

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RALPH WHITE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Ralph White.

Born on October 25, 1931, to parents Ralph and Victoria White, Ralph was raised in East Boston and Westwood, Massachusetts. After graduating from Boston Trade High School in 1950, Ralph joined the U.S. Marine Corps and bravely served our country. While serving in Korea with the First Marine Division as a rifleman, Ralph was wounded in action defending his post. For his bravery, Ralph was awarded a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Once Ralph recovered, he returned to the U.S. and married the love of his life, Geraldine "Geri" in Kingsland, Georgia, on November 4, 1952. He first met Geri in high school after she moved down the street from Ralph and his family in 1946. Ralph was still enlisted when they married and the couple spent their first few years of marriage living along the East Coast on several military bases before settling in Walpole, Massachusetts, in 1956.

Together in Walpole, Ralph and Geri raised their four children—Susan, Nancy, Lori, and William—and Ralph quickly established himself as a pillar of the community. He was commander of the Thomas H. Crowley American Legion Post 104, and as an avid baseball fan, Ralph coached Post 104's baseball team for nearly six decades in addition to coaching Walpole High School's baseball team for several years. To celebrate Ralph's contributions to the Walpole community, the town dedicated the sport complex at Bird Middle School in his honor in 2015.

Following his service with the U.S. Marine Corps, Ralph began working as a corrections officer at Boston's Charles Street Jail. Ralph then worked at the Walpole State Prison before becoming a state parole officer. After he was shot on the job and survived life-threatening injuries, Ralph, along with several other retired state employees, founded Mass Retirees in 1968, and Ralph served as the association's president until 2013.

Throughout his 45 years as president, Ralph played a crucial role in advancing many of the laws that protect and support public retirees in Massachusetts, including the cost-of-living adjustment. Several decades ago, with Ralph leading the charge, Mass Retirees successfully petitioned the Commonwealth to change its laws to allow all retired public employees to receive a regular and cumulative cost-of-living adjustment. Today, Mass Retirees continues to advocate for key issues affecting Massachusetts retirees, such as public pensions and health insurance. Ralph was pivotal in growing the association into the critical resource that it now serves as for its 52,000 members.

In addition to his work with Mass Retirees, Ralph served as an elected member on the State Retirement Board for many years and

was a founding member of the Commonwealth's Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board, which he served on for two decades.

Sadly, we lost Ralph too soon on January 26, 2024, at the age of 92. Whether it be his service with the U.S. Marine Corps, his years coaching youth baseball, or his nearly six decades of work on behalf of retirees, Ralph leaves behind an extraordinary legacy as a tireless advocate and mentor to many.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Ralph White, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his life's commitment to serving his community, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and our country.

HONORING THE VALIANT SERVICE OF SERGEANT EARL WESTBROOKS

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the valiant service of Technical Sergeant Earl Westbrook to his country and the United States Army.

Sergeant Westbrook answered the call of duty at the Perry County Courthouse in 1944 at the young age of seventeen. He completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, whereupon he served as a non-commissioned officer in World War II and the early days of the Korean War. Prior to leaving Korea in 1948, Sergeant Westbrook trained members of the South Korean Army in Chan-ju, which later proved instrumental to the defense from the brutal communist invasion in 1950.

Upon completing his service overseas, Sergeant Westbrook returned to finish his schooling, which had been cut short by the war, and on the same day his son graduated from Perry County High School, Sergeant Westbrook earned his GED. Ever the servant leader, he is deeply involved in his community and an active member of Faith Baptist Church in Linden, Tennessee. He is also an excellent guitarist and a former player in Minnie Pearl's Grinder's Switch Skillet Lickers, which performed in Odessa, Texas.

A proud veteran, Sergeant Westbrook is an active VFW member, and he regularly represents WWII veterans at events across West and Middle Tennessee. While he traded in his military fatigues for civvies, he never stopped serving his country, and you can still find him in Perry County, Tennessee, wearing his World War II and Korea Veterans hats with pride.

Sergeant Westbrook and the love of his life, Mrs. Aline Hinson Westbrook, celebrated 74 years of marriage earlier this year. Together, they have three children: Deborah Hardin, Kerry Westbrook, and Lisa Staybrook.

Technical Sergeant Earl Westbrook has lived an admirable life marked by service, both

to his community and his country. On behalf of the House of Representatives and as a fellow veteran, I commend him for his service to our district, the state of Tennessee, and the United States of America.

HONORING MONICA SILBAS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the distinguished career of Monica Silbas on the occasion of her retirement as Chief of Staff for the International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). During her more than 20 years of union leadership, Monica has made a lasting impact throughout her career on behalf of working people and the Labor Movement. Additionally, Monica helped found the Latino Labor Lobbyists group, the IAM's Spanish Leadership Program, and served as Co-Chair of the Women of Labor organization, in which capacity I had the great fortune of working alongside her.

Monica started her career with IAM in 1986 as a Customer Service Agent at Northwest Airlines in Los Angeles, where she was initiated into IAM Local 2785. She quickly rose as a leader in organizing with her Labor brothers and sisters, and in 1999 became the IAM Transportation Department's Education Representative. In this role, she initiated and won several organizing campaigns representing airline and railroad workers. She then joined as IAM Assistant Political and Legislative Director before becoming the Chief of Staff to the International President.

Monica has dedicated decades of her work to expanding the reach and inclusion of the Labor Movement. Fluent in Spanish, Monica was among the founding members of the IAM's Spanish Leadership Working Group, and was crucial in developing materials and resources for IAM in Spanish. As Co-Chair of the Women of Labor organization, she helped lift and encourage women in the Labor Movement. Finally, she was a member of the Executive Committee of IndustriALL Global Union, representing over 50 million workers in 140 countries.

Throughout it all, Monica has been an unwavering voice for working families. It has been my great pleasure to work closely with her on many projects and priorities over the years, and I know I speak for many when I say that she has been a tremendous asset to the Labor Movement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Monica. I wish her and her family all the best.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING ROSS K. BAKER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ross K. Baker on his retirement from Rutgers University. Professor Baker dedicated over 50 years to Rutgers University and his many achievements and contributions should be celebrated.

A Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences, Professor Baker was honored in 2021 with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes faculty members whose contributions have been significantly impactful. I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with Professor Baker's classes numerous times and it was evident that his students valued and internalized his teachings.

Specializing in American Government and U.S. Legislative Politics, Professor Baker brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom. Throughout his tenure, he also served as a Visiting Professor at Haverford College and the University of Leipzig (Germany), as well as a Fulbright Lecturer at the Swedish Institute of International Relations in Stockholm. In addition to his academic background, Professor Baker worked for the offices of Senator Walter Mondale, Birch Bayh, Franch Church, Chuck Hagel, Patrick Leahy, and Harry Reid. He also served as a consultant to the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives. Likewise, he has published many books and articles and has contributed to USA Today and several NPR programs.

Immediately prior to joining Rutgers in 1968, Professor Baker was a research associate at the Brookings Institute. He had also worked at the Special Operations Research Office and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Professor Ross K. Baker on his retirement. It is my privilege to recognize his commitment to education and government and offer my best wishes as he enters this new stage in life.

HONORING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMY J. MARKOWICH AS SHE RETIRES FROM NAVAIR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Amy Markowich as she retires as Executive Director for the Digital Analytics Infrastructure and Technology Advancement (DAITA) and Mission Systems Groups, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)—located at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in my district. For over 30 years, the United States Navy and our community, state, and country have benefitted from her sound leadership. Our Congress owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude for her service.

As Executive Director, Amy managed thousands of civilian and contractor personnel across multiple installations. She guided them in their work developing and testing state-of-the-art naval aviation systems. Amy also successfully oversaw \$1.3 billion in National Asset laboratories, ensuring that these resources were used as effectively as possible to advance new technologies vital to keeping our servicemembers—and our Nation—safe.

Amy's tenure as Executive Director was just the latest chapter in a career defined by service and success. Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2009, Amy also served as the Department of Navy (DON) Naval High Performance Computing (HPC) Principal, Deputy DON Test & Evaluation (T&E) Executive, the DON Modeling & Simulation (M&S) Executive, and a number of other important positions.

From spearheading development of the Air Combat Environment Test and Evaluation Facility, including the large anechoic chamber, and the Joint Simulation Environment to helping establish test configurations for various key aircraft, she has made numerous technical contributions. These cutting-edge systems continue to help prepare our men and women in uniform to face down challenges in the field. Crucially, no matter the post or project, Amy fostered a spin of innovation and culture of collaboration that will long endure.

Amy's work has also extended to representing the United States in many capacities at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other international organizations. Amy's leadership in both domestic and international situations often placed her as a top leader and often as the only woman in key technical roles where she established herself as a respected authority.

I've been proud to work with Amy to ensure that Congress provides the hardworking team at Naval Air Station Patuxent River with the resources it needs to conduct this essential work. She has been an excellent host during my many visits to the base over the years, and I—like many others—will be sad to see her go. Her leadership in building capabilities for the Department of Defense has always been forward-looking and provided our Nation with the tools necessary to remain at the forefront of development and testing of the most complex weapons systems in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in thanking one of the smartest, most dedicated people I know: Amy Markowich. Although she is stepping back as Executive Director, I know that her commitment to serving her fellow Americans will never waver. For that, she has the gratitude of her Congress and her country. I wish Amy and her husband Brian well as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

CELEBRATING GINNY WHALEN'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Mary Jane Berghoff Whalen, a resident of my Congressional District in Kettering, Ohio, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 1, 2024.

Ginny was an only child, born and raised on a farm in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was homeschooled through eighth grade, before graduating from Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, and attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Ginny met a native Daytonian, Herbert E. Whalen, Jr., and they were married on June 29, 1946. They established a home in Kettering, and raised four children. She is currently the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. During their sixty years of marriage, Ginny and Herb served as role models and civic leaders in their community.

As dedicated parishioners of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Kettering, Ginny and Herb worked together to renovate and expand their spiritual home. They served on the committee that enlarged the church from a one-room building in the 1940s, to the thriving community that currently serves over two thousand families. Ginny has remained a faithful member of the church for over 70 years.

In the 1970s and 80s, Ginny and her husband worked diligently to save the Oregon District, one of Dayton's oldest historic neighborhoods, from demolition. She worked with the city to facilitate the renovation of two houses and four apartments, and continues to support the historic preservation efforts of the Oregon Historic District Society.

From an early age, Ginny adopted the motto: "To give back to others." The generous amounts of time and energy she has contributed to a variety of volunteer and civic organizations serve as an example for all of us.

Ginny remained active and involved in her community throughout her nineties, and has indulged in a variety of hobbies and personal interests that include: reading, playing the drums (which she still loves to do), harmonica, tennis, horseback riding, and participating in her local theater group "Hamlets."

I am proud to join Ginny's family and friends in celebrating her long and extraordinary life. I wish her a very happy birthday, and in the years to come may God bless her with continued good health and happiness.

HONORING ELLEN LOCKER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ellen Locker on her retirement and honor her 26 years of service as a member of the Hunterdon Health System Board of Trustees.

Under the exemplary leadership of Ms. Locker, the Hunterdon Health System has undergone tremendous growth. Including the opening of the Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center, the opening of the Norman and Denise Guilloud Cardiovascular Center, and the expansion of primary care and health and wellness care systems across New Jersey. During this time, Hunterdon Health not only expanded its physical network, but also increased its capacity to care by adopting and providing new and innovative procedures to treat a wider range of issues. Furthermore, Hunterdon Health achieved impressive recognitions during the tenure of Ms. Locker, including eight consecutive 'Leapfrog A' Hospital