

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALYSSA QUINN FOR TWO YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alyssa Quinn for her two years of invaluable service to my office and the constituents in Washington's 1st Congressional District. Alyssa joined my office as an intern in January 2022 and then became our Legislative Correspondent in July 2022. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our constituents have received timely and thoughtful responses to their correspondence with my office. Alyssa is a very strong and reliable writer who excels at communicating complex and sensitive issues. She has also run our internship program in the D.C. office and has been a dedicated mentor to all those she has managed, helping countless interns find full-time employment. Alyssa has brought to our office the spirit of the Pacific Northwest and a deep love for all things Washington. Her enthusiasm for farm animals, dairy, and staying hydrated has been infectious to all in our office. Alyssa has been an incredible staffer and a wonderful friend to all in the office, and we will sorely miss her positive spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alyssa Quinn and wishing her the best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GARY WARD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is not just one of our Nation's elite military institutions of higher learning, it is one of our national treasures. West Point counts many of our Nation's heroes, including generals, astronauts, and Presidents, as alumni.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I've had the privilege to nominate many of my constituents to our Nation's military academies. Today I honor one of them, Thomas Gary Ward, for being chosen as the President of his Senior Class at West Point.

Thomas grew up in Jasper, Alabama where he graduated from Jasper High School. After first attending the University of Mississippi, Thomas decided that he wanted to attend West Point. I nominated him in 2019 and he was accepted.

During his time at West Point, Thomas has had the opportunity to pursue his passions in public policy, problem-solving, and leadership. In addition to serving as the President of the Class of 2024, he is also a leader on West Point's premier military skills team.

Thomas works with government leaders to encourage and inspire young adults to help solve community issues. He also helps lead various outreach programs that teach high school and college students about the importance of character and ethics in leadership.

Thomas is on schedule to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in political science and then be commissioned as an Infantry Officer. His first assignment will be with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The motto of the 4th Division is "Steadfast and Loyal"—a calling and a creed to those who serve in this division, a combat-ready expeditionary force. From what I know of Thomas, "steadfast and loyal" seems a fitting motto for his life as well as his Division.

Thomas is the son of Caroline Ivey and Tom Ward and grandson of Gary and Betty Ward and Elizabeth Rodgers.

I want to congratulate Thomas on his many achievements. Not only is he serving our Nation as a member of our armed forces, but he is also educating a new generation of Americans about how to be the best versions of themselves so they too can serve their communities and our Nation. We all wish Thomas the best from a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING OPAL JUBA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding artistry of Salida High School's Opal Juba and congratulate her on winning the Regional Gold Key Award.

The Regional Gold Key Award is a part of the National Art Education Association's Scholastic Awards competition, and Opal's entry was selected as one of the most accomplished pieces out of 20,000 submissions. The regional award is given to the top 5 percent of entries and awarded to artwork which demonstrates the "highest level of achievement in originality, personal voice and technical skill." Opal's piece, entitled "Jackson", was created using the technique of "stippling," or small dots, to recreate a photo with intricate shading and depth. It was showcased at the Denver Art Museum and now goes on to the national competition. Opal plans to attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, focusing on illustrating and minoring in art education.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Opal Juba for receiving a Gold Key Award. We wish her the best of luck in her future artistic endeavors.

HONORING THE TOWN OF NEWFANE BICENTENNIAL

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Town of Newfane, New York for its bicentennial anniversary.

It was on a spring day in April of 1824 in the Town of Newfane in Niagara County, New York that the vision of businessmen and political leaders came to fruition. At the residence of Mr. James Van Horn the town held its first meeting where they determined the outline of its boundaries, administrative officers and the honor of giving it the name 'Newfane'. Although the origin of the name of the Town of Newfane is a matter not yet settled, it is generally understood by the citizens of Niagara that it was suggested to commemorate the beauty of this town's prospect and likeness to the Town of Fane in Vermont.

In celebrating Newfane's legacy, it is important to recognize the varied economic life that supported its growth during the previous two centuries. The viability of Newfane's early commerce depended in large part on the creation of the Erie Canal and the impact of its diverted waters. On Main Street a few decades later, it boasted bustling mills, taverns, and clothing shops, which continued with a general store and thriving lumber yard. Due to the robust economic activity in Newfane, the community strengthened and saw the emergence of schools, a diverse number of churches opened their doors, and more public buildings emerged consistent with main street, small-town America.

Today, Newfane is known and loved for its rural landscapes and scenic shores of Lake Ontario. Its nature trails and picturesque sunsets over Lake Ontario attract visitors from all over the country. The town is home to a robust, generational farming community with apple orchards, livestock, horticulture, wineries, and commercial crop farms that provide essential goods to residents and surrounding communities. Located on Lake Ontario, the town offers several miles of scenic coastline. Residents enjoy the town's numerous parks and beaches, as well as Olcott Harbor which serves as a safe harbor to boaters and home to marinas and fishermen on the lake.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Town of Newfane for its thriving sport fishing industry. Men and women come from all directions to enjoy the town's world class fisheries for salmon and trout. The Town of Newfane is proud to be a key contributor to Niagara County's \$30 million a year sport fishing industry.

I applaud the Town of Newfane for their commitment to preserving 200 years of history. Throughout the past 200 years, Newfane has proven that America's heartland has never lost its spirit. Sincerest congratulations once

• 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.

again to the Town of Newfane on their bicentennial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 87 and YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

HONORING THE O'NEAL SCHOOL ON WINNING THEIR FIRST GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TITLE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the O'Neal School's varsity girls basketball team on winning their first ever state basketball title.

Last month, for the first time in school history, the women of the O'Neal School won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) 2A basketball state championship. The Falcons won this year's championship by a final score of 48–32 over Wayne County Day School. This victory caps off what was an incredible year for the Falcons, who finished the season with a 30–1 record. This is a momentous and well-deserved achievement.

The coaches and players of the O'Neal School's girls basketball team have brought great pride to both their school and the whole of Moore County. I wish them all the best and hope to see them continue their great success next season. Go Falcons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the coaches and athletes of the O'Neal School on their victory in this season's NCISAA 2A basketball state championship.

RECOGNIZING SUSIE BELL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susie Bell of Cañon City for being inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame.

Susie was a pillar in Fremont County and spent decades improving the community before her passing in November of 2023. Her many philanthropic contributions and hours of volunteer work continue to have a transformative impact on students and so many others in Fremont County.

Susie was committed to advancing education—she built several scholarships for current and future learners, supported early childhood development programs, and donated and volunteered for many events to promote the arts. Her tireless work and dedication to Fremont County did not go unnoticed. She will

be missed, but her contributions will last for generations.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Susie Bell for being inducted into Fremont Hall of Fame and thank her for her contribution and commitment to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN KELLEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished career and public service of Police Chief John Kelley from the town of Vernon, Connecticut that is drawing to an honorable end on March 22, 2024. Chief Kelley's devotion to duty in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Vernon Police Department focused on defending our nation and ensuring public safety has always been about caring for and serving others. As a resident of Vernon for over forty years, I have had the privilege to personally witness the positive impact he has had on our town, which is deep and meaningful.

A Vernon native, Chief Kelly grew up in a family whose patriarch Robert Kelley served in town fire service for 42 years, 21 of which as Fire Chief. I also knew Bob Kelley and worked with him on fire department issues during my time as town attorney and state representative. Bob was a true gentleman who led his department by example, a trait that his son followed, with great success. John Kelley attended Vernon schools and graduated from Rockville High School. After high school, he then enrolled at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where he studied Criminal Justice and Sociology, which obviously signaled the direction he would follow later in life. After graduation his journey of public service began. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he honorably served for 6 years.

Chief Kelley began his career in public safety when he was hired by his hometown police department on January 29, 1996. His diligent work resulted in a cascade of training awards and frequent promotions. He excelled in all aspects of his work. For example, he received the Samuel J. Luciano award for graduating first in his class and the TFC Allan J. Tuskowski award for overall excellence in training. In his career he took on a vast expanse of roles, including serving as a Patrol Division, a K–9 handler, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain of the Vernon Police Department, all before 2015. Additionally, he graduated from the FBI National Academy (273rd session) and the Command Training Series, Executive Development program at Roger Williams University.

Given the respect and high regard he earned through the ranks of the Police department, he was the ideal candidate for Chief of Police upon the retirement of his predecessor, Chief James Kenny. As Chief, Kelley made major contributions to the improvement of the Police Department. He oversaw the implementation of technological advancements, the upgrade of body and dash cameras, upgraded duty handguns and rifles, formed a peer sup-

port team, and played a key role in the POSTC accreditation assessment. He was so proactive that the POSTC accreditation was accomplished over two years ahead of schedule. Chief Kelley uniquely understands the value of teamwork in public service. Most recently in his tenure, Chief Kelley implemented hundreds of thousands of COVID–19 Federal American Rescue Plan dollars in Vernon PD projects, increasing the town's emergency response capability and upgrading its technology.

Not only did Chief Kelley dedicate immense portions of his time and effort to helping his town, but he also equipped these individuals with the tools and resources to help themselves in times of need. As Kelley put it himself, "The Vernon Police Department is committed to excellence and the delivery of professional police services while providing its members with the equipment and training needed to successfully complete the mission". He educated many community members and in turn increased their self-sufficiency in moments of need. The impact of Chief Kelley's career will live on for many years after his departure. His legacy will instill a confident and prepared police force that will carry out its mission to foster a safe community that he and his family supported throughout many decades.

Although John Kelley is retiring from his role as Police Chief on March 22, 2024, his involvement in the region will continue as he transitions to working as an armed school security officer in Ellington Public Schools on March 25. Not one to be idle, Mr. Kelley has allotted himself a mere three days of rest between retirement and the return to work. From his experience and education, one can easily see Chief Kelley's promising future as a school security officer. His pleasant demeanor and commitment to the wellbeing of other Vernon residents will surely inspire the future generations of Americans to follow in his footsteps. It will be an honor to continue to serve alongside John Kelley in his new role, protecting and educating Northeastern Connecticut students who benefit from his example of how to treat other individuals with respect and achieve academic success.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and immortalize the career and accomplishments of John Kelley. From the U.S. Army Reserve to the Vernon Police Department, to his future role as an armed school security officer in Ellington, Chief Kelley has always put his life on the line for the safety of others. He is a reliable and amiable individual whose devotion to his community shines through in every aspect of his being. One may hope that his humility and thoughtfulness are emulated by future generations of Americans. As Chief Kelley caps off 28 years of consummate service to Vernon, we should acknowledge his wife, Kellie, and daughters Grace and Abby. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending and thanking John Kelley for his endless service to the United States.