

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KRISTIN SHAPIRO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kristin A. Shapiro, who is leaving the House to join the Office of Legal Counsel at the United States Department of Justice. Ms. Shapiro has served in the Office of General Counsel for nearly three years as an Assistant General Counsel and has provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House community, particularly in connection with federal court litigation involving issues of great institutional importance.

Ms. Shapiro provided extensive advice and litigation expertise to several Committees, including the Committees on Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget, in connection with the House's litigation regarding the funding for wall construction on the Southern border. In addition, Ms. Shapiro provided litigation assistance to both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Taxation regarding the application of the Freedom of Information Act to Congressional records. As the Chairperson of the Committee on House Administration, I know firsthand that our Members and House staff also came to rely on Ms. Shapiro's expertise and guidance, particularly in connection with how the use of social media platforms by Members intersects with the First Amendment.

Ms. Shapiro has played a very significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives. She has served the House with great distinction, and we know she will continue to serve our Nation with that same level of distinction at the Department of Justice. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration, and the entire House community, in thanking Ms. Shapiro for her devoted service, and extend to her our very best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING HERBERT COGLEY FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herbert Cogley of Clancy for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and community.

Mr. Cogley served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam as a combat engineer with the 101st Airborne Division. He received multiple com-

mendations during his time, including the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.

Following his return home, Mr. Cogley helped build the VFW Hall in his hometown of Jordan, Montana. He continues to be a part of the VFW through volunteering and performing with the Honor Guard at veteran funerals. Over the years, he has also been involved in Habitat for Humanity, coordinating the building of several homes in Helena. In addition, Mr. Cogley volunteers with the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison and helps build displays.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Herbert Cogley for his service to his country and community.

HONORING THE DENMARK FAMILY AND RAISING AWARENESS OF PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Denmark family of Staten Island for their hard work to raise awareness of Phelan-McDermid syndrome. Back home in New York, we recognized their efforts on October 22, which Governor Cuomo proclaimed "Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day" in the state, and now I ask my colleagues to join me in giving them the same recognition here in the House.

Drew Denmark suffers from Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, as well as Autism. In many cases, including Drew's, individuals struggling with this disease are non-verbal and are afflicted with cognitive disabilities. Phelan-McDermid is often misdiagnosed as another ailment, resulting in this syndrome being very under-diagnosed.

After Drew's diagnosis, the Denmark family got to work ensuring that Phelan-McDermid Syndrome received the recognition it deserves, in hopes that more families will now be able to receive a proper diagnosis. I am honored to have walked with Drew and his family a few of weeks ago at the Autism Speaks Staten Island Walk and am proud to be on Team Drew each and every day.

As more and more patients struggling with this disease receive accurate diagnoses of Phelan-McDermid Syndrome and families are able get their loved ones the care they need, they will in no small part have the Denmark family to thank for it.

This family embodies what it means to be Staten Islanders and New Yorkers: when we want change to happen, we go out and fight for it. So, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Drew and the rest of the Denmark family for the courage, and tenacity they have displayed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TOTAL RECALL ACT OF 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Total Recall Act of 2019, which would require businesses to strengthen and streamline notifications for product recalls to consumers.

Every year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalls at least 400 products, but due to poor notification practices by manufacturers and producers, the average response rate of consumers for most recalls is only between 4 and 18 percent. Consumers are purchasing or failing to stop using products because they are unaware of recall notifications.

As a mom myself, I know that parents cannot be expected to check the CPSC website every time they purchase a product for their families. If a company sells a dangerous item, that company should be expected to market the recall as aggressively as they marketed the sale of the product.

That is why I am introducing the Total Recall Act, legislation which will implement much needed reforms to increase the effectiveness of products recalled by the CPSC. This bill will increase requirements for companies to post recall notices on their websites and social media, and require or encourage companies to use parts of the original marketing budgets of the product in question on notifying consumers of the recall.

The numbers don't lie; if consumers are not participating in recalls, then companies need to work harder to let their consumers know about any dangers that they face from continued use of these products. Companies know how to market products, it is time for them to apply those same skills to marketing recalls.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud NCAA football on the 150th anniversary of their first collegiate game.

On November 6, 1869, Rutgers College (now Rutgers University) went on to defeat the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) by a score of 6-4. Football was nothing like today's game. It used a rugby-type ball on a 110-yard field. A touchdown was worth four points and the games had two 45-minute halves with a running clock.

The University of Colorado Buffaloes are rich in football history. The CU Buffs began

• 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.

their collegiate football program on November 15, 1890 and have played at Folsom Field since 1924. In 1990, CU won the National Championship and currently has all-time record of 697–479–36.

I extend my deepest congratulations to NCAA football on their 150th anniversary. Go Buffs.

HONORING VIVECA LOHR

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Viveca Lohr for her 33 years of service to Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, including 32 years as Executive Director. The 20th Congressional District of California appreciates Viveca Lohr's dedication to her community on the central coast of California and the great efforts she has made to serve seniors and disabled adults on the Monterey Peninsula.

Viveca Lohr began her work with Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula in November of 1986 and quickly became a leader in the organization, rising to Assistant Executive Director in May of 1987 and Executive Director in November of 1987. Ms. Lohr now oversees the day-to-day operations of this critically important organization that strives to promote the well-being and independence of clients on the Monterey Peninsula by providing home-delivered meals, welfare checks, and group meals. During her 32 years as Executive Director, Ms. Lohr has overseen the Meals on Wheels Home Delivered Meals Program as it has grown to deliver over 190,000 meals annually to more than 500 homebound clients who cannot shop or cook for themselves.

Viveca Lohr has worked with a tireless team of staff, Board Members, and volunteers who make this critical service possible. Through generous donations and fundraising events in the community on the Central Coast, programs can be administered to guarantee the continued health and well-being of individuals who may not otherwise be able to remain independent without Meals on Wheels. The program not only serves food and conversation to its clients, but also provides more than 20,000 hours of exercise, health, and enrichment classes at its headquarters, the Sally Griffin Learning Center, to promote and maintain healthy aging. This facility is named after the Meals on Wheels program's dedicated founder, Sally Judd Griffin.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating and thanking Viveca Lohr for her 33 years of service and leadership on the central coast of California. Her tireless commitment to improving the lives of seniors and disabled adults in California's 20th Congressional District will not be forgotten, and her legacy in the community will certainly be long lasting. On behalf of Central Coast residents, I thank Ms. Lohr for her contribution to our community and wish her a long and healthy retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
GORDON SCOTT BRACE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gordon Scott Brace and his service to the House.

Many dedicated public servants work behind the scenes to support the vital work of this body and our work as Members. That is true for what may be the most significant charge we have: casting our vote here on the floor on behalf of our constituents.

Mr. Brace helped make that possible. During his 17 years with the Office of the Clerk as a senior systems engineer, Mr. Brace was primarily responsible for maintaining all aspects of the Electronic Voting System (EVS). Whenever the House was in session, Mr. Brace made certain that the EVS was in full working order, manually checking all 54 voting stations, the tally clerk station, electronic display board, and the EVS equipment in the cloakrooms.

To put this in perspective, during Mr. Brace's tenure the House completed more than 12,300 roll call votes. Considering the individual vote of each Member of the House on each of those roll call votes, Mr. Brace played a central role on a team with the responsibility to track more than 5,350,500 individual votes. Every single one of those votes had to be tracked swiftly, accurately, and without doubt. Moreover, every one of those votes represents a small, but important, part of our nation's history.

Mr. Brace is remembered fondly by his co-workers and friends here in the House not just for his technical skills, but for his kindness and generosity. I know I speak on behalf of his co-workers and my colleagues in honoring his memory and his important contributions to the operations of the House. Our thoughts are with his wife, Kristin, sons Wyatt and Dillon, and all of his loved ones.

RECOGNIZING ROLAND HEATON
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roland Heaton of Townsend for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and dedication to the community.

Mr. Heaton served in the U.S. Army as a maintenance technician in Vietnam and Japan. He received multiple commendations for his service, including the Good Conduct Medal and the Vietnam Campaign award.

Mr. Heaton's heart to serve lead him to create a project that generates funding to assist the community's first responders with the purchase of non-budget equipment. This allows them to better serve the community. Since it was created, it has raised over \$15,000 to purchase the needed equipment. Additionally,

Mr. Heaton serves on the board of the county food bank and volunteers there regularly.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Roland Heaton for his service and dedication.

RECOGNIZING TREE CITY USA
DESIGNATIONS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize eight cities in Texas' Third Congressional District who have received this year's Tree City USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Allen, Fairview, Frisco, McKinney, Murphy, Plano, Prosper, and Wylie—all located within Collin County—have proven they care about ensuring the environment around them is thriving and full of life.

These Collin County cities understand that trees serve an integral purpose in our community, including improved health, clean air and water, and a positive impact on businesses and homes in the area. Not only are these communities dedicated to providing necessary municipal tree care, but they are encouraging their residents to do the same. I commend these cities for their investments in green infrastructure and for creating a lasting and positive impact for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representative to join me in congratulating these eight communities on their efforts to maintain healthy and green environments in their neighborhoods.

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT FOR
H.R. 1595, THE SAFE BANKING ACT

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I include in the Record the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act, which passed the House on September 25, 2019.

NATIONAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION,

March 26, 2019.

*House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.*

The National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA), the largest and oldest national trade association dedicated to protecting state-legal cannabis businesses, defending state laws, and advancing federal policy reforms, would like to offer its support of H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019. On behalf of our members, we thank the committee and Chairwoman Waters for the opportunity to markup this legislation and further discuss providing fair access to banking and financial services for state-licensed cannabis cultivators, processors, and retailers throughout the country.

Founded in 2010, NCIA represents nearly 2,000 member-businesses and tens of thousands of cannabis professionals committed to replacing criminal marijuana markets with a responsible and regulated cannabis industry.

Currently, our industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, tens of millions in tax revenue, and billions in economic activity. In 2017, the five states that had taxed and regulated adult-use sales (Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) collected more than \$790 million in state tax revenue that year. However, per current federal law, cannabis remains a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. This blocks state-licensed cannabis business and firms providing ancillary products or services to the industry from accessing banking services, forcing them to operate in an all-cash environment. This situation not only creates an unnecessary public safety risk, it poses an undue burden on state and local tax and licensing authorities, which are forced to take large cash payments. These taxes and licensing fees fund the enforcement of state marijuana laws as well as school construction, drug education activities, and infrastructure programs.

In order to operate safely and successfully, businesses must have access to traditional financial services. For the cannabis industry, which conducts hundreds of millions of dollars in transactions across the majority of U.S. states, the lack of access to financial services creates public safety hazards, including an increased chance of becoming a target for robberies, loss of economic opportunity, and inability to retain workforce talent. Restricting financial services to licensed cannabis businesses also prevents the elimination of illicit businesses currently operating in the grey and black markets. The SAFE Banking Act of 2019 would offer not only safe harbor for financial institutions that choose to service cannabis related businesses, but would also provide much needed clarity and direction from the federal government.

After nearly a decade of significant regulatory changes at the state level, now is the time to pass the SAFE Banking Act of 2019. Ending the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws will promote a sound and robust financial system that best supports the economic growth and job creation driven by the growing number of state-licensed cannabis businesses across the country.

Sincerely,

AARON SMITH,
Executive Director & Founder.

NATIONAL CANNABIS ROUNDTABLE,
September 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The National Cannabis Roundtable (NCR) is proud to offer its strong support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE). The passage of SAFE represents a clear, common sense solution to one of the biggest challenges for one of the fastest growing industries in America.

The National Cannabis Roundtable represents every aspect of the cannabis supply chain. Our fifteen members operate in 23 states with legal cannabis programs, including the District of Columbia. We are growers, processors, retailers, wellness centers, technology companies, investors, entrepreneurs, and publicly traded companies.

Since California passed Proposition 215 in 1996 which legalized the use of medical cannabis by those with debilitating conditions, states around the country have developed cannabis programs by licensing and regulating cannabis businesses. Unfortunately, due to the Schedule I status of cannabis,

these businesses have been unable to access traditional financial services, causing massive public safety problems and business operations challenges.

The SAFE Act deftly rectifies this problem by allowing legitimate, licensed cannabis businesses to access financial services. It provides clarity for financial regulators and opportunity to entrepreneurs by creating a system of accessible capital. SAFE also would allow for increased financial transparency in the cannabis industry allowing law enforcement to sort out licensed business from illicit actors.

The bill's lead sponsors Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Denny Heck (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Warren Davidson (R-OH) have developed broad bipartisan support for this important legislation. The SAFE Act is supported by a sweeping coalition of stakeholders. Activists in the drug policy community, businesses in the cannabis industry, investors, state and local law enforcement, banking regulators, and many other groups.

Currently, 47 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and several Indian tribes have some form of legalized cannabis either through an adult use program, a medical cannabis program, or through cannabidiol programs. Additionally, seven states are expected to either create or expand cannabis programs via ballot initiatives in 2020 and 2021. It is estimated that legal cannabis industry U.S. consumer spending on legal cannabis reached \$10.4 billion dollars in 2018. Even if no other states reform their laws, cannabis spending is expected to top \$26 billion by 2025. The SAFE Act ensures that this economic growth can happen in legitimate channels instead of on the streets.

While there are many more facets of cannabis reform that must be tackled in the future, the SAFE Banking Act will provide needed clarity, keep our communities safe, and foster economic growth and opportunity.

Sincerely,

SAPHIRA GALOOB,
*Executive Director,
National Cannabis Roundtable.*

CTF,

March 25, 2019.

Re: CTF Supports the "Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019" or the "SAFE Banking Act of 2019"

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: The Cannabis Trade Federation (CTF), a national coalition of cannabis-related businesses that represent all aspects of the industry including cultivators, dispensaries, wholesalers, distributors, and ancillary businesses, strongly supports enactment of the SAFE Banking Act, legislation that would create a federal safe harbor for banks that offer direct or indirect services to cannabis-related businesses pursuant to state law. The SAFE Banking Act will benefit law enforcement, state regulatory bodies, including taxing authorities, and cannabis-related businesses.

We associate ourselves with the testimony provided to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions on February 13, 2019, by Rachel Pross, Chief Risk Officer for Maps Credit Union, who testified on behalf of the Credit Union National Association. She correctly observed:

In the absence of a federal law providing explicit legal clearance for financial institu-

tions to provide banking services to the Cannabis industry, it is highly likely that many of these businesses will be forced to continue operating outside of the financial mainstream. That outcome increases the potential of lost tax revenue, increases the likelihood of criminal thefts in our communities, and deprives both state and federal law enforcement with important information about cannabis activity.

She is correct and her observations are obviously true. We would like to underscore the importance of having cannabis-related businesses mainstreamed into the financial system to law enforcement. In short, cash-only businesses are more susceptible to bad actors, including money laundering, than are those in the banking system where all anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act rules are followed and enforced. This is one reason FinCEN promulgated guidance on February 14, 2014, regarding "BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses," which remains in effect today. That guidance noted that it "should enhance the availability of financial services for, and the financial transparency of, marijuana-related businesses."

As important as that guidance is, banks have not fully embraced it. Only federal legislation can achieve the type of transparency and regulatory compliance sought by FinCEN. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to order the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 favorably reported so that the full House of Representatives can consider this important legislation forthwith.

Sincerely,

NEAL LEVINE,
*Chief Executive Officer,
Cannabis Trade Federation.*

CALIFORNIA CANNABIS INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION,
September 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) would like to offer its enthusiastic support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE). From the passage of our state's medical cannabis program with Proposition 215 in 1996, to the passage of adult use cannabis with Proposition 64 in 2016, California has been the leading "laboratory for democracy" on cannabis policy. The SAFE Banking Act is a massive victory for California cannabis business and consumers.

CCIA is the collective voice of the state's cannabis industry, representing the diverse interests of cannabis retailers, cultivators, manufacturers, delivery services, distributors, testing facilities, insurance groups, packaging companies, and various ancillary services. Our unified voice includes over 500 California businesses representing over 670 brands and approximately 15,000 employees.

Without question, the biggest challenge that all our members face is access to traditional financial services. Due to restrictions in Federal law, CCIA member businesses are forced to primarily operate through cash transactions, creating a massive public safety problem, and a logistical nightmare when it comes to things like processing employee payroll and paying state and local taxes. In fact, some members of CCIA have paid upwards of \$500,000 in cash carried in duffel bags for quarterly tax payments. It is estimated that legal cannabis sales will hit \$3.1 billion in 2019 and \$7.2 billion by 2024, a market that will be 40% larger than all of Canada and 253% larger than Colorado. SAFE

moves these massive revenues into legitimate banks and off the streets. With access to banking services our businesses can reinvest in communities, increase of transparency of our operations, and help facilitate economic growth. Additionally, SAFE prevents consumers from having to carry cash to pay for their cannabis and allows them to purchase with credit cards. SAFE provides clarity for financial regulators and law enforcement to sort out licensed business from illicit actors.

The bill's lead sponsors Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Denny Heck (D-WA), Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Warren Davidson (R-OH) have developed broad bipartisan support for this important legislation. The SAFE Act is supported by a sweeping coalition of stakeholders. Activists in the drug policy community, businesses in the cannabis industry, investors, state and local law enforcement, banking regulators, and many other groups.

The SAFE Banking Act is the first step of hopefully many in federal cannabis reforms that allow California and other states with cannabis programs to become fully on par with other existing industries.

Sincerely,

LINDSAY ROBINSON,
Executive Director,
California Cannabis Industry Association.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
February 13, 2019.
House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: On behalf of Florida's farmers, our medical marijuana professionals, and consumers, I want to thank you for your efforts to provide the cannabis industry access to traditional banking and express my strong support for the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (H.R. 2215).

Conflicting guidance from the federal government has unnecessarily, led to a higher level of risk and hurdles for businesses in this emerging market. This is an issue that affected me personally—while running for this office, our campaign had two bank accounts closed due to my advocacy for medical marijuana access and cannabis. The absence of traditional banking services forces state-licensed businesses to resort to all cash operations, which is inefficient and a public safety concern. Businesses can't operate proficiently with irregularities restricting their growth, stability, and the ability to pay bills, rent, and employees, when their accounts are inevitably closed. This is an issue impacting our state and national economy.

One of the important provisions of the recently signed 2018 Farm Bill (the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018) is the relisting of hemp as an agricultural commodity. But without congressional action, continued confusion and misinformation regarding hemp could discourage financial institutions from partnering with our farmers on this new commodity.

The Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (H.R. 2215) is a strong first step in providing legitimate cannabis related and state-licensed farmers, business, and consumers with access to an efficient and safe banking system, and traditional loans and capital markets.

Sincerely,

NICOLE FRIED,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

NATIONAL ARMORED CAR ASSOCIATION,
September 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the National Armored Car Association (NACA), I write to express our support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2019. While NACA's members do not take a position in favor of or opposed to the legalization of cannabis or marijuana, nor currently service the U.S. cannabis industry, we support H.R. 1595 because it would address the existing conflict between federal and state law with respect to proceeds from marijuana-related businesses and allow for safer transportation, storage and oversight of such proceeds.

Formed in 1929, NACA is a business association that brings together the three major companies of the armored car industry—Brink's, Garda, and Loomis—with a focus on protecting and promoting the common interests of the industry. These three organizations comprise approximately 90% of the armored car industry in the United States, and NACA members have handled virtually every dollar and coin in circulation. They provide secure transportation and cash management services for the Federal Reserve, financial institutions, state and local governments, and private businesses and individuals across the United States and internationally.

Currently thirty-three states and several territories, including the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, have legalized the use of cannabis to some extent. However, federal law prohibits cultivation, distribution, and possession of marijuana imposing significant legal risks to financial institutions and ancillary businesses that might consider providing financial services to the marijuana industry. Consequently, hundreds of millions of dollars in cash are being transported and stored outside our banking system and often without adequate security and oversight. The lack of available vendors to provide secure transport and storage of cash increases the risk of criminal activity that can pose a danger not only to those involved in the cannabis industry, but the general public. H.R. 1595 would provide NACA member companies with the needed legal protection and clarity to safely and securely transport cash in states that have legalized and regulated cannabis.

We urge members of the House to support H.R. 1595.

Sincerely,

BASIL THOMSON,
Senior Director, NACA.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD KLOSE
SENIOR FOR THE 2019 MONTANA
CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Klose Senior of Laurel, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Klose is a veteran of the United States Army. He served from 1961 to 1964 in the 3rd Brigade 4th Armored Division and attained the rank of Sergeant.

Serving the community of Laurel for 12 years, Mr. Klose volunteers at the Laurel Senior Center as a board member and a volunteer driver. He has also served on the Yellowstone County Adult Resource Alliance for seven years. For the last five years, Mr. Klose has served as vice president of the Friends of the Yellowstone National Cemetery.

Mr. Klose is a prominent member of the Montana American Legion. He has been the Department of Montana Commander, the District 11 Adjutant, and Laurel's Post No. 123 Commander. Mr. Klose is dedicated to the post's Funeral Honors detail where he has participated in 85 percent of all funerals conducted at the Yellowstone National Cemetery.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Richard Klose Senior for his dedication and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly returned from a meeting in the Rayburn Room too late and missed the second vote of the series.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 613.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Federal Employee Recruitment Act of 2019 to require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to develop, within three months of enactment of this bill, a plan for recruiting new workers into federal service. With the aging of the federal workforce, this bill is more important than ever.

The average age of federal employees has steadily increased over the course of the last two decades, hitting 47.5 years in 2017. In the private sector, 54 percent workers are over 40 years old, while in the federal workforce, that number is 69 percent. At the end of last year, only 6 percent of the federal workforce were under 30, while almost a quarter of private-sector employees were under 30.

There are numerous consequences to an aging federal workforce. For example, as older federal employees opt to retire, the government risks permanently losing much of its institutional knowledge if federal agencies cannot find adequate replacements.

Possible solutions to the problem of a graying workforce include increased federal recruitment at college and university campuses, increased technological innovation in how applications are submitted, and a greater number of internships. Improved benefits, including paid family leave, increased telework,

and short-term disability insurance allowing coverage for non-work-related injury or illness or pregnancy, can also likely increase recruitment and retention of employees by the federal government.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING ALICE SEFCIK
SULAK

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the incredible life and achievements of Alice Sefcik Sulak of Temple, Texas. Her contributions to the region, as well as her commitment to maintaining the proud traditions of her Czech ancestry, have made her a beloved member of the Central Texas community.

Renowned for both her singing voice as well as her abilities to play multiple instruments, Alice was one of Texas' pioneering Czech vocalists who distinguished herself as an accomplished and respected musician with a distinctive and recognizable style. Throughout her life, she both mentored young musicians and helped popularize Czech music throughout Texas.

Alice remains a vital member of the Temple community. In 1923, her parents built Tom Sefcik Hall, a classic Texas dance hall. Alice grew up working at the hall, and in 1970 she took over the operation, which she continues to run today. Sefcik Hall is a community gathering place and the site of countless first dates, weddings, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties, and family reunions. While the number of dance halls across Texas are dwindling, the lights remain on at Sefcik Hall, where new memories are made every day.

Recognizing her invaluable contributions, the City of Temple has proclaimed November 17, 2019 as "Alice Sefcik Sulak Day." She is truly a local treasure and a fitting recipient of our recognition and appreciation. Her commitment to investing her gifts, talents, and abilities to improve her community is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity of a true and devoted citizen.

Alice Sefcik Sulak's life is the story of a woman unafraid to chase her passions and devote her time to make good communities great. I join all Temple residents in celebrating her on this special day.

GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE
OF JOSE DANIEL FERRER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I am gravely concerned for the welfare of Jose Daniel Ferrer, a courageous Cuban pro-democracy activist and hero of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU).

Ferrer was seized on October 1, 2019, and remains held without access to family, friends, legal counsel, international human rights

groups, or other concerned members of his organization.

Human rights groups including Amnesty International have cited alarming but unverified reports of torture and maltreatment at the hands of the regime's thugs, including the withholding of necessary medical care, food and water.

It is a disgrace that the King and Queen of Spain are in Cuba, while Ferrer languishes in prison, and have failed to exercise simple human decency by demanding his release, or meeting with other courageous independent democracy and human rights activists.

The regime in Cuba has the blood of innocents on its hands, those whose only "crime" was daring to speak against the evils of the dictatorship including:

Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who died in state custody on February 23, 2010; Juan Wilfredo Soto Garcia, who died on May 8, 2011;

Laura Pollan, the renowned leader of the Ladies in White, who died under suspicious circumstances on October 14, 2011;

Wilman Willar Mendoza, who died on January 19, 2012;

Armando Sosa Fortuny, who died on October 28, 2019;

We also remember Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero of the Christian Liberation Movement, both of whom died on July 22, 2012 in a suspicious car accident that has not been fully and appropriately investigated.

The regime of firing squads, political prisoners, the Tugboat Massacre, the Brothers to the Rescue shootdown, the Black Spring, and the murders of activists continues its evils to this day. It continues to intimidate, detain, encourage acts of repudiation, and inflict brutal violence to suppress the Cuban people.

Jose Daniel Ferrer must be released immediately and without condition, and those who participate in vile human rights abuses must be held accountable. The world is watching. Should any harm come to Ferrer, the murderous Cuban dictatorship headed by Raúl Castro and his puppet Miguel Diaz-Canel bear sole responsibility.

RECOGNIZING MARY LAFORGE
FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary LaForge of Crow Agency for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service to her country and service to fellow veterans at Crow Agency.

Ms. LaForge served in the United States Air Force as a reprographic specialist. She received multiple commendation during her time in the Air Force, including the Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

At the Crow Agency, Ms. LaForge has played a large role in providing many services to her fellow veterans. She coordinated with the Billings Vet Center to ensure mental health services are provided to Crow Agency veterans, assisted others with enrolling in pro-

grams with the Department of Veteran Affairs, and brought veteran employment fairs and job opportunities to the agency. Additionally, she placed a key role in organizing the Yellowstone Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Mary LaForge for her dedication and service to her country and community.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF
AUSTIN TICE

SPEECH OF

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, more than seven years ago, Austin Tice, an American journalist and Marine Corps veteran, disappeared in Syria.

Since the day he vanished, his parents, family, friends, and supporters, have worked tirelessly to ensure that no stone is left unturned and no avenue ignored to see Austin return home safely.

In the seventh year of Austin's captivity, I ask that whomever holds Austin release him immediately so that he can return to his loved ones.

I also ask the assistance of the Government of Syria to do whatever it can to help facilitate Austin's release.

There are things that transcend politics and diplomacy, bridge cultural divides, and need no translation across different languages.

Those are things like love and hope—represented by a mother and father who wake up each day with deep love and concern for their son and the belief that today could be the day when they get the chance to hug him again.

I ask for the help of whomever holds Austin and can assist with his release—without the assignment of blame or malice to anyone—so that this year is the last that Austin remains so far from home and his family.

HONORING ROSA EMILIA
RODRÍGUEZ-VÉLEZ

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of the honorable Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez, on her retirement as U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

The experience and commitment of U.S. Attorney Rodríguez-Vélez has been vital in the Puerto Rico District. Her record in this office is of outstanding performance in the face of the great challenges in the fight against violent crime, drug and arms trafficking, national security threats, human trafficking, organized crime, illegal entry into the U.S., and most notably the fight against public corruption.

U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez has served the public interest since 1977 in the Puerto Rico Department of Justice and since 1988 in the U.S. Attorney's Office. In that role she held numerous key positions in her career as First Assistant U.S. Attorney,

Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, Civil Division Chief, Deputy Chief for the White Collar/General Crimes unit, Administrative Officer, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Coordinator and Chairperson, Violent Crime Coordinator, Basic Criminal Advocacy Coordinator and Supervisor, Public Affairs Officer and District Office Security Manager.

Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez was appointed U.S. Attorney by the Attorney General in June 2006 and received a presidential nomination in January 2007. On October 13, 2007, the seven judges of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico unanimously appointed Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico. On October 4, 2011, Ms. Rodríguez-Vélez was re-appointed to a new term as United States Attorney, pursuant to the unanimous vote of the Court.

U.S. Attorney Rodríguez-Vélez has implemented numerous initiatives to combat drug trafficking and violent crime in Puerto Rico, including multiple drug strike forces responsible for over 2,400 arrests; an Illegal Firearms and Violence Reduction Initiative, responsible for over 500 arrests; and a RICO Unit to prosecute violent drug trafficking organizations. She has received numerous awards and commendation letters during her years of service from both the Puerto Rico and United States Departments of Justice, as well as from state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Her character has been tested many times, often facing unfair political attacks and obstruction, especially when addressing the fight against the scourge of public corruption, yet she has remained a steadfast prosecutor, always serving justice and believing in her oath to the U.S. Constitution and Law. Because I can attest to her courage, her integrity, her professional excellence and her heartfelt belief in justice and American values, I congratulate her on a well and faithfully executed career—42 years working in both the Puerto Rico and U.S. Departments of Justice, 12 of them as the U.S. District Attorney for Puerto Rico.

I personally admire the courage of Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez and recognize her as a role model for women. I thank her for her service and, I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on November 12, 2019 during roll call no. 610, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4162, GI Bill Planning Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 611, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3224, Deborah Sampson Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING LE GAUB FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Le Gaub of Bozeman, a recipient of the 2019 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Gaub is a veteran of the U.S. Army. In his distinguished service from 1972 to 2003, He earned multiple commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Serving his community through Troops to Teachers, Mr. Gaub works as a program manager to secure funding for military veterans seeking to transition to careers in K–12 education. He is a friendly face around many schools in Montana and in veteran support groups and nonprofits where he invests much of his time. Since his start with the Troops to Teachers program, he has helped bring in a substantial amount of grants ensuring its success.

I ask colleagues to join me today in commending Le Gaub for his dedication and service.

HONORING THE KICK FOR NICK FOUNDATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, just a few weeks ago I had the extraordinary opportunity to participate in a local fundraiser for the Kick For Nick Foundation and was so inspired by the generosity of the participants and the mission of the Foundation that I wanted to share the experience with my colleagues.

PFC Nicholas A. Madaras of Wilton, Connecticut served our country bravely in Iraq until his life was cut tragically short by an IED on September 3, 2006. He was just 19 years old and weeks away from the scheduled end of his deployment. Nick had been an avid soccer player, coach, and referee growing up and when he had last come home on leave he had shared stories about connecting with young Iraqi children through the sport, often using anything they could find as a ball, most times nothing more than a tin can. Nick asked friends and family to send him a few soccer balls to share with the children in Baqubah. Unfortunately, he never got that chance.

Yet, from their grief, Nick's family and friends found a new mission—a way to pay tribute to Nick's memory, his passion for soccer, and his desire to make a difference in the lives of the children he had met in the war-torn country where he served. Shortly after his passing, Nick's family was approached by Ken Dartley, also of Wilton, who had read Nick's story and asked to start a program collecting soccer balls in his honor to fulfill his wish to share his love and passion for the game with

Iraqi children. It was through this first effort that the Kick For Nick Foundation was born.

What began with a few soccer balls in a net donated at the James P. Whipple American Legion Post 86 in Wilton has since grown exponentially with over 50,000 soccer balls having been donated and distributed to date. The Kick For Nick Foundation has received donations from 47 of the 50 states and, prior to distribution, each one is inscribed three times with Nick's name. Initially the balls were distributed only by US troops in Iraq, but over the years, in addition to soldiers, the distribution network has grown to include US military contractors, volunteers, individuals, schools, and charitable organizations. Balls have been given to underprivileged children in more than 50 countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Bhutan, Guatemala, Colombia. Beyond the distribution of soccer balls, when they have the opportunity and the supplies, Kick For Nick has also provided uniforms, cleats, shin guards, personal hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, school supplies such as pencils, notebooks and backpacks, as well as occasional food supplies.

As I walked through the fundraiser and the many who had gathered to support the Foundation, I was inspired by the displays showing pictures of troops distributing the balls and of notes of thanks from the soldiers distributing them as well as the young people receiving them. I had the opportunity to speak with Nick's father, Bill, as well as several of his family members, finding myself in awe of their strength and determination to ensure Nick's memory continues to make a difference in the world. The Kick For Nick Foundation is an extraordinary effort and a wonderful tribute to PFC Madaras. It is my hope that their success continues to grow and that they can continue in their mission to foster peace, good will and stability across the globe by collecting soccer balls and delivering them into the hands of underprivileged children around the world—honoring the memory of PFC Nicholas A. Madaras and giving life to his dream of bringing a bit of hope and joy to children living in difficult circumstances.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF DAVE SPILLER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my constituent, Police Chief Dave Spiller, on the occasion his retirement from the Pleasanton Police Department after 17 years of service.

Chief Spiller joined the Pleasanton Police Department in 2002 after more than a decade serving the San Diego and Mountain View Police Departments. In 2011, Chief Spiller was appointed to be Pleasanton's sixth police chief. He has served in every sworn rank of the police profession—from officer to chief.

Chief Spiller's colleagues can attest not only to his professionalism but to his commitment to safety and quality of life in Pleasanton. His leadership as police chief was characterized by compassion, integrity and responsiveness to the city.

Chief Spiller's commitment to law enforcement has left an immeasurable impact that extends far beyond his own department. In his time as chief he has modernized the department's training, technology, and equipment. He has fostered lasting partnerships that have shaped the future of his community and local law enforcement.

Chief Spiller's passion for public service is reflected by his pursuit of higher education which culminated in his master's degree in public leadership from St. Mary's College. Through his service as an advisory board member on the Administration of Justice Board and an adjunct faculty member at Las Positas College, Chief Spiller is cultivating a future police force that will reflect the same integrity and commitment that he has brought to the law enforcement community.

In addition, Chief Spiller serves as a member of the International Criminal Justice Board at the University of San Francisco, a member of the Board of Directors for the California Police Chiefs Association, and he is an independent contract trainer and group facilitator serving non-profit organizations and municipal governments.

I want to thank Chief Spiller for the contributions he has made to the Pleasanton Police department and community. Your extraordinary vision and leadership will be missed, and we wish you a fulfilling retirement.

HONORING MS. MARY E. STUART

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an outstanding individual who has been volunteering for sixty consecutive years. At the age of 91, Ms. Mary Stuart can be found working seven hour shifts at Medical City Plano five days a week.

In 1959, Ms. Stuart began her hospital volunteer efforts in Newfane, New York, and later relocated to Tallahassee, Florida where she continued her work in area medical centers. In 1997, Mary moved to Plano and soon became a valued volunteer at Medical City Plano. In fact, just this year Ms. Stuart received her 25,500 hours volunteer pin which is the most hours a volunteer has ever given to Medical City Plano since they opened their doors in 1975.

Her unbelievable track record as a community servant who puts the needs of others above her own has earned her other prestigious titles such as the Texas Yellow Rose from former Texas Governor Rick Perry and Honorary Georgia Peach.

The Plano community is very proud of her leadership in volunteerism. Ms. Stuart exemplifies a passion for helping others and she undoubtedly betters the world around her.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ms. Mary Stuart for her sixty years of volunteer work.

RECOGNIZING LYNNE AND MYRON MALNAA OF GLASGOW

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynne and Myron Malnaa of Glasgow for their dedication to and compassion for Montana's children.

After her eldest daughter graduated from high school and with their son and Myron rodeoing, Lynne felt like she had an empty nest, and she says she found her quiet house unsettling.

One day Lynne, who ran a daycare out of their home for 25 years, got a call that changed her life. She was told there were a few desperate kids who needed a home right away. Lynne instantly stepped up and took them in. It happened so quickly, Myron, a law enforcement officer for 25 years, says he doesn't even remember Lynne talking to him about taking on such a big responsibility. Lynne says she did.

Since that day 18 years ago, the Malnaas continue to provide a safe haven for many kids in need. They have welcomed more than 150 foster children into their home, embracing them with the unconditional love they need.

Lynne and Myron nurture and care for the kids, who come to them from various backgrounds. They watch them grow and give the opportunity to let the kids be kids.

Lynne and Myron have also adopted two children and are guardians to another.

For their commitment to Montana's children, Lynne and Myron were recognized recently as 2019 Angels in Adoption honorees.

Madam Speaker, for freely giving over 150 foster children unconditional love and a home, I recognize Lynne and Myron Malnaa for their Spirit of Montana.

WENDELL "SKIP" BROWNFIELD

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wendell "Skip" Brownfield for his heroic service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

On February 5, 1970, Skip and nine others set out to a location where increased enemy activity had been noticed. In route, Skip's unit triggered a booby trap, detonating a large explosive. The explosion was followed by heavy enemy fire.

During the attack, two members of Skip's unit were injured. Despite the enemy fire, Skip and a fellow soldier got the two injured men to an opening so that a helicopter could rescue them.

Skip Brownfield's heroism that night was not the only time he served meritoriously in battle during the Vietnam War. For actions he took in previous engagements with enemy forces, Skip was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device and Air Medal with "V" Device, among other decorations.

Madam Speaker, I wish to send my most sincere gratitude to Mr. Brownfield for his service to our nation. Skip is a hero to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEITH DAGHISTANI

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Leith Daghistani for his service in my office in Washington, DC.

Leith joined our office as a legislative fellow and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included defense, foreign affairs, agriculture, and trade. Among other accomplishments, he developed multiple pieces of legislation to improve health care delivery at the VA and helped our agricultural community navigate a challenging year of tough weather and unprecedented trade tensions. Leith was also instrumental in ensuring House passage of the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act and the Caring For Our Women Veterans Act.

Leith's diligence, intelligence, and compassion were invaluable assets as we worked to establish our legislative operation from scratch during my first year in office. I commend his drive to advance mental health and suicide prevention services for veterans and to improve outcomes for women veterans and younger veterans. Although Leith may be leaving our office, our veterans in northern Illinois and our community that supports and honors them will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Leith earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Naval Academy and served our country as an officer in the United States Navy. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss his kindness, diligence, sense of humor, and expertly-brewed coffee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Leith Daghistani for his service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY WORK OF CALIFORNIA WIC

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for its tremendous contribution to enhancing equity in access to healthy foods for low-income families with young children. The WIC program has been an important resource for vulnerable families, providing a critical nutritional safety net for low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children across the United States.

WIC's contribution to the health and welfare of Orange County residents is unparalleled. With its continued supply of nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and nutrition-related information, WIC has had a significant positive impact on communities in Orange County. In addition, thanks to WIC

programs, many residents have benefited from the substantial cost savings that have been accrued from early investments in maternal and child nutrition.

On November 11, 2019, the first wave of WIC sites in Orange County began providing food benefits in a new way—through the California WIC Card. Previously, families served by WIC received paper vouchers instead. This change is expected to greatly improve the WIC participant experience, while also improving the reimbursement experience for WIC vendors to ensure the dollars redeemed in stores in our community are received more efficiently.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of California WIC and their efforts to modernize operations to ensure a better and more efficient experience for all who participate.

RECOGNIZING PERRY MILLER FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Perry Miller of Chinook for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and dedication to his community.

Mr. Miller served in both the U.S. Marines and the Montana Army National Guard. During his combined 12 years of service, Mr. Miller deployed overseas and received multiple commendations, including the Meritorious Service award.

Following his service, Mr. Miller became active in the community. He currently serves as a Judge and the Justice of Peace for Blaine County. Outside of his work, Mr. Miller has coached youth baseball, football, and wrestling, bringing many teams to state and individual championships. Through the VFW Post 4620, he volunteers for Memorial Day and Veterans Day services. Mr. Miller is also active in his church, teaching CCD class to high schoolers.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Perry Miller for his dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR RODNEY
COLES, SR.

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pastor Rodney Coles of Greenville, North Carolina. In the fall of 2007, Pastor Coles formed the Churches Outreach Network in Greenville, North Carolina. Its mission is to aid the community through feeding the hungry and furnishing resource assistance to those in need.

Pastor Coles has tirelessly served the community through Churches Outreach Network by supporting the Healthy Living Alliance

which collaborates with churches and ministries within the surrounding community to develop a healthy living program which aims to encourage individuals to develop a healthier lifestyle. Pastor Coles also supports the Joy Soup Kitchen which serves lunch to those in need. Further, his Outreach Network promotes and assists the Community Unity Network which brings resources to the community concerning health, food, community awareness, rental assistance, senior citizen programs, veteran assistance and educational assistance. Since his arrival he has been a shining star to the community in need.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this incredible public servant, but more importantly, a wonderfully faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and my personal friend Pastor Rodney Coles, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VICKIE
HARTMAN NICKS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vickie Hartman Nicks.

Vickie was born on July 9, 1953 in Thomasville, North Carolina. She graduated from East Davidson High School in 1971 and married Steve Nicks in 1979. In 1981, she took a position as the Secretary of Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church, where she worked for 38 years.

While being the church secretary certainly kept her busy, her devotion to the community didn't stop there. Vickie was involved in many children and youth programs as well as being a member of the choir. She enjoyed painting and crafts and was known for her quick wit and keen sense of humor.

Outside of being active in her church, Vickie was even more proud of being a wife, mother, grandmother, and lifelong resident of Davidson County. She was an excellent role-model for and steadfast supporter of her daughters, Stefanie and Andrea, as well as her grandsons Steven and Jacob.

Vickie's enormous impact on the lives of her loved ones is indelible, and will live on for years to come.

Vickie lost her life to a long drawn out battle with cancer but her grit and tenacity never let her lose faith. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with her husband, Steve Nicks, to learn about Vickie's bravery while facing the final stages of her life. Her battle with cancer was truly heartbreaking, representing a tragic loss to our Davidson County community. Her determination and grace provides an example to us all.

Today I wear this bracelet given to me by her husband that states, "Vickie Strong." I wear it today in her memory.

Madam Speaker, please join me in praying for Vickie along with her husband Steve and the entire Nicks family.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF MARLENE DILILLO

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of Marlene DiLillo, the former Executive Director of the Greater Killeen Community Clinic, as she retires after years of incredible public service. With her "can-do" spirit and high-minded vision, she's a model citizen and trusted community leader.

During Marlene's nearly two decades as manager of a medical clinic, she has always shown great respect and support for both staff and colleagues as well as a willingness to make tough decisions. As the Executive Director, she worked tirelessly to nurture relationships with other community organizations, by convening and collaborating around community needs, and actively participating with government agencies, nonprofits, businesses and community leaders, and elected officials.

Marlene signs all her emails with the stirring words "Our job is not to climb the ladder of success, but to descend the ladder of servanthood." All who've been blessed by her presence know that to her this isn't a meaningless expression but a deep and lasting creed that has been the guiding force of the life of a true and devoted public servant.

Marlene DiLillo's retirement is the richly-deserved beginning of an exciting journey. I join her colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, commending her commitment to public service, and wishing my friend nothing but the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING KAREN SEMPLE FOR
THE 2019 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Semple of Montana City for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for her service and dedication to her community.

Ms. Semple served in the United States Air Force for almost a decade. Ms. Semple received multiple commendations during her time in the Air Force and continued to serve her community when she returned home.

Ms. Semple has served her community as a chaplain for various veteran groups and fire departments. In her role with the American Legion, she has led training for other chaplains to have the tools necessary to minister to veterans with moral injury, PTSD, and suicide ideation. In addition, Ms. Semple serves as a volunteer firefighter, and the American Legion of Montana Disaster Emergency Response Coordinator.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Karen Semple for her dedication and service to her community.

HONORING THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY'S "DIGGING INTO HISTORY" PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary program sponsored by the Connecticut State Library—"Digging Into History." This extraordinary program brought together fifteen Connecticut high school students, five of which I am proud to say are from my District, to take part in a unique learning experience and community service project.

The first German offensive against American troops during World War I took place on April 20, 1918 in the village of Seicheprey, France. It was Connecticut troops from the 102nd Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Yankee Division," that came under attack that morning as the German forces launched the surprise offensive. The battle of Seicheprey occurred on the southern side of the St. Mihiel salient. There, three companies of the Yankee Division's 102nd Regiment occupied a trench, known as the Sibille trench. The battle raged throughout the day with heavy losses on both sides and the village was destroyed. After the war's end, Connecticut citizens collected \$5,000 to help rebuild the water supply and installed a fountain with a plaque in the town square. A bond had been forged between Connecticut and Seicheprey.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of this battle and as a way to strengthen that bond, the "Digging Into History" program was created. The program brought fifteen Connecticut high school students to Seicheprey to take part in a community service project to clear and restore a section of the trenches Connecticut soldiers occupied, with the goal of creating a historic attraction to help spur tourism in the region. The students worked with sixteen French students as well as military historians to clear vegetation from the trenches, re-dig sections and restore the trenches to how they appeared a century ago.

It was an extraordinary opportunity for these young people, bringing the history of World War I to life for them, and today they are sharing that experience with the presentation of "Digging Into History: Back From the Trenches." Having had visited Normandy and other such sites myself, I can imagine how thrilling this project must have been. Though Congressional business keeps me in Washington for the event in Hartford, I hope to be able to see the presentation myself soon.

These fifteen young men and women have been incredible ambassadors for their communities, the State of Connecticut, and our nation. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them for their remarkable work on this project. I also want to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Connecticut State Library for their work to organize this once in a lifetime experience for these young people. I have no doubt it is a journey they will never forget.

NEW HOME, NEW BYLAWS, SAME MISSION: WPAOG HISTORY PART IV (1996-2019) SECTION A

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD Section A of the fourth and final installment of an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates:

"When the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy moved into the Herbert Alumni Center in the winter of 1995, it was primed to capitalize on its past and, in the process, make new history as well. The AOG began on May 22, 1869, when a group of graduates, upon a suggestion from Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, held its first organizational meeting in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818. Out of this meeting came the Association's mission: "... to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates." Ever since then, the AOG mission has been about serving both West Point ("Alma Mater") and the Long Gray Line ("its graduates").

In the first stage of its history (1869-1900), covered in our Winter 2019 issue, AOG was instrumental in moving the remains of the "Father of the Academy," Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, to the West Point Cemetery and memorializing him with a statue. Also during this era, one of AOG's founding members, George Cullum, Class of 1833, bequeathed \$250,000 to build a memorial hall at West Point and \$10,000 for "necessary expenses" of the Association. In AOG's second stage (1901-45), outlined in our Spring 2019 issue, AOG raised money to purchase the Sanctuary Window in the newly built Cadet Chapel and introduced initiatives such as "Alumni Day" (first held on June 11, 1923) and ASSEMBLY magazine (which debuted in April 1942). The modern AOG (see the Summer 2019 issue) began to take shape in the late 1940s with the establishment of the West Point Alumni Foundation and the granting of tax-exempt status by the IRS. Thanks to these developments in AOG's third era (1946-95), fundraising for both the West Point Superintendent's Fund and AOG's annual appeal steadily grew, and in 1972, Major General William Knowlton '43JAN, the 49th Superintendent, removed the AOG active duty officer from the Office of Assistant to the Superintendent, freeing the Association to solicit money for the Academy and to establish new services for graduates. To meet these dual objectives, AOG created both a Directorate of Development (fundraising) and a Directorate of Alumni Affairs (fraternal fellowship) in the 1970s and 1980s, setting up the themes that dominate the present era of its 150-year history.

1997-2002: THE BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

In 1996, after AOG had moved into Herbert Alumni Center, Edward "Shy" Meyer '51, Chairman of the Association, noted that it was time for the Association to refocus its fundraising efforts. "The bulk of money has gone into the Alumni Center and alumni type things rather than the Superintendent's projects," Meyer said, according to the minutes of the October 1996 Board of Trustees meeting. "With 2002 coming up for a target, we have a responsibility as alumni to do something for the Academy in the way of a gift." In June 1990, AOG's Long Range Planning Committee had agreed to raise \$100 million in 10 years for USMA, based on a long-

range analysis of Academy needs through 2002. However, debate over whether to run an Army Athletics Center Campaign or a Cadet Leadership Opportunities Campaign in conjunction with the Academy's Bicentennial in 2002 slowed efforts to get the Bicentennial Campaign fully underway. All that changed in 1996. Now with focus provided by Meyer and the West Point Fund Committee, chaired by Jack Hammack '49, and in partnership with Lieutenant General Dan Christman '65, USMA's 55th Superintendent, AOG's fundraising moved into high gear, thanks in large part to lessons learned in the campaign to raise funds for Herbert Alumni Center. The Bicentennial Campaign kicked off with a goal to raise \$150 million for West Point between 1997 and 2002.

In the six years preceding the Bicentennial Campaign, the average AOG annual collection was \$9.4 million, from fewer than 14,000 donors annually, but during the campaign, those numbers jumped to \$28.8 million and 21,000 donors per year. But even more than raising more money and growing the donor pool, the Bicentennial Campaign provided the vehicle to aid AOG's burgeoning maturity. It made it necessary for the Association to grow and professionalize, developing new office systems where none had existed, establishing gift acceptance and donor recognition policies and procedures, and educating graduates to overcome general objections of some alumni toward fundraising. It also transformed the physical, academic, and extracurricular landscape of West Point, because the result of the campaign was not just "something for the Academy in the way of a gift," but a collection of many significant and lasting gifts.

"The response to the Bicentennial Campaign was overwhelming," said Tom Dyer '67, who was Chairman of the West Point Fund during most of the Bicentennial Campaign, and who took over as AOG Chairman in January 2002. When the campaign closed on December 31, 2002, AOG had raised \$218.6 million for West Point, nearly \$70 million more than its initial goal. What's more, nearly half of all West Point graduates had given at least one gift. "Never in our wildest dreams did we think we would finish having raised nearly \$220 million!" said Dyer, addressing the success of the Bicentennial Campaign in his Chairman's Letter in the March/April 2003 issue of ASSEMBLY "What a great tribute to [all graduates] and dear friends who recognized how much the 'margin of excellence' enriches the cadets' experience."

EXPANDING AOG SERVICES

While AOG's Development team was busy raising funds for the Bicentennial Campaign, the AOG Alumni Support team was expanding services to graduates across a broad spectrum of programs. In fact, according to one Chairman and CEO Annual Report of this era, "the most rapidly expanding activity managed by the Association of Graduates is its Alumni Support Program."

In November 1996, the team hosted the first AOG Minority Alumni Conference. A year prior, the Association established the Minority Outreach Committee with the mission to enhance the participation of minority members in AOG programs and activities. More than 120 graduates and friends of West Point attended the first conference, raising and discussing issues of major concern to minority graduates. A second conference was held in April 1998. Attended by 107 participants, the objective of the conference was to translate those issues identified in 1996 into action plans to achieve specific objectives related to minority cadet recruiting, the experience of minority cadets at the Academy, AOG support of minority graduates, and fundraising for minority-related projects.

Another new initiative that emerged during this time was the 50-Year Affiliation Program. In 1999, the Class of 1949 asked the Superintendent if it could present second lieutenant bars, inscribed with "49-99," to the graduates of the Class of 1999. The Superintendent agreed, and four members of the Class of 1949 greeted each cadet as he or she left the dais, diploma in hand, and presented the bars. Called a "friend raising" program by the Alumni Support team, the 50-year Affiliation Program later expanded to include a class flag presented to the yearling class as it completed summer training at Camp Buckner and a class coin presented to the cow class upon their taking the affirmation oath. Today, the 50-Year Affiliation Program features eight formal events and a handful of unofficial events at which cadets "Grip Hands" with those who preceded them a half-century earlier, including R-Day, A-Day, Plebe Class Crest Unveiling, Yearling CFT Class Flag Presentation, Cow Affirmation, Ring Weekend, Branch Night and Graduation.

Finally, in November 2000, AOG inaugurated the Class Ring Memorial Program. Proposed by Ron Turner '58 in the May/June 1999 edition of ASSEMBLY, the "Ring Melt," as it is more popularly known, has today become one of AOG's most revered traditions. As described by Turner, the program involves "graduates bequeathing (or graduates' descendants donating) West Point class rings for the specific purpose of incorporating the gold into the class rings of future graduates." Demonstrating that he had a long-term "tradition" in mind when he proposed his idea, Turner also recommended retaining some gold shavings after each melt so that these could be placed in the following year's melt, thus ensuring each year's "Memorial Gold ingot . . . would contain some of every ring donated." To date, a total of 575 rings have been donated, spanning the classes of 1896 to 1997. All graduates' rings from the classes of 2002-2020 contain this "legacy gold" from the Class Ring Memorial Program.

NEW GOVERNANCE, NEW OPERATIONS

With growth in the number of services it offered and the amount of money it was raising, AOG began considering changes to its organizational structure soon after the conclusion of the Bicentennial Campaign. At the same time, legislation proposed by New York's Attorney General requiring non-profit organizations in the state to follow practices similar to the Sarbanes-Oxley corporate reforms, which Congress enacted during this period, also prompted AOG to consider changes to its governance model. Thus, in 2003, AOG formed the 2020 Governance Committee, which presented the results of its yearlong study to the Board of Trustees in January 2005.

According to the Governance Committee's findings, the AOG board structure of the time was inefficient: "too many people for effective ideas, too infrequent for full consideration, too little time for all issues, too cumbersome to act as needs demand." Furthermore, in the opinion of AOG's legal counsel at the time, the early 2000s governance model left its 54 Trustees exposed to potential personal liability. The Governance Committee's solution was the creation of a smaller Board of Directors (12-16 members), plus Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who would be legally and fiduciarily responsible for the Association, supported by a larger 57-member (ultimately reduced to 54-member)

Advisory Council made up of a representative group of class, society, and at-large members. The Governance Committee believed that the Advisory Council would provide AOG with broad graduate representation and participation while also accessing a wide diversity of skills and experiences. They also felt that service on the Advisory Council would be excellent training for future Board of Directors members. An additional change to note, the Governance Committee concluded that role of Chief Executive Officer should not remain with the Chairman but transfer to the AOG President, the person on-site in Herbert Alumni Center, who would have authority over the day-to-day affairs of the Association and the management of its staff. After careful consideration and multiple compromises, the modernization and rewrite of AOG's Bylaws was completed and voted on in March 2005, elections were held in the fall of 2005, and, for the first time since the 1920s, a new model of AOG governance took effect on January 1, 2006 under the chairmanship of Ted Stroup '62.

A year after receiving its new streamlined model of governance, AOG received a new name: the "West Point Association of Graduates" (WPAOG). Board of Trustee minutes show that AOG's Strategic Planning Committee had been considering the name change since 1998, as part of a larger effort to change the fundraising, marketing, and business organization efforts of the Association, but it wasn't implemented until WPAOG launched its redesigned website in September 2007. The timing of this coincided with "AOG Strategic Plan 2010," which the Board considered in May 2007. One of the considerations under discussion during this meeting was branding, and the Association's new name now incorporated what many consider to be one of the world's premiere brands—West Point.

The new website was the product of WPAOG's Information Systems Department (ISD), which had been established in 1996 to build and maintain AOG's hardware and software infrastructures. ISD also developed and executed the AOG Information Strategic Plan, which leveraged existing technology to enhance the ability to communicate information quickly via electronic means. In 1997, this plan led to a test program that provided classes with a notification of the death of one its members within 24 hours after confirmation by AOG. That same year, AOG purchased software that enabled it to create real-time distribution of news items and articles. This was the beginning of today's Death Notification System (DNS), which each day receives and verifies death notifications and then sends out daily updates to Class and Society leaders (on average 400 per year).

Given the emphasis on improving communication with graduate members and on increasing awareness of the new WPAOG name change, it wasn't long before the Association created a specific department to address both needs. Effective communication had been a decade-long goal of AOG by 2009, and in August of that year, the Association began to seriously consider establishing an integrated communications team. One of the questions facing WPAOG at the time was what to do with ASSEMBLY magazine. Although beloved by many graduates, by 2009, less than 20 percent were subscribing to the magazine, which meant that the majority of graduates were not receiving news from their

alma mater. After much discussion and deliberation, WPAOG elected to follow the model of several peer alumni associations and produce a new quarterly magazine that would be mailed out free of charge to all graduates. West Point magazine debuted in January 2011, and in February WPAOG's Publications Directorate became part of the new Department of Communications and Marketing, which was charged with mastering new communications technologies in the internet era, becoming an ongoing source of information for graduates and promoting participation in WPAOG services.

At the same time, WPAOG's Finance Department continued its management of gift funds and endowments for West Point and the Long Gray Line, aided by expert advice from the Investment Committee. Today, WPAOG manages more than \$380 million in endowment funds, and the Association has received the highest rankings for transparency and efficient funds management from non-profit watchdogs Guidestar (Platinum) and Charity Navigator (4 stars).

In the early 2000s, AOG tried an innovative approach to building gift funded brick and mortar projects, which now encompass both new construction and renovation. WPAOG successfully managed the planning, design and construction of the Hoffman Press Box in 2002-03 and proffered the completed project as a gift to the government. The success of this approach led to it becoming the new model for gift-funded construction at West Point, and by 2019 WPAOG had completed over 170 projects, representing more than \$250 million donated by members of the Long Gray Line".

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM WHITE FOR THE 2019 MONTANA CON- GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William White of Helena for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and community.

Mr. White served in the U.S. Army for over 25 years, spanning from Vietnam to the Gulf Wars. He received multiple commendations during his time in the Army, including the Legion of Merit.

Mr. White has continued to serve his community. Volunteering at Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital, Mr. White has accumulated over 9500 hours serving in the office and as a driver. For his efforts, he earned a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, he is an active member of the American Legion, serving as Post Commander for Post No. 2 in Helena, as the VA Volunteer Services Coordinator for the American Legion of Montana, and serves on the National Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Commission.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending William White for his service to his country and community.