

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM TRAVIS, JR.

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman Barbara Lee to honor William Travis (Travis) who passed away at the age of 81 on April 24, 2024. Travis was a leader in environmental conservation who spent decades supporting the preservation and health of the San Francisco Bay.

Born and raised in Allentown, PA, Travis went on to study architecture at Pennsylvania State, earning an undergraduate degree in 1967 and a master's degree in regional planning in 1970. His early career included a position as bay design analyst for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), developing the first master plan of the East Bay Regional Parks District, joining the staff of California Coastal Commission, and then returning to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission in 1985 as Deputy Director. In 1995, he assumed the role of Executive Director, a position he held for 16 years.

During his tenure with BCDC, Travis served as chair of the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Trustee Committee, disbursing over \$15 million to restore natural resources, and in the late 1990s, served a critical role in the public acquisition of 10,000 private acres of salt evaporation ponds on the bay's shoreline, which are now being returned to wetlands. Lending his expertise on sea level rise adaptation, Travis lead BCDC in 2011 to become the first state agency in the United States to develop regulations to combat sea level rise.

Beyond his environmental work for the state, Travis was deeply involved in the East Bay community. He worked as a consultant for the Oakland Athletics, served as chair of Berkeley's Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee, and lectured at the University of California, Berkeley. After retiring and receiving a Parkinson's disease diagnosis, Travis continued to lead the effort for a transit-oriented housing development at the North Berkeley Bay Area Rapid Transit Station. After a long campaign, the project will be breaking ground on 750 residential units in 2025.

Travis was married to his wife, Jody, for 47 years. Together they raised their daughter, Katherine. Being her parent inspired the couple to write, Katherine's Hope, a memoir on international adoptions. Travis credits his passion for environmental preservation and stewardship in large part to his daughter and a hope for her future.

Known for his serious and effective professionalism balanced by sharp wit and humor, and the breadth and depth of his environmental career, Travis was a tireless advocate for our environment and the health of future generations. His legacy in the Bay Area cannot be understated. Mr. Speaker, we respect-

fully ask that you join us in expressing our appreciation for his decades of good work and condolences to his family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE COMMITMENT OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE TO THE YOUNG MEN OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the consequential impact that St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute has had on the young men of Western New York.

Since its establishment in 1861, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute has been a pillar of the Buffalo and Western New York community. While the school's faculty and staff may have come and gone throughout the school's history, the mission has never changed—to transform young men from all backgrounds into strong and courageous leaders of our community through a Lasallian education.

The Brothers of Christian Schools, also known as the De La Salle Brothers, have a long and storied history of educating young men through rigorous academics and an approach that emphasizes caring for the whole person. St. Joseph's in Buffalo is no exception to this tradition.

As an alumnus of St. Joseph's myself, I have been able to experience first-hand the commitment of the school to transforming boys into strong young men in a great position to succeed in their future. As St. Joseph's approaches 175 years of service to our community, adherence to its original founding principles, and their commitment to Western New York has never been stronger. Not only does the school create strong leaders, but also actively works to improve the lives of those in the community through service.

We honor the commitment of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute to our young men and its unwavering dedication to serving our community. Please join me in celebrating the devotion of the St. Joseph's faculty and staff, as well as the De La Salle Brothers.

HONORING DIANNE JACKSON

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dianne Jackson. Dianne Jackson was a lifetime public housing resident, leader and activist dedicated to improving living conditions and advocating for tenant rights. She had firsthand experience with the injustices faced by public housing

residents and their communities and dedicated her life to fixing them.

As a member and graduate of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW) college program, Dianne used her voice to bring attention to issues such as substandard housing conditions, lack of access to resources and opportunities, and discrimination residents face. She served as President of Cooper Park Resident Council for a decade and on the board of NYCHA's Citywide Council of Presidents. Dianne worked with NCNW and helped organize women in the fight for healthcare services, daycare, and community services for young people. She served on numerous anti-poverty boards, including the first NYC Area Policy Board, comprised of community leaders charged with helping to secure local funding for communities.

She was a member of the NYPD Community Council and a voice against police abuse, while supporting public safety measures to keep neighborhoods safe. Dianne organized residents to join the fight against environmental degradation, local waste companies, and polluting manufacturers. Cooper Park Houses, a predominately Black and Latino community, has been impacted by environmental injustices that hurt the health and wellness of residents. Dianne Jackson became a recognized and respected leader of influence. She has been featured in community documentaries and recognized by the City, State and Federal leaders for her advocacy.

Dianne touched so many lives through her work, and our city is undoubtedly a better place because of her. She will be sorely missed, but I'm heartened to know that her legacy will inspire young people looking to stand up against injustice in our great city. My thoughts are with her family and all the New Yorkers who had the pleasure to know her. May she rest in peace and may we all honor her memory.

HONORING AMIT ELOR

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Amit Elor for making history as the youngest American wrestler to earn an Olympic gold medal.

Amit was born and raised in Walnut Creek, California and had been wrestling since age four. From a very young age, Amit has exemplified her astonishing skill and unwavering dedication to the sport. She attended College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, California where she earned the California high school state title in folkstyle wrestling. By the age of eighteen, Amit had won senior, U23, and U20 world titles in the span of just three months, making her the youngest U.S. senior world champion in any discipline or gender. Amit retained these titles in 2023, making her the

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only wrestler to win three titles two years in a row.

In August, Amit won an Olympic gold medal in the women's freestyle 68kg wrestling event. This historic victory made Amit the youngest wrestler from Team USA to ever win gold. Since 2019, Amit has accumulated 42 wins and outscored her opponents 375–19. We are eager to see her make history again in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Our community is beyond proud of Amit and it has been a delight to root for her during this year's Paris Olympics alongside California's 10th Congressional District. Please join me in congratulating Amit on her incredible accomplishments and the many more to come.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, Constitution Day is a time set aside to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America—the most important document in our Nation's history.

In 1787, the thirty-nine men that convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, forever altered history when they formed the supreme law of our land—written by the people, for the people.

Through times of prosperity and times of hardship, our constitution has never wavered.

Let this Constitution Day remind us of the liberty, justice, and freedom for all—and the never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREST
LEGACY MANAGEMENT FLEXI-
BILITY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act." I thank my colleagues, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA), JIM COSTA (D-CA), ANN M. KUSTER (D-NH), and SUZANNE BONAMICI (D-OR) for cosponsoring my House bill.

As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior, I know our national conservation goals cannot be achieved through public land ownership alone. The federal and state governments can and must work with private landowners who want to do their part to conserve America's natural landscapes, as my family did for our cattle ranch in 1998. This Act would unlock billions in federal funding to help states conserve working forestlands, create local jobs, and support sustainable forest management practices that reduce wildfire risk.

The "Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act" would allow States to choose to designate accredited, nonprofit land trusts to hold conservation easements purchased with federal funding under the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Current law requires that only the federal or state governments can

hold conservation easements purchased under the Forest Legacy Program.

Allowing States participating in the federal Forest Legacy Program the flexibility to partner with accredited, nonprofit land trusts will help permanently conserve more land by working with private landowners who want to have their land conserved but are wary of selling the federal or state governments an easement on their property. Expanding opportunities to conserve working forestlands will benefit our rural economies and encourage sustainable forest management practices that help prevent wildfires.

This Act maintains the integrity of the Forest Legacy Program by holding all accredited, nonprofit land trusts participating in the Program to the highest possible standards. In addition, it implements safeguards to prevent misuse of the Program and allows the U.S. Forest Service or State to reclaim easements if a land trust falls into noncompliance with the Program.

We will need every tool in the toolbox to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's "America the Beautiful" National Conservation Goal to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California. This Act takes a critical step towards meeting these goals and protecting our country's natural resources and forests for future generations.

The "Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act" would unlock new opportunities and funding for permanent land conservation. My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this legislation to preserve America's working forests and bolster our rural economies. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF
ROBERT T. SCOTT

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Robert T. Scott as he is bestowed the prestigious title of President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Scott began his career as a religion teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1971. Over time, he served as a social studies teacher, vice principal, principal, and then president. In 2001, Mr. Scott earned his Letters of Affiliation, the highest honor bestowed by the Institute of Brothers of Christian Schools, the religious order that founded St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1861. Scott retired in 2017 after a tremendous 48-year career at the all-boys high school.

Throughout his career, Mr. Scott has exemplified the mission of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, to transform the lives of students from diverse backgrounds through academic excellence and care for the whole person in a respectful, Lasallian Catholic community, developing each student's unique talents in preparation for college and life. The students that Mr. Scott impacted throughout his tenure have excelled in their personal and professional lives in large part due to the mentorship and dedication of Mr. Scott.

Today, Mr. Scott continues to inspire all who know him, sharing his compassion and dedication to his family, friends, country, and faith. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert T. Scott on an inspiring career in education, and the continuation of his commitment to education and the Lasallian tradition as President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute,

HONORING EDWARD D. PETTITT,
SR.

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Edward "Ed" D. Pettitt, Sr. Born on June 27, 1961, in Newfane, NY. Ed was a man of deep conviction and unwavering principles. Raised on his family's farm, Ed's early years were steeped in the values of hard work, independence, and a deep connection to the land. He was the beloved son of George and Marion Pettitt, who instilled in him a commitment to family and community that would guide him throughout his life.

A brilliant student, Ed graduated as valedictorian from Newfane High School in 1980. He then attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, graduating magna cum laude in 1986. His love of learning led him to further his education, obtaining a Master of Science in 1998, followed by a second Master's in Creative Studies from SUNY College at Buffalo in 2002.

Ed's professional career was marked by innovation and excellence. Over his 35-year tenure at Mahle (formerly Delphi Harrison Thermal Systems), he earned more than 20 patents and was inducted into the Delphi Automotive Systems Innovation Hall of Fame in 1997. His dedication to his work culminated in receiving the prestigious 2013 "Boss" Kettering Award, and he retired as a Product Engineering Manager in 2020.

However, Ed's legacy extends far beyond his professional achievements. He was a man deeply committed to First Principles Thinking—a philosophy that guided his approach to life, problem-solving, and civic engagement. Ed believed in the importance of returning to fundamental truths and using them as a foundation to build solutions, a method that influenced both his engineering work and his advocacy.

Central to Ed's belief system was the conviction that natural rights—those to life, liberty, and property—originated not from any earthly government, but from our Creator. He held that these rights were inalienable and that governments were instituted among men to protect them, not to grant them. This belief fueled his passionate advocacy for the Second Amendment, as he viewed the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental protection of these God-given rights. To safeguard these principles, Ed founded the Second Amendment For Ever (SAFE) organization in Niagara County. He was a staunch defender of the rights of responsible gun owners, believing that public safety and personal security were interdependent, both sustained by the individual's right to self-defense. Ed's commitment to