

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JANE A. WITTMAYER

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life of Jane A. Wittmeyer, a woman who was deeply dedicated to giving back to our great state of Idaho. The passing of Jane on October 25, 2023, after bravely battling Alzheimer's, is deeply felt by many.

Born in Kansas City and raised in Platte City, Jane was known for insatiable curiosity and love for life. She graduated from Platte High School in 1973 and went to pursue her passion of Horticulture at Kansas State University, earning her BS degree. Jane furthered her education achieving an MBA in International Relations from George Washington University followed by a PhD from Virginia Tech University. Her passion for learning led her to completing Senior Managers in Government Courses from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in addition to the Library of Congress's Staff Training courses.

In pursuit of her dreams, Jane relocated to Weiser, Idaho, where she found fulfillment with her career and community. She was instrumental in establishing the first Young Republicans chapter in Payette County, showing her dedication to civic engagement and leadership.

Throughout her life, Jane radiated positivity and joy, even in the face of adversity. Despite her battle, she continued to find joy by being surrounded by family. Jane will be dearly missed by her husband, Brent Olmstead, children Tyler Gorsuch, Katie Gorsuch, stepsons Jacob Olmstead, Berkley Olmstead, and Murphy Olmstead, siblings John Wittmeyer, Mary Andra, and Mark Wittmeyer. She was preceded in death by her parents Ralph and Lucy Wittmeyer and her sister Julie Wittmeyer.

Jane's impact on those around her was immeasurable, and her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING PHOENIX OASIS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good work of a Phoenix-based veterans care facility called Phoenix Oasis. Phoenix Oasis, headed by its Director Anthony Pfeffer, demonstrated its commitment to our veterans and offered key assistance to U.S. Vets-Phoenix. When U.S. Vets lost its lease, but did not yet have a new facility ready, Phoenix Oasis stepped in and allowed U.S.

Vets to continue serving veterans. U.S. Vets stayed and offered services to veterans for months after the lease had expired, and in that way, Phoenix Oasis allowed veterans in need to have continuity of care in a stable and supportive environment.

Indeed, Mr. Pfeffer prioritized providing assistance to U.S. Vets notwithstanding the needs of his own program at Phoenix Oasis. The veterans served by U.S. Vets benefitted tremendously by this compassionate effort and the sacrifices made by Phoenix Oasis and Mr. Pfeffer.

It is commendable that Mr. Pfeffer and Phoenix Oasis take their responsibilities to our veterans so deeply and personally. It is rare these days to see that level of commitment and I applaud them in so doing.

It is also the 10th anniversary of the founding of Phoenix Oasis. The dedicated staff at Phoenix Oasis have provided a decade of service delivering safe housing and substance abuse treatment services to thousands of veterans during that time. And they did so with dignity and respect to our veterans.

Our veterans helped America when we needed them. When our veterans need help, people like Mr. Pfeffer and Phoenix Oasis step in. I thank them on behalf of everyone they have helped in the last decade.

RECOGNIZING VERONICA KRUPNICK

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Veronica Krupnick of Santa Fe, New Mexico, who was selected by Casey Excellence for Children Awards to receive the 2024 Alumni Award. Veronica is the first Indigenous person to have been selected for this great honor. She is an enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona and has Jemez Pueblo and Navajo Nation heritage.

Veronica is a mentor, a leader, and an unwavering advocate for children and youth in New Mexico's child welfare system. Drawing upon her own experience in the foster care system, Veronica's advocacy and mentorship centers around the importance of connecting children and youth in the child welfare system to their cultural identities, communities, and traditions. Last year, she played a crucial role in upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which was under threat by a case heard before the Supreme Court. The ICWA mandates that when the government seeks foster and adoption placement for a child who is a member of or eligible for membership in an Indian Tribe, it must give preference to those with kin or Tribal relationships to the child. In the decades since it was enacted, the ICWA has been labeled the gold standard of

child welfare policy. This law consistently establishes best practices to protect Indigenous children and preserve the integrity of Indigenous cultures and identities.

Veronica currently serves as the Leadership Analyst for the Majority Leader in the New Mexico House of Representatives. In addition, she is the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), First Judicial District, a senior member of the National Foster Youth and Alumni Policy Council, a member of the National Child Welfare and Racial Equity (CWARE) Collaborative, and the Co-Chair of the Training Committee for the New Mexico Partners.

Veronica works tirelessly to give a voice to children and youth in Tribal families, and in New Mexico as a whole, that are impacted by the child welfare system. I would like to thank Veronica for working every day as a champion to instill hope in our future generations.

CELEBRATING JAMES BLANTON'S RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of James Blanton after his incredible 35 years in law enforcement.

James' journey started in 1989 as a Patrol Sergeant and Criminal Investigator for the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department, where he played an important role in the CAPCO Drug Task Force and solidified his reputation as a trusted law enforcement professional. His career brought him through a variety of roles, including Investigator for the Bastrop County Sheriff's Department, Deputy for the Comal County Sheriff's Department, and Deputy Constable for Precinct 2 in Hays County.

In each and every assignment, James' integrity and professionalism stood out among his colleagues—leading to a decorated career. Most notably, James has been awarded with the Master Peace Officer classification by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, recognizing his excellence in the field. But more than any award or career achievement, James is known for his character, and his respect for all individuals he encountered during his service. His unwavering commitment to serving his community marks truly a job well done, and a life well lived.

As James embarks on this new chapter of his life, it is my honor to recognize his remarkable service and dedication. I join the communities James has served in thanking him for his years of service. May God bless him and his family in the months and years ahead.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S CREDIT UNIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of credit unions in the competitive financial services marketplace. I especially appreciate the 263 credit unions and their 14 million members in my state of California.

The country's two storied trade associations, the Credit Union National Association and the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions are now merged into a new organization called "America's Credit Unions."

As a long-time credit union member and supporter, I appreciate the difference between credit unions and banks. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that are democratically controlled.

Every member, regardless of how much they have in savings or loans at a credit union, has an equal voice and vote in the governance of their credit union. There are no outside stockholders and no motive for the credit union's leadership to gouge the membership or provide poor member service.

In fact, credit unions consistently rank as the most popular form of depository institutions in America. So today I congratulate the unification of the two national credit union advocacy organizations and I expect great things to come from this newly-minted trade organization called "America's Credit Unions."

HONORING ANN MARIE MILLER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the career and accomplishments of Ann Marie Miller, a committed advocate for the arts, as she marks the closing of a 28-year career tenure that has shaped the art sector within New Jersey. Raised in East Brunswick, Ann Marie Miller was inspired by a strong high school arts program to become an art teacher. She graduated from Moore College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Science in arts education and taught visual art in both public and private settings.

Her 28-year journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural tapestry of New Jersey. I applaud Ann Marie's dedication and she has most definitely made a significant impact in the arts community.

I wish Ann Marie a peaceful retirement filled with joy, relaxation and cherished moments spent with loved ones.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JASON HOWARD, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 9, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason Howard, U.S. Army, Retired, has always been there to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and his efforts to make his beloved community a better place has made lasting and positive impacts on the region. He is a dedicated soldier, devoted public servant, and a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SGT Howard has extensive military experience including serving at Fort Cavazos and deployments in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked closely with our Kurdish allies and even met with future Iraqi President Jamal Talabani. His great work didn't go unnoticed as he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and among others.

After retiring from the Army, SGT Howard found his way back to Central Texas. Fueled by his passion for wanting to serve and lead others, SGT Howard serves as the Alderman for the Village of Salado while giving back to his community through numerous volunteer opportunities. He pours himself into making Salado a great place to work and call home, all while ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in the halls of government. His actions reflect the commitment of a devoted public servant. Once a soldier, always a soldier.

I commend SGT Howard's incredible contributions. This soldier-for-life's patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

IMPEACHING ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, extreme MAGA Republicans have engaged in a cynical and unserious attempt to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas. Their report to accompany H. Res. 863 resorted to sloppy misrepresentations in an attempt to justify this baseless, political stunt.

For example, the report misquoted Professor Frank Bowman, who testified before the Committee on Homeland Security on January 10, 2024. Professor Bowman testified that the Constitution did not support the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas over mere policy differences. The majority report, however, twists a passage of Professor Bowman's book on impeachment and uses it out of context to

suggest policy differences were grounds for impeachment.

Republicans also tried to misrepresent Professor Bowman's writings during the hearing, but they did not afford Professor Bowman an opportunity to explain his work. I submitted clarifying questions to Professor Bowman to supplement the hearing record, but the majority did not transmit those questions to Professor Bowman before the legislative report was filed in the House.

I include in the RECORD Professor Bowman's responses to my questions to make the professor's thoughts on impeachment over policy differences abundantly clear, since the Republican majority cannot be bothered to conduct a proper investigation with a complete record.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Frank O. Bowman III, University of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Floyd R. Gibson Missouri Endowed Professor Emeritus

(Academic titles provided for identification purposes only. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author, do not reflect those of any other person or entity, and are not endorsed by the University of Missouri.)

Question #1 from Mr. Thompson: Republicans have portrayed your previous academic writing as confirming their position that mere policy differences may be a ground for impeachment. In particular, that "displeasure with administration personnel and policy" may be sufficient to warrant impeachment. Is that correct?

I have never written that mere policy differences would be an adequate ground for impeachment. To the contrary, I join with the consensus view of constitutional scholars that ordinary policy differences are not a proper ground for impeachment. Indeed, this general principle is particularly applicable to a disagreement on policy between a presidential administration and a political party controlling only one house of Congress, and that by the very narrowest of margins.

The quotation to which the question alludes, one mentioned by Chairman Green and Rep. Bishop, occurs in the final paragraph of Chapter 4 of the second edition of my book, *High Crimes & Misdemeanors: A History of Impeachment for the Age of Trump* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2023). Both congressmen take the snippet of text they quote entirely out of context.

In the referenced section of Chapter 4, I discuss the only prior impeachment of a U.S. cabinet officer, President Ulysses Grant's Secretary of War, William Belknap. Prior to the quoted passage, I explained why no cabinet officer before or after Belknap has been impeached. The primary, and obvious, reason is that, as I wrote, any cabinet officer "whose behavior veered anywhere near an impeachable zone" was simply removed by the President. Which is what happened to Belknap. He took a bribe. When President Grant found out, he fired Belknap. But the House, controlled by Democrats for the first time since the Civil War, impeached the Secretary anyway as a means of politically damaging President Grant and by extension the Republicans in the upcoming 1876 election.

In the final paragraph of Chapter 4, I was, of course, not saying that mere "displeasure" with either a person or a policy is a constitutionally acceptable ground for impeachment. Rather, when a subordinate official has actually committed "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors"