, underscore his commitment to our Nation and his critical role in shaping future leaders of America.

Colonel Book is fiercely dedicated to his wife, Julia, with him tirelessly on their lifetime of service, and his sons, John and Colin. Their sacrifices and unwavering support were pivotal to Colonel Book's successes and legacy, as were the sacrifices of the Veterans upon whose shoulders he stood throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I commend and render heartfelt thanks to Colonel Timothy Book for his unwavering dedication, tireless service, and faithful duty to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING APPLE VALLEY
POLICE OFFICER JORDAN MACK

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Apple Valley Police Officer Jordan Mack for his courageous service during the tragic February 18th incident in Burnsville, MN which lost officers Matthew Ruge and Paul Elmstrand and firefighter/paramedic Adam Finseth.

Officer Mack provided mutual aid support to Burnsville and was in the Bearcat and helped extract the mortally wounded officers and the rest of the Burnsville staff that were on scene.

Officer Mack has been with his hometown Apple Valley Police Department since 2019. During high school he was part of the local Police Explorer Post and earned a bachelor's in law enforcement from Winona State University. Prior to joining the Apple Valley Police Department, he worked as a park ranger for the Dakota County Sheriff's Office.

I'm grateful for Officer Mack's service to Apple Valley, Burnsville and Minnesota. He represents the best of law enforcement and it is a privilege to represent him in Congress.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD AND BERNADETTE KRINGE'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize outstanding constituents from my district, Richard and Bernadette Kringe, as we celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Richard Kringe and Bernadette Kringe were married on September 14, 1974 in Philadelphia, PA and soon moved to Croydon, PA where they have lived ever since. Rich recently retired from a life-long career as a plumber, and Bern was a school bus driver for many years: gaining the moniker "Driver."

They raised two sons, Rich and Bob, and instilled in them the importance of family. They are also the proud grandparents of RJ, Dennis, and Jack.

Congratulations to Rich and Bern on their golden milestone anniversary.

CELEBRATING MS. LILLIE
CUNNINGHAM'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, Lillie Cunningham, of Florence, Alabama, has hit a milestone in her life that few will ever reach. Born in 1914, she celebrated her 110th birthday on September 26, 2024.

It's difficult to imagine how different times were when Lillie was born. President Woodrow Wilson was in his first term as President, the United States had not yet entered World War I, and movies still had no sound.

Lillie has lived a life of service to her community, volunteering with the kitchen ministry at her church, and exemplifying a true servant heart in all she does.

When Lillie turned 108, she joked that she had found a secret diet that was responsible for allowing her to live to that age. Now, when asked how she has made it to 110 years old, Lillie says that there is no secret. Instead, she contributes her long, healthy life to the grace of God. Even at 110 years old, Lillie continues to do some of her favorite activities, such as cooking and finishing puzzles.

Despite all the festivities surrounding her birthday, which included: receiving a golden key to the city, a proclamation designating September 26, 2024, as Lillie Cunningham Day, and being sent over two hundred cards from people across the nation, Lillie never neglects reading her Bible.

I want to personally wish Lillie a Happy 110th Birthday. I pray that she will enjoy many more birthdays surrounded by those who love her and care for her. I know that her servant heart and love for her community will continue to inspire all those who have had the privilege of knowing her for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the entire United States House of Representatives will join me in sending our best wishes to Lillie as she continues to celebrate this remarkable milestone in her life.