

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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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

development of this knowledge has also served to influence more innovative forest management practices.

His contribution is not limited to the sphere of research, but also includes his commitment to educating the young people of our district and our state. As a fellow forester, it is a supreme encouragement to see the dedication of Fourth District Arkansans like Dr. Babst to the proper management and stewardship of our nation's forests. I take this time to commend him on receiving this honor and to thank him for his years of study and service.

TRIBUTE HONORING MAYOR
SAMUEL EUGENE MURRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding South Carolinian, leader, public servant, and personal friend. Samuel Eugene Murray has ably served as Mayor of Port Royal, South Carolina for the past 24 years, and will be leaving office at the end of 2019.

Mr. Murray is a native of Dorchester County and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from South Carolina State University. He continued his graduate studies at The Citadel, University of South Carolina, Appalachian State and Harvard University.

Mr. Murray is an educator at heart and served 16 years as a teacher in the Beaufort Country School System. He rose to become an elementary school principal for another 20 years. During his tenure as principal, Mr. Murray was the recipient of a \$50,000 Science Foundation Grant and was the only Principal from South Carolina chosen to attend that Summer's Principal Institute at Harvard University.

He has always had a passion for public service. Mr. Murray served on the Port Royal Town Council for 17 years before becoming mayor. During his tenure as mayor, he worked to improve his city's infrastructure with a new town hall, police station, and fire station. He also oversaw the city's growth with the construction of new health care centers, several commercial buildings, numerous businesses, apartment complexes, single family homes, and fast food facilities. During his time in office, Port Royal's population increased from 1,500 to approximately 13,600.

In addition, Mr. Murray has been a servant leader in his community by mentoring a young man with special needs for thirty years, serving as coach for the Neighborhood Youth Core Baseball Team, and volunteering as a homebuilder for Habitat for Humanity. He is involved in many organizations and has served in leadership roles in several of them.

He is currently a board member of the Low Country Blood Alliance and a member of the South Carolina Black Mayors Association. He has served on the Beaufort County Board of Special Needs, the Board of the Municipal Association and the Reconstruction Era Committee that laid the foundation for what is now the Reconstruction Era National Park.

Because of his tremendous service, Mr. Murray has received numerous awards and special recognitions. He was awarded the Life-

time Achievement CIVITAS Award for Business excellence presented by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Joe Wilson Second Congressional District Minority Advisory Committee Award, and the Special President's Award by the Montford Point Marine Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and sincere gratitude to Mayor Samuel Eugene Murray for his unwavering service to his community. His extraordinary work has made a great impact in the lives of the citizens of Port Royal and I honor him for his selfless deeds throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN
DROPIEWSKI FOR A DISTIN-
GUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Jonathan Dropiewski as Mayor of Flat Rock for nine years.

Jonathan Dropiewski has become a cornerstone of the Flat Rock community. After receiving his B.S. from Georgetown University and MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, Dropiewski moved to Flat Rock to begin a family with his wife, Robin, in 2001. Together, the pair raised two children, Nicholas and Alexander, who inspired Dropiewski to strive to ensure Flat Rock remained a wonderful city for people to live, work, and grow. In addition to his successful career in business and technology, Dropiewski set his sights on public service. In 2004, Dropiewski was elected to serve as a City Council member, and simultaneously served as Mayor Pro-Tempore from 2006 to 2007. In 2010, Dropiewski was elected as Flat Rock's Mayor, a position he has held ever since.

Mayor Dropiewski began his tenure at a critical moment in Flat Rock's history. Mayor Dropiewski faced a significant budget cut coupled with the worst financial crisis since the 1980s. Despite these challenges, Mayor Dropiewski's leadership and business expertise led the city to incredible progress and increased economic development, and his efforts have been paramount in ensuring Flat Rock continues to be a vibrant and welcoming destination for businesses, families, young professionals, and the like. Moreover, his leadership has been widely recognized amongst his colleagues and peers. On two occasions, Dropiewski was elected by his fellow mayors and supervisors to be the treasurer and chairman of the Downriver Community Conference. Among a host of other awards and accolades, Dropiewski was also recognized as a Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" Leader, a Detroit Rotary Club Citizen of the Month, and a WWJ Citizen of the Week. Undoubtedly, Mayor Dropiewski is beloved, respected, and appreciated by many, and he has left a mark on the City of Flat Rock that will be remembered forever. He started community events that have brought people together and have become traditions such as the Riverfest, Summer Blast, and Taste of Flat Rock.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jonathan Dropiewski for his years of service to the Flat Rock community. Flat Rock's continued success can be attributed in no small part to Mayor Dropiewski's hard work, leadership, and dedication. We are all grateful for his exemplary service and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF WILLIAM "BILL" MOREAU, JR.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Moreau, Jr. who is retiring from Barnes and Thornburg Law Firm. As a partner in the Firm's Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. offices, Bill has been named as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" for his expertise in higher education and government relations practices.

Bill has provided legal, tactical and fiduciary guidance to a variety of post-secondary education institutions including his undergraduate alma mater. As a graduate of Purdue University, he proudly serves as a trustee. He is also a member of the Indiana State University President's National Advisory Board and the Board of Advisors of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, located in the heart of my congressional district. Bill's expertise in higher education issues was instrumental in the development of Indiana's community college system as a gubernatorial appointee to the Community College Policy Committee.

Bill's government relations practice has included representation at all levels of government over a broad array of issues. Bill is no stranger to Capitol Hill, having worked in both the House and Senate. He also served as Chief of Staff to then-Indiana Secretary of State, Evan Bayh.

For his extensive and passionate work, he has won numerous awards, including being named Master Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation. He also received the 2017 Leadership in Law Distinguished Barristers Award from The Indiana Lawyer and, in 2015, he was Barnes and Thornburg's winner of the Joseph A. Marley Pro Bono Award. As an advocate and engaged citizen, Bill has dedicated his efforts to promote civic literacy and engagement and has worked to reduce homelessness in Indianapolis. He led our community in the effort to create the Blueprint to End Homelessness, which is still hailed as a national model. His ongoing support of this priority includes an annual fellowship funded by Bill and his wife, Ann, to support a graduate student training program to advocate for those impacted by homelessness.

I am proud to call Bill Moreau a friend and advisor, and I'm incredibly grateful for his support and counsel through the years. His passionate work on behalf of all Hoosiers shows that he truly understands the meaning of community, and I applaud him for his efforts to improve ours. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a big impact in his next chapter, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.