

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NORMANDY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to participate in the Bipartisan Congressional Delegation for the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy invasion at the invitation of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and led by Majority Speaker STEVE SCALISE.

A highlight of the program were the following remarks of Charles K. Djou, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission at the Normandy American Cemetery on Omaha Beach on June 6, 2024:

“President and First Lady Biden. President and First Lady Macron.

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the American Battle Monuments Commission’s Normandy American Cemetery.

Bonjour a tous et bienvenue.

D-Day is the hinge of history. It is here that America reflects the very best of its values.

When America is at its best. When America sends its young, its brave, its best, to fight, America does not fight—

—for a king or a crown

—not for a sect or a denomination

—not for a motherland or a fatherland

And America most certainly does not fight for conquest, or plunder, or enslavement of another people.

Rather, at its best, when America asks its young and brave to serve, to sacrifice, and yes, sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice, America fights for simple values.

The values of Freedom, Liberty and Democracy.

And when the job is done, when the mission is accomplished, when America and her allies have taken down the tyrant and stood up democracy of the people, America does something utterly unique in the history of mankind—we go home.

All that America asks for in return for this sacrifice of our young is a few small plots of land to bury our dead who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

You are all seated here in one such small plot of land—the Normandy American Cemetery.

That is why—

—this Date, June 6th

—this Place, Normandy

—this Ceremony, here is a reminder to us of the real cost of war and the real price of liberty.

It is a price that we paid on D-Day 80 years ago. It is a price we remind authoritarians today that, if necessary, we will pay again to ensure the survival of freedom.

—France knows.

—The United States knows.

—We know.

—La France le connaît

—Les Estas Unis les connaissent

—Nous connaissons

That the world’s most powerful weapon system is

—not a T-72 manned by mercenaries

—not a Fujian aircraft carrier patrolling artificial islands

—not a suicidal terrorist killing innocents
No, it was, it is, and it shall forever be a free people willing to fight for freedom. This is what today is all about.

Thank you for coming, here.

Thank you for remembering, here.

Thank you for renewing your faith in freedom, here.

Je voudrais dit, merci beaucoup.

May the good Lord, bless you, your family, France and the United States of America.”

HONORING COLONEL JOHN WILCOX FOR HIS SERVICE AS GARRISON COMMANDER OF FORT LIBERTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel John Wilcox as Garrison Commander of Fort Liberty, North Carolina, and to thank him for his 25 years of dedication to the armed forces.

Colonel John Wilcox earned his commission in the Military Police Corps in 1999 after graduating from The Virginia Military Institute, he has undertaken numerous roles including Platoon Leader, Special Reaction Team Leader, Company Commander, and as a Military Police Advisor during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007 Colonel Wilcox volunteered to join Special Operations as a Civil Affairs Soldier and later would deploy twice to the southern Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines, returning as Company Commander and providing Civil Affairs forces across the Mindanao Province.

Prior to assuming his role as Fort Liberty Garrison Commander, Colonel Wilcox continued his Civil Affairs service in command of 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, Chief of Plans 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, Advisor USFOR-A, and Assistant Chief of Staff G9 2nd Infantry Division. Colonel Wilcox deployed to Afghanistan as part of a NATO Special Operations Component Command as the Director of the Afghan Local Police Special Operations Advisory Cell and in 2021 was assigned Deputy Chief of Staff G5 for USASOC.

Colonel Wilcox assumed Garrison Commander of Fort Liberty in June of 2022. With 2,500 appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, Fort Liberty is one of the largest and functionally complex garrison workforces in the Installation Management Command. In the last two years, Colonel Wilcox has implemented a number of improvements to municipal services, built upon relationships with local elected leaders, and has secured Fort Liberty’s ready status as a power projection platform. Through his professionalism, dedication, drive and passion, Colonel Wilcox has greatly improved the quality of life for the nearly 280,000 people that live, work, or rely on Fort Liberty for services. Recently the base underwent a no-notice departure of the 18th Airborne Corps headquarters as well as the 82nd Airborne Division’s de-

ployment to Europe, both operations remaining agile and effective with the support and steady leadership of Colonel Wilcox. Additionally, Fort Liberty underwent repairs of more than 100 miles of roadwork in failing condition at 60 percent of the estimated cost, implemented a multiyear replacement plan for HVAC systems and Roofs saving the government upwards of \$10 million, and established the “Sunset Liberty March,” designed to honor the installation’s history and the sacrifice of fallen soldiers.

The people of Fort Liberty are forever grateful for Colonel John Wilcox’s vision and direction. Colonel Wilcox, his wife, Nellie, and their three children, Hannah, Aiden, and Lukas, will be deeply missed by this community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the service of Colonel John Wilcox as Fort Liberty’s Garrison Commander and wishing him success on his future endeavors.

HONORING OFFICERS OF THE VINTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HEROIC ACTIONS

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer David Lyons and Corporal Dempsey Laverne of the Vinton Police Department (VPD) for their life-saving actions in response to a dire situation. Their actions illustrate an optimal delivery of a vital public service: timely heroics by law enforcement officers.

In July of 2022, a resident of Vinton, Louisiana was driving home with her four-year-old granddaughter via Interstate-10. As they neared their exit, the driver maneuvered her vehicle to avoid a collision, veering off the road and into the middle of a canal. As a result of the crash, the vehicle’s windows and doors would not open. As the vehicle began to sink in the 10-foot-deep canal, the occupants trapped within were at risk of losing their lives. The driver’s daughter and mother of the four-year-old child was alerted to this incident via a family safety app on her phone. When her mother failed to answer a phone call, she reported the vehicle’s location to an emergency operator. Officer Lyons and then-Sergeant Laverne were immediately dispatched to the scene. Arriving at the vehicle’s location, the officers identified the weight of the situation and rushed into the canal’s waters toward the sinking vehicle.

Unable to budge the vehicle’s locked doors, the officers smashed its rear window, through which the driver passed them her granddaughter. While the four-year-old had reached safety, the driver remained trapped in the nearly submerged car. With admirable resolve, Officer Lyons and Corporal Laverne clung to her, ignoring the water rising around them. Finally, moments after the car had fully submerged, the officers were able to pull her from

• 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.

the vehicle. This harrowing rescue, and the incident's overwhelmingly positive outcome were described by witnesses as a miracle.

Details in the incident's aftermath leave no doubt that Officer Lyons and Corporal Lavergne are the instruments through which this miracle came. These officers' courageous actions are a testament to their character. Dismissing the obstacles, danger, and odds, these officers instinctually abided by their oath of office, exemplifying the very best of the Thin Blue Line. Officer Lyons' only statement regarding this incident presents an ethos worthy of aspiration: "We don't do it for the glory, we simply do what God put us on the planet to do." May the Lord continue to bless and protect Officer Lyons and Corporal Lavergne in their service and protection of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 286, I mistakenly voted YES when I intended to vote NO.

HONORING THE THREAT HUNTING OP GRANOLA BEARD TEAM FOR EXCELLENT SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a team of highly skilled cybersecurity professionals for their invaluable service to the United States. While few know their name or see their work, the Threat Hunting OP Granola Beard responding team saved millions of Americans from a devastating series of cyberattacks.

Volt Typhoon, a malicious state-sponsored cyber actor connected to the People's Republic of China (PRC), repeatedly targeted critical U.S. infrastructure. By pre-positioning cyber threats within critical infrastructure IT networks, Volt Typhoon was poised to launch destructive cyberattacks of immense proportions against the U.S. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) confirmed that the malign group compromised critical infrastructure organizations in communications, energy, transportation systems, and water and wastewater systems. In a moment of crisis, the PRC could devastate American communities.

Through the vigilance, dedication, and hard work of the Threat Hunting OP Granola Beard responding team, Volt Typhoon was detected and evicted from many of these critical infrastructure organizations. Despite Volt Typhoon operating in a pattern of behavior inconsistent with traditional cyber espionage, they were no match for our best and brightest. Using their expertise, this unique group of specialists shared Volt Typhoon's tactics, techniques, and activity with the public, ensuring that the malign group could no longer operate in the dark.

Americans owe much to these patriots, though their work often goes unnoticed. This team deserves our deepest gratitude.

On behalf of the American people and the United States Congress, I thank the Threat Hunting OP Granola Beard team for their service to this country.

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the destruction gun violence has had on our country and our sense of normalcy.

I grew up in a tight-knit farming town in South Texas. My daddy taught me to shoot when I was a little girl. We were poor, so we hunted to feed our communities and make a living.

Today, guns have taken a different meaning for far too many.

Today, Texas has more gun owners than any other state in the country. And that likely makes us one of the least safe states.

Gun violence is an epidemic in this country. Our children constantly live in fear. They are now more likely to die from guns than anything else.

We have seen too many schools shot up, and still nothing has been done.

Despite what Republicans want you to believe, guns are not the solution. Arming teachers is not the solution.

Seventy-seven percent of my constituents support an assault weapons ban, 92 percent support red-flag laws, 94 percent believe domestic abusers should be disarmed, and 95 percent support universal background checks.

We must put people over politics and work together to protect our citizens, but this can't happen with Republicans' unwillingness to take more far-reaching action.

We need them to work with us to expand on the bipartisan work of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to block common sense solutions.

They refuse to work with us to pass universal background checks.

They refuse to ban bump stocks.

They refuse to finally ban assault weapons or protect against dangerous ghost guns that only make our communities less safe.

And it's not just Republicans in the House.

The extreme MAGA Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Trump-era ban of bump stocks, reopening the door for deadlier and deadlier mass shootings.

We are swimming in guns.

It's only a matter of time.

That is why I am doing my part in Congress.

I have cosponsored legislation on universal background checks and an assault weapons ban.

I am also the proud cosponsor of the Closing the Bump Stock Loophole Act, which would put a law on the books to treat bump stocks as machine guns following the Supreme Court's disastrous ruling.

We need to keep our residents safe, and we must act now. We will continue to fight for safety until we get it done.

HONORING NATE WORLEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Nate Worley, for his work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions he has made to the office this summer.

Nate is from Leicester, North Carolina and is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied economics. Nate is active in local politics and is a dedicated member of the Western North Carolina Community.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Nate was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with his positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Nate, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Nate exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Nate on this successful completion of his internship, and on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I thank him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF RANDY WALKER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Mr. Randy Alan Walker of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, who passed away last month after a 10-year battle with ALS. Randy had an exceptional impact on the lives that he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with Randy and his wife Lisa earlier this year, just days before Randy's passing. Randy shared with me his story in a letter he wrote.

ALS is a devastating disease that takes a tremendous toll on those living with the disease, as well as their families and caregivers. Despite this disease, Randy continued to live life to the fullest. Following his diagnosis, he created a bucket list of all the things he wished to accomplish and managed to complete every item on it. In his own words, Randy told me his most exhilarating experience was skydiving with his daughter, and his fondest memory was watching his son graduate high school and college.

Mr. Speaker, Randy shared with me what his life was like with ALS. In his letter, he said: "You can be me for just one hour. Get comfy on your couch. Put your phone and remote out of reach. Standing for any reason is against the rules. I can't stand, so neither can you. Now for the hard part . . . when you get an itch—and you will . . . THERE IS NO SCRATCHING. If you survive the hour, kudos to you. Imagine that 24/7. Welcome to my world."

I was touched by Randy's letter. And I wrote him a note following our meeting, reflecting on