

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LANCE CORPORAL DAVID LEE ESPINOZA, LANCE CORPORAL JUAN RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ & SERGEANT ROBERTO ARIZOLA JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2754, which designates a U.S. Postal Facility in Laredo, Texas as the 'Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building.'

This bill honors the lives of three Texas men who selflessly gave their lives in support of our Nation's freedom and in defense of our nation's people.

These three brave soldiers, Lance Corporal Espinoza, born in 2001, Lance Corporal Rodriguez, born in 1981, and Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr., born in 1973, all called the great city of Laredo, Texas their home.

Lance Corporal Espinoza joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2019.

As a U.S. Marine, Espinoza never once complained about his assignment, taking to heart the late President Kennedy's words in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

He gave his life in action on August 26, 2021, in Kabul, Afghanistan, protecting and defending the community and the Nation we treasured so dearly.

Espinoza leaves behind his parents, three siblings, his grandmother, and numerous other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Lance Corporal Rodriguez joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2003.

Rodriguez was dedicated to taking care of his family his whole life.

Before joining the Marine Corps, he worked at a pawn shop to provide for his parents, who were too ill to work.

During his deployment, he continued to call his parents regularly, last speaking to them only two days before his death on January 13, 2005, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

He leaves behind his cherished sister and two parents.

Sergeant Roberto Arizola, Jr. joined the U.S. Army in 1996.

Arizola was, first and foremost, a family man.

He loved to play video games and sports with his 7-year-old son, and his family often delayed the boy's birthday party so Arizola could be there.

As a soldier, his comrades knew him to be a loyal friend, an older brother, and a faithful man.

He gave his life on June 8, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, serving the country and protecting the family that he loved so much.

He leaves behind his wife, his son, and his brother.

These three brave young men each made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedom that we enjoy today.

I am always proud to stand in solidarity with our nation's veterans and to fight to protect the legacy they have built in service for our nation.

Now, we must ensure that their legacies are not forgotten.

As such, I rise in support of this bill, which honors their memories by designating the Post Office facility in Laredo, Texas as the 'Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building.'

JAMES "JIM" M. HEMINGWAY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life of a beloved South Jersey native, James "Jim" M. Hemingway, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, who passed away peacefully on November 30, 2023, at the age of 77. Jim's kindness, dedication, and love made our community and our world a better place. In his early life, Jim honorably served our country in the U.S. Army. When he returned, he founded Garden State Dredging Inc., a company which was a culmination of his different passions. Jim was a pillar of his community, committing a big portion of his time to giving back through the Lower Township planning board, the lower township Chamber of Commerce and the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company. Jim's enduring partnership with his wife, Shirley A. Hemingway, spanned 58 beautiful years and together they created a life filled with love and cherished memories. As a loving father to James and Sheri, and adored grandfather and great-grandfather, Jim's wisdom and love will continue to inspire his family. Jim enjoyed family time more than anything as well as constructing model trains and airplanes, creating special moments with his grandchildren. Jim's generosity and selflessness left a profound impact on others, shaping the paths of those he loved. As we celebrate Jim's life, we remember a man who embodied the best in all of us, leaving an indelible mark that will continue to inspire us. God Bless Jim and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE ROSCOE WATTS AS CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Crimes Unit Detective Roscoe Watts on being named Deputy of the Year for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. The term "hero" gets used too often. However, it is said that "True heroism is remarkably sober and very undramatic. For, it is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but rather the urge to serve others at whatever cost." I could not agree more with this assessment. The heroism that is displayed daily by our men and women in uniform is both inspirational and aspirational for us all. So few among us answer the call to serve, yet it is the selfless sacrifice of those few who do that keeps our entire community safe. By all accounts, Detective Watts has dedicated his entire life to serving others, highlighted by his eleven-year tenure with the Citrus County Sheriffs Office (CCSO) where he currently serves as a Major Crimes Detective and prior to that, as an Airborne Forward Observer, in the United States Army. However, he also dedicates his personal time to making our community a better place and helping to improve the lives of countless neighbors through his volunteerism with several charitable causes, including: the Citrus Abuse Shelter Association (CASA), the Key Training Center and within his church. Detective Watts stands out in a sea of shining stars, as evidenced by the many accolades he's received during his distinguished career, such as: the Director's Award from Star & Shield Group, two Life Saving Awards, multiple Medals of Commendation, Citrus County Best of the Best LEO for 2021 & 2022 and most recently as CCSO Law Enforcement Officer of the year for 2023. His peers, his commanding officers and the community-at-large have recognized that Detective Watts routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty to promote public safety and to pursue both justice and closure for victims of crime and their families. The impact of his efforts has left a lasting imprint on the lives of those he serves. Today, I thank Detective Watts for his exceptional dedication, relentless determination, and unwavering commitment to excellence. His tenacity in the face of adversity is recognized and much appreciated.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS ADAMS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Adams of Arvada, Colorado

• 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.

for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Champion Award.

Every year, the Arvada Chamber of Commerce honors outstanding individuals and organizations that have left a lasting legacy on the Arvada area and its residents. Mr. Adams was a treasured member of the community, serving on the Chamber's Board of Directors, as well as at Thrive Workplace and Revive Church.

Mr. Adams was constantly asking tough questions and pushing those around him to achieve greatness. This drive created an environment of continuous improvement, propelling the Arvada Chamber and many local businesses toward success. His leadership, grace, and kindness will long be remembered in this area and beyond.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. Adams for this award and thank him for his contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2023, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on Roll Call No. 391.

I strongly oppose H.R. 1435, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act. This bill modifies the waiver process under the Clean Air Act. In doing so it would limit vehicle choices for consumers, hinder climate progress, and put public health at risk.

BENJAMIN FAIRFIELD

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of celebrating a remarkable young man, Benjamin Fairfield, who has achieved the prestigious Rank of Eagle Scout. His journey is a true testament to his dedication, leadership, and community service. Throughout his scouting journey, Benjamin has learned the importance of being prepared for anything and has made lifelong friends along the way. Benjamin's Eagle Project involved upgrading the Climbing Area at Camp Edge in Ranch Hope, South Jersey. He built a double-sided climbing wall, landscaped the area, and even pressure washed and painted benches, making it a safer and more enjoyable space for all. Benjamin is not only dedicated to scouting but also passionate about hunting and fishing, reflecting his love for the outdoors and adventure. Beyond scouting, Benjamin plans to continue working at Hidden Creek Farm and eventually open up his own farm. I am proud of this young man, and I wish him the best. God Bless Benjamin and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO SUCCEEDS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colorado Succeeds for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Behind the Scenes Award.

Every year, the Chamber of Commerce awards one Behind the Scenes honor to an organization or individual who has served as an unsung hero in the Arvada community.

Colorado Succeeds is a coalition of business leaders with a vision to radically improve education and training outcomes for learners across backgrounds. Through their invaluable partnership with the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, they support workforce development projects, recruit talent for local businesses and nonprofits, advocate for positive change in government, and fight to break down barriers in our state's workforce system.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Colorado Succeeds for this award and thank them for their commitment to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2024, I missed four roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted:

No on Roll Call No. 22—On ordering the previous question;

No on Roll Call Vote 23—On agreeing to H. Res. 980 Providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5585) Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act; (H.R. 6678) Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act; (H.R. 6679) No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act; and (H.R. 6976) Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act;

Yes on Roll Call No. 24—On Agreeing to Crockett Amendment to H.R. 5585; and

No on Roll Call No. 25—On Final Passage of H.R. 5585.

CLAYTON SKROBANEK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past November, I had the pleasure of attending Clayton Skrobanek's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Clayton has been involved in the Eagle Scouts for over a decade, starting in first grade as a Tiger Scout. Over the years, he has been very involved in his troop by holding four different leadership positions, contributing over 100 hours to community service, and participating in countless outdoor adventures all while earning 37 merit badges. Outside of the scouts, he dedicates his time to helping those in need by

volunteering at the "Your Place at the Table" Food Pantry. This upcoming year, he is expected to graduate from Clearview Regional High School and hopes to pursue a career in nursing. I am honored to congratulate this young man on his remarkable achievements, and I wish him the best. God Bless Clayton and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER IVAN ROSARIO, OUTSTANDING VETERAN IN THE 52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Ivan Rosario, an outstanding veteran, who served our Nation in the United States Navy for more than 17 years.

Chief Rosario was born in Arkansas and spent much of his childhood abroad in Puerto Rico. He grew up with his five siblings, and as many military families do, moved to a new home depending on military orders. His father was a long-time servant in the United States Army and deployed to Vietnam numerous times.

Chief Rosario followed both his father's and brother's footsteps and initially joined the United States Army at the young age of 17 years old. He was stationed in Germany for three years, and when he returned, he realized the difficulty of pursuing a career without a high school diploma. He searched for options, and after going to the United States Navy Recruiting Center, he found his true calling to continue serving his country.

Chief Rosario dedicated 17 years of service with the United States Navy. He served as a Radar Systems Operator and completed several WestPac Tours overseas.

Chief Rosario was on active duty, while he and his spouse raised two children. As a dedicated family man, he continues to support his family and our country by working with his wife's former students, who have expressed an interest in joining the U.S. military.

He earned his High School GED in his first year as a sailor. Early on, he had a keen interest in cutting-edge technologies used on U.S. Navy ships. He achieved a college degree using the GI Bill, and he went on to receive both his bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's degree in computer technology. Chief Rosario's academic achievements led to mentorship opportunities for others, and he earned rank as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy.

Chief Rosario has served the local community, volunteering at Sunset Elementary School in San Ysidro, California, and other schools. He has worked with students during special school assemblies and has helped them with their technological needs. During these assemblies, Chief Rosario has also talked about his service in the United States Armed Forces and the different training programs available to them.

Chief Rosario was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in November 2023, when Veterans Day is celebrated. He is commended for his dedication and lifelong