

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.