

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HAROLD WILLIAM  
"BUD" MARESKO

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Harold William "Bud" Maresko, of Crown Point, who passed away on October 17, 2019, at the age of 91. Mr. Maresko's military service to our nation and his dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana is noteworthy and admirable. While he will be truly missed by his family and friends, the impact he has had on his community will live on for generations to come.

Harold William Maresko was born in East Chicago, Indiana. He attended Tolleston High School in Gary, Indiana, before joining the United States Merchant Marine at the age of seventeen. Serving during World War II, Bud transported ammunitions, equipment, and supplies to the Allied Forces on six different liberty ships. Following his discharge in 1946, Bud worked as a crane operator at US Steel in Gary. In 1951, Bud was drafted into the United States Army during the peak of the Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. He was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where he received military communications training. In 1952, Bud was deployed to Germany and was assigned to the 7th Army (5th Corps), 816th Battalion, which was attached to the 30th FA Group. The unit trained at USAG Baumholder and was stationed in Darmstadt. In 1953, Bud was discharged from the United States Army. He went on to graduate from Merrillville High School in 1965 and then became a telephone repairman for AT&T, where he worked for thirty-five years until his retirement from his position of Repair Foreman. Post retirement, Bud worked for Gary Methodist Hospitals as a Communications Director, overseeing the installation and maintenance of the phone systems, a position he held for ten years.

Bud is most remembered for his willingness to lend a hand or his assistance with solving a problem. He was also a devoted fisherman who always owned a boat and loved to be on the water. Harold was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his wonderful wife, Grace, and their two beloved children, William A. Maresko and his wife, Elizabeth, and Laura Ann Low and her husband, Kevin, as well as two amazing grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many other dear family members and friends, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Harold William "Bud" Maresko for his outstanding service to the United States military and for his devotion to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. Bud's life of

service is truly commendable, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING BUFFY SMITH OF  
HELENA

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Buffy Smith of Helena for encouraging female students to study computer science and for emphasizing the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Buffy grew up in and graduated high school in Gardiner. She then went to Carroll College where she majored in English and minored in Computer Science. Following her undergraduate studies, she earned a secondary high school teaching endorsement in computer science. It was there she found her call to teach.

As an educator for 27 years, Buffy is breaking down barriers, paving the way for female and minority students to find their way into computer science.

This year, Buffy received the National Educator Award from the National Center for Women and Information Technology. The award honors educators who encourage underrepresented students to participate in computer science. Buffy won statewide awards in 2014, 2015, and 2017.

When Buffy began teaching, she thought she would focus mostly on academics. Years later, she came to believe the relationships developed in the classroom are as critical.

With her commitment to her students and her knowledge of computer science, Buffy has created an all-inclusive approach to the subject. She prioritizes encouraging students to work with others who have different views and thus enhance the outcome of a project.

Buffy mentors girls in her class and encourages them to explore computer science and technology careers. She says, as with her classroom, computer science and other STEM fields can only improve with greater diversification.

Madam Speaker, for her dedication to educating Montana students and for encouraging more young people, particularly young women, to study computer science and other STEM fields, I recognize Buffy Smith of Helena for her Spirit of Montana.

CONGRATULATING WASHOE RTC  
CEO LEE GIBSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lee Gibson on his retire-

ment from the Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), where he served as Chief Executive Officer since September 2009.

Having begun his career at Washoe RTC during the height of the Great Recession, Mr. Gibson immediately restructured the agency's transit service to cut costs, preserve service, and build a stronger footing toward sustainability.

With a career spanning 36 years, Mr. Gibson has become a recognized leader in the transportation community, earning some of the highest awards from the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), including the prestigious DeBoer Award for his planning leadership in Nevada. Mr. Gibson has also served on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Board of Directors, as Chairman of its Policy and Planning Committee, and as an APTA speaker on performance-based planning.

During his tenure at the Washoe RTC, Mr. Gibson's organizational leadership, planning policies, and innovative project delivery methods have successfully resulted in well over \$750 million of multimodal highway projects in Washoe County, eventually leading the RTC to earn a Silver-level of recognition from the APTA's Sustainability Program in August 2017.

Today, Washoe RTC's transit service employs cutting-edge electric buses, customer service information technologies, and is preparing to expand service. Additionally, our region's highway system supports connectivity that has greatly improved the traveling public's accessibility to jobs, while offering new opportunities to move throughout the region.

Without a doubt, Mr. Gibson's investment in our community's infrastructure projects have significantly improved Nevadans' ability to travel more safely and efficiently.

On behalf of Nevada's Second Congressional District, I offer my sincerest appreciation to Mr. Gibson for his service and wish him all the best on his retirement.

HONORING DR. BENJAMIN BABST  
FOR FORESTRY SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARD

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2019*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Benjamin Babst on receiving the 2019 Ouachita Society of American Forester's Award for Forestry Science Research.

Dr. Babst and his students at the University of Arkansas at Monticello have spent the past five years studying the impact of certain forest management practices on the development of ecosystems. This research includes a study on environmental factors such as flooding or contact with insect species which can influence the growth of the nation's forests. The

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