

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my votes on Roll Call No. 461, No. 462, No. 463, and No. 464 on November 14, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 461, NAY on Roll Call No. 462, YEA on Roll Call No. 463, and NAY on Roll Call No. 464.

RECOGNIZING COUNCILWOMAN KAREN GEORGE'S DEDICATION TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Councilwoman Karen George of Southgate, Michigan, as she is inducted into the Southgate Parks and Rec Hall of Fame this evening. Her decades of service to her community are worthy of commendation.

Karen first served on the Southgate City Council from 1983 to 1999. During this time she was the Council Liaison to many Boards, Commissions, and to the Southgate Community School District. After her retirement as an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University, many residents urged her to run for City Council again. In her second term as Councilwoman, Karen is currently serving as Council Liaison to the Library Commission and the City Beautiful Commission.

In addition to her leadership chairing community events and working tirelessly to strengthen programs and services in Southgate, Karen is also legendary for her many and varied contributions to sports in the Southgate Community. An accomplished softball player herself, she coached and financially sponsored girl's softball for over thirty years. Karen believes that sports play a vital role in giving girls a strong sense of worth, a feeling of belonging, and provides discipline that extends off the field of play. She also helped organize the Southgate Men's Senior Citizen Softball team, which she managed for six years, as well as the Downriver Women's Softball League.

Karen is a storied athlete herself, having competed in the Downriver Senior Olympics for many years and earning 25 medals for her city. A gun enthusiast, she competed in pistol matches hosted by the Southgate and Taylor police departments and took 1st place in the 1989 Women's Division.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Councilwoman Karen George for all of her contributions to the sporting world in Southgate, Michigan. Her dedication over decades has led to a more cohesive and healthier community for all who live there.

HONORING REV. DR. GARY CARR'S CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Dr. Gary Carr for his leadership and countless contributions over the course of his long career of public service.

Rev. Dr. Carr's career began with 28 years of dedicated military service in the U.S. Army. Retiring at the rank of Command Sergeant Major, Rev. Dr. Carr demonstrated his commitment to our country and his fellow soldiers. Following his military service, Rev. Dr. Carr transitioned to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), where he has worked for 15 years. At NGA, Rev. Dr. Carr has worked to hire qualified individuals with specialized skills in geospatial intelligence, mapping, and related fields as Chief of Talent Acquisition.

Rev. Dr. Carr has earned many academic achievements, including Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration, and Doctoral degrees from two different universities. These educational experiences have contributed to his remarkable commitment to serving others.

Rev. Dr. Gary Carr continues to be a pillar of his community as he has served as the Pastor of Shiloh New Site Baptist Church in Stafford, Virginia since September 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring Rev. Dr. Gary Carr. His commitment to public service and dedication to our country has been immeasurable. I would like to congratulate him on an exceptional career and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING OF THE RESTORED HOTEL GRIM

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Lofts at the Grim, in the city of Texarkana. Today marks the completion of the highly anticipated restoration project of the iconic Grim Hotel located in Texas' First Congressional District.

This community landmark, originally completed in 1925, has served as a community gathering place for decades, bringing together locals and visitors alike in the spirit of true Texas hospitality.

Thanks to the combined efforts of national developer, Cohen-Esrey, and local partner, Premier Texarkana Development, this historic building will once again support the vibrant local community by providing commercial spaces and affordable housing.

As a nod to the longstanding significance of the Grim Hotel, historical features of the building have been preserved, such as its grand lobby and the Palm Court Room, while the living spaces have been revitalized with modern amenities.

The refurbished Lofts at the Grim will provide comfortable housing for hardworking East Texans, bringing more families into Texarkana's historic district.

Ultimately this revitalization project serves as a reminder of the importance of both honoring history and embracing change. I offer my sincere thanks to those who have been a part of this project.

I am looking forward to seeing the positive impact that the Lofts at the Grim will have on the surrounding community and Texas' First Congressional District as a whole.

ENGAGE THE PACIFIC ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Engage the Pacific Act, co-introduced with 11 of my like-minded colleagues who are focused on our country's engagement through the Indo-Pacific.

Successive administrations and Congresses have recognized that no region is more consequential to the future of our country than the Indo-Pacific, to include the Pacific Islands. It is crucial that we continue to broaden and deepen U.S. engagement in the Pacific Islands in pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific, particularly in the context of the major challenges the Pacific Islands face, such as natural disasters, economic obstacles, maintenance of civil society and threats to democracy and sovereignty from malign actors. This is not just a matter of diplomacy; it is a matter of shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

To help address these challenges and ensure our nation continues to play a critical role in strengthening U.S. public engagement in the Pacific Islands, we have introduced the Engage the Pacific Act. This legislation is grounded in specific requests from Pacific Islands leaders, as well as priorities identified by our own U.S. government officials. This bill clearly reflects the alignment of Pacific Islands priorities with U.S. interests in the region, particularly when it comes to fostering civil society, economic resilience and democratic governance.

First, this bill requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator and the Secretary of Defense, to establish the Committee on Engagement with Civil Society Organizations in the Pacific Islands. This Committee will be tasked with coordinating interagency engagement with civil society organizations in the Pacific Islands, to include media organizations, environmental organizations and faith-based organizations.

• 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.

These non-governmental community organizations are pillars of Pacific Islands society; they often fill critical gaps in delivery of foreign assistance and reach important sectors of the population. The Committee will also be required to submit a strategy on enhanced engagement with civil society organizations in the Pacific Islands.

Second, the bill requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense, to refine our overall communications strategy in the Pacific Islands. The United States is and for centuries has been a Pacific nation, deeply engaged as a partner in our mutual present and future. This strategy is crucial to fully and adequately communicating the breadth and depth of American efforts throughout the Pacific.

Third, the bill codifies the Indo-Pacific Media Advancement Program (IPMAP). IPMAP promotes free media in the Indo-Pacific, including in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, through training in countering misinformation and business sustainability, small grants for equipment and content sharing agreements. IPMAP is currently running under a two-year, \$2 million Countering PRC Influence Grant from the Department of State. With those limited resources, IPMAP has already been able to work with 30 media outlets and has been incredibly well-received. Officially establishing this program under the Department of State and authorizing appropriations for it will ensure that IPMAP's important work can continue for years to come.

Fourth, this bill establishes the Pacific Islands Training and Resources for Advancement in Development, Education and Skills (TRADES) Program under USAID. Many Pacific Islands leaders have commended American efforts in the realm of professional development through higher education scholarship programs, and they have advocated for efforts to expand such programs to technical and vocational education and training. This provision of the bill seeks to rectify that by authorizing USAID to assist with workforce development in the region through scholarships, training and grants in sectors of critical importance to the Pacific Islands, such as construction, tourism, boat maintenance and fisheries. The Pacific Islands TRADES Program will support the region's economic resilience and capacity to maximize the benefits of national investment and business opportunities.

Finally, this bill supports and requires a report on American Spaces in the region. American Spaces are public diplomacy facilities operated or supported by the Department of State that promote effective engagement with foreign audiences toward the full understanding of the United States. These facilities are a crucial component of American outreach in the region, allowing residents to learn about opportunities to study in the United States, participate in mentorship programs and more. The report requires a description of any additional resources needed for the expansion of this program.

These provisions represent and enhance the sustained commitment of the United States to the Pacific Islands. This bill serves as a testament to the United States' enduring presence in the region and demonstrates that we are willing and able to respond to the region's specific needs in a way that is fully consistent with American national interests.

Together, let us Engage the Pacific—for today, for tomorrow and for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA MAE KING HALL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sandra Mae King Hall.

Sandra was raised in Fresno, California alongside her eleven siblings. She graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School and went on to pursue a career in real estate investment, property management, and newspaper distribution. Sandra played a critical role in protecting local journalism, operating a newspaper distributorship with her husband, Frank Hall, providing local news to Pleasant Hill residents from 1977 through 2009. She has received numerous accolades for her contributions to the business community, earning the Pleasant Hill Business Person of the Year Award in 1986 and the 2010 American Association of Independent News Distributors Award. Additionally, Sandra was selected as former Congressman George Miller's delegate at the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business.

Outside of her work as an entrepreneur, Sandra loved music, travel, and giving back to her community. Her passion for music was evident to all who knew her, practicing international folk dances and singing in the choir. Throughout her life, Sandra was very dedicated to her community and was involved with the Kiwanis Club of Martinez, Boys and Girls Club of Martinez, and St. Catherine of Siena parish.

Sadly, Sandra passed away at the age of 77 on September 15, 2024. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Frank Hall; her children, Janene Sides (David) and Michael Nicol (Christina); her grandchildren Robert (Kaitlyn), Christina, Daniel, Sarah, and Madisen; her great-grandchildren, Quinn, Soleil, and Elijah; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members. She will be remembered for her entrepreneurial spirit, sense of humor, and remarkable leadership. Please join me in recognizing Sandra Hall for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL WOOLDRIDGE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Daniel Wooldridge, who passed away on August 20, 2024.

Born on June 5, 1934, in Lynchburg, Virginia, Mr. Wooldridge grew up in the foster care system. He was ready to support and provide for his foster family from an early age. He sold hot dogs, ran a paper route and drove a school bus before he reached 16 years of age.

Interested in athletics, Mr. Wooldridge attended Lynchburg College (now the University

of Lynchburg) where he played basketball, soccer and baseball. He is a member of the school's athletics Hall of Fame.

At Lynchburg College, he met his wife Nancy, whom he was married to for 65 loving years before her passing in 2020.

After graduating from Lynchburg College in 1956 and later completing graduate coursework from the University of Virginia, Mr. Wooldridge pursued a 30-plus year career as a life insurance salesman.

As an athlete, Mr. Wooldridge played minor league baseball for the Salem Pirates and coached baseball and football at William Fleming High School in Roanoke. His heart and strong belief in fair play was displayed through his time as a referee, officiating college basketball games for 23 years, including 13 NCAA postseason tournaments.

In 1976, Mr. Wooldridge became the very first commissioner of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). The athletic league consisted of small Division III schools, including his alma mater Lynchburg College. He served in this post for 21 years before his retirement.

Additionally, Mr. Wooldridge was one of two American basketball officials at the 1976 and 1980 Olympic Games.

Mr. Wooldridge's service to the Roanoke Valley community cannot be overlooked. He served as president of the Salem Rotary Club and Roanoke Valley Sports Club, dedicated time as a member of the Roanoke City School Board, and contributed as a deacon at Oakland Baptist Church.

Him and Nancy also founded the Roanoke Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes in 1964. They took great pride in developing student-athletes and promoting the Christian faith.

Mr. Wooldridge is survived by his daughters, Rebecca (Wyatt) Ewell, Diane (Rob) Laing, and Sarah Wooldridge; his grandchildren, Rachel (Scott) Forrester, Tyler (Erin) Ewell, Alex Ewell, and Daniel Laing; his great-grandchildren, Clara, Thomas and Anna Ewell; his sister, Martha Smith; his sister-in-law, Katherine Cochran; his nephews, Preston (Tonja) Cochran and Neil Smith; his great-niece, Kalei Cochran; and cousin, Betty Bailey (Clyde Evelyn).

Faced with adversity from an early age, Mr. Wooldridge's story of perseverance and success is powerful and inspiring. The legacy he leaves behind will be remembered by the sports community and the larger Roanoke Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding votes I missed on November 20, 2024. Had I been present for Roll Call No. 474, on the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2023, I would have voted yea. This is common sense, bipartisan legislation that will promote human rights activities in North Korea.