

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE, MS. FAY ROPELLA, IN HONOR OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Fay Ropella, Inspector General for the United States Capitol Police (USCP) Department, on her upcoming retirement, and to thank her for her many years of public service.

Ms. Ropella was sworn in as the second Inspector General for the USCP in November 2013, and has diligently served this institution with honor and integrity.

During her more than 20 years working in the Inspector General community, Ms. Ropella has served in numerous capacities on teams which recovered tens of millions of dollars as a result of audits and investigations into areas such as labor cost mischarging, contract and grant fraud, and misuse of federal funds.

As Inspector General for the USCP, Ms. Ropella has led an office responsible for identifying and preventing waste, fraud, and abuse within the Department. Over her past years of service, Ms. Ropella's priorities were to serve as an independent and trusted contributor to the USCP's mission and operations and to improve the management and financial integrity of the Department's programs. Before her appointment to Inspector General, she was serving as Assistant Inspector General for Audits, performing the duties of Deputy Inspector General for the USCP and helping establish the office from the ground-up. One of her earliest accomplishments in this role was to assist the USCP in completing its first set of financial statements, resulting in a clean opinion. In her work, Ms. Ropella has distinguished herself by promoting positive change within the USCP and has earned the respect of her colleagues in the process.

Before joining the USCP, Ms. Ropella served for more than 10 years with the Office of Inspector General for the Department of State. Among her many senior leadership positions, she was the chief financial advisor to the Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, managing appropriations in excess of \$1.5 billion. Before joining the Department of State, Ms. Ropella worked at the U.S. Information Agency and the Department of Defense.

Ms. Ropella graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Leo College with a Bachelor of Arts in Accountancy. Ms. Ropella is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Fraud Examiner, and she has been active in the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency, Federal Audit Executive Council, as well as the Legislative Inspector General quarterly meetings.

Ms. Ropella will retire on March 30, 2018, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, trans-

parency, accountability, and cooperation. She has been a true public servant, and we are grateful for her unwavering dedication to this institution. We wish Ms. Ropella success and happiness in her retirement and offer our congratulations to her and her family.

TRIBUTE TO 98-YEAR-OLD VETERAN VIRGINIA HENDERSON GRANGER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my Memphis constituent Virginia Henderson Granger, a veteran overseas U.S. Army nurse during World War II, who turned 98 last month. Mrs. Granger was born on February 21, 1920, in Johnson City, Illinois. She graduated from West Frankfort Community High School in 1937 and went to nursing school at Christian Welfare Hospital in East St. Louis, Illinois, earning her R.N. in 1942. Later, after her service in the Army, Mrs. Granger went to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

Mrs. Granger volunteered for the Army Nurse Corps in 1943 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. At Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Mrs. Granger received her basic training and then worked at the Station Hospital for six weeks while awaiting further orders.

She traveled by troop train to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, which was the port of embarkation for the European Theatre of Operations. Mrs. Granger was sent to Barnstaple, England, as a platoon nurse caring for troops. She returned to the U.S. to take up her permanent assignment after a passenger/cargo ship, the USS *Munargo*, was converted into the 206th U.S. Army Hospital Ship *Thistle*. She served on the *Thistle* for most of two years, rising in rank to First Lieutenant.

The home ports for the *Thistle* were New York City and Charleston, South Carolina, while its overseas port was Naples, Italy. As a hospital ship, it was considered neutral under the Geneva Convention and bore a large red cross on the upper decks. While aboard the *Thistle*, Mrs. Granger made 12 round trips across the Atlantic Ocean bringing sick and wounded troops home from the European Theater. While in the Mediterranean Sea, the ship shuttled sick and wounded troops from Oran, Algeria and Southern France. Mrs. Granger and the rest of the crew of the *Thistle* participated in the Southern France Invasion in August 1944. At the end of the war in Europe, the *Thistle* and Mrs. Granger were sent to the Philippine Islands to evacuate the remaining sick and wounded. After three years of service, Mrs. Granger returned via Long Beach, California, and was discharged in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Granger was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the EAME (Eastern, Amer-

ican, Mediterranean) Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the American Pacific Campaign Medal, and three overseas bars.

Mrs. Granger, a widow, was married to John W. Granger, an Army veteran of the war, for thirty years.

After leaving the Army, she worked as a nurse at the John Cochran Veterans Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Memphis Veterans Hospital. She worked a total of thirty years at the two hospitals and served in almost all of the departments within the hospitals. For several years she was the supervisor of the Spinal Cord Injury, Post Surgical Unit, and Psychiatric Departments of the hospital in Memphis.

Except for her college years in St. Louis, Mrs. Granger has lived in Memphis since 1946. She helped open the Veterans Hospital in St. Louis and she helped move the Memphis Veterans Hospital from Park and Getwell to its current location on Jefferson Avenue. She retired from the VA in 1979. Mrs. Granger currently lives at the Kirby Pines Retirement Community.

Mrs. Granger is a longtime member of American Legion Post 250 in Germantown. I want to commend Mrs. Granger for her long years of service to our country and its veterans and hope that my constituents and her many friends will thank her for the devoted hard work she has done for a grateful nation.

HONORING THE POWER OF STUDENT VOICES AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2018

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Power of Student Voices at Central High School, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Power of Student Voices at Central High School was created in the fall of 2005 to create a more informed citizenry that can actively participate and investigate the unique culture of the American political landscape. In May 2008, Central High School was awarded the AARP Ethel Percy Award for Civic Engagement. Additionally, the students participated in the Presidential inaugural activities in 2009 and 2017 and of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf in January 2015. Last year, the students participated in an in-depth study of the 2016 Presidential Election.

Now, Central High School's seniors have the opportunity to explore our nation's capitol as they visit historical landmarks and meet with political actors. This unique experience will give them the opportunity to meet with political professionals, conduct interviews, write news articles and blogs (to be displayed on a student-made website), and explore the historical and political landscape of the political process. Students will develop a direct sense

• 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.