

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEBBIE SHESS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Debbie Shess.

Debbie was a devoted mother and wife and a tireless advocate for her community. She was a dedicated parent, serving as the Elementary School Auction Chair at her children's schools and cheering her sons on as a De La Salle Baseball Mom. Throughout her life, she continually exemplified her commitment to service and was highly active in the community. Debbie was critical in organizing the Contra Costa County Wine, Women, and Shoes Event which worked with businesses to raise money for local non-profits. She also played a key role in her husband Zac's campaign for Pleasant Hill City Council, serving as his Assistant Campaign Manager and helping to organize community events, parades, and fundraisers.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer, Debbie became a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness. She took part in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness and served as a Breast Cancer Representative, always willing to provide support and comfort to others facing cancer.

Sadly, Debbie passed away at the age of 59 on October 7, 2024. She is survived by her loving husband, Zac and her children, Cole and Jackson. She will be remembered for her outstanding character, kind spirit, and compassion. Please join me in recognizing Debbie Shess for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE HODAN HASSAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Representative Hodan Hassan, who served District 62B in Minnesota's House of Representatives for three terms. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rep. Hassan for her dedication to making positive change in our communities.

Rep. Hassan emigrated to the United States from Somalia in 1999. After earning her bachelor's degree in social work from Metropolitan State, she earned a Master of Social Work and Public Health from Augsburg University. She went on to be a mental health practitioner and Executive Director of Pathways 2 Prosperity where she led programming to empower communities through education and support, and to address systemic gaps in behavioral health.

In 2018, Rep. Hassan made history by becoming the second Somali-American woman elected to the Minnesota legislature. While in office, she was Assistant Majority Leader during the 91st legislative session, chaired the Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee and was a member of the Housing Finance and Policy, Ways and Means, and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committees, among others.

Throughout Rep. Hassan's tenure, she championed many initiatives that significantly impacted the lives of her constituents. To name a few: Rep. Hassan co-authored the Rideshare bill to ensure fair wages, safe working environments, and workplace protections for drivers against discrimination and retaliation. Rep. Hassan also strengthened the Increase Teachers of Color Act to grow and maintain more diversity in Minnesota's teaching workforce, help to close the education gap, and enrich the education experience for all children. She also championed the MN PROMISE Act, a state-funded small business revitalization program that provides essential support through grants and loans to disadvantaged businesses.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rep. Hassan for her years of dedicated public service. From the beginning, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to justice that has made a profound difference on her constituents in District 62B and our community at large. Her leadership will continue to inspire us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2025, I was unable to vote as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 16 and YEA on Roll Call No. 17.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL OREFFICE

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Paul Oreffice, the former Chairman of the Board of The Dow Chemical Company, who passed away on December 26, 2024, at the age of 97.

Paul was born in Venice, Italy and came to the United States with his family when he was 17 years old. He went on to attend Purdue University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1949. After

serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, Paul began his career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

Following international assignments in Switzerland, Italy, Brazil and Spain, Paul became the first president of Dow Chemical Latin America in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1970. In 1971, he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, and later as president of Dow Chemical U.S.A. in August 1975. Paul was named president and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company in May 1978 and chairman in May 1986.

As a humanitarian, Paul received the Encomienda del Merito Civil (Order of Civil Merit) in 1966 from the government of Spain and in 1978 he was honored with the title "Grand Ufficiale" by the Italian government. Paul is the first person to receive both the Société de Chimie Industrielle's Palladium medal and SCI America's Chemical Industry medal, which he received in 1981 and 1983, respectively.

Paul was especially helpful in giving back to the state of Michigan through his intentional engagement of the community. His involvement in bringing the Midland Soccer Club and the Greater Midland Tennis Center to life has not only provided opportunities for the local youth to come together to be active within the community but also has brought tourism to the area through tournaments and other events. Paul's involvement in philanthropy touched not only the Midland community but reached across the country as he served as a Trustee of the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, served as a Senior Member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Visitors Board, and he served as Chairman of the Board of the Parkinson's Foundation from 2003 to 2007. His strategic thinking and contributions have greatly impacted families across the state and the country.

Today, we celebrate the enduring legacy of Paul Oreffice. On behalf of the people of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Paul Oreffice for his commitment to humanitarian service, a lifetime of leadership and work in chemical engineering, and unwavering leadership that has changed our community for the better.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Paul Oreffice for a lifetime of tremendous service.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN C. HOLSTEIN OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the late Judge John Charles Holstein of Springfield, Missouri, who passed away recently at the age of 79.

A native of Springfield, Judge Holstein was born on January 10, 1945, to the late Wanda

• 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.

and Earl Holstein. He and his brother, Dr. David Holstein, were raised to value education and were both instilled with a strong sense of faith, justice and service.

Judge Holstein graduated from Parkview High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from Southwest Missouri State University. He subsequently received his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia.

Following a successful law career in private practice, Judge Holstein started his judicial career as a probate judge, moving on to be an associate circuit judge and then a circuit judge. He was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals by then Gov. John Ashcroft in 1987. In 1989, he was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court where he served as chief justice from 1995 to 1997. He retired from the court and returned to private practice in 2002 where he focused on mediation and arbitration.

Judge Holstein's legal career and public service earned him many awards and accolades. In addition, he served his country on active duty with the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and National Guard, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1997.

Judge Holstein is survived by Mary, his wife of 57 years, and their three daughters, Robin Comacho and her spouse Jesse, Katy Link and her spouse Paul, and Erin Cutler and her spouse Michael. He also was a proud grandfather to 12 grandchildren.

Judge Holstein's life was a testament to integrity, faith and service, and his contributions have left an indelible mark on the community and the state. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF SGT. BRIAN DAVENPORT AND SGT. DANIEL GARNICK OF THE RIVERVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Brian Davenport and Sergeant Daniel Garnick of the Riverview Fire Department for their vigilance and bravery in responding to a resident who had fallen through the ice and saving their life. The contribution that they have made to the safety and well-being of the residents of Riverview and the surrounding area is worthy of commendation.

On December 8, 2024, Riverview emergency services acted quickly to save a local resident who had fallen through the ice of Riverview's beloved Reflection Pond. Sergeants Davenport and Garnick showed tremendous courage saving this resident, but their success was also a direct result of preparation and training. Sgt. Davenport has been with the Riverview Fire Department since 2008 and has his ICE Water Rescue Certification as well as being a Registered Nurse. Sgt. Garnick has been with the Riverview Fire Department since being hired in 2000. Many of the firefighters at the Riverview Fire Department are members of various rescue teams, including the Downriver Mutual Aid Dive Team, HAZMAT, and logistics, to name a few.

I also want to recognize our partners with Downriver Mutual Aid for providing training and resources to regional fire departments. This incident underscores the importance of strengthening our mutual aid organizations so we can provide the requisite gear and training for local departments that may otherwise struggle for resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Sergeant Davenport and Sergeant Garnick. Our communities are safer because of selfless actions that our front-line workers take every day to protect their fellow community members. We thank them for their dedication and bravery in their dangerous line of work. I thank Brian and Daniel.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIGHLAND BEACH RESORT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historical significance of the Highland Beach Resort in Sandy Hook, New Jersey which was once the birthplace of Northern Jersey Shore tourism. From 1888 through 1962, this historic location was beloved for its beautiful views and beachside amenities. This destination was a trailblazer for people to begin traveling by rail, excursion trains, steamboats, and automobiles. I would also like to applaud the Jersey Coast Heritage Museum for preserving this history.

In a groundbreaking way, the Highland Beach Resort flourished with thousands of tourists every summer, and was home to four-towered carousels, arcades, and one of the first roller coasters in the country. Highland Beach Resort's "great switchback railroad" rollercoaster was constructed in 1889 by Highland Beach Resort using an original design by Mr. Thompson, the same inventor of the Nation's first carousel in 1876 and first roller coaster in 1884 nearby in Coney Island. It is truly honorable how this resort fostered innovation and business models that developers all along the Jersey Shore would eventually follow.

Since 1893, William Sandlass has been denoted as the legendary developer and entrepreneur who led the construction of the historic Highland Beach Resort. When the remarkable "great switchback railroad" rollercoaster was called to be disassembled, Mr. Sandlass repurposed the timbers into a two-story building to be used to expand the resort, eventually becoming a home for his family, and now in service to the National Park Service. When considering the rare architectural characteristics of the home, along with a trace to the history of American and New York Harbor, it becomes clear that this nature-resilient 131-year-old house is truly historic.

The geographical history of this location also includes when explorer Giovanni de Verrazano first laid eyes on The Highlands of Navesink in 1525. Evidently, Mr. Sandlass' home is the last remaining structure of the Jersey Shore's start to tourism at the northernmost point and will be remembered as a first-of-its-kind summer refuge for residents traveling for the first time since their immigration

to the United States. Where some of the earliest citizens of the United States of America found comfort away from conditions of sweltering hot temperatures and poor sanitary systems of New York City. In many ways, this house symbolizes exploration, cultural heritage, and appreciation of the Jersey Shore.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in honoring the late Mr. Sandlass, his landmark home from the Highland Beach Resort, and the members of the Jersey Coast Heritage Museum. Their efforts to preserve the history of the Northern Jersey Shore are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MICHAEL DYE

HON. HARRIET M. HAGEMAN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an incredible privilege to recognize an extraordinary individual, Chief Dye on the momentous occasion of his retirement—a milestone that marks the culmination of nearly 39 years of dedicated service on active duty in the United States Army. Chief Dye's career reflects a legacy of leadership, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our Nation's ideals.

Chief Dye's remarkable career stands as a testament to the bravery, dedication, and selfless devotion that our Nation's veterans exemplify. It is because of individuals like him that we continue to enjoy the freedoms and Constitutional rights that define our way of life. His unwavering love for this country is unparalleled and serves as an inspiration not only to those who have served alongside him but to all Americans, myself included.

As he embarks on this new chapter of life, I hope it is filled with new adventures, joys, and opportunities. Chief Dye's legacy of hard work, integrity, and commitment has left an indelible mark on the U.S. Army, the USAWOA, and every unit he has served. The influence he has had on his peers and those under his leadership will continue to resonate for generations to come.

I am confident that as he transitions into this next phase, he will continue to excel and make meaningful contributions to his community and to our great state of Wyoming.

I thank Chief Dye for his service, his sacrifices, and his unwavering commitment to this Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAM KESSLER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Pam Kessler.

Pam was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She worked in television in the Denver area before relocating to the Bay Area in the 1980s with her husband, Anthony. Pam and Anthony were highly active in the community and raised their two children, Lauren and