

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## REMEMBERING BILL TRACY

### HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert William "Bill" Tracy, a fourth-generation farmer from Buttonwillow, California. Bill passed away on November 7, 2024, at the age of 82. His loss is felt deeply not only by his family and friends but also by the agricultural community he served.

Born on October 16, 1942, Bill grew up on his family's ranch, attending the two-room Wildwood Grammar School and later Wasco High School, where he graduated in 1960. He pursued higher education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo before dedicating his life to farming and public service.

In the 1960s, Bill was activated in the U.S. Army Reserves, serving his country and fostering a lifelong interest in American military history. His passion extended to the study of the U.S. Civil War and both World Wars, and he built an impressive collection of military artifacts. Bill's love of history complemented his deep respect for service and dedication, qualities he carried throughout his life.

Bill returned to the family ranch, where his tireless work ethic and advocacy for the agricultural community soon earned him great respect. In recognition of this expertise and leadership in agriculture, he was appointed Undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1987. In this role, he championed the needs of California farmers, earning the admiration of colleagues who remember him as a kind and loyal leader who put passion into everything he did.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bill was a devoted husband to Susie, a loving father to their four children—Mark, Todd, Rob, and Stephanie—and a caring grandfather to eight grandchildren. His family will fondly remember his playful, friendly nature, and his unyielding dedication to his work.

Bill and Susie shared a love of travel, visiting all seven continents and creating special traditions, such as taking each grandchild on an ocean cruise for their 10th birthday. At home, Bill was a fixture in Buttonwillow, known for his cowboy hat and boots, his daily breakfasts at Willow Ranch, and his quiet pride in watching Susie line dance during their frequent dinners out.

Bill's passing leaves a void in the Buttonwillow community. Tributes from friends and colleagues reflect his commitment to agriculture, his enduring friendships, and the warm and inspiring impression he left on those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate the life of Robert William "Bill" Tracy, a man whose legacy will continue to inspire generations of Californians. Amanda and I offer our deepest sympathies to the Tracy family, who proudly carry on Bill's legacy. I know the Central Valley will

continue to honor his lasting contributions to our community.

## HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROBERT WILLIAM "BILL" TRACY

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Robert William "Bill" Tracy. Born on October 16, 1942, to Tilton and Kathryn Tracy. Bill lived a full and vibrant life, deeply rooted in the land and community that shaped him.

Raised on the family ranch, Bill graduated from Wasco High School in 1960 and pursued higher education at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where his passion for agriculture began to take shape. In 1968, he was activated into the United States Army Reserve, later returning to the family ranch, where he continued his work as a fourth-generation farmer. Tracy Ranch, a multi-generational farming and cattle operation established in 1862, was a central part of Bill's life, and he dedicated much of his career to strengthening the agricultural community.

Bill was an active and respected member of the farming industry, serving on numerous boards and participating in leadership programs such as the California Ag Leadership Program and the National Cotton Council "Cotton Leadership Program" sponsored by DuPont. These experiences helped shape his expertise in agriculture policy.

In 1987, Bill was appointed Undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture under Governor George Deukmejian. Known for his trademark cowboy boots and hat, Bill worked tirelessly as an advocate for California's farming community. His tenure in state government gave him a unique perspective on policy, and he became a trusted voice in agricultural circles.

Outside of his career, Bill was a passionate historian with a special interest in the Civil War and both World Wars. He formed lifelong friendships with fellow history enthusiasts Jack Bell and John Gibson, who became a cherished part of his journey.

Bill's personal life was equally fulfilling. He and his wife, Susie, shared 50 years of marriage. Together, they explored all seven continents, often accompanied by friends Dale and Carol, and most recently by John and Donna.

As a grandfather, Bill found immense joy in his grandchildren's lives. He could always be found at their sports games, dance recitals, and piano performances, providing support and encouragement at every turn. His love for his grandchildren was evident, and he shared countless memories with them.

Bill is survived by his wife, Susie; children, Mark Tracy (Allison), Todd Tracy (Annette), Rob Tracy (Kathy), and Stephanie O'Callaghan (Kevin); and eight grandchildren:

Haylee, Kathryn, Grace, Trent, Maggie, Izzy, Clarisse, and Lilly. He is also survived by his brothers, John Tracy (Donna) and David Tracy (Jerry), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Robert William "Bill" Tracy. Bill lived with purpose and passion, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire his family, community, and the agricultural world for generations to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 475 and Roll Call No. 476 on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. I was unable to be present for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 475; and YEA on Roll Call No. 476.

## HONORING WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT KIRK H. SCHULZ

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished leader in higher education, President Kirk H. Schulz of Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, who will retire in June of 2025. President Schulz has dedicated his career to fostering academic excellence, advancing research, and building a campus environment that welcomes all students to succeed. Today, we recognize and celebrate his legacy and contributions to both the university and the broader community.

President Schulz's tenure at Washington State University is marked by extraordinary achievements. Under his leadership, Washington State University saw record-setting gains in philanthropy, notably raising \$167.9 million in private gifts in fiscal year 2023. Washington State University received full accreditation for the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in 2021 and launched Eastern Washington's first pediatric residency program in 2023.

Throughout his tenure, Washington State University also expanded educational and research facilities across the WSU system, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new Plant Sciences Building, Schweitzer Engineering Hall, and a major health sciences remodel on the Spokane campus. He has been instrumental in overseeing the growth of WSU scholarships and research expenditures, enhancing the infrastructure supporting student

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

safety, improving the delivery of health care programs across the state, and rebuilding the renowned Pac-12 athletics conference.

Beyond these accomplishments, President Schulz has earned a reputation as a compassionate and dedicated leader, always prioritizing the well-being and success of students. He has consistently championed initiatives aimed at increasing access to education for all, making a lasting impact on countless lives. President Schulz's commitment to service extends far beyond the campus, as he has actively engaged with the community through partnerships, outreach programs, my office, and other efforts to uplift and support Washington State University.

As President Schulz embarks on his well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest gratitude for his many years of service and dedication. His leadership has left an incredible mark on Washington State University, and his legacy will be felt for generations to come. We wish President Schulz all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his outstanding contributions to Washington State University and higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this House join the in honoring President Schulz for his remarkable career and recognizing the lasting impact of his service to Washington State University, the state of Washington, and our Nation.

#### HONORING JENNIFER LYNN NORTON

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Jennifer Lynn Norton, a proud U.S. Air Force veteran and longtime champion for survivors of human trafficking.

For over 34 years, Jennifer Lynn Norton has dedicated her life to serving others through military and civilian service. As a member of the U.S. Air Force for the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing, she was an invaluable asset during Operation Desert Storm, leading to innovation and positive change whilst providing logistics support to her team.

Joining her active-duty experiences with her passion in counseling, Jennifer rose to become the first female veteran to serve as an executive assistant for The American Legion National Headquarters. With community engagement at the heart of her vision of service, she stays active in her community through work with the Indy Hope Center and the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis. The commitment she has continuously demonstrated to her fellow veterans, Hoosiers, and Americans has left in its wake a legacy of hard work and compassion that continuously inspires her community.

Her efforts across the years have rendered her various accolades, such as the Airman Quarter Honors and the Outstanding Leadership Award. It is an honor to be able to recognize Jennifer for her exemplary work once more today with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award. Having started with its namesake, Sheila Corcoran, this award was fashioned to uplift exemplary Hoosier Veteran women whose service to their community and

Nation is unparalleled, women who are inspirational and guided by a deep love for their fellow Americans.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jennifer Lynn Norton's legacy, accomplishments, and continued endeavors with the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award for the month of November 2024.

#### HONORING PATRICK SMITH

#### HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Patrick Smith, a dedicated flight paramedic and Registered Nurse who has dedicated 40 years to the field of emergency medical services (EMS). Pat's contributions have left a profound impact on both the individuals he has served and the EMS profession here in northeast Indiana.

Throughout his career, Patrick was a trailblazer in the early education of appropriate airway management technique. Drawing on his years of experience as a Respiratory Therapist, he emphasized the importance of proper ventilatory and oxygenation steps long before they became widely recognized and implemented as they are today.

Pat dedicated 32 years to the Bippus Fire Department. During this time, he served as a Primary Instructor, teaching First Responder and EMT classes across Huntington County. He also worked as a street paramedic and shift supervisor with Huntington County EMS, where his leadership and skill led to his appointment as Director.

Pat's career then took him to Lutheran, where he excelled as a Critical Care Paramedic before transitioning into the Flight Program a few years later. After becoming a Registered Nurse (RN), he has continued to maintain his Paramedic, RN, and Respiratory Therapist licenses. Among Pat's many accolades, he holds the record of completing over 1,270 flights with Lutheran Air.

Beyond these professional achievements, Pat has been a mentor to consecutive generations of healthcare workers. His deep knowledge, wealth of experience, and positive demeanor have aided countless others through the challenges and demands associated with emergency care.

Pat's peers, students, and the thousands of patients he has served hold him in the highest esteem, and his absence will be felt. Healthcare professionals like Patrick are vital to our community. I want to express my gratitude for his decades of service to our region and wish him continued success in this next great chapter of life.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOHN ENRIQUEZ

#### HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 26, 2024*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my friend and a community

hero, John Enriquez. John's life and decades of service stand as a proud example of the immense influence an individual can have on an entire community.

Born the eldest of seven, John grew up in Bakersfield and attended East Bakersfield High School, where he found joy playing baseball for the Blades. Though one could easily tell from the cap he so often wore, John loved baseball and was a lifelong Tampa Bay Devil Rays fan. For years growing up, John worked at two family businesses—his grandmother's Mexican restaurant, Jiminez Café, and Enriquez Construction. Eventually John found his primary occupation with the City of Santa Clarita as a public works supervisor. For 21 years, he would commute over 100 miles each day for this job, but he would never leave Bakersfield.

In the early 2000s, John conceived ambitious plans to preserve the charm of Bakersfield, then striving to maintain its natural and manmade beauty. In 2001, John was a founding member of Keep Bakersfield Beautiful (KBB), a local affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful program. During his leadership of KBB, he was known for his strong steady leadership, always conducting himself with kindness and respect toward others.

John will certainly be remembered for finding common ground between differing opinions in a friendly manner. In the days surrounding his death, John's colleagues remembered how he patiently developed collaboration between Keep Bakersfield Beautiful, Caltrans, and the City of Bakersfield to clean Bakersfield's highways in 2010. Initially a tense standoff over a lack of funding, John's gracious persistence led the group to a solution, which saw homeless workers from local shelters carry out the beautification work. It was this patient faith in the goodness of others that inspired his colleagues and community to unite to the common cause of preserving the beauty of their home.

A humble man, John's servant leadership was hard to miss, and recognized by his peers through several awards. In 2004, John received the President's Call to Service Award and the Keep America Beautiful Iron Eyes Cody Award for his success in raising community awareness and community involvement for KBB's beautification projects.

In October 2024, John received the key to the City of Bakersfield from Mayor Goh for his enduring legacy of service to our community. Given his service, many important buildings and vicinities like the Fox Theater or the Mechanics Bank Arena owe their restorations and current charm to John's leadership. It is difficult to imagine what Bakersfield's community service efforts would look like in the future without John Enriquez.

John is survived by his wife, Carola, and daughter, Lauren Enriquez, who both spoke of the unconditional love and support he always gave them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering our heartfelt condolences to John's family and the community that loved him. Whether friend or family, John was a true gift to our community.