

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HAROLD AND INEZ  
RICHARDS

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Harold and Inez Richards, who are wonderful, loving, patriotic constituents of mine that live in Sun City, Arizona.

Hal and Inez's patriotism started years ago. Harold, also known as Hal, enlisted in the United States Air Force in May 1955. Inez and Hal, high school sweethearts, married in 1956. They raised two sons, Bruce and Eric, and like many military families, lived throughout the U.S. on military assignments.

Hal's military career included serving as the personal pilot for the Iowa Army National Guard's Regiment Commander, graduating from fixed wing flight school as number one in his flight class, serving two tours in the Vietnam war, including as 1st lieutenant assigned to the 1st Cav's CH47 battalion, serving as Inspector General for the 1st Army Headquarters located at Fort Meade, MD, and serving as Professor of Military Science at Sam Houston State University before military retirement in 1984.

After military retirement, Hal and Inez ran a successful business, owned by Inez, called EJR Enterprises that sold custom sportswear throughout the country. They ran the business until they moved to Arizona to take care of Hal's Uncle and Aunt and have been involved in the Luke Air Force Base Retired Officers Association and helping and supporting Arizona elected officials, like myself, ever since.

I thank Hal and Inez Richards for their lifetime of dedication to our country and for their friendship and kindness to me. May God continue to Bless them now and in future years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JOHN  
ZARAGOZA AND HIS REMARK-  
ABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF  
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Zaragoza, the esteemed Mayor of the City of Oxnard, for his outstanding and unwavering commitment to public service, which has positively impacted the lives and livelihoods of all who call this vibrant community home.

Throughout his remarkable career, John has been a dedicated public servant and his work on an array of projects and initiatives have shaped the city for future generations. For almost three decades, he has faithfully served our community, proving himself to be a tireless advocate for the people of Oxnard. From his

time on the Oxnard City Council from 1996 to 2008, to his tenure on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors from 2008 to 2020, and as Mayor of Oxnard since 2020, John has worked relentlessly to address the city's most pressing needs.

During his time in office, John has led efforts to improve public infrastructure, expand community services, and enhance the quality of life for residents. He has played an instrumental role in addressing the region's evolving transit and infrastructure needs. From street restorations to park maintenance to pipeline replacements to sidewalk repairs, John has delivered critical investments that have helped maintain and fortify the city's timeless character, all while ensuring that its residents have safe and equitable access to the resources they need to survive and thrive.

John has also been a steadfast champion for children and families. As Supervisor, he established the Nyeland Acres Center, an invaluable community resource providing after-school and family services. In recognition of his advocacy for the Nyeland Acres community, the County Board of Supervisors dedicated the John C. Zaragoza Community Park in his honor.

John's commitment to improving the quality of life for Oxnard's residents has been evident in his hands-on approach to engaging with constituents and driving community projects that directly respond to their needs.

A long-time resident of Oxnard, John has a deep and personal connection to the city and its people. His life story is a testament to his dedication to service and to the betterment of the community. He has consistently led with integrity, humility, and a fierce commitment to making Oxnard a better place for all.

I must also acknowledge the unwavering support of his wife, Mary Ellen Zaragoza, who has been a steadfast partner in John's public service journey. Mary Ellen's dedication and commitment to their shared vision for the city have been instrumental in his success. Her support, both in public and behind the scenes, has been a pillar of strength throughout the years, and together, they have made an indelible impact throughout the city.

As John steps down from his role as Mayor, I am proud to join our community in acknowledging his immeasurable contributions to our region and expressing our gratitude for his outstanding public service. It has been my sincere privilege to work alongside John throughout my career in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize Mayor John Zaragoza for his invaluable service to the City of Oxnard, and I join the people of Oxnard in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING GRACE NUHFER AS  
OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE  
WEEK

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Grace Nuhfer as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

This summer, Grace won a silver medal in the 100-meter butterfly at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. She also set personal bests in multiple events, including the 200 meter individual medley, 50 meter freestyle, and 100 meter backstroke.

Despite being diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and brittle cornea syndrome, conditions that impact her joints and vision, Grace has not allowed these physical challenges to hinder her success in athletics and academics. Her drive to succeed is commendable. Grace has much to be proud of and deserves the utmost respect for her accomplishment.

Grace earned her spot in the 2024 Paralympic Games by taking first place in the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Trials. Additionally, her exceptional performances at the Parapan American Games and the U.S. Paralympic National Championships leading up to the 2024 Paralympics established her as one of the top swimmers in her classification.

Grace is not only a renowned Paralympic swimmer, but also a college senior at the University of Akron, studying data analytics with a focus on marketing. She is on the university's swim team and is the school's first Paralympian.

Again, I would like to congratulate Grace on this amazing accomplishment and commend her for her hard work and dedication, it is those like Grace who make Ohio's 13th District the birthplace of champions.

HONORING POLICE OFFICER  
THOMAS JOY

**HON. NICK LaLOTA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Police Officer Thomas Joy from the Suffolk County Police Department to recognize his achievement in receiving the 7th Annual U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing. This achievement is not only a testament to Officer Joy's incredible exceptional skills and bravery but also to his relentless dedication to making Suffolk County a safer place for all of us to live, work, and raise our families.

Officer Joy has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges facing

• 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.

our community and a remarkable ability to address them through proactive and community-oriented policing. His work embodies the principle that public safety is not just about enforcement but also about building trust and fostering collaboration between law enforcement and the residents they serve. Suffolk County could not be prouder to have Officer Joy amongst its ranks.

In New York and on Long Island, we know the value of a strong and dedicated police force. Officer Joy's efforts to combat crime, protect vulnerable individuals, and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods have left an indelible impact on our community. We owe him a debt that we could never repay.

On behalf of the people of Suffolk County and the 1st Congressional District of New York, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to Officer Thomas Joy for his outstanding service and his unwavering commitment to justice and public safety. His contributions to Suffolk County serve as an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to honor his remarkable achievements here today.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMMISSIONER KATE DEAN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate Dean for her years of public service to the Jefferson County community. As a member of the Jefferson County Commission, Commissioner Dean demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Jefferson County community as she prepares to step down from the Commission.

Commissioner Dean moved to Jefferson County, Washington in 1999 and spent 10 years farming and working to grow the local food economy through small business development, including co-founding FinnRiver Farm and Mt. Townsend Creamery. She also started a consulting business that focused on natural resource and economic development issues both locally and across the region. Later, she served as the Regional Director for the North Olympic Development Council.

Commissioner Dean was then elected to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners in 2017 representing Port Townsend. While on the board, she became a driving force for rural economic development and environmental sustainability in the county. She has been behind groundbreaking work that has bridged public, private, and nonprofit sectors tackling complex rural issues.

Outside of our region, the impact of Commissioner Dean's efforts has been felt around the state. In 2023, Governor Inslee appointed Commissioner Dean to the Washington State Board of Health, where she advocated for rural healthcare issues and access. She also serves as a member of the Leadership Council for the Puget Sound Partnership.

Commissioner Dean has been a staunch advocate for public funding of major infrastructure projects, increased access to supporting housing, and overall economic growth in a county that desperately needs it. And this advocacy has led to record levels of public in-

vestment, including successful Community Project Funding wins for the Port Hadlock Sewer and Caswell-Brown Emergency Shelter and Supportive Housing Projects. The impact of Commissioner Dean's work has been profound and will have lasting impacts for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I have been grateful for Commissioner Dean's leadership, partnership, and friendship—and I applaud her for her successes in working to make her community stronger. Commissioner Dean's leadership and passion for revitalizing rural Jefferson County has forever impacted the future of the communities she served. Her advocacy and energy will be sorely missed.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recognize Commissioner Kate Dean in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, a vital institution that has provided transformative leadership to Greater Lansing, Michigan, since 1901. Over that time the Chamber has worked tirelessly to help businesses connect, grow, and thrive, while also strengthening local communities and fostering an equitable and vibrant economic landscape.

Through its advocacy, programming, and partnership, it plays an instrumental role in making the Lansing region one of the best places to live and work in Michigan. By collaborating with corporate executives, small business owners, elected officials, and local leaders, the Chamber drives initiatives that promote shared success.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's focus on equity, reflects a commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals and businesses can thrive together. By providing resources, mentorship, and professional development opportunities, the Chamber is helping to shape a future that celebrates and supports diverse and equitable communities. Initiatives like ATHENA Lansing exemplify this mission by empowering women to achieve leadership and professional growth, ensuring that their voices are at the forefront of progress.

What sets the Lansing Regional Chamber further apart is its belief in bipartisanship and its ability to unite people across political and ideological lines. The Chamber consistently brings together stakeholders from all walks of life to find common ground for the benefit of the entire region. Its leadership in tackling issues like infrastructure, housing, education, and healthcare has established it as a trusted voice and a force for positive change. We need more practical, common-sense, solution-oriented influence in our civic life, and I applaud generations of Chamber leaders for their work to put community interest ahead of politics.

For over 100 years, the Chamber has provided valuable tools and resources to members, helping them navigate challenges, inno-

vate, and succeed. By fostering a stronger, more connected, and supportive network of businesses and individuals, it has enriched communities and left an indelible mark on the Greater Lansing area.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I recognize the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and its outstanding contributions and enduring legacy of service here in the official record of the People's House.

THOMAS R. CARPER WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 9, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024." I would like to thank Ranking Members LARSEN (D-WA) and NAPOLITANO (D-CA) and Chairs GRAVES (R-MO) and ROUZER (R-NC), as well as their committee and personal office staffs, for crafting the bipartisan "Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024."

This is the sixth consecutive biennial WRDA since 2014, continuing the bipartisan tradition of enacting a new WRDA every two years that meets the water infrastructure needs of communities across the country. This year's WRDA will strengthen community resilience in addressing the climate crisis, improve water resource projects that safeguard human health, and enrich America's vital natural ecosystems.

The legislation before us today would not have been possible without the leadership of my longtime friend and incredible public servant, Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO. Since 2014, Ranking Member NAPOLITANO has led the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, helping protect our communities from droughts, restore our ecosystems, and invest in America's ports and harbors. While her presence on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee will be missed, her commitment to protecting America's water supply will benefit countless communities for years to come.

The "Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024" (S. 4367) includes key priorities for Solano and Contra Costa Counties, the Bay Area, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and all of California's 8th Congressional District. As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was pleased to secure several provisions in this bill to create local jobs by directing new federal investment into Mare Island, restore Bay Area wetlands, bolster water supply for local communities in California's 8th Congressional District, and more.

Specifically, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024" (S. 4367):

Expands on my ongoing work to support the redevelopment of Mare Island by directing the Army Corps to complete a feasibility study with the City of Vallejo to deepen the Mare Island Strait Channel;

Addresses the impact of sea level rise on the San Francisco Bay Area, by authorizing