

responsible for providing leadership and coordination of USPHS pharmacy programs and professional affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health & Human Services.

While serving her country, Rear Admiral Schweitzer worked in a variety of roles including, progressing in leadership responsibilities in the Indian Health Service, the Veterans Administration, as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She made an indelible mark within each of these organizations, which is a testament to her strong dedication to public service.

Rear Admiral Schweitzer has been recognized for her leadership contributions many times. These recognitions include receiving the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs Champion Award in 2017, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists William Zelmer Lecture Award in 2016, the University of California San Francisco Alumni Award in 2015, American Pharmacists Association Distinguished Federal Pharmacist Award in 2014, IHS Senior Pharmacist of the Year Award in 2013 and the USPHS Mary Louise Anderson Leadership Award in 2012.

Rear Admiral Schweitzer will always be remembered as someone who put her country and the well-being of others above all else. She will be greatly missed and I wish her the best in her retirement on behalf of a grateful nation.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FIFTH
ANNUAL GLOBAL FEST

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the fifth annual Global Fest, hosted by the City of Aurora, Colorado. The office of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, as well as the office of International and Immigrant Affairs work tirelessly every year to showcase the diverse cultures of the city's residents, and I am proud to recognize their achievements in the House of Representatives.

The City of Aurora owns the title of Colorado's most diverse city and has a population of over 366,000, which makes it the third largest city in the state. Aurora includes about 70,000 immigrants and refugees who speak over 130 languages spoken and represent more than 140 different countries of origin. Global Fest is a wonderful opportunity for all Aurorans to share their rich cultural history with each other and those who come to participate from throughout Colorado.

Global Fest is a fully immersive cultural experience. Attendees sample diverse foods, listen to live music, discover traditional arts and view a range of cultural performances. At the festival, Coloradans can observe a variety cultural items and practices. They are also able to see the 'Parade of Nations' where representatives of an estimated 40 countries will march together carrying their respective flags from their countries of origin to demonstrate the multi-cultural spirit of the city.

Mr. Speaker, in my many years as an Aurora resident, I have had the privilege to witness its development from a small suburb of

Denver into the bustling multicultural hub of economic activity it is today. The city embodies the melting pot that our nation rightfully idealizes. This is why Aurora is a special place. Global Fest is the singular annual event that best symbolizes what makes Aurora a remarkable city that I am proud to represent in the United States House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6147) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of this amendment, which would block funding for the enforcement of the EPA methane rule. This rule will combat climate change, protect public health, and capture a resource that would otherwise go to waste.

The EPA Methane rule will curb methane emissions by estimated 510,000 short tons per year by 2025. This will represent a savings of \$100 million in natural gas that would otherwise leak into the atmosphere. It is important to remember that it is not only methane leaking out of oil and gas facilities. This rule would prevent the release of 210,000 short tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which are a threat to public health. When released, these compounds form ozone, which the EPA has linked to asthma, heart attacks, strokes, and numerous other health conditions. Ozone is particularly harmful to vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and people with preexisting conditions. My own district is part of a Clean Air Act non-attainment area where elevated ozone is a perennial hazard.

The health benefits of limiting methane and VOC leaks led Colorado to institute its own regulations for containing leaks and preventing the release of these compounds in 2014. Those rules, which served as the template for EPA's rule, balanced the need for responsible energy development with the need to protect public health and even had support from companies in the oil and gas industry. Colorado's oil and gas industry has continued to thrive even as they are required to find and stop leaks. Clearly a rule requiring companies find and fix leaks is a win-win, allowing for responsible energy development and protecting public health at the same time.

Furthermore, accidental methane release exacerbates climate change as methane is several times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Enforcing this rule would provide a climate change benefit equal to taking 8.5 million cars off the road. The need to combat climate change is only going to grow more pressing as the world faces increased harm from droughts, fires, and extreme weather. Colorado is already regularly

facing low snowpack and devastating fire seasons.

Colorado's experience demonstrates both the need and the benefits of rules curbing methane leaks. Blocking enforcement of this rule will lead to wasted natural gas, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and worse public health. That is why I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment and allow EPA to enforce the methane rule.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL"
BATTLE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of my friend, Mr. William "Bill" Battle and to recognize his contributions to the State of Connecticut, especially to his community of Torrington, Connecticut. Bill passed away on July 20, 2018 at the age of 82, after a long life of dedicated service to his community.

Bill was born in New York, New York and was raised in New Haven, Connecticut. Bill attended New Haven public schools before enrolling at Howard University in Washington, D.C. After college, Bill joined the Army where he worked on computers. Bill continued in computers when he left the Army, traveling the world for IBM. Bill eventually returned to Connecticut to be near his ailing mother. It was here where he met his wife Darlene, who was working as a nurse's aide. The two married in 1994, and after their son was born they moved to Torrington.

After moving to Torrington, Bill fell in love with the small city. Serving as the economic development commissioner for a brief time, Bill worked to celebrate Torrington's educational excellence and attract young families while reviving the city's downtown through a focus on the arts and small business. In addition to working closely with town leaders to improve the city's economy, Bill also advocated for children and education in Torrington. Serving on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Academy of the Arts in Torrington, Bill helped bring the arts back to the Torrington community and is credited for helping start the international film forum.

Ultimately, Bill loved anything intellectual and enjoyed discussing ideas with his fellow community members. While working as the campaign coordinator for former Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman, Bill would frequently have dinner at the Republican campaign headquarters because he just wanted to engage in political discourse. His Republican colleagues stated that all Bill ever wanted was to see Torrington do better.

Those who knew Bill knew that nothing gave him more pride than seeing his children succeed. Bill could often be seen wearing a Yale hat to show his immense delight when his son, Darnell, was accepted to the University.

I met Bill seven years ago and was immediately impressed by his passion, his knowledge, his energy, and his fearlessness in taking on tough issues and those in power. His commitment to democracy and his belief that we all could—and should—do better inspired