

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Citizens National Bank in southern Kentucky, an incredible milestone for a small business in rural America.

The first Citizens National Bank opened on Valentine's Day in 1920 in Somerset, Kentucky's public square. Over the last 100 years, this community bank has been recognized as a local leader, affording individuals and families the opportunity to achieve home ownership, loaning seed funds for entrepreneurial dreamers to start their own businesses, and providing a safe and secure way for families to grow their savings and retirement accounts.

Persevering through changes in technology, the bank converted to its first computer system in 1986, added full service automated teller machines (ATMs) in the 1990's, and ventured into mobile banking in 2011. Citizens National Bank was first granted trust powers in 1999 and was listed as a 5 Star Bank by the Bauer Financial Group in the same year, providing new opportunities for growth and progress.

Today, the bank's slogan is, "Moving Forward Together" and it is an honor to join the countless residents in our region in recognition of Citizens National Bank's centennial year of service spanning four counties. Congratulations to the long line of leaders who established and guided this community bank over the years, providing financial security and hope for local families.

### THE SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARD MANUFACTURING CLARIFICATION ACT

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, our Nation's small business manufacturers have an invaluable impact on our economy.

This past October, I introduced H.R. 4702, the Small Business Size Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act of 2019. This legislation will help thousands of defense and national security small businesses compete against much larger corporations when applying for federal contracts. It is near impossible for these small defense businesses to plan and secure larger contracts on a 12-month basis. This legislation expands the time from 12 months to up to 60 months. Defense-related small business manufacturers need that extra time to justify their small business designation

due to changes in technology and competition from much larger corporate contracts. Size standards for both revenue-based and employee-based small business manufacturers are not at a level that recognizes the changes in the current marketplace for defining small businesses that support the federal sector.

Recently, the House passed H.R. 5130, the Capturing All Small Businesses Act, which raises the standard to a 24-month basis. Still, it is not enough to properly support our small business manufacturers in the national security sector. In the defense industry, a small business that grows to over 1,600 employees has to compete in a market with companies of more than 25,000 employees.

I am committed to supporting our Nation's small businesses and fixing the issues addressed in the Small Business Standard Manufacturing Clarification Act. I urge the House to consider this legislation and join me in supporting our small business manufacturers.

### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

#### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to condemn the violence inflicted upon Armenians on the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms in Azerbaijan. I believe that condemning these actions today will help prevent renewed aggression against citizens of Armenian descent who continue to live in Azerbaijan, while bringing attention to efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Further, I reaffirm our nation's commitment to an enduring, peaceful, and democratic resolution of the Artsakh conflict.

From 1988 to 1990, the Armenian population in Soviet Azerbaijan was the target of ethnically targeted pogroms in the cities of Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. Beginning on February 27, 1988 in Sumgait, Armenian Christians were indiscriminately murdered, raped, and maimed by mobs of criminals and thugs. According to independent reporting, police in Baku allowed the pogroms to continue for 3 days, during which time hundreds are estimated to have been murdered in cold blood.

Despite vocal U.S. and international protests over the Sumgait pogroms, renewed anti-Armenian pogroms were launched in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 that lasted for seven days. Fourteen months later in the capital, Baku, another pogrom was launched against its Armenian minority. These vicious attacks against unarmed civilians led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing systematic violence as refugees.

Madam Speaker, on this 30th anniversary of the Baku pogroms, I want to emphasize the importance of remembering these crimes against humanity. I call on the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge that these atroc-

ities occurred, and that it seeks justice for the victims by prosecuting those who committed these horrific acts of violence. I also call upon the government of Azerbaijan to take all appropriate action to prevent further tragedies of this nature, and to do whatever is necessary to begin the healing process for the families of the victims. I call on the Azerbaijani government to respect the rights of all minorities living within its borders.

### ANNIVERSARY OF ANTI-ARMENIAN POGROMS IN AZERBAIJAN

#### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, this year we honor the memory of hundreds of ethnic Armenians killed—and hundreds of thousands displaced—between 1988 and 1990 in brutal and violent pogroms in Azerbaijan. In the 1980s, citizens in Azerbaijan of Armenian heritage embarked on one of the first pro-democracy movements against the Soviet Empire, calling for self-determination, fair treatment, and an end to discrimination. This pro-democracy movement was met with extreme brutality in waves of pogroms and forced deportations of Armenians from Azerbaijan. Mobs violently attacked ethnic Armenians in the cities of Sumgait in late February 1988, Kirovabad in November 1988, and the capital, Baku, in January 1990.

For three days in February 1988, mobs murdered, raped, assaulted, and burned alive ethnic Armenians. This came as the result of years and decades of anti-Armenian rhetoric and policies engineered by the Azerbaijani government, contributing to a lethal climate of dehumanization, racism, and religious intolerance.

Despite an international outcry, including bipartisan resolutions, statements and letters from concerned members of Congress, the violence continued. Between 1988 and 1990, according to human rights organizations, an estimated 300,000 to 350,000 Armenians fled Azerbaijan under threat of violence or were deported. The failure of the government to legitimately address simple democratic demands, and the violent response to largely peaceful movements, fueled a spiral of reactionary intercommunal violence and prolonged armed conflict in the region. Today, I stand to remember and honor all of those killed, wounded and displaced in these anti-Armenian pogroms.

The lessons of the events of 1988 to 1990 are obviously acutely relevant as we look around the world today. Ethnic and religious hatred that foments violence is on the rise—the Rohingya in Burma have been slaughtered, Uighur Muslims in China are being put in concentration camps because of their religion, and tens of thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses have been declared extremists in Russia for following their peaceful religion.

• 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.

When human beings are denied their universal freedoms, and when governments put in place dehumanizing rhetoric, policies, and laws; then hatred, violence, and suffering follow. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in recognition of the plight suffered by ethnic Armenians thirty years ago and to stand vigilant against the use of ethnic and religious hatred to stir violence against minorities here in the United States and around the world.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. RANDY ROUTON

##### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize my friend, Mr. Randy Routon for his nearly thirty-four years of dedicated service in mental health as the Chief Executive Officer of LifePath Systems, a mental healthcare provider in Collin County.

Randy's steadfast leadership helped thousands of families and individuals throughout our community gain access to life changing mental healthcare. Randy's inspiring dedication was also illustrated by his role on many boards, committees, task forces, and clubs throughout our community.

I proudly worked with him during my time in the state legislatures towards our shared goal of ensuring everyone in Collin County has a chance to receive high quality of mental healthcare.

I know Randy looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Diane, as well as their six children and six grandchildren during his retirement.

As Randy prepares to begin his next chapter, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Randy Routon for his selfless and dedicated career of serving those around him.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

##### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2020 theme—African Americans and the Vote. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. This year's theme reflects on the extraordinary contributions of African Americans throughout the history of our democracy as we reflect on the ongoing efforts to ensure equality for all Americans. As we reflect on the past, this year's theme focuses on the fight to ensure that African American voices and votes mattered in America.

The year 2020 commemorates the 115th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, which granted African American men the right to vote. When the amendment was first introduced, it did not mention black men. After the

conclusion of the civil war, however, abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society advocating for the right for black men to vote. While the debate continued, in 1869, 150 African American men from seventeen states gathered for the first national meeting of African Americans in the history of the United States.

The year 2020 also marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. During this time, the Women's Rights Movement was intertwined with the Antislavery Movement. African American women played a prominent role in the movement by organizing, attending, and speaking out at political and religious events, thus leading to the ratification of the 19th Amendment. We honor these brave and dedicated women who contributed to the foundation of African American liberty including Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Maria W. Stewart, Henrietta Purvis, Harriet Forten Purvis, and Sarah Redmon, among many others. As we pay tribute to these heroes of American history, let us remember their profound perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle in the fight for freedom and equality and the remarkable impact their contributions have had in shaping our great nation. This month and always, it is important that we honor and celebrate America's greatest advocates for equal rights and civil liberties.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring those who fought, and continue to fight, for civil rights and justice. We honor the African American men and women who have played such a crucial role in changing the landscape of American society for the better.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PAULDING COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Paulding County, Ohio, the last frontier to be settled in our great state. Our country was founded because of the brave pioneers who ventured into the Great Outdoors in order to create a better life for future settlers.

In 1819, Captain James Riley and his surveyors trudged through the mosquito infested Great Black Swamp to lay out the township lines for what would later become Paulding County.

The Great Black Swamp covered more than 1,500 square miles. It was created more than 10,000 years ago after the glaciers receded and formed the Great Lakes. From the surveyor's notes, we know that the Ottawa and Shawnee Indian tribes inhabited this land of deciduous swamp forest. The giant oaks, hickory, elm, ash, and many other large tree species created a dense canopy, which blocked sunlight from reaching the forest floor. The dense forest and mucky conditions made settlement of the area extremely difficult as Paulding County, in its entirety, laid beneath

the swamp. The landscape required drastic alterations before settlers were able to make Paulding County into the flat, agriculturally rich region that it is today.

In 1820, this area was named Paulding County in honor of John Paulding, an American hero during the American Revolution who aided in the capture of Major John Andre, a British spy who was the co-conspirator of Benedict Arnold.

The celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Paulding County reminds our community of the determination and pioneering attitude upon which counties throughout Ohio and our country were founded. Congratulations to Paulding County on this significant milestone.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

##### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms against Christian Armenians that took place from 1988 to 1990. In February 1988, the Armenian population in Soviet-controlled Azerbaijan became the victim of racially motivated, violent pogroms that started after peaceful protests took place against Moscow's arbitrary separation of Armenia and decades of repression and discrimination. The violence began with the Sumgait pogroms in February of 1988, and continued in Kirovabad (November 1988), and Baku (January 1990). Following this, the Armenian community suffered through a failed war of aggression by Baku to subjugate the people of Artsakh.

During this time, hundreds of Armenian civilians were killed, raped, beaten, maimed, and expelled from their homes for no reason other than their ethnicity. These hateful acts were fueled by anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani officials and citizens. These pogroms were part of a systemic effort to ethnically cleanse Azerbaijan of Armenians and to send a message to Armenians to stop challenging Soviet Azerbaijani authorities.

For over 30 years, Azerbaijan has attempted to cover up these crimes against humanity and has propped up the perpetrators of the Baku and Sumgait Pogroms as national heroes. It is critical that the United States government recognize and denounce this ethnically motivated violence and attacks on innocent children, women, and men in Armenian communities.

We must all be aware of the history of violence targeting the Armenian people. I am grateful that the State of Illinois emphasizes Armenian genocide education and I will work with my colleagues to promote legislation to help facilitate more states doing the same. We must ensure that the victims of the Sumgait and Baku pogroms are never forgotten and that such hateful acts of violence never happen again. We must remain committed to achieving a lasting peace in the Caucasus, and ensure that the people of Artsakh are able to live free from Azerbaijani abuse and aggression.

RECOGNITION OF EMILIE MA, PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS HONOREE

**HON. ANDY BIGGS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Emilie Ma, a young student from my district who has been named an honoree in Arizona by the 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. She was recognized for volunteering her time to help families struggling with poverty.

Ms. Ma assists with charitable efforts for low-income families at the Native Health Center. She donates her time to a club she founded at her school named the Modern Health Organization which provides services to patients with mental and physical needs. Ms. Ma has been an example to her peers, inspiring them to care for others and their communities.

We must encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions young citizens like Ms. Ma make in the lives of others. We all need more empathy. Everyone can work together to help the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers, like Ms. Ma, are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. RUBEN GALLEG0**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GPGCLCC). As one of the longest-standing LGBT agencies in our state, GPGCLCC has promoted an inclusive business environment by empowering and supporting LGBT and LGBT-allied businesses in Phoenix.

The GPGCLCC is the oldest non-profit LGBT chamber of commerce in the United States and has been recognized as one of the strongest and fastest growing in the nation. By expanding opportunities for its over 2,000 members and supporting Phoenix charitable organizations, the chamber has fostered economic justice within the LGBT community and a spirit of giving in the city's private sector. In addition to monthly professional development and networking events, the GPGCLCC encourages community engagement through events like "LGBT Night Out at the Ballet" and their Small Business Saturday Block Party. They have cultivated a well-rounded outlook in which businesses are not only economically beneficial to their community; they contribute to the culture and environment of their area as well.

As the organization celebrates its fortieth anniversary, I wish to congratulate the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce on all of its achievements and thank them for their service to our city.

RECOGNIZING LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to take this moment to recognize Lithuanian Independence Day. The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, will be commemorating this special occasion with a celebratory event on Sunday, February 16, 2020, at the Chesterton Moose Lodge 1623 in Chesterton, Indiana.

On February 16, 1918, an Act of Independence was signed by the Council of Lithuania, which gave the country its independence from Germany. This day is proudly celebrated as State Independence Day. Lithuania maintained its independence until 1940 when it was annexed by Russia. The country remained under Soviet rule for almost fifty years before regaining its freedom in 1990. Independence Restoration Day is celebrated on March 11 each year in honor of Lithuania's reestablished independence. Lithuanians in Northwest Indiana and all over the world celebrate these days of independence with great enthusiasm and pride.

The members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, are to be honored, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their dedication to civic, cultural, educational, and social programs. For their significant contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, the members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, are worthy of the highest praise.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day and honoring the members and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., East Chicago Chapter, for their loyalty and dedication to their culture and traditions. The Lithuanian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and diversity of Northwest Indiana, and we are truly grateful for the organization's service to Northwest Indiana and beyond.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS A. BUSSIÈRE

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to express my gratitude to Lieutenant General Thomas A. Bussiere for his years of dedicated service to the United States of America, the Air Force, and the great state of Alaska.

As Commander of Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, Alaskan Command, and Eleventh Air Force, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, he is responsible for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan joint operations area, operations to defend North American air sov-

ereignty from foreign military aviation incursions, and the planning and execution of all homeland defense operations within the area of responsibility.

In 1935 Brigadier General Billy Mitchell stated, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world." Since taking command in August 2018, General Bussiere has expanded upon General Mitchell's sentiment and has become a tireless advocate for Alaska and Arctic readiness. So much so that he is the first Alaskan Command Commander to be designated as the USNORTHCOM Lead for Arctic Affairs.

Since graduating from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Norwich University in 1985, General Bussiere has exemplified what it means to be an American Airman. However, he is more than the stars on his shoulders and the wings and ribbons on his chest that illustrate his military career. General Bussiere has also endeared himself to Alaska's communities. Additionally, he has continued to work with and advocate for Alaska Natives. In a show of respect, three Native communities bestowed Native names upon him; giving him the Inupiat name of Alongnonnuq, the Yup'ik name Evuneq, and the Tlingit name Litseenikaa.

On January 13, 2020, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper announced that the President nominated General Bussiere for assignment as Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command. While I am saddened to see him leave Alaska, I am proud that he will continue serving as a sentinel for our Nation.

STANDING UP FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, the President's budget, released yesterday, proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. I'll never stand for that. We have to make sure that we're protecting our seniors. We can't go back to a time when our seniors were living in poverty. We also have to make sure that we protect folks with disabilities.

I have authored a number of pieces of legislation that would reduce out-of-pocket costs and the price of prescription drugs. We can't support this budget, and I'll keep fighting to make sure that health care is affordable and that we take care of this nation's seniors.

HONORING MR. JAMIE WILLIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great Texan and United States Army veteran, Jamie Willis of Copperas Cove, Texas.

Since 2016, Jamie has run Canes for Veterans Central Texas, an organization that creates free walking sticks for veterans in need.

While serving our country overseas as a cavalry scout in Operation Desert Storm, Jamie was involved in an accident that left him briefly paralyzed and now disabled, and wrestling with severe depression and PTSD. When he returned home, he would travel to the local VA for treatment where he was issued a cane to use that never held up. So, he decided to make his own out of repurposed Christmas trees.

An effort that started out as a necessity three years ago has now grown to a team of 60 volunteers who have made more than 220 canes. Jamie says crafting these canes is his true calling and they have brought him back from the brink of taking his own life—and he has changed the lives of those around him.

I want to honor Jamie today and thank him on behalf of the 25th District of Texas for his continued service to our nation. In God we trust.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOEL PACKER

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joel Packer, a true hero for education and a dear friend.

Joel Packer is known across the education community as a champion for education funding. He spent more than 40 years advocating for students both in the public and private sector. Starting at the Student Association of the State University of New York, his career as an advocate grew with his work in D.C. at the National Education Association, and most recently, The Raben Group and the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) before his retirement in 2016.

Joel worked on critical issues like education funding, higher education, environmental hazards in schools, and civil rights. He was on the front lines of the push to improve testing in No Child Left Behind and was always there to remind us who we need to be prioritizing in the Congress: our children and their education. Joel championed the coalition of education advocates at CEF and masterfully represented the interests of a diverse group of educational institutions. Joel led the CEF's fight against education budget cuts in 2015, never giving up on his mission to ensure a genuine federal investment in our children's education. Throughout his career, Joel's dedication demonstrated the kind of intensity and willingness to collaborate necessary to win in the fight for education. Moreover, his passion for education and bettering the lives of all students was clear. Joel was an expert when it came to education policy and the Appropriations process; he knew, and helped all of us learn, how good ideas and good policies are not good enough—not without the necessary resources to make a difference.

I feel lucky to have known such a tremendous advocate for education in this country. Joel was many things—he was an amazing husband, a proud father and grandfather, an inspiring mentor and colleague, and an unwavering friend. Joel was taken from us too suddenly, and my deepest condolences go to his family. We will miss Joel and his bound-

less passion for fighting for what is right and for what our nation's children need most. Joel's values and mission will live on in those of us who remain in the fight, and we fight in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Joel Packer. He was a true champion for education and his leadership will never be forgotten.

#### 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS: REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS

#### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the victims of pogroms against the Armenian population in then-Soviet Azerbaijan thirty years ago: These attacks against Armenian Christians happened between 1988 and 1990 in the cities of Sumgait (February 27 to 29, 1988), Kirovabad (November 21 to 27, 1988) and the city of Baku (January 13 to 29, 1990).

It is clear that the pogrom of Armenians in Baku was not a spontaneous and one-time event, but the culmination of a series of ethnic violence waged against Armenians. In 1988, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave forcibly separated from Armenia and incorporated into Soviet Azerbaijan, began to voice their demand for reunification with Armenia. Their peaceful protests were reinforced by the February 20, 1988 vote by the Soviet of People's Deputies in Karabakh requesting the transfer of the region to Armenia. These events were taking place in the context of Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroika and Glasnost. Unfortunately, Moscow and Azerbaijani authorities rejected these calls and strong anti-Armenian sentiment was whipped up, including calls for the death and ouster of the Armenian population.

On February 27, 1988, a massive pogrom was carried out in Sumgait where the Armenian population was brutally slaughtered and expelled. The Sumgait pogrom was followed by a pogrom in Kirovabad, the second largest city in Azerbaijan, where all the Armenians were expelled. After these tragedies, a massive migration of Armenians from Azerbaijan began, along with the migration of approximately 200,000 Azerbaijanis and Muslim Kurds who exited Armenia. By 1989, Armenians remaining in Azerbaijan stayed only in those places where they had well-established communities, as in Baku.

In January 1990, a series of Azerbaijani political rallies took place, and on January 13th, a crowd of about 50,000 divided into groups and began raiding and invading Armenian homes, brutalizing the inhabitants, including women and children, and destroying and burning houses, businesses and other community structures. The rallying cry was to cleanse the city of Armenians. The violence, killings, rapes, beatings, looting and forcible expulsion of Armenians persisted between January 13th and 20th. It is still unknown the exact number of people killed, but estimates place the death toll around 450 people. Throughout it all, local militia and Soviet troops stood by as the violence escalated over a week's time. Not until

the evening of January 20th, after most of the Armenian population had fled or been expelled from Baku, did the Soviet Army intervene to stop the seven-day massacre.

Garry Kasparov was born in Baku in 1963. His mother was Armenian. In 1985, he became the youngest ever World Chess Champion. In January 1990, he was excelling in his competitions, and ranked as the No. 1 chess player in the world. Yet in January 1990, he bravely returned to Baku, into the midst of massacre and carnage, to rescue and evacuate the families of his friends and relatives. Describing those events, he has testified that:

"No one would halt the Armenian pogroms in Baku, although there were eleven thousand soldiers of internal troops in the city. No one would intervene until the ethnic cleansing was carried out. The pogroms were happening not in a random place, but in the huge capital city with blocks of flats. In such a megapolis as Baku, the crowd simply cannot carry out targeted operations like that. When the pogrom-makers go purposefully from one district to another, from one apartment to another, this means that they had been given the addresses and that they had a coordinator."

I don't mean to simplify the complex history and people of this region, but these pogroms set the stage for more than two decades of aggression by Azerbaijan against Armenians, during which Azerbaijan initiated and lost a war against Nagorno Karabakh. Azerbaijan's persecution of Armenians continues even today in attacks against Nagorno-Karabakh, now known as the Republic of Artsakh.

There has yet to be an independent investigation of the events that occurred between 1988 and 1990 that emptied Azerbaijan of its Armenian population. No one has been held accountable for the violence and the deaths. Azerbaijan remains in turmoil because of the fanaticism and thirst to ethnically cleanse the entire region of Armenian Christians.

The U.S. Congress forcefully spoke out during the period of 1988 to 1990 against these massacres and expulsions of Armenians by Azerbaijan. We have rejected the Azeri war against Nagorno Karabakh and stood in solidarity with the Armenian people of Artsakh. We will continue to do so.

Madam Speaker, today I remember all the victims and I honor all the survivors of these terrible acts of ethnic cleansing. May all the people of Armenia and Artsakh live in peace and freedom for which they have sacrificed and suffered so much.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 as I was traveling after attending a memorial service in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote No. 57 (On Ordering the Previous Question): YEA; Roll Call Vote No. 58 (On Agreeing to H. Res. 844): YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 59 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1980, as Amended): YEA.

RECOGNIZING LINDA RENÉ  
MATTHEWS ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent, employee and friend, Linda René Matthews, as she retires from the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has served in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio since January of 2009.

In fact, she served me so well while I was Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, that I knew she would be invaluable as a congressional staffer. I was right.

Linda has been a strong, stable force, who has always understood the needs of constituents and worked hard to be of service to them and me. Her loyalty is unfaltering, her advice always candid, and her care for the integrity of my offices unquestionable.

After more than 20 years with me, Linda has decided to retire effective February 29, 2020. She leaves a legacy that set a standard in so many ways. She is more than the title of Scheduler/Office Manager implies, serving so many years as a member of my team of advisors. So, I say:

Whereas, Linda René Matthews has spent most of her professional life as a public servant; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the people of Northeast Ohio for over twenty years, first in the Office of the Mayor of Warrensville Heights and now in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is a life-long resident of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews has served the constituents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio with distinction for more than eleven (11) years; and

Whereas, Ms. Matthews is retiring as Scheduler and Office Manager in the District Office of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio;

*Resolved*, that the 11th Congressional District of Ohio acknowledges, salutes and celebrates its resident and servant leader, Linda René Matthews, this 12th day of February 2020, for her record of excellence in service, and unqualified loyalty to the District's constituents.

CONGRATULATING DR. CHARLENE  
M. DUKES ON HER RETIREMENT  
AS PRESIDENT OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate an outstanding and trailblazing leader in higher education in Maryland's Fifth District. Dr. Charlene M. Dukes will be retiring as President of Prince George's Community College this June after thirteen years at the helm.

She is the first woman to lead the College in its sixty-two-year history.

Dr. Dukes's time as President has been characterized by growth and a deepening of the College's mission. She oversaw a partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools to create the first middle college in our state as well as a new Teacher Academy, Academy for Health Sciences, and two P-Tech Schools. The College joined with the University of Maryland Global Campus to launch a 3D Scholars Program and to expand programs in information technology and math. Under President Dukes's leadership, the College built new buildings at its Largo campus, including Lanham and Bladen Halls, the Culinary Arts Center, the Center for Performing Arts, and the Center for Health Studies. She led the effort to begin a major renovation this year of Marlboro Hall, the College's largest classroom facility.

A proponent of streamlining operations to enhance the quality of its services, Dr. Dukes oversaw a process of realigning the College's organizational structure under the 2019–2021 Strategic Plan. That plan focuses on increasing student success, growing the College's regional impact, and ensuring that the College's organization excels in helping it serve the 40,000 students who benefit annually from its courses and programs.

Before becoming the eighth President of Prince George's Community College, Dr. Dukes served on the Prince George's County Board of Education and as adjunct faculty at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh. She also taught at Prince George's Community College and at Morgan State University. Former Governor Martin O'Malley appointed her to serve on the State Board of Education from 2007 to 2015, and she was the Board's President for the last three years of that period. Recognized by Washington Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the metro area in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017, Dr. Dukes was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2013. She continues to serve on the boards of Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, the Biden Institute, the Business Roundtable, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the Institute for Higher Education Policy, and Campus Compact, among other nonprofits.

When Dr. Dukes retires at the end of June, she will leave a powerful and lasting legacy for the College and for the county and state she has so faithfully served in the cause of higher education. Because of her leadership, thousands of Maryland students have access to quality, affordable community college that can serve as a pathway to opportunity and success. I join in thanking her for her service, and I congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION OF THE KIWANIS  
CLUB AND THE ZONTA CLUB OF  
JOLIET

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Zonta International.

Since its formation in 1920, The Kiwanis Club of Joliet has had a strong commitment to our community. They have supported cherished programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Center for Disability Services, the Guardian Angel Community Services, and many more. Currently, they sponsor several high school and middle school community clubs, inspiring our youth to give back as well.

The Zonta Club of Joliet is a service-based organization committed to promoting women both locally and globally. Through fundraisers, they finance scholarships, grants, international projects, and charities. They are also the sponsors of the Joliet Central High School Fearless Females, a club dedicated to empowering young women.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kiwanis Club of Joliet and Joliet International for 100 years of dedication to our community, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DECREASE  
NOISE LEVEL ACT

**HON. GRACE MENG**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Decrease Noise Level Act.

For millions of Americans, noise from aircraft is a constant source of torment, whether they live right near an airport or under a regular flight path. Chronic exposure to excessive noise can lead to sleep deprivation, task interruptions, among other negative consequences, which result in untold costs on society in diminished work productivity.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently uses a Day-Night average noise level to assess the level at which noise exposure becomes "significant" in residential communities. However, the level that the FAA has currently deemed acceptable is 65, a full 10 decibels higher than what Europe allows.

FAA's use of 65 DNL as "significant" is based on severe and immediate health impacts, at which point damage has already been done. It is essential that the FAA considers quality of life, long-term health impacts, home values, and overall economic impact. I believe reasonable noise congestion levels should be based on a standard that falls well before the point at which long-term health is impacted.

That is why I am introducing the Decrease Noise Level (DNL) Act—a bill that would require the FAA to immediately lower the level of noise that is considered "significant" to 60, and create a plan to lower it to 55 within 10 years. It would also require community outreach from the FAA to promote its recent study that considers alternatives to the DNL as a metric to measure noise.

I urge my colleagues to join me to pass this important legislation.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION  
INITIATIVE**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate House passage of H. R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019, which will support the health of America's Third Coast. The Great Lakes provide drinking water to more than 30 million people, support more than 300,000 jobs, and are home to more than 3,500 plant and animal species. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a multi-agency program that addresses threats to this ecosystem, such as algal blooms and invasive species. More than 4,700 projects have already been completed under GLRI, leading to healthier fisheries, clean drinking water, and stronger wildlife habitats.

I was proud to cosponsor this bill to reauthorize GLRI with increased funding. I thank my colleagues for passing this bill last week and I urge swift passage in the Senate.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX PRIDE**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Phoenix Pride. As one of the longest-standing LGBTQ+ organizations in our state, their work has taken the values of diversity, inclusivity, and equality to every corner of the state of Arizona.

Phoenix Pride is a groundbreaking pillar of advocacy for the city's LGBTQ+ community. In addition to producing the two largest annual LGBTQ+ events in Arizona, they work extensively to reach out to marginalized communities, preserve the unique culture and history of LGBTQ+ Arizonans, and provide scholarship funding for LGBTQ+ students. In fact, the organization awarded over \$47,000 in scholarships in 2019 and has helped dozens of students reach their academic goals since 2008.

Thanks in part to the hard work of Phoenix Pride, Phoenix ranks among the most LGBTQ+-friendly cities in the state, with protections against discrimination and a strong, involved LGBTQ+ community. Our city certainly would not be the same without their tireless work for equality and justice.

They have served as a beacon of hope and growth in the fight for equality for decades. The changes experienced and catalyzed by Phoenix Pride over the last forty years have been tremendous, and I join them in working to ensure that the next forty bring even more progress.

As they celebrate their fortieth anniversary, I wish to congratulate Phoenix Pride on all of their achievements and thank them for their service to our city.

## HONORING DR. LYNDA YOUNG

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lynda Young, whose term as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Federal Government Affairs wraps up later this month. I have had the honor and privilege of calling Dr. Young a friend and working with her for many years, and I know her to be a brilliant pediatrician and tireless advocate for the well-being of all children and families.

For 34 years, Dr. Young has been a practicing pediatrician in Worcester, Massachusetts as well as serving as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Throughout her career, she's worked with numerous non-profits serving children in Central Massachusetts and devoted countless hours to advocating on behalf of children at the local, state and national levels.

After serving as a member of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs for several years, it was no surprise that Dr. Young was elected chair in 2016. During her tenure, she's never shied away from a fight where the well-being of children was in question. Among her many accomplishments during her time as chair include serving as a plaintiff in a successful federal lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which resulted in a court order requiring the FDA to finalize graphic warning labels for cigarettes; fighting for a 10-year extension of the vitally important Children's Health Insurance Program; defeating attempts to repeal and replace the transformative Affordable Care Act; and co-chairing four national AAP Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C. Dr. Young has also been an integral contributor to the AAP's Blueprint for Children: How the Next President Can Build a Foundation for a Healthy Future, which outlines federal policy priorities for the next presidential administration on improving children's health.

Madam Speaker, for all of Dr. Young's accolades and accomplishments, none resonate more than the day-in and day-out care she provides for children and their families as a pediatrician. She is compassionate and reassuring during tough times. She takes the time to really listen to and take an interest in her patients. She is always there for them and she has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of thousands of children. And I speak from firsthand experience—Dr. Young was my children's pediatrician in Worcester.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to warmly congratulate Dr. Young on her successful tenure as chair of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs. I look forward to continuing to work with her to improve the lives of all children and their families.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, due to a medical reason, I was unable to vote on the following 10 Roll Call Amendments/Bills.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 60 (DeGette Amendment)—Makes changes to Title I—Colorado Wilderness and designates an additional 60,000 acres wilderness; NAY on Roll Call No. 61 (McClintock Amendment No. 2)—Authorizes local counties to veto Congressionally approved wilderness designations; NAY on Roll Call No. 62 (McClintock Amendment No. 3)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior to veto wilderness and wild and scenic river designations authorized by Congress under this Act if the areas do not meet the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act or the criteria for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 63 (Panetta Amendment)—States that the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may manage for fire, insects, and diseases in wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 64 (Westerman Amendment No. 6)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior to exempt from wilderness designations under the Act any area determined by the Secretary to be at high risk of wildfire; NAY on Roll Call No. 65 (Westerman Amendment No. 7)—Strikes all designations of "potential" wilderness under the bill; YEA on Roll Call No. 66 (Cunningham Amendment)—Ensures that military aircraft overflights, units of special air space, and flight training routes are allowed over wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 67 (Tipton Amendment No. 9)—Strikes wilderness additions in the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado; NAY on Roll Call No. 68 (Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2546); and YEA on Roll Call No. 69 (Final Passage of H.R. 2546)—Protecting America's Wilderness Act (Rep. DEGETTE—Natural Resources).

SUPPORTING H.J. RES. 79 AND THE  
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. SPEIER, has introduced H.J. Res. 79, legislation that would provide for the Equal Rights Amendment's immediate adoption as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As Majority Leader, I am proud to bring that legislation to the Floor this week. Because House rules prohibit the addition of further cosponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, however, I am not able formally to cosponsor this legislation. I am in support of the bill and request to be considered by this body as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 79.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BAKU POGROMS**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms. These atrocities, in addition to

pogroms committed in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Maraga, should never be forgotten. During this horrific period, the Armenian population of the former Soviet Azerbaijan were the victims of state-sponsored violence. These acts of violence paved the way for outright war against Nagorno-Karabakh and decades of conflict. The legacy of this conflict persists today.

The Soviet-sanctioned violence against the Armenian population in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh earned strong condemnation from the United States Congress, which we are proud to uphold today. The systematic looting, maiming, and murder of Armenians permitted and encouraged by the Soviet Government remain a terrible stain on our world history. On this anniversary, it is vital that we recommit ourselves and United States policy to healing the pain caused by anti-Armenian aggression.

I urge the Trump Administration to support life-saving programs like demining assistance in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as officially recognize the Republic of Artsakh. It is past time to implement carefully crafted, bipartisan proposals to cement peace in the region. Only by doing so can we honor the memory of the countless victims of the anti-Armenian pogroms and their descendants. I am proud to stand with Armenians and Armenian-Americans on this solemn day.

#### CITY OF SAN JOAQUIN CENTENNIAL

#### HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of San Joaquin which celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

The City of San Joaquin is a vibrant community located in rural Fresno County on what was previously part of a large ranch settled by Jefferson James, a miner and cattle rancher. After James' passing, his heirs sold their property to settlers, led by a gentleman by the name of Benjamin F. Graham, who created a formal plan for the community to be named Grahams town.

Graham sold the land to a company that, under the direction of their representative Dr. Herman Janz, established the community of San Joaquin. When the Southern Pacific Railroad established a line passing through San Joaquin in 1912, the flow of commerce expanded the area's economy. On February 14, 1920 the community elected to incorporate and became formally established as the City of San Joaquin.

Over the years, San Joaquin has become a hub of the agricultural industry with farms that produce food that feeds the world. Today, San Joaquin is known as the "everything is possible city" and continues to be a beacon of progress, aptly demonstrating a wholesome, rural way of life.

It is communities like San Joaquin that have shaped California's Central Valley, and indeed our country, into what it is today. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of San Joaquin and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the many years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58 and YEA on Roll Call No. 59.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOE BONAMASSA

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, Joe Bonamassa is one of the most gifted, talented and accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarists in modern day blues. Blues is a quintessential American musical art form and Joe, throughout his life, has embraced and excelled in his pursuit of mastering this music. Joe, in exhibiting his extraordinary talents at the very early age of 4, was blessed to have his parents, Len and Debra Bonamassa, do everything possible to nurture and develop Joe's undeniable talent. Joe met the blues legend BB King after his mother received a call asking him to be the opening act for a concert headlined by King. Joe's incredible talent so impressed BB King that he was asked to continue as the opener and did over 20 shows with King by 1989. Len and Debra made significant sacrifices to help Joe realize his potential, including engaging Danny Gatton to mentor and train him. Len, who owned a guitar shop with his wife and a musician himself, cultivated not only Joe's interest in music but also his love of guitars. It is that connection with the guitar that is evident in all that Joe pursues in the world of music. He is an avid collector of guitars and amplifiers and is a subject matter expert on both the history and the mechanics of these instruments. He graciously shares his extensive collection of guitars and amplifiers with the public at one of the greatest guitar collections in the world—Nerdville, California. The "Bonaseum" as it is sometimes called displays some of the most historic and iconic guitars and amplifiers in the history of modern music.

Joe has released 13 studio albums and a fantastic series of live albums and DVDs that capture the essence of what makes him extraordinary, which is his ability to connect with folks before a live audience. His incredible talent and the phenomenal musicians he selects to play with him make for an unparalleled experience for his fans. Joe has pioneered a different way of doing business in the music industry. Not satisfied that he couldn't perform his music the way he wanted but the way the music industry dictated in a ones size fits all mentality, Joe broke the mold and did things his way. He took a big risk in developing a new business plan for his musical enterprise and was not sure at the time if he would survive in the music industry. He has persevered and now prospers in performing his craft the way he believes is best. He saw that there is a connection between recording and live per-

formances and has revolutionized the industry by developing and implementing a business that connects studio recording, live performances and booking his own shows. He has focused on playing smaller venues where the experience matches his style and magnitude of his performance. He has performed for over 30 years and continues to practice relentlessly and work incredibly hard at his craft. Every day he wakes up he is excited about the guitar and is equally thrilled to play it. Joe is one of the most thoughtful, caring and passionate artists in the music business. He has done a tremendous service to the world of blues music by creating the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation. This foundation each year brings together some of the best blues artists on the planet to share their talents with folks in a close, intimate setting. This connection with music fans is a great opportunity for both emerging and established artists to enjoy playing in a small venue and to raise money for a great cause. The Foundation awards grant money to extend the reach and value of the musical experience, especially in schools. Joe is extremely accessible, humble, and infinitely committed to encouraging others to pursue their musical interest just as his mom and dad from childhood. Our nation truly values the efforts and contributions of Joe Bonamassa to the world of music and his efforts to preserve guitar history and to inspire others in their musical pursuits.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE JAMES L. ROBERTS, JR.

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Circuit Judge James L. Roberts, Jr., who retired from the Pontotoc County Courthouse after a 48-year judiciary career.

Judge Roberts was born on June 8, 1945, in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He attended public school in Pontotoc County and later pursued higher education at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He then earned his M.B.A. at Mississippi State University in Starkville and later received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

As a life-long public servant, Judge Roberts served as Pontotoc County Prosecuting Attorney, municipal judge, chancery judge, circuit judge, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice, and was the Mississippi Commissioner of Public Safety for four years.

Throughout his life and to this day, Judge Roberts has set an example for others to follow. He and his wife, Mrs. Rose D. Roberts, are active members of Pontotoc First United Methodist Church. He has served the church as administrative council member and chair, trustee member and chair, finance member and chair, lay leader, head usher, and Sunday School Teacher.

I thank Judge Roberts for his lifelong dedication to the law and for making Mississippi a better place. I wish him many years of good health.



RECOGNIZING BOB DRAKE OF EAST HELENA, JORDAN ALEXANDER OF HELENA, AND RICK ABRAHAM OF MONTANA CITY WITH SPIRIT OF MONTANA COMMENDATION

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Drake of Helena, Jordan Alexander of East Helena, and Rick Abraham of Montana City for their many decades of service to their volunteer fire departments.

Bob grew up knowing he wanted to be a firefighter. His father was one of the founding members of the former Lakeside Fire Department that was created in 1973. In 1995, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and became a volunteer firefighter. Six years later, Bob became the department's volunteer fire chief. Bob will retire this month after 25 years on the job.

Jordan began his firefighting career at just 17, working at the station in Bozeman. After two years, he graduated high school and went on to college. After Jordan made his way to Helena in 1989, he started volunteering at the Baxendale Volunteer Fire Department. In 2012, he became fire chief. This month, Jordan retired after 30 years of total service.

Rick started firefighting in 1989 for the Montana City Volunteer Fire Department. In 2001, he became fire chief. Rick says it never ceases to amaze him how volunteers leave birthday parties or Christmas dinners in a moment's notice to help people in their time of need. In June, Rick will retire after 31 years at the department.

These men say their favorite part of the job is the impact the department has on the community. They help people on their worst days. They help their neighbors, friends, and families who face catastrophe. Everyone in the

community breathes a little easier as they see each of these men and their departments coming down the road to help in their time of crisis.

Bob, Jordan and Rick also spoke about the power of the volunteer and how they join the department with their day jobs and hobbies. The banker comes, the nurse comes, the electrician comes, and the teacher comes. The volunteers form a diverse, powerful group that serves their community to its fullest.

Madam Speaker, for their incredible leadership at the helm of the Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, Baxendale Volunteer Fire Department, and the Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, I recognize Bob Drake, Jordan Alexander, and Rick Abraham for their Spirit of Montana.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on February 10th and 11th, I was unable to cast my vote on pieces of legislation. If present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 2932 (Roll Call No. 55), YEA on H.R. 3413 (Roll Call No. 56), NAY on the Previous Question (Roll Call No. 57), NAY on H. Res. 844 (Roll Call No. 58), and YEA on H.R. 1980 (Roll Call No. 59).

### 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, February 13, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

#### FEBRUARY 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on public transportation stakeholders' perspectives.

SD-538

#### MARCH 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

#### MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2021 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50