

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING STELLA WHITNEY-  
WEST

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career and leadership of Stella Whitney-West, who is retiring after 17 years as Chief Executive Officer of NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in Minneapolis.

NorthPoint, one of my district's Federally Qualified Health Centers, serves thousands of my constituents every year, Federally Qualified Health Centers make up the fabric of our country's health safety net—and Ms. Whitney-West's leadership has been instrumental in making NorthPoint a shining example of the FQHC model. In fact, it should be noted that NorthPoint was the first FQHC to be designated as a Health Care Home by the Minnesota Department of Public Health. Ms. Whitney-West began her career at NorthPoint as Chief Operating Officer in 2004. When she became the Chief Executive Officer in 2007, she led NorthPoint through a transitional time of several renovations and expansions to better serve our community. Throughout Ms. Whitney-West's tenure, she and her staff have prioritized fostering partnerships with other organizations throughout the city to expand their reach of care. NorthPoint's role in serving our community during the COVID-19 pandemic is immeasurable. Under Ms. Whitney-West's steadfast leadership, NorthPoint was a cornerstone of health and wellness for those who needed it most; not only by providing critical care and information, but also access to countless other resources like food and housing support. The positive impact that NorthPoint has on my district cannot be overstated, and it is thanks in large part to Stella Whitney-West's incredible leadership.

Ms. Whitney-West has spent the last 20 years at NorthPoint deeply committed to improving the lives of those in and around Minneapolis. She has also served on the boards of Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, and the African American Leadership Forum. While Ms. Whitney-West will be truly missed at NorthPoint, I am sure that the strong foundation she built will ensure NorthPoint's long-term success and positive role in our community for generations to come. Ms. Whitney-West's leadership and dedication to public health is invaluable—her life's work serving others has made Minneapolis a healthier, more equitable place for all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor and thank Stella Whitney-West for her distinguished career and faithful service to our community.

CELEBRATING FRANK CHARLES  
BIELECKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Frank Charles Bielecki, who turns 100 years old on August 28th of this year. Mr. Bielecki has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

Bielecki served in the United States Army for three years, where he worked as a Private and Tec 5 Cook at Fort Custer in Michigan. Bielecki spent 60 wonderful years with his wife Dorothy Joan Kulak, and he is a proud father to three sons, a grandfather of seven, and a great grandfather of eleven. Before retiring in 1986, he worked at Rapistan Conveyors in Grand Rapids for over 31 years.

When asked about his secret to longevity, Bielecki recalls always working hard, staying healthy, and eating plenty of Vernors and Little Debbie Honey Buns. From raising generations of Michiganders to serving our country, Bielecki has inspired so many people across the Third District. I applaud the positive impact he continues to make in our West Michigan community.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Bielecki for his lifelong commitment to family, community, and service; and to Mr. Bielecki, I wish him another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF  
NARSAI MICHAEL DAVID

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary American, Narsai Michael David.

Narsai David, the child of Assyrian immigrants, was born in South Bend, Indiana on June 26, 1936 and grew up in Turlock, California. He died in his home in Berkeley on June 20, 2024 from injuries suffered as a result of a fall.

Narsai David graduated from Turlock High School and the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied math and pre-med. He worked in a restaurant during college and after owning a printing company for two years, he worked at a restaurant in Berkeley where he eventually became a partner. In 1970 he launched a catering business and one of his first clients, rock impresario Bill Graham, introduced him to many of the legends of the era.

In 1976 Narsai opened his eponymous restaurant in Kensington, California, and was in the vanguard of the food revolution of the

1970's. He also owned a vineyard in the Napa Valley where he produced Cuvée and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Narsai David's inviting smile, warm voice and passion for food and travel made him a widely beloved and highly regarded writer of a cooking column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and commentator on KCBS radio and television for many years.

Reminiscing about Narsai, his colleagues at KCBS remember his signature bow ties, and how he would begin with "I'm Narsai David to say . . ." and launch into his news reports. He never said anything negative on the radio or television about a restaurant or chef, and when he was hosting a dinner he would tinkle his fork on a glass and say "good evening, good evening and a very good evening," all with a sparkle in his eye.

Narsai was a generous philanthropist who was affiliated with the Assyrian Aid Society of America and Alameda County's Meals on Wheels program. His pride in being an Assyrian American was evident to all, and his gourmet enterprises all reflected the culture.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of a great and good man, Narsai David, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife Venus and his son Daniel. We are a better Nation because of this exceptional man who was a dear friend and mentor to me.

HONORING KAREN ST. HILAIRE  
FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO VETERANS

**HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen St. Hilaire, President of the New York American Legion Auxiliary, and her work with the Hope For The Warriors project.

Karen St. Hilaire is a 49-year member of the Mattydale American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 1832 in Onondaga County. She became a member through her father John Allen who served in World War Two. Her late husband Jerry Hilaire was also a Veteran in the Army who served in Vietnam.

Karen's leadership skill began as Unit President in 1999 progressing to County in 2008, and District in 2011. She has chaired the Community Service, Americanism, Leadership, Children and Youth, VA&R, Membership Committees, and as an Executive Board member.

Karen has been spending her year promoting and raising money for the "Hope For The Warriors," Hope For The Warriors was founded by military families aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC in 2006 as they witnessed, firsthand, the effects war impacts on service members and their families. Hope For the Warriors believes those touched by military service can succeed at home by restoring their sense of self, family, and hope.

● 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.

Nationally, Hope For The Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans, and military families that are focused on transition, health and wellness, peer engagement, and connections to community resources.

Hope For The Warriors understands the challenges, pride, and joy of being a military family. For today, tomorrow, and years to come, they will strive to meet the changing needs of service members and their families. Hope For The Warriors is a family, united by our shared conviction of honor and sacrifice. In Karen's personal life, she is active in her community as a retired Firefighter and currently elected Fire Commissioner for Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department. Karen is a retired Registered Nurse with a certification from American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Karen has often cited that her greatest accomplishment is that she and her late husband Jerry have two daughters, Amy and Kristin, along with six grandchildren, Ariana, Emyrson, Ayva, Camryn, Brooklyn, and Dylan. I am honored to share the admirable work that Mrs. Hilaire has devoted to helping care for our Veterans.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2024*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment No. 44—which has been included in the En Bloc amendment—to help ensure that the U.S. remains focused on helping to end female genital mutilation around the world at a time when some countries are considering repealing existing bans.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves procedures that alter or injure the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

As the person who led efforts to outlaw female genital mutilation in the State of Wisconsin, I am too keenly aware that this remains a pressing issue.

More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation. And it is estimated that 4.4 million girls are at risk of experiencing this harmful practice this year alone.

This is a practice that has no health benefits but harms girls and women.

I share concerns that have been raised about the overall funding levels in this bill that have been so well articulated and the deep cuts to a range of programs that are vital to our Nation's interest and national security efforts.

I am also troubled by a number of policy riders that have been inserted into this bill. The bill defunds agencies like the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) that have been working to address female genital mutilation for years. Agencies like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that have also been engaged in helping to move the world towards the elimi-

nation of this practice. The Department of State has annually provided about \$5 million to UNICEF to support a Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

While we have not yet eliminated the practice of FGM, our investments and those of our international partners have seen results. As noted by the UN, over the last three decades, the prevalence of FGM has declined globally. It wasn't by accident.

It took hard work by dedicated partners at all levels from the international community to the local community working to reframe laws and attitudes.

But the work must continue.

For example, the parliament in The Gambia is considering repealing the FGM ban enacted in that country in 2015.

The repeal campaign began after the government dared to actually enforce the law a few years ago.

Overall, there is concern that if The Gambia repeals its law, this could inspire other countries to do likewise.

But more importantly, is what it would mean for the women and girls in Gambia, where some estimated that up to three-quarters of the women and girls have undergone the procedure.

In February of this year, when the world commemorated the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, our Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "FGM, in all forms, is a Human rights abuse that harms all women."

We cannot rollback the U.S. commitment to ending this human rights abuse and that includes ensuring that we adequately fund these efforts.

Our commitment to eliminating FGM—working with international organizations, such as UNICEF and UNFPA, countries, survivors, and other stakeholders—will only go as deep as our resources take it. My amendment would send a message that we still think this is important even in a bill that makes harmful cuts across the board to development, diplomacy, and humanitarian assistance.

I urge support.

RECOGNIZING THE BEREA CITIZEN

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Berea Citizen, a newspaper in Kentucky's Sixth District. The Berea Citizen was founded in 1899. It has been a trusted news source for the people of Madison County for 125 years.

The idea for the newspaper originated with Berea College President William G. Frost and at first it served as the school newspaper. It remained connected with Berea College until 1984, when it became a private newspaper. It was first delivered on Chestnut Street along a dirt road. The newspaper survived the Great Depression, two World Wars, and a global pandemic, delivering local news to the community without interruption.

The Berea Citizen staff recognizes that freedom of the press is critical in our society. They prioritize fair and balanced coverage of local meetings and events. The Berea Citizen

reached more than 10,000 readers each week. They are currently owned by Nolan Group Media from Manchester, Kentucky. Keith Taylor, the publisher, began in 2020 as the pandemic was beginning. The owner is Jay Nolan, and the Vice President is Glenn Gray. The Berea Citizen is one of the few locally owned newspapers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and it is printed in Kentucky at J. Frank Publishing in London, Kentucky.

In an era when many community newspapers are declining and no longer able to print news for the citizens, The Berea Citizen continues its mission to be a voice in the community. I congratulate them on their 125-year anniversary, and I am honored to recognize them before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, and 335. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on No. 327, NAY on No. 328, YEA on No. 329, YEA on No. 330, NAY on No. 331, YEA on No. 332, NAY on No. 333, YEA on No. 334, and NAY on No. 335.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 2024

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2024. This bill would eliminate the copay the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) imposes on individuals in its custody when they visit a health care provider.

Under BOP rules, individuals in its custody are required to "pay a fee for health services of \$2.00 per health care visit." While \$2 may seem insignificant, when such individuals earn only twelve to forty cents per hour on their work assignments, \$2 is substantial. That money could better be used to pay for the cost of necessities. Moreover, while copays can reduce unnecessary appointments, we should be encouraging such individuals to seek medical care before their conditions become worse and more expensive for taxpayers. Early care is better for patients and much less expensive for the federal government than costly treatments that could have been avoided by a simple health care visit earlier in the process.

Under BOP rules, if an individual in BOP custody is found responsible through the Disciplinary Hearing Process of having caused an injury to another person in BOP custody that required a visit to a health care provider, the offending individual is required to pay the \$2 copay for the injured individual's visit. That rule would not change under this bill.

Removing this unnecessary copay would encourage early treatment and would save the federal government money.