

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.

Born more than a century ago, Bob embodies what it means to be part of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism and tyranny threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions, Bob answered the call to serve our Nation as a soldier in the United States Army. During one of the most crucial periods of fighting on the Western Front in the Second World War, Bob led his Army platoon during the Battle of Hürtgen Forest. A Second Lieutenant at the time, Bob earned the Silver Star after being shot in the arm. The Silver Star is one of the most prestigious medals of honor our Nation can bestow on a servicemember, and it appropriately recognizes Bob's valor in combat and his gallantry in action against the enemy. Bob's Silver Star, along with his Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, World War II Victory Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, are all physical proof and outward symbols of Bob's inner fortitude, leadership abilities, and his unwavering commitment to duty and service.

President Ronald Reagan reminded us that freedom is fragile and must constantly be fought for and vigilantly guarded by each generation. That noble mission is exactly what Bob helped carry out when he wore the uniform of the United States Military. Because of the service and sacrifice of warriors like Bob, generations of Americans have been able to experience the blessings of liberty and live in a land that is free. For that, all of us owe Bob and his fellow veterans a debt we can never fully repay.

Bob's dedication to service did not stop when he returned home to Indiana after battle. Bob has been very active in a number of community organizations throughout Kosciusko County, and the Warsaw City Council, the Rotary Club, Salvation Army, Warsaw Evangelical Community Church, and Mobile Meals program have all benefited greatly from Bob's involvement. Simply put, Bob epitomizes what it means to put "Service Above Self."

Despite all these impressive accolades and countless testimonials from those he has helped over the years, perhaps Bob's best legacy are his and his wife Marge's seven children, and their more than two dozen grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

After more than a century of life well lived, I join countless Hoosiers in celebrating Bob Gast and in thanking him for his loyal service and the many, many contributions he has made to the Kosciusko County community, Indiana's Second Congressional District, and our country. May God bless Bob Gast.

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. 484; YEA on Roll Call No. 485; YEA on Roll Call No. 486; NAY on Roll Call No. 487; and NAY on Roll Call No. 488.

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, 2024, due to being sick. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 484; YEA on Roll Call No. 485; YEA on Roll Call No. 486; YEA on Roll Call No. 487; and YEA on Roll Call No. 488.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 11

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the

District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Gordon I. Ito, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine consumer protection, focusing on protecting workers' money and fighting for the dignity of work.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband

To hold hearings to examine communications networks safety and security.

SR-253

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Capitol Police.

SR-301

DECEMBER 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, Lisa T. Ballance, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, Felix R. Sanchez, of the District of Columbia, and Adam Jeffrey White, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, L. E. Sola, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and routine lists in the Coast Guard; to be immediately followed by a Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation hearing to examine U.S. Air Traffic Control systems, personnel, and safety.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2082, to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Benjamin J. Cheeks, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, and Serena Raquel Murillo, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

SD-G50

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine empowering people with disabilities to live, work, learn, and thrive.

SD-106