

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ILLECE BUCKLEY WEBER AND HER REMARKABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Illece Buckley Weber, Mayor of the City of Agoura Hills, and an inspirational public servant who has dedicated her career to being a voice for the people who call this beautiful and vibrant community home.

Throughout her tenure, Mayor Buckley Weber has been a tireless advocate for her community, prioritizing the values of collaboration, service, and progress. Her leadership has not only guided Agoura Hills through challenging moments but has also laid the foundation for continued growth and prosperity.

In 1992, Illece moved to Agoura Hills with her husband Joe and their two children, Sara and David. Seeking that quintessential small-town feel and an excellent school district, Illece and Joe knew Agoura Hills was the right fit for their family. We are so fortunate that they chose to make this wonderful city their home.

At the heart of public service is the burning desire to create a better world for our children—a world where they can learn and grow to reach their fullest potential. Illece's commitment to serving this unique city was only strengthened by her deep appreciation and admiration for Agoura Hills' bountiful natural beauty. It is no surprise that she decided to take the next step and immerse herself in local governance. In 2006, she was appointed to the Agoura Hills Planning Commission, and in 2011, she was elected to the City Council, where she has dutifully and faithfully served the Agoura Hills community for nearly 13 years.

Illece has served on all of the city's subcommittees with an emphasis on Public Works, Environmental Sustainability, and Community Services. A fierce defender and protector of the city's natural landscape, Illece currently serves as the Chairperson and Agoura Hills representative on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee as well as the Chair of the CalCities Environmental Quality Policy Committee.

In addition to her prominent committee roles and leadership positions across our region, Illece has had the honor of serving as the City of Agoura Hills Mayor in 2015, 2020, and 2024. Her steadfast and positive leadership has been enjoyed not only by the residents of Agoura Hills, but also by the many families, businesses, and organizations of the Conejo Valley.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to work with Illece to bring to fruition two projects near and dear to her heart—and to the heart of this community. In partnership

with the City of Agoura Hills, we successfully secured \$3 million in federal funding for the civic center microgrid and the design and construction of critical infrastructure of the city's bicycle master plan.

Mayor Buckley Weber's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Agoura Hills is evident in every initiative she has championed. Whether working on preserving the city's open spaces, improving public services, or fostering a strong sense of community, she has always placed the needs of her constituents and her neighbors at the center of her work.

Beyond her achievements on the Agoura Hills City Council, Mayor Buckley Weber has also served as a role model for civic engagement. Her dedication and passion for public service have inspired countless individuals in Agoura Hills to get involved and make a positive impact in their own community.

As she steps down from her seat on the City Council, I am proud to join our community in acknowledging her profound contributions and expressing our gratitude for her leadership. Agoura Hills is a better place because of her vision and hard work, and her legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in her footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize Illece Buckley Weber for her remarkable service to the City of Agoura Hills. We thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her journey.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following Proclamation: Whereas, Thomas Jefferson University was founded in 1824 as the Jefferson Medical College, now Sidney Kimmel Medical College, and served as one of the nation's first medical schools;

Whereas, Jefferson Medical College was the first medical college to open a clinic for the poor and accept free patients;

Whereas, Jefferson quickly became a pioneer in medical education, and since its founding 200 years ago, has grown into a renowned university, regional health system, and non-profit health insurer;

Whereas, for two centuries, Jefferson faculty and graduates have been innovators and leaders in education, research, discovery and clinical care, with achievements ranging from the discovery of the mosquito vector for yellow fever and the invention of the heart-lung machine to the development of nationally recognized textile engineering and fashion design programs;

Whereas today, Thomas Jefferson University is a beacon of success for universities across the nation, with a future-focused model for the education of professionals whose careers will extend through the dynamic 21st century;

Whereas, Jefferson has become a research powerhouse whose world-class scholars and investigators work across the spectrum from basic discovery to translation and application of new knowledge; and

Whereas, Jefferson has both a growing role in helping solve global society's most pressing problems and a steadfast commitment to improving life for its local communities and people; so now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That I congratulate Thomas Jefferson University as it embarks on its third century of education, discovery, healthcare, and community engagement.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 82 AND OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5342

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider two bills that aim to fix problems within Social Security law, H.R. 82 and H.R. 5342. I rise in support of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act. This legislation takes a necessary and long-overdue step forward in improving Social Security and ensuring that retirees across America have access to their hard-earned benefits.

H.R. 82 has strong bipartisan support—the most of any bill during this session of Congress—and there's good reason for that. This bill repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), two provisions of Social Security law that reduce and, in some cases, fully cancel out Social Security benefits for Civil Services Retirement system recipients and other public sector employees who have worked in state and local government. The GPO and WEP create financial hardship for America's retired teachers, police officers, postal workers, firefighters, and other public employees and their families who have spent their careers in public service. H.R. 82 bill passed the House by a vote of 327–75, with one Member voting present.

I oppose H.R. 5342, the Equal Treatment of Public Service Act, an alternative bill proposed to address shortcomings within Social Security law. Unlike H.R. 82, this bill fails to address the GPO and takes the WEP exemption away from millions of Americans who are currently exempt. Additionally, instead of asking the wealthy to pay their fair share, this bill is paid for by expanding the number of people subject to the WEP, resulting in a benefit cut for millions of everyday Americans.

Social Security is the nation's number one anti-poverty program for the elderly and for

• 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.

children. We must keep this program strong and ensure that it is working for all Americans. I stand with America's public employees in their mission to change this program for the better.

CELEBRATING WARREN B. GELMAN'S INDUCTION INTO THE GREATER BUFFALO SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Warren B. Gelman's induction into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame—a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the athletic community of Western New York. Mr. Gelman's life is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and a commitment to others.

As one of the founding members of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, Warren has been integral to the organization's growth and success since its inception in 1991. As chair of the Nominating Committee for the Hall of Fame, Warren helped shape its structure, bringing together a group of passionate volunteers who sought to honor the legion's greatest athletes and sports figures. His tireless work over the years has contributed to the Hall of Fame's enduring legacy.

Mr. Gelman's contributions to Buffalo extend far beyond his work with the Hall of Fame. A former three-sport athlete, Warren excelled in soccer, hockey, and baseball before continuing his athletic journey at Yale University. There, he captained both the undefeated 1963–1964 freshman hockey team and the 1966–1967 varsity hockey team, which earned a ranking as the 5th best team in the East.

Mr. Gelman is also a trailblazer for girls' sports in our community. In 1986, recognizing a void in opportunities for female athletes, he founded the Bison Girls Hockey Program, the first of its kind in Western New York. His efforts opened doors for countless young women to compete in hockey at the highest levels.

Today, we celebrate Warren B. Gelman, and his induction to the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. His contributions to Western New York's sports community, particularly his efforts to elevate the visibility and opportunities for women in athletics, have had a lasting and profound impact on the region. Mr. Gelman's legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire generations of athletes, coaches, and community leaders for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN ATTILIO ERRANTE

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Errante of Springfield, Missouri, who recently passed away after a three-year battle with cancer. He was 41 years old.

John was an amazing individual. He was self-taught and a member of Mensa. As his long-time friend, Beau, said of him, "He was routinely the smartest man in the room, in a room filled with smart people. He had a way of seeing to the core of a problem, and embracing and implementing solutions no one else would have considered, much less tried."

John loved the arts and was a composer and a concert pianist. As a teenager, he became involved in politics and attended the Leadership Institute here in Washington, DC. While there, our homeland was attacked on September 11th, which had a profound effect on John. This led him to join the U.S. Army where he served in Army Psychological Operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

After leaving the military, John moved to Springfield where he graduated from Missouri State University on the President's List, the university's highest honor reserved for those who receive a 4.0 grade point average or higher. He again became involved in politics, serving as the communications director for his friend Bill's gubernatorial campaign. Ultimately, he became employed as a marketing specialist with MediaCom.

John's life was defined by service . . . to his country, to his neighbors, to his family and friends. He was taken from us too soon and will be greatly missed by his father, Steven Errante, his mother, Arla Collins and a host of friends who loved him. It is my great honor to recognize this remarkable individual, and I am praying for peace, comfort and good memories for his family.

HONORING PHILIP CHRISTOPHER FOR HIS ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF CYPRUS AND HELLENIC ISSUES

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Philip Christopher, a leader and steadfast advocate for freedom and justice for the Cypriot people. For over 50 years, Mr. Christopher has championed the cause of Cyprus, dedicating his life to the struggle for the reunification of Cyprus, the rights of the Cypriot people, and the broader Hellenic community.

Mr. Christopher is the founder and President of the Pancyprian Association of America and the International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus" (PSEKA). Through these organizations, he has tirelessly promoted Cypriot sovereignty and human rights, advocating on behalf of Cyprus and Hellenic issues with passion and dedication. As a refugee, who was forced to flee his beautiful homeland of Kyrenia, Cyprus following the illegal occupation of the island nation by the Turkish military in 1974, no one is more passionate and dedicated to these issues than he is. His efforts have left a lasting impact, as he has worked to ensure that the voice of the Greek Cypriot community is heard in the halls of Congress and across the United States.

Philip Christopher's contributions have not gone unrecognized. He has received numerous honors, including the Republic of Cyprus Medal of Honor, the title of Honorary Mayor of

Kyrenia, and honorary citizenships from multiple Cypriot communities. He was also the first Greek Cypriot to receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in the United States. In 2024, he served as Parade General Chairman of the NYC Greek Independence Day Parade. These awards and recognition are a testament to his exemplary commitment to his community and his invaluable role as a bridge between Cypriot and American interests.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Christopher has demonstrated significant achievements as an executive in the telecommunications industry and as a board member of various respected organizations. His dedication to excellence in both his professional and community endeavors is an inspiration.

Today, I commend Philip Christopher for his enduring dedication to Cyprus and the Hellenic community and express gratitude for his tireless efforts to further the cause of justice and freedom. His legacy stands as a beacon of leadership and commitment that strengthens the bonds between Cyprus and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on November 14, 2024 as I was attending to the medical emergency of a member of my staff.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 461; YEA on Roll Call No. 462; NAY on Roll Call No. 463; and YEA on Roll Call No. 464.

HONORING MARIE FLICKINGER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a long-time pillar of the Southeast Houston community, Marie Flickinger, who passed away on November 11, 2024.

After becoming the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees in 1995, Marie served as Chair from 2007 to 2013 and again from 2017 until her retirement on November 4, 2024. She spent these nearly 30 years devoted to ensuring the institution's success, achieving numerous awards along the way.

Many have referred to Marie as the honorary "Mayor of South Belt" due to her involvement in practically every aspect of the community, an extensive list that included the founding of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, and St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, as well as the organization of countless community events.

As a co-founder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington Leader, Marie became known for her work shedding light on the impact of the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, which eventually led to its remediation. Marie also