

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes No. 356, 357, and 358 on July 22, 2024. Had I been present, my votes would have been: Yea on Roll Call No. 356; Nay on Roll Call No. 357; and Yea on Roll Call No. 358.

RECOGNIZING MY CHIEF OF STAFF, TIM BERTOCCHI, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Chief of Staff, Tim Bertocci, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In May, Tim departed my office for a new opportunity serving as the Director of External Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, and I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Tim has an impressive and extensive background in public service and leadership. He began his career after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an Armor officer. During his nine years of military service, Tim served in various leadership positions, to include serving in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Tim also earned a Master of Arts degree from the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University in 2008. He has worked in various roles including the Senior Operations Advisor for the Joint IED Defeat Organization and as a Foreign Service Officer in Havana, Cuba.

Tim's experience and relationships on the Hill from his time working in former Congressman Tim Walz' Office were invaluable as we stood up an office and built a team of bright, motivated, and radically hospitable public servants. He helped lead us all through a series of unexpected and unprecedented events. On top of his duties as Chief, he also served as an instructor at the United States Naval Academy where he taught a class on irregular warfare in the Political Science Department.

Staff members of our office past and present all proclaim that Tim is the true embodiment of a servant leader. A trusted advisor and confidant, Tim always put the needs of the team before himself. He even used a tiny, converted bathroom as an office instead of the large office normally dedicated to the Chief, to allow staff to have a dedicated space they could hold meetings in. For Tim, success is never about individual accomplishments or prestige, but instead about those around him reaching their highest potential individually and collectively.

Tim set a culture of camaraderie and support across the team, always prepared with a shout out or well timed, supportive gif in the Teams chat. He had an unparalleled ability to

create compromise and identify a novel path forward after taking into careful consideration all the options. Though he rarely mentioned it, his record of military service brought a much-needed perspective and calm confidence to our team. Even in the most difficult congressional moments—it was clear Tim had lived through much worse. Tim's humility and expertise were unmatched during those difficult times.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have Tim's dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment, and he will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that he will continue to serve the nation at the U.S. Department of Defense. I wish Tim all the best in his future endeavors and thank him dearly for his 23 years of public service to this Nation—and many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was present for the vote on Roll Call No. 224 and thought I had voted "AYE" using my member card. However, my vote was not counted. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
ANNA ESHOO**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible service of my dear friend and 16-term Congresswoman from California, Representative ANNA ESHOO. ANNA has served the people of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties with great distinction for over three decades. She's hardworking, meticulous, and demanding of herself. In sum, ANNA ESHOO is the kind of person every Member of Congress should be like. She has built a legacy of fighting for her constituents, and her leadership in Congress will be greatly missed upon her retirement.

First elected to Congress in 1992—dubbed "the Year of the Woman"—ANNA was the first Democrat and first woman in the history of the then-14th Congressional District to win the Silicon Valley seat. In Congress, ANNA has been a health care pioneer, a champion for innovation, a human rights and consumer advocate, a staunch proponent of clean energy, and a defender of women's reproductive rights. A prolific legislator, over 60 of Anna's bills have been signed into law by five presidents.

ANNA has served on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee since 1995. In 2019, she became the first woman to serve as Chair of the Health Subcommittee. ANNA helped draft portions of the groundbreaking Affordable Care Act, oversaw the largest overhaul of Medicare since its inception, and wrote landmark bipartisan legislation to promote the development of new lifesaving cures. ANNA

also broke the glass ceiling as the first female Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, where she has championed a free and open internet, removed barriers to entry in the telecommunications market, and helped deploy broadband to underserved communities.

I know ANNA is grateful to her dedicated staff in both California and Washington, D.C. for the countless achievements they have secured for constituents over the years, and for the support of her children and granddaughter. I thank them for their years of service and sacrifice. I congratulate my good friend and colleague on a well-deserved retirement and wish her the very best in her next chapter in life.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND
LEGACY OF SENIOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER ERIC DONAHUE**HON. LORI TRAHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Eric Donahue for his tremendous contributions and 20-year legacy in the United States Navy, including his service in the Joint Special Operations Command. Senior Chief Donahue has dedicated his life to our country for the past two decades, all while building a family with his wife, Katie, and raising their three children: Meredith, Ivy, and Tyler.

Eric Donahue was born and raised in Andover, Massachusetts, and is a proud graduate of Austin Preparatory School in Reading, Massachusetts. A dedicated student, he furthered his education at the University of New Hampshire, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, and Operations. It was at the University of New Hampshire that Eric met Katie, who has been a pillar of strength for him throughout his Navy career.

Moved by the September 11th terrorist attacks, Eric embarked on a mission to become a Navy SEAL to protect the United States, its freedoms, and its ideals. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 2004, he had the opportunity to join the Navy as an officer. Instead of waiting to become an officer, he immediately enlisted to begin training without officer status.

In March 2005, Eric commenced Underwater Demolition/SEAL training and successfully completed the program by August 2006, displaying exceptional dedication. He was subsequently assigned to SEAL Team 8 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Throughout eight overseas deployments, including to Afghanistan and Iraq, his dedication, leadership, and outstanding service led to his appointment to the prestigious SEAL Team Six, the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. Within SEAL Team Six, Senior Chief Donahue has continued to lead in various capacities, overseeing numerous training events worldwide and being entrusted with dignitary protection.

Senior Chief Donahue has received numerous accolades and awards throughout his career in recognition of his service. These include five Sea Service Deployment ribbons, three Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy and

Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, one Navy Unit Commendation Medal, a NATO Medal, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, three Joint Service Commendation Medals, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, an Iraq Campaign Medal, six Good Conduct Medals, an Expeditionary Medal, three Combat Action Ribbons, a Bronze Star with Valor, an Army Commendation Medal, and an Afghan Campaign Medal.

Senior Chief Eric Donahue has demonstrated remarkable bravery, selflessness, and dedication as a Navy SEAL. He exemplifies the values of courage, resilience, and sacrifice that we hold dear as Americans. His leadership will leave a lasting impact on the United States Navy and our Nation. I would like to formally recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to Senior Chief Donahue and his family for their twenty years of service to our country.

CONGRATULATING AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 682 FOR THEIR NEW VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BRICK WALL

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the exceptional work demonstrated by American Legion Post No. 682, and to celebrate the unveiling of their Veteran's Memorial Brick Wall.

For years, American Legion Post No. 682 has selflessly served the veterans of our community. As a combat veteran, I believe taking care of America's heroes when they return home must be a top priority, and American Legion Post No. 682 has courageously stepped up to the task.

One such way they are honoring America's heroes is with the unveiling of their Veteran's Memorial Brick Wall, a memorial constructed to showcase the community's love and recognition of those who have given all for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this impressive achievement and congratulate American Legion Post No. 682 on the unveiling of their Veteran's Memorial Brick Wall.

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER GENERAL CINDY M. SALADIN-MUHAMMAD ON HER PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

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 to honor and congratulate Brigadier General Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammad on her new position as Brigadier General within the United States Army, making her the first Muslim to be promoted to the rank in the history of the United States of America. Brigadier General Saladin-Muhammad is an outstanding officer who has dedicated 40 years of service to the

United States Army and during that time earned countless awards and decorations. She holds a variety of degrees including two masters', one in Strategic Studies and one in Business Administration and holds a doctorate in business administration. Brigadier General Saladin-Muhammad has had a stellar career in the Medical Service Corps, rising through the ranks from an Environmental Science Engineering Officer in 1995 to assuming command of multiple support hospitals within the country and abroad. As we congratulate Brigadier General on her new position with the United States Army, I have full confidence that she will serve her position with conviction and pride just as she's done for the past 40 years. I thank her for her service, and congratulate Brigadier General Saladin-Muhammad.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as students return to school for the upcoming school year, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the opening of Booker T. Washington High School in Georgia's Fighting Fifth Congressional District.

In September 1924, the opening of Booker T. Washington High School marked the first opportunity for Black students in the State of Georgia to attend a public high school. This momentous achievement was the culmination of tireless organizing and a direct result of Atlanta's Black Community's political power and determination.

In fact, not until the NAACP and Black community leaders conducted a successful voter registration drive and new Black voters defeated a school bond referendum in 1919 did promises of a new Black high school bear fruit, with money from a 1921 school bond used to construct what would become Booker T. Washington High School.

Black students came from across the state to study at Booker T. Washington High School, as it remained Georgia's only public high school for Black students until 1947. The school's origins in organizing and collective power are evident in the remarkable alumni it has produced, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., groundbreaking surgeon and educator Dr. Asa Yancy, State Representative "Able" Mable Thomas, trailblazing lawyer and judge Romae T. Powell, former United States Secretary for Health and Human Services Dr. Louis Sullivan, and educator Dr. Pearlle Craft Dove.

From its inception, Booker T. Washington High School has been part of the fabric of Atlanta and the State of Georgia and an integral part of its community. Students, neighbors, and alums continue to tout the skill and energy of the marching band and take every opportunity to enjoy school spirit and their music.

Booker T. Washington High School deserves a place in history, not just in the history of Atlanta or Georgia, but of our country. I hope you will join me in both recognizing this historic day and in cosponsoring a resolution

to be introduced later this month that will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Booker T. Washington High School.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE 103D ATTACK SQUADRON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of the distinct achievements and serviceable contributions of 103d Attack Squadron on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. For a century, the men and women of the 103d Attack Squadron have served our nation with distinction, dedication, resilience, and valor. As the oldest flying squadron in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and one of 29 original National Guard observations squadrons, their contributions to our national defense are immeasurable and their legacy is one of innovation, excellence and steadfast bravery.

The 103d Attack Squadron traces its lineage back to its formation in June 1924. Federally recognized as the 103d Observation Squadron and commanded by Major Charles Biddle, the 103d has been an integral part of American military history, participating in nearly every global conflict since World War II. The 103d flew a variety of training and observation aircraft until 1941 when the unit was ordered to active service, performing anti-submarine patrols along the New England coast. From 1943 through the end of World War II, the 103d flew photo reconnaissance missions in the F-5C in the China-Burma-India Theater.

From the end of World War II, the 103d was redesignated over ten times and has operated continually since its inception. This unit has gallantly conducted aerial missions and continually maintained operational mission readiness in the following capacities: as a bombardment squadron, a reconnaissance squadron, a military airlift squadron, a tactical air support squadron, a fighter squadron and, finally in its current role, as an attack squadron. The men and women of the 103d Attack Squadron have skillfully operated over twenty distinctly different aircraft, providing over a century of global strike and air superiority capabilities for joint force operations in austere areas, worldwide. Their continual adaptation to the war-fighting environment is a true testament to the resiliency, adaptability, and reliability of the men and women of this storied unit.

Their unwavering dedication to duty and willingness to innovate to meet the needs of the ever-changing battlefield landscape is no better demonstrated than in their most recent transition from manned aircraft to unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The professionals of the 103d Attack Squadron employ the General Atomics MQ-9 in combat air patrols that directly support combatant commanders across the globe providing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance gathering capabilities, combat search and rescue, and precision weapons employment in close air support operations. The 103d Attack Squadron is critical to the development and implementation of tactics, techniques and procedures used across the globe in MQ-9 missions.