

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING GIL CORONADO

## HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Gil Coronado.

Born in Corpus Christi and raised in the barrios of San Antonio, Col. Coronado is a shining example of the American Dream. Overcoming a childhood marked by adversity, Col. Coronado has gone on to spend the entirety of his adult life dedicated to both public service and the advancement of Hispanic cultural appreciation.

Orphaned at the age of five, and a self-described “product of the streets,” Col. Coronado decided to alter the direction of his life by enlisting in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 16. Col. Coronado served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and completed tours of duty in Spain, Germany, and Panama. For his service, he was awarded a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and a Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1985, Col. Coronado was assigned to the Inter-American Defense Board. It was there that Col. Coronado came to work closely with members of Congress to push for the expansion of efforts to honor the unique contributions of Hispanics to American history. In 1988, Col. Coronado’s efforts came to fruition when this chamber invited him onto the floor to watch the bill that created Hispanic Heritage Month, which he helped create, pass unanimously. Later that year, President Reagan invited Col. Coronado to the White House Rose Garden as he signed the bill into law, taking time to recognize Col. Coronado as “a stout defender of Hispanic Heritage and the United States of America.”

Col. Coronado went on to continue blazing trails for Hispanic Americans when he was appointed as the first Hispanic director of the Selective Service System in 1994. Under his tenure, he pushed for a 100 percent compliance rate and worked to educate the public on the importance and benefits of registering for the Selective Service. He retired as Director of the Selective Service System in 2001 and returned to San Antonio, where he resides to this day.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the honorable achievements of Col. Gil Coronado. San Antonio is proud to be home to the “padrino” of Hispanic Heritage Month. May God bless him and his family for all their years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF PASQUALE F. CANCELLA

## HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life and the dedicated service of Pasquale F. Cancellia.

Pasquale Cancellia was born in Troy in 1921, after the end of the First World War. As he grew from a boy into a young man, he found our Nation in conflict with the start of the Second World War. Just six days after his Nation came under attack, Pasquale enlisted in the United States Navy. He was only 20 at the time. There, he did his duty with great distinction, earning a variety of medals for his impeccable conduct and his service around the world aboard the USS *William Seiverling*. The Navy took Pasquale to Hawaii, to the Philippines, to Iwo Jima, and to Okinawa. By war’s end, he had risen to the rank of Yeoman, Third Class, in recognition of his efforts.

After his honorable discharge in late 1945, Pasquale returned home to his wife Elizabeth and his family. However, his service to the United States was not yet at an end. In addition to a second tour in the Navy which ended in 1955, Pasquale served in the New York National Guard as a Staff Sergeant with the 105th Infantry Division.

Pasquale also served his community when not wearing a uniform. A man of great faith, he filled numerous crucial roles at St. Patrick’s Church of Troy. Proud of his naval background, Pasquale was active in his local chapter of the VFW, a longtime member of the Tibbitts Cadets, a volunteer aboard the USS *Slater*, and an advocate for the Destroyer Escort Historical Foundation. Pasquale, a father of six and a grandfather of twenty, found his work with children as a Boy Scout troop leader and a Babe Ruth baseball league manager to be especially rewarding.

Pasquale lived a life full of service to those around him, whether that was his national community or his neighborhood one. On behalf of New York’s 21st District, I am pleased to recognize his extraordinary life.

IN MEMORY OF DEACON KENNETH  
FLORENCE

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving father, a doting grandfather, dedicated community servant and committed man of God, Deacon Kenneth Florence. Sadly, Deacon Florence passed from labor to reward on March 13, 2024. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on March 23, 2024, at the Second Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

The genesis of the life of Deacon Florence began on November 13, 1952, with his birth to the union of the late Bernard and Willard Florence in Clewiston, Florida. He was raised from birth by the late Georgian Fudge of Sanford, Florida.

Deacon Florence was educated in the Florida Public School System where he graduated in 1972 from Seminole High School. After graduating from high school, he began his lifelong love of service by enlisting in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1974.

He relocated to what would become his second home, Albany, Georgia. He attended the ASU West Campus, formerly known as Darton College, before being employed at Proctor and Gamble for 27 years.

At an early age he gave his life to Christ and joined Morning Glory Missionary Baptist Church. After his move to Albany, he joined Second Mount Zion Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Theodus Drake, Jr. Deacon Florence truly understood that you can only serve God by serving his people. Deacon Florence demonstrated his love for God by serving in various ministries at the church to include Sunday School Superintendent and as the head of the Security Deacons’ Ministry, Executive Ministry, Transportation Ministry and several youth ministries.

Deacon Florence also understood that his service and love for God had to extend beyond the church walls. His love for community was evident by his involvement in many social and civic organizations to include Albany Community Builders, the NAACP, Black Voters Matter, Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, SOWEGA Rising, the 26 Club, Masonic Lodge, Little League baseball coach and various other organizations. It has been said that “Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy here on this Earth.” Deacon Florence paid his rent and he paid it well. He never met a stranger and treated people how they deserved to be treated. Dr. George Washington Carver once said “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.” Deacon Kenneth Florence could interact with people from all walks of life and make them feel special. He was special and his legacy will live on through all the people and organizations that he touched in his special way.

Deacon Florence accomplished so much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family, friends, and church members who will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian, and me, along with countless others in saluting and honoring Deacon Kenneth Florence for service to God and Humankind. We extend our deepest condolences to his Family, Friends, loved ones and all who mourn his loss. We pray that they all will be consoled

• 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.

and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

### CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the critical importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across America—a subject deeply personal to me, as a Black woman.

Generations of separate and unequal education, housing, employment, and compensation have left Black Americans at a persistent disadvantage. DEI holds our Nation accountable for this unjust and unequal treatment that began with slavery and segregation and continues with policies and practices that persist in discriminating against Black people denying them equal opportunity and treatment.

The statistics are stark: non-white school districts receive \$2,226 less per student on average, contributing to an achievement gap that reduces Black students' college attendance and lifetime earnings by 65 percent. Even with advanced degrees, African American women earn significantly less than their white male counterparts and still less than white males with less education. African American women holding advanced degrees, such as a master's, earn \$7 less per hour than Caucasian men with a bachelor's degree, and \$17 less per hour than their Caucasian male peers.

Furthermore, systemic biases persist in financial systems, where Black families earning substantially more than white families are still less likely to qualify for loans. A Black family earning \$157,000 per year is less likely to qualify for a loan than a white family earning \$40,000. DEI efforts must continue to level the playing field and establish a meritocracy reflecting our national values.

While correcting for the injustice of the past and present, DEI is a tool of intention, shaping our national protector. It compels us to strategically engage all our country's talent to compete in the global marketplace of today and tomorrow.

In today's fiercely competitive global economy, America's innovation, and adaptability hinge on our ability to harness the talents and perspectives of all our citizens. By cultivating diverse talent pipelines and fostering inclusive practices, we not only enhance our competitiveness but also lead in the global arena. Companies embracing DEI outperform their peers, with McKinsey studies showing a significant profitability gap between leading DEI practicing organizations and those lagging. Companies in the fourth quartile of both gender and ethnic diversity were 27 percent more likely to underperform on profitability than all other companies in their peer group.

Despite the proven benefits of DEI, right-wing conservatives seek to dismantle these efforts, perpetuating racial hostility and discrimination. Workplace discrimination lawsuits have surged, and hate crimes continue to rise to record levels year after year, in their wake, underscoring the urgent need for DEI to counter-

act these trends and increase awareness of each other's humanity and perspective.

The DEI journey we have embarked upon is not just about numbers or statistics; it's about the fundamental values that define who we are as a Nation and our ability to thrive economically.

Let us recommit to DEI policies not only for the Black community but for all marginalized groups. Our diversity is our greatest asset, and by embracing it, we can forge a brighter, more prosperous America for all.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on March 11, 12, 13, and 19. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on the following Roll Call votes:

Roll Call No. 79, March 11, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1752, E-BRIDGE Act; Roll Call No. 80, March 11, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 886, Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act; Roll Call No. 83, March 12, 2024: On Motion to Recommit, H.R. 6276—USE IT Act; Roll Call No. 87, March 19, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 4723, Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement through Sanctions Act; and Roll Call No. 88, March 19, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 149, Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

I would have voted No on the following Roll Call votes:

Roll Call No. 81, March 12, 2024: On Ordering the Previous Question—H. Res. 1071, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; Roll Call No. 82, March 12, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1071, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; Roll Call No. 84, March 12, 2024: On Passage—H.R. 6276, USE IT Act; Roll Call No. 85, March 12, 2024: On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1065, Denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; and Roll Call No. 86, March 13, 2024: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended H.R. 7521—Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MARC MOTLEY

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Carroll County High School Girls Head Basketball Coach Marc Motley. Coach

Motley is stepping down from his head coaching position after two decades.

Coach Motley graduated with a BS from Radford University in 1996. He is a Physical Education and Driver Education instructor at Carroll County High School.

Coach Motley amassed a win total of 433 victories in his twenty-two seasons with the Carroll County Cavaliers, winning more than 76 percent of his contests during that time-frame.

In addition to coaching in thirteen state tournaments, Coach Motley led the Cavs to back-to-back Class 3 state championships in 2022 and 2023. During those championship-winning seasons, Coach Motley recorded a 52–3 record. For these accomplishments, he was recognized both seasons as the Class 3 Girls Basketball State Coach of the Year.

He has developed countless players, putting some in positions to take their athletic talents to collegiate institutions.

Coach Motley has fostered relationships with many of his fellow teachers, students and parents. Former players routinely return to Carroll County to celebrate Coach Motley's milestones and accomplishments.

While Coach Motley's accolades are significant, it is important to recognize his sacrifices. The number of hours required of a head coach of any high school program is great. The job pulls one away from other important engagements and restricts time away from loved ones and friends.

Congratulations to Coach Motley on a job well done. Under his leadership, Carroll County has been put on the map for high school basketball. I know that his colleagues and students greatly appreciate his dedication to the educational and athletic progress of his players. Coach Motley's impact on Cavalier basketball is to be commended.

### CONGRATULATING THE MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL'S AMAZING BIG BLUE WARRIORS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the athletes, managers, staff members and outstanding fans of the Manasquan High School Big Blue Warriors' Basketball Program.

The 2023–2024 season had moments of great excitement and profound heartbreak, but there is no doubt that both the boys and girls teams demonstrated true grit and sportsmanship to the delight of sports fans across the Garden State—and perhaps the entire country.

First, let me congratulate the members of Manasquan's girls Group 2 state-wide championship team. In a rout, on March 9th the Warriors defeated Madison with a nearly 2–1 victory of 47–26.

Coach Lisa Kukoda led her fiery squad to the championship title with the Warrior team after wrapping up a tremendous 26–5 wins over losses on the season.

Likewise, the boys team, under the leadership of Coach Andrew Bilodeau, had a tremendous win-loss record on the season—finishing with 23 wins to 7 losses.