

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAMES WRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate a selfless civil servant who has served the Second District of Nebraska for well over 20 years in Federal, State, and local government. James Wright currently serves as our district director and has made a lasting impact for our constituents.

In 2001, James started a decade-long position with my friend and former congressman, Lee Terry, as a constituent liaison and special projects coordinator, a role in which he handled constituent casework and developed outreach projects that addressed the needs of local governments, private civic organizations, and other constituents.

One of his most impactful achievements was leading the district's transition assistance program after the FCC directed the conversion of all TV and radio systems from analog to digital. His model comprehensive program included information, education, and engagement to many who needed assistance to make a smooth and seamless transition.

After a decade with Congressman Terry, former Governor David Heineman, also my friend, asked James to head up the Office of Violence Prevention, where he was responsible for developing, fostering, promoting, and assessing violence prevention programs throughout the State of Nebraska.

James served there for a year before returning to Federal service and working with U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, a man I respect very much. He served as a special projects coordinator and constituent services representative, where he continued his passion for helping constituents by finding resources and solutions to resolve their cases.

Following his time in the U.S. Senate, James once again took a detour from his Federal service and worked for the city of Omaha under another one of my friends, Mayor Jean Stothert, as the director of community outreach. In that role, he assisted neighborhood groups and alliances through the development of community outreach programs.

After working in city government, James served under my friend and predecessor, Congressman Brad Ashford, as director of constituent services, where he provided direct assistance to constituents, delivering guidance and assistance to the constituent services team. He also worked with the senior staff to develop and maintain strategic relationships with relevant stakeholders in State and local government related to issues of importance to the congressional district.

During this time, his leadership was key to the authorization of the first-ever public-private partnership that

constructed a modern veteran healthcare center that has become the standard across the Nation in how to deliver better, faster, and more effective VA care.

James joined our team in January of 2017. As our district director, James oversees the management and operation of the office, supervises and mentors our staff, and leads engagement with a multitude of local organizations, constituents, and elected officials across a wide variety of issue areas.

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James also supervises all of our constituent services, delivering the best constituent services in Congress as recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation in 2021.

James' service to the community goes way beyond his 20 years of Federal civil service. He is a semi-professional actor. James has served as a board member of the Omaha Community Playhouse since 2019 and has starred in several of their productions, including roles in "Fences," "Sweat," and "Parade."

He also is a board member for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries focusing on the promotion of Carol Joy Holling Camp, which provides Christian education, spiritual, psychological, social, personal, and professional development in an environment that is free of any discrimination based on race, religion, color, creed, disability, national origin, age, or ancestry.

Most importantly, James is a loving husband to his wife, Angie, and father of 7-year-old son, Lincoln. He offers much of the credit for his success to his mother, Sherry, a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, who taught him to stand up for himself and that through hard work and determination he could accomplish anything he set his mind to.

I want to add on a personal note, James is a great supervisor. He cares for people, he is strategic, and he has been a blessing as our district director running our Omaha office.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate James on his 20-plus years of service to his community and the Second Congressional District of Nebraska.

IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Subcommittee on National Security, I rise in strong support of aid for a free and independent Ukraine. I also stand in solidarity with the more than 37 million Ukrainian people who have never relented in their fight for freedom in the face of more than 2 years of state-sponsored terrorism launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This past weekend, the Commander in Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces

reported that with U.S. assistance depleted, Ukrainian army positions along the country's 600-mile eastern border have "worsened significantly in recent days."

With Ukrainian soldiers facing a critical munitions shortage, Russian troops are currently firing 10 artillery rounds for every Ukrainian round. Until the prolonged impasse on Ukraine funding here in Congress, the United States was the primary ammunition supplier for the Ukrainian army. Now, the top American military commander in Europe describes the situation succinctly when he says: "If one side can shoot and the other side can't shoot back, the side that can't shoot back loses." It is as simple as that.

Ukraine's air and missile defense systems are also similarly depleted. In reference to a recent Russia air strike targeting a key power plant in the Kyiv region, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy indicated that Ukraine simply ran out of the missiles necessary to defend its critical energy infrastructure.

Russia, in fact, has taken full tactical advantage of escalating lapses in the Ukrainian air defenses, launching aerial offenses against almost every power plant in the country.

Not surprisingly, Russian troops are continuing to advance in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine, a primary goal of Vladimir Putin. Russia has brutally bombarded the city of Myrnohrad, also known as the City of Peace, and is now well-positioned to capture the strategic town of Chasiv Yar, whose high ground will enable Russian forces to launch direct offensives against the last Ukrainian strongholds in the east.

Meanwhile, over 40 percent of Ukraine's civilian population—or nearly 15 million people—are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reports that the country endured a 20 percent increase in civilian casualties and injuries last month over February of 2024, with double the number of children killed or injured.

Moreover, large-scale coordinated attacks on Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure destroyed or damaged 20 energy facilities across the country, leaving millions without electricity and running water.

According to the Global Rights Compliance, an international human rights organization that is assisting the Ukrainian Government investigating and prosecuting Russia war crimes, "The stark reality is that more and more Ukrainians are dying by the day as the Ukraine aid package remains stalled in Congress."

After several months of refusing to even consider aid for Ukraine, Speaker JOHNSON is now indicating that he plans to bring up a foreign package as soon as this week. Unfortunately, the House Republican majority is still playing politics with a matter of grave

importance to the Ukrainian people and democracy globally, going to great lengths to craft legislation designed to appease an extreme faction of the Republican Conference.

This political gamesmanship continues even though the United States Senate passed a bipartisan foreign aid package more than 2 months ago that I believe would easily pass this House with the necessary support from Members on both sides of the aisle.

We have reached a new low in this Congress. It is totally unthinkable throughout our history that a Republican Member of this House would attack a democratic ally and support a gangster and a war criminal like Vladimir Putin, but that is where we are today.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy recently stated that the United States Congress needs to think twice about pushing these political matters with regard to supporting Ukraine and vote to support all of the countries whose lives depend upon it. I strongly agree. I urge the House Republican leadership to take up the Senate bill and ensure that Ukraine and our other international allies like Israel will receive the support they urgently need.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor and recognize the Guam Chamber of Commerce who this year are celebrating their 100th anniversary.

The Guam Chamber of Commerce has and continues to be the voice of economic growth in Guam. An advocate for enhancement of small businesses, an organization which promotes opportunities for employers and employees alike, an association of like-minded business entities focused on improving industries and a leadership which expands on professionalism, the Guam Chamber of Commerce is an icon of commerce within the Marianas and Pacific region in general.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate president, Catherine Castro; chairman of the board, Ernie Galito; and board of directors of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, along with hundreds of businesses and organizations who comprise of their membership on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

We thank them for fostering commerce activity in Guam over the past 10 decades and look forward to decades more of their dedication toward our island's economic growth.

RECOGNIZING MELISSA SAVARES

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mayor Melissa Savares as she serves her final term as mayor of Dededo, Guam.

For close to two decades, Melissa has dedicated herself to the betterment of

families, youth, and "the elderly," "manamko," residing across Guam's largest village.

Savares' history of service includes her time as president of the Mayors' Council of Guam, a board member of the Guam Community Health Centers, a commissioner on the Serve Guam Commission-AmeriCorps program, and a member of the Civilian-Military Task Force, among other things.

Mayor Savares is a powerhouse in her community and is widely known across the island for her heart, for public service, and her efforts in preventing crime in the village.

Under her leadership, the Dededo Municipal Planning Council has sponsored youth sports teams and initiatives such as Youth Drug-Free Summer Basketball League, Student Robotics, and Real World Design Challenge, to name a few.

I would like to thank Mayor Savares for her commitment to the village of Dededo and wish her the very best in retirement. Her departure from the office would undoubtedly be felt, but I am certain she has laid a solid foundation for continued growth and development in Dededo to come.

RECOGNIZING ORLANDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the place I get to call home and serve—the 407, known as the City Beautiful.

From its charming mom-and-pop shops to world-class attractions, the success of our city is a testament to the incredible and unwavering spirit of our community.

Orlando is a place like no other.

At the heart of our city is a thriving small business community whose passion and dedication are felt by everyone they serve, especially when it comes to Orlando's amazing and diverse food scene.

As we celebrate the spirit of community, pride, and support that defines the 407, let us reaffirm our commitment to its continued success by uplifting our local businesses.

In supporting them, we ensure that Orlando remains not just a place full of potential but a city that can truly thrive.

RECOGNIZING EXTRAORDINARY BLACK LUMINARIES

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize extraordinary Black luminaries from around central Florida and their achievements and contributions to our city.

Their dedication shapes our everyday history, reminding us to uphold Black voices in government, community, business, and all spaces of power.

I recognize: Carolyn Fennell, Shanta Barton-Stubbs, Ms. Mary Maxwell, Reginald B. McGill, Tanisha Nunn Gary, Joseph Caesar, Reverend James T. Morris, Ronald O. Rogers, and Thomas Chatmon.

I am reading their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today because nobody can erase their contributions to building a better central Florida.

HONORING BOB GRAHAM

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because yesterday the State of Florida and our entire Nation lost a dedicated servant, Senator, Governor, respectable statesman, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Bob Graham.

Bob Graham dedicated his life to public service. He dedicated his life to the people, and he was a champion for all of us.

From his work on protecting the Everglades and fighting for our environment to fighting for education and opportunity for all students to even teaching citizenship before he was elected at Miami-Dade County High School, Bob Graham's legacy can be seen everywhere across the State of Florida and in all of us. He truly represented a time in Florida politics that we could all be proud of.

RECOGNIZING FOUR EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four extraordinary women for their impact on central Florida and beyond.

Their tireless efforts, unwavering determination, and profound achievements have shaped our local history and continue to inspire generations to come.

We honor them for their strength of character, unwavering spirit, and profound influence that they have on our community.

These women are: Graciela Noriega Jacoby, chief operating officer of Heart of Florida United Way; Dr. Marie Jose Francois, founder of the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention; Pastor Sharon Y. Rule, founder and pastor of Agape Perfecting Praise and Worship Center; and Oncantho Am, associate general counsel at the University of Central Florida.

I want to celebrate these women and all that they have done for our community.

HONORING SHEILA DICICCIO

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Winter Park's new mayor, Sheila DeCiccio.

Winter Park is a historic and unique community in my district filled with charm and beauty that attracts new visitors but has fostered a deep sense of community for many of central Florida's residents.

Mayor DeCiccio is a longtime Winter Park resident and has always put her community first by volunteering, sitting on the city's board of commissioners, and now will be serving as the city of Winter Park's first woman to be mayor.

Winter Park faces unique challenges—responsible growth, affordable housing, and infrastructure improvements. But Mayor DeCiccio's deep roots in the community and her passion to tackle these challenges with