

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTH-
WEST INDIANA CEO SANDRA NOE

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize Sandra Noe and to congratulate her on her retirement from her position as Chief Executive Officer of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana. Sandra's efforts to improve the quality-of-life for the aging community and those faced with disabilities throughout Northwest Indiana make her worthy of the utmost praise and our sincere gratitude. For her 38 years of unwavering dedication to the organization, Sandra will be honored at a retirement celebration taking place on Friday, July 19, 2024.

Since its humble beginnings in 1977, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana has seen consistent growth, and its immense impact has been a source of pride throughout the community. During her illustrious tenure, Sandra has been instrumental in every aspect of the organization, from managing human resources to developing computer programs for food purchases and inventory control to assisting in a building expansion to construct two central kitchens. A testament to Sandra's outstanding leadership, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana now delivers more than 2,000 meals each day to children and adults throughout the region and recently reached an incredible milestone, having served its 9 millionth meal. Under Sandra's direction, the organization has continued to thrive, and we as a community are truly grateful for her service.

In addition to her impressive career, Sandra has dedicated much of her time to charitable endeavors and organizations throughout the region. She has served on advisory boards for the Indiana University Northwest School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the advisory committee for Northwest Indiana Community Action, and as a board member and finance committee member for Meals on Wheels America. Notably, Sandra is a proud founding member of the board of the 219 Health Network, and she was named the 2015 recipient of the Influential Woman of Northwest Indiana Women in Non-Profit Award by the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association, a prestigious accolade befitting her noteworthy career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the remarkable work of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana and the lifetime of selfless service and tireless dedication of Sandra Noe. Her commitment to the Northwest Indiana community serves as an inspiration to us all, and we extend our best wishes upon her retirement in the years to come.

HONORING KATIE WHEELER
MATHEWS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the California Democratic Congress-

sional Delegation to honor the public service of Katie Wheeler Mathews, as she retires from her role as Senior Advisor for Federal Affairs for the State of California. Katie's career in state government spans over 36 years and is characterized by dedicated service, a bipartisan spirit, and a profound commitment to her home state of California.

Katie has worked across five gubernatorial administrations under both Democratic and Republican governors, demonstrating a unique ability to bridge political divides. Her tenure in Washington, D.C., has been marked by tireless advocacy for California's policy priorities and effective collaboration with our congressional offices and other federal partners. Prior to that, she spent eight years in the California Governor's office in Sacramento, fostering partnerships and crafting solutions across geographical divides.

Katie has been a formidable advocate for California's interests before Congress, across multiple federal administrations, and before organizations such as the National Governors' Association and the Western Governors' Association. Her understanding of complex policy issues and ability to navigate the intricacies of federal-state relations have made her a valuable member of the Governor's office, including her work in recent years to support California's leadership on climate, immigration, and combatting the fentanyl crisis. Katie's extensive government experience and relationships with leaders on both sides of the aisle have solidified her reputation as a trusted advisor to many.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending a heartfelt appreciation to Katie Wheeler Mathews for her outstanding service to the State of California and in wishing her the best in her next chapter. California is better for her service, and we thank her for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 353; YEA on Roll Call No. 354; and YEA on Roll Call No. 355.

HONORING PRETRIAL, PROBATION
AND PAROLE SUPERVISION WEEK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Nation's community supervision professionals, who are dedicated public servants and perform many vital roles in their work with justice-involved adults and juveniles. Community supervision professionals identify opportunities and services to help justice-involved individuals contribute to society, while holding them accountable for their actions. They remain mindful of their role in protecting public safety.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024, we salute all those

who have chosen this important career. In the District of Columbia, we especially thank the employees of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) for their service. CSOSA and PSA are models of excellence in community supervision. The theme of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024 is "Wellness Unveiled: Navigating the Journey."

Community supervision agencies are valuable partners of other government agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood-based groups and all who strive to make our Nation safer and stronger. We extend our gratitude to community supervision professionals and encourage all people to recognize their many achievements as we proclaim July 21–27, 2024, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024.

HONORING MR. GENE LEEHAN'S
RETIREMENT FROM CLEAR
CHANNEL OUTDOOR NORTH
AMERICA

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a fellow Texan upon his retirement on July 19th. Mr. Gene Leehan is a past president of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas (OAAT) and has worked in the out of home advertising industry for 38 years. Mr. Leehan is retiring from his position as Executive Vice President and Senior Regional President of Clear Channel Outdoor North America (CCOA).

Over the years, CCOA and the Texas association have been key partners with federal and state agencies in times of emergency, using outdoor advertising assets to display important public messaging. This partnership has been valuable to constituents in my district, and to all Texans, including recently with Hurricane Beryl.

In recognition of his many industry contributions, Mr. Leehan was inducted into the out of home advertising Hall of Fame in 2015. Mr. Leehan's public service also includes work with the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum, a Texas non-profit that recognizes pioneers of the American western frontier.

Again, I want to congratulate Mr. Leehan on a long and fulfilling career.

CELEBRATING MRS. KIMBERLY
LEACH-WRIGHT ON 40 YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mrs. Kimberly "Kim" Leach-Wright for her outstanding service at the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review.

For more than 40 years, Mrs. Leach-Wright has been a dedicated public servant. She

started her career in 1983 as a student at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trade Office. Later, in 1985, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice, Marshals Service where she worked to advance their mission of enforcing federal laws and aided various elements of the federal justice system. Over the last 22 years, she has served in the role of Supervisory Case Management Specialist of the East Team at the Clerk's Office where she has been committed to coaching employees and nurturing their professional growth into long-term career successes. She is described in the office as energetic, funny, and committed to helping others—an invaluable set of skills that will be greatly missed.

Early on, Mrs. Leach-Wright demonstrated her skills and received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award for her excellence in General Legal Support in 2001. In recognition of her leadership, she received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award again in 2020.

Her dedication, commitment, and passion for serving others is inspiring. Her contributions as a Team Leader help shape our future by both empowering professionals with knowledge and inspiring them to continue to learn. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Leach-Wright for her unwavering service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Kimberly Leach-Wright for her dedication to public service over the last 40 years. I join her friends and loved ones in celebrating her contributions and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her husband, Ron, and her grandchildren.

HONORING SECOND CLASS OF DHS ICDF PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the second class of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Intelligence and Cybersecurity Diversity Fellowship (ICDF) Program. The ICDF Program intends to help DHS cultivate diverse talent to enter public service in Federal cybersecurity offices and components. This exemplary fellowship class is working across the homeland security enterprise—in DHS Headquarters, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Coast Guard, Secret Service, and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

This year's class includes four returning fellows and eleven new fellows. They represent 10 States and hail from universities of all sizes. Six of this year's class attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and three attend other Minority Serving Institutions. This talented class of fellows represents the diverse perspectives that are needed to help strengthen DHS's ability to analyze the evolving threats facing our Nation. I am proud that the fellowship program I passed through the House has provided pathways to success for each of these future homeland security leaders.

Congratulations to Veronica Kyles, Christian Lopez, Erin Sullivan, Reyben Cortes, Kiara Kelly, Ariel Henderson, Ethan Polhemus, Sage Despignes, Sharanya Padithaya, Zaria Gibbs,

Daryan Lassiter, Kamryn Brown, Shaqandra Roberson, Tori Johnson, and Kaari Harsila.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to following their careers as they progress toward making our homeland even safer.

HONORING MAGGIE VALLEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Maggie Valley's incorporation as a municipality in North Carolina. Home to about 1,800 North Carolinians, Maggie Valley's rich history predates the town's official incorporation by many years.

Located in Haywood County, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians occupied this region prior to the first White settlers. In the early 1800s, mountain settlers began to move into the valley and brought with them the characteristics that still define Maggie Valley—self-sufficiency, resourcefulness, independence and free-thinking.

In 1890, one of the valley's residents, Jack Setzer, became fed up with having to pay someone to take and pick up mail from the nearest post office located five miles away. Setzer began contacting officials with the United States Postal Service to establish a post office in his area that everyone in the valley could use.

When the U.S. postmaster general approved the creation of the post office, authorities requested that Setzer submit three potential names. He gave them the names of his three daughters: Cora, Mettie, and Maggie Mae.

On May 10, 1904, Jack received a letter from the U.S. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock that postal authorities had decided on a name: Maggie, North Carolina.

In 1974, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to approve Maggie Valley as an official municipality and approved the town's formation of a local government, consisting of a mayor and a five-member board of aldermen.

Maggie Valley serves as the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The town's proximity to these two attractions allows thousands of visitors to experience the beauty of Maggie Valley each year.

This year commemorates Maggie Valley's five decades as an official town. As residents celebrate the 50th anniversary this week, they honor the virtues and traditions that have defined Maggie Valley for half a century and look to carry those forward for 50 more years.

EXONERATION OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro for exonerating the Port Chicago 50 after a second review of their case since 1994, correcting 80 years of injustice. As the Congress-

man for Port Chicago, California, I am pleased that justice delayed is no longer justice denied for these American veterans of World War II and their families.

On July 17, 1944, a tragic munitions explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine killed 320 sailors and civilian workers, the majority of whom were African American. While white officers were given time off following the accident, white Navy officers ordered African American sailors to return to work in the same unsafe conditions that killed their fellow servicemen. When 50 of these men refused, they were wrongfully charged with mutiny and convicted in a hastily conducted trial overshadowed by the scourge of racism.

The convictions of the Port Chicago 50 were not just a miscarriage of justice; they were emblematic of the broader racial prejudice that African Americans faced within the military and society at large, even while serving in their country's uniform or contributing to the war effort on the Homefront as civilian workers. These men stood against dangerous conditions and racial discrimination, maintaining their innocence up until their deaths decades later.

Public outrage over their Navy trail and conviction lead to the U.S. Navy becoming the first military service branch to officially desegregate in 1946, helping to civil rights for all Americans. President Truman ordered the desegregation of all U.S. military service branches in 1948. In 1999, President Clinton pardoned Freddie Meeks, one of the three surviving sailors of the Port Chicago 50 and the only to request one. The two other surviving sailors declined a presidential pardon, refusing to ask for clemency for a crime for which they were wrongfully convicted. All three men have since passed away.

Exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 is a long overdue step in addressing historical injustices and affirming our national commitment to equality for all service members and all Americans regardless of race or creed. Now, 80 years later, the families of the Port Chicago 50 finally have closure and justice. I am proud to stand with the families of these World War II veterans and my colleagues, Representatives MARK DESAULNIER and BARBARA LEE, in celebrating this historic moment. By exonerating them, we honor their memory and rightful place in American history, ensuring their legacy is remembered with dignity and as early leaders who helped to inspire what later became the American civil rights movement.

WISHING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT BOHYER A VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to World War II veteran Robert Bohyer.

Robert embodies what it means to be a member of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions upon millions, Robert answered the call to serve, joining the U.S. Army Air Corps—which later became the Air Force—when he was only 18 years old.