

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAUREEN “MOLLY” FERGUSON AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Maureen “Molly” Ferguson is the director of government relations and grant management for Community Health Centers, Inc.

Guided by Community Health Centers (CHC) leadership and the mentorship received throughout her career, Molly has developed 20 years of healthcare advocacy experience, working with state and federal legislators, legislative aides, and key stakeholders to shape policies and funding opportunities that support Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). She collaborates with state and national associations to strengthen the collective voice of FQHCs and expand healthcare access. Since joining CHC in 2018, Molly has focused on building partnerships with government agencies, community organizations, and healthcare associations. Her experience in public and private funding has helped secure critical resources for healthcare services. She values strong relationships with grantor agencies, foundations, and corporate partners, ensuring sustainable support for FQHCs.

Molly’s dedication to advocacy is evident in her work. Along with CHC leadership, she collaborated with Congressman DARREN SOTO’s office to host former Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra at CHC-Meadow Woods Center and coordinated with federal staff for former Centers for Disease Control Director Mandy Cohen’s visit to CHC-Pine Hills Center. She is an active member of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Central Florida Health and Hunger Task Force, Orange County Health Equity Task Force, and serves on the boards of Central Florida Area Health Education Centers and the Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition.

A proud Pennsylvania native, Molly is one of seven children and part of a large extended family, including 20 nieces, nephews, and great-nieces. In 1979, her parents moved to Florida in search of greater opportunities. Their work ethic and dedication deeply inspired Molly, shaping her lifelong passion for advocacy, service, and expanding healthcare access for those in need.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT D. FUNDERBURG

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th birthday of Robert D. Funderburg, a champion for the City of Buffalo, great supporter and advocate, and dear friend.

Robert D. Funderburg grew up on the East Side of Buffalo, New York, attending Bennett High School, where he played basketball. At Bennett, Robert’s 1978 Basketball team won the Section VI, Class B Championship, besting the likes of other Buffalo and regional public high schools. After graduating from Bennett with honors, Robert demonstrated determination and initiative from an early age. Robert spent time working for the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority in transportation and claims investigations. As an investigator, Robert spent six years polishing his skills in contract review and project management.

After moving to California, Robert continued his work as an insurance investigator at Schifrin, Gagnon, and Dickey in Chatsworth, where he worked for seven years. As someone who has thrived on personal agency, Robert founded Funderburg Entertainment International in Los Angeles, providing personal management services for various musicians, tour management services, and contract negotiation. Leveraging his extensive background in investigations, Robert provided a leg up for artists, ensuring fair and beneficial contracts and broad exposure to audiences.

Returning to Buffalo, Robert worked in sales management at Hard Manufacturing, utilizing his skills as a marketer, manager, and salesman. Robert worked at Hard Manufacturing for six years, rising through the ranks to Regional Sales Manager by the end of his tenure. Robert is now an investigator for the City of Buffalo’s Legal Department, continuing to serve his community to this day.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Robert has had an undeniable impact on Western New York. As a devoted volunteer, Robert has dedicated his life to empowering underrepresented individuals and creating an even playing field for Buffalonians. As Chairman of the Buffalo Black Achievers Entertainment Committee, he has worked to amplify young African-American voices in our community and the entertainment industry. Robert’s co-founding of the Ron Brown Scholarship Foundation is a further testament to his work in creating an equitable and inclusive environment for Western New Yorkers, providing scholarships to the “most talented and economically challenged high school seniors” with involvement in public service and community engagement.

Beyond his volunteer work and professional career, above all else, Robert is a man of faith. Throughout his life, he has embodied

what it means to be a loving neighbor. With faith as his driving force, Robert’s life has been demonstrative of what it means to be a child of God. An integral piece to our “City of Good Neighbors,” Robert has enriched the Buffalo community and is indicative of years of hard work and selflessness. Please join me in wishing Robert D. Funderburg the happiest of birthdays, with many more to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL ELLIS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONG ISLAND

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William “Bill” Ellis for his years of dedicated service to his community. In his long career in public service, Mr. Ellis has made immense contributions to keeping Suffolk County safe and prosperous.

Soon after moving to Long Island from Brooklyn as a child, Mr. Ellis followed the example of service set by his father, who saw combat in the South Pacific while serving in the Navy during World War II. Mr. Ellis was first elected to be a State Committeeman at 21 years old and worked alongside elected officials and stakeholders to reach a fair contract for Correctional Officers. Mr. Ellis’s years of hard work have made Smithtown a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Alongside Patricia, his wife of 51 years and a State Committeewoman, Mr. Ellis has shown an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for his community.

During his 25 years serving as Chairman of the Smithtown Republican Committee, Mr. Ellis has utilized his vast institutional knowledge and experience to lead the party to unprecedented levels of success. Smithtown residents have benefited from the town’s tremendous growth and improvement thanks to Mr. Ellis’s stewardship and advocacy. Some of the projects his leadership has made possible include investment in community and educational facilities, transportation infrastructure, and initiatives to protect the environment and access to clean drinking water, all while ensuring accountability and preventing waste of taxpayer funds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the lifetime of work that Mr. Ellis has accomplished and wish him many more years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD JOHNSON

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Johnson, a distinguished

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

World War II Army combat veteran and cherished member of our Bedford community, who recently passed away at the age of 98.

Like so many others, Edward answered the call to serve our Nation during one of the most pivotal times in history. He was part of the Greatest Generation—a generation of patriotic Americans who put service above self every day. Through bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication, Edward contributed to the defense of democracy and fought for the freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

For one year, three months, and sixteen days Edward operated in the European Theater of Operations during WWII. During his service to this country, Edward earned the World War II Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Medal and Germany Clasp, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. In January 2025, I had the distinct honor to present Edward with the Battle Participation Star also known as the Bronze Battle Star, which was awarded to him in May 1945 but never received.

Following his military service, Edward continued a life of service to his family, community, and country. Through a blind date, he met his wife, Mildred, who blessed him with six children. Edward lived and worked on the family farm where he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren riding in the Case tractor and building fences, served as a founding member of the Gravity Legion where he helped build the Legion Hall, and volunteered with the Gravity Community Fire Department.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to Edward and all those of the Greatest Generation who sacrificed so much to secure the freedoms we cherish today. Let us ensure that their legacy endures, and their contributions are never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Edward's family and loved ones. May we forever honor Edward's service and memory.

HONORING JULIA DUBOIS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, for over two decades, the halls of several Florida elementary schools have echoed with the enthusiasm of exceptional educator Julie DuBois. Two Orlando schools in particular—Hillcrest and Hunter's Creek. She was twice honored as Teacher of the Year. This dedicated professional has spent her career nurturing the minds and hearts of Florida's young learners. Her passion for early childhood education is evident in every lesson plan and classroom activity they design.

At the heart of Julie's teaching philosophy is a commitment to developing young readers. Believing that literacy is the cornerstone of all learning, she has implemented innovative strategies to engage students with books from an early age. Through storytelling, phonics play, and interactive reading sessions, she has created a classroom environment where

reading is not just a skill to be learned but a joy to be experienced.

The influence of this talented teacher extends well beyond her classroom walls. Colleagues frequently seek her advice on best practices for fostering literacy and creating inclusive learning spaces. Her dedication to continuous professional development ensures that they are always at the forefront of educational trends, ready to inspire both students and peers alike.

In an era when educators' roles are more critical than ever, this Orlando-based teacher stands out as a beacon of dedication and passion. Her two decades of service to Florida's elementary students have left an indelible mark on countless young lives, cultivating a love for learning that will last a lifetime. As she continues to shape the future of education, she remains a testament to the profound impact one teacher can have in the world.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DR. NELLIE B. KING

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and lasting legacy of Dr. Nellie B. King, a trailblazer in education, a steadfast advocate for youth, and a devoted public servant to Western New York. Dr King's remarkable contributions, both in and out of the classroom, have left an enduring impact on generations and continue to serve as a powerful source of inspiration for those dedicated to empowering others.

With more than thirty-five years of service in education, Dr. King made history as the first African American Superintendent of the Lackawanna City School District. During her nine-year tenure, she spearheaded innovative programs such as the Kids in Spotlight Program, the Lackawanna Center for Family Achievement, and the District Model Aids Program, all of which brought meaningful and lasting change to the community.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. King was a passionate community leader, guided by her strong faith and commitment to service. She was an active member of Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Women's Missionary Council of the CME Church, and the World Federation of Methodist Women. Through her involvement in these organizations, Dr. King became a staunch advocate for social justice, equality, and empowerment, particularly for women and underrepresented groups.

Dr. King's exceptional contributions to education and community service were recognized with several prestigious awards. She received the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, the Buffalo Ambassador Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Education, reflecting her impact in both local and national spheres. In 2019, it was my privilege to name her a New York State Senate Woman of Distinction, a well-deserved honor that celebrated her decades of commitment to education, leadership, and community empowerment.

Today, we celebrate Dr. Nellie B. King—a pioneering educator, mentor, and visionary whose tireless efforts transformed not only the lives of her students but also the entire community. Her legacy is a testament to the profound influence one individual can have in creating hope, opportunity, and innovation for future generations.

IMPACT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DISASTEROUS TARIFFS ON CANADA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in the last election, then-candidate Trump ran on lowering costs for American families. He owned the issue on the campaign trail, and he won. I had hoped that he would follow through on his promise to "lower costs on day one." But instead of working to lower costs, the President has waged an unprompted trade war with Canada that will cost Americans when they heat their homes, feed their families, run their small businesses, or tend to their farm.

It's been one week since President Trump imposed twenty-five percent tariffs on Canada. In retaliation, Ontario imposed a twenty-five percent surcharge on electricity exported to Minnesota, Michigan, and New York. This will directly impact Minnesotans' energy bills. Minnesotans and consumers across this country will feel the impact of Trump's tariffs at the grocery stores when they buy products like pork, produce, or eggs.

With the uncertainty of Trump's tariffs, small business owners aren't able to plan ahead for their businesses. Trump has small business owners on a rollercoaster, trying to predict the extra costs they will pay in this escalating trade war. Last week, my office met with Traci Tapani, a Co-President of Wyoming Machine, a small family-owned sheet metal fabricator in Stacy, MN who relies on Canadian aluminum for their operations. The past few weeks have been filled with uncertainty for their business, not knowing if Trump would roll back or increase the tariffs. And just today, Trump imposed additional tariffs imported aluminum, bringing the total tariffs on Canadian aluminum up to fifty percent. This will force small businesses like Wyoming Machine to adjust their operations once again. Trump isn't hurting Canada or Ontario with this trade war He is hurting small business owners.

Trump's tariffs are also hurting farmers across this country who will incur greater costs when purchasing potash, a soil fertilizer often imported from Canada. And by inciting these trade wars, Trump is cutting off essential export markets for our farmers.

Americans know these tariffs are going to hit us hard. Our financial markets are in free fall because Americans fear this trade war will push us into a recession. Dr. John Spry, an economist at the University of St Thomas, has estimated that as long as the Trump tariffs are in place, Americans will spend one-hundred dollars more on everyday goods each month. In my district, I'm hearing that working families and seniors on fixed incomes need relief from the high cost of living. They can't afford to add money for tariffs to their already tight monthly budgets.