

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3202, THE ASSAD REGIME ANTI-NORMALIZATION ACT OF 2023

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make clear why I voted in opposition to H.R. 3202—The Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023. By way of background, I have in my district the family of journalist Austin Tice, a former Marine Corps Captain who was captured in Syria in 2012. Since that time this family has been working with me, other members of Congress, multiple presidential administrations, and the Assad regime to secure the release of their son from captivity. Mr. Tice was abducted in Syria by an unknown group while reporting on the conflict as a freelance journalist. While the Assad regime has not claimed responsibility, the State Department has indicated that they believe Tice is being held by the regime or its allies.

My opposition to this legislation stems from the appeal of Austin's family. It is their understanding that saving the life of their son requires engagement with the Assad regime, exactly the kind of engagement that this legislation would prohibit. Let me be absolutely clear, Bashar al-Assad is an illegitimate war criminal who has brutalized the citizens of Syria and caused immeasurable harm. I believe our Nation should take all reasonable steps to stymie the goals of this regime, saving steps that will harm captives like Marine Corps Captain Austin Tice and other U.S. nationals held in Syria.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN MORROW DERBY, PRESIDENT OF MID-VALLEY PUBLICATIONS

**HON. JOHN S. DUARTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John Morrow Derby, a legend of Central Valley journalism who spent 60 years in the newspaper business.

Mr. Derby was the publisher of five local weekly newspapers, including the Merced County Times, the Atwater-Winton Times, the Hilmar Times, the Hughson Chronicle, and the Waterford News. He also served as president of the parent company Mid-Valley Publications.

Mr. Derby was known for coining the local slogan and business mantra, "The Power of Positive Press." He was an avid sailor, a member of the Lake Yosemite Sailing Association, and a longtime member of the Merced Sunrise Rotary Club.

John Derby first came to the Central Valley in the 1950s, studying at Fresno State and serving in the military toward the end of the

Korean conflict. In Korea, he picked up the journalism bug when he pursued an assignment to write about the operations of nine battalions from Seoul to Panmunjom where the peace talks were held.

Mr. Derby would eventually end up in Merced in 1961 after landing a reporting job at the Sun-Star. Over the course of six decades, he started multiple newspapers across the Central Valley. Mr. Derby once wrote, "Life without being a newspaper man is about the most boring thing in the world. The ink really is in my blood . . . I am here to stay and do what I have loved to do all my life—and that is to cover the lives of people in our community in a positive way."

Last Christmas, he wrote a deeply personal message to some of his top staffers: "You are full grown, and capable newspaper people. You have learned all the lessons it took me 60 years to learn and more. Now it is your duty to teach others the art of good honest journalism . . . May your ship of life sail true. May the ocean be wide and the currents be strong. May the winds blow hard. May you sail on, through the fury of those winds, and come out whole."

Throughout his six-decade career in journalism, John Morrow Derby exemplified "The Power of Positive Press" with his devotion to his community and his steadfast dedication to fairness, decency, and truth.

It was an honor to have known him, and upon his passing, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his family and express my deepest sympathies to his beloved Mid-Valley Publications team.

### HONORING NATHANIEL PALAIA

**HON. MIKE CAREY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor a bright young man from Ohio's 15th Congressional District.

Nathaniel Palaia, who attends South-Western Career Academy, was recently named a 2024 nominee for the U.S. Department of Education Presidential Scholars Program.

This is one of the highest honors in the nation for a high school student. Nathaniel is a dedicated student in the Career Technical Education field and serves as a member of Ohio State University's Eco-Car Electric Vehicle Challenge Team.

He also serves as student council president, president of the Engineering and Robotics Program, team captain of the Autonomous Vehicle Challenge, and has founded a peer mentoring program.

Nathaniel is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and has played varsity football for Grove City High School. He spends his summers volunteering with children with special needs.

He manages to excel at all of these things while earning above a 4.0 GPA and challenging himself in new ways academically.

Nathaniel represents the true Buckeye spirit of Ohio. Among his many accomplishments, it has been made clear that he is also a caring, compassionate, and intelligent individual.

He works hard for what he wants, and I have no doubt this will carry him far in his future career and in life.

I am proud to represent a congressional district where students like Nathaniel give their time and abilities to make it a better place for everyone. It is with great pride that I honor Nathaniel in this great recognition.

### RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY ARNADE

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Timothy Arnade for his distinguished career and significant contributions and accomplishments at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

After 41 years of federal service, including 29 years with FHWA, Mr. Arnade retired from FHWA on December 31, 2023. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Arnade began his career serving in the Peace Corps. Throughout his time with FHWA, Mr. Arnade served with distinction and operated at a consistently exceptional level. From July 7, 2008, through his retirement, Mr. Arnade served as Team Leader for Congressional Affairs in FHWA's Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs.

In this capacity, Mr. Arnade led a team that responded to all Congressional requests that came to FHWA. This included thousands of requests for technical assistance on individual pieces of legislation, spanning numerous committees and both authorization and appropriations law. Mr. Arnade also played a pivotal role in numerous Federal-aid Highway Program reauthorizations, including the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21); the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act); and most recently, the transformational Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

Mr. Arnade is a national expert in the areas of transportation safety, infrastructure, innovation, and accountability. All those who interacted with Mr. Arnade—Congressional and Committee staff, state and local governmental officials, FHWA and U.S. Department of Transportation leadership, and his peers in other modal administrations—readily acknowledge his dedication to the safety and improvement of our nation's infrastructure and the American people who use it. He brought a remarkable ability to communicate in a clear, effective, and timely manner with Member offices and Congressional Committees on complex transportation issues. This ability served him particularly well in times of infrastructure emergencies when responsiveness and communication are most critical.

• 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.

Providing quality customer service is an inherent part of the responsibilities of any congressional and intergovernmental affairs specialist. Mr. Arnade's superior work ethic and professional drive to deliver high-quality, on-time service to Congress and others was exemplary among his peers. Mr. Arnade is well known among his colleagues for his availability, responsiveness and dedication, routinely working beyond traditional work hours to respond to Congressional inquiries. These efforts contributed to the development of high-quality legislative solutions and reinforced FHWA's reputation for providing exceptional technical assistance to Capitol Hill.

Mr. Arnade exemplifies the highest standards of public service and embodies FHWA's spirit of professionalism and customer service. Over the years, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, other congressional committees, Members of Congress, and their staff have relied on Mr. Arnade's legislative and highway policy expertise, quick and helpful responses, and cheerful demeanor. Mr. Arnade's colleagues at USDOT and FHWA depended on his tireless efforts and his never-wilted spirit. Mr. Arnade will be missed at FHWA. However, his legacy will live on in the customers he served, the staff he mentored and trained, and the colleagues he influenced.

On behalf of the Committee, my colleagues, and our staff, I thank Mr. Arnade for his steadfast public service and his support for Congress and extend our well wishes to Mr. Arnade on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BOB WORTH

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate outgoing Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) President Bob Worth.

Bob has served more than two decades with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association in various roles: beginning as a volunteer, treasurer, secretary and lastly as president. MSGA is our nation's longest-running state soybean association, and Bob is the only Minnesota farmer to have served multiple, two-year terms as president. Bob also has worked on his father's corn and soybean farm in southwest Minnesota for more than 50 years with his wife Gail, their son Jon and Jon's family.

I'm thankful for our strong working relationship during his time with MSGA. During his tenure, Bob has become a national spokesperson for rural mental health awareness; in this role, he's bravely shared his story and encouraged his fellow rural residents to rally around each other. Bob is also a strong advocate and leader in expanding and protecting renewable biofuels. Thanks to the hard work from leaders like Bob, Minnesota became the first state to require biodiesel in our diesel fuel blends when Bob first served as MSGA president.

In Congress, I am proud to be a co-chair of the bipartisan House Biofuels Caucus and a strong advocate for renewable biofuels. In par-

ticular, I have urged the FDA to consider how biofuels can address climate change and improve emissions factors. Homegrown biofuels are tools we have at our fingertips right now to help address climate change, thanks to leaders like Bob.

I'm grateful for our partnership, and I wish Bob and his family the best in his next chapter.

COMMEMORATING THE SWEARING-IN OF JILL DUTTON

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the swearing-in of Jill Dutton as State Representative for Texas' 2nd House District. Mrs. Dutton is a strong conservative, entrepreneur, and devoted to the people of Van Zandt County. I am confident she will be a determined and effective representative for her constituents.

Mrs. Dutton embodies Texas' highest values. She is a former school board member with Van ISD where she fought for parents and students. When a tornado struck her town, she worked to rebuild the schools and develop a new Career & Technology Center that now prepares students for careers after graduation. She has dedicated herself to serving the people of Van Zandt County and I look forward to what she will accomplish for the people of Texas.

I am proud to represent Van Zandt County and am confident that she will diligently serve them in the Texas Legislature. I wish her and her family the very best as she begins her term.

HONORING DR. SANDRA ORTEGA

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service and incredible accomplishments of Dr. Sandra Ortega, a United States Air Force Veteran and retired Chief Master Sergeant. She was the first African-American woman to join the Air Force in 1958.

Under the direct commission of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Dr. Ortega dedicated her military career and life after serving to improving the lives of countless military families and communities. It was in the Air Force where she challenged and broke down racial and gender stereotypes and barriers. During her service, Dr. Ortega worked as the Chief of Social Actions where she implemented programs to help servicemembers and their families remain as constructive members of their military community and educate them on drug and alcohol addiction prevention. Her service has had ripple effects across New Jersey and the Nation.

Not only did Dr. Ortega dedicate her life to serving our country, she has worked to improve the lives of communities around the world. She worked to improve education and

health infrastructures across Africa, rebuild and stabilize communities in the former Soviet Union after its dissolution, and other emergency management and relief efforts in disaster-stricken communities.

Dr. Ortega earned a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Morgan State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from La Salle University. Today, she spreads her love for, and the importance of, education through her role as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The scope of Dr. Ortega's work has touched so many lives, including some in my home of Burlington County. A resident of Marlton, she has been elected three times as the Democratic Committeewoman representing Evesham Township, New Jersey in the Burlington County Democratic Committee.

Dr. Ortega not only excelled at serving her country and community, but she is a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was married to her late husband, Julio Ortega, for over 60 years and has four daughters and nine grandchildren.

While many community members locally know Dr. Sandra Ortega and her positive impact in our community, today I'm proud to honor her tenure as a public servant and veteran of the United States Air Force. We are lucky to have her inspiration in our community.

BOYLE COUNTY FOOTBALL—STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and recognize the Boyle County Rebels, a football powerhouse, in the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky upon their recent winning of the state championship.

I am honored to recognize the Boyle County Rebels on their fourth consecutive state championship. The hours of hard work that this team puts in both on and off the field does not go unnoticed as they ended their undefeated season as champions.

I want to congratulate all the players, staff, faculty, and the entire community of Boyle County on this great achievement. This football program has had historic success, and I have no doubt they will continue their winning traditions in the future.

I join with the community of Boyle County in celebrating the Rebels football team in their fourth consecutive 4A state championship.

HONORING MSU MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH TOM IZZO FOR HIS 700 WINS

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a legendary member of the Michigan State University community: head coach of the men's basketball team, Tom Izzo. Now in his