

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays and cancellations from my home state of Louisiana, I was unable to be in attendance for votes on the evening of March 11, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79 and NAY on Roll Call No. 80.

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER'S INDUCTION TO THE EASTERN IDAHO AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter on his induction into the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame. His exemplary contributions to the agricultural community have left an indelible mark, inspired generations, and shaped the landscape of our region. He is joining a long line of dedicated men and women who have shaped Idaho agriculture for generations to come.

Governor Otter has been a strong and effective advocate for Idaho agriculture and agribusiness throughout his career in public service including his time as Idaho's longest serving Lieutenant Governor, two terms in the Idaho House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives, and as Idaho 32nd Governor. His dedication, expertise, and passion for agriculture have not only propelled his own success but have also enriched the lives of the residents of Idaho. This recognition is a testament to his outstanding achievements and enduring commitment to the advancement of Eastern Idaho's agricultural legacy.

From Governor Otter's humble beginnings on a small farm in Caldwell to his service in the Idaho Army National Guard and his impressive tenure in the agribusiness sector, he has exemplified hard work, integrity, and a deep commitment to the well-being of Idaho and its residents. His various roles at the Simplot Company and various appointments to prestigious committees and advisory boards are a testament to his expertise and influence in the industry.

Agriculture is a core component of Idaho's economy. With Governor Otter's appointment by President Ronald Reagan to the Task Force on International Private Enterprise, the World Bank's Agriculture Advisory Committee, and the Center for International Private Enterprise has helped many Idaho producers get Idaho's many commodities exported throughout the world. Perhaps more important than

the economy is the culture of friendliness, care, and concern for neighbors that he helps create. For myself, his friendship over the years is truly invaluable, and I am deeply honored to call him my friend.

I thank Governor Otter for serving Idaho through his leadership roles and for his time spent in the agribusiness sector. Because of the positions that he has held, he understands just how important agriculture is to the sustainability of the state. The experience that he has gained over the years is invaluable to Idaho agriculture and agribusiness. Congratulations to Governor Otter on his induction into the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING OLIVER TOSTEVIN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of attending Oliver Tostevin's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Oliver has been involved in the Eagle Scouts since the fifth grade when he joined as a cub scout. Over the years, he has been very involved in his troop by contributing countless hours to community service, participating in many outdoor adventures, and leading his fellow scouts on their path to Eagle Scout. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, Oliver decided to renovate his local baseball field. His project involved putting together new bleachers, painting the dugouts, and cleaning out any trash from the area. Thanks to him and his efforts, our South Jersey community has a beautiful baseball field for everyone to enjoy. I am honored to congratulate this young man on his remarkable achievements, and I wish him all the best. God Bless Oliver and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, my vote card was not working on the first vote on March 11, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79.

CELEBRATING GABRIEL BURNS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this February, we gathered to celebrate Gabriel Burns, a bright young man who worked his way up to

the rank of Eagle Scout. To achieve this rank, Gabriel undertook an Eagle Scout Project involving the renovation of his local youth baseball field. This long process involved getting permission from the City of Millville, meeting with the president of the local baseball association, and analyzing the state of the fields. Since he joined years ago, Gabriel has really enjoyed his time with the Scouts, and he is grateful for all the opportunities they have given him. He will always cherish making memories at Camp Roosevelt, hanging out with his friends, and earning merit badges. This young man has a bright future ahead of him and I can't wait to see what he accomplishes. God Bless Gabriel and God Bless the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JESS LAIRD

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jess Laird, a banker and community servant, who will be retiring from 36 years of service to the First State Bank of Athens on March 12. Jess passionately dedicated himself to his community for decades, consistently putting the needs of his neighbors, friends, and family before his own.

During his 36 years at First State Bank, Mr. Laird advanced from Loan Officer to President and CEO. In addition to his roles at the bank, he served in leadership roles at the Athens Rotary Club, as President of the Athens Economic Development Corporation, in the Athens Chamber of Commerce, and on the UT Health Athens Board of Managers. In his free time, Mr. Laird was involved with the Athens Teenage Baseball Association where he coached as his sons played baseball.

As he steps down from his duties, I wish him, his wife, two sons, and three granddaughters all the best. I am proud to represent the city of Athens, which owes a great deal to Jess Laird, and I applaud him for his lifelong dedication to his family, career, and Athens, Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend votes last night. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

● 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREA SALINAS

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the recorded vote on Roll Call No. 58. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58.

CELEBRATING FLANAGAN'S

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of sharing the inspiring story of Tommy Flanagan and his family. In 1995, Tommy Flanagan bought a bar in Manhattan called Flanagan's at 119 Fulton St. Despite their efforts, the aftermath of 9/11 impacted their business beyond repair, ultimately leading to its closure in 2004. Seeking a fresh start, Tommy, along with his wife Eve and their children, Tommy Jr. and Shannon, made the decision to relocate to South Jersey in 2018. It was here that they discovered the old Buck Tavern, a place that they knew would be their next adventure. This month, I had the honor of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated and refurbished Flanagan's, a bar that I know will quickly become a cornerstone of the community. Tommy and his family have embraced their new community wholeheartedly and are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead in South Jersey. As they embark on this new chapter, I want to extend my support and well wishes to the Flanagan family. I thank Tommy and Eve for choosing South Jersey as their home. May their new beginnings be filled with prosperity and happiness. God Bless Tommy and Eve and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2024, I missed votes in the House in order to attend funeral services for a family member. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 73, Rep. Houlahan Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 74 Rep. Tlaib Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 75, Rep. Lynch Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 76, Ranking Member Waters Amendment; YEA on Roll Call No. 77, Democratic Motion to Re-commit, and NAY on Roll Call No. 78, H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CELIA GOULD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincerest congratulations and recognition

to Celia Gould, for her exemplary service and dedication as the Director of Idaho State Department of Agriculture. During Celia's tenure, she enhanced Idaho's economy via the ag sector, and she significantly contributed to the well-being of our communities.

Celia Gould was appointed Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2007 by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, and she was the first female to hold the position in Idaho. She is the owner/operator of a fourth generation ranching and farming Operation, G+ Ranches of Buhl, Idaho and holds a master's degree in public administration from Boise State University. Celia spent 16 years in the Idaho House of Representatives, where she served on the Agricultural Affairs, Education, and Revenue and Taxations Committee, she also served as the Chairwoman of Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee. Her work has not only made a significant impact on the state's economy but has paved the way for other women to assume leadership roles in Idaho politics.

Celia's leadership has been instrumental in implementing innovative agricultural practices, promoting sustainable development, and fostering an environment where farmers and agribusinesses can thrive. Under her guidance, Idaho has seen remarkable growth in agricultural productivity and efficiency, ensuring that our state remains a leading contributor to the Nation's food supply.

One thing is for sure, if there was a problem in the ag industry—you could count on Celia to not only dedicate the appropriate resources to address the situation, but you could count on Celia to be there to see it through. She is Idaho Ag.

Her commitment to collaboration and partnership with local farmers, research institutions, and government agencies has been pivotal in addressing the challenges facing our agricultural community. Her ability to navigate complex issues and bring together diverse stakeholders towards a common goal is a testament to her exceptional leadership and vision. Idaho Ag is better because of Celia.

I thank Celia for her continued service and dedication to the State of Idaho. I am truly fortunate to be able to call her a lifelong friend, and I look forward to her future endeavors. Her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment serve as an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to Celia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON STATE TROOPER CHRISTOPHER GADD

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Washington State Trooper Christopher Gadd, who tragically died while on duty on March 2, 2004. He was taken far too soon.

Trooper Gadd was born in Pasco, Washington and attended Kentlake High School in Kent, Washington. He continued his education at Green River College and Tacoma Community College, where he earned his Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) certification. In September of 2021, Trooper Gadd began his

career with the Washington State Patrol, as a cadet in Grandview, Washington. Gadd graduated with WSP's 116th Trooper Basic Training class in 2022. He earned two best-in-class awards among his class of 44: the Top Academic Award and the Top Collision Investigation Award.

For the Gadd family, law enforcement and public service is a tradition. Chris's father is a WSP Trooper, and his sister serves with the Texas Highway Patrol. WSP Chief John R. Batiste said Chris knew all too well the risks of public service but still offered that service with unquestioned valor and, now, unfathomable sacrifice.

Trooper Gadd resided in Snohomish County and was known as a loving husband, devoted father, caring brother, beloved son, and committed friend. He is survived by his wife Camryn, 2-year-old daughter Kaelyn, parents, and sister. Our community will miss him dearly, and I am forever grateful for his commitment to service.

CELEBRATING COSTA MARINE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the remarkable journey of Costa Marine Canvas and Enclosures, a true American success story, founded by Joe and Donna Costa in 1971. Starting with humble beginnings in the basement of their apartment, Costa Marine has grown into a leading fabricator of custom yacht enclosures, upholstery, covers, and interiors. Over the years, Costa Marine's commitment to excellence has earned them exclusive partnerships with renowned boatbuilders like Viking Yachts and Ocean Yachts. Despite the passing of Joe in 2011, Donna continues to play a vital role in the company's operations alongside the second-generation leadership of Chris Costa, Jennifer Smith, and Kevin Jelinski. I had the privilege of touring their facility this February, and I can attest to the impressive operation of Costa Marine Canvas and Enclosures. From their dedication to quality craftsmanship to their focus on community and employees, Costa Marine exemplifies the very best. Their story serves as an inspiration to us all. I thank Costa Marine for their outstanding contributions and for representing the best of American entrepreneurship. God Bless Costa Marine and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and NAY on Roll Call No. 80.