

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEPUTY CONSTABLES
NOLAN BAGWELL AND OMAR
ABUABARA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collin County Deputy Constables Nolan Bagwell of Dallas and Omar Abuabara of Roanoke for their heroic actions.

On May 6, 2023, a gunman entered the Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, Texas and indiscriminately fired on shoppers, moving methodically through the parking area and promenades of the outlets, shooting 15 people in a matter of minutes. Constables Bagwell and Abuabara were among the earliest first responders on scene, working without hesitation to locate the shooter and secure the area.

Deputy Constables Bagwell and Abuabara moved systematically through stores in the outlet mall, clearing each while ensuring the safety of the individuals inside. After another Allen police officer neutralized the shooter, Bagwell and Abuabara continued to secure the entire premises before assisting with the evacuation of thousands from the premises.

The selflessness and bravery displayed by Deputy Constables Bagwell and Abuabara as they put the safety of others first reflects great credit upon themselves, North Texas, and the State of Texas.

CONGRATULATING THE WRAY
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wray High School Football team for winning the 1A State Championship with an undefeated record.

Their overwhelming victory over Forge Christian, another undefeated team heading into the championship, is a testament to the teamwork and determination of each and every member of the team. I say thank you to the players for setting an example that will serve as an inspiration for future generations of high school athletes. They should all be extremely proud of what they have accomplished and know that this is just a precursor for the many great achievements that each of them will have in their lifetimes.

I am honored to celebrate with the team and wish them all the best in their future seasons and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO RICH HEDGES

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rich Hedges, Councilmember for the City of San Mateo, California, upon the conclusion of his tenure on the City Council after over five decades of community involvement and advocacy in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I am honored to have worked alongside Rich on countless occasions and to call him a friend. He embodies the idea of living by your values and service to others.

Rich was born in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was raised in a working-class family. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Emporia State University, before earning a Master's Degree in American Urban History from San Francisco State University. He moved to the City of San Mateo in 1970 where he and his wife Linda have lived for over 50 years and become invaluable members of the community.

In 1974, Rich began a passionate, 28-year career in labor advocacy working for the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union. He rose to the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of Region Eight, and his tireless work supported labor rights of workers across Northern California and Hawaii.

Outside of his professional career, Rich demonstrated extraordinary commitment to public service in his community. He has served on several boards, committees, and commissions throughout the region, including the San Mateo County Housing and Community Development Commission, the San Mateo Personnel Board, the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, the Policy Advisory Council to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and many others. He is a warm and familiar face to many in his community, serving on the Neighborhood Watch Board and as a representative to the United Homeowners Association.

Rich applied his wealth of expertise in labor advocacy as a member of the Executive Board of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. Additionally, he has volunteered countless time to advancing critical measures to support the City of San Mateo's fiscal stability and community engagement activities. Through these various initiatives, Rich has worked tirelessly to ensure that San Mateo remains a safe and vibrant place for its community members to live and thrive.

Throughout the years that he has resided in San Mateo, Rich has developed deep roots in his chosen community in the Bay Area. He is an active member of the Hillsdale United Methodist Church, continuing the practice of faith that has been carried in his family for five generations. Rich and his wife have raised their family in San Mateo, which includes their daughter, three adult grandchildren, and two

great-grandsons, symbolizing his commitment to his community's future.

Rich's thorough and methodical research of policy is unsurpassed. He is the consummate gentleman in conveying information, even when others may disagree, and his delivery is such that it allows for engagement and careful consideration.

While his time on the City Council was brief, his history in San Mateo County is immense and we're grateful for his leadership in so many selfless capacities. Rich treats everyone equally. His tone is always respectful. He's inquisitive. He's always looking out for the best interest of the community and can be counted upon to actually follow through on his commitments. I believe we can all benefit from learning from Rich's collaborative approach to governance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary service to the public that Rich Hedges has presented throughout his distinguished career. All of the lives that he has touched, including mine, are better off because of his dedication and commitment.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
WORK OF JON DELANO

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, our local TV reporters and anchors are so rooted in the community they cover that they feel like a part of the family.

To many in Western Pennsylvania, including me, longtime KDKA Money & Politics Editor Jon Delano was a trusted voice for our community. Last month, he retired from his job of over 30 years serving as Channel Two's political analyst.

Known for his classic "I'm Jon Delano" closing line, he had a powerful ability to melt down a complicated issue to make it understandable to any audience.

And over the decades with this skill, Jon rarely failed to land the interview and ask Presidents, Cabinet Members, U.S. Representatives, and Senators the questions that mattered to the people of Western Pennsylvania.

Apart from reporting at KDKA, he has also worked in government—including as Chief of Staff to former Pennsylvania Congressman Doug Walgren.

Jon also practiced law and taught at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems & Public Policy.

Jon has won numerous awards for his work, including the Edward R. Murrow Award for the best "hard news" story in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

Jon also volunteers for several community organizations, often moderates and facilitates seminars, and is active in his church.

• 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.

I'm proud to have Jon and his wife Jane as my constituents in Mt. Lebanon, and I thank him for his decades of service to my community, to my region, and to our great country.

I wish Jon good luck and the very best in this next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MARIE CHESTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Evelyn Marie Chester of Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Mrs. Chester was born on November 12, 1924, in Paducah, Texas, to John and Thaddie Campbell Cranford. At a young age, her family relocated to Hopkins County, where she attended Liberty School and was a member of the Liberty Baptist Church. On April 22, 1939, Mrs. Chester married the love of her life, Thomas Mervin Chester. Over the next 65 years, they raised four amazing children and had many more grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mrs. Chester began her career working at the H.D. Lee Factory's Lettering Department. As a result of her dedication and hard work, she quickly rose up the ranks to become the Inspector Supervisor. During this time, she was most proud of making clothing for famous Hollywood actors and for the Texas State Fair. Mrs. Chester was also a dairy farmer who harvested corn and cotton. For over five decades, she regularly volunteered to spend time with and help residents of the Sulphur Springs Health and Rehabilitation center. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, crocheting, quilting, and completing yard work. Mrs. Chester humbly credits her longevity to living a Christian life, uplifting others, and eating good food.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Chester's incredible life and journey. May god bless Mrs. Chester on 100 years of life and joy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LOELLA HASKEW

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Loella Haskew as she retires from the Walnut Creek City Council.

Loella was born in Staten Island, New York and moved to California shortly before her senior year of high school. She earned her Bachelor of Science in accounting from Golden Gate University, graduating summa cum laude, and later went on to earn her Master's in taxation. She then joined Golden Gate University as an adjunct instructor. Additionally, Loella served on the Statewide Committee of Taxation for the California Society of CPAS and was critical in drafting questions used for the CPA exam.

Loella is a devoted public servant and has shown her steadfast dedication to improving

the lives of CA-10 residents. She has served on City Council since 2012 and served as Mayor in 2016, 2020, and most recently in 2024. Throughout her career, Loella has been highly engaged with the community, serving on the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, the Diablo Regional Arts Association's board, the Walnut Creek Library Foundation board, Cancer Support Community board, and more. Loella has worked tirelessly to empower our community's youth. She volunteered as a soccer referee with the Pleasant Hill/Martinez Soccer Association, where she twice earned the title of "Referee of the Year." Loella has continually demonstrated her commitment to improving quality of life for Walnut Creek residents and making our community a better place for all.

Please join me in congratulating Loella Haskew on her well-deserved retirement after over a decade of outstanding public service.

HONORING ROBERT AND
CHRISTINA PASTERZ

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Christina M. Pasterz and her late husband, Dr. Robert B. Pasterz, for their dedication to our community.

I am blessed to call Chris my friend. I have known her and Bob for years and have seen for myself how they have helped the community through their work as healthcare providers, their dedication and stewardship in the Catholic community and prayer groups, their volunteer work to help Grand Canyon University students, and their active participation in Arizona school, local, state, and national political issues and campaigns.

Bob was a native of Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada. He was a Sea Cadet and was a Student Ambassador who met and had lunch with Queen Elizabeth when she visited Canada. He played hockey in Canada and was drafted for an NHL team, but opted for medical school instead. Bob immigrated to the United States to complete his medical studies, where he met Christina, who worked at Kino Emergency Room in Tucson, Arizona. Bob completed his training at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX. He opened an Oncology practice in Sun City West, Arizona where he helped cancer patients until his retirement in 2011. Despite retirement, Bob was working up to the day before he passed away on November 18, 2021, from a massive heart attack. He was helping friends and family around the country survive the COVID-19 pandemic. He would always give his family and friends another set of eyes and ears when needed, to navigate a health care challenge or help any friends who could not afford a doctor visit or wanted to avoid the Emergency Room. One of Bob's greatest accomplishments was assisting his best friend, Father Bradley (Joseph Francis) LePage build the Grand Canyon University Newman Center from the ground up. Bob was happy to do whatever was needed to be done to help, including serving breakfast to students after Sunday Mass or traveling as a chaperone and physician on a mission trip to the Philippines.

Chris served as a Licensed Practical Nurse and to this day continues to give great

healthcare advice to others. Chris has been very involved in our schools and community and has opened up her house to prayer groups, school strategizing sessions, and political campaigns. She has been instrumental in helping maintain the values that have made our state and Nation great.

Christina and Bob were married in 1985 and moved to Glendale, Arizona, where they raised their two daughters, Ericka (married to Matt Stoner) and Vanessa (married to Todd Cunningham). Their grandchildren Ana, Gabe, Maddox and Mila who have all participated in a myriad of sports activities and their step-grandchildren Lauren and Madeline, kept both Bob and Chris busy and the kids and grandkids keep Chris busy even today.

I want to thank Chris and Bob Pasterz for their dedication to our community. Arizona is a much better place because of them.

TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
THE MOST REVEREND RYAN
PAGENTE JIMENEZ, D.D.

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ryan Pagent Jimenez, D.D., as the Second Bishop of Chalan Kanoa, Northern Mariana Islands.

Volumus Iesum Videre—"We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21).

In a world marked by challenges and uncertainty, these words encapsulate a profound spiritual longing: the desire to see and encounter Christ. With this guiding principle, the Most Reverend Ryan Pagent Jimenez, as the second Bishop of Chalan Kanoa, undertook the mission to embody and share the presence, love, and light of Jesus with the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Born on December 18, 1971, in Dumaguete City, Philippines, to Rogelio and Lilia Jimenez, Ryan Pagent Jimenez grew up in Siquijor with his three siblings. His vocational journey began at Saint Joseph Seminary in Negros Oriental, where he first discerned his call to the priesthood. He later pursued a Bachelor's degree in Pre-Divinity at the Ateneo de Manila University, graduating in 1992 from San Jose Major Seminary. His post-graduate experience included work as a Jesuit Volunteer and as a high school teacher, roles that deepened his commitment to service. In 1995, his path led him to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, where he began a new chapter as a teacher at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota.

Answering the call to priesthood, Ryan was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by the late Bishop Tomas Agnon Camacho. He completed his theological studies at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University in California, earning a Bachelor's in Sacred Theology and a Master's degree in Divinity and Theology in 2003. He was ordained a priest on June 8, 2003, by Bishop Camacho at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Over the years, Father Ryan served in numerous capacities, including Parish Priest, Rector, Chancellor, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, building a foundation for future leadership.