

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BOARDMEMBER
MICHELLE NEWMAN

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Boardmember Michelle Newman for her service on the Ohio State Board of Education, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She has led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio and our entire state.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR LENARD SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Lenard Smith of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with deep respect and gratitude that we recognize the extraordinary service and dedication of Sergeant First Class Smith, United States Army and United States Air Force (Ret.), for his 22 years of selfless service to our Nation, his unwavering commitment to duty, and his continued contributions to his community.

SGT 1st Class Smith served with distinction in both the United States Army and the United States Air Force, making significant contributions to our Nation's defense during a period of great challenge and transformation. His service in Vietnam exemplifies the courage, resilience, and patriotism that have defined his entire career. His sacrifice and dedication to his country have earned him the respect and admiration of all who served alongside him.

Throughout his military career, SGT 1st Class Smith demonstrated exceptional leadership, discipline, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Known for his humility, he never sought the spotlight and has consistently put the welfare of others above his own. His willingness to lead by example and to shoulder

the toughest tasks earned him the trust and admiration of his peers and subordinates alike.

After retiring from military service, SGT 1st Class Smith did not retire from service to others. He has remained a beacon of strength and leadership within his local community, where he is active in his church and has founded a men's fellowship group to help foster unity, mentorship, and personal growth. His example of faith, service, and leadership continues to inspire those around him. Additionally, his work supporting children with autism, providing both time and resources to help improve their lives, reflects his deep compassion and commitment to making the world a better place for all.

A man of deep conviction, SGT 1st Class Smith has often stated that if called upon, he would serve again without hesitation. His love for America, his community, and his fellow citizens is evident in every aspect of his life, both during his military service and in his post-service activities.

In recognition of his exemplary service to our Nation, his humility, and his ongoing commitment to bettering his community, we are proud to commend Sergeant First Class Smith for his outstanding 22 years of service to the United States of America. His legacy of courage, integrity, and dedication will continue to inspire future generations of soldiers, airmen, and citizens alike.

I am honored to represent Sergeant First Class Smith in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING KIDS IN DANGER AND
NANCY COWLES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kids In Danger and its longtime Executive Director and my friend, Nancy Cowles. Headquartered in my home state of Illinois, Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. After over 25 years of protecting children, Kids In Danger will be closing its doors by the end of the year.

Founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died when a poorly designed and recalled portable crib collapsed around his neck in his childcare home, Kids In Danger's mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education and stronger advocacy for children.

Nancy Cowles has been Kids In Danger's executive director since 2001 and has passionately advocated for stronger safety standards for children's products to protect all our children, and educated parents, caregivers,

and health professionals about recalled and dangerous children's products.

Nancy and Kids In Danger's hard-fought victories for children include the landmark 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, including Danny's Law requiring strong standards for cribs and other nursery products.

Nancy oversaw the development of the KID Design Safety Toolkit, a free online course for children's product developers to educate them about design safety in the product development process to prevent injuries.

For over two decades, Nancy has been a leader and mentor for parent advocates who lost their children due to hazardous products and assisted them in their advocacy for stronger safety measures at both the national and local levels, including safe infant sleep and preventing furniture tip-overs and button cell and coin cell battery ingestion.

I thank Kids In Danger and Nancy Cowles for their work to protect all our children and grandchildren from hazardous products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

RECOGNIZING STARK COUNTY
PROBATE JUDGE DIXIE PARK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge Dixie Park for her service as a Stark County Probate Judge, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her 21 years in the position, she has proven to be a true public servant and leader. Since taking the bench, she has been a champion for seniors and the disabled, and led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication in her role in the community and those she served.

As the first woman to serve as a Stark County Probate Judge, she has undoubtedly inspired the coming generation of young women to stand strong for what they believe in and strive for positions of leadership.

• 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.

For her outstanding devotion, she has earned the respect and esteem of many, and in the wake of her departure, I know her numerous contributions will not be forgotten. I am confident that her fine character and decisive leadership will be solely missed.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank Judge Dixie Park for her commitment to the people of Stark County and to Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RONALD WEAVER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Airman First Class Ronald Weaver of Plano, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with great pride and admiration that we honor Airman First Class Ron Weaver, a distinguished veteran of the United States Air Force, who served with honor and distinction from 1950 to 1954. During his service, Airman Weaver demonstrated exceptional dedication, technical expertise, and a deep sense of duty—qualities that he has continued to embody throughout his life.

Stationed in Japan and deployed to Korea, Airman Weaver's primary responsibility was the maintenance and repair of aircraft electronics systems, a critical role that ensured the success of missions in some of the most challenging and dangerous regions of the world. His technical skills, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to his country earned him numerous honors, including the United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal—recognitions of his outstanding contributions during the Korean War.

Airman Weaver's sense of duty extended beyond his military service, as he has continued to serve his community in remarkable ways. Upon returning to civilian life, he became a dedicated advocate for the Hispanic community in Plano, Texas, where he has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around him.

Additionally, Airman Weaver's commitment to service has extended to volunteering at Julia's Center for Healthcare, where he has dedicated countless hours to assisting in a variety of capacities. Whether providing guidance to patients or supporting healthcare workers, his selflessness and compassion have made a lasting impact on all those who have had the privilege of working with him.

Perhaps one of his most profound contributions has been his mentorship of high school and college students, where he has shared his experiences, wisdom, and insights, helping young people navigate their educational and professional journeys. His guidance has empowered countless individuals to pursue careers with purpose and integrity, just as he did during his time in the Air Force.

Airman Weaver's life has been a testament to the values of service, dedication, and leadership. He embodies the highest ideals of the

United States Air Force and continues to make a significant impact on the lives of others through his volunteer work and community engagement.

We salute Airman First Class Ron Weaver for his service to his country, his community, and the countless individuals whose lives he has touched. His legacy of service, mentorship, and compassion will continue to inspire future generations.

I am honored to represent Airman Weaver in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING FORMER CHINO MAYOR DENNIS R. YATES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Dennis R. Yates and his 24 years of public service and commitment to the City of Chino. He was also an honorable Vietnam War veteran, serving in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970 and receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for his valiant service.

Dennis Yates was elected to the Chino City Council in 1992. Throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Yates was instrumental in shaping Chino's growth and development. His leadership saw the establishment of the Chaffey College Community Campus and Information Technology Center, the renovation of Downtown Chino, the construction of low-cost senior housing, and the construction of the Carolyn Owens Community Center.

Additionally, Mayor Yates was dedicated to advocating for youth programs. He was integral in the creation of the Chino Youth Museum, a lasting tribute to his belief in fostering educational opportunities for children. He also spent decades as a volunteer and mentor with Chino Pop Warner football, where the Yates Field at Ayala Park stands in his honor, named after him in recognition of his 28 years of service to the program. Mayor Yates' unwavering dedication to his community was honored with Chino's highest accolade, the prestigious Spirit of Achievement Award in 2019.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. This September, Mayor Yates passed away at the age of 79. I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Mayor Dennis R. Yates. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Chino are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

HONORING JOHNNIE KABERLE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize an invaluable staff member of the

House Committee on Appropriations, Johnnie Kaberle, whose 30 years of tireless work for the federal government—and more specifically the United States House of Representatives—exemplifies the devotion and commitment of a distinguished public servant.

Johnnie's government career began in 1994 when she joined the office of former Congressman Nick Smith, serving as Legislative Assistant. Johnnie served in this same capacity for Representatives Dick Chrysler and Lamar Smith until August of 1999, when she joined my team as Legislative Director.

In 2003, at the start of the 108th Congress, Johnnie assumed the position of Senior Policy Advisor for Majority Whip Roy Blunt. In this role, Johnnie's ability to negotiate, build coalitions, and remain calm in crisis made her stand out amongst the crowd. She aided the Whip team in identifying roadblocks and negotiating directly with Members of Congress and other stakeholders to ensure the passage of pivotal legislation on the House floor. In addition to conducting comprehensive research and legislative analysis, Johnnie drafted speeches and talking points for Whip Blunt on key policy positions. Having mastered these responsibilities, Johnnie directly assisted in advancing the Republican Leadership's agenda and contributed to the development of the party's long-term strategic policy goals.

When the House Majority switched hands in 2007, Johnnie continued to serve as the Senior Policy Advisor for then-Minority Whip Blunt. This role was a pivotal part of Johnnie's development into the politically savvy leader she is today, but just as importantly, she made lifelong friendships with a cadre of Members and staff who would lead the House Republican Conference in the coming decades.

After six years with Congressman Roy Blunt, Johnnie returned to work for me at the beginning of the 11th Congress. Serving as my Senior Policy Advisor, Johnnie acted as the point of contact for all appropriations issues as well as defense, homeland security, and transportation authorizing policy. Johnnie's work ethic and expertise earned her the promotion to Policy Director.

While I served as the Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations and Defense Appropriations subcommittees, Johnnie provided me with direct support by serving as a conduit between my team, committee staff, federal agency leadership, and heads of state. Johnnie worked to align my agenda with the broader leadership goals and closely coordinated with the appropriations subcommittees in drafting and negotiating legislative proposals. She handled each issue—from meetings with the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, to advocating for critical resources for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth—with her patented expertise and enthusiasm.

Having displayed her broad skillset throughout her years of dedicated service, Johnnie transitioned into the role of Deputy Chief of Staff in January 2015. In this position, Johnnie managed 17 direct reports to drive my legislative agenda and effectively represent the 12th district of Texas. This included setting policy priorities, conducting policy research, and managing constituent engagement. Equally important, during her tenure in my personal office, Johnnie took seriously the professional development of the young staffers and defense fellows that were part of Team Granger.