

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JOSEPH D. HENDERSON

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and say a special thank you to a truly exceptional U.S. Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph D. Henderson.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson has served admirably as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller, for the past four years. Over that time, I have come to appreciate Joe's work as he served as a fellow supporting my office and other Members of our Appropriations Committee. He helped my staff better understand the Department of Defense through his years of experience as an Army officer, and led countless oversight and factfinding visits for staff across the globe providing them invaluable firsthand knowledge, doing so with a level of skill and professionalism that has left a lasting impression on me and my staff.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2004, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History. He commissioned as a Transportation Officer, completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson's first assignment was as a platoon leader with the Alpha Company, 302d Brigade Support Battalion at Camp Casey, South Korea. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson attended U.S. Army Airborne School enroute to his assignment as 99th Movement Control Team Mobility Officer in Italy. He deployed in this role to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson took command of the 99th MCT from 2008 to 2010 deploying again to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson served as the Assistant Brigade S4 for the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He took command of Echo Company, 2-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion from 2011-2013.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma from 2013-2015. He was assigned to Fort Bragg where he held positions at the 82nd Airborne Division as the Division Transportation Officer and Deputy G4, the Support Operations Officer for the 189th Combat Sustainment Support, and as the Brigade Operations Officer for the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade.

As a Congressional Budget Liaison, Lieutenant Colonel Henderson has been the Army's conduit to several Congressional offices and committees. In the course of this service, he has built a reputation of trust, respect, and competency. His efforts have been widely respected and have shown great credit to the Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson's wife, Annie, and children, Harper and Hudson, have supported him throughout his career. Their sac-

rific and love make everything he does possible.

Joe's extraordinary career is a testament to his hard work and unyielding desire to make himself, his organizations, and his fellow Soldiers the best they can be. Our Nation has been enriched by his leadership, thoughtful judgement, and exemplary work.

On behalf of the U.S. House and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Joe on his service to our Nation. We wish Joe, Annie, Harper, and Hudson all the best.

RECOGNIZING JIM SHENEP

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Arkansan, my friend, Jim Shenep.

It is unbelievable that three decades after we started working together, it is time for him to retire.

I want to say how thankful I am for our three decades of friendship, and Martha and I treasure our relationship with him and his family.

It has been such a privilege to watch his continued success, starting when we were at First Commercial, then Regions, then Delta Trust, and now at Simmons.

He has always put his customers first, and that was at the heart of what we tried to build at Delta Trust, and I know it is at the heart of Simmons Trust Company.

I wish him well in his retirement and I wish I could be there with him in person to celebrate, but I wanted to thank him for his dedication to his customers and our friendship.

CONGRATULATING JANET WILLIAMS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF SAVAGE, MINNESOTA

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janet Williams on her retirement as Mayor of the City of Savage. Janet was born and raised on a dairy farm in Savage, Minnesota. She attended Burnsville High School, where she graduated as the valedictorian. After completing her undergraduate degree at the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minnesota, she came back home to Savage. For 30 years, Janet served as Scott County's Library Director. In this role, she was responsible for running all Scott County libraries while supporting library expansion projects.

In 2004, Janet was elected as a Savage Councilmember and just four years later, Janet became the first woman Mayor of Savage. She has held this office for over 17 years. As Mayor, Janet pushed for investments in mental health programs, including those offered to first responders. She founded

the Dan Patch Historical Society and championed various local projects, including key re-development projects and infrastructure improvements. Under her leadership, she also promoted the importance of partnering on key initiatives with nearby community leaders and partners.

I'm proud to have worked with Janet since I first came to Congress in 2019. Her commitment to the community of Savage is unparalleled and I have greatly appreciated her partnership and guidance, especially with concern to local priorities.

I thank Janet for her years of service to our community.

HONORING KAY GRANGER

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the incredible legacy of my colleague, and friend, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside many dedicated public servants, but few have shown the consistent leadership, integrity, and commitment to their constituents that KAY has demonstrated over her incredible career in public office.

She has represented the Twelfth Congressional District of Texas with unwavering dedication in her nearly three decades in Congress.

From being the first woman elected to represent Texas' Twelfth District, to her trailblazing work as the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, KAY has always set new standards of excellence in her time in Washington.

I not only serve with her as a fellow member of the Appropriations Committee, but I also had the privilege of being elected in the same class as KAY. During that time, I have witnessed the skill and dedication KAY displays first-hand. A staunch supporter of our Nation's military, a champion for infrastructure, and a force behind national security efforts, her goal has always been to advance the interests of the American people.

KAY's legacy will go far beyond the legislation. Her mentorship of countless members of this body will outlast even her biggest legislative accomplishments. Through her deep understanding of the issues, and willingness to work with both sides of the aisle, she will be remembered for putting service to the American people before partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER for her service to this Nation, her invaluable contributions to Congress, and most importantly, her friendship. She will leave a legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 122; NAY on Roll Call No. 124; YEA on Roll Call No. 125; YEA on Roll Call No. 126; YEA on Roll Call No. 127; NAY on Roll Call No. 283; NAY on Roll Call No. 285; NAY on Roll Call No. 406; YEA on Roll Call No. 407; NAY on Roll Call No. 408; NAY on Roll Call No. 420; YEA on Roll Call No. 432; YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; YEA on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

HONORING KEIRSTEN LYONS FOR HER DEDICATION TO AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keirsten Lyons, Director of the Washington State Fallen Heroes Project, a woman whose life's mission exemplifies the enduring power of love and remembrance. Her dedication to her son's memory and to the families of our Nation's Fallen Heroes is a profound testament to the enduring sacrifices made in defense of our freedoms.

Keirsten's journey is one of love, resilience, and a mother's unyielding commitment to ensure her son's sacrifice is never forgotten. On January 1, 2014, her beloved son, Marine Sergeant Jacob Michael Hess, gave his life during a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Hess was a dedicated Marine, a cherished husband, son, brother, and friend who embodied the highest ideals of service and honor. Though her loss is unimaginable, Keirsten has transformed her grief into a powerful force for good, ensuring that the legacy of her son and so many others lives on.

As the Director of the Washington State Fallen Heroes Project, Keirsten has committed herself to a sacred mission, to honor those who raised their hand to serve and made the ultimate sacrifice, to support the families who carry the weight of their loss, and to engage communities in never forgetting the price of freedom. Her work serves as a rallying call to all of us, reminding us that the freedoms we hold dear were secured through unimaginable sacrifices.

Under Keirsten's leadership, the Project has expanded its reach and impact. Events such as the March for the Fallen, Ruck, Run, or Walk have created spaces for families and communities to come together in shared remembrance. For Keirsten, these gatherings are deeply personal. By sharing their stories, families transform grief into connection, ensuring their loved ones remain alive in the hearts of those who learn their stories.

Through initiatives like the Illuminating Courage Memorial and the Heroes Garden, Keirsten has built a legacy of remembrance in

the Eastern Washington community that will endure for generations. Her tireless efforts have provided comfort and healing to Gold Star families, creating a community where grief is shared, and the sacrifices of the Fallen are eternally honored. She reminds us that behind every Fallen Hero is a family who has borne the cost of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the citizens of Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Keirsten Lyons for her extraordinary devotion. May her work continue to remind us that the legacy of a hero does not end on the battlefield—it lives on in the stories we tell, the memories we preserve, and the gratitude we hold.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 500 on H.R. 5009, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YES when I should have voted NO.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DIANA GOMEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and professional achievements of Diana Gomez, who spent over 36 years as an electrical engineer and contributed to our community as part of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Born in Fresno and raised in the City of Parlier, Ms. Gomez graduated from Parlier High School and was named as the first member of the Parlier Unified School District Hall of Fame. She earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at California State University, Fresno.

Ms. Gomez developed more than 36 years of transportation experience with Caltrans in various positions, including Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer and Chief for the offices of Traffic Management and Systems Management Operations. In 2011, Ms. Gomez was appointed as the Deputy District Director of Operations in Los Angeles, making her the highest-ranking Latina engineer within the California State Employees, a title she still holds.

Her last assignment with Caltrans was serving as District 6 Director with responsibility for the State Highway system in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties. From the time she filled the role in July 2020 up to her retirement, she helped secure more than one billion dollars for the district and local partner projects.

Prior to her appointment as District 6 Director, Ms. Gomez was appointed by Governor Brown in 2012 to serve as the Central Valley Regional Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. As the Regional Director, she worked to build strategies and maintain rela-

tionships with local advocates, residents, consultants, and policy makers to ensure the high-speed rail project in the Central Valley continued on-time and on budget.

Ms. Gomez is an active member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and was even named one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" by the Hispanic Business magazine for her role as SHPE's National President. She served in this role for six years, having also occupied several other leadership positions with the organization. Under her leadership, SHPE grew exponentially in its membership and revenue.

Ms. Gomez has maintained her roots in Fresno County and is a member of the Fresno State School of Engineering Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the Fresno State Alumni Association, and Board Member for the Fresno State Transportation Institute. Her other professional affiliations include serving on the Board of Directors for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and she is a member of Women in Transportation (WTS) and founder of the WTS Central Valley Chapter.

I call on my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional career and lifetime achievements of Diana Gomez, and to congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING OUR 2024 FALL INTERNSHIP CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA'S 20TH DISTRICT

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding interns who have dedicated their time and talents to serving the 20th District of California this fall. These bright and committed young people, working from both our Washington, D.C., and Clovis, California offices, have brought fresh perspectives, unwavering enthusiasm, and a shared passion for making a difference. At a time when many young people are questioning the role of public service, their dedication inspires confidence in the leaders of tomorrow.

As their fall internships come to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Grace Lee Delgado, Elijah Lidgett, and Tristan Wertanzl for their contributions to our Washington, D.C., office and to Jake Dowell for his service in our Clovis, California office. Their hard work has been instrumental to our efforts, and I trust that the skills and educational experiences they have gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors in public service.

FAREWELL REMARKS BY HON. CORI BUSH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the impactful service of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman CORI BUSH.

Congresswoman BUSH came to Congress making history as the first Black woman elected from Missouri.