

RECOGNIZING LOIS LANGER THOMPSON FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Lois Langer Thompson for nearly 40 years of invaluable service to our public library systems. Since 2018 Lois has passionately led Sno-Isle Libraries as Executive Director, which provides service to over 800,000 residents across Snohomish and Island counties. Prior to moving to Washington, she served the Hennepin County Library.

I first met Lois in 2019 at the former Lake Stevens Historical Society and Museum, when she told me about her plans to expand Sno-Isle's library system in Lake Stevens with a new, larger library for the community. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working with her and watching her cultivate a thriving library community in Washington's First Congressional District and beyond.

Under Lois' leadership, Sno-Isle Libraries has embedded equity across the organization, built a capital strategy to connect everyone to their local library, completed three library construction projects in Darrington, Edmonds, and Mill Creek, invested in digital equity, launched a commitment to sustainability, expanded the Foundation Board of Directors, strengthened community collaboration, and supported the formation of the first collective bargaining unit for employees. Lois also guided the organization through a pandemic, while adopting new services to allow Sno-Isle to continue providing essential resources to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Langer Thompson and wishing her the best in her retirement. We are grateful for her contributions to the community and will cherish her legacy of service and commitment to creating inspiring, welcoming spaces.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE (EESI)

### HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) on 40 years of working with Congress and providing policymakers with educational resources about climate, clean energy, and environmental topics.

To address climate change, we need durable policies that support impactful climate solutions that withstand the ups and downs of Washington. That requires us to work across the aisle and craft bipartisan legislation. Thankfully, there is more common ground on combatting climate change than ever before, and the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus is providing a unique space for Members who share my interest in paving the way forward together.

EESI also understands the value of finding common ground and has been a true partner to the Caucus in helping to educate members on a multitude of topics, including the advancement of climate solutions in the Farm Bill, natural climate solutions, carbon sequestration, community resilience, and climate negotiations on the international stage during the U.N. Conference of Parties.

During my time in Congress, I have always appreciated EESI's ability to deliver timely, nonpartisan, science-based educational resources in formats that my staff and I can use to serve the constituents of the Sixth District of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. EESI's partnership has directly supported the educational efforts that the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus has facilitated for its Members and staff. Building bipartisan collaboration around data-driven climate solutions will keep the United States on a course to meet its climate goals while revitalizing the economy, safeguarding energy security, and providing cost-effective, cleaner power for everyday Americans.

EESI has a long history of working on climate and environmental issues regardless of which party is in the White House. EESI's predecessor organization dates back to the time of Richard Nixon, and EESI itself was established as an independent nonprofit organization during Ronald Reagan's first term. The organization began its work on climate change under the George H.W. Bush Administration and, more recently, it has extensively tracked the historic climate investments passed by the House and Senate during the Biden Administration. This history exemplifies EESI's commitment to facilitating constructive, bipartisan dialogues around how to best combat climate change.

Congratulations to EESI on 40 years of working alongside Congress and promoting durable, bipartisan climate solutions. I wish EESI all the best for the next 40 years of advancing solutions, fostering bipartisanship, supporting rural communities, and cultivating young leaders.

HONORING RICHARD "TURK" BAIRAM FOR BEING NAMED HOOKSETT LIONS CLUB CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hooksett Lions Club Citizen of the Year Richard "Turk" Bairam. For over 25 years, Turk has been dedicated to supporting Hooksett in any way he can. He continues to volunteer in his community to make Hooksett an amazing place to live and raise a family.

A lifelong resident of Hooksett, Turk owned and operated his own auto repair shop for 36 years before retiring in 2006. A former member of the Hooksett Police Commission, Turk currently serves as Sewer Commissioner, Chair of the Central Hooksett Water Precinct, as a member of the Town Recycling and Transfer Committee, and on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

In addition to his volunteer work, he has also dedicated his life to his family. Turk and

his wife of 62 years, Mary, have raised their children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren in Hooksett. It is because of the hard work and dedication of community leaders like Turk that the Town of Hooksett continues to thrive.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Turk for being named the Hooksett Lions Club 2024 Citizen of the Year. I wish Turk and his family all the best in the years to come as they continue to work to make Hooksett a better place.

LISA P. RIMLAND: NEWLY RETIRED COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER FOR NURSING HOMES WILL BE MISSED

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an op-ed by Lisa Rimland for recognizing Tim Colburn's career of courage, compassion, and care for those who are most in need and often forgotten.

I have known Tim Colburn all my life. We grew up together in a federal housing project called Mayberry Village, named after the legendary Dr. Franklin Mayberry of East Hartford. We jokingly referred to it as the 'Cardboard City.' Tim was then always caring, compassionate, and competitive—excelling at everything he did. In sports, he was probably the best all-around athlete in the Village and in the town we grew up in; he especially excelled at track and field, which require individual athleticism.

His love of people, with special attention to the underserved and the underdogs, is legendary. It was an honor for me to know and count Tim as a true friend. I stand in awe of his selfless leadership and accomplishments. He was never concerned about taking credit and always did the right thing because that is how he was raised and what he valued.

Lisa Rimland's op-ed in the *Hartford Courant* confirms what the world should know about Tim. They attest to Tim Coburn's contributions to his family, his friends, his community and associations, and the state and Nation he loved.

One of the hardest-working people in Connecticut, who has spent virtually his whole life doing good, retired recently. What he accomplished should be shouted from the rooftops but few people know his name because the world in which he worked is not a world that is spoken about often. In many ways it is not that well-known, yet it affects most of us intimately and inevitably.

The man is Timothy Coburn, and for decades he has functioned as a court-appointed "receiver," a person who goes into nursing homes and other care facilities that are in trouble, financially and/or otherwise, and tries to save them. In these situations, the human stakes are very high. If the problems in a home cannot be fixed or the home cannot be sold, the home may have to be closed, resulting in transfer trauma risks for frail residents and patients and the loss of jobs for countless employees.

The world of nursing homes has recently become better publicized because of the COVID pandemic. With what they have gone

through, these homes are now firmly in mythological territory, as is Mr. Coburn. I first became aware of Mr. Coburn and his world in July of 2012 when the care home I was living in was put into receivership by the Superior Court due to various problems. I was living in the care home because after I was declared disabled in 2004, I could not find housing assistance in Mansfield.

On the evening of July 18, 2012, after Mr. Coburn had just been appointed receiver of the home in which I lived, a quick but violent thunderstorm knocked out the power, and the generator failed. I called and reported the situation to Barbara Cass of the Department of Public Health, and within an hour a truck arrived hauling a new generator which was hooked up to restore power. Mr. Coburn had rented the generator. This is only one example of Mr. Coburn's constant generosity. If a home that he was in charge of needed something, he would go out right away and buy it with his own money, then later get reimbursed by the court. If anyone living in one of his homes had exceptional needs or circumstances, he accommodated them. He was always available to lend a helping hand, a listening ear, or a ride to dialysis.

Skilled-nursing facilities have been his specialty. A nursing home receivership usually lasts about two years, but Mr. Coburn's last one ran through the pandemic and is approaching four under another receiver. Miraculously, he remained healthy through most of the pandemic. Few of us can imagine what he and all those responsible for running the homes went through during the pandemic. But if you visit the homes now, and even more so if you live in the homes, you can see and feel the pandemic's mark, almost as if you were visiting a country where a terrible war was fought: the bodies of the casualties are gone, but you can feel their presence everywhere. It is quiet and peaceful, yet with echoes of an unspeakable past, and the words "God willing" are appended to every plan.

This is the world that Mr. Coburn left, having served the frailest citizens of our state during both peace and metaphoric wartime. It was in these homes that the most helpless of the pandemic's victims died, and that many of the most courageous of the healthcare workers fought to save as many as they could, and to save themselves. Many people shun the world of these homes even if they have family members living in them. This is a tragedy in many ways, because there are lessons to be learned in the homes that cannot be learned from books, lessons for the heart as well as the mind, lessons in compassion and even keys to the mysteries of war and peace. Eventually, most of us will occupy a bed in one of these homes. Why wait until then to visit?

If more people embraced the homes with the love, compassion and enthusiasm of Mr. Coburn, it would be a better world for all of us, both inside and outside the homes. If there is one sure lesson that can be learned from the pandemic and the homes, this is it.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL GOTHOLD, SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPER- INTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**HON. SARA JACOBS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 27, 2024*

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual whose unwavering dedication to education has transformed

countless lives and communities: Dr. Paul Gothold. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Gothold has epitomized the values of equity, inclusivity, and excellence in education, ensuring that every child has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

Dr. Gothold's journey in education began over three decades ago as a teacher, where he worked tirelessly with adjudicated, probation, and expelled youth in Los Angeles. From these early experiences, he developed a deep understanding of the challenges facing underserved communities and a steadfast commitment to addressing them.

As he advanced in his career, Dr. Gothold continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership and innovation. As Superintendent of Lynwood Unified in Los Angeles, he led the district to remarkable achievements, including increasing graduation rates from 58 percent to 90 percent at all comprehensive high schools. Under his stewardship, Lynwood Unified was honored as the College Board District of the Year, a testament to its success in expanding AP participation and passage rates for underserved populations.

Beyond his role as district leader, Dr. Gothold has also made a significant contribution to educator preparation and professional development. As an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, he has mentored and coached numerous aspiring and sitting superintendents, shaping the next generation of education leaders.

In 2017, Dr. Gothold assumed the role of San Diego County Superintendent, where his impact has been nothing short of transformative. His visionary leadership has led to the creation of groundbreaking initiatives and partnerships that have enriched the educational experiences of students across the county.

One of Dr. Gothold's key accomplishments has been his commitment to ensuring school safety and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Through partnerships with the San Diego District Attorney's office, he developed county-wide school safety protocols and training to prevent human trafficking. Additionally, he spearheaded initiatives to support foster, homeless, and adjudicated youth, including the creation of innovative programs and pathways to success.

Under Dr. Gothold's leadership, San Diego County has become a beacon of educational innovation and excellence. From pioneering programs in drug prevention and awareness to establishing the first HBCU satellite program in California, his initiatives have set new standards for educational equity and access.

Furthermore, Dr. Gothold's dedication to equity and inclusion has been recognized through numerous awards and accolades, including the ASCD California Instructional Leadership Award and the California County Superintendents Superintendent of the Year award. His tireless advocacy for marginalized communities has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and stakeholders across the state and Nation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Paul Gothold for his extraordinary contributions to education and his unwavering commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed. His legacy will continue to inspire generations of educators and serve as a guiding light for the pursuit of educational equity and excellence.

HONORING JOHN DAVID LOGAN  
FOR EXCELLENCE AND EX-  
TRAORDINARY SERVICE

**HON. MARK E. GREEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 27, 2024*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John David "JD" Logan for his eminent service and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh District.

Four and a half years ago, as Capitol Hill was wrestling with how to serve our constituents during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, JD joined our team in his last semester of college. He was instrumental in helping us respond to the unprecedented increase in correspondence and casework requests. Amidst these challenges, JD distinguished himself as a highly capable staffer with uncommon character.

Since then, JD has been instrumental in countless projects and held numerous positions. He rose quickly in our office, from Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant, and most recently, to Senior Legislative Assistant. Because of his skill set and reliability, he has taken on many projects outside his portfolio, including building our very successful internship program. As a testament to his leadership, we have hired multiple former interns to join our staff full-time.

JD has served Tennessee's Seventh District with commitment and distinction in every way. He has covered a wide swath of legislation, committee work, constituent services, correspondence, operations, and communications over his years on our team, and we are beyond grateful for his hard work and devoted service. In all that he does, he excels with diligence, and humility.

Most recently, he has been invaluable to my work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a host of policy areas. His dedication to applying the principles of our founding to complex issues facing the Nation today has served our district—and our Nation—well.

During his time on my team, our country has gone through much. All along, we have been grateful for his steadfast discipline and hard work. He tirelessly pursues truth and is a constant source of encouragement to all he encounters. As a staffer and as a leader, he carries himself with integrity and courage. It is difficult to fully express our deep appreciation for his faithful service to our office and our Nation. As a staffer, as a man, and as an American, he is of the highest quality.

We are profoundly grateful for JD's service to our office and the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh District. JD's zeal for our great Nation and its values, combined with his dogged dedication to the highest degree of excellence in all he does, marks him as a great American and invaluable servant to this country. Although it is with sadness to see JD's time here in our office come to a close, we are confident he will continue to distinguish himself in public service across the Capitol. We wish him and his wife, Addison the very best. On behalf of Tennessee's Seventh District, I commend JD for his excellent service and wish him well.