

on his exemplary law enforcement career and thank him for his dedicated and courageous service to the citizens of Beaumont, Texas. May God bless him in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ERIC FICK

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eric Thomas Fick of Stafford, Virginia, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Eric has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Eric was born at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington and grew up in an Air Force family. From a young age, he had always felt a connection to our servicemembers and wanted to serve our country. Eric attended the University of Notre Dame as a member of its Air Force ROTC program and graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the United States Air Force. Eric served in a variety of roles, including as a mechanical systems engineer for the F-16 fighter, logistics officer, flight test engineer, weapons testing officer, Air Force staff officer, and legislative liaison on Capitol Hill. He has commanded at the Squadron and Group level, and is a three-time Program Executive Officer, culminating with his last assignment from 2019 to 2022, when he was the Program Executive Officer and Director for the F-35 Lightning II Program. In this capacity, he oversaw the development, production, and sustainment of the most advanced fighter jet in the world for 3 U.S. Services, seven international partners, and seven foreign military sales customers. For his meritorious service, Eric received the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, and many more awards.

In 2022, Eric retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant General after 31 years of service. He currently serves as the President of Lyten Federal, a super materials applications company that is developing next-generation batteries to power cars, planes, and spacecraft while reducing global emissions. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Christine, his six children, and their two dogs. He also enjoys playing soccer, volleyball, and golf. Eric is an outstanding leader who has made a tremendous impact on the world around us. I am proud of the work he has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Eric with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during yesterday's final vote

series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 397.

HONORING CHIEF JONATHAN MAZER

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Jonathan Mazer, an esteemed member of our community. Chief Mazer is being honored today for his outstanding service in his career in law enforcement.

Chief Mazer was born in Portland, Maine, but grew up in California where he graduated from Las Lomas High School. Chief Mazer is a graduate of Union Institute & University and has pursued graduate studies in Clinical Psychology at John F. Kennedy University and Walden University. Chief Mazer and his wife, Angela, have six children: Kayla, Tyler, Victoria, Riley, Rebecca and Eli.

Chief Mazer's long career in law enforcement is commendable. He started his career in 1991 as a Sheriff's cadet with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's office. From there, he moved to work as a police cadet with the Pinole and Lafayette Police Departments. In 1996, he was sworn in as Solano County Deputy Sheriff.

In 2015, Chief Mazer was promoted to Sheriff's Lieutenant where he managed County Animal Control and the Transportation Bureau. In April of 2021, he was appointed Chief of Police for the Rio Vista Police Department, a police service contracting with the Sheriff's office. Our country is safer because of the courage and sacrifice Chief Mazer has shown throughout his long career.

Since the beginning of his career, Chief Mazer worked to support our community. In 2013, when assigned to the Office of Emergency Services, he created the Sheriff's Cadet Program, which brings youth into the Sheriff's office to learn about law enforcement and public service careers. He also founded the Solano County Cadet Academy, a multi-day live-in training academy for youth interested in careers in law enforcement. Outside of his work, Chief Mazer has worked as a Safety Team member at Chabad of Solano County, Vacaville and worked as an AYSO soccer coach in his hometown of Rio Vista. His dedication to serving his community both in and out of uniform is honorable.

For the past 28 years, Chief Mazer has given countless hours to serving our community that have not gone unnoticed. He has dedicated his life to our Solano County community over the duration of his long and storied career. We are thankful for his service and wish Chief Mazer a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chief Jonathan Mazer for his dedicated service in law enforcement and our broader Solano County community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING JOHN POWELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, respected executive, committed man of faith, and friend of longstanding, John T. Powell. After 38 years of dedicated service to the peanut industry and agriculture industry as a whole, he will retire as the Executive Director of the American Peanut Shellers Association and Institute. An event to celebrate his remarkable career will be held on August 20, 2024, at the Doublegate Country Club in Albany, Georgia.

John Powell has truly been a stalwart in the Peanut Industry for over five decades. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Auburn University. He also graduated from the institutes of Organizational Management at the University of Georgia and the University of Notre Dame. His educational achievements prepared him to make a difference in the lives of peanut shellers, farmers, producers and professionals across the world.

During his time as the Executive Director of the American Peanut Shellers, John helped to found the Peanut Institute and the U.S. Peanut Federation. These two entities have helped to promote the interests of the peanut industry throughout the United States and the world. Moreover, John has worked on eight farm bills during his life, always advocating for those who he represented. Since 2001, John, in association with the National Peanut Board, has helped to steer more than 36 million dollars to food allergy research, outreach and education. Earlier this year, because of his significant contributions to the Peanut Industry, John was inducted into the American Peanut Council Hall of Fame.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." John has paid his rent, and he has paid it well. In addition to his responsibilities as Executive Director, his other professional affiliations include serving as the President of the Peanut Institute Foundation, The American Peanut Council, The American Peanut Export Council Committee, The American Society of Executives and the Georgia Society of Association Executives.

But John's service has extended beyond the peanut industry. He has served as a former Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the Albany-Dougherty Chamber of Commerce. He is also a former president of the Albany Museum of Art. The community affiliation of which John is probably the proudest is his affiliation as Vice Chair and board member of the Friends of Jimmy Carter National Historic Site.

John has accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible without the love and support of his devoted wife of 52 years, Mary; his children, Ben and Emily; and his four grandchildren, Evan, Zoey, Zack and Bella.

On a personal note, John has been my friend of longstanding and close advisor on all things relative to the peanut industry during my time in Congress. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will forever be grateful for his advice, counsel, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the remarkable career of John Powell as an extraordinary advocate for America's peanut industry and service to his community. May God continue to bless him and his family as he moves to the next chapter of his remarkable life.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote due to illness. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call Votes No. 387 through No. 399. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

NO on Roll Call No. 387, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 388, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 389, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 390, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 391, H. Res. 1376 On Ordering the Previous Question;

NO on Roll Call No. 392, H. Res. 1376 On Agreeing to the Resolution;

YES on Roll Call No. 393, H. Res. 1367 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, As Amended;

NO on Roll Call No. 394, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 395, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 396, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 397, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 398, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment; and

NO on Roll Call No. 399, H.R. 8998 On Passage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 22, 2024, I missed one Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 356.

#### CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE CAREER OF THE HONORABLE DIANA E. BAJOIE

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible New Orleans Matriarch, former State Senator Diana

Bajoie. She is one for the history books. As a young woman in her twenties, she began her public service in the Louisiana House of Representatives, where she served as the only woman in that body during her first term. In 1991, she became the first African American woman ever elected to the Louisiana State Senate. In 2004, she took the oath as Senate President pro-tempore, and became the first woman ever elected to a leadership post in the Louisiana State Senate. In 2012, Senator Bajoie was appointed by Mayor Landrieu to fill a vacancy on the New Orleans City Council in District B.

Former Senator Diana E. Bajoie is not just a public servant in title—she is a public servant in spirit, heart, and deeds. Her colleagues describe her as one who fights for communities, families, and Louisiana with tireless compassion. The Senator nurtured her early interest in community service by attending Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, earning a bachelor's degree in political science. She also attended the Southern University School of Law. An Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree was conferred upon former Senator Diana E. Bajoie at their Fall 2018 Commencement. The University recognized the Senator as a pioneer in state politics and acknowledged the many contributions and efforts in improving the quality of life for all.

Former Senator Diana E. Bajoie is a part-time member of the staff of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans as Director of Community Relations. She works with LSU Health Sciences Center's six schools to define and implement community relations programs and work to promote cultural diversity among faculty, staff, and students.

As a State Legislator, Ms. Bajoie served as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee that handled the operating budget for the State of Louisiana. At that time, the operating budget was over several billion dollars. Her health care experience is extensive. She was a ranking member of the Health and Welfare Committee where she served for over 25 years between the House and the Senate.

She led the efforts to create school-based health clinics and wrote legislation to provide breast cancer screening and treatment for low income and uninsured women, mandated coverage of mammography and other cancer screening tests, and increase health care coverage for citizens with mental health disorders. She sponsored legislation that created the Louisiana Cancer Research Center in New Orleans, The Metropolitan Human Services District that services Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes to treat vulnerable residents for mental illness, addictive disorder intellectual and or developmental disabilities and she also created The Minority Health Care Commission.

She worked to ensure recognition of the contributions of African Americans to New Orleans, Louisiana, and the nation. Her efforts resulted in legislation to create the Louisiana State Museum on Civil Rights, that has finally come to fruition in 2023, and the expansion and renaming of the New Orleans Convention Center in honor of the city's first African American Mayor, "The Ernest N. Morial Convention Center." Bajoie introduced the Civil Rights Museum legislation during the Governor Foster administration.

Governor Murphy James Foster Jr. was Louisiana's 53rd governor. His grandfather,

Murphy J. Foster Sr., the 31st Louisiana governor, supported the 1898 Louisiana Constitution, which disfranchised the Black majority. Murphy Jr.'s conservative platform included attacks on welfare abuse, gun control, affirmative action, and racial quotas during the era of affirmative action. Undeterred by Foster's position, every year, Bajoie ensured "something" was put in the state budget for the Civil Rights Museum.

During speaking engagements, Bajoie credits Hassan Haley (son of Oretta Castle Haley and Richard Haley), Don Hubbard and Loyce Wright for keeping the dream of the museum alive. "I also want to thank Lieutenant Nungesser. We need people to keep the fight going because we're just beginning. We want to make sure we tell our own story. It's taken a long time. It's like making gumbo. If you go too fast, it won't come out right." She continues to express a need to focus on raising more money to keep the museum going. The Civil Rights Museum will be permanently housed on this property.

Ms. Bajoie is a founder and former chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus. She also is a founder and served as President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, a national legislative women's organization which encourages and supports women in public and community service. She also served on the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board helping to rebuild the state after the devastating disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Outside of state politics, Ms. Bajoie has been involved in a myriad of civic organizations where she served as a Trustee for the National World War II Museum, a member of the WYES-TV Board of Directors, Xavier University of Louisiana Board of Visitors and Dillard University Advisory Board.

The Former Senator presently serve as a commissioner on the board of the New Orleans East Hospital, the National Organization of Black Women Legislators, LePetit Theater, and Mercy Endeavor Senior Center, just to name a few.

She is a Life Member of the Southern University Alumni Federation and a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has received numerous awards, including the City of New Orleans' Mayor Morial Medal of Honor. Former Sen. Bajoie was named the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Survivor of the Year in 2000. She was honored at the Delta Sigma Theta's 48th National Convention with the National Patricia Harris Award for Excellence in Government. She was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2007 and was later honored in 2010 by The Louisiana Center for Women in Government with its Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also named by the New Orleans Tribune as one of 18 Black Women "That Made New Orleans Better", who changed the City in the last 300 years. Mayor Landrieu named the former Senator a New Orleans Legend in honor of the city's Tricentennial.

Last, but certainly not least, Sen. Diana E. Bajoie is a mentor—a mentor to students, to young people and families across the state striving to better themselves, their communities and Louisiana. She frequently shares her experiences and ideas in the classroom as well as with civic organizations and leadership development programs.