

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FORMER VILLAGE OF
LA GRANGE PRESIDENT ELIZA-
BETH ASPERGER ON HER YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Asperger for her accomplishments as the first woman elected President of the Village of La Grange, and her years of dedicated service to local residents. In order to recognize Ms. Asperger's positive impact on our community, the Village of La Grange is dedicating a garden at the historic Stone Avenue train station in her name on November 27th. I am pleased to be attending this celebration so that I can personally thank Ms. Asperger for her contributions and her tireless work to improve the lives of so many people.

Liz Asperger was elected President of the Village of La Grange after serving nine years as a trustee on the Village Board from 1996 to 2005. Prior to that she served on the village's Economic Development Commission beginning in 1993. Her two terms as President, from 2005 to 2013, were marked by tremendous accomplishments, and she was especially active on transportation and infrastructure issues. I was fortunate enough to work with Ms. Asperger and help La Grange accomplish vital projects including the parking deck behind Village Hall, modernization of La Grange's 9-1-1 call center, and the restoration of the Stone Avenue train station.

Prior to her time serving the Village of La Grange, Liz Asperger practiced law for sixteen years. As partner in her law firm, she specialized in real estate development. However, Ms. Asperger had a strong desire to serve our community, and in 1996 she resigned from her law firm in order to pursue opportunities in public service. After her retirement as President of the Village of La Grange, Ms. Asperger has remained committed to serving local residents and seniors. Liz and her husband, Jonathan, have resided in La Grange since 1983 and have one son, Kyle.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Elizabeth Asperger for her long history of public and community service. I am proud to have worked with such a dedicated public servant and leader, and I know that Ms. Asperger's example continues to inspire others to follow in her footsteps to work on behalf of La Grange and the region.

WISHING BUSTER AUSTIN A
HAPPY 107TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 107th birthday of Fourth District cattle producer, Buster Austin.

Mr. Austin was born in Madison County, Arkansas on October 20, 1912, and has lived most of his young life in the Fourth District. He has seen over one hundred years of American change and progress. Born before the start of World War I, he has now lived to see the end of polio and the start of the computer age. Today, he and his wife, Gayle, raise cattle in Madison County.

I find deep encouragement in hearing the story of Mr. Austin's life and history. I take this time to wish him a happy birthday and to thank him for his years of work and service in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING MELVINDALE-DEARBORN
FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL
BRANNON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Melvindale-Dearborn Firefighter Michael Brannon as he retires after eighteen years of service.

During his eighteen years of public service, Firefighter Michael Brannon has garnered accolades for his bravery and dedication to safety along the way. In 2001, Brannon joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department. From there, he was quickly promoted to Firefighter II, and ultimately, Firefighter III. A hardworking public servant, Michael Brannon has been acknowledged for his military service, exceptional driving record, and has spent countless hours advancing his certification, including rope rescue operations. Beyond this, Michael Brannon has been recognized for his courage in the line of duty both in military service and as a firefighter receiving awards like the Meritorious Company Commendation and the Fire Chief Unit Commendation.

Firefighter Michael Brannon has spent nearly two decades tirelessly working to ensure safety for the community. Please join me in saluting him for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS
DAY 2019

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation.

The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County's HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients' visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS.

We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends,

● 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.

relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

There is a pressing need to raise awareness and engage in education within the African American community where HIV infections have been and continue to rise.

The incidents of HIV have decreased for the majority population, while it has grown nearly unchecked among African Americans.

This must change—decisions regarding funding for agencies charged with infectious disease education and minority health must be supported.

TRIBUTE TO MADELINE ROANHORSE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Madeline Roanhorse, former director of the Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

Sadly, Madeline passed away earlier this fall.

Madeline worked diligently for over thirty years on uranium mine reclamation projects all across the Navajo Nation.

She played an invaluable role in many critical uranium mine clean up efforts.

This fall, the House voted to pass the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, legislation to permanently ban uranium mining in and near the Grand Canyon.

This vote was a direct result of the culmination of years of work by Madeline and other tribal leaders who refused to give up.

I wish Madeline had been here with us to witness this historic vote and see her hard work come to fruition.

I am honored to have worked with Madeline on these efforts, but I am more honored to have known her as a friend.

Pat and I are keeping Madeline's loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as they mourn her passing.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ALVIN J. VEENSTRA FOR HIS RETIRE- MENT FROM THE NAVY RE- SERVES SEABEES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin J. Veenstra for his retirement from the Navy Reserves Seabees. Through his more than thirty years of excellence and commitment to service, CMDCM Veenstra has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The United States Naval Construction Battalions, more commonly known as the Navy Seabees, have a storied history in the United States Armed Forces—stretching from Normandy and Okinawa to Iraq and Afghanistan. Alvin decided to follow in this tradition of service early in his life, enlisting in the United

States Navy, Sea, and Air Mariner program during his sophomore year of college. He carried out a variety of roles throughout his 32 years with the Seabees—including deployment with the 7th Naval Construction Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served as the Senior Watch Chief for the II Marine Expeditionary Force. On September 6, 2019, Veenstra turned over his final command position as the Reserve Affairs Command Master Chief at Navy Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. Outside of his service in the military, Alvin is a graduate of Ferris State University and serves as Project Manager/Executive Assistant for W.B. Builders in East Jordan. Alvin's more than three decades of decorated service is commendable, and the impact of his work on his fellow servicemembers and the people of the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Command Master Chief Petty Officer Alvin Veenstra for his decades of service to the people of the United States. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Alvin all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Michael Tilson Thomas, the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy in Miami Beach.

Michael Tilson Thomas is also Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony and Conductor Laureate of the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to these posts, he maintains an active presence guest-conducting with the major orchestras of Europe and the United States. The New World Symphony has helped launch the careers of more than 1,000 alumni worldwide.

Born in Los Angeles, Mr. Tilson Thomas is the third generation of his family to follow an artistic career. His grandparents, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, were founding members of the Yiddish Theater in America. His father, Ted Thomas, was a producer in the Mercury Theater Company in New York before moving to Los Angeles where he worked in films and television. His mother, Roberta Thomas, was the head of research for Columbia Pictures.

Mr. Tilson Thomas is a Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, was Musical America's Musician of the Year and Conductor of the Year, Gramophone Magazine's Artist of the Year, and has been profiled on CBS's 60 Minutes and ABC's Nightline. He has won 11 Grammy Awards for his recordings. In 2008 he received the Peabody Award for his radio series for SFS Media, The MTT Files. In 2010, President Obama awarded him the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE THIR- TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, a significant anniversary for two of America's closest allies—the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Only eight days after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the same spirit of freedom that overcame Berlin made its way to Prague. On November 17, 1989, the country formerly known as Czechoslovakia freed itself from four decades of a communist totalitarian regime, transforming authoritarian rule of the nation into democracy. Initiated by student protesters in the streets, the protest of the regime and the demand for democracy quickly gained momentum with over a half-million Czechs and Slovaks filling Prague's streets and taking over Wenceslas Square.

Soldiers beat protesters, used water cannons on the crowd, and made numerous arrests during this time. However, the demonstrators remained peaceful. By the end of 1989, Czechoslovakia was on its way to holding its first presidential election since 1948. The successful movement is now referred to as the "Velvet Revolution" or the "Gentle Revolution," which signifies the idea that the revolution was brought about without violence.

The years following the Velvet Revolution brought the "Velvet Divorce," the unofficial name given to the separation of the Czechoslovakia into two nations: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Through peaceful mutual consent, Czechoslovakia separated on January 1, 1993. To solidify their places on the world stage and showcase their commitment to democracy, the Czech and Slovak Republics formally became members of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations.

It is also worth mentioning that the Czech Republic has a local tie to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. When applying for admission into NATO, the Czech Republic had the official documents signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri in 1999. The induction ceremony that took place included Poland and Hungary, and marked the first eastward expansion by NATO since the end of the Cold War.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulating the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic for their achievements in independence and their efforts in promoting democracy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FLORENCE WEISS

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florence Weiss for her honorable service to the City of Concord, California as she begins retirement.

Florence Weiss has been a resident of Concord since 1982. She was first hired by the City of Concord as Downtown Coordinator on June 24, 2002 and eventually became the Downtown Program Manager. Throughout Florence's 17-year career with the City, she has promoted and fostered an increased sense of community in the downtown area, including Todos Santos Plaza.

Florence focused much of her leadership on expanding community events. She has overseen countless events including the popular Music and Market series, which has grown in attendance from an average of 500 attendees to an average of 4,500 attendees. In an effort to keep the music series running in downtown Concord, Florence established the Save our Series program to help fund the event and she has consistently exceeded fundraising goals. She has also overseen the creation of new events such as viewing parties for the Golden State Warriors championship games and Concordstock, an event held in 2008 that celebrated 20 years of concerts in Todos Santos Plaza.

In conjunction with Florence's commitment to increasing attendance at downtown and community events, she has advocated for a healthier and cleaner Concord, most notably by helping to successfully implement a smoking ban in the Downtown District. Even in times of tight budgets, Florence has used her creative problem solving and fostered community engagement and enthusiasm.

Florence Weiss has been a champion for the City of Concord and its residents. We wish her great luck and joy in retirement.

HONORING MELVINDALE-DEARBORN FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL PERRY

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Firefighter Michael Perry for his twenty-three years of service to the Melvindale-Dearborn Consolidated Fire Department, on the occasion of his retirement.

For more than two decades, Firefighter Michael Perry has persevered in his dedication to public safety and the well-being of his neighbors. In 1996, Perry joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department as a fire fighter. Shortly after, he was promoted to Firefighter II, and was ultimately promoted to Firefighter III. With an unimpeachable record of service, Michael Perry has been acknowledged for his flawless attendance record, exceptional driving record, and has earned countless honors by his peers, including a Certificate of Special Recognition. His commitment and outstanding service have been recognized by Department Commendation, Meritorious Company Commendation, Fire Chief Company Citation, and Unit Commendation awards.

Please join me in recognizing Firefighter Michael Perry for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL CARRIGAN FOR YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Carrigan for a lifetime of vigorous and effective advocacy protecting the rights of workers in my home state of Illinois and working men and women across the United States.

Michael Carrigan's life is a quintessentially American story of talent, determination and deeply felt ambition to build a better world. He began his career as a journeyman wireman and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Displaying an early talent for organizing, Michael quickly rose through the ranks to become business manager and financial secretary for IBEW Local 146, and then assumed greater positions of responsibility in the Illinois AFL-CIO as Secretary-Treasurer and President. Michael also held a variety of positions of national leadership in organized labor, somehow found time to serve nearly four terms on the Decatur City Council, and briefly as the Mayor of Decatur.

During his tenure as president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Michael played a key role organizing support to increase the Illinois minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and to enact a \$45 billion dollar capital improvements bill that will fund the repair of aging infrastructure in our state. He continues to work tirelessly to build support for a progressive state income tax that asks our wealthiest citizens to shoulder their fair share of the cost of government, while providing revenue streams sufficient to balance our budget and fund education, important social services, and our state's pension obligations to its workers.

In 2018, Michael was the first Illinois resident to receive the World Peace Prize "Roving Ambassador for Peace" award. In accepting this honor, Michael observed that all peaceful societies are built upon foundations of economic justice: "The Labor Movement and its allies build peace through economic and social justice causes . . . Our fight for justice knows no borders, and the enemies of peace are the enemies of [social and economic] justice."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 900,000 members of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the millions of hard-working men and women in our country who owe so much to Michael Carrigan, I offer my gratitude for his years of dedicated and selfless service to our country. Although Michael may be retiring from the Illinois AFL-CIO, I know he will not retire from his commitment to public service, and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Careity Foundation of

North Central Texas. They have been providing direct patient services through the "Careity Celebrity Cutting" for 25 years in Tarrant, Parker, Palo Pinto, Hood, and Johnson Counties in Texas.

Careity provides early detection services to people who may otherwise go without and clinical services for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. Last year, Careity provided over 7600 patient services and has a strong record of responding quickly to patient's needs and caring about the people in the community who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Careity prides itself in a high-profile low-cost event, the "Careity Celebrity Cutting". The uniqueness of the event stands out above other charity events in that the entire venue is donated by the National Cutting Horse Association. All celebrities are volunteers, and Careity has no development or fundraising staff.

Given the competition for supporters that the non-profit industry has faced in the last several years, we can all appreciate this enormous accomplishment which speaks to the strong leadership that has steered the Foundation over the course of its impressive history. Careity exists to provide direct care that saves lives, gives hope, eases pain, and allows cancer patients and families to focus on healing.

I congratulate Careity on this significant milestone.

HONORING THE INNOVATIVE WORK OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS IN ILLINOIS'S 10TH DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the creative accomplishments of our local municipalities who have gone above and beyond to serve our communities. Innovation is alive and well in the cities, towns and villages of Illinois's Tenth Congressional District.

Some of these local achievements were recently recognized by the Lake County Municipal League highlighting the commitment, vision and ingenuity of our civic leaders.

The Village of Mundelein, Illinois won top honors for the "Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge", established by Mayor Steve Lentz. The program encourages Mundelein students' interest in fields such as mathematics and engineering, while promoting access to higher education. More than 1,000 students have participated, and 31 businesses have donated more than \$80,000 to the program. Since the Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge was established in 2014, the program has grown significantly and serves as a model for how municipal governments can partner with local schools, students, and businesses for the greater good.

The Village of Bannockburn was also honored for the creation of the Last Mile shuttle pilot program, which sought to solve the Village's transportation problem. The program's goal was to connect Bannockburn Lakes Office Complex with four Metra stations nearby and allow commuters a subsidized Lyft ride to

and from the Office complex and station. Since the creation of the project, more than 900 rides have been provided, and the program continues to see growth. The improvement earned an Honorable Mention at the awards dinner.

Other Lake County municipalities made significant strides in the past year to bolster their local small businesses, improve public safety and beautify their communities. The Village of Beach Park earned an Honorable Mention at the awards dinner for their work with neighboring communities to create the Northern Lakeshore Trail Connectivity Plan, which would improve walking and bicycling connections between five northern lakeshore communities.

We all strive to live in vibrant, healthy and dynamic communities. The work of these, and other, municipalities are helping to realize that dream.

I proudly applaud these municipalities and the dedicated civil servants for their commendable efforts to serve our communities. I look forward to learning more about these innovative efforts, and to continuing to work closely together in the months ahead.

HONORABLE ELBRA M.
WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Elbra M. Wedgeworth, who after decades in public service, is retiring.

The Honorable Wedgeworth began her career in public service in 1989 as a Senior Analyst for the Denver City Council. From 1994 to 1996, she served as the Clerk and Recorder for the City and County of Denver, and also served as a member of the Denver Election Commission and as a Denver County Commissioner. In 1999, she was elected as Denver City Council's District 8 Councilwoman. After just four years on the City Council, her fellow Councilmembers unanimously elected her Council President from 2003 to 2005. In 2007, she resigned from the City Council to join Denver Health as Chief Government and Community Relations Officer where she has been active in advancing healthcare policy at the state and federal level. In August 2014, the Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building was dedicated in her honor in the historic Five Points neighborhood in honor of her service to the City of Denver and State of Colorado.

In addition to her esteemed career, Elbra served on many boards and commissions. In September 2008, she was unanimously elected as President of the Denver Union Station Project Authority Board of Directors and served nine terms as Board President. Under her leadership, the \$500 million Denver Union Station Project opened in May of 2014 on time and under budget. Also, in 2008, she was appointed as the President of the Democratic National Convention Host Committee where she oversaw a widely-viewed successful convention. From 2013 to 2014, Elbra served as the past Chairwoman for the Downtown Denver Partnership Inc., the first person of color male or female to serve as the organization's

chair in its 60-year history, earning her the title of Downtown Denver Partnership Honorary Partner. Throughout all of this, she has served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Redlands in Redlands, California, her college alma mater as well as a Board of Trustee for FirstBank in Colorado from 2017 to present. These positions reflect her leadership abilities, passion for the city and state she loves, and talent for bringing people together to get things done for the betterment of our community.

I want to congratulate The Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth on a long and distinguished career and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHIP
MABUS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Chip Mabus, who passed away on Saturday, November 16th, at the age of 43.

Chip, a resident of Fulton, Mississippi, was a dedicated employee of FL Crane & Sons for 21 years. Chip also served on the American Subcontractors Association National Board and was a member of the Floor Covering Installation Contractors Association, Associated Builders and Contractors, and Associated General Contractors. Chip attended the University of Mississippi and was an avid football fan.

Left to cherish his memory are his three children, Madeline Mabus of Starkville, Mississippi, Mallory Mabus, of Fulton, Mississippi and Samuel Mabus of Fulton, Mississippi; his father, Larry Mabus of Fulton, Mississippi; his sister, Teresa Estes, of Mooreville, Mississippi; his niece, Ashlyn Estes; his nephew, Brody Estes of Mooreville, Mississippi, as well as many more extended family members and friends.

Chip's life was one of grace, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF GARTH C. REEVES, SR.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Garth C. Reeves, Sr. who sadly passed away in November at the age of 100. Garth was the publisher emeritus of The Miami Times and a voice for the aspirations of African Americans in Miami for most of the past century. He was a man of principle, who after serving in the United States Army during World War II, worked to improve his community through civil rights activism, journalism, and publishing.

Garth was born in Nassau, Bahamas in 1919. He attended Florida A&M University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in printing in 1940. He served in both the Eu-

ropean and Pacific theaters during World War II, from 1942 to 1946, and later returned to Miami to work under his father, Henry Reeves, who founded The Miami Times newspaper.

Garth dedicated his life to resisting and fighting racism. Taking the helm as publisher and chief executive officer of The Miami Times following his father's passing, he advanced the cause of civil rights and challenged segregation laws with acts of civil disobedience. In 1949, when African Americans were only allowed to play golf on Mondays, he showed up to play on a Wednesday. Garth and others sued for equal access to the golf course and won after a seven-year court battle. And in the 1950s, he was among the first to swim at Crandon Park in defiance of laws that designated it a whites only beach. Today, these may appear to be small acts, but they raised up the black community and highlighted the systemic inequalities facing African Americans each and every day.

Garth's good works didn't stop there. He provided scholarships for students to attend his alma maters, Booker T. Washington High School and Florida A&M University, and he donated to The Black Archives/Lyric Theater. It is no surprise that in 2011, he was recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association with the Legacy of Excellence Award, and The Miami Times named as the top black newspaper in the country. More recently, he was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists' Hall of Fame in 2017.

Madam Speaker, Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was a champion for our community and positively impacted the lives of countless people in Miami and around our nation. I extend my deepest condolences to his family during this extremely difficult time. Garth was a true blessing to so many. His legacy will always endure. I am proud to have called him a friend. He will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 DAVID CHARLES
KNADLE

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Charles Knadle, a father, son, husband and soldier from Fort Worth, Texas.

Born on May 2, 1986, David Knadle fought bravely for our country. David grew up attending North Texas schools and graduated from Richland High School in 2003. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

In November of 2012, David left his career in accounting to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army. Following his dreams of being an aviator, Knadle attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and later graduated from the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama. CW2 Knadle was deployed to Afghanistan in October 2019 as part of Task Force Knight Hawk. On November 20, 2019, CW2 Knadle passed away in an aircraft accident along with his forward pilot and friend, CW2 Takeshi Fuchigami of Hawaii.

Throughout his Army career, CW2 Knadle was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorist Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, and Army Aviator Badge.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to David Knadle's family and friends. David was a man who fought bravely for his country and I am grateful for his service and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 5084. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 630.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Romania on her 101st celebration of unification. This year is especially significant as we also celebrate 30 years since the fall of Communism in Romania.

December 1st is representative of the sovereignty of Romania because on this date in 1918 the Alba Iulia National Assembly met to unify the peoples and territories of Romania. The Resolution passed by the Assembly united Moldova and Wallachia with Transylvania, Crisana, Banat, and Maramures. While the authorities of Romania have changed several times since then, the proud and independent spirit of the Romanian people has not.

December holds an increased meaning as the Romanian Revolution occurred in 1989 in which the people wrested an opportunity for self-direction from the dark times of the Communism towards the bright future of a democratic country which nowadays shares common values with the United States. Over the past 30 years, Romania has become a bastion of democracy in Eastern Europe and a solid and strong U.S. ally in the region. Romania is setting an example of steady commitment to transatlantic security and democratic leadership, while the Romanian public opinion has an overwhelmingly favorable view of American leadership and role in the world.

Romania, as a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2004, has sent troops to support NATO missions in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq and is contributing 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense spending. Romania has been a leading nation in providing cybersecurity support to NATO and its partners and is working with the U.S. Government on the secure implementation of fifth generation wireless communication networks (5G) technology. Ro-

mania also joined the European Union in 2007 and recently successfully finished a term holding the EU's presidency.

The United States and Romania have enjoyed almost 140 years of diplomatic relations and share a deep and longstanding friendship, a strategic partnership built on historical ties, and a joint commitment to advancing the security and prosperity of their citizens and communities.

Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Romania on the 101st anniversary of its Great Union Day.

HONORING DR. CINDY L. MILES

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with admiration and respect to honor the career of one of San Diego's most dedicated public servants and leaders, Dr. Cindy L. Miles.

Dr. Miles is retiring after ten years as Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, where she transformed public higher education in eastern San Diego County and opened the doors to college for thousands of students.

In the decade since Dr. Miles joined the college district as chancellor, the number of graduates from Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges increased by 78 percent, and the number of degrees and certificates awarded at the colleges rose by 178 percent. Under her direction, the district has been recognized nationally for removing barriers to student success and eliminating longstanding equity gaps that have impeded students of color in their educational pursuits.

One of Dr. Miles's most successful innovations was the creation of the East County Education Alliance in 2014, which initially began as a partnership between the district and the Grossmont Union High School District to ensure a smooth path for students between high school, college, and eventually, into a career. In 2019, the Mountain Empire School District joined the Alliance, ensuring that every public high school student in eastern San Diego County could benefit. As evidence of this fact, the Alliance was selected by the League for Innovation in the Community College for a national Innovation of the Year award.

The prestige of the two campuses was significantly advanced during Dr. Miles's service as chancellor. In 2018, the California Community College Chancellor's Office awarded Cuyamaca College the John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award and Grossmont College was recognized as a Champion of Higher Education.

Dr. Miles has played an influential role in state and national community college organizations. She served on committees and task forces for the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Community College League of California, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

While her presence in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will be

missed, Dr. Miles has created a culture of progress that will endure for years to come. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her for a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PEGGY WHITE WELL KNOWN BUFFALO AND SUSAN KELLY OF GARRYOWEN

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their work to fight hunger in their community.

In 1999, Peggy and Susan launched the Center Pole Foundation, a Native grassroots organization that promotes knowledge, justice, and sovereignty in Native communities. The foundation seeks to serve the needs of the community, including hunger within the Crow Indian Reservation.

As part of the foundation, Peggy and Susan created a community food bank which serves not only the reservation but also the surrounding community.

Their mission to fulfill a fundamental need, such as nourishment, is personal for Peggy and Susan.

For Peggy, confronting hunger began when she attended a boarding school. There, she experienced hunger and made it a life mission to feed people in a loving and kind environment.

For Susan, she has seen firsthand how hunger impedes a child's progress. Wanting every kid to do well in school, Susan says a kid can't be creative if his or her stomach isn't full.

Each week, the food bank's staff goes to Billings to collect food from grocery stores. Their efforts provide food to the reservation and surrounding communities, feeding more than 300 people a week.

To Peggy and Susan, their work is about more than providing people with food. It's about providing their community nourishment, boosting its health, helping combat illness, and reinforcing the benefits of a healthy, positive lifestyle. Their commitment to the future of their communities is front and center of all they do through Center Pole Foundation.

Madam Speaker, for their dedicated work to fight hunger in their community, I recognize Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and Susan Kelly of Garryowen for their Spirit of Montana.

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT OF A PRESIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and one who served on the Committee during the last impeachment proceeding, I rise to share some of the fundamental principles that will guide my deliberations on the momentous task before the Committee.

In 1776, the Framers founded this country and created this government on the basis of a

bedrock belief in a revolutionary assumption: that all men are created equal and have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property; are entitled to live free of arbitrary rule; and most important, are endowed with the right to govern themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all Experience has sh[o]wn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by taking” immediate action against their oppressors.

But, Jefferson continued, “when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty” to take immediate action to repel the danger.

The Framers had first-hand experience with the types of abuses and usurpations committed by political leaders who ruled them but were not accountable to them and detailed many of those wrongs in the Declaration of Independence.

The Framers understood and declared that democratic governors derived their powers from the knowing and voluntary consent of the governed as expressed in free, fair, and unfettered elections unmarred by the influence or sabotage of any entity not a member of the political community.

If elections are influenced by foreign actors, then voters are reduced from citizens to subjects, and government for and by the people is a sham.

The most important feature of a democracy is that it is the voters who alone can confer the legitimate consent and authorization necessary to govern upon the governors who are then duty-bound to represent the voters' interests, and only their interests.

The fundamental democratic compact between the governed and the governors is that the latter's authority and continuance in office comes exclusively from the governed and allegiance is owed exclusively to the governed.

This agreement can only be reached through free and fair elections, a breach of which threatens the vitality and viability of the social contract upon which democratic self-rule depends.

Based on their personal experiences, the Framers understood the importance of a president's allegiance being always and only to the nation.

That is why they included the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as Article I, section 9, clause 8, which bans Presidents from accepting titles of nobility and strictly prohibits the acceptance of any emolument of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state.

President Lincoln called the United States the “last best hope of man on earth” and stated at Gettysburg the importance of finishing the work we are in to ensure that “government of the people, for the people, by the people does not perish from the earth.”

The serious allegation before us is that the President extorted or bribed the head of a foreign nation to conspire with him to sabotage an American election by manufacturing false charges against his political rival so that he could retain his office and continue to abuse his power.

This is undoubtedly the most serious transgression that could be committed by a president who, as Lincoln said, has taken an oath “registered in Heaven” to preserve, protect,

and defend the Constitution of the United States.

If American elections are not free, fair, and uninfluenced by foreign actors, then the democracy is extinguished, and the people do not rule.

Instead, citizens are reduced to subjects, ruled by an authority dependent not on the consent of the governed, but on the assistance and beneficence of unaccountable foreign actors.

Such a state of affairs inevitably would lead to actions taken by the ruler that are not in the interests of the nation, like dishonoring treaty agreements, abandoning allies, impugning the independent judiciary and the free press, disregarding fundamental rights and liberties of the people, abrogating civic norms and virtues, pursuing acts of personal enrichment, and currying favor with foreign despots and authoritarians.

Although President Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address that “while the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years,” the Framers anticipated that the day may come when the actions of a Chief Magistrate would constitute a clear and present danger to the security and survival of the republic.

To protect the republic, the Framers equipped the representatives chosen directly by the people with the necessary means of protecting their liberty by wisely including in the Constitution of the United States, Article I, section 2, clause 5, which vests the sole power of impeachment in the House of Representatives.

As a Member of Congress who has taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, these are the principles to which I am in fidelity and against which I will evaluate the actions of the President of the United States.

IN HONOR OF IRENE O'CONNELL,
DEPARTING MEMBER OF THE
SAN BRUNO CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Irene O'Connell is leaving the San Bruno City Council after a remarkable 24 years of service to the community. Her departure marks the end of an era but the beginning of a new path in the life of this amazing woman and civic leader. During all these years I have deeply appreciated Irene's friendship and enjoyed working with her to promote San Bruno's bright future.

In 1995, Irene O'Connell was elected to the San Bruno City Council, serving her community with enthusiasm, vigor and effectiveness. She helped initiate a Youth Committee and helped create an after-school program at Allen Elementary that has since expanded to five other schools. She identified \$600,000 in flood control district funds that became available to help residents of the Belle Air community. She initiated the creation of the City's Culture and Arts Commission with funding through a surcharge on building permits. The Commission

has installed a number of pieces of public art including the Centennial Mosaic at the San Bruno Caltrain station and the mural painting at Centennial Park in San Bruno's downtown. A park on Florida Avenue is authorized in large measure because Irene's love of civic beauty is matched with a love of open space in San Bruno's urban environment.

For 22+ years, 200 volunteers have joined Councilwoman O'Connell annually to sweep up, recycle, plant flowers and trees, paint garbage bins, and to otherwise beautify the city. As a representative on transportation and water agencies, she's helped the city to obtain transportation grants and ensured that the water supply remained reliable and affordable. If your heart stops in San Bruno, a paramedic on a fire truck is present in large part because Irene O'Connell insisted that the service be standard on fire trucks throughout the county. She evaluated and advocated for ambitious plans for full rehabilitation and replacement of the City's utility systems over a 20-year period and the necessary funding to complete the improvements.

During some of the most difficult years in the history of her hometown, Irene O'Connell and her colleagues first consoled and then fought for the citizens of San Bruno after a natural gas pipeline exploded and killed 8 residents and destroyed 38 homes. She and her colleagues were warriors for justice holding PG&E accountable for its gross negligence.

No mention of Irene's love of her community would be complete without mention of her founding of the San Bruno Library Foundation. Irene's commitment to the library is heartfelt and enduring.

Irene is a first-generation Italian American and as such reflects the industriousness and civic involvement characteristic of those whose parents struggle to come to this country. She was born in San Bruno and has lived there ever since.

She and her family were continually involved in community service and other activities. They volunteered for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and when that wasn't exhausting enough, Irene and her father collected paperback books for the veterans hospital. Also as volunteers, the family managed the San Bruno Girl Scout House, sewing curtains, painting and helping it to operate. During her time on the City Council, she helped develop and manage a Rebuilding Together project to refurbish the house to enhance community programs held there.

When St. Bruno's needed baptismal robes for less fortunate parishioners, Irene and her mother sewed them. This family exuded community pride with every undertaking.

As she grew into adulthood, Irene realized that her first love was teaching. She obtained a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Master's in Elementary Education with a Lifelong Teaching Credential. She taught sixth grade at St. Veronica's in South San Francisco and then left to raise her three children. However, she didn't leave community service. As a board member of Art-Rise, a local non-profit, she promoted local artists by finding space for them to display their works. The Boy Scouts and 4-H benefitted greatly because Irene was ever-present.

Irene is the proud mother of son Joe and daughters Katie and Jennifer. Her husband, Bill, keeps her young, her mother Marina Kaiser keeps her hopping, and her community keeps her strong.

Madam Speaker, for decades Irene's presence in San Bruno has been as exciting to watch as a home run at a Little League game at San Bruno City Park. Now, San Bruno's Mighty Casey is laying down her bat. It's time to give her an enormous cheer for her contributions to the team. San Bruno will long cherish the swing-for-the-fence public service of Irene O'Connell.

**HONORING JOSEPH HOGENKAMP'S
CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the City Treasurer of the City of Tonawanda, Joseph Hogenkamp, who is retiring from public service as City Treasurer later this month.

Joe has many accomplishments as City Treasurer, including a commitment to modernizing his office. As I mentioned, first elected in 1987 and serving through mid-December of 2019, Joe has seen a lot of changes, both in government administration as well as in municipal finance. Working with several mayors and dozens of former aldermen and city council members, Joe's reputation was one of steady reliability and dedicated leadership to the taxpayers he served.

First elected in November of 1987, Joe has served the taxpayers and residents of Tonawanda for more than 30 years. A native of the city, Joe is a 1981 graduate of Tonawanda High School, after which he earned an accounting degree at Miami University of Ohio.

In addition to his elected duties, Joe has served as a board member and officer for PERMA, an organization that provides workers compensation insurance coverage for municipal governments across New York State. Here at home, Joe serves on the Finance Committee for St. Francis of Assisi Church and on the Erie County Land Bank. He also serves as Treasurer of the Familial Cancer Foundation of Western New York.

Above all else, Joe is a proud husband and father. Joe married his beloved wife Nikki in 1990 and they are the proud parents of daughters Eugenia and Costantina.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all members of the House in congratulating the Honorable Joseph Hogenkamp upon the occasion of his retirement from elective public office and join me in extending to Joe and his entire family our best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA RETURNING CITI-
ZENS COORDINATION ACT OF 2019**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Returning Citizens Coordination Act of 2019. This bill would allow the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) to share information with the District of Columbia government to help ensure the District has services ready, in coordination with BOP and CSOSA, for returning citizens.

D.C. inmates face significant hurdles in preparing to return to society because most are spread across the country in BOP facilities hundreds or even thousands of miles from the District, their families and their loved ones. Because they are frequently housed so far away from the District, coordinating returning citizens' reentry into society is difficult. This bill would make the coordination efforts between the BOP, CSOSA and District agencies less burdensome and more efficient.

Under this bill, District agencies would be better able to determine what physical and mental health and other needs returning citizens may have before they are even released from prison. Because D.C. Code felons are the only local inmates housed by the BOP, this bill is especially important for District residents.

Currently, BOP is allowed to share information regarding returning citizens with CSOSA, since it is also a federal agency, but not with D.C. agencies. This bill would allow BOP and CSOSA to treat agencies of the D.C. government as they do other federal agencies for the purposes of—but only for the purposes of—federal privacy laws, such as the Privacy Act, so that the District agencies that assist individuals during their return can more easily obtain the necessary information to provide appropriate services.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**IN RECOGNITION OF UNT TAMS
STUDENT ENTRIES IN THE CON-
GRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vishok Jonnalagadda, Kate Liang, Ernest Lu, Mayur Pabba, Shubh Sharma, Tarush Verma and Connie Xu, participants in the first 26th District of Texas Congressional App Challenge and all students attending the University of North Texas as Texas Academy of Math and Science (TAMS) students. The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through an annual competition hosted by Members of Congress.

Structured as a competition, the Congressional App Challenge is a great way for Congress to engage students in computer programming and technology-related careers and encourage them to develop the skills that are becoming increasingly important for jobs contributing to our growing economy. By participating in the App Challenge, the students have the opportunity to create their own apps for mobile, tablet or computer device and compete with other students, receiving feedback from leading experts in the field. I thank each of the students competing in this year's endeavor as well as the judges who contributed their time and expertise to the process.

The Congressional App judging panel assembled was comprised of Dr. Jennifer Moore,

Associate Professor and School Librarian Certification Faculty Lead at Texas Woman's University School of Library & Information Sciences; Dr. Stephani Ludi, Professor, Undergraduate Coordinator and Co-Director of Research in the Software Engineering Lab at the University of North Texas (UNT) Department of Science & Engineering; and Mr. Mark Payne, Executive Director, Denco Area 911. After reviewing each of the Apps submitted, the board scored the entries, resulting in a tabulated outcome recognizing "Mindful Minutes" by Ms. Connie Xu and Kate Liang as the winner. "Mindful Minutes" is an app designed to combat the societal challenge of forgetfulness by allowing users to count anything, including hours worked or hours exercised, or even creating custom counters for any repetitive activity or subject they choose. Their app will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol and shown on the U.S. House of Representatives web site. The students will also be invited to the House of Representatives' Code Demo Day reception in Washington, D.C.

I am proud to participate in the Congressional App contest as a way of encouraging the development of the math and science education our country requires to remain competitive. Ms. Xu and Ms. Liang have displayed their creativity and skill through their submission, providing an example of the bright future they, and our country, have ahead. I am honored to represent these two bright young women and wish them and all the representative UNT TAMS program students involved, much continued success in their education and careers.

IN MEMORY OF MEL OLSSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing one of Southeastern Connecticut's most accomplished and revered citizens, Mr. Melvin E. Olsson. Mel, as he was known to all, grew up in that region's historic city, New London, attended public school there, and upon graduation, immediately enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard where he served from 1959 until 1967. He also became part of the workforce at our nation's premiere submarine shipyard Electric Boat, where he was hired as a pipefitter embarking on a 47-year career, building and designing the world's most capable submarines. After his start as a metal tradesman, he migrated to the design workforce, which was responsible for the flawless conception, execution, and production of the Los Angeles, Seawolf, Ohio, and Virginia class submarines that have made America's "silent service" such an effective deterrent in keeping the peace for the last 75 years.

Mel was a strong advocate for Electric Boat's unionized workers, and over time he emerged as the president of the Marine Draftsman's/UAW Local 571 which represents all the drafting professionals and designers. For thirteen years Mel held that position and successfully negotiated contracts in tandem with his brothers and sisters in the Metal Trades Council to ensure their skilled work was adequately compensated with good salaries and benefits. In the early 2000s, Mel was

presiding at a time of great change at the shipyard which went from a workforce of around 30,000 down to just 8,500 in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union. Mel worked tirelessly to assist the people he represented, making sure they were given transitional help as downsizing occurred. All the while, he continued to advocate for the Navy's investment in a new class of Seawolf and Virginia submarines, which in hindsight we now know kept that shipyard alive.

Madam Speaker, as the Congressman from Eastern Connecticut I had the honor to work with Mel in the shipyard's efforts to keep the unique, irreplaceable skills that made Southeastern Connecticut "The Submarine Capitol of the World." When I was elected to Congress in 2006, and was selected to serve on the Seapower Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee, we immediately began a push to boost submarine production, building a coalition of the UAW, the Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and industry to "plus up" the 2008 shipbuilding budget. By the Fall of 2007 we defied conventional wisdom that a freshman member would never pull that off, when \$588 million was added to the defense budget, igniting a new era of hiring in Groton. Mel's support and advice did not end there. He always made himself available, with good advice and a ready smile, if I had a question or challenge to face. I will always treasure his friendship.

Madam Speaker, when Mel stepped down from his union office in the 2000s, after 47 years of work at the yard, I think most would agree he had earned a quiet, easy retirement. However, as many noted, Mel's "retirement" marked the beginning of a second career when he threw himself into the region's Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), the job training platform designated by the federal Workforce Investment Act, to shape education and apprenticeship programs to meet the region's local economy. Mel was perfect for this role. While at Electric Boat, he was always pushing for the shipyard to connect young people to the specialized work that went on there, and he fostered a mentorship program for high schoolers that still operates today. At EWIB, he saw that the need to recapitalize the submarine force was going to cause a new hiring spree that the tech schools, community colleges and apprenticeship programs needed to adjust to—fast. With his help, EWIB's innovative Manufacturing Pipeline Program received \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2014, establishing an accelerated "pre-apprenticeship" program. The program far outperformed Labor's targets and has become a national model used all over Connecticut and the U.S. to generate new job-ready workers. Back home the pipeline has enabled Electric Boat to regrow to a workforce that reached 17,000 this year. Electric Boat also restarted its own apprenticeship program that Mel had been pressing for years. It is showing impressive results, with a new generation of diverse talent—more women and minorities in particular—who are embarking on not just jobs, but careers. For Mel, this type of work, which was done in collaboration with Electric Boat's unions and management, was the essence of the value of collective bargaining. Seeing a person's life transformed because of the pipeline or an apprenticeship was, in my experience knowing Mel, what truly animated him

and made him happy. It also demonstrated to me what a caring person he was, particularly when it came to helping young people.

What also made Mel very happy was his beautiful family. He shared 54 years of marital bliss with his wife Dorothy DeGroot Olsson. Together, they have a daughter, Alyssa A. Olsson Gaus, and two grandsons, Kyle Chase Olsson, and Gavin Olsson Gaus. Mel was also close with his brother Karl and his wife Glenda of Niantic. Despite all of his time-consuming work in the region, his family always came first. Madam Speaker, Mel is truly an example of "a life well lived." His funeral service in New London where he was born was packed with family, co-workers, and friends who shared a deep awareness of what a special person he was. Please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Mel's family for their loss and our highest respect and regards for his inspiring legacy.

HONORING CAROLYN EDWARDS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, today I would like to recognize the outstanding career, significant accomplishments, and invaluable contributions of Carolyn Edwards, a dedicated civil servant who in January will retire after a distinguished 46-year career with the U.S. Department of Transportation—44 of these with the Federal Highway Administration.

Among her many exemplary accomplishments, Ms. Edwards has been involved in every Federal surface transportation bill since TEA-21 in 1998. This has included support—through the technical assistance process—for Congressional Committees, countless Members of Congress, and their staff on legislative and highway policy issues.

This is the fourth time that a Congressional Committee Chair (or Ranking Member) has publicly thanked Ms. Edwards, by name, for her contributions. Prior instances include—

On July 29, 2005, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (Senator JIM INHOFE) thanked her on the Senate floor during floor consideration of the conference report for SAFETEA-LU;

On June 29, 2012, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (the Honorable John Mica) thanked Ms. Edwards, among others, for her work on MAP-21; and

On December 3, 2015, I thanked Ms. Edwards on the House floor for her work on the FAST Act.

Ms. Edwards joined the Federal Highway Administration in 1973 as an economist within the Agency's Office of Highway Planning. There, she helped to establish FHWA's Highway Performance Monitoring System—a system that 40 years later continues to provide national-level data on the extent, condition, performance, use, and operating characteristics of the nation's highways. Over the ensuing four-and-a-half decades, Ms. Edwards has gone on to serve in a range of high-level analytical positions at FHWA, including stints in FHWA's Office of Highway Policy Information

and in FHWA's Office of Legislative Affairs and Policy Communications.

As one example, during the mid-1990s, Ms. Edwards served in FHWA's Office of Highway Information Management. While there, she identified—then helped to resolve—a \$1.6 billion error in the Treasury Department's calculation of Highway Trust Fund revenues, which impacted the State-by-State distribution of Federal highway funding. Later, she also worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, with a portfolio that covered Federal-aid highway programs and the Highway Trust Fund.

Ms. Edwards is ending her career as a member—and former leader—of FHWA's legislative analysis team. In this capacity, she serves as an unparalleled national expert on a wide range of highway-related topics, including Federal highway legislation, the Highway Trust Fund, and the operations of the Federal-aid highway program. For years, she has been a go-to reference on these topics for both agency and departmental leaders. Furthermore, as testament to the quality of her work, over the course of her career, Ms. Edwards has been recognized with multiple FHWA Superior Achievement Awards, a Secretary's Team Award, and two Secretarial Awards for Partnering for Excellence.

In closing, on behalf of myself, the Committee, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and our staff, I would like to thank Ms. Edwards for her steadfast public service, her support for the Congress, and her immeasurable contributions to the Federal-aid highway program.

HONORING CHIEF JAMES ANTHONY SECRETO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor James Anthony Secreto, a native Brooklyn son and longtime public servant. James, or Jimmy as his friends call him, has dedicated his life to helping the people of New York City, most recently as the Chief of Housing at the New York Police Department (NYPD). As he retires this week, I wanted to pay homage to the work he has accomplished on behalf of so many New Yorkers.

Jimmy was born and raised in Brooklyn's Albany Houses, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) development, in Crown Heights. He received his early education at St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Elementary School in Crown Heights for grades one through five. He joined the Robert F. Kennedy Incentive Program and later received an academic scholarship from the Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council to attend Power Memorial Academy.

In 1979, he began his career with the NYPD on patrol in the 25th Precinct. He was promoted to Sergeant in December 1984 and steadily rose through the ranks. In 2014, Jimmy was promoted to Chief of Housing, his current position. In that capacity, he oversees the security of NYCHA, the largest public housing organization in North America, housing over 400,000 tenants.

During his 35-year career tenure with the NYPD, James has spearheaded a multitude of

food and clothing drives; an annual holiday toy drive he started in 1999, that continues today; a Thanksgiving community outreach initiative in which turkeys are distributed to families; and an annual Queens Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, which has successfully raised over \$100,000 since its inception nine years ago.

For these and other achievements, Chief Secreto has been honored by countless community groups, as well as several NYPD fraternal organizations. In 2009, the New York State Shields honored him as Man of the Year, and in 2014, the Tri-State Law Enforcement Foundation honored James as Person of the Year.

A devoted family man, Chief Secreto has been married to his wife, Yvonne, for 35 years. They are the proud parents of three children. Kiesha, Shamieka and Chanel. The couple also have eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, the people of New York owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Secreto for his years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting him as he moves on to his next phase of life. I wish him and his family all the best and thank him for all he has done for Brooklyn, for NYCHA and all New York residents.

HONORING OUACHITA NATIONAL
FOREST SUPERVISOR NORMAN
WAGONER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Norman Wagoner for

his decades of service with the United States Forest Service.

Mr. Wagoner began his career with the Forest Service in 1986, right in the Fourth District's own Ouachita National Forest. He worked his way up from a co-op student to a Forester Trainee to a Forester, later serving as a District Ranger in Colorado and Wyoming. Mr. Wagoner returned to the Ouachita National Forest in 2006 to become the Forest Supervisor, where he served until his retirement in 2019.

I was privileged to work alongside Mr. Wagoner on numerous occasions, and always admired his commitment to forestry and environmental stewardship. He has been a fantastic leader and advocate for Arkansas forestry, and will be greatly missed. I wish him all the best in retirement.