

her mastery at solving these problems time and time again. For whatever success the Corps can claim, a good chunk of it is due to the work Angie conducted on the Appropriations Committee.

Angie became my Majority Clerk in 2018 and served as my Clerk until the beginning of this Congress, when I moved to chair the Interior Subcommittee. Clerk is a tough job. Balancing the schedule while leading a staff through budget review, hearing prep, markup, floor action, and conference negotiations often involves late-night, weekend, and holiday work. It takes dedication and a strong commitment to serving the public. Every year, Angie proved what an invaluable asset she has been to the Committee, to Congress, and to the country.

We will miss her knowledge, sage advice, and humor. I know we will all miss her observance of Punctuation Day—including home-baked punctuation cupcakes—and I will personally miss her uncanny ability to provide a miniature candy bar at just the right time. I thank Angie for everything. I am proud of the work we accomplished together, and I know she will have a great time whenever she travels to Idaho, and I wish her the very best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE HAMLIN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of George Hamlin, who passed away last month. His distinguished career and military service have left a profound impact on the Greater Rochester community, New York State, and the nation.

George Hamlin's life of service began in uniform. He served in the United States Air Force from 1963 to 1969, where he flew 100 combat missions over North Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and 10 Air Medals for his dedication, skill, and valor. After finishing combat service, he attended the Navy's prestigious Top Gun Academy where he finished at the top of his class. The United States of America thanks him for his service to our Nation.

After being honorably discharged at the rank of Captain, Mr. Hamlin returned home and, in 1979, became CEO of the Canandaigua National Bank and Trust. He would go on to lead the bank—which has been in the Hamlin family since 1887—for 45 years. Under his leadership, the bank's portfolio grew to control billions of dollars in assets. He also played an influential role within the banking industry, serving on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Buffalo Branch Board of the Federal Reserve.

Along with his success in business, George was dedicated to the Greater Rochester community, volunteering his time and counsel to a multitude of community organizations, including the University of Rochester Medical Center, New York Kitchen, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others. George was also active within the arts and education community, serving as a member of the acting group for the Bristol Valley Theater. His consistent devotion to serving our community

made an indelible impact on people across the Rochester region.

George was a patriot, community leader, banker, and most importantly a husband and father. I give my condolences to his wife, Mary, and children, Sherrod, Frank, and Alex, during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

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. 474, Roll Call No. 475, and Roll Call No. 476 on November 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474, YEA on Roll Call No. 475, and YEA on Roll Call No. 476.

RECOGNIZING DELPHINE KLAPUT'S SERVICE TO HER NA- TION AND 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 Delphine Klaput of Ypsilanti, Michigan, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her century of service to her family, community, and Nation is worthy of commendation.

Delphine was born on November 23, 1924, in the small coal mining town of Cadogan, Pennsylvania. She was aware of the nastiness of war as her father, Angelo, served during World War I and was exposed to mustard gas, suffering side-effects from that exposure for the rest of his life.

Delphine met her future husband, George, while in high school. George and his twin brother, Joseph, joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 where they flew missions over Europe as gunners in B-17 bombers during World War II. During that time, Delphine dropped out of high school and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to live with her uncle. Delphine's uncle got her a position as a classified documents clerk at the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, where her daily duties consisted of keeping track of plans and small parts for the aircraft and distributing them to the appropriate people in the plant. Some of the plans she ferried around were classified as top secret.

Delphine and George were married in 1944 when he returned from Europe. They moved to Denver, Colorado, when George was stationed at Lowery Air Force Base. After a short stop in Greenville, Mississippi, they moved back to Cadogan, where their first three children, Sandra, Jerry, and Diana, were born.

In 1952, George and Delphine moved their family to Royal Oak, Michigan, where they had two more children, Cheryl and Mary Jane. Delphine was a stay-at-home mom while their children were growing up and sewed clothes and crocheted in her spare time. When her children were older, she took a job at the local clothes cleaner doing alterations. She also started volunteering at the nearby senior center. In her mid-70s, Delphine went to work at

Costco doing demonstrations for 16 years. In April of this year, Delphine along with a delegation of 27 original Rosies went to Washington, DC, where they were presented with Congressional Gold Medals, honoring all Rosie the Riveters for their service during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th birthday of Delphine Klaput, a woman who answered the call of duty at the tender age of 18 and served our country with dignity in its darkest hours. We thank her for her service and wish her much laughter and blessings in her 101st year.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHRISTOPHER CROWLEY

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Crowley, who has been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. As a dustoff pilot veteran of the United States Army, CW2 Crowley is a hero to his fellow service members and a source of pride for our country.

In 1967, while CW2 Crowley was a pre-med student at Duke University, he decided to enlist in the United States Army to serve as a dustoff pilot. Dustoff pilots flew unarmed helicopter rescues of wounded soldiers and civilians from combat zones and were among the most perilous operations of the Vietnam War. These missions carried immense risk, with casualty rates exceeding 30 percent for pilots and crews. CW2 Crowley trained to be a dustoff pilot at the Army Aviation School at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he stood out as an exceptional student. Given CW2 Crowley's aptitude, his classmates and instructors recognized and awarded him the Guidon of Merit, a ceremonial banner which acknowledges excellence in leadership, skill, and performance among Army Warrant Officer candidates.

Throughout his career, CW2 Crowley flew over 1,000 missions, rescuing more than 3,000 wounded personnel in unarmed helicopters under extreme conditions. For his extraordinary bravery, he was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and received the Air Medal for heroism while participating in aerial flight. His courage and selflessness in the face of constant danger reflect the highest ideals of military service, earning him the well-deserved recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking CW2 Crowley for his service to our country. He is a true patriot and a shining example of courage and dedication.

OHIO GERRYMANDERING: A BRIEF AND AWFUL HISTORY OF THE VERY RECENT PAST

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Ohio citizens right now are represented by unconstitutionally

gerrymandered state lawmakers. The politicians in the General Assembly in Columbus are occupying unconstitutionally gerrymandered seats. This is not a matter of opinion. It was adjudicated in the state's highest court five times in 2021 and 2022.

After those decisions, an anti-abortion lobbyist sued to force Ohio to use the unconstitutional maps in 2022, but the federal court never declared the maps were constitutional. It never said the maps were not gerrymandered. It just said that Ohioans had to use them. So, in 2022, Ohio politicians refused to produce fair maps, and then a split federal court forced Ohio voters to use the gerrymandered ones.

Several of the Ohio politicians tooling around the state to campaign against redistricting reform this fall are the very same politicians who produced unconstitutionally gerrymandered maps over and over again in 2021 and 2022.

They insisted on them, and never allowed anything else, and ran out the clock to force Ohio voters to vote under them in November 2022, and to suffer them in 2023 and 2024—to suffer them as we speak.

Gerrymandering is cheating: Politicians pick their own voters and draw their own districts in a way that guarantees themselves victory.

Often, the most extreme candidates win in primaries by appealing to the radical base. Gerrymandering guarantees those same extreme candidates victories in November so they can then waltz into office without ever experiencing a competitive general election.

This means that only a handful of races are anywhere close to competitive each November, and the vast majority of races are determined in partisan primaries each spring.

For instance, Ohio will decide 116 elections in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate this Nov. 5.

Six of them are actually competitive. Total. Two in the Senate, four in the House. The rest are predictable.

Six competitive races out of 116.

That's gerrymandering.

Meanwhile, a recent Baldwin Wallace University poll showed Ohioans have a net satisfaction with the state legislature of -34 points.

This summer, more than 535,000 Ohio citizens submitted petition signatures to put anti-gerrymandering reform on the ballot this November.

Issue 1 seeks to remove politicians from the map-making process in favor of a citizens commission.

Under Issue 1, the current Ohio Redistricting Commission made up of politicians would be replaced by a citizens commission made up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and five independent commissioners.

Ohioans previously passed constitutional amendments to ban gerrymandering in 2015 and 2018 but those reforms, which were put on the ballot in compromises with lawmakers, left politicians and lawmakers in control.

In 2018, the politicians campaigned against gerrymandering, but after they won election they refused to honor the amendments. In 2021 and 2022, they forced gerrymandering on Ohio anyway.

If you average Ohio's statewide partisan elections over the last 10 cycles, including 2022, Ohio is a 56-43 Republican-to-Democratic state. But after 2022, the Ohio House has 67 Republicans and 32 Democrats. In the

Ohio Senate, 26 seats are Republican while seven are Democratic. Of Ohio's 15 U.S. Congressional seats, 10 are held by Republicans and five held by Democrats.

This means that even though Republicans represent 56 percent of voters in Ohio on average, they control 66 percent of the state's U.S. Congressional seats, 67 percent of the Ohio House, and 79 percent of the Ohio Senate.

This is the gerrymandering that was forced by politicians on Ohio voters in 2022, despite a total of seven bipartisan Ohio Supreme Court rulings against the Statehouse and Congressional district maps as unconstitutionally gerrymandered.

This November, Ohio voters will decide. They will decide what gerrymandering is and what it isn't. Ohio voters will decide if politicians should be left in charge of redistricting, or if the politicians should be kicked out of the process in favor of a citizens commission.

To make that decision, voters deserve facts and context, not lies and gaslighting.

In service to that, the Ohio Capital Journal Voter Guide explains the Ohio Issue 1 proposal here.

I have also assembled below for your edification and amusement, a timeline: A brief, awful history of the very recent past when it comes to Ohio gerrymandering.

How we got here:

2011: Ohio Republicans create some of the most gerrymandered maps in the nation in a downtown Columbus secret hotel room "bunker," ensuring them 10 years of supermajority control over the Ohio legislature that continues to this day. Also over the following 10 election cycles under the 2011 maps, not one U.S. Congressional district would change hands between parties.

2015: Ohio voters pass anti-gerrymandering reform for Statehouse districts with more than 71 percent of the vote, but the reforms leave politicians in charge of drawing the districts.

2018: Ohio voters pass anti-gerrymandering reform for U.S. Congressional districts with nearly 75 percent of the vote, but again, the reforms leave politicians in charge of drawing the districts.

2018: Republicans win the governor's office, the secretary of state's office, and the auditor's office, giving them 5-2 control over the Ohio Redistricting Commission that also includes a lawmaker from each party from each chamber in the legislature.

2020: The U.S. Census Bureau conducts its 10-year census, spurring another round of redistricting in 2021.

2021-2022: A bipartisan majority on the Ohio Supreme Court rejects Republican-drawn Statehouse district maps as unconstitutionally gerrymandered five times.

As a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, Gov. Mike DeWine goes along with the Republican legislative leaders' gerrymandering. Also as a member of the commission, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose goes along with the gerrymandering as well, after campaigning in 2018 telling the nation he was against gerrymandering, and after, as a member of the redistricting commission, calling the maps "asinine" and texting his chief of staff, "I should vote no," before ultimately voting yes, repeatedly.

Also 2021-2022: A bipartisan majority on the Ohio Supreme Court rejects Republican-drawn U.S. Congressional district maps as unconstitutionally gerrymandered two times.

2021: Ohio Republican lawmakers add party labels to Ohio Supreme Court races.

2022: Republicans on the Ohio Redistricting Commission refuse to follow the bipartisan Ohio Supreme Court's order to draw districts that aren't gerrymandered, thereby running out the clock after an anti-abortion lobbyist files a lawsuit in federal court to force Ohio voters to use the gerrymandered maps. Two Trump-appointed judges agree to force Ohio voters to vote under unconstitutionally gerrymandered maps.

Also 2022: Swing-vote Republican Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor is forced by law to retire due to age. As she ruled against Republican gerrymandering, there were discussions by Republicans about possibly impeaching O'Connor.

Also 2022: Ohioans are forced to vote under unconstitutionally gerrymandered maps to elect our current 135th General Assembly ("serving" 2023 and 2024). Republicans increase their gerrymandered supermajorities in both chambers. They also win ideological control over the Ohio Supreme Court, so while their majority remains 4-3, there is no longer any bipartisan swing vote on the issue of gerrymandering.

Also 2022: A coalition of advocates start planning further redistricting reform.

Shortly thereafter, Secretary of State LaRose and Republican state Rep. Brian Stewart announce a proposal to raise the threshold in Ohio for passing constitutional amendments from 50 percent to 60 percent.

LaRose denies that the proposal is connected to abortion or gerrymandering, but in a memo Stewart writes to his colleagues, he lists only two reasons for them to support his proposal: stopping the abortion rights amendment and stopping any further anti-gerrymandering reform in Ohio.

January 2023: Ohio's unconstitutionally gerrymandered legislature takes their seats.

Also 2023: Ohio Republicans enact one of the most restrictive voter laws in the country. They also eliminate August elections. They make a play to put the 60 percent amendment threshold on the May ballot in Ohio, but fail. Later, they bring back a special August election to put the 60 percent proposal to voters. DeWine supports the proposal. Meanwhile, the Ohio reproductive rights proposal qualifies for the November ballot. DeWine is against it.

Summer 2023: Secretary of State LaRose and the anti-abortion lobbyist who sued to force gerrymandered districts on Ohio voters campaign together to try to convince voters to accept the 60 percent threshold proposal.

August 2023: 57 percent of Ohio voters reject the proposal.

Later that same month, a group called Citizens Not Politicians is formed to put forward a new anti-gerrymandering amendment proposal that would remove politicians from the process of drawing districts and replace them with a citizen-led commission.

Retired Republican Ohio Supreme Court Justice O'Connor and former Democratic Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown join together to spearhead the effort. They make plans to put the amendment ballot proposal before voters in November 2024.

Also August 2023: As chair of the Ohio Ballot Board, Secretary of State LaRose, who opposes the Ohio reproductive rights amendment, uses his official position to write a ballot summary for the amendment that uses loaded language against the amendment.

September 2023: The Ohio Redistricting Commission unanimously passes maps to be used in the 2024 Election, which Democrats say they agreed to because they say Republicans would have passed even more gerrymandered maps that would've likely been approved by the new Republican majority Ohio Supreme Court without O'Connor on it as a swing vote.

October 2023: The Citizens Not Politicians amendment petition is cleared as "fair and truthful" to begin collecting signatures.

November 2023: 57 percent of Ohio voters pass the state's new reproductive rights amendment. Moreover, 57 percent pass a new law for adult-use recreational marijuana.

July 2024: Citizens Not Politicians submits petition signatures, and 535,000 signatures are certified, putting Issue 1 redistricting reform on the November 2024 ballot.

August 2024: As chair of the Ohio Ballot Board, Secretary of State LaRose, who opposes the Issue 1 anti-gerrymandering amendment, uses his official position to write a ballot summary for the amendment that uses loaded language against the amendment.

Oct. 8, 2024: Early voting begins in Ohio.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOAN DEZEMBER

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Joan Dezember, a beloved figure in our community who passed away on October 13, 2024, at the age of 89. Alongside her late husband, Ray, Joan dedicated her life to family, community, and philanthropy.

Joan was born in Whittier, California on February 19, 1935, to Martin and Jeannette Erreca. While attending Whittier College, she met her husband Ray Dezember in 1951, a Whittier College football star. An early sign of the couple's complementary qualities, Ray led the football team as captain while Joan rallied the crowd as the head of Whittier College's cheerleaders. Rising to a new and exciting chapter in their lives, the couple married in 1954, and briefly lived in Phoenix before settling in Bakersfield, where Ray helped found American National Bank. American National Bank was acquired by Wells Fargo and the Dezembers were able to focus on their passion for giving, especially to California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB).

The generous support to the community from Joan and Ray enabled the creation of important programs and facilities, including the Walter W. Stiern Library's Dezember Reading Room and the Dezember Leadership Development Center, which continue to inspire students seeking to follow Joan and Ray's path to achieve the American Dream. While such facilities will continue to uphold their names, it is the lives of fellow neighbors who were blessed to know Joan and Ray's virtuous and loving touch, felt by so many in their family and in the Kern County community. The Dezembers certainly believed in the transformative power of education, as their support for scholarships like the Wendy Wayne Nursing Scholarship and the Hispanic Excellence

Scholarship Fund has opened doors for countless students. As a lifetime member and the first Chairwoman of the CSUB Foundation Board of Directors, Joan's ability to help others reached far and wide, earning her the CSUB President's Medal in 1999.

Joan is survived by her four children, Becky, Brent, Cheri, and Katie, eleven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren who will remember her as their kind, loving matriarch who found great joy in the success of others. Amanda and I send our deep condolences to the whole Dezember family and all who knew and loved her. On behalf of the 20th Congressional District, I am grateful to Joan, for what she has done for our community. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JOSEPH J. RING ON HIS SERVICE AND RETIREMENT

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Captain Joseph J. Ring, the Commander of the Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific on his retirement from the United States Navy after thirty years of service to our Nation.

As Commander of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Captain Ring led the successful transition of the newly aligned MIDPAC team in manning, training, and maintaining all surface ships homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Thanks to Captain Ring's leadership, the U.S. Navy's Hawaii-based ships remain combat ready for sustained operations in the Indo-Pacific and around the world.

Over the course of his career as a Surface Warfare Officer, Captain Ring served in four countries and operated at sea in every Combatant Command theater of operation. At sea, he served as Commander of Destroyer Squadron Three One, Commanding Officer of the USS *Hopper* (DDG-70), and Commanding Officer of the USS *Mustin* (DDG-89). Ashore, he served as Flag Aide to the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii; Warfare Systems Advisor to the Royal Australian Navy in Sydney, Australia; Director, Joint Operations Center (J31), United States Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany; and as Chief of Staff to the Director, Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

His many awards include the Royal Australian Navy Chief of Navy Gold Medal, Peruvian Naval Medal of Honor for Merit, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and various other personal, campaign and unit awards including the Battle "E" Excellence Award. He also received the title of Honorary Chief Petty Officer in recognition of his contributions to the Chief Petty Officer community and the enlisted force.

On a personal note, Joe has always been the one who helps "get me to yes." Service above self is a way of life for Joe, and the values we cherish in Hawaii mirrors his own. While his Navy service brought him to Hawaii, we know our islands are a place he loves and protects as his home.

As Joe, Nada, and their entire family transition to a new chapter, I proudly join them in

celebrating a tremendous career that will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of leaders. But even more importantly, I wish them all the best in enjoying a well-earned retirement.

Joe, mahalo for all that you have done and given to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote No. 474 on November 20, 2024. Had I been present, my vote would have been Yea on Roll Call No. 474.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend due to a memorial service. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474 (H.R. 3012).

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. HENDRIK POPPEN

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and life of Hendrik "Hank" Poppen of Portage, Michigan. Hank Poppen was born in Wildervank, Netherlands, on July 28, 1951. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1957 and became a United States citizen in 1988. Hank attended Kalamazoo Christian Schools and dedicated much of his life to serving the Kalamazoo and Portage communities.

In 1989, Hank found a lifelong passion when he and his son Brian joined Boy Scout Troop 244, where he then became the Scout Leader. Through the years Hank watched his son, daughter, granddaughter, and 175 other scouts rise to Eagle Scout. He took his beloved troop on hundreds of trips throughout the United States, even when his health failed him.

Hank was a remarkable individual characterized by his faith and love for his community. Most of all, he loved his family. On November 12, 2024, at the age of 73, Hank passed away surrounded by the people he loved most. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, siblings, dearest friends, and the many scouts, students, and people he impacted throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in cherishing the memory of Hendrik Poppen. His dedication to his community, family, and friends, was unwavering, and his character will be remembered in the highest order.