

Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely congratulate everyone involved in the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo, both past and present, for 75 years of success. May God continue to bless the people of Pasadena and the Pasadena Rodeo for many decades to come.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
CINDY H. HAYGOOD

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment and service of Brigadier General Cindy H. Haygood and her 36 years of service to the Louisiana National Guard. Brigadier General Haygood first joined the National Guard in 1988 and was commissioned in 1994 through the State Officer Candidate School of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Throughout her involvement in the Louisiana National Guard, Brigadier General Haygood has never shied away from an opportunity to serve. Brigadier General Haygood not only assisted in mobilization efforts for four major military operations, but she also simultaneously served as the Deputy Director of the Louisiana Military Department and the Assistant Adjutant General.

BG Haygood was also a trusted member of our state and local community, and she was on speed dial during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, Brigadier General Haygood assisted many agencies in crisis management planning, and under her leadership the Louisiana National Guard was able to save lives and ensure public safety in Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana and our Nation have benefitted from Brigadier General Haygood's contributions, and we, along with her family, Bill, Madeline, and Lauren, are grateful for everything she has done. I thank Brigadier General Haygood.

HONORING FRANK STEELE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Frank Steele, Chairman of Republican Legislative District 24. This district is in the southeastern portion of the 8th Congressional District, encompassing areas of Peoria, Glendale, and Phoenix. The district has a population of over 234,000.

As Chairman, Frank is a leader willing to work tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. His role is critical to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

I am thankful for his leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF SUSAN
ROWE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the indomitable spirit and extraordinary life of Susan Rowe; a true icon whose legacy transcends the ordinary.

Born on February 20, 1956, to Jo Ann and John Warren Smith, Susan was not just a woman; she was a force of political activism and civic engagement, embodying the essence of California's Democratic traditions.

Raised in Anderson, Indiana, Susan lived through her passion for singing and dancing in plays and musicals. After graduation from Anderson High School in 1974, Susan attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana where she was a ballet major and a member of Alpha Phi sorority. Susan attended both high school and college with her eventual husband Michael Rowe. Susan and Mike were married on June 25, 1983, at St. Mary's Church in Anderson Indiana. Their love would endure for many years to come.

Although Susan spent a significant portion of her life in the Hoosier state, she managed to make a major impact as a Central Californian who changed a countless number of lives.

Susan honorably advocated for and served the people of the Central Valley for twenty years as a dedicated and relentless grassroots volunteer for the California Democratic Party. She was a tireless champion of democracy in which she contributed greatly by getting out the vote, promoting voter registration, and encouraging and recruiting candidates to run for public office.

For her efforts, Susan was rightfully recognized in 2004 and in 2015 when she was twice awarded the CDP Regional Volunteer of the Year Award. Her work and leadership skills were recognized as she served honorably in several leadership positions. She was elected to a two-year term in 2007-08 as Regional Director of Region 8 of the statewide party. Beginning in 2005 and until her passing she served as the chair of the Madera County Democratic Central Committee and also served multiple terms as the Vice-Chair of the Rural Caucus of the California Democratic Party. Additionally, Susan promoted political freedoms and activities as evident in her co-founding of the California Latina Democrats in Fresno.

In Susan's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced activism, supported the democratic process, and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her family: her husband Michael Rowe and her brother Carlton B. Smith of Indianapolis. May we draw inspiration from Susan Rowe's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Susan Rowe, a true Californian and inspiration to the Central Valley.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE
CHOTVACS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Marie Chotvacs, who has selflessly served the United States, most prominently on the House Committee on Appropriations, for nearly 23 years. Her commitment to our country has benefited Congress tremendously, and her dedication to service has set an example for generations to come.

Anne Marie entered federal service through a highly competitive Presidential Management Intern program at the U.S. Department of Commerce. There, she reviewed budget and policy proposals, served as a liaison to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, and prepared briefings, testimony, and talking points for senior Department officials.

While at the Commerce Department, she was detailed to the Office of Management and Budget during the development of the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2002 and the House Committee on Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations process. What she didn't realize at the time was that the latter detail would pave the way for a successful career on the most powerful committee in Congress.

In March of 2004, Anne Marie officially joined the House Committee on Appropriations as a Professional Staff Member, working for a handful of subcommittees. Just a few years later, I was named the Lead Republican of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Anne Marie's drive and hard work earned her the position of Minority Clerk for the Subcommittee, which is where I really got to know Anne Marie. In 2015, I had the honor of becoming the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Given her foreign policy expertise, it was a natural transition for Anne Marie as she continued as the lead policy staffer for the Subcommittee, ultimately becoming the Staff Director and Majority Clerk.

Serving on such a wide-ranging, impactful subcommittee, she knew it was important to conduct strict oversight of foreign programs and initiatives and made it a point to travel to all continents and more than 50 countries, ensuring taxpayer resources were being utilized responsibly and as intended by Congress. During her time on the Subcommittee, she was named in the National Journal's "Five Staffers to Watch on Foreign Aid," a befitting accolade.

After more than 12 years with the House Committee on Appropriations, Anne Marie had the opportunity to leave the federal government and work as the Senior Director of International Operations and Policy for The Boeing Company, managing a team representing the company's international commercial and defense business interests.

When I was elected by my colleagues to be the Lead Republican of the House Committee on Appropriations for the 116th Congress, I knew immediately I wanted Anne Marie to be the Minority Staff Director, the top Republican staffer for the Committee. In this well-deserved

role, she counseled Members of Congress on more than \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding and drove legislative outcomes by coordinating across 12 subcommittees. It is no secret that the 116th and 117th Congresses were full of unprecedented events, and as expected, Anne Marie remained a steady force, navigating through the longest government shutdown in history and the COVID pandemic. She was once again acknowledged for her outstanding work in 2019 when she was named in "Key Players for the Fall Season" by Congressional Quarterly.

When Republicans gained the Majority for the 118th Congress, Anne Marie was elevated to Clerk and Staff Director of the Full Committee, where she led a team of more than 100 staff working with Members of Congress, Executive Branch agencies, foreign governments, and external stakeholders to develop appropriations legislation. In a particularly tense Congress, I know we wouldn't have accomplished what we did without her work as Clerk and Staff Director. She navigated one of the most difficult appropriations processes in recent history, finding common ground on controversial issues and winning key Republican priorities in the final Fiscal Year 2024 bills.

Anne Marie's breadth of experience is a rare find on Capitol Hill, having had a hand to completing 20 appropriations cycles. She rose through the ranks from Agency Detailee to Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee Majority and Minority Clerk, Minority Staff Director, and finally to Full Committee Clerk and Staff Director. Anne Marie has been an exceptional leader—her reputation and experience are unmatched.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Anne Marie as she leaves the halls of Congress. While she departs with a successful career on the Hill behind her, I know she won't stop achieving great things, and I am excited to see all that she accomplishes in her next chapter. I wish the best to Anne Marie, her husband Chuck, and her son Charlie, who will be turning three this December. Anne Marie will be incredibly missed in Congress—especially by me, and I thank her for her dedicated service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VIORENE
WOMACK

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Viorene Womack, a remarkable member of our community who spent decades tirelessly volunteering and donating her time to help those around her.

After moving to the South Sound in 1960, Mrs. Womack joined the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Tacoma, where she served as a Sunday School Teacher, President of the Young Women's Christian Council, Church Secretary, and was honored as 'Mother of the Year' in 1975.

Mrs. Womack volunteered for 15 years with El Shaddai Christian Ministries' Food Bank, ensuring families in need had food for their tables, and served as both president and vice-president of COGIC's Executive Hospitality Board. In 2008, she received the Lifetime

Achievement Award from COGIC in Lakewood, WA.

Mrs. Womack was deeply committed to the children of this community, being a foster parent to more than 20 children in Pierce County, Washington.

Although she passed away this past month, those of us who were fortunate to know her will always remember the time and energy she dedicated to her community. I am grateful to not only have known Viorene, but to have had the honor of calling her a friend.

HONORING FRANK CARROLL

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Senator Frank Carroll from Legislative District 28, covering the northwest valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Before his service in the Arizona Legislature, Frank was a hardworking grassroots advocate for the west valley, ensuring that likeminded elected officials received support and that men and women on the ground had ample opportunity to petition their government.

Since entering office in 2019, Senator Carroll has fought for conservative values and common-sense solutions for his constituents. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the Transportation, Technology and Missing Children Committee, and a member of the Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee.

Senator Carroll is a strong proponent of economic prosperity, border security, election integrity, consumer choice, the Second Amendment, and life.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Senator Carroll's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HEARNE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Walter Hearne on the occasion of his retirement from Federal service. For the last 22 years, Walter has served the United States House of Representatives, and more specifically the House Committee on Appropriations, in an exemplary and dedicated fashion as a professional staff member.

His long and impactful career began after completing study at James Madison University where Walter completed his undergraduate degree magna cum laude with distinction followed by a Master of Public Administration. It was clear from the beginning that Walter would excel in whatever he attempted.

Walter began his career on Capitol Hill as a staff assistant on the Senate Budget Committee, where he led several special research projects for the staff director, including on reform issues associated with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and the Vice President's budget proposals during the 2000

presidential campaign. He also had his first taste of the Federal budget process by assisting with the development and enactment of the fiscal year 2002 budget resolution.

I like to think that dabbling with a budget resolution piqued Walter's interest in the business of appropriations, but however it came to pass, in mid-2002, Walter joined the House Appropriations Committee as a professional staff member on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee and later on the Transportation and Treasury Subcommittee. One can tell Walter has served the Committee for a long time because neither of these subcommittees exist today in this composition.

After cutting his appropriations teeth by reviewing budget requests of organizations such as the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Federal Election Commission, and the Office of Personnel Management, Walter was asked to join the staff of the Military Construction and Veteran Affairs Subcommittee. For the next 7 years, Walter would shepherd the enactment of 14 appropriations bills, including supplemental bills for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and national emergencies, as well as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Further, Walter was instrumental in enabling the Chairman of the Subcommittee to successfully implement major military construction initiatives to provide billions of dollars in increased funding to improve quality of life for troops and their families, such as new child development centers, medical facilities, and unaccompanied housing, as well as additional funding for the National Guard and Reserves.

In 2011, Walter brought his discerning eye and unflappable demeanor to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, where he would stay until the end of his service to our nation. Over the following 14 years, Walter would consistently prove to be a tremendous source of knowledge to the chairs of the Subcommittee, the numerous defense clerks, and his staff colleagues alike. Walter had a major role in the enactment of 15 appropriations bills, while serving as the lead staffer on Air Force issues during a critical period of modernization that included research, development, and procurement of systems such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, B-21 bomber, Sentinel, KC-46 tanker, and numerous classified programs. He later took on a larger role in the Subcommittee's oversight of the Intelligence Community. In addition to Walter's consistent and valuable informal leadership, the Committee tapped him to assume the Subcommittee staff director and clerk responsibilities under emergency circumstances. In this capacity, Walter successfully guided the Subcommittee through House floor debate and passage of the 2018 Defense Appropriations Act.

Throughout his storied career, Walter has been a trusted advisor to the Members of the Committee on both sides of the aisle. On a personal note, I am grateful for his counsel as the Subcommittee navigates a challenging period for the defense and security of our Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Walter for his service to our country and wish him the best in his future endeavors.