

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. ANSON H. "TUCK" HINES AS HE RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Marylander of great character, intellect, and vision: Dr. Anson H. "Tuck" Hines. After 46 years working at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland, Dr. Hines is retiring as SERC's Director. We ought to reflect on all he has been able to accomplish in that time.

Dr. Hines came to SERC as a Marine Ecologist in 1979 a few years after earning his PhD in Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley. Over the decades, he has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications and distinguished himself as a leader in the field of marine ecology and conservation. His research on fisheries, blue crabs, and invasive species has received international acclaim. Crucially, it has informed policy. His research into the decline of the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population led both Maryland and Virginia to regulate harvesting of female blue crabs. Many of us on Team Maryland have worked with Dr. Hines on other conservation efforts over the years.

Dr. Hines has also served as a mentor to numerous up-and-coming scientists. As an adjunct professor at my alma mater, the University of Maryland, College Park, he guided some 20 postdoctoral fellows as a major advisor. He has also supported hundreds of undergraduate interns, master of science students, and PhD candidates.

Indeed, Dr. Hines is renowned not only as a researcher and academic but also as a leader. In 1988, he became Assistant Director of SERC before becoming its Director in 2005. Throughout his time in leadership, he helped turn SERC into a global leader on some of the most pressing challenges of our time—from climate change to habitat destruction to declining biodiversity. He oversaw major expansions to SERC. He helped increase the Center's landholdings by 1,100 acres and took charge of its effort to conserve 2,654 acres of the Rhode River watershed. He also expanded SERC's housing facilities so that the institution can host some of the field's brightest minds and train the next generation of scientists. Additionally, Dr. Hines sought to preserve the Chesapeake Bay's history with his restoration of the Woodlawn House—the oldest building in the Smithsonian's collection that is still in its original location—back in 2020. It now serves as the Woodlawn History Center, with exhibits that explain the story of the historic site as well as SERC's work.

Sustainability remained one of Dr. Hines' top priorities as Director. He spearheaded the construction of the Smithsonian's first net-zero

energy research facility: the LEED-Platinum certified Charles McC. Mathias Laboratory. How fitting that this cutting-edge facility is now home to scientists producing cutting-edge research that is preserving our planet for future generations.

For all these efforts, Dr. Hines has received more awards and accolades than I could possibly name. Most importantly, he has earned the respect and gratitude of his fellow Marylanders and Americans. He truly has advanced the Smithsonian's stated mission: 'the increase and diffusion of knowledge' I wish him all the best as he starts this exciting new chapter, and I have no doubt that he will remain a trusted voice in his field, a passionate custodian of the environment, and an important leader in our community long into the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this milestone.

REMEMBERING VEDA REED

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful artist, educator and delightful friend Veda Louise Reed, who passed on June 3rd at the age of 91. Ms. Reed was born in Oklahoma but moved to Memphis in 1952 and attended the Memphis Academy of Art (later known as the Memphis College of Art) where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1956. Her classmates included artists Dolph Smith and Henry Easterwood. She was appointed registrar of the Academy of Art that same year. Ms. Reed studied landscape painting in Britain and began exhibiting her work in 1957, both in Memphis and at the Morris Gallery in New York, where they were reviewed by *The New York Times* and other arts publications.

Through the years, she worked mainly in oil on canvas and exhibited paintings at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery (now the Brooks Museum of Art), the Alice Bingham Galleries, the Bingham Kurts Gallery and the David Lusk Gallery, all in Memphis; in Atlanta; in Little Rock; and at the Boatman Gallery in New York. At the Memphis College of Art, she taught several art forms including painting, drawing, design, fabric design, still life, and landscapes. I have three of her paintings, including one of a sunrise that I wake up to in my Washington condominium. Years ago, she and I were paired in designing a Mark Rothko-like painting at a Brooks Museum event for a charity. She retired as a senior faculty member in 1995 when she was named professor emeritus. During her tenure, her fellow faculty members included Dorothy Sturm, Burton Callicott and Ted Faiers. Her final exhibit at the David Lusk Gallery opened in January 2024.

Ms. Reed brought beauty to our world and inspired hundreds of student artists. She led a life of accomplishment and will be missed.

HONORING TASHUNDA MONTGOMERY-VAUGHN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tashunda Montgomery-Vaughn.

Born in Marks, Mississippi, Tashunda spent her formative years between her hometown and the Florida Keys. She is the daughter of the late Deborah Montgomery Simpson and Jimmy D. Matthews and was raised by a family of veterans and educators, including her parents, George and Deborah Simpson, and her grandparents, William and Ruby Montgomery. She is married to retired Army Sergeant Kenneth R. Vaughn and is the proud mother of an exceptionally talented daughter, Ja'Brea J. Joiner.

Tashunda's academic journey began in Quitman County, Mississippi, where she graduated with high honors while participating in sports and school organizations. She earned an Associate of Arts degree in Medical Records from Coahoma Community College in 1993, a Bachelor's of Social Work from Delta State University in 1996, and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Mississippi in 2004. She has also pursued coursework in emergency medical technology and real estate, and received her licensure in social work from the State of Mississippi in 1999.

Her professional experience spans the fields of education and social work. She has served in positions with ICD Head Start, Child Protective Services, the U.S. Department of the Army (Vicenza, Italy), the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center, Tougaloo College/Delta HealthPartners, and is currently employed at Northwest Community College.

In 2012, inspired by their experiences as caregivers, Tashunda and her husband Kenneth founded HealThyLand Adult Daycare, LLC, named after the II Chronicles 7:14. This facility provides personal care and respite services for the disabled and elderly, becoming a vital resource for the community. Continuing her entrepreneurial spirit, Tashunda recently purchased and restored a historic building—formerly a newspaper printing company—and transformed it into Jhreamery Flats, a short-term lodging establishment.

A woman of deep faith, Tashunda has long attributed her strength and guidance to her spirituality. She has served as a choir director, Sunday School teacher, and Lay Servant at Trinity United Methodist Church. Inspired by her late mother's advocacy in the Poor People's Campaign and generational self-sufficiency, Tashunda has dedicated herself to community service, particularly focusing on maternal and child health, where she works to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Tashunda Montgomery-

• 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.

Vaughn for her enduring commitment to service, advocacy, and the betterment of Mississippi. Her legacy of compassion, leadership, and resilience continues to inspire all who know her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 157; NAY on Roll Call No. 158; and YEA on Roll Call No. 159.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, I voted NAY but intended to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 163.

CELEBRATING FIRE CHIEF JEFF WILLIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Jeff Willis on his retirement from the Big Bear City Fire Department after nearly four decades of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Jeff served as a firefighter, engineer, captain, division chief, assistant chief, fire marshal, and fire chief. Jeff is renowned in our community as a selfless and caring individual and is a true friend to all who have the privilege of knowing him.

A resident of the Big Bear community for over 48 years, Jeff attended local schools prior to joining the Big Bear City Fire Department as a paid call firefighter at 18 years old. Jeff was promoted to paid call engineer within 2 years and advanced to the rank of fire captain just 2 years later—a true testament to his unique skillset and exceptional abilities.

In 2007, at just 43 years old, Jeff became the youngest fire chief in the history of the Big Bear City Fire Department. Jeff's additional accolades include serving as a board member for the Fire Districts Association of California and as both chair and vice chair of the Joint Legislative Task Force representing the California Fire Chiefs Association.

Jeff's decorated career and service to Big Bear City would not have been possible without the support of his family. His wife, Yvette; his three sons, Brandon, Jordan, and Kadon; his two stepsons, Joshua and Brennan Eddy; his mother, Barbara; and his late father, Ken, were instrumental in supporting his work in keeping our community safe.

Jeff had a profound impact on our community and the Big Bear City Fire Department.

Heather and I deeply appreciate Jeff for his years of service, and we wish him and his family well as they enter this next stage of his already eventful and purposeful life. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeff Willis and celebrating his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TIME OUT DAY

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, wrong-patient, wrong-site, and wrong-procedure surgeries are rare, but can be life-altering for patients. Members of the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) are committed to safe surgery. Since 2004, AORN and the Joint Commission have recognized National Time Out Day to bring greater awareness to the safe surgery practice of taking a "time out" before operative and other invasive procedures to prevent wrong-site, wrong-patient, wrong-procedure surgery.

The National Time Out Day initiative supports the Joint Commission's Universal Protocol and builds greater awareness among surgical and procedural team members about the critical steps that keep patients safe. This initiative's goal is to prevent errors by ensuring that all members of the surgical team pause before invasive procedures, so they can communicate as a group and confirm key information about the patient and the procedure.

I commend perioperative and procedural teams in hospitals across Texas' 21st Congressional District for their hard work and dedication every day to ensure safe environments for procedural and surgical patients. I also applaud their efforts to reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

Today, I recognize these efforts on behalf of my constituents, celebrating June 11, 2025, as National Time Out Day in District 21 and across Texas.

HONORING JUSTICE DAVID H. SOUTER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Justice David H. Souter, who passed away recently at the age of 85. Justice Souter served our Nation with integrity, humility, and an abiding respect for the Constitution. In retirement, he spoke rarely but when he did, his words resonated with profound clarity. In 2012, he warned that democracy cannot survive too much ignorance. He spoke not from partisanship, but from deep historical understanding. When citizens no longer grasp how their government works, the path opens to authoritarianism. He said, "That is the way democracy dies . . . an ignorant people can never remain a free people." Those words echo even louder today, when civic trust is fraying, institutions are under siege, and loud voices offer simple answers to complex problems. This is not a moment for

cynicism or despair. But neither is it a time for complacency. Justice Souter's warning was not about left or right. It was about whether we choose understanding over manipulation, engagement over apathy. Let us honor his legacy by committing ourselves anew to the serious work of fostering a democracy of, by, and for the people.

CONGRATULATING THE 2025 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDALISTS

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's winners of the Congressional Award.

The Congressional Award honors those who strive to be part of something bigger than themselves. With this award, Congress recognizes young Americans who devote their free time to an important activity. It could be taking on a public service project, pursuing a hobby or new skill, starting a physical fitness program, or going on an outdoor expedition.

Participants set goals in these areas, and how they do in meeting them determines the level of award they receive. Just as important, they receive the sense of pride that comes with fulfilling a mission. The program, established in 1979, is a great way to motivate young people to develop the building blocks of good citizenship.

I congratulate each of the awards' winners.

I include in the RECORD a list of this year's Congressional Award Gold Medalists from around the country, including three recipients from the great state of Wisconsin.

2025 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDALISTS

AK: Joshua Pak
AL: Grant David Hershbine, Autumn Kerby, Andrew Kerby, Isabella Russell
AP: Elliott Lee
AR: Daniel Bragg, Easton Everett, Braden Lisowe
AZ: Metin Akkaya, Saraa Alshawa, Iris Butler, Joaquin Galindo, Malaika Hayat, Daniel Johnson, Tessa Leon, Mckenna Leon, Roshni Nagarakanti, Noureen Nakshbandi, Merissa Richey, Nicole Spry, Yiyi Sun, Nolan Takeuchi, Rabia Zehra Unver, Tyler Wang

CA: Benjamin Ahmad, Ashley Ahn, Roshan Ambegaonkar, Iris An, Betul Zeynep Arat, Lucy Ariunbayar, Sawyer Ashland, Kallesh Ashoka, Tristan Barre, Kieran Beckham, Hrishu Bharath, Haley Blackman, Constantine James Blastos, Michael Blastos, Evan Bohne, Alexander Bowen, Aneel Brar, Joshua Brookens, Jackson Bunnin, Asher Bunnin, Alexander Byun, Wilson Callaway, Kelly Campbell, Gabrielle Campbell, Francine Carr, Nathaniel Cha, Dylan Chadwick, Kyle Chan, Nathan Chang, Dongkyu Chang, Scarlett Chang, Tiffany Chang, Tianwen Chen, Seline Cheung, Yagnik Chilamakuri, Hailey Cho, Isabella Choi, Eunice Choi, Jennifer Eunseo Choi, Sumin Choy, Victoria Chun, Matthew Chung, Madison Chung, Christine Chung, Ronnie Chung, Elif Cicek, Alexander Cornell, Sravya Damarla, Rikhil Damarla, Ananya Devkirti, Matthew Dewitt, Annabelle Do, Daniel Eun, Lola Forbes-Black, Luke Fowler, Nolan Freyer, Serena Gandhi, Alec Grantz, Hannah Gu, Bonmin Gu, Chaoming Guo, Lauren Han, Yuxuan He, Annalia Henderson, Miles