

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COLLEEN O'DEA AND THE EQUINE TRANQUILITY WELLNESS CENTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colleen O'Dea, the owner of the Equine Tranquility Wellness Center (ETWC) in Andover, New Jersey. The ETWC has been teaching therapeutic horseback riding lessons to individuals of all ages since 2010. In that time, it has grown to become the largest Equestrian Center in New Jersey that provides annual lessons and holds competitions for the NJ Special Olympics. Colleen and her staff remain incredibly committed year-round to assisting individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and to growing their program to include all those in need. I am honored to have incredible people like Colleen in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, who are dedicated to providing invaluable services to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOL- UNTARY SEPARATION INCEN- TIVE PAYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. This bill, which the House passed in the 114th Congress, would make a small but important change to the authority of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), giving them the same authority federal agencies and federal courts already have to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts, to their employees.

Congress has provided this authority to the D.C. Courts and PDS on an annual basis in the last several appropriations bills. However, this bill would make this authority permanent. This authority would give the D.C. Courts and PDS additional flexibility to respond to administrative and budgetary needs.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has opined that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only when statutorily authorized. Federal agencies and federal courts already have permanent statutory authority to offer buyouts, and there is no reason why the D.C. Courts and PDS, which are both exclusively federally funded, should not have this permanent statutory authority.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF NAICA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs, Inc. (NAICA), founded in 1974, has provided fifty years of determined service and dedication to the residents of New York City, and specifically to the Bronx, through its tireless efforts to support vulnerable individuals and families.

NAICA has been a beacon of hope and strength in the community, offering a wide range of essential services, including transitional housing, supportive services, eviction prevention, legal assistance, and affordable housing to countless individuals in need.

NAICA's steadfast commitment to social justice and housing equity has helped transform lives, creating pathways for stability, security, and prosperity for the most underserved populations in our city and the 50th Anniversary of NAICA marks not only a milestone of longevity but a celebration of its impactful work in improving housing access and preserving the dignity of all residents.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. ROOSEVELT SMITH

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Roosevelt Smith. A passionate historian and community educator, Mr. Smith passed away in late June after leading a life of service to his community and to his Nation.

Mr. Smith attended the second oldest Black High School in Memphis. He was later kicked out of college for demanding the hiring of more African American professors. That caused his draft status to be changed to 1A, leading to his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, where he served for six years.

After serving his country, Mr. Smith chose to serve his community as a historian and activist. Upon moving to Kitsap County, Washington in the late 1970s, Mr. Roosevelt helped found the Bremerton chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans, led the Black Historical Society of Kitsap County, and served as a board member for the Kitsap History Museum. At the museum, Mr. Smith ensured that Black history was told through sharing his own memorabilia in the Black Americana exhibit. For Mr. Smith, justice for the Black community was always a priority.

Mr. Smith used his historical pieces to educate the community. When items would upset visitors, he welcomed the uncomfortable moments and awkward conversation and used

this as a time to teach and encourage others to understand the significance without confrontation. He was also well-known in the local antiques and art community, where he worked each year at the Kitsap Antiques Show as an appraiser, owned his own watch repair business, and was a familiar face at Kitsap's antique and vintage shops looking for pieces of historical significance to conserve and educate the public.

Mr. Smith dedicated his life to ensuring that the historical experience of the Black community of this Nation are not forgotten, no matter how uncomfortable that history may be. He fought to ensure the Black veterans of Kitsap County had equitable access to their earned benefits and resources where there had previously been barriers. In short, in so many ways, Roosevelt Smith was a difference-maker.

Mr. Speaker, I join our community in grieving the loss of a pillar of the community, a dedicated and passionate historian and activist, and compassionate father, husband, and friend. I join Roosevelt's wife, Deadra, his children, and the rest of his family in grieving this loss. I am honored to recognize his life's work on the House floor.

CELEBRATING PROVIDENCE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL'S 95TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact and celebrate the 95th anniversary of Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange County.

Established on September 16, 1929, by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, St. Joseph Hospital became one of the first hospitals in Orange County. Its founders' philosophy of going into the community and caring for our dear neighbors has remained a longstanding tradition throughout their storied service.

First envisioned by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange as a brand-new hospital that would be the "last word in magnificence and technology," St. Joseph Hospital opened as a 190-bed hospital with a medical staff of less than 50. Today, St. Joseph Hospital has grown to be a 463-bed hospital that employees 1,100 medical staff and serves as one of the largest hospitals in Orange County.

Although technology has advanced the practice of medicine well beyond the vision of the founders of St. Joseph Hospital, their core desire to provide care for the whole person's body, mind, and spirit remains unchanged.

Recognized as one of the best hospitals in California, St. Joseph's outstanding medical programs continue to provide high-quality care with compassion, dignity, justice, excellence, and integrity to residents all over our Orange County community.

• 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.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Providence St. Joseph Hospital for their 95 years of service and care.

**RECOGNIZING EARL AND DIANE
HORNING'S INDUCTION INTO THE
MICHIGAN FARMER HALL OF
FAME**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Earl and Diane Horning, residents of Manchester, Michigan, on the occasion of their induction into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame. Their hard work and dedication to their farm and their community over the last sixty years are worthy of commendation.

Horning Farms was founded in 1877 by German immigrants Gottlieb and Barbara Hornung. At that time, the primary purpose of the farm was to provide food for the family. The Hornung family, anglicized to "Horning" family, later made the decision to focus on dairy farming.

After attending Michigan State University, Earl Horning returned to Manchester to become the 4th generation to manage the family farm. Earl and Diane were married in 1964, and the last six decades has seen a massive expansion in the farm's dairy production. The farm's initial sixty cows in 1963 has grown to over four hundred cows, replacement heifers, and one hundred dairy beef. The Hornings additionally farm an impressive one thousand acres for feed and crops.

Earl and Diane have been involved in all things dairy since soon after they took over management of the farm. Earl served on the Michigan Milk Producers Advisory Committee as well as its board. He has also served as the Chairman of United Dairy Industry of Michigan, as well as the National Director for Dairy Management, Inc. Diane has been active in county, state, and national Farm Bureaus. She has spent time on the Farm Bureau's State Policy Development, Promotion and Education, and Washington Legislative Committees. Recently, she served as Director of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board and delegate to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the Hornings' well-deserved induction into the Michigan Farmer Hall of Fame. With the 5th and 6th generations of Hornings now hard at work, it is safe to conclude that Earl and Diane's legacy will be living on well into the future. I thank them for their hard work, and congratulate them on this momentous achievement.

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding inflation, officer safety and small businesses.

DEAR FRIEND, The Carl Sandburg Home, a national historic site nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina, preserves the home and legacy of American poet Carl Sandburg.

I'm pleased to share that after convening members of the National Park Service and stakeholders who are in support of a project to improve access to the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site last year, as of a result of this and others' efforts, more than \$1 million will be available for Front Lake dam repairs.

Due to erosion around the Front Lake bridge, the Carl Sandburg Home had to rely on the help of donations from the local community to buy a bus to transport folks through a back entrance as they understood the importance of the site to the local tourism economy. This project will make necessary repairs to once again open the trail for easier access for visitors.

**KAMALANOMICS CONTINUES TO FAIL HARD-
WORKING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINIANS**

For the past three and a half years, Western North Carolinians have suffered from sky-high prices and plummeting wages.

Kamala Harris has repeatedly cast the deciding vote in the U.S. Senate to approve trillions of dollars in excessive government spending as part of the Biden-Harris administration's failing economic policies. Her policies have led to higher costs for Americans and her price-fixing scheme would only make things worse.

When the federal government overspends, Western North Carolinians pay more to get less. As a member of the House Appropriations and Budget Committees, my goal is to fix how Washington works so that hard-working folks in our mountains can keep more of their hard-earned money.

IMPROVING OFFICER SAFETY IN YANCEY COUNTY

After I secured the funding last year in the annual appropriations process, the \$100,000 is making its way to the hands of the Yancey County Sheriff's Office to enhance officer safety in the field.

WNC law enforcement officers risk their lives to protect our citizens and communities, and it is critical that they have the tools to do their jobs safely and effectively.

This grant will provide funding for the Yancey County Sheriff's Office to acquire portable substance analyzer capability, which will improve officer safety in the field and provide a cost-efficient method of identifying potentially deadly substances, such as fentanyl.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will be continuing to advocate for the necessary and responsible funding of projects back home in North Carolina's 11th District.

SUPPORTING WNC'S MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

During the district work period, I've had the pleasure of visiting local businesses in downtown Bryson City, Dillsboro, Franklin and Marion.

A common theme heard from small business owners during my visits was concerns about keeping up with rising costs in this economy.

Entrepreneurs in our mountains contribute to our local economy and enrich our communities. To allow them to create jobs and grow our economy, I'm working to fix how Washington works by getting big government out of the way and rolling back excessive regulations.

STAY INFORMED ON NC-11 NEWS

Federal rules will require congressional offices to enter a communication blackout 60 days before an election. This means I'll be restricted in how I can share updates and information with you starting early September.

To stay informed during this period, I encourage you to sign up for my official newsletter by visiting edwards.house.gov/newsletter. By doing so, you'll receive important updates directly in your email inbox highlighting what I'm doing in Congress to advocate for Western North Carolina.

I know how important it is to keep you informed about the issues affecting our mountains, from new bills that I'm introducing to local grants and more. By signing up for the newsletter, you won't miss a beat as we continue working together for North Carolina's 11th District.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

**HONORING THE BLOOMFIELD FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bloomfield Fire Department for receiving accredited status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This is a significant milestone and I am so proud of all the hard work, training, and organization that Bloomfield Fire Chief Louis Venezia and his team do every day to be able to provide the highest quality service to the citizens of Bloomfield.

The Bloomfield Fire Department is one of the 300 agencies to obtain Internationally Accredited agency status from the CFAI. The process of accreditation focuses on a rigorous self-assessment and peer review process, focused on the agency's ability to provide quality service to the public, in vital areas such as communication, decision-making, community alignment, relationships with labor and more. According to CFAI, accredited departments "exemplify organizations that are strategic-minded and well-organized, are properly equipped, staffed, and trained."

Going through the accreditation process is no easy task, and this certification means that the Department is both providing excellent service to the public and will continue to improve in the years to come. I thank the Bloomfield Fire Department for always ensuring our community is safe and for being ready for an emergency call, whenever that may happen. I am grateful for their commitment to protecting our district and want to give congratulations to the entire team for this notable accomplishment.

**RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE OMAR
MONTEMAYOR**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary public service of Detective Omar Montemayor of The Colony, Texas Police Department as he retires after more than twenty years in law enforcement.

Previously, Mr. Montemayor served for three years in the U.S. Navy, followed by three years with the McAllen Police Department. In