

the Army Corps to complete a comprehensive study focusing on the effects of sea level rise on disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area;

Helps restore Bay Area wetlands in San Pablo, Grizzly, Honker, and Suisun Bays by requiring the Army Corps to use at least 70 percent of dredged materials;

Fortifies Contra Costa County's water supply by authorizing \$57 million in federal funding for water supply projects in central Contra Costa County by the Delta Diablo and Ironhouse Sanitary Districts;

Further supports the crucial use of recycled water in the East Bay by investing an additional \$20 million to the East Bay Municipal Utility District's East Bayshore Recycled Water Project and Integrated Recycled Water Program; bringing in a total of \$45 million invested in the District;

Helps restore the Sacramento River floodplain by directing the Army Corps to use natural infrastructure in all Army Corps projects;

Incorporates key provisions from my "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act" (H.R. 7719), expanding the Army Corps' ability to remove abandoned and derelict vessels on the shoreline.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Chairs and Ranking Members, and my colleagues from both parties to get this timely legislation to President Biden's desk for signature by the end of the calendar year.

HONORING CARRIE ROWELL

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the very large number of members who have learned and become more educated on important subjects on Aspen Institute study trips for the past years, we honor the service of Carrie Rowell, who has worked with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol for the last 14 years. Carrie has worked diligently as the Conference Director for the Aspen Institute Congressional Program, a nonprofit working to bring members of Congress together with policy experts to solve the greatest challenges of our time around the world.

The Aspen Congressional Program conducts several bipartisan, bicameral conferences around the world throughout the year. Carrie, as Conference Director, has been responsible for all logistics and operations of these conferences, including monitoring late or missed flights for 65 plus conference participants, making sure site visits and educational sessions stay on time, and always personally greeting and sending members back to the United States with a smile. This stalwart programming has been instrumental in many members forming working relationships with each other that might not otherwise exist.

Before the Aspen Institute, Carrie had a distinguished career in journalism, communications, and conference operations. She was the conference coordinator of a University of Maryland journalism foundation, press secretary for former Representative for South Carolina, Butler Derrick, and media relations

manager for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and First Union Corporation of South Carolina. She started her career as a political reporter for a North Carolina daily newspaper and was editor of a South Carolina weekly newspaper. A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, Carrie graduated from St. Andrews University.

Carrie has led with poise, grace under pressure, and kindness for the last 14 years. She expresses these valuable traits at all times to members of Congress, her colleagues, and all those around her, whether before a 5 a.m. flight or after a long, 12-hour day.

We thank Carrie for her years of service and wish her the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. NANCY REICHMAN

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Nancy Reichman, Professor Emerita at the University of Denver. On December 4, 2024, Dr. Reichman received the Joyce and Kal Zeff Humanitarian Award, a well-deserved recognition of her dedicated work in academia and to our community.

Dr. Reichman worked in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver for 40 years. Her commitment to education and to the Denver community had a profound impact on undergraduate students at the University of Denver over the years. During Dr. Reichman's time at the University, her research areas included financial regulation, workplace regulation, and white-collar crime.

Dr. Reichman's commitment to the Jewish community is evident through her dedication to relaunching the Jewish Family Services' Refugee Resettlement program. This program assists refugee families in finding affordable housing, providing food and mental health counseling, and supporting overall efforts to acclimate to life in the United States. She also sits on Denver's Racial Equity Council and works alongside her colleagues to address systemic inequalities and racial inequity in our state.

Dr. Reichman's work in academia and across our community created lasting changes in Colorado. I join many others in extending my gratitude for her service to our state.

HONORING BRIAN MURRAY

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my consultant, Brian Murray, for his years of service to me, our state, and our Nation.

Prior to consulting, Brian worked on Capitol Hill for multiple members, including his last role as Chief of Staff to former U.S. Representative Rick Renzi. Brian also worked in the U.S. Senate as a staff member on the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space and on numerous statewide, con-

gressional, and independent expenditure committees.

Brian was essential in my quest to become a member of Congress and served as a confidant throughout my tenure. No matter the challenge, Brian was already ready to fight and guide me through even the most difficult of days.

I cannot thank Brian enough for his commitment and dedication to me, my district, our state, and our Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SCOTT PERKINS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Scott Perkins as he retires from his role with the San Ramon City Council.

Scott has spent his life serving his country and his community. He attended the US Naval Academy and earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering before serving five years in active duty with the Navy. During this time, he spent 3 years aboard the USS *Gray* as a First Lieutenant, Assistant Navigator, and Missile/Gunnery Officer and 2 years serving as an Instructor at the Landing Force Training Command Pacific. Scott remained in the Naval Reserves serving in a variety of roles before he was called back into active duty to support Operation Desert Storm. He served in Germany, Turkey, and Iraq assisting with refugee support activities. Scott retired from the Armed Forces in 2005 with the rank of Captain, serving more than 34 years in uniform. Scott continued to serve his Nation with his acquired expertise, moving into an engineering role at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In this role, Scott worked as the Resource Manager and Facility Manager for the X-Ray Laser Program, served as a Test Engineer for the SLBM Weapon Protection Program, and supported the Lab's Nuclear Materials Surveillance Program. He retired from the Lab after 36 years of dedicated service and continues to consult for their Weapons Complex Integration program.

Scott has also demonstrated his steadfast commitment to our community and improving the lives of San Ramon residents. He was first elected to the San Ramon City Council in 2003, where he has worked to maintain the financial health of the City and improving quality of life in San Ramon. He served as chair of the City's Finance Committee and played a key role in renovating and expanding San Ramon's library. Beyond his work on City Council, Scott has been instrumental in supporting local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Having earned his rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 13, Scott went on to serve as Den Leader and Cubmaster for the pack at Montevideo Elementary School and was a founding leader of Troop 84. He has led backpack trips in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and has mentored over 100 Eagle Scouts.

Throughout his life, Scott has bravely served his country and has worked tirelessly to empower members of our community. Please join me in congratulating Scott Perkins on his well-deserved retirement after decades of public service.

HONORING PASTOR TOM BEERS

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Beers, the longtime pastor of Columbia City Church of the Nazarene and my own childhood pastor, as he retires at the end of this year.

Born in Elkhart, Indiana, Pastor Tom grew up in the church and accepted Jesus as his Savior at the early age of five. After graduating high school and marrying his sweetheart, Deborah Goble, he began to feel the call to full-time ministry. In 1976, he enrolled at Olivet Nazarene College with only \$250 in his pocket, a new job at Arby's, and faith that God would provide for him and his young family.

Pastor Tom graduated in 1982 and began his pastoral journey as an associate pastor at the Lansing Church of the Nazarene in Illinois. He went on to serve as the senior pastor at the Brookfield church for three years and the Waukesha, Wisconsin, church for another three before moving to Columbia City in 1991.

Since then, Pastor Tom's leadership has guided Columbia City Church of the Nazarene, establishing it as a steadfast beacon of faith in the community. Under his care, the church has flourished as a sanctuary of worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship. Pastor Tom's vision and dedication have shaped a congregation deeply committed to both local outreach and global missions, creating a legacy within the community and beyond.

Jeremiah 3:15 states: "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Pastor Tom's ministry has been a testament to the heart of a shepherd, providing wisdom, guidance, and love to countless lives—including my own.

As he prepares to depart from his current role, I wish Pastor Tom many joyful years ahead to cherish time with his family, enjoy the community he has called home for so long, and cheer on his Indiana Hoosiers. His remarkable life of service, faith, and leadership will continue to inspire all who have been touched by his ministry.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF ROBERT DUMAS**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Robert Dumas. Mr. Dumas was a beloved father, brother, and friend, who passed away peacefully in his home on November 24, 2024.

Born on April 5, 1939, in Safford, Alabama to his parents, Andy and Queenie Dumas, Robert was known all his life for his warm heart, sense of humor, and deep love for his family.

Robert held many jobs throughout his life but was most proud of becoming an owner of

a trucking company where he operated an 18-wheeler truck. In 1980, he founded the Dumas Trucking. His work brought him great joy, and he poured his heart into the work that he loved.

After a long day at work, Robert enjoyed the simple things in life and would often relax in his recliner while watching Westerns. He was an old-fashioned man who appreciated every moment of life. He was a friend to all. Robert was affectionately referred to as "Joe" by his brothers, sons, grandsons, close friends, and nephews because of his pleasant, easy to approach demeanor.

Throughout his life Robert was a devout Christian who lived a life of faith and service to his church, Messiah Temple Missionary Baptist Church. He served as a Deacon, a member of the Brotherhood, and a cherished member of the men's chorus until his health failed. His service and spiritual counsel as a beloved member of his church community will not be soon forgotten, nor will the sound of his voice with his chorus partners.

Robert was devoted to his family and his final message to us was "In your hearts, always remember me as the gentle giant and love me as I always loved you. To me, and to all who knew me, family is and will always be everything."

He is survived by his children: Robert Dumas, Dorothy Wash, Donna Dumas, Tony Wash (Kim), Christopher Zorich, Cedric Dumas, and Tiffany Beard (Edward). He is also survived by his siblings, James Dumas (Lucy), Alice Allen, Maple Moppins, Quennie McEwen, Daisy Moore (Ezekiel), and Ann Cole. He will be lovingly remembered by all his family, including his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Dumas and in sending our deepest condolences to his family and friends at this time.

TRIBUTE TO SARA PETERS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sara Peters, an exceptional staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, whose decade-long service in the federal government exemplifies the hard work and dedication of an esteemed public servant.

Sara's career in government began in 2010 as Legislative Counsel to Senator Thad Cochran. In that role, she advised the Senator on budget, banking, finance, trade, justice, and ethics issues. Her contributions were particularly significant in the vetting of judicial nominees and the development of landmark legislation such as the Dodd-Frank Act and the Budget Control Act of 2011. Additionally, Sara managed all justice-related appropriations issues for the influential Senator.

In 2011, Sara brought her talents to the House Committee on Appropriations as a Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Devel-

opment. Her portfolio included the Federal Highway Administration and transportation safety agencies, such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. She also managed vital programs supporting Native American housing, homeless assistance, and community development.

Following her initial tenure with the House Committee on Appropriations, Sara expanded her expertise in the private sector as a Senior Associate at the King & Spalding law firm. Sara specialized in environmental, energy, transportation, and consumer product safety law. She then served as Assistant General Counsel at the Volkswagen Group of America, with a specific focus on emissions, regulatory, and settlement oversight.

After five years in the private sector, Sara's commitment to public service led her back to government as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Policy, and Strategic Planning for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Focusing on transportation safety initiatives and technologies, Sara bridged the gap between the agency and Congress, managing key policy initiatives and preparing agency leadership for congressional hearings, budget rollouts, and briefings.

In November 2020, Sara returned to Congress where her extensive expertise and knowledge earned her the position of Counsel and Senior Advisor on the House Committee on Appropriations under then Ranking Member KAY GRANGER. It was in this role that Sara successfully advanced House Republican funding priorities in the Minority. When Republicans took control of the House in 2023, she was rightly promoted to Deputy Staff Director of the full committee. Her understanding of the complexities of the federal budget has fostered crucially important reforms in the appropriations process. She has demonstrated remarkable skill in managing complex budget data, coordinating between the twelve Appropriations subcommittees, and facilitating communication with leadership offices, authorizing committees, external stakeholders, and support agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office. Sara played an invaluable role in crafting and negotiating full-year, supplemental, and continuing appropriations legislation.

Throughout her career, Sara has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to navigate complex political landscapes and achieve meaningful results on challenging policy issues. Her deep understanding of government processes and her strategic approach have been instrumental in securing important policy victories, even in times of a divided government.

After countless early mornings and late nights of devoted work to our country, I know Sara is looking forward to a change of pace that allows her to spend more time with her family. Sara will be greatly missed, and I extend my deepest gratitude for her exemplary service to the United States of America.