

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.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs recently released the report on its investigation of during and after the rushed withdrawal, "Willful Blindness: An Assessment of the Biden-Harris Administration's Withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Chaos that Followed."

The committee found that the Biden-Harris administration was determined to withdraw from Afghanistan no matter the costs, prioritizing the optics of the withdrawal over the security of U.S. personnel and failing to plan for all contingencies.

The administration's hasty decisions and disregard for U.S. personnel on the ground during the withdrawal led to the deaths of 13 of our military members by a terrorist attack on Aug. 26, 2021, the deadliest day for our military in Afghanistan since 2012.

This catastrophic withdrawal not only resulted in the deaths of our servicemembers, it has also weakened U.S. national security, with Afghanistan once again becoming a haven for terrorists, and has damaged U.S. credibility on the world stage after abandoning our Afghan allies to Taliban revenge killings.

This tragedy was preventable, and the Biden-Harris administration has yet to take accountability for its failures or even meet with the Gold Star families of our fallen soldiers. Americans will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made in defense of our nation by:

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, from Salt Lake City, Utah

Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, from Lawrence, Massachusetts

Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, from Sacramento, California

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, from Indio, California

Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, from Omaha, Nebraska

Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, from Logansport, Indiana

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, from Rio Bravo, Texas

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, from St. Charles, Missouri

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, from Jackson, Wyoming

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, from Rancho Cucamonga, California

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, 20, from Norco, California

Navy Hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak, 22, from Berlin Heights, Ohio

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, from Coryton, Tennessee

STANDING UP TO COMMUNIST CHINA

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) represents the greatest threat to American values and national security in our lifetime, and we must counter the CCP's efforts to gain leverage over our nation and beyond. President Xi Jinping has gone so far as to say that he will do whatever it takes to bring Taiwan under his control, including through military force.

From securing our supply chains and protecting American technology to defending American biosecurity and drug manufacturing, the nearly three dozen bills that the House advanced are a step toward reducing China's leverage over the U.S. and strengthening U.S. dominance.

Just one of the bills that I am co-sponsoring and voted for that would directly affect Western North Carolina is the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act, which amends the Defense Production Act of 1950 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to be included on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for agriculture-related issues. It also requires CFIUS to review

and potentially block purchases of farmland by foreign adversaries that pose a national security risk.

We cannot allow enemies of the U.S. to buy up America's farmland, which poses a food and national security threat, and I will continue to work with the House to combat the CCP's aggression here at home and overseas.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S "AMERICA LAST" FOREIGN POLICY

Over the past three and a half years, the Biden-Harris administration's policies have put Americans last, diminishing our national security and draining hard-working Western North Carolinians' hard-earned savings.

This administration's failed policies have caused sky-high inflation, record-high gas prices and an unprecedented invasion of our borders.

During my district work period, constituent after constituent—including many small-business owners—have shared about the effects of high prices on running a business.

Meanwhile, thousands of illegal immigrants continue to flood our borders, endangering the safety and well-being of every American.

The radical, sanctuary-city policies are incentivizing illegal immigration, and your hard-earned tax dollars should not be used to serve illegal immigrants and further signal to the world that America's borders are open.

To reverse such harmful policies that are rewarding illegal immigration and to protect women from sex offenders and abusers, I voted for the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act and the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act and will continue to push for policies that serve the best interests of our citizens and nation.

CHAMPIONING MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

The National Federation of Independent Business is a voice for small businesses across our nation, and I'm grateful to have been selected for this year's Small Business Guardian Award.

As someone whose background is in business, I understand the challenges that Main Street faces, including heavy-handed government regulations. We need more pro-growth, pro-small-business policies so that small businesses can thrive and create jobs.

WELCOMING WNC CHAMBER MEMBERS TO DC

It was a privilege to welcome members of WNC Chambers of Commerce for their retreat during which they focused on problem-solving and opportunities to improve workforce development and local economies.

America's risk takers and job creators have long been under attack from Washington, and I'm striving to reduce regulations, create a better tax climate, and help develop a workforce that provides opportunity and fuels our economy by fixing how Washington works.

With my warmest regards,

CHAD EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted NAY on Roll Call No. 429. I intended to vote YEA.

HONORING BOB GOMEZ

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

Bob has worked tirelessly to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of citizens through civic engagement. His 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 his leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the legislative district and to the state of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 135 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Hanover volunteer Fire Department of Hanover, Illinois for celebrating their 135th anniversary.

In the 1800's, Hanover's fire protection was virtually non-existent. The Hanover community rallied together to organize a fire company and purchased a Button hand fire engine in the summer of 1889. Later in 1890, a 414-pound fire alarm bell was gifted to the fire company by the ladies of Hanover and a tower was built on the North side of the town hall to house it.

On January 29, 1924, a new volunteer fire company was organized by twenty-two men. In the summer of 1942, the War Public Works Fire Station was built and was used by the Hanover Fire Department until another building, located at 201 Fillmore Street, was completed in 1970. The Hanover Fire Department remains at that Fillmore Street location to this day.

The illustrious history of the Hanover Fire Department is a testament to the strong spirit of community present in Illinois and demonstrates the importance of first responders and their service. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to support Illinois communities like Hanover and their emergency first responders who honorably serve their communities.

For 135 years, the Hanover Fire Department has served the residents of Hanover and Hanover Township and is possibly the oldest and largest volunteer fire department in Illinois. Today, we celebrate the Department and commend its multitude of volunteer fire fighters for their dedication to Hanover. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Hanover Volunteer Fire Department of Illinois for a successful 135 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.