

all the best in his many more years serving in the Attica Fire Department.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act. Mr. Chair, this bill does not in fact expand access to capital. It expands access to fraud.

Historically, U.S. capital markets have been successful because of the transparency, accountability, and oversight required by regulations. Investors both here and abroad have confidence in the investments they make because they know companies are required to be transparent and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is obligated to perform oversight. However, large companies are now using exemptions designed for small businesses. This has resulted in an expansion of the private securities market, which is riskier than the public securities market because there are fewer and, in some cases, no disclosures required. H.R. 2799 would exacerbate these problems by allowing large companies to evade disclosure requirements and SEC oversight. The bill also reduces incentives for companies to go public through an initial public offering (IPO) which will deprive investors, including working families and retirees, of transparent investment opportunities.

Everyday Americans invest their hard-earned money to save for their education, travel, buying a home, and retirement. H.R. 2799 threatens the existing regulations that protect everyday Americans from risky investments that would put their livelihoods in jeopardy. Under current regulation, financial professionals or companies are required to only sell private securities to investors who have access to reliable information, have a demonstrated ability to understand the risks, and have the financial wherewithal to absorb potentially severe investment losses. H.R. 2799 removes these safeguards, allowing financial middlemen to peddle risky private securities to unsuspecting, hard-working Americans. H.R. 2799 sets everyday American investors up to fail.

H.R. 2799 also includes anti-worker provisions that will harm gig-workers like rideshare drivers, food delivery providers, and on-demand caregivers. The State of Minnesota has been working hard to prevent the misclassification of gig-workers as independent contractors and provide stronger protections for these workers. H.R. 2799 would preempt these efforts in Minnesota and around the country by prohibiting the classification of gig-workers as employees. This provision would cut off gig-workers' access to essential state-based rights and benefits like a minimum wage, unemployment insurance, overtime pay, health benefits, and workers compensation.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 2799 eliminates crucial investor protections which would expose the investments of American families and seniors to financial fraud. I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

CELEBRATING THE PRESERVA- TION AND PERPETUATION OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, Hawaii's constitution recognizes two official languages: English and Hawaiian. Each February, we celebrate Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, or Hawaiian Language Month. It's time for us to honor and promote the use of Hawaiian language, and to achieve this, we must create opportunities and environments where it can be celebrated and utilized. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is more than a language, it is a connection to a history and a culture that must never be forgotten. That is why it was so important to me to speak it today on the House floor. Long live the Hawaiian language.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the translation in the Hawaiian language:

Aloha e ka luna h'omalu,
Ke hōia'i'o nei ko Hawai'i kumukānāwai i nā 'ōlelo kūhelu 'elua: ka 'Ōlelo Pelekānia me ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. I kēlā me kēia Pepeluāli, e ho'omaika'i mākou i ka Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. 'Ōkēia ka manawa kūpono a kākou e ho'ohanohano a e paipai aku i ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. I mea e ho'okō ai i ia hana, he ko'iko'i nō ho'i ka 'ōlelo a ho'olaule'a mau 'ia o ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i ma nā wahi like 'ole, ma nā 'ano pō'aiapili like 'ole, a ma nā 'ano hanana like 'ole o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i, 'a'ole ia he 'ōlelo wale no. 'O ia nō he pilina i nā mo'olelo me ka mo'omeheu, 'o ia nō ho'i kahi mea e pōina 'ole ai. 'O ia ke kumu no ka'u 'ōlelo 'ana i kēia lā ma ka papahale o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. E ola ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

HONORING THE 130TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE FOUNDING OF TEXAS COLLEGE

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas College in Tyler, Texas commemorating its 130th anniversary.

Founded in 1894, Texas College was formed by ministers of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to educate African-American students excluded from the university system of Texas at the time.

Since its eventual charter in 1907, Texas College has aimed to form the next generation in theology, music, teaching and commercial training as well as agricultural and mechanical sciences.

Today, Texas College inspires intellectual, spiritual, moral, and social development, empowering graduates to engage in life-long learning, leadership, and service. For generations, the college has formed upright, intelligent citizens who honor God through their knowledge, work, and families.

I am proud to see the many accomplishments that Texas College has made since its inception. I am equally grateful to have Texas

College as an integral part of the Tyler community and broader East Texas region.

I look forward to another 130 years of success from the faculty and staff at Texas College as they celebrate their anniversary this month.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVER- SARY OF INDIUM CORPORATION

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Indium Corporation as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary on March 13 of this year.

Founded in 1934 by Dr. William S. Murray, Indium Corporation first operated from his garage at 805 Watson Place in Utica, New York. Dr. Murray was instrumental in identifying and enabling the first commercially viable applications for indium metal.

Today, Indium Corporation is a premier materials refiner, smelter, manufacturer and supplier to the global electronics, semiconductor, thin-film, and thermal management markets. With five facilities in New York's 22nd Congressional District and several located internationally, Indium Corporation is a global leader in materials science and electronics assembly solutions. Indium's innovative products can be found in many common consumer electronics and high-reliability technologies such as electric vehicles, mobile devices, life-saving medical devices, and emerging 5G technology.

Beyond Indium Corporation's role as a manufacturer, the company bolsters local educational resources through STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) outreach partnerships with schools, universities, and community organizations, impacting the lives of more than 5,000 students each year. Indium's award-winning college internship program, inaugurated in 2012, has led to careers in STEM fields for over 100 students.

In addition, Indium Corporation initiated a pioneering apprenticeship program, aiding employees who are seeking to learn new skills and pursue higher education and assisting military veterans with making successful transitions to private sector careers. The company recently celebrated its first graduates.

Indium is committed to giving back to the community through the support of many charitable and quality-of-life organizations including the American Red Cross, Stuff the Bus, ICAN, United Way, Support Our Vets, and the American Heart Association. The company and its leaders have been honored by the Oneida County History Center, YWCA, MACNY, Mohawk Valley Alliance of Chambers of Commerce, and the Genesis Group.

On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Indium Corporation on the occasion of its 90th Anniversary. I wish them continued success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE UNION COUNTY WRESTLING TEAM

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Union County High School wrestling team for achieving their 15th state championship and 3 individual state champion titles.

The Union County wrestling team has been the gold standard for Kentucky wrestling for nearly two decades and has created a dynasty of success. In the past 11 seasons, they have achieved 9 state titles.

Their first state championship title was in 1976 and they have continued their winning traditions since. I am honored to stand with the community of Union County to celebrate another state wrestling championship.

I am proud to recognize this tremendous achievement by the Union County wrestling team as they add another trophy to their case.

RECOGNIZING DEMETRIUS WEST, INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC ARTIST AND COMMUNITY LEADER, AND THE JESUS PROMOTERS GOSPEL CHOIR

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters Gospel Choir on their 20th anniversary.

Demetrius was influenced by his great-grandmother and discovered his passion for gospel music at an early age. As an internationally-renowned recording artist, he has shared the stage with notable Gospel and Christian artists such as Marvin Sapp, Byron Cage, Kirk Franklin, and Chris Tomlin. His work made the Billboard Music Charts several times and has held several No. 1 hits on Gospel airplay radio charts. In 2015, Demetrius released the album "Jesus Promoter" in 2015 featuring award-winning Earnest Pugh and 40-voice choir, The Jesus Promoters.

An Indianapolis native, Demetrius has a deep-rooted sense of community, exemplified by his support to the Resource Hub Foundation, Westside Baptist Church, and other local organizations aiding families in need. He is additionally involved in local politics and elections, and as Minister of Music and Arts for the Westside Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Michael O. Bryant. He has assisted many choirs, groups, soloists, and musicians with his knowledge and love of music by conducting workshops and seminars nationwide to help other ministries perfect their talents.

Music helps us translate joy, sorrow, and faith. Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters is a voice that resonates across generations and will continue to play a role in the cultural fabric of our community.

Demetrius is married to the lovely Shalette West, and they have one beautiful daughter, Zanolbia Denise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Demetrius West and The Jesus Promoters Gospel Choir on their 20-year celebration.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT WIRTH

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Robert "Bob" Wirth.

Bob was born on October 2, 1932, and grew up in Shiocton before his family moved to their family farm in Hortonville. Beginning in high school, Bob was involved in many extra-curricular activities such as football and basketball. Bob demonstrated incredible leadership and talent resulting in him being named team captain for both football and basketball. Following high school, Bob was drafted into the Army and served at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. I commend Bob for his service and dedication to the United States.

On March 2, 1957, Bob married the love of his life, Marlene Rollmann. Throughout their life together, they enjoyed years of happiness and welcomed five children: Barb, Kelli, John, Mark, and Ricky. Bob was so proud of each of these children and was thrilled as their family grew. Family was always of utmost importance to Bob, and he was blessed to have 15 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

When Bob wasn't spending time with his growing family, he enjoyed many hobbies. Bob cherished each opportunity to join family and friends exploring the outdoors. He especially loved their annual deer hunts and snowmobiling trips. Bob's kindness and friendship will be missed by many that were blessed to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Wirth and thank him for his years of service and dedication to the United States. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his wife of 67 years, Marlene, and his entire family during this difficult time.

EULOGY FOR RAYMOND NOEL RAMSEY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 8, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the eulogy of a great American, Raymond Noel Ramsey, who epitomized what a citizen who gives back to his community, state, and Nation is all about.

On behalf of Peg, Noele, Kelly, Melanie, and the entire Ramsey family, thank you for being here for Ray. How about that obituary and the prayer card! Ever the fashion statement, wasn't he, with those bright pastels and those shirts, that were a reflection of his personality. Yesterday was quite an afternoon and quite a tribute. It was good to see old East Hartford on display—the outpour of love and respect for a man who lived it.

Now we know he had a great reception committee up there with Billy Mud, Fred Kurtz, Fred Leone, and Jimmy Deleo singing—I'm sure—as he entered the gates of Heaven. As Ray would often remind the faint of heart, life is not a dress rehearsal. He embodied both the right attitude and the appetite for a life well lived.

Talking with several of you at the wake, and over the past few days, about stories of

Ray and what he would want this service to be—Father, I have to start with a disclaimer here—Craig Jordan, Kevin Brown, and numerous others want to be clear that the funniest Rammer stories are not suitable for church or in mixed company. I think it's safe to say he was a guy's guy.

It was abundantly clear from all, that he would want an upbeat sendoff on his next journey. First and foremost, and most of all, the shared empathy, respect, and love for Peg and his three angels, Noele, Kelly and Melanie. At the wake it was hard viewing and watching them hold back the tears, the grieving and the mourning and with each person. A memory of a man whose actions were bigger than life, knowing even in this difficult moment, what Ray would want is to celebrate his journey and the relationships he shared with all of you. I know I'm stating the obvious, as so many of you have spoken of his lifelong love and relationship with Peg. Many of you have attested that they were the quintessential couple. They simply go together well, Ray and Peg. Peg and Ray. No gathering was complete without them—and you talk about opposites! Yet there was a greater bond that held them together, certainly Noele, Kelly, and Melanie, but it was their great faith and devotion to each other that always resonated.

Many of you said Ray was always there for you, no matter how trivial or important. How many of you can recall being with Ray into the wee hours of the morning, partaking in the elixirs of life and thinking—as I have—there's no way after this that he gets up and takes Peg to mass in the morning—only to be astonished again by him being there for her and their faith, dependable and rock solid. That's love and devotion. That's Ray and Peg.

Comradery is a great term about a gathering of friends, and as Nick Olivia pointed out, with Ray, those gatherings were always punctuated by having fun and enjoying one another's company, whether at the Hose Club, the Dirty Dozen, the F&L Dinners, or innumerable political events, Ray and a good time were synonymous. He was always a doer, never a complainer and put everyone else first. His last trip to Ireland is an epic example. A trip he had planned for some time with Nick and Vita, Bruce and Wendy, and he and Peg. As Bruce recalls, weeks before, he had terrible and severe back pain and was not feeling well, but would not let his health stand in the way of a great trip with friends. While I'm sure the Guinness helped, everyone knew he was in pain, but he did it because of who he was and the people he cared about. That's Ray.

As my brother Danny says, having worked with Ray on building the house—and you heard Father say how he did it with his own hands—Ray had many skills, among his specialties was electrical, with a minor in procurement. If we needed hardware: nuts, bolts, nails, screws, blades, zip ties, gloves, paint, or whatever, Ray always managed to come up with a donor and keep us going. My brother went on to describe his essence, saying what I believe everyone in this room agrees with. He was the most dependable friend you could have. First one on the site, and there till the end, and the job was done. He had a broad base knowledge and a hands-on versatility of all of the trades. Nothing that he couldn't figure out with an occasional break for a Marlboro or two. His heart was bigger than himself, it's as if he was made to help everyone else. He was practical and direct and always with an informed view.

Now, most here assembled know Ray was the master of the power nap. From which virtually in any environment he could fall into a deep sleep, and awake and rally.