

Major General Farnham's commitment and dedication to the safety and well-being of this country is clear from his dozens of military awards and recognitions, including a Legion of Merit, a Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, a Combat Readiness medal with two oak leaf clusters, and countless others he received throughout his military career for his leadership and service to the country.

It is my honor to congratulate Major General Farnham on his well-deserved retirement. I thank Major General Farnham for his 40 years of dedicated service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. Senator CORY BOOKER is introducing the companion bill in the Senate. This bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and Section 8 housing, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state (including the District of Columbia) where the property is located.

Individuals living in federally assisted housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a legal product. Adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana or both are currently legal in 38 states and the District of Columbia, and over 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under current federal law, users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict residents of federally assisted housing for using illegal drugs.

The federal government has begun to change its approach to marijuana. In 2018, the Food and Drug Administration approved Epidiolex, which is derived from marijuana. Epidiolex is used to treat children who suffer from seizures. Notably, the medicine does not contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive component in marijuana. For the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana law's. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with a state's marijuana laws. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), like DOJ, should not be allowed to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their marijuana laws.

Under this bill, HUD must develop regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and the same locations as HUD restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING PARKER BROWN AND THE CARRABBA'S TEAM

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Parker Brown and his team at Carrabba's Italian Grill on winning Westminister's 2023 Large Business Community Support Award.

Receiving four nominations for the award, constituents in the community thanked Carrabba's owner, Parker Brown, for donating much of his resources and time to support local school events and students. Carrabba's and Mr. Brown have donated food and raised funds for the community as a whole as well, earning them this Large Business Community Support Award.

Mr. Brown has been a managing partner for Carrabba's since 2013, and also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the residents of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Brown and his team for their hard work and thank them for their dedication to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote on Thursday, November 2, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 572.

CELEBRATING SEPTA CHAIRMAN PASQUALE T. DEON, SR.'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative DWIGHT EVANS, in recognition of the retirement of a remarkable constituent from my district and dear friend, Pasquale T. Deon, Sr. who will be retiring from the board of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, SEPTA on January 25, 2024. Pat is the longest tenured chairman and Board Member of SEPTA, serving the residents of the greater Philadelphia region since 1995.

During his tenure at SEPTA, Chairman Deon was committed to the securing of budgetary stability for the transportation authority through the use of innovative financial mechanisms. Chairman Deon revitalized the transit authority and contributed to 22 years of balanced budgets and the growth of SEPTA into the fifth largest public transportation system in the nation. Furthermore, Chairman Deon boasts an impressive record of bipartisan success for SEPTA, having worked with 6 governors, 5 Philadelphia mayors, and numerous

Commissioners and Councilmembers to secure the resources integral to SEPTA's continued operations throughout the region. Additionally, Chairman Deon was an active member of his community and advocate of various important causes throughout Philadelphia, including co-chairing SEPTA's Hub of Hope initiative to construct a homeless engagement center that provides resources for Philadelphia's homeless population.

Under his leadership, Chairman Deon advocated for the development and implementation of new technologies that put SEPTA at the cutting edge of efficient public transportation, including the introduction of the SEPTA Key, the integration of the SEPTA Control Center centralized command station, and the implementation of Positive Train Control, a system designed to advance and improve rail safety technologies. Additionally, Chairman Deon oversaw numerous technological advancements dedicated to making SEPTA a more sustainable system, including the introduction of hybrid buses into the fleet. SEPTA is now a committed partner of the MACH 2 hydrogen hub proposal, a project aiming to use existing technologies to generate clean hydrogen energy with the goal of transitioning the SEPTA fleet to zero-emission by 2040.

Chairman Deon's career will continue to service as a beacon of innovation and ingenuity worth emulating. By his example, we are convinced that his colleagues will continue his work towards modernizing SEPTA into an efficient, cutting-edge transit authority dedicated to quality service for the residents of the Commonwealth and all those who visit our Philly region. Thank Pat for his tireless service to our community.

NORTHEASTERN SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the Northeastern Senior Community Center on its 50th Anniversary on March 5, 2024, and tireless diligence in serving our community's Seniors.

In 1974, the Northeastern Senior Community Center opened. In addition to serving a noon meal, it "open[ed] new social dimensions in the life of the persons of Social Security age." In its 50 years, the Center has grown exponentially, and presently reaches well over 400 participants who receive monthly hot meals and participate in indispensable and engaging activities. The Center's selfless and unhesitatingly diligent volunteers never leave behind Seniors who are homebound—delivering meals to more than 60 residences throughout ten municipalities in York County. The Center's growth, professionalism, concern, and mission focus has led to earning 75 volunteers, four part-time employees, and Executive Director Deb Davis—all unwaveringly dedicated to serving our Seniors.

As the first senior center to open in York County, operating through ebb and flow, it is a vital part of our community. The legacy of its founding members (Clara Butcher, Jay W. House, Helen C. Provenza, B. Charlotte Sides, Cleon F. Prowell, Sylvia Sweitzer, J.E.

Caldwell, Roland E. Garvin, Elvan Kennedy, Margaret F. Neff, Hilda Loucks, and first Director David E. Sipe) is enduring. The Northeastern Senior Center's focus on its mission of enhancing, enriching, enlightening, and nourishing the lives of our Seniors—active and homebound—sets the standards by which all other similar organizations should be judged.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm honored and privileged to recognize and commend the hardworking people of the Northeastern Senior Community Center on its 50th Anniversary. I wish them all continued Godspeed in their service to our community, Commonwealth and Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Millennium Challenge Corporation on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Established by Congress in 2004, the Millennium Challenge Corporation has had tremendous success reducing poverty, building sustainable economic growth, and promoting good governance in lower income countries.

Over the past two decades, MCC has invested nearly \$17 billion in 86 projects across 50 countries, delivering results for over a quarter billion people in sectors including agriculture, energy, health care, transportation, and education. MCC's data driven, evidence-based approach to foreign assistance is a vital model to address the challenges of our times. The agency's focus on results paired with rigorous transparency, and oversight standards ensures we are investing in the most effective solutions in partner countries that share our values.

These efforts not only improve people's lives and promote stability, resilience, and growth, but also crucially advance U.S. global development priorities and national security goals. As geopolitical and social challenges around the world continue to evolve, it is essential to recognize the value investments in programs that build resilient communities and promote poverty reduction have on our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the incredible work of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for the last 20 years and look forward to its continued success.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF DONNA LYNN TAUB

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Donna Lynn Taub, who passed away on November 10, 2023, at the

age of 75 due to pancreatic cancer. Donna was a tremendous source of love and joy to her family and all those who knew her, and her multifaceted talents were invaluable to our community.

Donna Lynn Taub was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 27, 1948, to parents Abe and Florence Newman. She was close to her siblings, Neil and Lois, playing with them outside for hours on end. She also had many lifelong friends who she met as a girl and remained close to throughout the years.

Donna graduated from Levittown Memorial High School in 1966, and went on to study art history at American University in Washington, D.C. She became an art teacher in San Francisco, and on September 15, 1977, Donna married Dr. Eli Taub, after being introduced to him by her brother. Dr. Taub said that he fell in love with her intelligence, wit, and red hair.

Donna and Eli had two children, David and Ilana, the latter inheriting her beautiful red locks. Donna was devoted to her children in all their endeavors, including Girl Scouts and school performances. After raising them, Donna and Eli travelled the world together, including Europe and Asia, enjoying many visits to Israel and going on countless cruises.

Donna was highly versatile in her professional life. After her children were born, she became a travel agent based in Los Altos. She also began selling books on eBay and trading stocks, and was very successful at it all, paying for new cars with her earnings.

Donna is survived by her beloved husband Eli, her son David and his wife, Michelle, and her daughter Ilana. Her grandchildren are Mettabel, Atalia, and Zebulon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our condolences to Donna Taub's family and honoring the life of this extraordinary woman. How blessed I am to have known and represented her. We are a better people and a stronger country because of her and how she lived her life.

RECOGNIZING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit (SIU) for receiving the Distinguished Unit of the Year Award from the Major County Sheriffs of America.

With a focus on violent crime, intelligence, government threats, and domestic counter-terrorism, this unit is responsible for investigating violent crimes and conducting task force operations to arrest those responsible. In 2022 alone, the unit worked 1,715 hours of collective overtime and conducted operations resulting in the arrests of nine gang members associated with a murder and five adults associated with a nationwide human trafficking operation.

It is my honor to recognize the members of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Special

Investigations Unit on behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District. We thank them for their unwavering dedication to public service and their tireless work to protect our community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALMOND DAY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleagues, Rep. DAVID VALADAO and Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, to proclaim February 16, 2024, as National Almond Day.

Today, we celebrate the remarkable contributions made by almond farmers, processors, workers, and all those involved in the almond industry. National Almond Day recognizes the industry's success and innovation, highlighting its vital role in our Nation's agriculture and economy.

Almonds, often referred to as nature's wonder, offer many benefits. They are the healthiest shelf-stable protein grown on Earth and are gluten-free. They provide essential nutrients such as healthy fats, fiber, vitamin E, calcium, niacin, magnesium, iron, and potassium. Almonds contribute to maintaining healthy hearts, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar. They even promote skin health and protect against ultraviolet radiation.

One remarkable aspect of almonds is their versatility. Almonds serve as a healthy and delicious food option, suitable for snacking or as an ingredient in baking and cooking. They have become a staple in countless households, enriching our diets and enhancing our culinary experiences.

My home state of California is the heart of this industry. It is home to 7,600 almond farms, most family-owned and operated by dedicated third- and fourth-generation farmers. These small-scale, sustainable practices are the backbone of the almond industry, fostering a sense of community and preserving farmland.

The impact of the almond industry extends far beyond agriculture. It employs 110,000 people in California and contributes a staggering \$9.2 billion annually to our economy. Furthermore, California is responsible for supplying 100 percent of the almonds in the United States and 80 percent of the world's almond supply, making our state a global leader in almond production.

On this special day, we honor the hardworking men and women who work tirelessly to bring almonds to our table. National Almond Day is a tribute to their dedication and innovation. As we enjoy the nutritious and delicious almonds, let us also recognize the profound impact of the almond industry on our lives, communities, and environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Almond Day and the contributions of almond farmers, processors, and other industry members who make the almond industry one of the most successful and innovative in the United States.

May National Almond Day be a source of pride and inspiration for all.