

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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
ANNABETH SURBAUGH**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 23, 2024*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Annabeth Surbaugh. Throughout her career, Annabeth was a pioneer in Johnson County, Kansas. A community leader and trailblazer for women, Annabeth changed the way county governments were structured across the state of Kansas and was a standard-bearer for everyone who followed in her footsteps.

Annabeth's community-building began early in life at McCluer High School in Florissant, Missouri, where she created a Welcoming Committee to help fellow students adjust to the challenges of starting at a new school. She continued her education at The University of Missouri, Columbia, earning a bachelor's degree in retailing. After graduating from college, Annabeth moved to Johnson County, Kansas to start her family. She stayed home with her children for more than 10 years before starting her own business, an interior design firm.

Her career in public service began with her work preserving historic neighborhoods and ensuring her local fire department had access to enough water to keep her community safe. In 1988, Annabeth was elected to the Rural Water Board No. 2 of Johnson County, becoming the first woman to hold that position. Later, she led the merger of that water board with the larger Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, improving the reliability of her community's water supply. Shortly thereafter, she would become the first woman to chair the newly consolidated WaterOne Board.

In 1992, Annabeth won a seat on the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, on which she served for 18 years. In office, she led the effort for government reform, including the creation of the first county charter in the state of Kansas. With a county charter in place, positions such as county treasurer and county clerk became appointed rather than elected, and county commissioner elections became non-partisan. The charter also changed the position of commission chair to be publicly elected instead of rotated among the members. In 2002, Annabeth was elected the first county-wide elected chair.

Annabeth didn't stop with government reform. Her accomplishments on the Johnson County Commission also included championing for increased energy efficiency in development projects, opposing the creation of an unpopular beltway in the county, and creating a criminal legal council to determine the root causes of behavior that leads to incarceration and provide alternative solutions to traditional incarceration. Annabeth cared about everyone, and she fought for everyone.

Annabeth Surbaugh passed away on August 28, 2024, surrounded by her friends and family. She leaves behind a legacy that has shaped the subsequent leaders of Johnson County and the community activists that have followed in her footsteps.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for Annabeth Surbaugh and her lifetime of public service and advocacy. She set the standard for what

a citizen activist and public servant should be, and we can all learn from her exemplary life.

## RECOGNIZING CHAPEL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2024 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

**HON. ANDY HARRIS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 23, 2024*

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to recognize Chapel Hill Elementary School in Perry Hall, Maryland for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2024 by the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon School award validates and celebrates the hard work of students, educators and families, among others, that strive everyday to achieve exemplary academic excellence. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole, is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Chapel Hill Elementary has been selected as part of a small group of 356 public and private schools across the United States as a result of their hard work and dedication to its students.

I congratulate Principal Nancy Hill, the wonderful teachers, educators and staff, as well as the dedicated students and families at Chapel Hill Elementary for this great achievement.

## HONORING CANDACE CZARNY

**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 Candace Czarny. Candace is a leader in the Republican Legislative District 3, which includes the northern most areas of the 8th Congressional District and a population of over 236,000.

Candace has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. Her efforts to work collaboratively with other leaders have been instrumental to the success of Republican elected officials and candidates in the state legislature and beyond.

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

## RECOGNIZING ROBERT NEWLEN'S DEDICATION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

**HON. BRYAN STEIL**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 23, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, since July 3, 2023, Robert R. Newlen has faithfully served as Interim Director of the Congressional Research

Service (CRS). Today, I want to recognize Newlen for his exemplary service and leadership during this time. Newlen has been an excellent partner to Congress and a laudable leader of CRS.

Newlen has had a long career of public service and as a servant to Congress. Newlen served at the Library of Congress for 42 years, including serving as the Deputy Librarian of Congress. Newlen served within CRS from 1975 until 2010, starting as a temporary clerk and rising to multiple senior leadership positions including Assistant Director of Knowledge Services Group. In 2017, Newlen left the Library of Congress as the Deputy Librarian of Congress. Before agreeing to serve as Interim Director, Newlen was the Executive Director and Director of Strategic Initiatives of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation in Phoenix, Arizona.

CRS serves as an essential resource that strengthens our capacity to legislate every day. Yet CRS is beset by many of the challenges that have risen in today's diverse and complex media and information environment.

As Interim Director, Newlen acted as a perceptive leader who was quick to identify the challenges that the agency faces and was responsive in his immediate work to address them. From day one, Newlen recognized the need for robust leadership and effective communication throughout the agency. To that end, we have witnessed Newlen's efforts to empower CRS experts and incorporate the feedback and perspectives of every employee of the agency. Newlen recognized the information technology challenges that CRS faces and has diligently partnered with key stakeholders to effectively address these challenges.

Newlen's leadership during this time has been essential to turn the agency to face the modern needs and challenges of Congress. He has been a transparent and collaborative partner to me, Congresswoman BICE, the Committee, and to Congress.

I want to express my gratitude that Newlen has agreed to temporarily continue his service to this institution as an advisor to the new Director, Karen Donfried to support and assist her in her new role.

While more work remains to improve and modernize the Congressional Research Service, we are appreciative of Interim Director Newlen's efforts.

On behalf of the Committee on House Administration: Robert Newlen, we thank him for his service to improving Congress.

NEWSLETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 23, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding foreign policy, border security and small businesses.

DEAR FRIEND, Three years ago, 13 U.S. servicemembers were killed in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the final days of the Afghanistan withdrawal.