

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN WILMETH

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, Justin Wilmeth serves as an Arizona State Representative for Legislative District 2, covering the North Valley. Since joining the legislature in 2021, Justin has been a force to be reckoned with, setting a first-year freshman record with eight sponsored bills being signed into law by Arizona's governor.

Justin understands the issues and values that matter most to our great state, and he is working every day to protect our laws. From securing the border, to enhancing economic prosperity, to defending our Second Amendment, to fighting for election integrity and transparency, Justin has proven to be a relentless warrior for conservative principles and policies, making his constituents very proud of his efforts.

Arizona's Eighth Congressional District is thankful for Representative Justin Wilmeth's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF REBECCA "BECKY" KRESS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Chief Deputy to the Smyth County Commissioner of the Revenue, Rebecca "Becky" Kress. Ms. Kress is set to retire in May, having served in the Smyth County Commissioner's office since 1990.

Beginning as a deputy, Ms. Kress started her thirty-four-year career in the office with great determination. She worked several years managing taxpayer assistance, assessing taxes and reviewing business and personal property.

Ms. Kress exhibited strong character and excellence in her role. She exercised great command of her responsibilities and dedication to Smyth County. These attributes prompted her rise within the office. In 2008, she became Chief Deputy for the Smyth County Commissioner of the Revenue.

She has received honors for her work, garnering the esteemed title of Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue. Under her leadership, many Deputies have enjoyed enrollment in the Master Deputy program.

Ms. Kress is credited with passing on a wealth of institutional knowledge and ensuring seamless operations, as she served different Commissioners. She has given her colleagues invaluable insight and wisdom on tax issues. Her contributions to Smyth County include delivering fair and precise assessments

to its citizens. Ms. Kress is a model of outstanding service to her community.

Congratulations to Ms. Kress on a job well done. I know that her colleagues and the residents of Smyth County will greatly miss her efforts in her role as Chief Deputy to Commissioner of the Revenue, but recognize that she deserves to enjoy retirement with her husband, Don, along with her loved ones and friends.

HONORING MEGAN GARRISON

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant, colleague, and friend, Megan Garrison. Megan was a staffer in various California state government offices for over a decade before working for me as we served the people of Assembly District 54, starting in 2019, and the people of Senate District 30, starting in 2021. Notably, Megan helped me transition to my role as a new Member in this very body and served as Director of Operations for California's 37th Congressional District at the beginning of this Congress.

Megan was an exceptional scheduler who brought a wealth of experience to her role. Throughout many long days and late nights in the California State Senate, she juggled conflicting events and last-minute crises, always ensuring that my staff and I were taken care of. Her dedication enabled all of us to do our best work for our constituents.

Megan managed a complex and dynamic calendar, scheduled District and Capitol meetings, and coordinated myriad requests that came through the office. She also handled front desk management and facilitated legislative resolutions, predicting office needs ahead of time so that we would be set up for success. Megan's keen sense of organization and detail-oriented approach to her job were invaluable assets.

Megan maintained exceptional professionalism through stressful situations. Her interpersonal skills and her savvy approach to problem-solving made her an asset to the team. In addition to her excellent scheduling abilities, Megan had extensive knowledge of the California state legislature and the political landscape. As a former Capitol staffer, she understood the intricacies of the legislative process and could navigate it easily and applied this knowledge to best serve constituents. Most importantly, Megan's deep sense of public service propelled her to positions of public trust.

Megan's exceptional work ethic and friendly demeanor earned her the respect and admiration of everyone she worked with. Her positive attitude and ability to maintain a calm demeanor, even in high-pressure situations, made her well-liked by everyone. Megan was

a valuable asset to the team and a trusted friend to many of her coworkers.

Throughout her long career of hard work and many late nights in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., Megan remained dedicated to being there for her family. It takes a strong woman to juggle the long hours and taxing work of politics while always showing up for her amazing daughters and son. Megan's dedication to her family life is an inspiration for all of us. And now, I'd like to congratulate Megan on becoming a new grandmother. I am truly delighted for Megan and her family.

Megan is back in Sacramento, living her best life with her doting family who look up to her and cherish her intelligence and warmth. While I miss Megan cracking jokes during the workday, I wish her the best in this new chapter. I thank Megan for her many years of service and dedication to the people of Los Angeles.

TRIBUTE TO CATHI HERROD

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, Cathi Herrod serves as president of the Center for Arizona Policy. She has been a pro-life and pro-family warrior for decades in Arizona. Her efforts at the State Capitol and around Arizona communities have helped to ensure that we cherish our values and respect the dignity of life. Thanks, in large part, to her tireless work, Arizona is one of the top pro-life and pro-family states in the Nation, and she continues to fight to maintain this standing in the face of overwhelming odds from opposing forces.

During her distinguished career, she has received the Family Champion Award from Focus on the Family, the William Wilberforce Award from Students for Life of America, and the Deborah Award from Family Life Radio.

On behalf of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District, I applaud Cathi Herrod for her service to our state and thank her for her continued action to defend life and family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, on April 17, 2024 I inadvertently missed Roll Call vote No. 136, H.R. 4639.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 136.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote on April 17, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Roll Call No. 135; NO on Roll Call No. 136; NO on Roll Call No. 137; NO on Roll Call No. 138; NO on Roll Call No. 139; and NO on Roll Call No. 140.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KAVANAGH

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, John Kavanagh serves as an Arizona State Senator for Legislative District 3, covering the Northeast Valley. He has served in the Arizona Legislature since 2007. Before coming to Arizona, John worked as a police officer for the Port Authority of New York and the New Jersey Police Department. I had the privilege of serving with Senator Kavanagh for a number of years when I was a state legislator, and we worked on several policies and reforms that have made a lasting impact for future generations of Arizonians.

John has earned much recognition for his conservative principles during his time in the legislature, including a Lifetime A+ rating from the National Rifle Association, a Lifetime A rating from the American Conservative Union, and a Lifetime A rating from the Center for Arizona Policy.

Arizona's Eighth Congressional District thanks him for his distinguished record of service to his district and our state.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a very historic occasion for the people of Williams County, "nestled in the extreme Northwest corner of Ohio." The community will begin a weekend of celebration to commemorate the milestone.

Williams County was named for David Williams, a Revolutionary War hero involved in the capture of British officer Major John Andre. Originally encompassing a larger area of Northwest Ohio, Williams County was part of territory set aside for Native American people in the Treaty of Greenville. Part of the territory was also disputed between Ohio and Michigan, a dispute settled in 1836 which placed the county in Ohio.

The land was part of the "Great Black Swamp" and was the last in Ohio to be settled. Because it was swampland, the earliest settlers faced severe hardship with travel, farming, and insects. Towering native trees blocked sunlight, and conditions were harsh.

Yet these hardy Ohioans persevered, turning this corner of Northwest Ohio into an abundant fertile watershed.

The Williams County Courthouse, today on the National Registry of Historic places, was completed in 1891. It replaced an original log structure and one completed in 1845. The latter was considered the best such structure in Northwest Ohio at that time.

With rail and telegraph came opportunities for trade and development, leading to "vibrant economic growth of the 1800's and 1900's, through to the diversified local economy of today," according to the history. Today, Williams County is home to 2,399 businesses including 111 manufacturing companies offering solid employment and good wages for a diverse and skilled workforce. Famously, Williams County is home to Ohio Art—and Etch-A-Sketch—and Spangler Candy which originated and produces Dum Dum lollipops and other nostalgic treats.

Williams County, Ohio is made up of hardy farmers and pleasant towns including Alvordton, Blakeslee, Bryan, Edgerton, Edon, Holiday City, Kunkle, Lake Seneca, Melbern, Montpelier, Nettle Lake, Pioneer, Pulaski, and Williams Center: lovely communities all.

Well known to most Ohioans is the late Ohio State University football coach Woody Hayes. Coach Hayes said, "I speak at a lot of banquets in small towns, because small towns have so many great people." I couldn't agree with him more. I have been privileged to represent Williams County and can attest to the character and kindness of its people. As they take a peek at yesteryear during a weekend of ceremonial and enjoyable events, I know they also look to the future with hope and celebration. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and we build the community forward together.

Onward.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
VALERIE DENISE CAMPBELL**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Valerie Denise Campbell—a pillar of the Lake Como community, who was better known as Denise to the people who loved her. Denise attended Como Elementary School and then went on to Arlington Heights High School to support the desegregation of schools in Fort Worth. She then went on after high school graduation to attend Texas Women's University in 1975, where she majored in music education. After college, she began her career at General Dynamics and later had a 32-year career serving North Texas children with Fort Worth ISD, teaching at Burton Hill Elementary.

Denise, a staunch woman of faith, was baptized by the late Pastor G.W. Burton. As a young girl, Denise began playing piano at the Zion Baptist Church in Church School and eventually on Sunday mornings. She also was a loving wife, mother, and family member to many. She was the wife of Wendell Campbell for 47 years, was the mother to three beautiful children, a grandmother, a family member, and was also a loving pet owner.

Denise was sometimes referred to as "The Music Librarian" because she was a gifted and talented musician. She loved music, and her life was dedicated to the Lord, family, and sacred music. For years, she played at the Zion Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of the Reverends J.W. Briscoe and Maurice E. Barnes. Later, she went on to join her husband at the West Mount Moriah Baptist Church, where she was greeted with joy and accolades. Without taking a break, she began to play the piano and organ there.

I rise again to commemorate her memory and wish my deepest condolences to everyone whose lives she touched.

TRIBUTE TO SHAWNNA BOLICK

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, Shawna Bolick serves as an Arizona State Senator for Legislative District 2, covering the North Valley. Throughout her time in public service, Shawna has been a strong champion for promoting school choice and protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Thanks, in large part, to her work, Arizona is one of the premier states in the nation for school choice and for safeguarding those who cannot defend themselves. She has served on Arizona's Early Childhood Education and Health Board, the Arizona State Board of Education's Academic Standards Development Committee, and the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission. Shawna is a 'can-do' conservative fighter. She will always stand on her principles, but she looks every day for consensus and for opportunities to enact meaningful policy reforms and enhancements for her constituents.

Arizona's Eighth Congressional District is grateful for Shawna's commitment and passion for public service, and I am thankful for the example she has left for many to follow.

CONGRATULATING THE SIRMON
FAMILY OF BALDWIN COUNTY**HON. JERRY L. CARL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sirmon Family of Baldwin County on their family farm being awarded the 2024 Alabama Farm of Distinction. Sirmon Farms is owned by Joel and Patti Sirmon, and Joel's mother, Shirley, and brother, James also help run the 5-generation family-owned farm. At Sirmon Farms, they grow cotton, corn, peanuts, and sweet potatoes across 4500 acres in the Belforest Community. They will go on to represent Alabama during the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo in the Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest this fall. Congratulations to the Sirmon Family and their family farm. I am thankful for the impact they make on our state, and I am proud to be their representative.