

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Ms. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes on December 3 and 4, 2024 due to being sick. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; YEA on Roll Call No. 481; NAY on Roll Call 482; and NAY on Roll Call No. 483.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to personal illness, I was unable to vote from December 3 through 6, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; YEA on Roll Call No. 481; YEA on Roll Call No. 482; and YEA on Roll Call No. 483.

HONORING CHARLES GARNER'S SERVICE IN UNIFORM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COUNTRY AND INDIANA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and offer my praise and gratitude to World War II veteran, American hero, and 101-year-old Kosciusko County resident Charles Garner.

Born in Fulton County on July 3, 1923, Charles Garner is a decorated veteran who honorably served our Nation in uniform, and who has shown his commitment to making Kosciusko County an even better place to live, learn, work, and raise a family after he returned home from battle.

Charles enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1942 during the height of World War II while attending Indiana Central College in Indianapolis. Charles' service in uniform saw him serve in a mortar battalion, once digging five foxholes in two days while being surrounded by the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge, and it took him across Normandy, northern France, central Europe, and the Rhineland during different campaigns and battles. After his service in Europe, Charles was on his way to fight in the Pacific Theater in Japan when he and his fellow servicemen learned that the war was finally over.

Because of his honorable and valorous service, Charles was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, one service stripe, two overseas bars, and a European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five bronze stars.

Upon returning home, Charles attended Indiana Central College and received a master's degree from Indiana University, which he used to launch a career in education that took him from teacher to Leesburg School principal to Warsaw Community High School assistant principal over the course of 38 years.

After more than a century and still going of living life to the fullest, I am happy to join countless Hoosiers, including his three sons and dozens and dozens of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, in commending Charles Garner for his brave military service and thanking him for the many contributions he has made to Kosciusko County, Indiana's Second District, and our country. May God bless Charles Garner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss votes on December 6, 2024, to travel back to Illinois. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes on December 5 and 6, 2024, due to being sick. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 489; NAY on Roll Call No. 490; NAY on Roll Call No. 491; and YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

HONORING MR. JIM PROVENZA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Provenza for his exceptional career in public service and his unwavering commitment to our community. After 16 years of service on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and over 40 years working in state and local government, Mr. Provenza will soon retire, leaving a legacy of compassion, justice, and dedication to our community.

Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1955, and raised in San Diego, Mr. Provenza pursued a

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, followed by a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Davis Law School. After graduating, Mr. Provenza served as the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County and as Managing Attorney for Legal Services of Northern California. During this time, he helped low-income individuals gain critical access to the justice system, championing the rights of domestic violence survivors, tenants, and victims of civil rights violations.

Mr. Provenza then went on to serve as a counsel in the California State Legislature, where he authored California's hate crime law and pursued criminal justice reforms. His tenure as Special Assistant for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office from 1993 to 2016 was marked by his leadership on issues of public safety. In this role, he worked to combat gang violence, fraud, and abuse, while also leading initiatives to reform the juvenile justice system, tighten environmental protections, and improve workplace safety.

In 2009, Mr. Provenza joined the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, where he served with distinction for 16 years, including three terms as Chair. Over his tenure, Mr. Provenza helped secure the funding and approval for a new library in South Davis, advocated for the financial stability and growth of the Yolo Crisis Nursery, and championed efforts to allocate American Rescue Plan funds to communities most in need. His decisive action and sound leadership were instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the protection of businesses, essential workers, and the most vulnerable members of our community.

An advocate for environmental conservation, Mr. Provenza authored Yolo County's Climate Resolution, setting a target for the county to become carbon-negative by 2030. His commitment to conservation also extended to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where he worked with our neighboring counties, state and federal agencies, and local stakeholders to preserve our region's natural resources.

Mr. Provenza's dedication to service is further exemplified by his efforts to support older adults in Yolo County. He co-founded and chaired the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, organized the first Yolo County Aging Summit, and has served on multiple aging and healthcare committees. Through these roles, he has coordinated essential services and advocated for aging populations across the county.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our Yolo County community, I extend my gratitude to Mr. Jim Provenza for his dedication, his integrity, and his profound impact on our communities. His legacy of public service serves as an inspiration to us all, and it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

• 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.

HONORING JOHNNIE KABERLE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an invaluable leader of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Johnnie Kaberle, for 30 years of exemplary dedication and service to our Nation.

In 2020, Johnnie took over as the Minority Clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. From the creation of the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies or “APFIT” program, which provides vital bridge funding to promising new defense companies, to the preservation of the USS *Fort Worth* from premature decommissioning, she successfully championed robust national security spending and Republican priorities in the enacted Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Appropriations acts.

After serving ably and dual-hatted as the House Appropriations Committee Deputy Staff Director and Defense Subcommittee Minority Clerk, Johnnie rightfully took on an even more challenging and impactful role as the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Majority Staff Director and Clerk when Republicans won the Majority in 2022. In this role, she led a staff of fourteen defense and intelligence experts in the drafting and passage of the Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations Act and House passage of the Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Appropriations bill. At over \$800 billion per fiscal year, this bill is the largest and most complex appropriations bill for the Nation and in the world. Johnnie’s innate ability to build coalitions across Members of Congress, senior administration officials, and industry executives, to achieve United States national security objectives is truly breathtaking to witness and invaluable to a Subcommittee Chairman.

Among her many accomplishments as Majority Clerk, Johnnie’s will possibly be most remembered for spearheading my vision to accelerate the adoption of innovation across the Department of Defense. Because of her efforts, Congress allocated nearly \$2.5 billion toward defense innovation, including rapid procurement and fielding of promising defense technologies through the Defense Innovation Unit, the creation and funding of APFIT, and the support of the Office of Strategic Capital. This will have a lasting impact on our national security and ensure continued American military supremacy.

On a personal note, Johnnie has been a trusted advisor and friend to the Members of the Subcommittee on both sides of the aisle. Her partnership with Chair Emeritus Kay Granger, Chairman Tom Cole, and myself has been instrumental to our efforts to make the Department of Defense a more agile and effective organization. Her contributions to America’s warfighters will endure long after her tenure in the House of Representatives ends, and I know she will continue to do great work to advance our national defense.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Johnnie for her service to our country. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to personal illness, I was unable to vote from December 3 through 6, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 489; YEA on Roll Call No. 490; YEA on Roll Call No. 491; and YEA on Roll Call No. 492.

RECOGNIZING EFFICIENCY
MAINE’S LEADER OF THE PACK
AWARD

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize an organization that has done so much to make Maine a national leader in energy efficiency.

This past October, in recognition of its efforts to accelerate the replacement of fossil fuel appliances with more efficient electric alternatives in our state, Efficiency Maine received the “Leader of the Pack” award from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. The fact that this award is only given once every five years is a testament to just how impactful Efficiency Maine’s programs have been.

Between 2010 and 2023, the share of Maine households that used heating fuel as their primary heat source fell from 70 percent to 50 percent. That’s a remarkable improvement—and the programs offered by Efficiency Maine have played a significant role in this trend. Its initiatives in the areas of consumer education, income-differentiated rebates, pilot programs for new technology, and close collaboration with local tradespeople have been truly remarkable.

By promoting the transition from fossil fuel-dependent heating systems to those that rely on clean, renewable energy, Efficiency Maine is helping our state reduce its carbon footprint—proving that “going green” can mean “saving green,” too.

Organizations like Efficiency Maine are absolutely critical to helping citizens embrace the power they have to bring about a greener, more sustainable future for our country. I thank them for their incredible work, their tireless service, and their steadfast commitment to Maine’s growing green economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following vote on November 20, 2024, due to a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF JOHN L. HUMPHRIES**HON. JEFF DUNCAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable career and leadership of John L. Humphries as he retires as President and General Manager of WYFF 4 after more than four decades in broadcast television.

John led two of Hearst Television’s most honored and successful brands for eighteen years, most recently leading Hearst’s NBC affiliate in the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina, television market. He is said to have built upon the culture of excellence in journalism and community service in both markets.

In 2018, Broadcasting & Cable named him General Manager of the Year for mid-size television markets as the station earned a Southeast Regional Emmy for Outstanding Newscast and, in 2022, it received a prestigious national Edward R. Murrow Award. The many state and regional achievements have included three consecutive Associated Press of South Carolina’s Outstanding News Operation in 2017, 2018, and 2019 and the South Carolina Association of Broadcasters Station of the Year recognition in 2021.

Before joining Hearst Television, John was General Sales Manager for WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina, and held the same position at WSPA-TV/WASV-TV in the Greenville-Spartanburg market. He began his career at Charlotte’s WSOC-TV, initially as a Production Specialist.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Speech from Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina, for which he served on the Alumni Council and currently sits on the Department of Communication’s Professional Advisory Board.

Among his industry and charitable associations, John serves as president of the South Carolina Broadcasters Association Board of Directors, the board for the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, and the South Carolina Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In 2016, he was named one of the region’s 50 Most Influential People by Greenville Business Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, as John signs off and embarks on a well-deserved retirement, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to celebrate those who make a difference in our community.

HONORING BOB GAST’S MILITARY
SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS
TO OUR COUNTRY, KOSCIUSKO
COUNTY, AND INDIANA’S SECOND
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor decorated World War II veteran and devoted member of the Kosciusko County community, Bob Gast.