

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DR. THOMAS G. LUM, SPECIALIST IN ASIAN AFFAIRS AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Thomas G. Lum, a Specialist in Asian Affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), for his distinguished career in service to Congress.

Tom retires on December 31st after more than a quarter century with CRS, throughout which he has provided exceptional contributions to Congress as an expert on various critical issues. His areas of expertise have included human rights and social control in the People's Republic of China (PRC), U.S. foreign assistance to the Indo-Pacific region, and U.S. policy in the Pacific Islands, the Philippines, Cambodia and Laos.

As just one example of Tom's work, he brought a deep understanding of the United States' historical relationship with the Freely Associated States (FAS) to bear in assisting Congress' understanding and evaluation of the role of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau in protecting U.S. national security. He made especially vital contributions to the renewal of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) in 2003, 2004 and 2023. One of the rare U.S. experts with experience analyzing multiple generations of the COFA, Tom provided Members of Congress with detailed analysis of the Compacts and the policy debates around them, helping Congress shape and conduct oversight of their implementation. I can personally attest to Tom's unseen but major hand in developing and passing the COFA renewal of 2023.

Congress also has relied on Tom for exceptional support on issues related to civil and human rights in the PRC and the Chinese Communist Party's extensive efforts at social control. Having received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara and written an important book—*Problems of Democratization in China*—on this issue, Tom came to Congress in 1999 with expertise he further honed on the job. His analysis of the PRC's evolving society amplified Congress' understanding of the country and contributed to a far more informed and sophisticated policy discussion on related issues. Again, I found his briefings, which were really more deep discussions, not only highly insightful but prescient.

Tom's passion for his work and his dedication to providing authoritative, non-partisan analysis to support Congress' legislative and oversight functions have been invaluable. His deep understanding of U.S. foreign assistance in the Indo-Pacific region was also of great help to Congress.

Congress has benefitted enormously from Tom's large body of work and his steadfast

commitment, in fact passion, to providing Members and Congressional staff outstanding consultative support. Over the course of his career, Tom's analysis informed numerous pieces of legislation, including on such issues as the PRC's use of forced labor, the oppression of China's Uyghur minority, the U.S. alliance with the Philippines and support for FAS immigrants in the United States.

His calm, easy-going demeanor and his understated yet ever-present sense of humor made him a great pleasure for his colleagues and the Congressional community to work with. In addition, his commitment to collaboration and to mentoring colleagues has made an indelible contribution to the CRS that will far outlast his service.

For our Congress and our country, I extend my gratitude and warm mahalo to Tom Lum for his outstanding contributions. We in Congress offer him best wishes in his retirement.

### HONORING SENATOR KAY PATTERSON

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathy to the family of Senator Kay Patterson. We were both elected in the State Senate Class of 1984 and developed a friendship, despite ideological differences. I cherish our co-sponsoring of legislation to encourage UPS job creation at Columbia Airport, presented as the 'Lion And The Lamb Bill.'

I include in the RECORD the obituary of Senator Kay Patterson.

"Former state Sen. Kay Patterson, known for his colorful language and wit, died Friday after being sick, sources with knowledge confirmed to The State. He was 93.

Described as a civil rights icon, the former Richland County lawmaker served in the General Assembly for 32 years.

Patterson was a member of the state House from 1975 through 1985 representing District 73 and in the state Senate from 1985 through 2007 representing District 19.

"His unwavering commitment to the education, civil rights and the well-being of all South Carolinians has left an indelible mark on our state. Sen. Patterson commanded everyone's attention with his wit and wisdom." S.C. Democratic Party Chairwoman Christale Spain said in a statement. "His leadership and dedication to our community inspired me and many others."

Patterson had a bachelor's degree from Allen University and served two years in U.S. Marine Corps.

State Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine, D-Richland, who now holds the seat previously held by Patterson, called him a towering champion for "justice, equality and education."

"As a legislator, educator, and mentor, he consistently fought to uplift the marginalized, amplify unheard voices, and ensure a brighter future for all South Carolinians," Devine posted on X. "His unwaver-

ing commitment to civil rights and education reform has touched countless lives and will continue to inspire generations to come."

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Santee, called Patterson a "treasured friend" and noted how he was a long-time proponent of removing the Confederate flag from atop the State House dome.

"He was a passionate voice for South Carolina's families, serving over three decades in public service," Harpootlian said in a statement.

Former state Sen. Dick Harpootlian, D-Richland, said Patterson will be sorely missed and described Patterson as a civil rights icon.

"He was an extraordinary public servant and an extraordinary example for anyone in public service," Harpootlian said. "He wasn't looking for a way to get something for him. He was looking for a way to get something for his community."

During his career in public service, Patterson served as a commissioner for the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, chairman of the Richland County Legislative Delegation, and as a trustee on the University of South Carolina Board.

He was the first Black person to serve on the USC Board since Reconstruction.

Former state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, whose father, Isadore, was friends with Patterson, said Patterson was an inspirational and transformational leader.

"Sen. Patterson was a force for change. He was not afraid to speak out against prejudice or injustice, both as an educator and a public servant," Lourie said in a statement.

Patterson taught for 14 years at W.A. Perry Middle School, C.A. Johnson High School and Benedict College and served for 16 years as a UniServ representative for the South Carolina Education Association.

State Sen. Darren Jackson, D-Richland, said Patterson was a politician who could keep the attention of young people. Jackson said Patterson motivated him to go into politics.

"He spoke to us, not at us," Jackson said. "He used colorful language and kept us at the end of our seat."

Patterson's oratory ability is what most remember him for which included his ability to use wit to his advantage.

"He was not a giant of a man until he opened his mouth and stood on his credentials," said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland.

"Everyone took note when he started to talk," Rutherford added. "He had an uncanny ability to take street talk and turn it into intelligent talk and take intelligent talk and turn it into street talk."

Former Columbia Mayor Bob Coble said he was advised to never speak after Patterson.

"He would always bring the house down," Coble said.

"He did it with a flair. He left you laughing, but while you were laughing, you knew what his point was," said Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg.

• 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.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH  
MOUNTAIN DIVISION'S 80TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 10th Mountain Division. On November 6, 1944, during the height of America's involvement in World War II, the 10th Mountain Division was activated to master mountain and winter warfare in order to prepare themselves for operations in some of the world's most unforgiving climates and terrains.

After rigorous training in the Colorado Rockies, these brave soldiers made their mark during the Italian Campaign where they seized German positions on Riva Ridge and Mount Belvedere and broke through the German mountain defenses into the Po River Valley. During nearly five months of intense ground combat in Italy, the 10th Mountain Division fought against 100,000 German troops, effectively defeating five German divisions and drawing enemy forces away from other theaters. Their success in these critical battles contributed to the eventual liberation of Italy and showcased the effectiveness of specialized warfare in extreme conditions.

Following World War II, the division was reactivated in 1985 at Fort Drum in Upstate New York, which the unit has since called home. The North Country's austere environment and cold winters were chosen to host the newly reactivated light infantry division to ensure it was ready to fight and win in every environment.

Between 1984 and 2001, 10th Mountain Division soldiers deployed around the world, from supporting Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East to providing disaster relief in Florida after Hurricane Andrew, the 10th Mountain Division's commitment to service never wavered. In 2001, the 10th Mountain Division provided the first conventional combat forces to respond to the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States. Since that first deployment in support of the Global War on Terror, the 10th Mountain Division has become the most deployed unit in the United States Army.

The 10th Mountain Division has a proven and unique ability to adapt to rapidly changing combat environments. Whether operating in the steep, high-altitude terrain of Afghanistan or conducting urban operations in Iraq, 10th Mountain Division soldiers have consistently demonstrated that they are always able to innovate to meet the demands of the mission. Their dedication, skill, and professionalism have been vital in the fight against terrorism, defending American interests and promoting stability in some of the world's most volatile regions.

The 10th Mountain Division has set a high standard for service, exemplifying leadership, resilience, and innovation. Because of this the 10th Mountain Division is now at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and 10th Mountain Division soldiers are closing the Army's most critical capability gaps including developing solutions for counter-drone, drone, and electronic warfare problems. Over the last 40 years, the 10th Mountain Division has integrated itself into the North Country community,

where soldiers and their families form a strong network of support that strengthens the entire force. As we reflect on the division's distinguished history, we must also honor the sacrifices made by their families, who stand alongside their soldiers every step of the way.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, we commemorate the 10th Mountain Division's 80th year and will honor its past by ensuring a strong future for the 10th Mountain Division and for all who serve in our Armed Forces. Climb to Glory.

BERING RIVER COAL FIELD

**HON. JEFF DUNCAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a piece of property in South Central Alaska known as the Bering River Coal Field located in the magnificent Copper River Delta. This issue goes back to the days of Theodore Roosevelt as a conservation effort.

The United States government has the opportunity to purchase the mineral rights to this field.

This Congress provided the U.S. Forest Service \$8 million to buy the Bering River Coal Field through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but the appraisal came in at \$6 million.

The Korean Alaska Development Company that owns it will sell for \$8 million, and I want to thank a gentleman, Joe Shinn, and the KADCO board of directors for staying at the table.

We have an opportunity, and I believe the members on both sides of the aisle would agree if you could by acclamation to give the Forest Service the ability to purchase this remarkable property for conservation. But the United States government cannot pay more than appraised value unless we in Congress authorize them to do that.

The difference is between \$6 million and \$8 million dollars, and I ask my colleagues, if not now then, in the future, to help the United States of America to set aside the Bering River Coal Field in perpetuity for all future generations to enjoy.

THANKING REPRESENTATIVE  
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS FOR  
HER SERVICE

SPEECH OF

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank my colleague and dear friend, Chairwoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS.

For two decades, CATHY has committed herself to this body and this country, working tirelessly in pursuit of public service. She was established as a leader early on, and this was no accident. CATHY is a light and a voice of reason. Her faith guides her above all else, and for that, she stood apart. Her colleagues knew that she was someone they could trust, someone who could support them—and they

were right. However, while the country knows her as a political leader, she's much more—she's also a leader in faith and fellowship.

Relationships can be complicated in this town, but CATHY uncomplicated them. She brought people together. I have been blessed to witness her leadership firsthand in our work together on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I built my career in the energy business, and she gave me the opportunity to speak to what I know best. I'm proud of all we accomplished over these last four years, but that's only a part of CATHY's legacy.

I thank CATHY for leading us with passion and grace. I look forward to seeing her journey continue, and God bless her and her beautiful family.

HONORING MARK COOPER

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mark Cooper for his exemplary career in public service and his dedication to education and community health.

Dr. Cooper was born in San Francisco, California, and earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of the Pacific. As a dentist, he generously supported Lake County's Healthy Start program, ensuring that every child in the community received dental sealants and treatment for major dental issues before entering kindergarten.

Dr. Cooper is a committed and hard-working public servant. Dr. Cooper was first elected in 1992 to the Lake County Board of Education where he worked tirelessly to advocate for Lake County students. Prior to his service on the Lake County Board of Education, he served for 12 years as a member of the Konocti Unified School District Board of Education. In 2001, he was elected President of the California County Boards of Education, where he helped shape the California School Boards Association's Professional Governance Standards. These standards have guided school board members statewide, while raising public awareness about the critical role school boards play in advancing educational excellence.

Dr. Cooper's contributions extend beyond the fields of education. Dr. Cooper served as a president of Rotary Club of Clear Lake and has continued to advocate for youth dental health as a member of the Oral Health Coalition of Lake and Mendocino Counties. Dr. Cooper was instrumental in the establishment of the Kenocti Wellness Center, the first school-based clinic in a rural community in California, ensuring that all students have access to quality healthcare.

Additionally, Dr. Cooper resides in Clearlake with his wife, Janice. They are the proud parents of their three children: Benjamin, Brian, and Jacqueline. In his free time, Dr. Cooper enjoys playing the drums, a passion Dr. Cooper will continue into his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I extend our community's heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mark Cooper for his decades of service to education, health, and our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.