

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT: SANDRA GALASSI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the long-distinguished career of Sandra Galassi, a dedicated public servant. In April 2022, Sandra Galassi retired from the Social Security Administration after 48 years of service to our Nation and our residents.

For almost five decades, Ms. Galassi was the epitome of dedication, commitment, and service excellence within the Social Security Administration. She was based in the Chicago North field office, the Chicago Region's most culturally and ethnically diverse field office. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Galassi exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and compassion. She would often work tirelessly to ensure members of the public were assisted. From her early days as a fresh recruit, to her eventual role as a Title II Claims Specialist, she navigated each challenge with grace, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to serving the public with integrity and empathy. Each day, Ms. Galassi approached her work with a sense of purpose and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others. With 48 years of service, Ms. Galassi touched tens of thousands of lives, each one better for having encountered her.

Ms. Galassi's tenure is not merely a testament to longevity but also to her enduring passion for public service. The numerous awards of recognition she has received serve to solidify the indelible impression Ms. Galassi has left on the Social Security Administration. This was not her only time spent on behalf of the public. Prior to joining the Social Security Administration, she spent time working for both the United States Treasury Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Ms. Galassi was born and raised in Chicago, and then raised a family of her own with her husband Robert in Niles, Illinois. I am proud to have her as a constituent of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, and I know that she is an irreplaceable member of the local community. On behalf of the constituents of the 9th Congressional District, we thank Ms. Galassi for her 48 years of service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARLAN CHAPMAN

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Colo-

nel Harlan Chapman, USMC, who recently passed away at the age of 89. Lieutenant Colonel Chapman was a committed husband, father, veteran, and the Marine Corps' longest held POW of the Vietnam War.

Chapman was born in 1934 in Elyria, Ohio. In June 1956, he commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps through Miami University's Navy ROTC program. Chapman served for over a decade before deploying to North Vietnam where he flew a Vought F8 Crusader off the aircraft carrier USS *Oriskany*.

During a fateful mission in Vietnam on November 5, 1965, Chapman's strike group was tasked with hitting a railroad and highway bridge deep behind enemy territory. Piloting the last plane of the strike group, Chapman skillfully and successfully delivered his payload to the target. Hit by anti-aircraft fire, he was forced to eject and was soon captured. Chapman spent 2,657 days—over seven years—as a prisoner of war in the notorious so-called 'Hanoi Hilton' and other North Vietnamese camps where Chapman and other American prisoners endured ongoing torture, interrogation, and isolation.

On February 12, 1973, during Operation Homecoming, Chapman was the first Marine Corps POW of the Vietnam War to be released. Upon his return to the United States, Chapman continued to serve our country and assumed command of Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 314 in El Toro, California, until his retirement in 1974.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Chapman was an American hero in the truest sense of the word. His story and service illustrate the indomitable American spirit in the face of great adversity. On behalf of Ohio's Fifth District, I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Chapman for his service to our great Nation. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM 'BILL' PHILLIPS OF BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the achievements, dedication, and hard work of William 'Bill' Phillips of Bell Buckle, Tennessee. Bill has lived a life dedicated to serving his Nation and keeping our military the strongest in the world.

Bill grew up on a farm in Tennessee and received a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Agriculture. This, however, was just the first of many educational degrees Bill would achieve. He also earned a Master's in Personnel Management, a Master's in Procurement and Material Management, and a Master's from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

In addition to his educational achievements, Bill also served our Nation in the United

States Army. Bill retired as a Lieutenant General in May of 2014 while serving as the Army's Senior Acquisition Officer. He also served in the role of an Army Aviator with more than 30 years of experience. Bill became certified on the CH-47, UH-1, and OH-58 helicopters.

After retiring from the Army, Bill began a second career in the private sector. In May of 2015, Bill began working for Boeing as the Vice President for Army and Special Operations. At Boeing, Bill was in charge of five offices: Huntsville, AL, Fort Eustis, VA, Fort Novosel, AL, Tampa, FL, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, and Austin, TX.

Among Bill's other achievements are Middle Tennessee ROTC Hall of Fame, 2018, Defense Acquisition University Hall of Fame, 2014, Army's Acquisition Commander of the Year, 2000.

Bill and his wife, Marylyn, reside in Bell Buckle, Tennessee, where Bill still farms.

On behalf of our Nation, I thank Bill Phillips and congratulate him for all he has achieved personally and for the efforts and sacrifices he has made for our country.

RECOGNIZING VETERAN & PUBLIC SERVANT JOHN JOSEPH AVILA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Joseph Avila for his years of dedication as a community leader in the City of Pomona.

John Avila was a first generation Mexican-American, who understood the importance of representation, which fueled his pursuit of service, education, and public office. After graduation from high school, John served in the Marine Corps for 8 years. Upon his return home, John pursued a degree from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. In 1961, John and his wife, Dona, relocated to Pomona, California, where they began working for the Pomona Unified School District. As a middle school teacher, John's passion for expanding quality education for underserved communities was ignited. He organized with the Association of Mexican American Educators and successfully lobbied for funding to spread Pre-K through 12th grade bilingual education. John created curriculum to recruit, train and coordinate educators to meet the needs of their Spanish-speaking students and families.

Over the course of his life, John was a member of many organizations including the Catholic Newman Community, the Optimist Club, the United Farm Workers, La Raza Unida Party and the League of United Latin American Citizens. Using his experience as a middle school teacher and membership of these organizations, John ran for the Mayor of Pomona in 1995. He lost to the incumbent but

• 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.

continued to seek opportunities to provide leadership in public service. Upon his official retirement as a teacher, John was elected as the School Board President for the Pomona Unified School District and served for over a decade.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, John peacefully passed away, surrounded by love and care from his family. He is survived by his wife, 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize John Joseph Avila. His years of service and commitment to the people of Pomona are worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING FORMER IMPD
POLICE CHIEF, JAMES TOLER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of former Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief James Toler who lived a life of selfless and profound service to the Indianapolis community. Chief Toler passed away on June 4, 2024, at the age of 82.

James Toler has been described as a trailblazer. He came from humble beginnings and worked long nights climbing up the ranks from sergeant to major before he was appointed Indianapolis' first Black police chief. Chief Toler understood the magnitude of his service, sharing he "felt a tremendous responsibility to do very well in the position so that if the opportunity comes for the selection of another minority, they would never be able to look at me and look at me as a failure."

During his tenure, Chief Toler implemented community policing within IMPD, improving connections between police and Indianapolis residents. This model was relatively unknown at the time but is now utilized nationwide. He also played a key role in helping IMPD's administration become more efficient. Chief Toler retired from IMPD in 2001 following 38 years of service.

Chief Toler will always be remembered by not only his biological family and loving friends, but also through his special relationship with the entire Indianapolis community. We treasure the legacy he leaves. James' blood, sweat, and tears paved the way for so many, and he will continue to serve as an inspiration to all who want to make a difference in the world.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring a true Hoosier public servant. Our thoughts are with his family during this time.

RECOGNIZING THE MONMOUTH
COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Broege, Hope Jones, and Ross Millhiser as they are honored by the Monmouth County Historical Association at its 49th Annual Garden Party. Mr. Broege, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Millhiser are the members of the Association's recently formed Advisory Council and it is a fitting tribute for the Association to recognize their dedication on its 125th anniversary.

Robert Broege is a long-time supporter of the Monmouth County Historical Association. He has served on the Association's Board of Trustees since 1992 and has lent his time and expertise to various committees, including the ethics committee. He and his wife Marilyn are also repeat hosts of the Garden Party. In addition to his work with the Monmouth County Historical Association, Mr. Broege is a trustee of Elberon Memorial Church, Chairman of the Oceanport Environmental Commission, and previously served on several hospital foundation boards. Mr. Broege remains an active and charitable member of the community and his involvement reflects his passion to help others and improve our communities.

The granddaughter of Mrs. J. Amory Haskell who restored and later donated Marlipit Hall to the Monmouth County Historical Association, Hope Jones is dedicated to preserving the history of Monmouth County. Continuing her family's charitable legacy, Hope Jones joined the Monmouth County Historical Association's Board of Trustees in 1976. She was an exemplary leader of the board for many years, serving as secretary and president. Despite no longer residing in New Jersey full-time, Ms. Jones maintains her Monmouth County roots and has continued to support the mission of the Association. Ms. Jones was recognized for her long-time commitment to the Monmouth County Historical Association as the honoree of the 2008 Garden Party.

Returning to his childhood community of Rumson in 2002, Ross Millhiser and his wife Diane reside in the same home that has been in his family for 65 years. In 2008, he joined the Monmouth County Historical Association Board of Trustees in 2008, combining his love of history with service to the community. Over the years, he served as trustee, first vice president, and vice president emeritus, and as a member of several committees. His active involvement and knowledge has been valuable to the Monmouth County Historical Association and the greater community.

For 125 years, the Monmouth County Historical Association has provided Monmouth County residents and visitors with a vast collection of our local history and heritage. Through its programs, exhibits, and resources, the Association continues to educate and enlighten our communities with both a historical and humanities perspective. Its efforts to preserve and promote the region's rich history help to ensure that this important knowledge is available for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, on the 125th anniversary of the Monmouth County Historical Association, please join me in thanking Robert Broege, Hope Jones, and Ross Millhiser for their leadership and contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NA-
TIONAL PARK SERVICE RANGER
TOM LORIG

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of National Park Service Ranger Tom Lorig, who tragically passed away at the age of 78 on Friday, June 7, 2024, while on the Job in Bryce Canyon, Utah.

Ranger Lorig worked and volunteered as a National Park Service Ranger for fifty-six years. He became involved with the park service in 1968, working at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico for five years. During his career, he served at fourteen national park sites, including Badlands, Bryce Canyon, Yosemite, Zion, and the Dinosaur National Monument, for which he had a particular affection. He also served for over ten years as a permanent, seasonal, and volunteer park ranger across many of these park sites.

Beyond his service to our national parks, Ranger Lorig was also a registered nurse for forty years in the Seattle, Washington area, demonstrating his commitment to helping people and supporting those who needed it.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Ranger Lorig's family, friends, and the Bryce Canyon National Park community. His loss will be felt by those who knew him and the many he assisted during his impactful career as both a nurse and a Park Ranger.

It is public servants like Ranger Lorig who truly make our country great.

HONORING LOIS MADOLYN CROSS
BROOKS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I seek to honor Lois Madolyn Cross Brooks, who was born on June 13, 1924, in Durham, North Carolina. At the age of one, her family relocated to Alexandria, Virginia. She attended Parker-Gray School in Alexandria, which in 1932 became the first high school for African Americans in Alexandria, who previously had to travel to Washington, D.C. if they wished to continue their education beyond 8th grade. Mrs. Brooks graduated from Parker-Gray School in 1942 along with 26 other students.

She worked for the Federal government at the Marine Corps headquarters. She was one of nine children and has one child and two grandchildren. Mrs. Brooks still lives in Alexandria and stays active by reading, following politics, and interacting with young people. I wish her a joyous and healthy centennial birthday.