REMEMBERING VICTOR KILLINGSWORTH

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Mr. Victor Killingsworth of Taft, California. Victor, a veteran of World War II, served our country in the U.S. Navy for over three years and made incredible contributions to the Taft community. Victor passed away on April 5, 2025, at the age of 104.

Victor was born on November 11, 1921, in Coalinga, California, to Francis and Evelena Killingsworth. Shortly thereafter, Francis and Evelena would move to Taft, California, which would become Victor's home for over 90 years. After graduating from Taft High School and later Taft College, Victor enrolled in the University of California, Berkley. While studying there, the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, causing the United States to formally enter World War II. Eager to defend his country, Victor enlisted in the U.S. Navy at a time when Japanese and German naval attacks had stretched American naval forces precariously thin. Victor sought to be a more valuable asset to the Navy and enrolled in Midshipman School at Columbia University on December 7, 1942. Industrious American shipbuilders soon remedied the ship shortage with remarkable speed, enabling Victor to later serve in the campaigns against Imperial Japan in the Pacific Ocean. During his naval training, while at Joint Expeditionary Base—Little Creek, Victor met his future wife Margaret (Peggy) Sexton who would keep his morale high with frequent devoted letters throughout the war.

Upon completion of Midshipman School, Victor received orders to be assigned to the USS *Sumter*, a troop transport ship, carrying elements of the 4th Marine Division. Assigned to a U.S. Navy Amphibious Squad, Victor worked to transport ''Carlson's Raiders'' to Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in February 1944. He would transport Marines onto the six-square mile atoll throughout a fierce four-day battle as part of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands Campaign. In the pouring rain and amidst choppy surf, Victor towed Marine landing forces behind him to the beach like ''ducklings'' as he recalled. Victor later noted that his audaciousness in landing so close to enemy positions at night seemed to have tricked the Japanese defenders into thinking his boat was one of theirs.

Victor next took part in the operation to capture the island of Saipan. While on the island, Victor drove too far into enemy lines where he witnessed tremendous human suffering on the island. In one location in Saipan, he would successfully urge numerous Japanese soldiers to lay down their arms by promising the men they would be treated with civility. Adopting similar de-escalation strategies with civilians he encountered, Victor's compassion saved many from perishing.

Upon completion of U.S. operations in Saipan in late July 1944, Victor transported—in just one day—some 8,000 Marines in 75 boatloads across three miles of open ocean to secure the Japanese-held island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands. This vital island would later provide the two airfields necessary for American bombers to quickly reach Japan and bring about the culmination of World War II.

Later in 1944, Victor served as a Communications Officer aboard the USS *Artemis*. While onboard at the onset of the heroic Battle of Iwo Jima in February 1945, the USS *Artemis* sustained withering fire from Japanese coastal artillery and was forced to withdraw to Guam. This was Victor's final combat of World War II, as the war would end seven months later on September 2, 1945. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, Victor was honorably discharged, married Peggy, and returned to his hometown of Taft.

The couple ran Taft Sporting Goods for 37 years while raising their three daughters—Barbara, Janet, and Patty. Victor was passionate about supporting his community, helping launch Westside Little League and Westside Jr. Football. Later in life, Victor wrote a book about his service titled ''The Gator Navy,'' where he detailed stories of his training and service. Cementing his local legacy, Victor conceived of the idea to construct the iconic Oil Worker Monument in Taft, the largest bronze statue west of the Mississippi River, to mark the centennial anniversary of the city. Whether it was his service to our country or our community, Victor has certainly left a lasting impact on countless individuals. The Taft community remains fortunate and grateful to have had such a hero.

Victor is survived by his daughters: Patty Killingsworth Gray, Barbara Killingsworth, and Janet Killingsworth Sandoval; his sons-in-law: Everett Gray and Miguel Sandoval; five grandchildren: Christian Gray, Ashley Gray, John Gray, Sarah Sandoval, and Andrew Sandoval; and eight great-grandchildren: Samantha Gray, Andrew Gray, Piper Gray, Foster Gray, Lex Gray, Charlotte Sandoval, Victoria Sandoval, and Oliver Sandoval.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in remembering Victor Killingsworth, and his legacy of invaluable service to both our country and his community.

RECOGNIZING MARISOL CHAVEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marisol Chavez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Marisol has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Marisol, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Marisol's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Marisol Chavez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARY SELECKY

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my colleague Rep. DAN NEWHOUSE, to honor the life and legacy of Washington's former Secretary of Health Mary Selecky, who we both had the honor of serving besides in former Governor Christine Gregoire's cabinet. For over four decades, Mary dedicated her life and career to improving public health across Washington. She began her career as the administrator for the Northeast Tri County Health District. In 1999, she was appointed as the Secretary of Health by Governor Gary Locke and continued in that role under Governors Gregoire and Jay Inslee until her retirement in 2013.

During her tenure as Washington's Secretary of Health, Mary was instrumental in reducing smoking rates and increasing childhood vaccination coverage across the state. She was known for her commitment to preventive care and for strengthening the collaboration between state and local health agencies. In 2020, during the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, the state drew on Mary's commitment to preparedness for a public health emergency. During our time in the cabinet with her, we valued her expertise, tenacity, and mentorship that she provided to all.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mary was deeply connected to her community in Colville, Washington, where she resided for over 50 years. Her dedication to both her local community and the broader public health landscape left a lasting impact on the state. Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring Mary Selecky's life and contributions to public health, as well as Washington.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider S. 714, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and the nominations of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, and Dario Gil, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Science, both of the Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Leslie Beyer, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Andrea Travnicek, of North Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior, and Theodore J. Garrish, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Nuclear Energy), and Tristan Abbey, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, both of the Department of Energy.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 29, to make daylight saving time permanent, S. 191, to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, S. 196, to improve online ticket sales and protect consumers, S. 259, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a list of entities that hold authorizations, licenses, or other grants of authority issued by the Commission and that have certain foreign ownership, S. 320, to authorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, S. 580, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, S. 606, to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells, S. 688, to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally, S. 725, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, S. 769, to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction, S. 1003, to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue an order providing that a shark attack is an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, S. 1081, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit certain reports to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, S. 1278, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct a project to improve forecasts of coastal marine fog, S. 1378, to enhance the use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of artificial intelligence for weather forecasting, S. 1433, to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, S. 1437, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program to identify, evaluate, acquire, and disseminate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, S. 1492, to require the Secretary of Commerce support the leadership of the United States with respect to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology, and the nominations of Olivia Trusty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.
SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine opportunities to strengthen water infrastructure programs, focusing on the IIJA's successes.
SD–562

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.
SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Brian Burch, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Holy See, Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and Allison Hooker, of Georgia, to be an Under Secretary (Political Affairs), all of the Department of State.
S–116

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 558, to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and S. 163, to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title.
SD–430

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine biomedical research, focusing on keeping America's edge in innovation.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3:30 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the rise of Antisemitism and supporting older Americans.
SH–216

4 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To receive a closed briefing on America's Air Force.
SVC–217

MAY 1

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine insurance markets and the role of mitigation policies.
SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.
SR–253

10:15 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, and Brett Shumate, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SH–216

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.
SD–419

MAY 12

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To receive a closed briefing on space superiority.
SVC–217

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
To hold hearings to examine industry views on partnership with the Department of Defense and defense of the Defense Industrial Base.
SR–232A