

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.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH WOODS

**HON. PATRICK RYAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Woods' impressive record of service to our country.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Woods, the son of a career Army Officer, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He earned his Bachelor of Science and was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer upon graduation in May 2007.

He has served in various capacities across the Army, including deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and Jordan. The units he served with include the 1ST Infantry Division, 82ND Airborne Division, 5TH Special Forces Group, West Points Corps of Cadets, and the 25TH Infantry Division in Alaska. Most recently, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Joint Interagency Task Force—National Capital Region.

In addition to his dedication to service, Lieutenant Colonel Woods has dedicated himself to lifelong learning. He holds two Master's degrees: one in Organizational Psychology from Teacher's College, Columbia University (2016) and the other in Defense Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (2018).

Lieutenant Colonel Woods has received numerous awards and decorations for his service including: the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He has earned the Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. Lt. Col. Woods also holds Chilean, Italian, and British airborne wings.

In June, Lieutenant Colonel Woods will take Command of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10TH Mountain Division. I wish Lieutenant Colonel Woods, his wife Brianna, and their four children, Collin, Luke, Evan, and Emma, the best of luck in the future. Their dedication to this country is truly inspiring and honorable.

HONORING THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hampton High School Men's Basketball Team from Hampton, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 4 State Champions.

On Friday, March 8, 2024, the Hampton Crabbers won the championship game against the Tuscarora Huskies with a score of 66–63. Led by Coach Eric Brown, the Crabbers won this title for the sixth time, the first since 2012. Hampton High School closed their season with

a record of 26 wins and 2 losses, maintaining a 16-game winning streak.

Throughout the game, the Crabbers and Huskies fought for control of the court, with the Crabbers maintaining the lead. But victory for the Crabbers would not come easily, as the Huskies consistently chipped away at their lead. With 20 seconds left on the clock, senior Daron Baugh sank two free-throws to give the Crabbers the final 66–63 lead. The Crabbers fought hard and stayed determined until the game was over, and because of that, they were able to secure the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Hampton High School Basketball Team and thank Coach Brown, the parents, and the entire Hampton High School community for supporting these students throughout the season. They have all made their community proud. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2024, I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

RECOGNIZING DELORES COMSTOCK

**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 service of Delores Comstock and congratulate her for being inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame.

Delores' commitment to education and volunteerism has made her a beloved figure in the community, particularly her involvement with the Fremont County 4-H programs. With over 60 years of service, her work as an educator, Special Education volunteer, and Four Mile 4-H Club leader, has enriched the lives of countless individuals and exemplifies the spirit of community service. Delores' ongoing altruism has made a significant difference across Fremont County and makes her a fitting recipient for a spot in their Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Delores Comstock for her Fremont Hall of Fame induction and thank her for her service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXEI NAVALNY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alexei Navalny, who made the ultimate sacrifice in his fight for freedom, democracy, and basic human rights.

For more than a decade, Navalny courageously led the unflinching opposition against Russian President Vladimir Putin and his evil cronies.

Determined to create a truly democratic Russia, Navalny exposed Putin for who he truly is: a murderous, corrupt dictator.

In August of 2020, officers of the Russian government attempted to kill Navalny by poison, forcing him to be evacuated and hospitalized in Germany.

Despite this attempt on his life, Navalny never wavered and, after miraculously recovering from this attempted murder, insisted on returning to Russia to continue his mission of bringing freedom to his countrymen.

Upon his return home, Navalny was wrongfully imprisoned by Russian authorities for the remainder of his life and, tragically, to his death.

His only crime was his determination to speak out in the face of oppression and advocate for a Russia free from Putin's control.

Throughout his imprisonment, Navalny never lost his sense of optimism and hope for the future. He remained positive, even telling jokes in court less than 24 hours before his death.

While in prison in the Arctic Circle, Navalny continued being a strong voice for freedom, relying on his family, lawyers, and other supporters to speak out on his behalf and stand defiant against Putin's evil regime.

He was a man of deep conviction who never faltered in his mission, no matter the cost.

He was one of the bravest, most principled men I have ever met, and his memory will never be forgotten. The United States must continue Navalny's legacy and stand up against Putin's efforts to trample freedom in Europe and around the world.

May we never stop fighting to secure peace and democracy for all those who seek it, just as Navalny so courageously did.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 87, and YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR OLIVIA TRUJILLO

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Olivia Trujillo, who passed away on March 3, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. She was 67 years old. Mayor Trujillo was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and at the age of five, her family immigrated to Arvin, California. During her summers, she worked alongside her family harvesting fruits and vegetables in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley, learning the values of hard work and perseverance from a young age. Mayor