

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JUDGE MARY HARPER

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Judge Mary Harper and to wish her well upon her retirement. For her lifetime of service and her dedication to the residents of Porter County, Indiana, Judge Harper is to be highly commended. After more than thirty-five years of service, Judge Harper will be retiring this month from her position as Porter County Circuit Court Judge. To commemorate this special occasion and to pay tribute to her exemplary career, a celebratory event took place on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at the Porter County Expo Center in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Judge Mary Harper grew up in South Bend, Indiana, before pursuing her collegiate studies at Colorado State University and later earning her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University. In 1984, she was elected judge of Porter County Court No. 2, before the state legislature converted her court to Superior Court No. 3 in 1986. In 1996, Judge Harper was elected to the Porter Circuit Court. In this position, Judge Harper presides over the Porter County Juvenile Court. She has been instrumental in implementing successful youth justice initiatives, including Juvenile Drug Court, Family Court, and the Juvenile Truancy Diversion Program, as well as a mental health initiative for juveniles. Each of these innovative and life-changing programs has proven to be of tremendous benefit to the youth and families of the community. I would be remiss if I did not point out that Judge Harper holds the distinction of being the first female Porter County deputy prosecutor and judge, and currently, she is the longest-serving female state court judge in Indiana.

In addition to her outstanding career, Judge Harper has served on many committees and organizational boards including the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Board of Directors for the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, State of Indiana Child Protection Task Force, and she served as Chair of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee, among many others. For her numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, Judge Harper has received numerous awards and accolades throughout her career, and she is truly worthy of the highest praise.

Mary Harper's dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana and her career is exceeded only by her devotion to her beloved husband, David, and her amazing son, James. I'm sure she will be enjoying quality time with her family in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Judge Mary Harper for her outstanding service to the people of Porter County and to

wish her well upon her retirement. Mary's impact on the region and her work with the youth of our communities is truly admirable. For her many contributions, Judge Harper is worthy of our gratitude, and we have been honored to have her presence in the judiciary for so long.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF COLONEL LARRY MCGAUGHY MIMS

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of Colonel Larry McGaughy Mims, who passed away on December 16th at the age of 80.

Colonel Mims, a lifelong resident of Plantersville, Mississippi, answered the call to serve our great nation with the Mississippi National Guard in 1957. During his career, he commanded four Company size units and a Battalion in the Mississippi Army National Guard, including the 106th Forward Support Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division in 1991 during Desert Storm and as the 2nd Army Division Chief, Artillery Engineering Battalion in the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired as a Colonel in 1993 after 37 years of service.

Colonel Mims set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an active member of Plantersville United Methodist Church. Colonel Mims was also an active member in his community with the American Legion and was a Social Studies teacher at Tupelo High School.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 61 years, Laverne Mims of Plantersville, Mississippi; his two sons, Kirk Mims of Benton, Arkansas, and Judge Kelly Mims of Tupelo, Mississippi; as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and extended family members.

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

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, now and in the future the American people need to know the truth about events today as correctly chronicled in this letter from President Trump to Speaker PELOSI. His truth will prevail, despite 93 percent biased media coverage.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, DC, December 17, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, I write to express my strongest and most powerful protest against the partisan impeachment crusade being pursued by the Democrats in the House of Representatives. This impeachment represents an unprecedented and unconstitutional abuse of power by Democrat Lawmakers, unequaled in nearly two and a half centuries of American legislative history.

The Articles of Impeachment introduced by the House Judiciary Committee are not recognizable under any standard of Constitutional theory, interpretation, or jurisprudence. They include no crimes, no misdemeanors, and no offenses whatsoever. You have cheapened the importance of the very ugly word, impeachment!

By proceeding with your invalid impeachment, you are violating your oaths of office, you are breaking your allegiance to the Constitution, and you are declaring open war on American Democracy. You dare to invoke the Founding Fathers in pursuit of this election-nullification scheme—yet your spiteful actions display unfettered contempt for America's founding and your egregious conduct threatens to destroy that which our Founders pledged their very lives to build. Even worse than offending the Founding Fathers, you are offending Americans of faith by continually saying "I pray for the President," when you know this statement is not true, unless it is meant in a negative sense. It is a terrible thing you are doing, but you will have to live with it, not I!

Your first claim, "Abuse of Power," is a completely disingenuous, meritless, and baseless invention of your imagination. You know that I had a totally innocent conversation with the President of Ukraine. I then had a second conversation that has been misquoted, mischaracterized, and fraudulently misrepresented. Fortunately, there was a transcript of the conversation taken, and you know from the transcript (which was immediately made available) that the paragraph in question was perfect. I said to President Zelensky: "I would like you to do us a favor, though, because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it." I said do us a favor, not me, and our country, not a campaign. I then mentioned the Attorney General of the United States. Every time I talk with a foreign leader, I put America's interests first, just as I did with President Zelensky.

You are turning a policy disagreement between two branches of government into an impeachable offense—it is no more legitimate than the Executive Branch charging members of Congress with crimes for the lawful exercise of legislative power.

You know full well that Vice President Biden used his office and \$1 billion dollars of U.S. aid money to coerce Ukraine into firing the prosecutor who was digging into the company paying his son millions of dollars. You know this because Biden bragged about it on video. Biden openly stated: "I said, 'I'm telling you, you're not getting the billion dollars' . . . I looked at them and said: 'I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money.' Well, son of a bitch. He got fired." Even Joe Biden

• 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.

admitted just days ago in an interview with NPR that it “looked bad.” Now you are trying to impeach me by falsely accusing me of doing what Joe Biden has admitted he actually did.

President Zelensky has repeatedly declared that I did nothing wrong, and that there was No Pressure. He further emphasized that it was a “good phone call,” that “I don’t feel pressure,” and explicitly stressed that “nobody pushed me.” The Ukrainian Foreign Minister stated very clearly: “I have never seen a direct link between investigations and security assistance.” He also said there was “No Pressure.” Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, a supporter of Ukraine who met privately with President Zelensky, has said: “At no time during this meeting . . . was there any mention by Zelensky or any Ukrainian that they were feeling pressure to do anything in return for the military aid.” Many meetings have been held between representatives of Ukraine and our country. Never once did Ukraine complain about pressure being applied—not once! Ambassador Sondland testified that I told him: “No quid pro quo. I want nothing. I want nothing. I want President Zelensky to do the right thing, do what he ran on.”

The second claim, so-called “Obstruction of Congress,” is preposterous and dangerous. House Democrats are trying to impeach the duly elected President of the United States for asserting Constitutionally based privileges that have been asserted on a bipartisan basis by administrations of both political parties throughout our Nation’s history. Under that standard every American president would have been impeached many times over. As liberal law professor Jonathan Turley warned when addressing Congressional Democrats: “I can’t emphasize this enough . . . if you impeach a president, if you make a high crime and misdemeanor out of going to the courts, it is an abuse of power. It’s your abuse of power. You’re doing precisely what you’re criticizing the President for doing.”

Everyone, you included, knows what is really happening. Your chosen candidate lost the election in 2016, in an Electoral College landslide (306–227), and you and your party have never recovered from this defeat. You have developed a full-fledged case of what many in the media call Trump Derangement Syndrome and sadly, you will never get over it! You are unwilling and unable to accept the verdict issued at the ballot box during the great Election of 2016. So you have spent three straight years attempting to overturn the will of the American people and nullify their votes. You view democracy as your enemy!

Speaker Pelosi, you admitted just last week at a public forum that your party’s impeachment effort has been going on for “two and a half years,” long before you ever heard about a phone call with Ukraine. Nineteen minutes after I took the oath of office, the Washington Post published a story headlined, “The Campaign to Impeach President Trump Has Begun.” Less than three months after my inauguration, Representative Maxine Waters stated, “I’m going to fight every day until he’s impeached.” House Democrats introduced the first impeachment resolution against me within months of my inauguration, for what will be regarded as one of our country’s best decisions, the firing of James Comey (see Inspector General Reports)—who the world now knows is one of the dirtiest cops our Nation has ever seen. A ranting and raving Congresswoman, Rashida Tlaib, declared just hours after she was sworn into office, “We’re gonna go in there and we’re gonna impeach the motherf\*\*\*\*r.” Representative Al Green said in May, “I’m concerned that if we don’t impeach this presi-

dent, he will get re-elected.” Again, you and your allies said, and did, all of these things long before you ever heard of President Zelensky or anything related to Ukraine. As you know very well, this impeachment drive has nothing to do with Ukraine, or the totally appropriate conversation I had with its new president. It only has to do with your attempt to undo the election of 2016 and steal the election of 2020!

Congressman Adam Schiff cheated and lied all the way up to the present day, even going so far as to fraudulently make up, out of thin air, my conversation with President Zelensky of Ukraine and read this fantasy language to Congress as though it were said by me. His shameless lies and deceptions, dating all the way back to the Russia Hoax, is one of the main reasons we are here today.

You and your party are desperate to distract from America’s extraordinary economy, incredible jobs boom, record stock market, soaring confidence, and flourishing citizens. Your party simply cannot compete with our record: 7 million new jobs; the lowest-ever unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans; a rebuilt military; a completely reformed VA with Choice and Accountability for our great veterans; more than 170 new federal judges and two Supreme Court Justices; historic tax and regulation cuts; the elimination of the individual mandate; the first decline in prescription drug prices in half a century; the first new branch of the United States Military since 1947, the Space Force; strong protection of the Second Amendment; criminal justice reform; a defeated ISIS caliphate and the killing of the world’s number one terrorist leader, al-Baghdadi; the replacement of the disastrous NAFTA trade deal with the wonderful USMCA (Mexico and Canada); a breakthrough Phase One trade deal with China; massive new trade deals with Japan and South Korea; withdrawal from the terrible Iran Nuclear Deal; cancellation of the unfair and costly Paris Climate Accord; becoming the world’s top energy producer; recognition of Israel’s capital, opening the American Embassy in Jerusalem, and recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; a colossal reduction in illegal border crossings, the ending of Catch-and-Release, and the building of the Southern Border Wall—and that is just the beginning, there is so much more: You cannot defend your extreme policies—open borders, mass migration, high crime, crippling taxes, socialized healthcare, destruction of American energy, late-term taxpayer-funded abortion, elimination of the Second Amendment, radical far-left theories of law and justice, and constant partisan obstruction of both common sense and common good.

There is nothing I would rather do than stop referring to your party as the Do-Nothing Democrats. Unfortunately, I don’t know that you will ever give me a chance to do so.

After three years of unfair and unwarranted investigations, 45 million dollars spent, 18 angry Democrat prosecutors, the entire force of the FBI, headed by leadership now proven to be totally incompetent and corrupt, you have found NOTHING! Few people in high position could have endured or passed this test. You do not know, nor do you care, the great damage and hurt you have inflicted upon wonderful and loving members of my family. You conducted a fake investigation upon the democratically elected President of the United States, and you are doing it yet again.

There are not many people who could have taken the punishment inflicted during this period of time, and yet done so much for the success of America and its citizens. But instead of putting our country first, you have

decided to disgrace our country still further. You completely failed with the Mueller report because there was nothing to find, so you decided to take the next hoax that came along, the phone call with Ukraine—even though it was a perfect call. And by the way, when I speak to foreign countries, there are many people, with permission, listening to the call on both sides of the conversation.

You are the ones interfering in America’s elections. You are the ones subverting America’s Democracy. You are the ones Obstructing Justice. You are the ones bringing pain and suffering to our Republic for your own selfish personal, political, and partisan gain.

Before the Impeachment Hoax, it was the Russian Witch Hunt. Against all evidence, and regardless of the truth, you and your deputies claimed that my campaign colluded with the Russians—a grave, malicious, and slanderous lie, a falsehood like no other. You forced our Nation through turmoil and torment over a wholly fabricated story, illegally purchased from a foreign spy by Hillary Clinton and the DNC in order to assault our democracy. Yet, when the monstrous lie was debunked and this Democrat conspiracy dissolved into dust, you did not apologize. You did not recant. You did not ask to be forgiven. You showed no remorse, no capacity for self-reflection. Instead, you pursued your next libelous and vicious crusade—you engineered an attempt to frame and defame an innocent person. All of this was motivated by personal political calculation. Your Speakership and your party are held hostage by your most deranged and radical representatives of the far left. Each one of your members lives in fear of a socialist primary challenger—this is what is driving impeachment. Look at Congressman Nadler’s challenger. Look at yourself and others. Do not take our country down with your party.

If you truly cared about freedom and liberty for our Nation, then you would be devoting your vast investigative resources to exposing the full truth concerning the FBI’s horrifying abuses of power before, during, and after the 2016 election—including the use of spies against my campaign, the submission of false evidence to a FISA court, and the concealment of exculpatory evidence in order to frame the innocent. The FBI has great and honorable people, but the leadership was inept and corrupt. I would think that you would personally be appalled by these revelations because in your press conference the day you announced impeachment, you tied the impeachment effort directly to the completely discredited Russia Hoax, declaring twice that “all roads lead to Putin,” when you know that is an abject lie. I have been far tougher on Russia than President Obama ever even thought to be.

Any member of Congress who votes in support of impeachment—against every shred of truth, fact, evidence, and legal principle—is showing how deeply they revile the voters and how truly they detest America’s Constitutional order. Our Founders feared the tribalization of partisan politics, and you are bringing their worst fears to life.

Worse still, I have been deprived of basic Constitutional Due Process from the beginning of this impeachment scam right up until the present. I have been denied the most fundamental rights afforded by the Constitution, including the right to present evidence, to have my own counsel present, to confront accusers, and to call and cross-examine witnesses, like the so-called whistle blower who started this entire hoax with a false report of the phone call that bears no relationship to the actual phone call that was made. Once I presented the transcribed call, which surprised and shocked the fraudsters (they never thought that such evidence would be presented), the so-called

whistleblower, and the second whistleblower, disappeared because they got caught, their report was a fraud, and they were no longer going to be made available to us. In other words, once the phone call was made public, your whole plot blew up, but that didn't stop you from continuing.

More due process was afforded to those accused in the Salem Witch Trials.

You and others on your committees have long said impeachment must be bipartisan—it is not. You said it was very divisive—it certainly is, even far more than you ever thought possible—and it will only get worse!

This is nothing more than an illegal, partisan attempted coup that will, based on recent sentiment, badly fail at the voting booth. You are not just after me, as President, you are after the entire Republican Party. But because of this colossal injustice, our party is more united than it has ever been-before. History will judge you harshly as you proceed with this impeachment charade. Your legacy will be that of turning the House of Representatives from a revered legislative body into a Star Chamber of partisan persecution.

Perhaps most insulting of all is your false display of solemnity. You apparently have so little respect for the American People that you expect them to believe that you are approaching this impeachment somberly, reservedly, and reluctantly. No intelligent person believes what you are saying. Since the moment I won the election, the Democrat Party has been possessed by Impeachment Fever. There is no reticence. This is not a somber affair. You are making a mockery of impeachment and you are scarcely concealing your hatred of me, of the Republican Party, and tens of millions of patriotic Americans. The voters are wise, and they are seeing straight through this empty, hollow, and dangerous game you are playing.

I have no doubt the American people will hold you and the Democrats fully responsible in the upcoming 2020 election. They will not soon forgive your perversion of justice and abuse of power.

There is far too much that needs to be done to improve the lives of our citizens. It is time for you and the highly partisan Democrats in Congress to immediately cease this impeachment fantasy and get back to work for the American People. While I have no expectation that you will do so, I write this letter to you for the purpose of history and to put my thoughts on a permanent and indelible record.

One hundred years from now, when people look back at this affair, I want them to understand it, and learn from it, so that it can never happen to another President again.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
*President of the United States of America.*

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLICS FOR HOUSING

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Catholics for Housing on its 40th anniversary. For the last four decades, this organization has worked tirelessly to empower families and individuals by providing them with sustainable housing opportunities.

Catholics for Housing was founded in 1979 with the recognition that safe shelter is the

foundation for stability, potential, and future success. The dedicated directors, staff, and donors are committed to assisting our vulnerable neighbors in their times of need. They do this regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, or religious affiliation.

The organization has a variety of different programs in order to make the strongest impact possible. This includes helping those with limited income find affordable homes to rent and aiding seniors so they can live independently. It provides a network of support to promote sustainable change, with the belief that everyone has the potential to succeed if their basic needs are met. Through faith, Catholics for Housing has provided many with homes in which they can build their futures.

Time and time again Catholics for housing has been there for vulnerable groups. The impact that Catholics for Housing has had on Northern Virginia is invaluable and impossible to measure. We are truly grateful for all that the organization has done for our communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating Catholics for Housing on its 40th anniversary. I also commend every member of the organization and all those who have contributed their time, financial support, and efforts to this mission. I thank Catholics for Housing for the diligent work in our community and wish it continued success.

#### TRIBUTE TO LESLIE ALBRIGHT

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leslie Albright, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who plans to retire after 17 years with the Committee.

Leslie, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the State University of New York in Plattsburgh and a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Boston University, started her Federal career in 1991 working for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration. She later went on to become a management and budget analyst for the Department of Commerce.

In 2001, Leslie joined the House Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee where she was responsible for funding and oversight of the Department of Justice. In the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks that happened on September 11th of that year, Leslie and Chairman Wolf worked tirelessly to ensure that the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in particular, had the resources necessary to protect the nation. Leslie's efforts helped reform the FBI from an organization focused on criminal investigations into an intelligence organization capable of addressing today's security threats.

Leslie's work protecting our nation did not end with the FBI. She went on to work for the Defense Subcommittee where she should focus on national security programs.

After having her son, Marion, Leslie worked for the Committee's Surveys and Investigations staff where she conducted programmatic

reviews of the Departments of State and Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Capitol Police.

In 2011, Leslie rejoined the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee. Here she worked to improve fisheries management, weather forecasting, disaster response and protection of intellectual property rights. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase the amount of basic research conducted in the United States and worked with the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA) on space exploration. Leslie and Chairman Culberson worked not only to ensure that NASA had the resources required for a robust space exploration program but challenged NASA to develop executable and achievable plans. When NASA returns to the Moon, explores Mars, and finds life on another planet or the Jupiter moon, Europa, know that Leslie helped lay the ground work for these missions to be developed and appropriately resourced.

In 2019, Leslie became the Republican Clerk of the Defense Subcommittee. It is in this position that I began working closely with Leslie. In short amount of time, she became an expert on the operations of the Defense Department and has been a critical advisor to myself and Ranking Member Calvert.

I am very thankful for Leslie's hard work, over numerous years and at great sacrifice to her family, to support the Appropriations Committee and operations of the Federal government. Leslie's contributions have improved so many Federal programs and agencies. She has protected our nation from countless threats, advanced science in America, and pushed NASA to dream big and inspire the nation.

I know Leslie is looking forward to spending more well deserved time with her family. We wish her well, thank her for everything she has done for the country, and know that she will excel at any future endeavors she pursues.

#### HONORING ANITA BLANTON FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Anita Blanton on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Women in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents, and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Anita Blanton's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Ms. Blanton generously serves the community as an award-winning co-anchor for WAVY-TV 10, Hampton Roads' NBC affiliate.

Ms. Blanton thrives on reporting the big story for her viewers. Some of the most memorable reporting of her career has involved severe weather, frequently covering President George W. Bush, visiting world leaders, and the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech. Ms.

Blanton also field anchored annual coverage from the site of the Oklahoma City Bombing on the tragic event's three-year anniversary.

Ms. Blanton was named to the inaugural Virginian Pilot Inside Business Top 40 Under 40. She has won numerous awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Associated Press for her work as an anchor and reporter. She has also received several community service awards including a Silver Star Legacy Award from the Urban League of Hampton Roads. And in 2019, she received the American Heart Association's Social Impact Media Award.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the National Association of Black Journalists demonstrates her heart for service. She fervently fights to strengthen ties to the local community through media awareness. Ms. Blanton's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Blanton's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO TOM LUND

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special recognition to Tom Lund, of Marion County, Kentucky, for his remarkable career and outstanding contributions to the local community and beyond. This year marks his retirement and I want to congratulate him for many decades of success.

After living and working in several areas across the country, Tom came to Marion County in 1992 to serve as Economic Development Director. His long-term vision for economic growth and his pragmatic approach to attracting industry led to a remarkable 27-year career in the Region.

When Tom began his work in Marion County the area had only a few industries. Now, the community boasts over 34 industries and is considered the manufacturing center of Central Kentucky. His efforts have also led to greater ease of transportation and broader access to water resources and local industry.

Once again, I want to congratulate Tom Lund on his notable career and recent retirement. I thank him for being an exceptional leader and advocate for economic opportunity in the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. Norman. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Friday, December 6th, due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 652; YEA on Roll Call No. 653; and NAY on Roll Call No. 654.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation on its 30th anniversary. With the core values of compassion and altruism, Good Shepherd Housing Foundation has positively impacted vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

The Good Shepherd Housing Foundation's mission is to provide housing options for those that struggle with mental health, those who face financial struggles, and in some cases both. They are able to reach these goals and support those in need through community support and the collaboration of their staff with local partners, generous volunteers and donors. Since 1989, the organization has established a variety of programs, each tailored to the needs of its clientele. Through addressing the most basic human need of safe shelter, the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation has been a vital asset to the community. For the last 30 years, the organization has demonstrated their devotion to helping those in need. It is constantly evolving and creating innovative new ways to increase its impact.

As Prince William County grows, Good Shepherd Housing provides affordable renting programs as well as transitional housing for the homeless who are affected by serious mental illness, the organization provides mental health support through the county's community services. Good Shepherd Housing Foundation understands that a safe and stable place to call home is an absolute necessity before progress can be made in addressing other underlying issues and restoring self-sufficiency. Good Shepherd Housing Foundation saves lives, and we are truly blessed to have them doing this great work in Prince William County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation on its 30th anniversary. I also commend the staff, board of directors, volunteers and supporters who have worked so diligently to make the success of the last 30-years possible. I thank them for their immense contributions to our community and wish them continued success.

SALUTING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER SANTAY

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the many accomplishments of Senior Master Sergeant Christopher Santay, who has served our nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania admirably for more than 30 years, including 16 years in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

After enlisting in the Army Reserves in September 1987, Senior Master Sergeant Santay completed basic training at Fort Dix in New

Jersey. For over three decades, he has dedicated his time and talents to serving our nation. Senior Master Sergeant Santay completed deployments in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2015, and 2019.

In recognition of his longstanding service, Senior Master Sergeant Santay has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the USAF Commendation Medal, the USAF Achievement Medal, the USA Achievement Medal, and the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

It is my sincere honor to congratulate Senior Master Sergeant Santay on his remarkable accomplishments and to thank him for his tireless devotion to Pennsylvania and our nation.

HONORING KIMBERLY JENKINS FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Kimberly Jenkins on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Kimberly Jenkins' lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Ms. Jenkins' generously serves the community as a CEO and President at Attie Mac Resource Group, LLC, Radio Personality of WHOV 88.1 FM and iHeart radio, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Adjunct Instructor for the University of the Virgin Island. Her service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and her church, Favor Nation in Chesapeake, demonstrates her heart for service.

Ms. Jenkins' dedication to educating and strengthening bonds among people of different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Jenkins' leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

HONORING DR. PAUL ANTONIK FOR BEING RECOGNIZED IN THE 2019 COHORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Paul Antonik for being recognized in the 2019 cohort of the Presidential Rank Awards.

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 established the Presidential Rank Awards Program to recognize a select group of career members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for

exceptional performance over an extended period of time. Dr. Paul Antonik has been recognized among the handful of individuals for the meritorious senior professional award for his work in the Department of the Air force. These individuals are recognized for a sustained record of exceptional professional, technical, and/or scientific achievement.

It is truly an honor to represent such talented, dedicated individuals in Congress. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank him for his exceptional work and wish him the best throughout the rest of your career.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I missed the first vote series on Wednesday, December 11th, due to a groundbreaking ceremony for a business in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 668; NAY on Roll Call No. 669; NAY on Roll Call No. 670; and NAY on Roll Call No. 671.

IN HONOR OF LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, PRINCE WILLIAM, INC. THE REWARDS AND RECOGNITION NIGHT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Literacy Volunteers of America, Prince William, Inc. and the 2019 award recipients. These honorees have dedicated themselves to promoting educational opportunities and to continuing their own education.

LVA-PW was formed in 1991 by a local librarian, joined by other librarians and teachers to provide adult literacy services. Its mission is to teach adults the skills of reading, writing, and speaking English in order to help individuals increase their chances of success and expand their professional and personal opportunities. With the help of more than 220 professionally-trained volunteer tutors, this program helps over 700 adults each year. It is the largest adult literacy non-profit in the county and is tuition free. At the Rewards and Recognition Night LVA-PW honors the Tutor of the Year, Student of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2019 award recipients:

Tutor of the Year—Richard Cantu: Richard has been an LVA-PW volunteer tutor for over five years. He also been a 1-1 tutor and tutored an Adult Basic Education class to help low-level students improve their reading and writing skills so that they can successfully enter the GED program. Richard has been instrumental in helping over 250 students during his time in our program. His hard work and dedication have positively impacted the lives of over 800 family members. Since becoming

a volunteer, he has contributed over 550 tutoring hours and over 220 hours on other activities including lesson-planning. His students have told our staff how much they look forward to Mr. Rick's class—he always has a smile and positive outlook and is encouraging to every student he tutors.

Student of the Year—Mashood Ahmed: Mashood is originally from Pakistan and moved here less than two years ago to be with his family. Mashood has been a student in the program for just over one year. He joined this program to better his life and further his education. His goal is to improve his reading and writing to earn his GED credential and eventually attend Northern Virginia Community College. Mashood works part-time at a local school cafeteria and Wendy's in Dale City, where he practices his English on the job. Since enrolling in our program, he has had over 150 hours of instruction, is passionate about improving his literacy skills and is committed to excellence at all levels. His tutors are proud of his work and Mashood sets an example for his classmates.

Volunteer of the Year—The Waite Family: Joe, Tiffany, Dora, and Maggie are examples of exemplary citizenship and nurturing spirit in the community. For over 10 years they have supported Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William, Inc. They are also active in Azalea Charities and numerous other national and community endeavors. Their consistent involvement has helped elevate the LVA-PW program this last decade.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating Richard Cantu, Mashood Ahmed, and the Waite Family, on being honored by the Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William, Inc. and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF MR. ANDREW "CLYDE" NEAVES

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of World War II veteran, Mr. Andrew "Clyde" Neaves, of Saultillo, Mississippi.

Mr. Neaves served as a Weapons Repair Specialist for the 1804th Aviation Ordnance with the United States Army Air Corps beginning in 1942. During his service, he spent over two and a half years in the South Pacific. He completed his service in 1945.

After the war, Mr. Neaves returned to Saultillo, Mississippi and was an employee of Phillips Day-Brite Industries for 35 years. He started a family and had four children with his wife, Mrs. Agnes Marie Neaves. Mr. Neaves has remained active in his beloved community of Saultillo. He has served on the Saultillo Board of Alderman, was Vice-Mayor, and was a recipient of the Saultillo "Citizen of the Year" award.

This year, Mr. Neaves celebrated his 98th birthday. Mr. Neaves is an American patriot who served our great nation and continues to set an example for others to follow. I wish him many more years of good health.

HONORING VERONICA McMILLIAN FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Veronica McMillian on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tide-water Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Ms. McMillian's lifetime of service and commitment to the uplifting and inspiring presentations on empowerment and love. She generously serves the community with civility and justice.

Ms. McMillian grew up understanding the importance of being an entrepreneur and serving her community. She is a Non-Profit Consultant & Trainer, renown for her inspiring presentation. She is the Founder/President of The Micro-Nonprofit Network Inc. founded to help small organizations grow and to provide impactful and effective programs in the communities they serve. She also serves on the board of The World-Wide Women's Group Inc. and Beacon of Hope Inc.

Ms. McMillian devoted 25 years to education, training, community outreach, program development and counseling. Using her knowledge as an educator and trainer, she has helped empower individuals and transform organizations. In 2019, she was awarded the Community Impact Award from Christian Women Alliance. In 2018, she was awarded the MLK Nonprofit award from Global Ministries. In 2011, she received The Career Engineer's Non-Profit award. And in October 2009, Mrs. McMillian received the FBI's Community Director's Award for the Boys to Men program she created in 2008.

Ms. McMillian's dedication to educating and strengthening bonds among people is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. McMillian's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF EVELYN M. VIRNIG

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Evelyn M. Virnig who passed away on November 30, 2019 at the age of 93.

Evelyn Margaret Mary Theresa Brandenburger Virnig is lovingly remembered as a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, friend and community supporter by her 7 children, 19 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great grandchildren, 4 siblings and countless other family and friends. In

fact, family and friends came to call her “Evelyn of the Angels” for the love she showed for all through her many good deeds.

One of Evelyn’s dear friends who will fondly remember her endless warmth and kindness is Mamie Singleton, a retired Sergeant in the Saint Paul Police Department and founder of Youth Initiative Mentorship Academies (YIMA). YIMA uses aviation to bring at-risk youth and adults together to foster authentic relationships and build confidence.

Throughout her life, Evelyn brought people together and served as a positive role model for youth, so it’s no surprise that she and Mamie became friends and partners through YIMA. This work reached soaring heights when, at the age of 90, Evelyn took controls of her first YIMA flight, realizing a lifelong dream to fly an airplane. According to Mamie, Evelyn was incredibly proud of her contributions to the lives of young people—and was thrilled by her exciting turn at the controls.

Madam Speaker, thank you for rising with me to pay tribute to Evelyn “of the Angels” Virnig for her incredible and lasting contributions to her family and our community.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JAMES “WOODY” CHAVIS, JR. FOR 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief of Police James “Woody” Chavis, Jr. for 37 years of service to the City of Kannapolis, located in North Carolina’s Eighth Congressional District.

Chief Chavis is a compassionate leader and has been a stabilizing influence in the Kannapolis Police Department during a period of unprecedented growth. He began his career in 1974 with the United States Army Military Police and retires today as the Kannapolis Police Chief.

As a small child, Chief Chavis dreamed of giving back to his community through law enforcement and joined the Kannapolis Police Department in 1983. He served in every division during his distinguished career and through his leadership, Kannapolis Police Department become a stand-alone organization, received national accreditation, and tripled in size. Chief Chavis prides himself on the City’s low crime rate and on never having to fire his weapon.

Chief Chavis has volunteered and served on numerous boards in pursuance of mental health and juvenile justice reforms. While most would be overwhelmed performing his duties with the Kannapolis Police Department, Chavis also worked for 17 years as NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt’s jackman on his pit crew.

Chief Chavis now plans to spend more time with his wife of 19 years, Deena; daughter, Kaci; stepson, Shane; and beloved canine companions, Sadie and Major. He will continue to care for our community’s elderly population and hopes to spend more time on the golf course. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his service and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Chief James “Woody” Chavis, Jr. for his 37 years of service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on the Rule yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 684.

HONORING FRANCINE HUMPHREY FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Francine Humphrey on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Ms. Humphrey’s lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. She generously serves the community as a CEO of Issues Concerning Women and the former CEO/Co-Founder of Focuss Group, LLC a business Development and career Services company.

Ms. Humphrey is a Bank One Master Financial Trainer and Financial Coach and loves working with the Financial Empowerment Team and the community. She hosts and teaches a monthly small business workshop at her office.

In 2007, Ms. Humphrey established Issues Concerning Women (ICW) Inc., which focuses on women reaching their long-term and short-term goals by assisting women in housing, financial, and life skills. ICW provides advocacy and services to stabilize households and foster a sense of community involvement, self-worth, and determination among women.

In 2013 she was presented the “Beacon of Hope Award” from the Urban League Guild of Hampton Road. Additionally, she was named Small Business Guru in 2016 by G. Paris Media Group and received the Presidential Drum Major Award from President Obama in 2017.

Ms. Humphrey’s dedication as an inspirational speaker, spiritual coach, and author is incredibly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Humphrey’s leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA PENEBAKER

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career and ongoing legacy of Milwaukee’s own Paula Penebaker. Ms. Penebaker, the President & CEO of the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) of Southeast Wisconsin, is retiring on December 31, 2019.

Paula enjoyed a successful career in the for-profit sector in the Management Systems Division at The Procter & Gamble Company and later with First Wisconsin Bank in Training & Development, departing as the Vice President & Diversity Manager, prior to joining YWCA. She decided to take her talents to the non-profit sector and joined YWCA as the Chief Human Resources and Facilities Officer in 1999. Five years later, she was appointed Executive Director and later designated the President & CEO of the agency.

As the head of this prestigious organization, Paula was dedicated to eliminating racism and improving the lives of all women. Under her leadership, the YWCA strategically promoted and advanced racial justice, economic empowerment, and health and safety for women and girls of color. The programs offered included High School Equivalency Diploma and GED Preparation & Testing, Employment Readiness, Personal Financial Management, as well as resources and programs that created lasting and meaningful change to their clients.

Even while performing her duties as President & CEO of the YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, Paula found time to serve on the board of directors for the Rotary Club of Milwaukee and Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., and as a member of the Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and the Milwaukee Chapter of The Links Incorporated. She was also a trustee for the Public Policy Forum and Milwaukee County Federated Library System. Furthermore, her devotion and commitment to service has been recognized with awards from the Milwaukee Business Journal, Community Brainstorming Conference, North Central Service Club, the Medical College of Wisconsin, BizTimes, Professional Dimensions and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Paula is a pioneer who has spent her life carrying a torch of justice to ignite and empower generations of women to fight back. She changed her career trajectory because she wanted to ensure that each day she was using all her might to fight and eliminate injustices toward women and people of color in this country, not for personal recognition.

Madam Speaker, Paula Penebaker has made the 4th Congressional District, Wisconsin and the nation a better place. She is a staunch defender and advocate for justice, and I applaud her contributions. As she embarks upon a new chapter of her life, I know that her fight and quest for justice will not end.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER  
COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Christopher Columbus High School, which celebrated its first football state championship last week.

This recent victory is the result of the hard work and determination of student-athletes, coaches, parents, and the entire Columbus community. This strong character is what helped the Columbus Explorers pull off a dramatic victory with a two-point conversion in the final seconds of the championship game. This year's state title put Columbus' reputation for resilience and hardwork reputation on full display.

In the state championship game, Columbus was faced with what may have been its biggest challenge all season. With little over four minutes left, the Explorers were down 20–7. In spite the odds being stacked against them and the early celebrations of opposing team, Columbus came out on top once again.

The Explorers overcame obstacle after obstacle. They scored 14 unanswered points, with the final two points coming with eight seconds left to take the lead and win the championship game.

The state title is reflective of Columbus' success not only as a football team, but also as an institution. For decades, Columbus has produced illustrious alumni who have contributed to our community, our country and the world. This success is only made possible through the school's fighting spirit and integrity, which is exactly what the football team left on the field for all to see.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS AND  
STAFF ON THE DEDICATION OF  
THE NEW ARMED FORCES SERVICE  
CENTER AT THE SAINT  
PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the dedicated volunteers and staff of the Armed Forces Service Center at the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport as they prepare to dedicate a new, larger location. Since the center was opened nearly 50 years ago, more than one million active-duty military personnel, dependents and retirees have received a warm Minnesota welcome and hospitality from its volunteers.

During the Vietnam War, Naval Petty Officer Scott Purdum wrote letters to his mother suggesting that dedicated space in the airport be provided for service members to rest and help boost their morale. He encouraged his mother Maggie to pursue creation of such a place. Sadly, Petty Officer Purdum was killed in a plane crash at the Da Nang Air Base in March 1970. Channeling her grief into action, Maggie started working with airport authorities to make her son's dream a reality for current and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces. She was

granted 600 square feet in a corner of the main floor of the airport, and on November 22, 1970, just four days before Thanksgiving, the doors to the Servicemen's Center were opened for the first time. Those doors have never closed.

The Armed Forces Service Center continues to serve traveling members of the U.S. Armed Forces, family members and veterans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the full cooperation of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the new space is now located behind security and is double the size of the old center to allow for more bunks, a laundry room, a place to store baggage, and even a children's playroom and a place for nursing mothers. This expansion will allow the Armed Forces Service Center to enhance their mission of "Serving Those Who Serve" as they begin their 50th year of service.

While it is supported by a small staff including Executive Director, Debra Cain, and four part-time employees, the non-profit center is run and staffed by nearly 200 volunteers—many of whom are veterans. One of the volunteers for the very first shift in 1970, Jeanne Morford, continues to serve at the center every Monday evening. Operating independently of any national organization, the center relies solely on donations from the community.

It has been a privilege and honor to support the center for many years as a volunteer and as an auxiliary member of the North Saint Paul VFW Post 1350 American Legion Post 39. I have seen firsthand the impact that center volunteers make providing hospitality to our servicemen and women, veterans and their families.

The success of staff and volunteers has not gone unnoticed. In 2012 the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center was named winner of the Joining Forces Community Challenge and honored at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden as part of their Joining Forces Initiative.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to our U.S. Servicemen and women and the selfless volunteers of the Saint Paul-Minneapolis Airport Armed Forces Service Center as they enter a new era of providing excellent hospitality to U.S. servicemen and women, veterans and families.

HONORING LISA LUCAS-BURKE  
FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN  
THE COMMUNITY SERVICE  
AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Lisa Lucas-Burke on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor persons who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Lisa Lucas-Burke's lifetime of public service and commitment to the City of Portsmouth, Virginia, as she gener-

ously serves as the City of Portsmouth Vice-Mayor.

Mrs. Lucas-Burke has been employed with the City of Portsmouth for over thirty years and has broken barriers in becoming the only African American female since 1988 to obtain the position of Computer Programmer Analyst in the City of Portsmouth's Information Technology Department. Mrs. Lucas-Burke continues to serve her community with her family business as Program Director and currently serves as Executive Director and partner with Lucas Lodge entities operating at Lucas Professional Center in Portsmouth.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Steering Committee, and the Portsmouth Democratic Committee demonstrates her heart for service. She put enormous efforts in strengthening ties to the local community with her civic involvement with various organizations. Mrs. Lucas-Burke's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Mrs. Lucas-Burke's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. The Tidewater Region has significantly benefited from her presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RALPH NORMAN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Thursday, September 26th, due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 549; NAY on Roll Call No. 550; YEA on Roll Call No. 551; NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; YEA on Roll Call No. 554; and NAY on Roll Call No. 555.

HONORING KENDALL W. LANE,  
MAYOR OF KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kendall W. Lane for his service as the Mayor of Keene, New Hampshire.

After completing four-terms as the Mayor of Keene, Kendall announced his retirement this year. Kendall has a long history of public service and serving the city of Keene, which is marked by his service on the Keene City Council from 1986 until 1993 and again in 2007 until 2011. As Mayor, Kendall has many significant achievements during his time in office, including the redevelopment of Marlboro Street, renovations to the Keene Public Library, and the completion of the Keene Ice Arena in 2016.

As Mayor, Kendall has made climate change a focal point of the City's efforts, and during his tenure, the Keene Community created a clean energy committee and committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in ten years. Mayor Lane's distinguished

service has left a meaningful impact in the Monadnock Region and the Granite State.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I commend Kendall Lane and wish him all the best in the coming years. I look forward to our continued work together to support the Keene community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL ON ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on the 170th anniversary of its founding. Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue located in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. It is one of the oldest synagogues in the United States still housing its original congregation.

As immigrants from across Europe made their way to the United States in the mid-19th century, a group of German Jews settled in the Pocono Mountains in Northeastern Pennsylvania, drawn by the prospect of employment with the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company. In the fall of 1849, a small group from that wave of settlers saw the need for a Jewish congregation in the recently-formed community of Honesdale. Together they formed the first Jewish congregation in the area—Congregation Beth Israel. Its beginning was humble; the group met in one of the member's homes to worship in the Orthodox tradition using a borrowed Torah.

The Congregation continued to grow and flourish under its first spiritual leader, Rabbi Kutner. In 1850, the congregation drafted a constitution, purchased its own Torah, Shofar, and Megillah, and started a cemetery that is still in use. By 1854, the Congregation had its own Hebrew school. In 1856, the Congregation dedicated its Colonial meeting-house style building. Despite its early reputation as the smallest synagogue in the United States, the building went on to undergo several renovations and restorations over its impressive history, including the addition of gothic style stained glass windows, a sanctuary decorated with a chandelier and Tiffany globe sconces, and an annex.

Between 1880 and 1890, the Jewish population in Honesdale declined, leaving the Congregation unable to maintain a full-time local rabbi after 1891. Congregation Beth Israel persisted in the face of these challenges and adapted to meet the changing needs of their community. The Congregation, which began as Orthodox, began to transform to reflect the German Reform or Classical Reform Tradition. The 1930s and 1940s saw an increase of Eastern European Jews, and the Congregation began to change from Classical Reform to a more mainstream Reform congregation.

Today, under the direction of Rabbi Elliott Kleinman and President Liza Roos Lucy, Congregation Beth Israel remains a thriving center for Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Congregation continues to support a religious school, host a variety of Jewish cultural events for the community, and celebrate many B'nai Mitzvah and weddings each year. They

embrace a diverse and dynamic membership with members who can trace their lineage to the early founders of the synagogue and many others who have found and joined the community in the last 15 years. As a member of the Union of Reform Judaism, they are proud of their ability to embrace the changing world around them and welcome progressive values while upholding the spirit and teachings of the faith.

It is an honor to recognize Congregation Beth Israel on their 170th anniversary. May the Congregation continue to build on this impressive legacy of worship and community.

HONORING NATALIE PURDIE FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Natalie Purdie on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Ms. Purdie's lifetime of service and commitment to Domestic Violence Advocacy. As a domestic violence survivor, Natalie has broken her silence to do, "Speak Up and Speak Out!"

Ms. Purdie is a board member and volunteer with My Help My Hope, Inc. She is also a member of the Samaritan House Women Against Violence (WAV) group. She was the keynote speaker for their annual event Unmask Domestic Violence. She was also the guest speaker at Green Run High School in Virginia Beach for their KNOW More Domestic Violence Assembly which was organized by the students.

Ms. Purdie now volunteers with Promise Place teaching the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program to middle and high school students. She was the keynote speaker for Promise Place 1st & 2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Summit at Georgia State University. She was also the panel discussion moderator for 2019.

Ms. Purdie's dedication to helping victims to become survivors and to raise awareness about bills such as the E.R.A. and Marsy's Law in the state of Georgia. I am proud to honor and recognize Ms. Purdie's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 LITERACY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECOGNITION EVENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Vir-

ginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration.

The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole. LCNV serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities. LCNV provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives.

Each year LCNV recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of LCNV. LCNV will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2019 LCNV honorees and scholarship recipient:

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

B.F. Saul Company Hospitality Group  
Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center  
Rotary International District 7610

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Linton Favours  
Fran Perros  
Jody Sweet

PATRICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Santos Rubio

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with LCNV. Volunteers are being recognized for service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years respectively.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

25 years: Avis Black  
20 years: Denise Murray  
15 years: Mary-Jane Roth

10 years: Margaret Breen, Gerry Chiaruttini, Marla Diamond, Naomi Gittins, Lisa Godfrey, Mary Kalfatovic, James Kern, Julia Tungli, Karen Westlake, Suzanne Zimmerman

5 years: Ntasha Atkins, Mary Rose Bayer, Jackie Corkins, Grace Kalfatovic, Donna Martin, Wendy Mayer, Marla Swaby, Michael Wesbecher, Farhana Zaman

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Literary Council of Northern Virginia and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 2019 LCNV Recognition Celebration. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CLARENCE "SMOKY" SMEKOFSKI OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. McCOLLUM, Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the life of Clarence "Smoky" Smekofski. He was a beloved husband, father and uncle. He was also a proud veteran of the United States Navy and a longtime Letter Carrier for the United States

Postal Service. When Smoky passed away earlier this month at the age of 94, he was warmly remembered by his daughter Jeanne-Marie and many relatives and friends for his constant kindness, humor and love of nature.

Throughout his life, Smoky demonstrated the importance of service to his family, our community and our nation. As a Letter Carrier for more than 40 years, he rose as a leader in the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 28 in Saint Paul, always a steadfast advocate for his brothers and sisters who deliver the U.S. mail every day. In his role as Legislative Liaison for Branch 28, I was privileged to work with him to ensure that Letter Carriers have a voice in the U.S. Capitol, and receive fair wages and benefits for their hard work.

In retirement, Smoky stayed active well into this year, because he truly understood the importance of unions, and that Americans depend on Letter Carriers for reliable, six-day, door-to-door mail delivery. His endless dedication and mentorship of rising leaders and collaborative skills truly made a difference. He personified the mission of the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that neither snow, rain, heat nor dark of night get in the way of the delivery of our mail.

It was my pleasure to know and work with Smoky and call him a friend. He was a kind and extraordinary person who will be deeply missed.

Madam Speaker, thank you for rising with me to pay tribute to Clarence "Smoky" Smekofski.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, on roll call no. 685, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA. Also, on roll call no. 686, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

#### HONORING DR. C. ELAINE SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. C. Elaine M. Smith on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents, and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Dr. Smith's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Smith generously serves the community with civility and justice.

As a second grader, Dr. Smith was one of the first to integrate the Virginia Beach City

Public Schools, then known as Princess Anne County. At the age of 6, her parents supported her on a journey of learning experiences that were both negative and positive yet vital to her development.

Dr. Smith has been an agent for change and an advocate for students with disabilities (SWD) as she sought Specials Education as her vocation. She retired from Norfolk Public Schools after more than 30 years, where she served in numerous leadership capacities. Her professional experiences are vast as she has taught students with emotional disabilities, autism, and learning disabilities. As a Teacher Specialist at the district central office level for secondary students with disabilities and as an Educational Diagnostician, her duties were to assess both general and special education students who experienced academic and behavioral challenges in school. In these positions, she made recommendations to improve academic and behavioral deficits and to keep students in the least restrictive environment based on their individualized needs.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Alliance for Black School Educators, National Allies for Parents in Special Education, has allowed her to put enormous efforts in strengthening ties to the local community with her civic involvement with various organizations. Dr. Smith's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Smith's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

#### VETERANS CEMETERY GRANTS IMPROVEMENT ACT

### HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Cemetery Grants Improvement Act, which helps get important operations and maintenance funding to locally-run veterans cemeteries nationwide faster by increasing the amount of grant funds the Department of Veterans Affairs can award for this purpose each year from \$5 million to \$10 million.

Our nation's veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to ensure that our country remains safe and free. While we may never fully repay these men and women for their sacrifices, we must do more to ensure their final resting place, whether in a national cemetery or a locally-run veterans cemetery like the CNMI Veterans Cemetery on Saipan, is operated and maintained with the high standards their families expect and deserve. As more veterans choose to be buried closer to home, more states, territories and tribal governments have applied for funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs to help cover the increasing costs of operating and maintaining their own veterans cemeteries. While the list of pending applications grows, the amount of grants the Department can award each year by law has not.

Under current law, no more than \$5 million in operations and maintenance grants can be awarded per year. The Veterans Cemetery

Grants Improvement Act updates the \$5 million cap to \$10 million so more cemeteries can receive the funding they need to keep up with the rising cost of maintaining them. Increasing the cap to \$10 million is critical as the need for operations and maintenance grant funding grows consistent with the growth of new and expanded cemeteries.

The Veterans Cemetery Grants Improvement Act will help expedite federal support for the over one hundred veteran cemeteries across our country operated by states, tribal nations and territories including my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Act has the endorsement of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

The gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. STEIL, is an original cosponsor of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

#### HONORING LYLE MARTIN ON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE IN BAKERSFIELD

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lyle Martin, Chief of Police for the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD), who is retiring after 31 years of service with the department, the last three as its Chief.

Lyle grew up in southeast Bakersfield, attended South High School, and earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Throughout his career with the BPD, Lyle has served with distinction and been promoted over the years, including serving as a lieutenant in the Gang Unit, Assistant Chief of Police, and finally Chief of Police.

When he is not saving lives, protecting our community, or leading our police force, Lyle can often be found serving many of the important causes in Bakersfield. He is a member of the Bakersfield Downtown Rotary, a member of both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the California Police Officer's Association, and serves as Co-Chairman of the Mendiburu Magic Foundation Board, helping provide local children and their families with support as they battle life-threatening pediatric conditions. As President of the Bakersfield Police Activities League, Lyle has been a key leader in helping develop concrete plans to educate and benefit many of the at-risk youth in some of Bakersfield's most crime-ridden and poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

I want to thank Lyle for all the hard work and long hours he has put in for the City of Bakersfield. I also want to thank his wife, Connie, and their five children, Karl, Warren, Lyle Jr., William, and Lia for their patience over the years as he protected our hometown. I am looking forward to his continued efforts in safeguarding the City of Bakersfield, and now greater Kern County, as he transitions into his new position as the Attorney Investigator for Kern County. I am confident that in his new position, Lyle will continue to work to make Kern County safer and stronger, and that he will continue to serve our community with the highest dignity and respect as demonstrated over his past three decades in law enforcement. On behalf of a grateful community and

the 23rd Congressional District of California, I salute Chief Martin's service and wish him well as he serves the County of Kern.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ROSA  
PORTO

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rosa Porto, who passed away on December 13, 2019, at the age of 89. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and lived a joyous life filled with the love of family and friends. To the people of Southern California, she was also the beloved founder of Porto's Bakery.

Rosa was born in Cuba, and as a young girl, the kitchen was her favorite place to be. Her mother, who came from the Galicia region of Spain, created many sweet treats, and the kitchen was always filled with scents of cinnamon, sugar, and vanilla.

Rosa's life took an unexpected turn when the Portos' attempt to leave Cuba resulted in her being fired from her job, and her husband, Raul Sr., being sent to a labor camp. In 1960, in search of a way to support her family, Rosa turned her passion for baking into an underground business by selling cakes to her friends and neighbors out of her home's small kitchen. Before she knew it, she had built her business into a thriving enterprise with a loyal customer base.

In 1971, Rosa and her family were finally able to emigrate to the United States, and they arrived in California with little more than Rosa's exceptional baking skills, Raul Sr.'s strong work ethic, and their dream to build a better life in America.

Soon afterwards, Rosa began baking and selling cakes to friends and family who had heard about the fabulous cakes she had baked in Cuba. In just a couple of years, Rosa built a new base of devoted customers, and it was common to see buyers lined up outside her little home to pick up their orders.

By 1976, Rosa's home could no longer accommodate the increased demand, and she opened Porto's Bakery, a small 300-square-foot business on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles's Echo Park neighborhood. Raul Sr. would help when he was not working at another local bakery, and after several years, he was able to join Rosa as her business continued to grow.

Rosa's three children, Beatriz, Raul Jr., and Margarita, also helped at the bakery after school and on weekends. The children were greatly inspired by their mother's love of preparing the delicious foods she served, and they took on larger roles in the business after they graduated from college.

As Porto's has grown, it has remained faithful to Rosa's motto that "quality is the number one ingredient in everything we do." From its beginning in Echo Park, Porto's grew to a 2,000-square-foot facility in Glendale, and then one twice the size a few years later. In the 1990s, with the effort of the entire Porto family, their business expanded to a 20,000-square-foot facility, and later added a café.

While Porto's began as a bakery that only sold cakes and Cuban pastries, its menu has

evolved and expanded to feature a broad array of international sweet and savory items, including such signature items as Cheese Rolls, Refugiados (guava and cheese strudels), and the famous Potato Balls.

Today, Porto's serves thousands of customers and employs hundreds of team members at five Southern California locations, including Downey in my 40th District, as well as in Glendale, Burbank, Buena Park, and West Covina.

Rosa Porto will be missed by Angelenos of all ages and from all walks of life, but we know her gracious and gentle spirit will live on, both in the family she loved and in the culinary legacy she leaves behind. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our deepest condolences to Rosa's family, including her husband Raul Sr.; their daughters Beatriz and Margarita; their son Raul Jr.; and their seven grandchildren.

HONORING MARY ANN TRICKEY  
UPON HER RETIREMENT AS  
TOWN OF HOPEWELL TOWN  
CLERK

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 18, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Mary Ann Trickey as the Town Clerk of the Town of Hopewell after twenty-six years of service.

Many have said that Mary Ann is the glue that keeps the Town of Hopewell in working order. In her thirteen terms as town clerk and tax collector, she has dedicated her time, talents and passion to making sure each resident is provided the services they need and that town administrative services are functioning with impressive precision.

Mary Ann has built up a rapport with residents over the years, getting to know them, their families and even their pets throughout her interactions with them. She regularly attends important events, both public and governmental, in Hopewell as a pillar of the community.

In 2017, Mary Ann was chosen as "The Town Clerk of the Year" for district seven, which covers Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Yates and Steuben counties. She is also a member of the Hopewell Historical Society, the Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and has been an honorary Rotary International member for many years. Mary Ann is a member and past president of the Ontario County Municipal Clerks Association and the Ontario County Tax Collectors Association.

The Town of Hopewell will greatly miss Mary Ann and her cheerful demeanor, her dedication and her extraordinary kindness—but her retirement is well deserved. I thank Mary Ann for all of her efforts—they have blessed a great many people in and around Hopewell.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize Mary Ann Trickey and her twenty-six years of invaluable service to the Town of Hopewell as Town Clerk.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 17, 2019*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the inclusion of S. 2788, a taxpayer bailout of a failing multiemployer pension plan, in the FY 2020 appropriations package.

There is bipartisan consensus that Congress must address the current multiemployer pension crisis, but this particular provision is a fiscally irresponsible and shortsighted approach that sets a dangerous precedent for future attempts to address the dire predicament facing certain multiemployer pension plans.

Unfortunately, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) 1974 Pension Plan has failed the hardworking miners, retirees, and their families who sacrificed pay during their working years with the expectation that they would receive a modest retirement income.

The UMWA Pension Plan covers 96,000 participants, the vast majority of whom, 92,500 to be specific, are retired. That leaves a mere 3,500 active participants paying into the plan. What's more, the pension plan is underfunded by \$6.5 billion as its liabilities far exceed assets. That's \$6.5 billion that the UMWA's Pension Plan trustees, both union and employer officials, promised workers, but will not deliver.

Let me be clear, my opposition to S. 2788 does not diminish my belief that miners and retirees should receive the benefits they were promised and rightfully deserve. Instead, I oppose how these benefits will be paid and administered.

Under current law, when a multiemployer pension plan becomes insolvent, the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) provides financial assistance to the plan to pay benefits up to the guaranteed amount. S. 2788 circumvents that process and allows unprecedented federal funding for one specific plan.

S. 2788 is deceptive in its approach. The bill funnels interest earned on the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund (AML Fund) to the UMWA Pension Plan. If the AML Fund does not sufficiently cover retiree benefits, money from the U.S. Treasury will make up the difference.

Under current law, UMWA retiree health plans already receive funding transfers from interest earned on the AML Fund and Treasury to pay for retiree health benefits. The combined transfers are capped at \$490 million annually. S. 2788 makes these transfers available to the UMWA Pension Plan and raises the cap to \$750 million. In FY 2019, the UMWA health plans received \$54 million from the AML Fund and a whopping \$225 million from Treasury.

The AML Fund is insufficient to pay the UMWA retiree health benefits, which it is already obligated to pay. Any additional funding will come from Treasury. To put it simply Madam Speaker, the American people will foot the bill for this bailout. For the first time ever, taxpayer money will be used to prop up a failing, privately-negotiated retirement plan.

As the Republican Leader of the Education and Labor Committee, I would be remiss if I

didn't consider S. 2788 in the context of the broader multiemployer pension plan system.

The UMWA Pension Plan is just the tip of the iceberg; it is just one of dozens of ailing multiemployer plans at risk of insolvency and breaking their pension promises. The passage of S. 2788 sets an ill-advised and irreversible precedent for future multiemployer pension plan solutions.

Multiemployer pension plans are currently underfunded by \$638 billion; PBGC's multiemployer insurance program is operating with a \$65 billion deficit and is expected to become insolvent by the end of FY 2025.

The responsibility for these broken promises lies exclusively with the union and employer representatives who negotiated and managed these plans. The UMWA Pension Plan is no exception.

Plans and trustees promised benefits without putting aside the adequate funds to meet these promises, all to the detriment of workers and retirees.

It should not be the role of Congress to address funding shortfalls one pension plan at a

time. That is not responsible legislating. Instead, we should work together to address the faults of the entire multiemployer pension system.

S. 2788 sends the wrong message to other unions and employers who have failed adequately to fund their pension promises. It puts us on a dangerous path that could ultimately result in Congress burdening American taxpayers with billions of dollars in future bailouts, no questions asked.

If Congress is serious about protecting the hard-earned retirement benefits, which are at risk because of failing multiemployer plans, it should address a system that is plagued with chronic underfunding, dependency on rosy economic assumptions and expectations, and passively accepts that plan trustees and actuaries will continue to underestimate pension promises.

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#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.