

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN PETERSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Justin Peterson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Justin has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Justin, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Justin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Justin Peterson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA PORTER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Sandra Porter who has volunteered at Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers since 2009. Sandra knows what it feels like to experience an unplanned pregnancy in difficult circumstances. She reflects on her own experience and helps counsel expectant women about the support available to them in difficult pregnancy situations. Because of her leadership, Oasis Pregnancy Care Centers has grown to four locations and is known for excellence of care. The organization provides medical verification of pregnancy services that includes an ultrasound at no charge to clients. Pregnancy and parenting education services offered through Oasis promote self-sufficiency for expectant and new parents. Clients earn education points to spend on the things they need to safely welcome their baby into their home. At every visit, clients receive diapers and wipes. The organization also provides community resource referrals. Sandra works tirelessly to support the organization's development team in raising needed funds. She actively assists in two major fundraisers each year. She introduces potential donors to the non-profit and speaks in churches about its services. No job is too big or small for her.

It is clear that Ms. Porter has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

HONORING SERGEANT NORMAN "NORM" CRONE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Air Force Sergeant Norman "Norm" Crone for his devotion and service to our Nation.

Norm enlisted in the Air Force as a young man, inspired by his father's passion for model airplanes. After undergoing basic training and aircraft and engine school to become a mechanic, Norm's role changed when he was instead asked to be a flight engineer due to a shortage. He serviced the C54 Globe Master aircraft mostly out of Wiesbaden, Germany, often flying over the Iron Curtain.

Norm had the unique honor of flying with "the Candy Bomber" himself, Colonel Gail Halverson, during the Berlin Airlift. Norm helped package and attach the parachutes to the Hershey's chocolate bars being dropped to the children. He reflected, "It was a heart-warming experience to see the children eagerly waiting below . . . knew we were making their day a little brighter."

Norm was discharged at the beginning of the Korean War, prompting him to reenlist and serve his country again. He was stationed in Kadena Okinawa, Japan, with a team carrying out bombing missions near the Manchurian border.

During his service, Norm suffered an injury in a plane crash. In Korea, he also had to bail out during a bombing mission, in which many servicemen did not survive. In honor of his remarkable service, he has received numerous awards, including the WWII Victory Medal, the United Nations Service with the Air Force, and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, it takes someone of extraordinary character to risk their life, time after time, for the sake of this country. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, I want to thank Norm for his exemplary service to our Nation. We are forever indebted to his heroism and bravery in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING ISOBEL SPRENGER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Isobel Sprenger for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Isobel has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Isobel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will

guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Isobel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Isobel Sprenger on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING RON FLAVILLE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Ron Flaville. After growing up in a military family, Ron joined the Marine Corps after high school where he served as a Communications Center Operator, from 1996–2000. In 2001, he joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard deploying to Iraq in 2004. Two years later enlisted in the Army. Serving on active duty, he deployed to Iraq again in 2009. Medically retired in 2013, Ron moved to Florida with his wife and children and soon began to experience severe struggles with PTSD. Prescribed antipsychotic medications did little to alleviate his anxiety; mood swings and volatility . . . and the severity of his symptoms made his family feel unsafe. In 2013 Ron and his wife, Kellie, met Mary Peter, a nationally known Certified Dog Trainer (CDT) and founder of K9 Partners for Patriots. Under Mary's tutelage, Ron began training his German Shepherd, Sophia, to become a PTSD service dog. Working side by side with Mary as the first Veteran in K9P4P, he has since climbed the ranks from Certified Trainer to Veteran Liaison, to Treasurer; and was appointed Chief Executive Officer for K9P4P in 2019. Consideration of Ron's accomplishments is best appreciated by Veterans battling their own demons. They know PTSD has no cure and its 'triggers' are often unforeseeable. Trusting his training and his K9 partner, Ron found his path forward and was able to repair relationships and re-connect with his wife and children. With each responsibility more demanding than the previous one, the challenges he tackled at K9 Partners for Patriots showed each Veteran in the program they can do it; they've got reason to hope and to believe in better days ahead.

It is clear that Mr. Flaville has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people he has worked with in the fight against the horrific crime of human trafficking. I am grateful for his service.

• 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 THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANSAS CITY NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Kansas City National Security Campus and its 75 years of contributions to national security.

In November 1948, during the presidency of Harry S. Truman—whose hometown I represent—the Atomic Energy Commission selected the Pratt and Whitney airplane engine production plant in Kansas City as a site to produce nonnuclear components for nuclear weapons. The Kansas City Division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation began operations in the spring of 1949.

Seventy-five years and several name changes later, the Kansas City National Security Campus' mission to ensure the United States nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, and reliable remains essential to America's national security.

The site works to provide the National Nuclear Security Administration with electrical, mechanical, and material components manufactured and procured to exacting quality specifications to help meet important national security objectives and keep our nuclear stockpile ready at a moment's notice.

Today, the site employs nearly 7,000 people dedicated to this important national service. The Kansas City National Security Campus' contributions to the Kansas City area are important to job creation and sustaining economic growth, and Missourians are proud of its central importance to our strategic deterrence.

It is a distinct privilege to represent the Kansas City National Security Campus in the United States House of Representatives. Please join me in recognizing the Kansas City National Security Campus for its 75 years of contributions to our national security.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS FOR HELPING BUSINESSES SUCCEED

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, small businesses continue to face major challenges due to lingering impacts of COVID-19, high inflation, and limited access to capital, and other resources.

Thankfully, in South Carolina and across the Nation, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provide critical assistance to small businesses through a network of over 3,000 skilled and trusted business advisors—at no fee.

The South Carolina SBDC, led by Director Michele Abraham with a team of over 50 professionals, assisted 4,523 individuals in 2023 alone to:

- Create and retain 2,355 jobs
- Obtain \$89.9 million in capital investments

Increase revenues by \$50.3 million
Start 203 new businesses, and
Win \$10.9 million in government contracts

This resulted in a net federal tax return for the jobs impacted of eight times what we invested in the program. In other words, the return on investment is stellar.

Hosted by a consortium of four universities—Clemson, South Carolina State, University of South Carolina, and Winthrop—the South Carolina SBDC serves all small businesses regardless of race, gender, location, or military status.

We are grateful for the work they do and the lives we see changed day-in and day-out.

RECOGNIZING AVERY DION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avery Dion for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Avery has overcome many challenges along the journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Avery, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Avery's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Avery Dion on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING DINEEN PARIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Ms. Dineen Paris, a volunteer at Hope Services, a local nonprofit on their Dream Team. This group consists of volunteers willing to provide guidance, direction, and support to the Hope Services Executive Team. As part of this work, Ms. Dineen has been instrumental with fundraising and organizing a free dance for those living with disabilities. Dineen has also dedicated hours of support and was a key participant in the planning and launch of the Hope Services Life Skills and Vocational Training Center in Land O'Lakes, Florida that opened on February 10, 2023. The Center is dedicated to providing life skills to those adults living with disabilities throughout the communities we serve. Along with her late husband, Leonard, Dineen built and donated two Little Free Libraries of books that are now located at the Wesley Chapel District Park and The Tampa Premium Outlets. These libraries are available to all residents within our community. Dineen has been a champion for Hope Services throughout the larger community it serves and is a very generous donor monetarily in addition to her time and talents.

It is clear that Ms. Paris has made a profoundly positive impact on our community and on the lives of countless people she has worked with in the fight against the horrific crime of human trafficking. I am grateful for her service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALFREDA SCHMIDT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart I pay tribute to the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Alfreda Schmidt—a beloved Lansing icon, community advocate, and dedicated public servant who touched the lives of countless people throughout her 97 years on this earth. Alfreda was loved and respected for her commitment to service, compassion for others, and tireless advocacy. She was known affectionately as “The Lady with the Hat,” for her collection of over 100 hats, and was rarely seen without one. Just as she believed that each hat had a purpose, she believed her purpose was to help others.

Born in 1926 in Dansville, Michigan, she grew up on her family farm and would go on to attend the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Central Michigan University. In 1951, she married her late husband, Frank Schmidt, at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing, and together they raised four children, all instilled with Alfreda's beliefs that you never do anything alone, and that helping others is always the right thing to do.

These beliefs guided Alfreda through a long life of community and public service. She was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, serving from 1979 to 1981 and 1998 to 2000. She also represented Lansing's 2nd Ward on the Lansing City Council from 1981 to 1993. Alfreda was one of the first women to join the South Lansing Kiwanis Club in 1989 and was named 2003 Kiwanian of the Year in recognition of her leadership and commitment to her community.

Throughout her decades of serving the public and taking on community projects, she stressed the importance of listening as the key to understanding people's problems. Frank would drive Alfreda all over Lansing to meet with people who had called Alfreda in the hopes she could help solve their problem.

Alfreda's dedication to Lansing knew no bounds. Among an endless list of city projects and improvements, she was the driving force behind raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and rallying 2,000 volunteers to build the Hawk Island Park playground in just one week. She led fundraising efforts to reopen the swimming pool at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, a community center renamed in her honor in 2012.

Alfreda's passion for supporting veterans and honoring their sacrifices exemplified her deep sense of gratitude and respect for those who served our country. She advocated for Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization that distributes wreaths for placement on veterans' graves in military cemeteries.

She helped initiate Veterans Appreciation Day at the Ingham County Fair. Most recently, she served on the Mayor's Veterans Commission and just last month she raised funds for