

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIEF ASHLEIGH CASEY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Southlake Police Chief Ashleigh Casey. Chief Casey began her law enforcement career as a 9-1-1 operator and Police & Fire Dispatcher for the City of Euless, joining the police force just three years later. Following her time with Euless Police Department, she spent two years with DFW Airport's Department of Public Safety before joining the Southlake Police Department in 2000. In 2015, she was appointed Assistant Chief of Police where her strategic vision and leadership helped guide the department towards continuous improvement. In June, she made history by becoming the first female Chief of Police of the Southlake Police Department.

Chief Casey's management of an \$11.5 million budget and oversight of police technology projects kept the department at the forefront of innovation and operational efficiency. Her thoughtful leadership helped the department achieve the highest levels of performance excellence and maintain its status as a top law enforcement agency, recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies with Gold Standard accreditation. Her team has benefited from her focus on employee well-being and professional development. As a leader, Chief Casey has been crucial in enhancing public trust and cooperation with law enforcement through public engagement and school safety programs.

In addition to obtaining a Master Peace Officer Certification, Chief Casey has completed the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, FBI National Academy, and School of Executive Leadership at the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration.

I congratulate Chief Casey on her well-deserved appointment to lead Southlake's police force after 27 years serving and protecting North Texas.

APPRECIATING CAPT. JOHN C. WILSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Greatest Generation of survivors of the Great Depression and victors of World War II and the Cold War over communism is passing and another American Patriot to recognize is Captain John C. Wilson, USMC (Ret), of Jackson, South Carolina.

His loving obituary has been published by the Aiken Standard:

Retired Capt. John C. Wilson, U.S. Marine Corps, 93, beloved husband of Mrs. Sharon "Sam" Woodruff Wilson and a true patriot and hero, entered into rest on Monday, January 7, 2025, in the comfort of his home. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Johnna Lisa Wilson.

The family will greet friends on Monday, January 13, 2025, at Matlock Baptist Church, 980 Main Street, Jackson, SC 29831, beginning at 1 o'clock, followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 2 o'clock with Pastor Dale Reeves officiating. The interment with full military honors accorded by the United States Marine Corps Honor Guard will follow in Jackson Memorial Park, Jackson, South Carolina. James L. Hammons Marine Corps League Detachment #939 members will be honorary pallbearers.

John enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the tender age of sixteen. Following boot camp, his first deployment, at seventeen, was to China to attempt to keep peace between the communists in the North and the free people of the South. The United States soon realized this was impossible and removed the Marines from China.

His second deployment was to Korea, where he fought in the famous "Chosin Reservoir Battle" for three weeks in subzero temperatures. Following a brief assignment back in the States, he was again deployed to Korea. During this deployment, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart Medal for his sacrifice and service to our country.

In 1967, John served his first deployment to Vietnam. During this assignment, for his leadership, he received a Battlefield Commission to 2nd Lt. He was wounded during the Battle of Plains. For this action, he received his second purple heart. His last deployment in 1968 was back to Nam again, where he fought in the famous Battle of Khe Sanh. John's lifelong desire was to be a Company Commander, and he was promoted to Captain to fill that empty position. During the Khe Sanh Battle, he was wounded and was awarded his third Purple Heart.

After twenty-five years of honorable service to our country, John retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1973. Our country is forever grateful for men like John Wilson, where valor and sacrifice are a common virtue.

Following his retirement from the USMC, John retired from Kimberly-Clark, Beech Island, SC, after twenty-four years of service.

Capt. Wilson is a life member of Matlock Baptist Church, Jackson, South Carolina, the James L. Hammons Marine Corps League 939, the CPL Matthew Vincent Dillon Memorial Purple Heart Chapter 2005, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Military Officers Association, MOAA.

Left to cherish John's memory with his wife, Sam, are a daughter, Terry Lynch, Monroe, NC; a grandson, Justin Cane Jarrett, Jackson, SC; stepchildren, Tonya Marie Eisenhower, Aiken, SC, and Lori Lee Mixon, Walterboro, SC; and several step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Matlock Baptist Church, 980 Main Street, Jackson, SC 29831.

RECOGNIZING ZACH FRIEND FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Friend, the author and public servant, for his commitment to the people of Santa Cruz County. Mr. Friend served as a Santa Cruz County Supervisor representing the 2nd District for over a decade. His expertise and experience include serving in the White House Council of Economic Advisers, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives, but his greatest impacts have been working in local government.

After moving on from national and state politics, Mr. Friend spent almost a decade working for the Santa Cruz Police Department as a Crime Analyst and Public Information Officer. In 2013 he was elected to serve as the Representative for the 2nd District on the County Board of Supervisors. While on the board he has worked to improve community access to local government, and has chaired and served several commissions including transportation, criminal justice reform, environment and land use, flood control, air quality and more.

As a County Supervisor Mr. Friend has also helped to open a new Aptos Public Safety Center that includes the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Probation and the Board's first permanent office—increasing access to public safety and County resources in the district. He also launched the County's first mobile app. My Santa Cruz County allows residents to do everything from reporting potholes to graffiti to abandoned vehicles and even learn about local parks all from their smartphones.

Mr. Friend is the author of *On Message: How a Compelling Narrative Will Make Your Organization Succeed*, an Amazon.com best seller in the Marketing category and winner of the Axiom Business Book Award and distinguished himself as a regular commentator on national television on public affairs.

In 2024 Mr. Friend announced he would not seek a fourth term to spend more time with his wife, Tina and their son Elliot. During his time as a County Supervisor, he was frequently tapped to engage with lawmakers and staff at the state and federal levels when the county needed an advocate. Santa Cruz County is thankful for Mr. Friend's commitment to the 2nd District.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO CHIAKA OGBOGU

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Chiaka

• 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.

Ogbogu, a star athlete from Coppell. As one of only twelve players nationwide named by USA Volleyball to compete on the U.S. Women's National Team in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, Chiaka has shined on the world stage.

Her stardom is nothing short of remarkable, making her Olympic debut at the Tokyo Summer Games in 2021 where she played a key role in securing the team's historic gold medal. Chiaka's experience competing worldwide, including in Italy, Poland, and Turkey, has established her as a leader on the team.

Before embarking on her professional volleyball career, Chiaka was a student athlete at Coppell High School and at the University of Texas at Austin. While in college, she graduated with the most blocks in school history. Despite her success, Chiaka has a humble attitude.

I thank Chiaka for continuing to set a great example for North Texans of all ages as she makes our entire country proud.

REMEMBERING COACH PRESTON

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Pat Preston, a Bakersfield athletics and education leader who passed away on December 22, 2024, at the age of 76.

Coach Preston served our community as an athlete, coach, and educator throughout his life. After being awarded Bakersfield's All-City pick for Lineman of the Year in 1965, Coach Preston would go on to play linebacker for Stanford University from 1966 to 1970, where he served as co-captain. Following his graduation from Stanford University, Coach Preston returned to Bakersfield High School to be a defensive coach, then went on to serve as Head Coach at Hanford High School, where he served for four years. However, the Bakersfield community beckoned his return, inviting Coach Preston to be the Drillers Head Coach, and he accepted.

Some Drillers who were present for these golden seasons can still remember how his return to Bakersfield reawakened the team's camaraderie and belief in itself. Coach Preston is remembered for leading the Drillers through a 39-game winning streak, including three consecutive undefeated seasons in the Yosemite Division in 1988, 1989, and 1990. Under Coach Preston's leadership, the Drillers also garnered eight league and four section football championships. Keeping the team focused with both his humor and his intensity, Coach Preston cared equally for each person on his team—from the waterboy to the quarterback—and taught them how to be dynamic and energized in all that they did. In 1999, Coach Preston was hired as the Assistant Principal for Liberty High School where he continued to serve our community.

Coach Preston has been inducted into several local halls of fame—the Bob Elias Hall of Fame, Bakersfield High Alumni Association Hall of Fame, and the Drillers Football Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife Patti, and two sons Nathan and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pat Preston, a

Kern County community leader and someone who has helped shape generations of young people in our community.

THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Patti Davis which appeared in The New York Times on Monday, January 13, 2025.

THE DREAM OF CALIFORNIA IS UP IN SMOKE

(By Patti Davis)

I've heard people say they couldn't live in Los Angeles because they'd miss the changing of the seasons, but spending much of my childhood on a ranch in Malibu, I watched as the storms rolled in during the winter months, the land turning green and lush, then blossoming in wild colors and sweet scents in spring, browning and drying out in summer before the air turned cusp in autumn and orange leaves fell from trees to blanket the ground.

There were groves of oak trees, endless green pastures and a pond where ducks made their home every year. Tiny frogs jumped all over the banks of the pond. I'd scoop some up in my hands and laugh when they leaped out, back into the mud. When the winds kicked up in October and November, parts of the ranch did burn a couple of times. But then the rains would come and the land would heal.

The ranch was where we spent our weekends. During the week we lived in Pacific Palisades, so quiet it felt almost like a secret refuge from the noise and busyness of downtown. But that was Los Angeles, too. Now that world is gone.

To look at the footage and the photographs of what the voracious fire turned those neighborhoods into is like looking at a war zone. Everyone is trying to process the grief, the shock. The truth is we'd lost it all well before the fires so mercilessly swept through. The flames just sealed the deal.

I once thought that the land I loved so much would last forever. I couldn't imagine an Earth that would groan and rage and turn chaotic because of human carelessness, human greed and the ignorant assumption that we could just keep pumping poisons into the atmosphere with no repercussions.

Often over the past few days, I've been reminded of the aftermath of Sept. 11, how no one seemed like a stranger.

During these fires, my own home was spared, but everywhere you go people are sharing stories, asking how others are doing. People who never met before, and may never meet again, stop on sidewalks, in stores, to share their fears, their despair. To weep over their losses. To try to make sense of it.

My anger over what we have done to this fragile, exquisite Earth was muffled by grief until the other evening when I was watching a news program that had a panel of commentators. The subject was Los Angeles on fire, and one person mentioned climate change as a cause. Another commentator smirked and said he didn't believe it was the cause.

I felt rage surge up past my grief.

My first thought was "You think you know more than scientists? The scientists who have been warning us for decades?" Then I thought "This young man wasn't even born when I was running through tall green

grasses at our ranch beneath skies that were clear and blue. He has no idea what Earth used to be like." The beauty I grew up around seems like it was so long ago, but it really wasn't.

I'm still heartbroken, but I want us to be angry. Not a destructive anger, a righteous anger. I want us to stand up for an Earth that was created with perfect balance, with beauty and mystery and a divine artistry. An Earth that was put here not for our consumption and our greed but for our nourishment. An Earth that has so much to teach us, and that needs protection, now more than ever.

We have thrown an entire planet out of balance, and now we are suffering the consequences—weather patterns so severe we have no idea how to combat them, and the resulting fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, more severe than anything we've known before.

We can grieve and be righteously angry at the same time. Or there is another scenario. We can be nomads wandering across barren acres of land that were there for our sustenance, if only we'd had the sense to know that and protect the Earth we were given.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES FROM OPERATION TURKEY

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, the volunteers of Operation Turkey Dallas and Operation Turkey Forth Worth for their work to provide Thanksgiving meals to people in need.

After Richard Bagdonas gave his Thanksgiving leftovers to a homeless man in Austin, he was inspired to launch Operation Turkey, which expanded to our community in 2012. North Texas answered the call to serve, with local volunteers providing thousands of warm meals per year.

Their work begins well before this, but on the day before Thanksgiving, volunteers gather for a Turkey Tailgate to smoke turkeys, sort toiletry and clothing donations, and prepare for an early start. The morning of, helpers of all ages set up, cook, plate, package, and deliver meals and other items to North Texans in need. In 2023, Operations Turkey Dallas and Fort Worth provided a combined 5,400 meals to members of our community.

I thank the volunteers of Operation Turkey for ensuring North Texans have a hot meal on Thanksgiving. Their work exemplifies the generosity that makes our community special.

RECOGNIZING DAISY ELLA PRICE KAHN

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman, Daisy Ella Price Kahn, who made significant contributions to her community and to the field of education.

Daisy was born in Marshall, Texas, to the late Memphis and Daisy Bell Price, and she