

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would prohibit the relocation outside of the National Capital Region (NCR) of the headquarters for any federal agency located in the NCR or any federal employee position with a duty station in the NCR. Last week, the Trump administration directed federal agencies to submit "proposed relocations of agency bureaus and offices from Washington, DC and the National Capital Region to less-costly parts of the country."

The first Trump administration relocated a few agencies outside the NCR, which harmed the operations of the agencies and deprived the federal government of the expertise of experienced federal employees. For example, in 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture relocated the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture from the NCR to Kansas City. A 2022 Government Accountability Office report found that the relocation led to the agencies "losing . . . institutional knowledge and critical expertise." As a former head of ERS said in 2021, "The agencies have been decimated. Their ability to perform the functions they were created to perform—it doesn't exist anymore."

Employees in the headquarters for the agencies located in the NCR perform the indispensable work of keeping Congress informed of agency activities. Congress cannot write laws or conduct oversight without the critical information provided by agencies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MARY YIN LIU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Mary Yin Liu. I have named Ms. Liu as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Yolo County because of her excellent work in our community. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in San Francisco to parents C.C. and Regina Yin, Ms. Liu later attended UC Irvine, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and English, and Loyola Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctorate. She

has previously worked as Deputy District Attorney in Yolo County and Solano County and has served on the Yolo County Planning Commission. In recent years, Ms. Liu has been honored as a Top 20 AAPI Change Maker by the Sacramento Bee and as 2023 Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Jim Cooper. Ms. Liu currently lives in Davis with her husband, Harris Liu, and their two adult sons, Jack and Ryan.

Ms. Liu has been serving her community for over two decades, starting with her work for APAPA (the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs). Founded by Ms. Liu's parents in 2001, the national non-profit seeks to advance leadership and civic engagement for those in the Asian Pacific American communities. Ms. Liu currently serves as the organization's Chief Executive Officer. In this role, Ms. Liu led APAPA in organizing the first California Asian American Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in 2024, collaborating with over 50 organizations and engaging with more than half of California's legislators to advocate for essential resources, including funding for hate crime victims and language services. Ms. Liu is also active in the APAPA Student Internship Program, which provides students with firsthand experience in public service and leadership.

In addition to her national advocacy, Ms. Liu is the founder of Thriving Pink, a Yolo County-based nonprofit that has provided financial grants, mentorship, and support services to over 170 breast cancer survivors and their families. Through its compassionate mentorship program and monthly workshops, Thriving Pink ensures that no one faces a breast cancer diagnosis alone. Her commitment to philanthropy also includes her long-time role as Chair of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Program in Northern California, where she helped raise over a million dollars to provide scholarships to hundreds of high school students. Ms. Liu also continues to build upon the legacy of her parents by supporting their vision of dedicating Yin Ranch in Vacaville as an Asian Heritage Center, ensuring it remains a resource for nonprofit events and community programs.

Ms. Liu is also the owner and operator of Golden Arch Enterprises, a McDonald's franchisee company which owns and operates twenty-one restaurants in Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo counties. Ms. Liu was elected by her fellow franchise operators to be the President of the Northern California McDonald's Operators Association, becoming the first female and minority president in the association's history. She made history as the first female and minority President of the Northern California McDonald's Operators Association, where she fostered partnerships with numerous nonprofit organizations to support education and community initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Yin Liu personifies the ideals of service and commitment to one's community. Through her charity and nonprofit work, she has provided support, mentorship and leadership to hundreds of individuals. For her more than twenty years of service, I honor her today.

HONORING LYNDA CARTER AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Representative MONICA DE LA CRUZ, Representative EMILIA SYKES and Representative JANELLE BYNUM; in honoring Lynda Carter. During Women's History Month, we pause to highlight and reflect on the achievements of American women who have inspired generations and left an indelible mark on our Nation.

Fifty years ago, in 1975, "The New Original Wonder Woman" pilot movie aired on ABC and brought America's favorite heroine to life with Lynda Carter starring as the Amazon warrior Princess Diana who left her homeland of Themyscira to fight for justice in the world of men. Wonder Woman, first created by William Moulton Marston for DC Comics in 1941, became a guiding light toward empowerment for young girls and women.

Lynda Carter's portrayal of the character on television came during a pivotal time for women who were still battling for many rights including equal pay, the ability to get a credit card without a male co-signer, protections against pregnancy discrimination and sexual harassment, the right to serve on juries, and the ability to join military academies.

By the time the show concluded its three-season run on CBS in 1979, the Women's Movement had made significant progress as women across America were empowered and emboldened by the strength, wisdom and compassion Lynda Carter displayed both on and off the screen.

In the decades that followed, this TV icon remained an advocate for women, becoming a staunch supporter of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Women's Alzheimer's Movement and as a member of the Advisory Council of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. Lynda also supports GLAAD and the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, and most recently has partnered with City of Hope and TGen to research new drug therapies for myelofibrosis patients.

Lynda Carter has been recognized for her work with various honors that include an Emmy Award, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Gracie Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award, the Sor Juana Award by the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Raúl Julia Award from the National Hispanic Foundation of the Arts, and the Take the Lead's Leading Woman Award.

As the Nation celebrates Women's History Month, the leadership of The Bipartisan Women's Caucus of the House of Representatives honors Lynda Carter for her many achievements and contributions to womankind in the five decades since she first appeared as the superhero with the mission of protecting the world from injustice in all forms.

• 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.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL MARK C. JOHNSON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Colonel Mark C. Johnson for his exemplary and distinguished 30 years of service to our Nation. A native of Sacramento, California, Colonel Johnson has represented the great state of California and the city of Sacramento with honor, dedication, and distinction throughout his remarkable military career.

Colonel Johnson is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering and commissioned as an Aviation Officer. He also holds advanced degrees in National Security from the United States Naval War College and the United States Army War College. Throughout his career, Colonel Johnson has served with unparalleled distinction in a variety of command and staff positions, demonstrating his expertise and leadership across the Joint, interagency, and special operations communities.

His command assignments include leading the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division; the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (Assault); B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne); and B Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment (Assault). Colonel Johnson's staff assignments are equally impressive, including serving as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison; Director of Aviation for U.S. Army Forces Command; and as a Strategic Planner for U.S. Special Operations Command, among many others.

Colonel Johnson has deployed in support of numerous national security and civil support operations, including Operation Joint Endeavour, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Atlantic Resolve, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. His leadership extended to critical domestic operations, where he commanded aviation task forces supporting Defense Support to Civil Authorities for Hurricanes Florence and Michael, as well as southwest border security operations.

For his service, Colonel Johnson has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (5), Air Medal (3), and others. He also earned the Combat Action Badge, Master Aviator Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. As a testament to his skill, he holds qualification ratings in the OH-58, UH-60, MH-60, CH-47, and MH-47 helicopters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Colonel Johnson for his selfless dedication, unwavering leadership, and steadfast commitment to our country. As he concludes his 30 years of honorable service, I extend my deepest gratitude to him, his wife, Becky, and their children, Jake and Sarah, for their sacrifices and contributions to the strength and security of our Nation. I wish them all the best as they embark on the next chapter of their lives, and I know that Colonel

Johnson will continue to be an inspiration and source of pride for California, Sacramento, and our entire Nation.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S FOURTH
DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY
MONTH ESSAY CONTEST—1ST
PLACE HIGH SCHOOL WINNER,
TANVI PALAVALAS

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay from Virginia's Fourth District Black History Month Essay Contest—1st Place High School contest winner, Tanvi Palaavalas.

When Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg first wore his Army uniform during World War II, he stepped into a military that saw his skin color before his capabilities. Today, as a woman of color preparing to serve, I see in his journey not just history, but a torch lighting my own path forward. From an enlisted soldier in a segregated Army to becoming the first Black officer to earn the rank of lieutenant general, Gregg didn't just climb the ranks, he fundamentally redefined what was possible.

In the unforgiving landscape of 1940's America, Gregg's early military career could have been defined by the limitations others sought to impose. During the Vietnam War, his innovative supply chain systems didn't just move materials—they saved lives. His mastery of military logistics proved that excellence and leadership flow from capability, not ancestry. For those of us who still face skepticism about our place in military leadership, his technical brilliance offers a powerful reminder that competence speaks louder than prejudice.

The Army's unprecedented decision to name Fort Gregg-Adams after him in April 2023, making him the first living Black leader to receive such an honor, carries special resonance for those of us following in his wake. In replacing the name of a Confederate general with that of Black excellence embodied, the Army didn't just change a sign; it declared that the future belongs to those who can lead, regardless of their background. Until his passing in August 2024, Gregg's living presence at ceremonies and military events reminded us that such transformation isn't ancient history but an ongoing journey we continue today.

But Gregg's most powerful legacy lies not in the barriers he broke, but in the doors he kept open behind him. As a mentor and leader, he understood that his success meant little if it didn't create opportunities for others. His leadership style, combining uncompromising standards with deep empathy, showed that bringing one's whole self to military service strengthens rather than weakens the force. For women of color like me, preparing to enter a military still grappling with inclusion, his example offers both inspiration and instruction: excellence is our armor, competence our sword.

The systems Gregg built for military logistics mirror the pathways he forged for future leaders, both designed to ensure essential resources reach those who need them when they need them most. Today, as I prepare to don my own uniform, I understand that I'm not just pursuing a career but that I'm continuing a mission he began. His success proved that the military is strengthened, not compromised, by diverse leadership. The re-

spect he commanded showed that authority flows from character and capability, not color or gender.

The transformation of military culture is far from perfection, but Gregg showed us how to advance it—through impeccable service, unwavering determination, and a commitment to bringing others forward. As I prepare to begin my own military journey, I carry with me not just my dreams, but the torch Lt. Gen. Gregg lit decades ago. In his honor, and for those who will follow, I intend to carry it forward, lighting the way for others as he did for me.

THE HAWAII NATIVE SPECIES
CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY
ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Hawaii Native Species Conservation and Recovery Act, a critical piece of legislation to protect and preserve the unique and irreplaceable native plant and animal species of our precious and endangered Hawaii. I am introducing this bill in conjunction with my Hawaii colleague, Senator BRIAN SCHATZ.

Our Hawaii is one of the most biologically unique and diverse places on the planet. The islands are home to over 10,000 native species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, making Hawaii an extraordinary natural treasure unparalleled in biological diversity. From the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, one of the few seal species that thrives in tropical waters, to the endemic 'alala (Hawaiian crow), a bird with deep cultural and ecological significance, Hawaii's native wildlife plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of its ecosystems. The striking silversword plant, which grows only on the volcanic slopes of Hawaii's highlands, is another example of the island's extraordinary flora, having evolved to withstand harsh, isolated conditions.

These species, and so many others, also represent an irreplaceable part of Hawaii's heritage, not only contributing to the islands' ecological integrity but also holding cultural and spiritual value for Native Hawaiians. The unique biodiversity found in Hawaii is not only a source of pride for its people but also a global treasure that must be preserved for future generations.

A growing crisis driven by a range of interconnected threats to our native species is unfolding in Hawaii. Habitat destruction has significantly reduced the space where native plants and animals can thrive. Forests, wetlands and coastal ecosystems—critical habitats for native species—are being cleared or degraded, leaving these species increasingly vulnerable. As these ecosystems are altered or destroyed, the species that depend on them are at risk of extinction.

In addition to habitat loss, Hawaii's native species are also facing the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, higher temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns are already beginning to alter the habitats and food sources that these species rely on. For example, higher temperatures push native species to higher altitudes, leaving them with increasingly limited habitats. These environmental changes further stress the islands' delicate