

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO IGNACIO FREDRICKSON

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Nativity Catholic School Third Grade Class, and the entire Nativity Community, to pay tribute to Francisco Ignacio Fredrickson. Francisco was born on November 27, 2015, and passed away at the age of nine on December 5, 2024, in the loving arms of his parents. The Nativity Parish, Catholic School and especially Ms. Fetzner's third grade class will miss his ever-smiling face and positive attitude.

In June of 2023 Francisco was diagnosed with DIPG, an aggressive form of childhood brain cancer that is terminal. The doctors gave him nine months to live, and yet Francisco persevered and lived 18 months. DIPG is especially devastating because the cancer is located on the brain stem which makes it inoperable and while it leaves their cognitive skills intact, it slowly takes away a person's motor skills. This leaves patients unable to walk, talk, move, and eventually unable to eat, drink or breathe, all while their minds are fully aware of what is happening to their bodies. While DIPG is rare—only 150 to 300 diagnosis per year—it is devastating for the children and their families.

However, much like Francisco, I do not want to focus on the illness but on a life lived well. Francisco loved everything to do with space and NASA. He was able to visit Kennedy Space Center and watch a launch at Cape Canaveral in Florida in the fall of 2023. Francisco was a boy of deep faith and was fond of joking with Nativity Catholic School's Priests, Monsignor Bob Cilinski, Father Bresnahan, and Father Bennett. He also loved a good party and often hosted wonderful gatherings at his grandparent's house where he and his friends could run and play. Francisco is survived by his mother and father, Laura and Ryan; his sister Mariana; his twin brothers, Gabriel and Mateo; his grandparents, John and Carole Fredrickson, Teresa Hernandez and Wilfredo Lizarzaburu; as well as his aunts and uncles, Carlos Lizarzaburu, Diana Lopez, and Brenna and Jamie Fredrickson.

In the words of his mother, "We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Francisco is now where he so intensely longed to be: at Home with Jesus. Now that his body rests, his soul is free. And with that freedom he is doing all the things he was so looking forward to doing . . . Playing soccer, playing piano ("with both hands, like a pro!"), partying it up with the Saints, and finally making those Nutella pancakes that he said he'd make for Jesus as soon as he got to Heaven. Many hearts are grieving our boy's death, ours included. But know as well, how elated we are. Francisco didn't get to marry the love of his

life, or to have children, or do any of those big life milestones . . . But that's because he was meant to skip all those and go straight to the absolute biggest milestone there will ever be: to go straight to Jesus, to hug him, to sit next to him, and to crack him up with his absolutely silly, lovable nature."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the life of Francisco Ignacio Fredrickson and in sending his family our sincere condolences. Though Francisco only lived nine short years, he brought a lifetime of joy to his family, friends and school community. The light and love he brought to the world remains and is carried forth in the hearts of many.

### HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF FRED AIKENS

#### HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Frederick Aikens, a dedicated public servant and Chief of Staff to Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue, for his outstanding leadership and service to the people of North Carolina.

Fred Aikens has spent over three decades serving our state with distinction, from his early work as a fiscal analyst in the General Assembly to his role at the North Carolina Department of Transportation, where he served as Deputy Secretary and Acting Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

As Chief of Staff, Fred Aikens has been a crucial leader, helping Senator Blue guide the Democratic caucus through some of the most challenging legislative sessions in our state's history.

A native of Wilmington, Fred's long career in public service is marked by his strategic vision and his ability to navigate complex challenges with integrity.

In addition to his contributions to the public sector, Fred Aikens has served our country as a Lt. Colonel in the North Carolina Army National Guard. His commitment to public service, whether in state government or in uniform, has been nothing short of exemplary.

Today, I commend Fred Aikens for his remarkable career and thank him for his enduring service to the people of North Carolina. His leadership, wisdom, and dedication have made our state stronger, and we are grateful for all he has done.

### RECOGNIZING ANTHONY BARONE—EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate Anthony Barone for reaching the cov-

eted rank of Eagle Scout after many outstanding years of achievement. Anthony's journey began six years ago, a testament to his unwavering dedication to the Boy Scouts. He earned his way through each of the respected positions, demonstrating his commitment and earning 21 merit badges in the areas of citizenship, personal fitness, and family life. While working on his photography merit badge, he discovered a passion for photography—a hobby which has only added to his well-roundedness. Anthony's love for the community shone through as he acquired over 250 volunteer hours, feeding people experiencing homelessness, and mentoring the younger Cub Scouts in town. For his Eagle Scout project, he honored our men and women in uniform by installing six flagpoles to the town Veteran Memorial, to house each of America's branches of service, complete with a granite marker to honor our troops. Anthony is currently a senior at Kingsway Regional High School in the Woolwich Township of South Jersey, where he is taking three college-level courses, which led to his induction into the National Honor Society. He has many plans for his future and greatly enjoys public speaking and speechwriting. He plans to utilize these skills by writing a book that will inspire others to follow in his footsteps. First, he plans to attend Rowan University and pursue a degree in Business Administration. I have complete faith that whatever Anthony puts his mind to, he will accomplish, and I look forward to seeing the great things he will achieve in the future. God Bless Anthony and God Bless our United States of America.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHAIRMAN JEFFREY BOHM

#### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Clair County Commissioner Jeffrey "Jeff" Bohm, who will be chairing his last Board of Commissioners meeting this evening.

Throughout Jeff's career as a county commissioner, Jeff has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his community. Thanks largely to his leadership, St. Clair County has remained a great place to live and raise a family.

Jeff has been known by many to start conversations and "brag" about St. Clair County—and rightfully so. Jeff has a passion for learning, is known to bring people together, and will always take time to listen. These are values reflective of any good leader.

Jeff has always put his community first. After his service, I am confident that he will continue to inspire and serve his neighbors—even without a title.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chairman Bohm for over 20 years of service to his community. I am proud to

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

represent Jeff in Congress, and I wish him, his wife Carrie, and their two daughters, Jessica and Christina, the best of luck in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEVIN SCILLIAN'S  
SERVICE TO THE NATION AND  
HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Devin Scillian of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from WDIV Local 4 News in Detroit. As a local news anchor, his steady presence and informative programs have been a stalwart part of life in Southeastern Michigan for the last twenty-eight years, and his service to his community is worthy of commendation.

Devin was born in Kansas in 1963 to Billie Hugh and Betti Jo Scillian. His late father earned four bronze stars and a Meritorious Service Medal over two tours in Vietnam. His mother, a writer with a history in community theater, he credits with being his creative spark. Devin started dating his wife, Corey, while they were in high school after his family moved off base at Fort Riley, Kansas.

After graduating from the School of Journalism at the University of Kansas in 1985, Devin began his career in local news at WIBW in Topeka, Kansas. This was followed by stops at WAND in Decatur, Illinois, KLTN in Tyler, Texas, and KFOR in Oklahoma City. It was at KFOR in 1995 where his coverage of the bombing at the Murrah Federal Building helped the station win a Peabody Award.

Devin joined WDIV in Detroit in 1995 as a reporter before moving to the anchor position in 1996. In this position he has traveled the world, including stops in Beijing, the Vatican, Jerusalem, and Moscow. He has covered six Olympiads and has three times won the Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in broadcast journalism. His weekly program, Flashpoint, has become almost mandatory viewing for those who wish to be in the know for the most pressing issues in Southeastern Michigan. He has used his position to champion charities, whether that is hosting a dinner for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, collecting shoes for Lace Up Detroit, or recording a song for "A Michigan Christmas of Hope"—a compilation of Christmas songs brought to you by some of Detroit & Michigan's Best artists and bands to benefit Holy Cross Children's Services.

Outside of his career in local news, Devin is also an accomplished musician. He won the Detroit Music Award for Best Country Vocalist in 2018 and Best Country Performer in 2001. He and his band "Arizona Son" have opened for artists such as Toby Keith, Reba McEntire, and LeAnn Rimes. He is also the author of 22 children's books, including *S is For Sunflower*, which won the Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Devin Scillian for the lifetime of dedication to his community. From Kansas to Michigan, his consistent and reliable reporting has a boon for the community which he is serving. Though we are sad to

see him leave, he is certainly going to continue to be a presence in our lives through his music and his writing. We thank him for his service and wish him all the happiness as he starts this next chapter in his life. I thank Devin.

HONORING MARK ROOT'S SERVICE  
TO ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend and devoted public servant Mark Root as he prepares to step down from the St. Joseph County Council after nearly two decades of service in elected office.

As Councilman, Mark's commitment to meeting the needs of St. Joseph County Hoosiers has been deep and unwavering. Quite simply, Mark is the kind of person that you want in your corner as well as serving in government and making decisions that affect people's lives.

Mark's leadership abilities have brought important projects and investments to St. Joseph's County over the course of his twenty years serving on the Council, and he has helped keep St. Joseph County on the move through both good economic times and bad. Mark's focus has always been on making his home county an even better place to live, work, and raise a family, something he has done through bringing to bear his expertise on fiscal and budgetary matters, and his commitment to being a responsible steward of taxpayers' dollars.

Through his time on the Council, Mark has developed a well-deserved reputation for being a thoughtful leader who is easy to work with. Regardless of their political beliefs, so many people have testified to Mark's good nature, his personal loyalty, and his Hoosier common sense.

In addition to his service to the people of St. Joseph County in elected office, Mark has also been a mentor to me and a close personal friend. In fact, Mark is the one who taught me how to comb through election results on a precinct-by-precinct basis, a lesson that has been invaluable to me in my political career.

As Mark's time and career in public service comes to a close, I have absolutely no doubt that St. Joseph County and our communities are better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart. I also know that Mark's wife Sara and his whole family are very proud of him, a sentiment I share wholeheartedly.

I join Hoosiers throughout St. Joseph County and Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Mark Root for his service and in wishing him a very happy retirement and all the best going forward.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND  
SERVICE OF MARY L. ADAMS

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary career and service of

Mary L. Adams, who has tirelessly dedicated herself to the people of Monterey County. Today, at her last meeting of the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council, and upon her well-earned retirement, it is fitting to honor her leadership and enduring contributions to our community.

Mary L. Adams has served with distinction as the Fifth District Supervisor for the County of Monterey, skillfully navigating numerous complex challenges with compassion and foresight. Her accomplishments exemplify a lifetime of hard work and community dedication.

Mary played a vital role in leading Monterey County through major emergencies, including multiple atmospheric river events and wildfires such as the Soberanes, River, Carmel, Dolan, and Palo Colorado fires. Her leadership in organizing efforts, like the Big Sur Helicopter Commodity Drop, provided critical support to isolated communities, ensuring the safety and resilience of residents during these crises.

She has been instrumental in addressing key local challenges, including coordination during the Pfeiffer Bridge repairs, implementing safety measures along Highway 1 near Point Lobos State Park and the Bixby Creek Bridge, and overseeing the Scenic Road Carmel Lagoon Environmental Impact Report. Each of these efforts has significantly contributed to the preservation of Monterey County's natural beauty and infrastructure.

Mary's leadership in infrastructure improvements has also been transformative. She spearheaded upgrades to Carmel Valley Road and played a key role as Chair of the Carmel Valley Road Advisory Committee, culminating in the finalization of the Carmel Valley Road and Laureles Grade Roundabout project.

A steadfast advocate for housing solutions, Mary worked tirelessly to update the Vacation Rental Ordinance, protect neighborhood character, and champion sustainable, long-term housing initiatives. Under her leadership, the County invested in the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership Housing Trust Fund, unlocking millions in funding for affordable housing projects. She also supported innovative public-private partnerships and employer-sponsored housing initiatives, while prioritizing the community's best interests in updating the Housing Element.

During the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mary provided steady and compassionate leadership, ensuring critical resources reached those in need. Her advocacy extended to sustainable water solutions, supporting the passage of Measure J for public water ownership and hosting Regional Water Forums to engage the community on pressing water challenges.

Throughout her tenure, Mary has exemplified transparency and accountability in governance. Her instrumental role in the hiring of key county officials, including the County Administrative Officer and County Counsel, has strengthened the foundation for Monterey County's future success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and accomplishments of Mary L. Adams. Her legacy of leadership and dedication to the people of Monterey County will inspire generations to come. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.