

HONORING VINCENT BONO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a native son of Herkimer County, Vincent Bono, and to wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his storied career. Mr. Bono was born in Iliou, and he never strayed too far from home. In 1985, he settled in Schuylerville, which has been his home ever since. In 2002, Mr. Bono was elected to represent Herkimer's 11th district in the county legislature, where he quickly became a fixture. He immediately earned the nickname "Mr. IDA" for his support for the county's Industrial Development Agency, which he now chairs. Vincent has been a fighter for the economic betterment of his beloved county since day one. Under his leadership, business parks in Schuylerville and Frankfort were built, bringing new jobs and residents with them. Vincent has also been a champion for students and young people. One would be hard-pressed to find a more vocal advocate for Herkimer Community College than Mr. Bono. He takes pride in the fact that he began the Children's Center initiative which will be carried on by his trusted colleagues and go on to have a positive impact on the community.

Vincent's service has not been limited to elected leadership. He has also served his community as a volunteer firefighter, risking his life to protect others. He has also contributed greatly to the work of numerous organizations tackling issues close to his heart. Whenever there has been a need for a reliable voice in Herkimer, Vincent has readily provided that voice.

Vincent Bono has proven himself to be a true statesman. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I thank him for all he has contributed to life in the North Country and wish him luck as he begins a new chapter of his public service.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND EMMETT SCOTT ANITON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer my heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to an exceptional mentor, devoted leader, Vietnam War Veteran, faithful servant of God, and cherished longtime friend, Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr., as he concludes his 45 years of service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A special celebration marking his 45th Anniversary and retirement from preaching the Gospel will take place on April 7, 2024 at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Born on March 8, 1940, in Oneonta, Alabama to Mr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Sr. and Mrs. Estella Aniton Woods, Rev. Aniton graduated from Southside High School in Etowah County, Alabama before earning his Bachelor of Theology from Selma University in 1964. Following his service in Vietnam, he furthered his education at Alabama A&M University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

Having answered the call to preach, Rev. Aniton began his ministry at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Alabama, where he served his congregation faithfully. In November 1978, he accepted the call to pastor at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he has led with passion and dedication since April 1979. Under his guidance, the church has flourished spiritually, numerically, and in its physical facilities.

Rev. Aniton's impact extends beyond the church walls, with his involvement in various community organizations and leadership roles. He has been recognized with awards such as the NAACP Religious Affairs Award and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. His commitment to service and leadership exemplifies the quote by George Washington Carver when he 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 the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these. Rev. Aniton has used his ministry to reach people from all walks of life. Spurred by the example of Jesus, he has used his life's work to help the "Least of These."

In reflecting on his achievements, Rev. Aniton acknowledges the unwavering support of his late wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rigby Aniton, his children, grandchildren, and extended family. Personally, I have been blessed to benefit from Rev. Aniton's wisdom and friendship for over four decades. He never told me what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. Rev. Aniton has inspired and mentored many with his sterling example of what a man of God should look like. He is truly a man after God's own heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in The U.S. House of Representatives to join me, my wife Vivian, and the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in expressing our deepest gratitude and best wishes to Reverend Dr. Emmett Scott Aniton, Jr. as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement after 45 years of devoted service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. May God continue to bless him and his loved ones as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HONORING MATTHEW HYMEL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew Hymel upon his retirement from the County of Marin after more than two decades of extraordinary public service.

Raised in Western Pennsylvania during the economic hardships of the late 1970s and early 1980s, Matthew has long been interested in how the government can shape public policy to support struggling communities. In high school, his family moved to California, where Matthew obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. After graduating in 1988, he attended John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, earning his master's degree in public policy.

Matthew returned to California and took a position at the Legislative Analyst's Office in

Sacramento. After six months, government-wide layoffs prompted Matthew to relocate to the Bay Area, where he worked as a budget analyst for the city manager of Oakland and then for the controller's office in San Francisco. In 1997, newly elected Mayor Willie Brown was impressed by Matthew's budget development work and hired him as his budget director. Matthew worked his way up through the City and County of San Francisco to the role of Chief Assistant Controller, before joining Marin County in 2002 as Chief Assistant to County Administrator Mark Riesenfeld. In 2005, the Board of Supervisors chose Matthew as his successor and at the young age of 38, Matthew assumed the role of Marin County Administrator, a role he has held for almost two decades.

As Marin County Administrator, Matthew successfully managed a multimillion-dollar annual budget, supervised administrative work for the county's 2,000 employees, and provided the board of supervisors with timely research and recommendations. He led with intelligence and stability during the economic challenges of the 2008 through 2010 recession, pension obligations, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked closely with other agencies, nonprofits, healthcare providers, and the Marin County Office of Education to establish a cohesive approach to minimizing the pandemic's impact on the community.

Upon his retirement, Matthew leaves the county with a strong fiscal position and administrative plan focused on integrating cross-departmental initiatives that address racial equity, capital improvements, behavioral health, affordable housing, and homelessness. Beyond his outstanding budget management, Matthew is known by his colleagues and the Marin County Board of Supervisors for his collaborative work style and humble demeanor. He is an exemplary public servant.

Mr. Speaker, as Matthew Hymel retires after 22 years of service to Marin County, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Matthew for his innumerable achievements in improving the quality of life for the staff and residents of Marin County and in sending him best wishes on his next endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2024, I missed votes due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 99; YES on Roll Call No. 100; and NAY on Roll Call No. 101.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. CYNTHIA BAMBARA

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the remarkable tenure of Allegany College of Maryland President, Dr. Cynthia

Bambara and celebrate her well-earned retirement. For over four decades, Dr. Bambara has dedicated her career to the advancement of higher education, enriching the lives of students and bolstering local communities through her unwavering dedication.

Her leadership as the first woman to serve as President of Allegany College of Maryland has proved transformative. Under her stewardship for the past thirteen years, the Allegany College of Maryland has flourished, expanding its academic programs, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing student support services. Through collaboration with faculty, staff, and administrators, she led the college to achieve numerous milestones, making ACM a place of opportunity for all. The legacy she leaves behind is a testament to her leadership and the collective achievements of the college community.

It is a privilege to acknowledge Dr. Cynthia Bambara's service and dedication as she embarks on her next chapter. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future leaders and continue to benefit ACM students and the state of Maryland for years to come.

HONORING MR. JAMES MILLER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. James Miller and to thank him for his long and exemplary career serving our constituents and servicemen.

Jim's service to our troops began four decades ago while he was pursuing his second Master's Degree at Florida State University, after earning his first from Slippery Rock University. While pursuing his educational goals, he interned with the Mental Hygiene Clinic at the Erie County, Pennsylvania Veteran Affairs Hospital. This would prove to be a formative experience for Jim who, upon graduation in 1989, took a job at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his time at Fort Campbell, Jim served in a variety of roles including the Chief of Community Mental Health and the Chief of Discharge Planning. In these roles, Jim assumed responsibility for the well-being of countless troops and their family members. He flourished in Kentucky, but when Americans were called to serve during Operation Desert Storm, Jim followed the 101st Airborne—the mighty Screaming Eagles—across the waves as the division's social work officer. While deployed, he went above and beyond, providing counseling services to the troops and even establishing a mental health clinic similar to the one in which he had once worked in.

Jim stayed with the 101st until 1993, afterward continuing his service at various installations across the nation. Though his capacity differed at each station, the quality of service he delivered never diminished. His nine-year journey concluded in 2002 when he settled in with the North Country's own 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. During the height of the global War on Terror, Jim provided the Division with the same essential, high-quality care that had defined his time with the 101st years prior. After serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, he returned to his roots at the very same Erie

VA Hospital where his career had started. Eventually, Jim would return to the North Country, first as the chief of the Watertown Veterans Center and then as a clinical social worker with Fort Drum's Soldier Recovery Program.

After a long career tending to our warfighters in their hours of need, Jim is ready for one last transition: on March 14th, he celebrated a richly deserved retirement after a lifetime of service. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my distinct honor to thank him for all he has done in service of the North Country, the 10th Mountain Division, and our Country.

RECOGNIZING MY PRESS SECRETARY, TAYLOR DEACON, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Press Secretary, Taylor Deacon, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. This week, Taylor will depart my office for a new opportunity serving as Deputy Communications Director and Press Secretary in the Office of Rep. Don Davis, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

A Michigan native, Taylor's Midwest work ethic shines through in everything she does. From earning a Girl Scout Gold Award to graduating Magna Cum Laude from Elon University, her grit was as evident early in life as it is now on Capitol Hill.

As my Press Secretary, Taylor served as a trusted advisor and liaison to the media, using her sharp communications skills to articulate the accomplishments of our office and forge productive relationships with members of the press. Taylor brought a combination of passion, zeal, and enthusiasm to whatever task she was assigned. Her communications instincts, honed by work experience in the private and public sectors, are top notch, and I couldn't ask for a better companion to dash to an interview during a busy week.

Taylor Deacon has a rare combination of wit and patience that helps her maneuver whatever press landscape came her way. An invaluable member of my team, Taylor brought humor to a job that can often feel heavy and remained unflappable in tough situations. Her colleagues on the legislative team will always remember her skill at turning dry bill text into punchy press releases and consistently being game for a little wordplay on even the most arcane topics. Taylor has explained the difference between official and political work enough in the past year to last a lifetime and still has a bright smile for everyone she encounters. Her charm and grace—as well as her sarcasm—will be deeply missed by her colleagues.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her expertise and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that this expertise will continue to serve the Nation and the people of North Carolina's First Congress-

sional District. I wish Taylor all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for three years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.

CELEBRATING WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of our nation's abundant energy resources.

Western Energy Alliance is celebrating 50 years of unifying stakeholders and policymakers in support of oil and natural gas in the West. Their work has helped balance the environment by providing citizens with the energy they need.

Today, just as in 1974, energy policy is vital to America's success. Today, as back then, we also see regulators going out of their way to hamstring innovative solutions from small, independent companies focused on harnessing our Nation's mineral resources—companies that constitute the Alliance's membership.

Fortunately, the Alliance has been a guiding voice and valuable resource for members of Congress and has helped consumers combat high prices at the pump and lower their utility bills.

Congratulations to Western Energy Alliance for reaching the 50-year milestone and I thank them for being a credible advocate of western oil and natural gas.

CELEBRATING EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Eastern Michigan University in recognition of its 175th anniversary. An R2 Doctoral University for High Research Activity, Eastern Michigan University has spent the last 175 years educating the future leaders of this nation and its contributions to society are worthy of commendation.

Established as Michigan State Normal School in 1849 as the first normal school outside of New England, the school opened its doors with 122 enrolled students on March 29th, 1853, and quickly established a reputation of training excellent educators. By 1899 the school had developed the first four-year curriculum for a normal school in the United States and Michigan State Normal School became Michigan State Normal College. The college continued its important mission in educating students through World War II, the Great Depression, and World War II, and later became Eastern Michigan University in 1959 after establishing its graduate school. Following the transition to university status, an international student exchange program was organized with Britain in the early 1970s to allow students to gain broader perspectives and experiences.