

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE JUDGE PATRICK NEMOYER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Judge Patrick NeMoyer, a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and jurist whose legacy of love, compassion, and devotion to his family and the Western New York community inspired all who knew him.

Born on September 15, 1952, in Buffalo, New York, to Edgar H. and Mary Elizabeth NeMoyer, and brother to the late Honorable Edgar C. NeMoyer, Judge NeMoyer was surrounded by love from the very beginning. He continued that legacy when he married the love of his life, Elyse, shortly after their union, the couple became parents to Caitilin, Dr. Erin, Dr. Amanda, and Dr. Rachel NeMoyer.

He is survived by numerous loved ones, including his nieces and nephews, friends, and colleagues in the New York State Supreme Court. His love for his family and his desire to be there for his community left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Before he began his extensive legal career, Judge NeMoyer received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from SUNY Binghamton in 1974 and chose to further his education at SUNY Buffalo School of Law, obtaining his Juris Doctor degree in 1977 and a master's in Economics in 1984. For more than a decade, Judge NeMoyer worked as a Confidential Law Clerk and later Principal Law Clerk for the Honorable James B. Kane of the Eighth Judicial District before serving as Erie County Attorney.

In 1993, Judge NeMoyer was nominated by President Bill Clinton as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York. In 1997, Judge NeMoyer was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, where he handled a wide range of cases during his tenure. In 2016, he was recognized for his work and intellect and was appointed to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department until his retirement in 2023.

Throughout his career, Judge NeMoyer was widely renowned for his commitment to the legal profession and received numerous accolades including being named Judge of the Year by the Erie County Bar Association's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee, Western New York Judge of the Year by the State Trial Lawyers Association, as well as being sat as a member of the New York State Pattern Civil Jury Instructions Committee.

Judge NeMoyer had many passions, he was a follower of politics at all levels, a voracious reader, especially of his favorite local paper, the Buffalo News, and he loved to golf. Judge NeMoyer cared deeply about others, serving as a mentor to the next generation of legal minds throughout Western New York.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Judge Patrick NeMoyer lived a life of devotion to his family

and his community. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Judge NeMoyer was a man who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and the warmth of his heart will forever be remembered and deeply missed. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: integrity, respect, and above all, love.

RECOGNIZING THE GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES SERVING TWO MILLION MEALS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Gibson Center for Senior Services for serving their two millionth meal to seniors in the Mount Washington Valley.

Founded in 1973, the Gibson Center for Senior Services provides a wide range of programs for residents of the Mount Washington Valley, including meal delivery, transportation, social programs, exercise classes, home repair, and even a thrift store that provides affordable adult clothing and housewares for persons in need. With the help of over one hundred dedicated volunteers, the Gibson Center serves 47,000 meals a year to seniors in the Mount Washington Valley. For many of these residents, these meals also provide an opportunity to interact with members of the community and give them the peace of mind that someone will be checking in on them regularly.

The Gibson Center showcases exceptional care for the senior residents of the Mount Washington Valley. Every day, they provide invaluable services to those in need and make our Granite State communities better and stronger.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Gibson Center for Senior Services for achieving this incredible milestone. Granite staters are grateful for organizations such as the Gibson Center, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JULIANNE HEBERLEIN AND HER SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Julianne Heberlein and her

service and contributions to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Julianne served as a mentor and leader for the communications team and the entire office, sharing her expertise and experience with the rest of my team. Her counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill. Julianne was highly motivated, thoughtful, and energetic. In a role that demands precision, skill, and the ability to respond swiftly, she consistently rose to the occasion. Julianne's genuine kindness allowed her to build lasting relationships throughout the office, creating a positive and collaborative environment that will be missed. Through her tireless work she leaves behind a legacy of excellence.

I would like to thank Julianne for her many contributions and dedicated service over the last two years. She has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career with Senator FISCHER. May the Lord bless her as she embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Julianne Heberlein for her service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

HONORING JON ROE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO VERNON, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enthusiastically honor Mr. Jon Roe, a pillar of eastern Connecticut, for his lasting contributions to the town of Vernon, Connecticut and the Tankerhoosen River Valley. His more than six decades as a resident of Vernon have been filled with selfless advocacy and dedication to the region that will be long remembered and admired for generations to come. A few weeks ago, on April 24, 2025, Jon was recognized for his selfless volunteer contributions, when he was awarded the Marie Herbst Memorial Award. This award, named after a longtime Mayor and State Senator for Vernon, is reserved for persons who demonstrate outstanding service and dedication to the community.

Jon's journey to this milestone began in the small town he grew up in, in northern New Jersey, where his family had lived for 200 years, which taught Jon the value of small-town institutions. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University in 1961 with a degree in engineering, Jon found his home in Connecticut where he worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, a world-renowned engine manufacturer that has powered planes and jets for 100 years. After marrying the love of his life, Janet, in 1963 they settled in Vernon's Tankerhoosen River Valley where they have built and lived their lives for the past 62 years.

• 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.

Jon always knew he could make a difference when he put his mind to something. He established a deep interest in natural health and spirituality in the 1980s. After 32 years of highly skilled work for Pratt & Whitney, Jon retired in 1993. He took this opportunity to embrace new opportunities, publishing a magazine and helping holistic practitioners move into the mainstream.

Jon built on his interest in holistic health, working with the Vernon Youth Services Bureau to bring awareness to the benefits of holistic medicine to the wider Vernon community in the early 2000s. In 2004, Jon was instrumental in the creation of the Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest, which hosted their 12th annual festival this March.

Jon has been a dedicated member of Vernon, always longing to learn more about the place he has called home for so many years. After meeting people passionate about protecting the Tankerhoosen Valley, Jon took it upon himself to learn all he could about the area and its people. The Tankerhoosen Valley is located in Vernon and Tolland, Connecticut and is one of the state's Officially Designated Greenways. The area has a rich environmental history that Jon knew he needed to share with others living in and visiting the Valley. He created a website and newsletter to help share what he learned with those around him. Working with volunteer nonprofits, Jon was also instrumental in creating the Vernon Volunteers' Collaborative (VVC) in 2014, a group that serves to preserve the community of Vernon for residents.

Finding his niche in research and sharing information, Jon has dedicated the past 15 years to writing and giving talks about the Tankerhoosen Valley and the early families that lived there. His extensive research and down to earth speaking style, infused with a warm sense of humor, made him a favorite at all his speaking engagements. He recently published a book on Vernon's first 90 years and has several other books planned to continue telling the rich story of northeastern Connecticut history.

Mr. Speaker, Jon Roe has been an exceptional leader in eastern Connecticut throughout his life. I count myself lucky to know leaders like Jon, working so hard to preserve our history for future generations. Jon's commitment to the corner of eastern Connecticut he and his children and grandchildren have called home for decades is evident in his relentless service to the community. His contributions and tireless work will continue to be felt in Vernon and the northeast region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Jon on his award and honoring his works.

THE KURDS DESERVE BETTER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in my service on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have had the opportunity to meet talented citizens of the Kurdish Region of Iraq including visiting it's vibrant capital of Erbil, the oldest continually inhabited city in the world, of 8,000 years.

With historic changes for democracy being achieved, new President Ahmed al-Sharaa of Syria, the new government of Lebanon, and President Donald Trump's extraordinary success confirming our alliance with dynamic Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, there is opportunity to appreciate the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as it resists Tehran's subversion of Baghdad.

I include in the RECORD an excellent analysis of opportunity which was presented by the great American patriot, former Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, on May 20, 2025. "The Kurds Deserve Better" op-ed in the New York Post:

THE KURDS DESERVE BETTER

They've proven themselves to be one of America's most reliable partners in the Middle East—but the Kurdish people still have no real homeland of their own. As Masrour Barzani, the prime minister of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, visits Washington this week, these friends deserve better. Other regional actors offer rhetorical friendship, but the Kurds demonstrate theirs through action and sacrifice.

What's more, they provide a critical bulwark against Iranian influence in a region that has been thoroughly penetrated by the Islamic Republic—including in Iraq, which has become an Iranian cat's paw. Kurdish ambitions for greater autonomy are not only righteous, they align with America's own critical interests. As Secretary of State and CIA director in President Trump's first term, I witnessed their unwavering commitment to our shared objectives firsthand.

Kurdish fighters have consistently battled America's worst enemies—jihadist groups like ISIS, al Qaeda and others—sparing American blood and treasure. Unlike many other partners in the region, the Kurds never engaged in anti-American terrorism, never cost American lives and never wavered in their friendship. Their loyalty has delivered exceptional returns on a modest investment, compared to the trillions spent in other Middle Eastern conflicts.

The Kurdish regions possess substantial natural resources, positioning them for economic self-sufficiency. The KRG alone contains an estimated 45 billion barrels of oil—roughly a third of Iraq's total reserves—plus significant natural gas fields.

Kurdish territories also contain valuable mineral deposits, largely untapped due to political constraints. The KRG has demonstrated effective governance despite Baghdad's restrictions, building a functioning economy and attracting international investment. Given economic freedom, Kurdistan would rapidly develop into a self-sufficient partner that strengthens America's strategic position without draining our resources.

In my diplomatic engagement throughout the Middle East, I've seen what makes the Kurds exceptional: In a region dominated by authoritarianism and extremism, Kurdish-governed areas stand out as islands of relative tolerance and pluralism. Kurdish communities have rejected the anti-American and antisemitic ideologies that poison much of the region. And like Americans, they yearn for self-determination and representative government; they have no wish to become a vassal state of an American adversary.

For too long, the United States has neglected the strategic potential that would be unlocked by supporting Kurdistan—out of fear of regional repercussions and, in some cases, sheer inertia. At this critical juncture in America's engagement in the Middle East,

we should incorporate the Kurds into our regional strategy.

First, America must forcefully counter regional efforts to undermine Kurdish self-governance. When Iran's Revolutionary Guards launch missiles at Kurdish sites, as they did last year, Washington should respond with consequences. No regional power should be able to operate with impunity against our partners. To successfully project American power, the US must establish and enforce red lines that protect our allies from systematic abuse.

We must also keep Kurdish regions from being economically strangled as punishment for their autonomy. Baghdad has repeatedly withheld funds and blocked oil exports—tactics encouraged by Tehran to force Kurdish submission.

Washington should leverage its substantial influence with the Iraqi government to lift export blocks. This will both allow the Kurds to thrive and increase the global oil supply, strengthening energy security.

America should respect the legitimacy of the 2017 Kurdish independence referendum, in which 93% of Iraqi Kurds chose independence. Instead of honoring this democratic process, Baghdad (with Iran's backing) sent tanks and militias to punish the Kurds and impose a blockade. At that time, the United States chose to place Iraq's artificial stability over Kurdish aspirations—a mistake we should now rectify.

Recognizing the referendum's validity by supporting Kurdish autonomy means respecting the democratic will of a people who have earned the right to determine their future.

Finally, the United States should work with the Kurds toward a peaceful, negotiated pathway to greater autonomy and independence. This long-term objective must be pursued through diplomatic channels to avoid triggering new conflicts, but it's a goal worth pursuing to advance American interests in the region. America should encourage Baghdad and Erbil to establish a legal framework for greater Kurdish sovereignty that addresses both Kurdish aspirations and Iraqi concerns.

Similarly, we should engage Turkey—which contains its own large Kurdish population—by emphasizing the strategic benefits of a more independent Kurdistan and an end to their perpetual insurgency.

In my years of service, I've learned that America is strongest when we stand firmly with those who share our values and consistently advance our interests. Prime Minister Barzani should receive a strong welcome in the United States as we explore ways to jointly advance peace and prosperity.

Mike Pompeo served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, 2017–18, and Secretary of State, 2018–21.

<https://nypost.com/2025/05/20/opinion/kurds-deserve-better-how-us-can-support-an-allies-freedom/>.

RECOGNIZING SANG H. YI

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sang H. Yi for his distinguished service to the House Committee on Homeland Security and the United States Congress.

Sang is a proud alumnus of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, the United States Naval War College, and the George