

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation, located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives.

During the past 6 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

This past year, the Foundation formed an Opioid and Spine Health Task Force. Chronic low back pain is one of the most common types of chronic pain in adults worldwide. The goal of the Task Force is providing people suffering from back pain with information on effective alternatives to opioid use that can help them reduce and manage pain.

The Foundation also has formed a Spine & Bone Health Task Force. Osteoporosis is at epidemic levels in our nation, and it causes debilitating fractures in the spine more than anywhere else in the body. In response to this epidemic that affects both women and men, which occurs at younger ages than ever before, this Task Force is addressing the need for patient education by creating digital and internet resources, free to the public. In addition, NSHF has conducted independent research to determine better ways of diagnosing osteoporosis in spine patients who need surgery, and this research has won the highest award, being named "Best Paper" by the North American Spine Society.

The Foundation continues to be strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have long been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multicenter studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Ac-

tive studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help spine and neck patients, not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING DAVE SNOW

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Richmond, Indiana, Dave Snow.

Dave's dream from a young age was to serve his community as mayor of Richmond, a dream he fulfilled for two terms, from 2016 to 2023.

In his eight years in office, he prioritized investment in the local community and collaboration between the city and Wayne County governments.

He also saw the city through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before running for office, Dave worked in radio for WFMG, another role he used to benefit his hometown.

I want to thank Dave for his dedication, loyalty, and commitment to Richmond and our state.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
MARK KEPPLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Mark Keppler, a leader, educator and advocate of the Central Valley.

Prior to his professional embarkation, Mark achieved academic distinction earning a bachelor's degree (Magna Cum Laude) in business administration, with a minor in economics, from the State University of New York, as well as his master's degree, and a law degree in industrial relations with a concentration in collective bargaining and negotiations from the University of Wisconsin.

Following his educational achievements, Mr. Keppler began his career in the East Coast where he practiced labor-management law in Hartford, Connecticut and was an adjunct professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Hartford Graduate Center, where he taught labor and employment relations and negotiations. In 1987, he relocated to the Central Valley to join the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno as the Di-

rector of Graduate Programs from 1998 through 2003. During this tenure, Mark shaped the valley's future leaders through his teachings of employment law, industrial relations, and ethics.

Mark was then promoted to the Kenneth L. Maddy Professor of Public Affairs on June 1, 2004. In this role, his responsibilities were expanded to serve as the Executive Director of the Maddy Institute for the Valley's four public universities: University of California, Merced, California State University Fresno, California State University Stanislaus, and California State University Bakersfield.

His dedication to education and career development has shone through his exemplary leadership of the Maddy Institute, where he carried out their mission to elevate citizen participation and government performance at all levels through leadership education for public service. In this effort, he also provided his oversight to the Maddy Institute's Legislative Internship program which provides students with the opportunity to intern in legislative offices throughout the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento and even Washington, D.C. Under his diligence, The Maddy Institute and Costa Scholars program provided over 500 scholarships to students across the Valley to pursue these distinguished internships. Throughout his journey, Mark has been a source of guidance and wisdom for the students at California State University Fresno and beyond. He has shared his knowledge as a teacher leaving a lasting impact on both local and national levels.

Rooted in advocacy, Professor Keppler earned honors and recognitions along the way such as the Clovis Citizen of the Year, Faculty Advisor of the Year (twice) from the Society for Human Resource Management—Region VI, Duncan Enterprises Faculty Award, the School of Business Faculty Award for Classroom Excellence and currently holds the Chair of the Clovis Community Foundation.

In addition to his remarkable professional achievements, Mark is a devoted husband to Karen Keppler, and a loving father to his daughter Caroline Keppler whom he will spend his well-deserved retirement with.

We thank professor Keppler for his devotion to empowering students in the pursuit of their educational and professional aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the phenomenal career of Director Mark Keppler of The Maddy Institute. May we continue to be inspired by his good work for years to come.

HONORING ROBERT RANDLE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Robert Randle, president of the Sun City West Republican Club.

• 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.

Throughout his tenure as president, Robert has distinguished himself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City West, Arizona. As president of the club, Robert has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Robert and the Sun City West Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Robert's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

In 1964, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped \$375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed suit by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth. The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.

Today, NVTC serves as a regional forum for discussion and analysis of transit issues. NVTC is charged with the funding and stewardship of WMATA and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which it co-owns. Northern Virginia is also home to six bus systems, for which NVTC works across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate transit service.

Over the last six decades, NVTC has been instrumental in transforming transit in the Northern Virginia region. From establishing the WMATA compact in 1966 to working with the Virginia General Assembly to create a bus rapid transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons and Alexandria, NVTC has taken big steps to connect our region in innovative ways. NVTC represents a jurisdiction of 2 million people, with 740,000 households, and over 1.3 million jobs, which is no small undertaking. The half mile of property around Metrorail stations is just 3 percent of the region's land, but it contains 30 percent of the property value, 40 percent of the jobs, and 50 percent of the new apartments. Promoting well-connected and expansive transit creates opportunities for growth, and NVTC has embraced that mission on behalf of our region.

As NVTC begins its next 60 years, the organization is striving to meet its goals for the region. Increasing the capacity of the regional transit network by expanding and improving the quality, coverage, and frequency of new and existing systems is a top priority. NVTC is also continuing to look for ways to improve access and mobility throughout Northern Virginia by connecting regional and local transit systems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this milestone for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING ANGOTTI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angotti's Italian Restaurant in Columbus, Indiana.

Serving the community since 2019, Angotti's moved to its current location downtown last year.

Denise and I are frequent customers, and their gift is that they always make us feel like family.

Angotti's is a blessing for the Columbus area, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to recognize them today.

DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act.

In 2018, NIH launched the INCLUDE Project to investigate conditions that affect individuals with Down syndrome and the general population, such as Alzheimer's disease, congenital heart disease, and diabetes. Many diseases affect individuals with Down syndrome differently than typical people. This means including individuals with Down syndrome in biomedical research is crucial to understand how to treat them. It also means investigating those differences helps us understand how diseases work generally.

The University of Colorado's Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome Research has been on the forefront of this critical work. Just last month, Crnic Institute scientists published groundbreaking research on the differences in oxygen physiology for people with Down syndrome. This new knowledge will help improve treatments for all people with chronic hypoxia. This is the kind of research we need to foster, and it's why the INCLUDE project needs its own authorization to continue its important work.

I do want to raise one issue I have with this bill as we consider it today. It originally contained an authorization of \$250 million annually, but to conform with the inexplicable rules of this majority which say you can't authorize more than a current appropriation, it was amended in subcommittee to only \$90 million each year. This authorization does not even match the \$125 million included in this year's NIH appropriations bill for the INCLUDE

Project, much less give the program room to evolve. We need to move this important legislation, but we must restore the authorization to \$250 million as consideration of this bill continues.

Finally, I'd like to thank my constituent Michelle Whitten, founder of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, whose tireless advocacy for people with Down syndrome has spurred research and led to scientific breakthroughs. It has also helped bring this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

RECOGNIZING JIM LIENHOOP

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Columbus, Jim Lienhoop.

A Columbus native, Jim started his service in city government in 2006 on the city council.

Over his two terms in office, Jim accomplished much, despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He prioritized partnerships, leading to successes in infrastructure, health, education, and economic development.

Under his leadership, Columbus was chosen as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's city of the year.

Today, I recognize those achievements and thank him for his efforts to help my hometown thrive.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM COLEMAN'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Coleman, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a remarkable constituent of my district as he celebrates the 105th year of his birth.

Dr. Coleman was born and raised on his parents' farm outside of Lawrenceville, NJ. He is an alumnus of Princeton University, where he competed on the track and field team as a freshman. He then attended Temple School of Medicine, interning at Philadelphia General Hospital, and completing his surgical residency at Abington Hospital.

While attending medical school, he entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 under the V-16 program. He served 2 years of active duty at the Veteran's Hospital in Lyon, NJ.

After leaving the Navy, Dr. Coleman opened a general practice in Trenton, NJ. He and his wife, Betty, lived in Morrisville and then Yardley, where they raised their 5 children. Betty and Dr. Coleman were married for 56 years until she sadly passed away in 2007.

Dr. Coleman went from running a surgical practice to a general practice. After practicing surgery for 20 years, he took a position at Meadow Lakes, in New Jersey working for another 20 years as a physician and medical director until his retirement.