

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LOWER SOUTH-AMPTON POLICE SERGEANT RAYMOND BRANDEN'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent from my district, Sergeant Raymond Branden of Lower Southampton Township. His distinguished career as a law enforcement officer spans an impressive 37 years and now culminates in his well-merited retirement.

Raymond was born in Philadelphia and currently resides in Holland. He started his career in 1987 working part-time for Chalfont Borough, Newtown Borough, and Yardley Borough. Raymond secured a full-time position as an officer in 1988 and by April 1989, he joined the Lower Southampton Township Police Department.

Over the course of 15 years, Raymond was a member of the South-Central Bucks County SWAT team, serving as a valuable and esteemed team leader. Concurrently, he was a member of the Lower Southampton Township Police Honor Guard, exhibiting unwavering reliability as an accident investigator and reconstructionist.

During his tenure with Lower Southampton Township, Raymond's ascent within the police department was marked by commendable rapidity. Elevated to the rank of Corporal in 2004 and further to Sergeant in 2006, his trajectory underscored his exceptional leadership and dedication to duty. Noteworthy among his myriad achievements are instances where he displayed promptness and efficacy in responding to medical crises, deftly averted threats posed to fellow officers, and apprehended perpetrators of burglary.

Along with this patrol sergeant duties, Raymond was also the traffic safety coordinator for the police department. Tasked with scheduling traffic and DUI enforcement details, he led numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the force and community as a whole.

Sergeant Branden plans to enjoy his retirement by spending quality time with his wife Tami, daughters Nichole and Morgan, and grandchildren Luna and Rory. I express profound gratitude to Sergeant Branden for the life of dedicated service he has given to our community, district, and country. His noble character is an example of civic stewardship for new generations of law enforcement to embody.

Raymond's devotion to the force will be greatly missed, but I wish to congratulate him on his 37 years of service to the citizens of Bucks County and his deserved retirement from the Lower Southampton Township Police Department. I am looking forward to seeing him embark on this new journey and I sincerely hope that all his future endeavors are met with great success.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL KINEMATICS FOR RECEIVING THE ROBERT O. COVEY AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General Kinematics for receiving the Robert O. Covey Award for embodying the spirit of American ingenuity and community engagement. From its humble beginnings in a Barrington storefront in 1960, General Kinematics has blossomed into a global leader, serving clients across the world with innovative solutions.

General Kinematics' success story is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a commitment to continuous improvement. What started with a small team of six employees has grown to a robust workforce of over 192, with countless retired employees who have contributed to the company's legacy. This remarkable growth is a result of General Kinematics' unwavering dedication to its employees, fostering a culture of innovation and providing opportunities for professional development.

The company's commitment to its employees extends beyond the workplace. General Kinematics actively invests to the growth of young people in the community, providing training programs and mentorship opportunities that empower the next generation. This dedication to community development is reflected in their positive impact on Crystal Lake and beyond.

General Kinematics' journey is one of constant evolution. From its initial focus on the foundry industry, the company has expanded its reach to serve mines, recycling plants, and a diverse range of global clients. This expansion is driven by innovation, with General Kinematics continuously developing new equipment and products to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging General Kinematics and its employees for their remarkable contributions to the community, their dedication to innovation, and their commitment to building a sustainable future.

HONORING PETE BOUDREAUX

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who selflessly served his alma mater for more than 50 years. Coach Pete Boudreaux, Catholic High School track coach, teacher, guidance counselor, and legend, is a member of the Catholic High

School Class of 1959. After a stint in the Army and an SEC Championship-worthy track career at LSU, Coach Boudreaux returned to his alma mater to begin his service career. Over his career, Coach Boudreaux brought home 52 state championships between cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. He is the first man to be inducted into both the Catholic High School and St. Joseph's Academy High School Athletic Halls of Fame and is also a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

Beyond his legendary coaching career, Coach Boudreaux is a man who passionately worked to get the most out of his students. Some of the constants in Coach Boudreaux's approach are to work to prepare his students for the future and mold them into good people. Coach Boudreaux's ability to evolve and contribute to the lives of young men over the course of generations is unparalleled, and Catholic High has been fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher, guidance counselor, and coach. As a former sprinter under "Coach Boo," I join thousands of Catholic High graduates in wishing him a huge congratulations on his retirement and go Bears.

SUPPORTING THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, in the more than ten years since the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby vs. Holder* case, state legislatures have targeted voters and erected deliberate barriers to the ballot box in what amounts to the most coordinated effort to restrict voting access in generations. These new laws would: Close polling stations without advanced notice, purge voter rolls, curb early voting and voting by mail, impose strict ID requirements and limit multi-lingual voting materials.

If we are to gather here today and discuss solutions to rid this Nation of voter disenfranchisement, then I suggest that instead of the Republican misguided bill, the House finally take up H.R. 14, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Named for our late great colleague and Civil Rights hero, the bill would establish a modern-day formula to prevent states with a recent history of voter discrimination from enacting restrictive voting laws.

Generations of Americans marched, fought and even died for the right to vote, many in my hometown of Selma, Alabama. We cannot let the continuation of unjust practices threaten their legacy and undermine our democracy.

The right to vote is the most fundamental right in our democracy. With the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, we're ensuring that every eligible American can make their voices heard in fair, accessible, and transparent elections.

• 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.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will finally join me and fellow Democrats in this worthwhile endeavor.

It was John Lewis who said “that the right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool in a democratic society. We must use it.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in defending this precious right so that H.R. 14 can finally be brought forward for a vote; and show once and for all to our constituents that we are united in defense of our democracy and our most sacred right to vote.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR BENJAMIN JONES

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Major Benjamin Jones' impressive record of service to our country. Ben was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and attended high school at Clayton High School in North Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University and received his commission as an Armor Officer through Officer Candidate School in 2010.

Major Jones has served on active duty for just over ten years. He has served as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader within 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He commanded two Cavalry Troops within 1st Armored Division in Texas. After command, he served as an exercise planner for Joint Modernization Command, within Army Futures Command. He also has an operational deployment to Kuwait in 2017 as a Troop Commander. Prior to his current assignment in the Army House Liaison Division as a Legislative Liaison, Major Jones served as the Defense Fellow/Military Legislative Liaison for Representative Filemon Vela of Texas' 34th Congressional District.

As a Legislative Liaison, Ben was the face of the Army for 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, with direct influence over 10 states spanning 85 individual members. Ben built, promoted, and facilitated lines of communication between Congress and the Army that were instrumental in maintaining the relationship between the executive and legislative branches. Through his ability to clearly define the Army's message and help navigate the needs of Congress to provide essential oversight requirements, Ben has had a lasting and outsized impact on the government and the nation's ability to respond to global threats, ensure the military modernizes, and maintains readiness at the highest level.

In June, Major Jones will be attending the National Intelligence University as he continues his career as a strategic intelligence officer continuing his post graduate studies and continues to honorably serve our great Nation. I wish Ben, his wife Lauren, and his two children Colin and Harper, the best of luck in their future endeavors and their continued dedication to this great country.

RECOGNIZING
BARBARA
DEMAREST FOR HER YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF AM-
HERST AND WESTERN NEW
YORK AT LARGE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Demerest for her many years of community engagement and civic duty as a tireless conservative advocate in the Town of Amherst and across Western New York.

Barbara graduated with a master's degree and Advanced Certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work, and a Certificate in Supervisory Studies from the Cornell School of Industrial Relations. She went on to work in the healthcare sector, serving the region as both a clinician and administrator. As she advocated for stronger measures to combat family violence, Barbara connected with longtime State Senator Mary Lou Rath. Barbara Demerest's voice on community issues was appreciated, and Senator Rath later brought her on as the Director of Community Services, where she continued to have a large impact on policy, advising the Senator and working with the community on a wide range of issues, with a special emphasis on her background in healthcare.

Even in retirement, Barbara Demerest continues to be a trusted advisor to candidates and elected officials as a leader in the Town of Amherst Republican Committee and respected advocate in the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I thank Barbara Demerest for her tireless efforts to improve Western New York through her community engagement and activism.

RECOGNIZING BOB BLAZIER FOR
RECEIVING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Blazier for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce. This recognition acknowledges Mr. Blazier's unwavering commitment to serving his community in various capacities.

Bob Blazier's career in Crystal Lake began in 1962 as the Principal of Lundahl Middle School. His passion for education extended beyond the classroom, as he became a founding member of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in 1977.

From 1985 to 2002, Bob served as superintendent of District 47 in Crystal Lake, leaving an enduring legacy on the district's educational system. After his tenure as superintendent, he continued making a difference by serving as Vice President of the Northern Illinois Medical Center where he played a piv-

otal role in establishing the Centegra Foundation.

Bob's involvement in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce reached its peak when he served as President from 1990 to 2008. During his presidency, he spearheaded the creation of the Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation, which has since awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

Even at the age of 97, Bob remains actively engaged in the community, working at Home State Bank. His unwavering dedication to Crystal Lake is a testament to his unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the community of Crystal Lake and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bob Blazier's lifelong leadership and dedication to serving others. His unwavering commitment serves as an inspiration to all who strive to make a lasting difference in their communities.

RECOGNIZING LOWER SOUTH-
AMPTON POLICE SERGEANT MI-
CHAEL WOJNAR'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Sergeant Michael Wojnar of Lower Southampton Township Police Department who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer.

He started his career in 1996 working for Jenkintown Borough and Rockledge Borough Police. He attended Bucks County Community College for his Associates of Art Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from 1992 to 1995 and enrolled in the Police Academy at Montgomery County Community College in 1995. By June 1997, he joined the Lower Southampton Township Police Department.

For 18 years, Michael served as a valuable asset within the South-Central Bucks County SWAT team, fulfilling pivotal roles in HAZMAT SWAT operations and crisis negotiator. Additionally, he was a member of the Lower Southampton Township Police Honor Guard, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to excellence in law enforcement.

During his tenure with Lower Southampton Township, Michael quickly rose through the ranks of the police department, promoted to Corporal in 2014 and Sergeant in 2018. Michael Wojnar has an array of worthy achievements, exemplified by his courageous rescue efforts at the Ridgecrest Nursing Home amidst perilous conditions of heat and smoke, and his adeptness in providing key information leading to the arrest of a serial bank robber.

Along with his patrol sergeant duties, he was extremely involved in accident investigation and reconstruction. While performing these responsibilities, he was also at Peirce College getting a Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Administration in 2021, and earning a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Corrections from the University of Arizona Global Campus from 2022 to 2023.