

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Heroes Act and the important programs in the bill that will help our first responders, health care workers, small businesses, and cities address this pandemic.

Although the bill includes critical provisions to address the pension crisis by providing additional funding and resources to multi-employer pensions, I am very concerned that it includes language regarding composite pension plans that is controversial within the labor and pension community.

There are many who believe composite plans would provide workers with less benefits and more risk, and they contend that if these new composite plans existed during this COVID crisis, the value of their plans would have dramatically eroded.

The Obama Administration in 2016 strongly opposed composite plan legislation that was nearly identical to the GROW Act. The then National Economic Council, PBGC, and Departments of Treasury and Labor sent to the Hill a position paper that explained that composite legislation would put existing pension benefits at greater risk, result in less dependable and transparent retirement benefits, and deepen the insolvency crisis at the PBGC. The position paper urged Congress not to include composite plan legislation in a package because “such complex legislation deserves, at minimum, appropriate bicameral hearings and time for analysis and debate.”

I hope that the Senate will look at this issue closely as there should be more debate and review of this proposal. I include in the RECORD statements regarding composite pension plans from a coalition of labor unions and the Pension Rights Center.

Statement by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM), Directors Guild of America (DGA), International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), International Assoc. of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), Musicians for Pension Security Pension Rights Center, SEIU, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), United Steelworkers (USW), Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust

Our organizations, representing tens of millions of workers and retirees, strongly support passage this year of critical legislation to assist severely underfunded multiemployer pension plans to ensure that retirees and their families receive their hard-earned pensions. More than ten million Americans depend on multiemployer pension plans for a

secure retirement for themselves and their families. Throughout their careers, these workers gave up a portion of wages to earn their pension benefits. In retirement, they deserve to receive the pensions they earned and retire with dignity. The Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act proposal advanced by senators meets this standard by using a special partition program funded by the federal government to support troubled plans and their participants. We urge that this proposal be passed as soon as possible.

At the same time, we strongly oppose composite plan legislation. Composite legislation, including the GROW Act, hurts workers, retirees, employers, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and should not become law.

Composite legislation is deeply flawed because it allows multiemployer plan trustees to “refinance” their obligations to workers and retirees in the existing plan over 25 years instead of 15 years, so they can divert money to start a new composite plan. This weakens the existing plan and leaves neither plan—the existing plan nor the composite plan—with enough money to pay promised benefits.

The current public health and economic crisis illustrates the harm composite plan legislation would inflict on Americans. If Congress had already passed the GROW Act and it was law now, workers in a previously healthy multiemployer pension plan that converted to a composite plan would face draconian benefit cuts. The benefits composite plan participants expected they would earn would be cut 70%, and the vested benefits they already earned would be cut 25%. At the same time, the vested benefits of workers in the existing plan would be cut 21%. To avoid benefit cuts, employers would be required to increase contributions by approximately 82%—above and beyond what they already committed.

The GROW Act also starves the PBGC of needed funds and would compound the insolvency problems faced by the agency. Composite plans are not required to pay PBGC premiums, even though their creation will increase the PBGC’s liabilities by driving plans out of the multiemployer system and increasing risks on participants who continue to rely on the PBGC to insure their benefits.

We applaud your efforts to address multiemployer pensions as a part of legislation this year. We support legislation to preserve healthy multiemployer plans and to help retirees in deeply troubled plans, but we strongly oppose the GROW Act.

STATEMENT OF THE PENSION RIGHTS COALITION

With the House of Representatives poised to vote on the next COVID-19 relief package, known as the HEROES Act, the Pension Rights Center applauds the congressional leaders who have included within the massive bill the important provisions of the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act (EPPRA) which will strengthen the nation’s multiemployer pension system. PRC, however, urges Congress to strip from the package the misguided Giving Retirement Options to Workers Act (GROW Act), which would undermine this all-important system.

By including EPPRA in the HEROES Act, Congress will not only help save workers’ and retirees’ pensions, but also stabilize for decades to come the federal agency that in-

dures our nation’s private pension plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

“More than 1 million workers and retirees have been closely watching Congress and waiting for policymakers to finally pass legislation that ensures full payment of their promised pensions, which they earned through years of toil,” said Karen Friedman, the PRC’s executive vice president.

“First, their hopes were buoyed in 2019 when the House passed a bill designed to protect their benefits, known as the Butch Lewis Act. But that legislation failed to advance in the Senate. Now, both the retirees and the PRC are excited that Congress has included the well-crafted EPPRA within the latest COVID-19 bill. By doing so, Congress recognizes that those workers and retirees who helped build this country and who will benefit from the legislation should be permitted to receive the retirement income they earned through hard work and playing by the rules. We urge all members of the House and Senate to make these pension rescue provisions a reality for these workers and retirees and for their families.”

PRC strongly supports EPPRA because it shores up underfunded plans by providing the PBGC with the funding to take on certain liabilities of ailing plans. This “partitioning” process will ensure that the plans survive for the long-term and are able to pay in full the earned benefits owed to workers and retirees. The bill also increases the guarantees paid by the PBGC when plans fail and would restore benefits to retirees who have already had their benefits cut because of the unfair provisions of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014. EPP RA shares a structure similar to a proposal advanced by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN).

“We believe that it’s appropriate for EPPRA to be part of the HEROES Act since those most at risk of losing benefits in these multiemployer plans are the very same workers who are risking their lives to protect us in this time of crisis. They are the truck drivers who are transporting food and supplies, the nurses and health care workers at the front lines, the grocery store workers who are keeping us fed, the laborers who are building our hospitals, and the musicians who, despite social distancing, keep on playing for us on line to soothe our anxiety” Friedman said.

“These are America’s unsung heroes who do—and did—the essential jobs that we all are depending on in this time of lockdown.”

Unlike EPPRA, which will strengthen failing multiemployer plans and protect workers and retirees and the PBGC, passage of the GROW Act would undermine the multiemployer plan system by weakening currently well-funded plans and creating new inferior plans that do not provide guaranteed benefits. It would also lead to the underfunding of the PBGC.

PRC urges the leaders of the House of Representatives to drop the GROW Act from the HEROES Act.

The GROW Act is also vigorously opposed by AARP, the Western Conference of Teamsters, the SEIU, IBEW, Steelworkers, Machinists, Boilermakers and other unions and organizations.

• 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.

The Center also cheers inclusion in the HEROES Act of a provision that would provide grants to community-based organizations to help low-income divorced women and survivors of domestic abuse receive their court-awarded retirement benefits. This provision was originally introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and House Members Jan Schakowksy (D-IL) and Lauren Underwood (D-IL) as part of the Women's Retirement Protection Act (S. 975, H.R. 2005).

RECOGNIZING EDUCATIONAL
AWARD PROGRAM HONOREES

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 17 incredible high school juniors and seniors from central Arkansas.

When I came to Congress, I began my Educational Award Program, which allows high school teachers, counselors, and principals to nominate one junior and one senior each year.

Students are nominated to receive an Educational Achievement Award for their academic success, character, and service to school and community.

This year's honorees are: Jayce Pollard and Catie Overton from Conway High School, Jessica Hoffman and Logan Carney from Episcopal Collegiate School, Emma Anderson and James McConnick from Harmony Grove High School, Robin Eluvathingal and Kelvin Kang from Little Rock Central High School, Anna McDonald and Ella Beth Wengel from Little Rock Christian Academy, Jie Loken and Caleb McGill from Maumelle Charter High School, Lily Wewers from Mount Saint Mary Academy, Lilly Hawkins and Logan Miller from Pulaski Academy, and Ethan Williams and Taylor Zimmerman from Wonderview High School.

Congratulations again to these fantastic students across central Arkansas. They're a testament to our state and Nation's bright future and it's been my honor to recognize their achievements and hard work.

LILIE STOOLMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lillie Stoolman for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Lillie Stoolman is a 12th grader at Horizon High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lillie Stoolman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lillie Stoolman for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING ELIZABETH S. ELLIS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following article honoring Elizabeth S. Ellis, the longtime influential publisher of Connecticut's Journal Inquirer newspaper, who passed away on May 4, 2020. Dedicating 53 years of her life to the Journal Inquirer, Ellis successfully expanded the small, local newspaper from five to eighteen towns. She notably broke gender barriers by directing the paper when few women were afforded leadership roles in journalism. What impressed me the most was how she was able to, in a relatively short period of time, rival the State Paper of Record the Hartford Courant. She attracted talented journalists including the state's leading sports writer, Randy Smith and editorial page editor and writer, Chris Powell. Elizabeth Ellis' dedication to her community is commendable, and I believe it deserves recognition.

[From the Journal Inquirer]

PORTRAIT OF A LADY, AND US

(By Keith C. Burreis)

Seekers look for teachers. They sit at the feet of those who can teach them something about how to live. My Uncle Tom, at whose feet I sat for a time (actually we sat in deck chairs on a high-rise balcony drinking gin), was an old test and fighter pilot with an eye for character and detail. He called me "little grasshopper" when I was in college.

But I want to tell you about another person who taught me, and did so for 21 years, never once in didactic fashion.

Her name was Elizabeth Ellis, and she was my boss, mentor, friend, life coach, and master teacher for all those years, at the Journal Inquirer.

Betty died this week at the age of 92.

The first thing she taught me was to be independent—to steer my own path and not to be intimidated. I never saw or heard her worry about "what people might say" or think.

She had a worldview. I would call it Roosevelt liberalism, but this worldview was as practical and subject to empirical testing as it was principled. She was an intellect, but she did not live in the world of abstraction. She lived in the world of the possible.

An early lesson in her independence and pragmatism was the case of two young, inexperienced cops shooting and killing a man who was high and charged at them, threatening to take them out. He had a knife, but was otherwise unarmed.

I wanted to hammer the cops in an editorial. I wanted to say their lives were never at risk and they should have shot the guy in the foot or leg. And, anyway, their superiors should not have sent two green cops on this call. These were not unreasonable positions.

Betty quietly asked me some questions: Had I considered the dilemma from the

young cops' point of view? How long did they have to think? What information did they have? What did I know about the size, distance, and disposition of the man who came at the cops? And, most devastatingly, had I ever tried to shoot someone in the foot or leg? Had I ever been in a situation remotely similar? Did I know anyone who had?

This was my lesson in empathy, with side tutorials in balance, skepticism, and judgment.

I never thought of Betty as a religious person. But she was a deeply sensitive person and a profoundly Jewish person. Hence her innate sense of justice and understanding. I never once saw her get emotional or sentimental, but she walked me through the death of my father, and the long illness and death of my mother, as no one else did—with the blessed assurance of the psalmist. Or maybe just a mom.

She once told me that a newspaper should be a place where a person could go when he has exhausted all other options—the paper should be the recourse of last resort.

The third thing I learned from her was a sense of fun.

Yes, she regarded journalism as a high calling. But there is no sense in owning or producing a daily newspaper, she thought, if you don't have some fun—afflicting the comfortable as well as comforting the afflicted. Every day.

And we did have fun. We laughed a lot and rattled a lot of cages. And we regularly surprised people. And formed no permanent alliances. (We didn't endorse in political races.)

We took the work seriously but ourselves not so much. We had a feisty little newspaper. At one time, when such things were possible, the JI was the fastest growing paper in New England. The paper's motto was: "We tell it like it is, somebody has to."

Betty set the tone and tenor. She was rightly called, in her JI obit, "the soul" of the paper. She drew the boundaries and let us all roam within. She never stopped being a fan of good journalism or good writing and she was lavish with praise when she thought any one of us reached the top. But occasionally she would intone, always with a wry smile, "remember, it's my sandbox."

She relished being the underdog and she loved a good fight. She adored jazz and theater and she liked cocktails, and sentences, that packed a punch. Her wit was sharp and dry and her composure eclipsed the truth that she was actually tough as nails. But she was also, in every sense of the word—a word in unfortunate retreat these days—a lady.

And when I say tough, I refer not only to things she endured in life—loss, pain, the ruthlessness of age—but a certain mental toughness about the world. She was an old-fashioned progressive, but there was nothing of what we would today call "woke" about her. Not one ounce of preciousness or virtue signaling. And when I think about her I wonder if we have lost all rigor, both in our profession and in our society. What would she think about an entire economy shut down; a whole society sheltering in place, ad infinitum?

Maybe that it is good that we are starting to reopen America; good that we are starting to come out. Maybe she would say that risk is part of life and we take a risk every time we leave the house or turn the key in the car. And who wants to live in a society where you can't shake hands or hug your kid or visit your aging mother or your newborn granddaughter? Life is risk. And either you risk or you live by fear.

Elizabeth Ellis took risks. It seemed to me she was never afraid.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Thursday April 23 and Friday, May 15, 2020, I was not able to make the recorded votes below. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 103; YEA on Roll Call No. 104; YEA on Roll Call No. 105; YEA on Roll Call No. 106; YEA on Roll Call No. 107; NAY on Roll Call No. 108; and YEA on Roll Call No. 109.

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of talk on this floor today about this bill with people pointing fingers and saying: It doesn't do this or it doesn't do that.

However, if we were to examine the intent of this bill we can see one thing with crystal clarity.

What it does do is to provide real support for American heroes: our physicians, our nurses, our cops, our teachers, our firemen, and our first responders.

But there are many other heroes moving our country forward during these perilous times.

Our grocery store clerks, bus drivers, mental health counselors, food bank employees, farmers and the list would certainly include leaders at every level of State and local governments.

And this is not just a Democratic effort.

This is an effort that is supported by Republicans as well, and somebody needs to say that.

Republican Governors, Republican mayors, Republican County officials, and there will be some Republican Members on that side of the aisle who vote for this bill because it is the right thing to do.

It provides needed testing, and it provides the resources those on the front lines in this war against our common enemy—the Coronavirus pandemic—who need to survive and to thrive once again.

It is a critical way for us to do more than to simply offer words.

It allows us to offer hope to these true American heroes.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MARK PETTITT FOR HIS SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, after ably and honorably serving as my chief of staff for more than 9 years, Mark Pettitt will

retire in June. Mark has provided exceptional leadership, and I've greatly benefited from having him as my chief advisor. I will miss his sound and candid guidance.

When asked how he came to be my chief of staff, Mark will often reply, "I complained about politics too many times to an old friend." That is only partly true. Really, it was Mark's deeply ingrained sense of patriotism that led him to Capitol Hill.

Mark's tenure as chief of staff caps an already exemplary career as a successful private sector engineer. For Mark, there are few more patriotic acts than simply working hard and contributing each day to America's economic and industrial prowess.

Mark worked hard throughout his career. He earned both his masters and undergraduate degrees in engineering from Brigham Young University. He served as an R&D Engineer and Project Manager at Wylie Laboratories in Huntsville, Alabama from 1978–1989. While at Wylie, Mark earned his Professional Engineer license. He went on to work as an Executive Consultant and Product Manager for Intergraph Corporation from 1989–2010. As an aside, Mark is a 10th degree Jiu Jitsu black belt.

Given his private sector background, Mark offers a unique perspective on federal policy issues. Always one to put America first, Mark has been particularly active in addressing America's trade imbalances and has long advocated for trade policies that benefit American workers.

As Mark's career concludes, I cannot thank him enough for the value he provided me, the Tennessee Valley, and America. I wish Mark joy and contentment as he embarks on this next phase of life. He is looking forward to enjoying well-deserved time with his wife, Diane, five children—John, Jared, Ben, Nichole, and Joseph—and 12 grandchildren! Mark has earned every bit of that family time.

America is a stronger, more prosperous nation thanks to Mark's exemplary career.

ALDEN BURCH NARANJO, JR.
TRIBUTE**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alden Burch Naranjo, Jr. of Ignacio, Colorado, a leader within the Southern Ute Tribe who recently passed away.

Alden attended Ute Vocational School and later graduated from St. Catherine's Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After pursuing his education, Alden enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and served his country honorably. His service to others continued following the Vietnam War, when he transitioned into a career with the Southern Ute Tribe which spanned 40 years.

Alden served as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Coordinator, working to ensure federal laws protect Native American lineal descendants with respect to the treatment, repatriation, and disposition of Native American human remains and culturally important objects were implemented. He also served as a police officer, staffer for the Division of Wild-

life, probation officer, and historian. He was also a member of Keepers of the Treasures—which predated NAGPRA—and a spiritual leader for tribal members. This role sent him around the world to educate people on Native American rights, spirituality, and culture.

Alden also held the role of President of the Native American Church of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and the United States Chapters. In what free time he had, he was a traditional Sun dancer and took great pride in his Native American heritage. He will be sorely missed by his large extended family, the entire Southern Ute Tribe, and State of Colorado.

Madam Speaker, Alden's death is a loss for not only the Southern Ute Tribe but for the entire State of Colorado, and all of us who value the rich culture and historical heritage he worked so passionately throughout his life to share. Alden's legacy will be remembered and live on for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING HANK BROWNE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Hank Browne, who was inducted into this year's Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame by the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation.

Hank is a lifelong hunter and dedicated supporter of the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation.

He also founded his own business in Arkansas in 1975, Hank's Fine Furniture, which was recognized as one of America's Top 100 Independent Furniture Retailers.

As a member of The Nature Conservancy Arkansas' Last Great Places Society, he has been a champion of conservation efforts in the Natural State throughout his lifetime.

His service to the state of Arkansas and to wildlife and conservation will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating Hank on this achievement and wish him much continued success.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF PAM BROWN LARSEN

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today, the Tri-Cities community celebrates and honors the career of Pam Brown Larsen. For the past 25 years, Pam has served as Executive Director of Hanford Communities, an intergovernmental cooperative organization embraced by four cities, two counties, and a port district. Pam began this journey in 1994 when she became the first and only person to fill the position created by the City of Richland.

Throughout her career, Pam has been a steadfast advocate for the cleanup of the Hanford Site and for the people and communities surrounding it. Her leadership has been crucial to the progress seen at the 586 square mile site. Pam has played a pivotal role in increasing the public's access to information about

Hanford, and her efforts advocating for a cost-effective, safe, and prompt cleanup will continue to shape the mission at the site in the years to come.

Pam has not only been an expert on nuclear cleanup issues at the local level; she has also shared her collaborative leadership model at the national and international levels as well.

The Tri-Cities was the only Department of Energy community with a government advocacy association at the time of its creation. Since then, communities like those in Los Alamos, New Mexico and Oak Ridge, Tennessee have followed the example of Hanford Communities in creating their own associations. Pam has gone on to share her model of waste cleanup community advocacy with agency leaders in Fukushima, Japan. Her leadership has made, and will continue to make, a sustaining mark on the cleanup efforts of the future.

Pam, it is an honor to know you, both as a constituent, and as a friend. I know I am not alone in thanking you for your years of service and in wishing you the very best in retirement. Congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. PRENTICE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding individual, John Prentice, who passed away at the age of 66 on April 30, 2020. John was a loving husband, a dedicated community member, and a dear friend of mine. He will be deeply missed.

John was born on December 2, 1953, the son of Rita and George Prentice. John and I grew up together in Corona, California and had an incredible friendship that spanned from kindergarten to today. After graduating at the top of his class from Corona High School, John attended Cal Poly Pomona and earned a Bachelor of Science degree which led him to become a Certified Public Accountant.

In 1980, John married the love of his life Melody Cissna, a wonderful woman who I have the pleasure of also calling a friend. Together they shared almost forty years of marriage filled with exciting travels, and lots of skiing, boating, and golfing. John and Melody took on their adventures together and surrounded themselves with good friends.

John was an active CPA for more than 40 years, joining Eadie & Payne, LLP as a staff accountant in 1976. He worked his way up to becoming the firm's managing partner in 2000 and served in that role until he retired in 2017. John served as my accountant for many years, and I can personally attest to the many lives he touched throughout his career where he was known for his humor, warmth, intelligence, and optimistic outlook.

John was an active member of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino and Inland Action, organizations which he graced with his time, leadership skills, and wit. He made lifelong friendships through his associations in professional accounting, agricultural, and construction trade groups. John was incredibly dedicated to his colleagues, clients, friends, and family.

John is survived by his wife Melody, mother Rita, and his brothers Dan, Joe, and Jim Prentice. He is fondly remembered by his cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends for his generosity and kind spirit.

I had the pleasure of knowing John both personally and professionally throughout most of my life. He was a wonderful friend, a talented professional and a passionate advocate for our region. He was a great American and I extend my heartfelt condolences to my dear friend Melody and to all those who knew John. Although he may no longer be with us, he will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of his family and community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MASTER
PATROL OFFICER SPENCER
BRISTOL

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a distinguished public servant from Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District, fallen Master Patrol Officer Spencer Daniel Bristol. Officer Bristol committed his life and career to keeping the city of Hendersonville, TN safe from crime, after serving 5 years in the United States Navy.

His loss has been profoundly felt in and around Hendersonville and across the law enforcement community in Tennessee and beyond. Hundreds of Hendersonville residents from all walks of life lined the town's main street to pay their respects the day he was laid to rest. It is important that we recognize the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers, not only during police week, but every day. We have them to thank for keeping our families, neighborhoods, and communities safe.

Everyday heroes like Officer Bristol are the ones who continue to make this nation great. I offer my condolences to the family he leaves behind; his wife, Lauren, and their 3-year-old daughter, Eloise.

STEPHANIE ROSSI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Rossi, who after 40 years of teaching, is retiring. Stephanie's dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District and to the State of Colorado has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

Stephanie started teaching in the Jeffco School District in 1994. Currently she teaches courses in social studies—including AP U.S. history, world religions, and psychology—as well as geography and American government. Her reputation has become so legendary that kids who haven't even reached high school cross their fingers to one day join her classroom. She even has special nicknames, becoming known as Rossi Woman or Mama

Ross within Wheat Ridge High School. And she does all of it with a smile on her face, and the passion and creativity that she gives to her students each and every day is tremendous.

In addition to her teaching career, Stephanie has provided countless hours and resources to the Jefferson County community by serving on local and state boards and commissions. She spent countless hours working with the Jefferson County Education Association and in 2015 received the Williams College's annual George Olmsted, Jr. Class of 1924 Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching. In her spare time, she works to improve school culture by promoting and encouraging diverse perspectives for students and adults alike. She also leads a Peace Jam Club, which promotes peaceful problem solving, and Compassion Crew, an anonymous student group that recognizes people who commit acts of kindness.

Her contribution to the Jefferson County School District and the Jefferson County community is remarkable and her teaching has inspired thousands of students to pursue their dreams. I congratulate Stephanie on a lifetime of service and wish her all the best in retirement.

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY
OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SO-
LUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Democrats' next comprehensive coronavirus relief package, the HEROES Act.

The HEROES Act contains an additional \$75 billion for the testing, tracing and treatment required to match the threat posed by the coronavirus. We have also ensured that access to medical services is prioritized and safeguarded, such that every American can access free COVID-19 treatment. The HEROES Act eliminates cost sharing for coronavirus treatment for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, as well as those with private health insurance, TRICARE, VA Health Care, and Federal Employee Health Benefits. Additionally, we have infused an additional \$100 billion into the Health Care Provider Relief Fund and have ensured that these funds are distributed to providers in an equitable and efficient way. All these investments in our public health and medical systems will further support our communities as they withstand this coronavirus pandemic.

In order to assist the small businesses bearing the brunt of the economic impact of the coronavirus, the HEROES Act strengthens the Payroll Protection Program and adds safeguards to ensure equal funding distribution to underserved communities. These, paired with an extension of weekly unemployment payments through January of 2021, are vital lifelines to small business owners and those they employ.

The HEROES Act also commits nearly \$1 trillion alone to state and local governments for the purpose of paying those workers fighting this disease and its effects on the frontlines. Additionally, it creates a \$200 billion

hazard pay fund to ensure that frontline workers are compensated accordingly for their efforts in these dangerous conditions.

For those who have lost their jobs, the HEROES Act introduces funding for programs that, among others, address workplace and food security, housing assistance, health insurance, public education and direct payments to those who qualify.

Mr. Speaker, though we as Members of Congress come to this floor from all corners of the country, representing different districts and demographics, we are united today by a common issue—our communities are struggling. Tens of thousands of loved ones have already been lost and millions now find themselves without a steady source of income, to say nothing of the additional hardships that will linger for years to come. The HEROES Act is an essential step forward to assure that we are appropriately addressing the needs of our communities, therefore I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and urge the Senate to take it under consideration.

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON WRIGHT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, while I am not able to attend the vote for H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act on May 15, 2020. I want to express my strong opposition to this legislation, and I plan to vote against it.

This 1800-page bill is anything but heroic. It reads more like a Democrat Christmas list. Instead of crafting law, the Speaker wrote and dropped a political bill that she and the rest of her party know is dead on arrival in the Senate. This is not a serious attempt to pass more relief for American workers, businesses, and health professionals. Changing election laws, incentivizing illegal immigration, bailing out mismanaged pensions, and spending the cap on state and local tax deduction for the top 1 percent have nothing to do with the Wuhan Virus and do not address the real needs of the American people.

As usual there are positive elements upon which there could be bipartisan support: more small business relief, help for our agricultural sector, additional resources for front line health care workers, and more funding for testing development and deployment. No doubt, these provisions will be cynically heralded as others ensure the bill's demise. Writing a politically inspired bill behind closed doors without meaningful negotiations with the minority, the Senate, or the White House is not how law is crafted. Rather, it's how mockeries are made that further erode the faith and confidence of the American people in Congress.

Rather than spending another \$3 trillion to push a socialist agenda and further expand government, we should be working together to assess how effectively the previous \$3 trillion has been spent, and then identify the needs that are appropriate for the federal government to fill.

Enough with the political stunts. Let's get back to working in a bipartisan manner so that we can re-open the economy, hold China accountable, secure our supply chain, and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. I continue to be inspired by the steadfast commitment from the men and women that leave their families, risk their health, and go to their essential jobs every day so that we can continue fighting this war.

CONGRATULATING HAYDEN MARIE MARCHANT ON HER EIGHTH-GRADE GRADUATION AT THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL ON MAY 21, 2020

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my granddaughter, Hayden Marie Marchant, upon her eighth-grade graduation at The Hockaday School on May 21, 2020. Located within my congressional district in Dallas, Texas, Hockaday was founded in 1913, and has since developed into a beacon of educational excellence that draws students from across the country and around the world.

As Hayden successfully completes her middle school education, our family is proud to celebrate her impressive accomplishments. Aside from managing her academic responsibilities, Hayden has proven to be a dedicated athlete by participating in volleyball, basketball, soccer, and softball. Off the field, she has excelled in other extracurriculars, as demonstrated by her multiple awards at the State Fair of Texas Lego competition and her recent portrayal of Von Hussler in Hockaday's performance of *Mary Poppins*. Hayden has also displayed an entrepreneurial spirit by launching her own business, "Rocking M Beads", which she continues to run and operate. Her friends and relatives all agree that she is outstanding in her field.

Students at Hockaday celebrate the conclusion of their middle school experience by arriving at their graduation ceremony in traditional white dresses and listening to congratulatory remarks from the administration, faculty, and a chosen student speaker. This final event serves as a rite-of-passage that prepares students to assume the added responsibilities of their upper-school years.

Hayden continues to make her parents, Matthew and Lindsay, extremely proud. Her two sets of grandparents, Donna Marchant and myself, and Rod and Sherry Hill of Frisco, Texas, could not be prouder of the young woman that she is becoming. Hayden truly embodies the four cornerstones of The Hockaday School: character, courtesy, scholarship, and athletics. Our entire family is excited for Hayden's continued progress.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hayden Marchant and The Hockaday School Class of 2024 on their eighth-grade graduation. As every school across the nation has been negatively impacted over the past few months, I would also like to recognize the teachers, administrators, and support staff that have been working hard to meet the educational needs of our youth.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. CAROLINA WINSTON BARRIE

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mrs. Carolina Winston Barrie—a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and dedicated advocate for veterans from California's 33rd Congressional District. Carolina passed away on April 29, 2020 at the age of 92.

Carolina was born on November 24, 1927 in Los Angeles, California. She attended Marlborough School and the University of California, Berkeley. She was the epitome of a matriarch and walked through life with confidence and strength. Not only was she adored by her family, but also by those whose lives she touched.

She was the great-niece of Arcadia Bandini de Baker, who along with United States Senator John Percival Jones, donated the first 300 acres that made up the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors, now known as the West Los Angeles VA campus.

Carolina and other descendants of Arcadia have for decades tried to honor the gift their ancestors so patriotically donated, most recently in 2016 by founding the 1887 Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to the physical and spiritual restoration of the five historic properties on the West Los Angeles VA campus, including the Wadsworth Chapel. Her advocacy for the campus and veterans was unparalleled. In addition to overseeing the 1887 Fund, she was an advisor to the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board, a federal advisory committee that made recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding the West Los Angeles VA Master Plan, as well as outreach and services for veterans.

Carolina was a woman of faith, compassion, intelligence and wit. Her legacy, not only for her family, but also to veterans, will forever carry on through her efforts to have veterans return to their rightful home at the West Los Angeles VA campus. As Carolina once said, "We don't have to go back to 1887 to do right by our veterans."

Carolina was predeceased by her husband, George; her three sons: Winston, Juan, Matthew; and her daughter, Louisa. She is survived by two daughters, Christine and Carolina; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson. May Carolina's memory be an inspiration and blessing to us all.

RECOGNIZING RENA EDWARDS AND STITCHERS MENDING HEARTS INC.

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Rena Edwards of Cabot, Arkansas and her team at the nonprofit organization Stitchers Mending Hearts Inc., an organization spread throughout the state, doing

good for those in need through their crafting talents.

For several years the team has been using their crafting abilities for good by creating and donating items to different organizations in the community including chemo hats for cancer patients, blankets and pillows for patients at Arkansas Children's Hospital, and socks and scarves for the homeless just to name a few.

Recently Stitchers Mending Hearts has gone above and beyond during this public health crisis by donating more than 3,000 masks to health care workers and other organizations in their community.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite the public even amidst a health crisis.

I congratulate Rena Edwards and the team at Stitchers Mending Hearts for using their talents in a way that brings the community together.

RECOGNIZING SOURCE VERO
BEACH

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges in each of our communities, but it has shown us what we have to be grateful for and who we should be grateful to. Today I would like to recognize a local homeless outreach ministry, The Source Vero Beach, whose volunteers have been working tirelessly to provide essential services to the needy in Indian River County, during this pandemic.

The Source has been a community leader since its establishment in 1995 as a homeless ministry that provided free meals and Bible Study sessions in Indian River County. They have since grown into a comprehensive assistance center that prides itself on providing essential services to people from all walks of life, no matter background or struggle. Whether it be a free dinner, clothing, counseling, showers, access to a telephone, or just a listening ear, they have welcomed anyone and everyone into their care. Now more than ever, the community relies on their assistance.

While The Source faced its fair share of hardship during the pandemic in continuing many of these essential services, they saw an opportunity to invest in and give hope to those who have been recently displaced from work, developing a new culinary training program that feeds the community. This program called "Dining with Dignity" provides these individuals with 18 weeks of hands-on kitchen training, knife skills, financial literacy, interpersonal skills, and a weekly stipend. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a State of Florida ServSafe/SafeStaff certification, a graduation bonus, and job placement within the restaurant industry.

This back-to-work program has seen major success so far, providing life-changing training to fight chronic unemployment caused by COVID-19, while delivering over 550 meals a day, 7 days a week to the needy. To thank for the development and implementation of the program, is Executive Director of The Source, Mr. Anthony Zorbaugh, along with the rest of the outreach staff who are dedicated to serv-

ing our community, no matter the challenges they face.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in recognizing the staff of The Source Vero Beach for their altruism and public servant hearts. Our community will be forever grateful for their investment and service to those who need it most.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL BRAD
COOPER'S SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY
AS THE SECRETARY OF THE
NAVY'S CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to both recognize and congratulate Rear Admiral Brad Cooper for his service as he concludes his tour as the Secretary of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity, he oversaw and led a team of 40 Naval officers, sailors, and civilians helping set departmental priorities and advancing the shared understanding of what our Navy continues to do in support of our Nation.

I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Brad through my role as Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee in various CODELs and oversight hearings. Last year alone, he personally accompanied me, and many other members of Congress, to the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway to see first-hand how the Navy was conducting anti-submarine operations in the High North and to see the awe-inspiring work that our sailors were doing on the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) off the coast of Florida. In various office calls and oversight engagements, the quality of assistance given has been unrivaled. Simply said, my office, the House Committee on Armed Services and this entire chamber is better off due to Admiral Cooper's service.

A career surface warfare officer, Admiral Cooper has served in various ships including destroyers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers culminating with command of USS *Russell* (DDG 59) and USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64). To help articulate the caliber of officer that Brad is, I will share this anecdote: Every year, the Navy awards the Battle E to the best ship in a given squadron. Brad, and the phenomenal teams he helps build, have achieved this award ten times.

During his recent tenure as Chief of Legislative Affairs, Brad has served admirably through significant change while keeping the Navy's Capitol Hill posture even-keeled through the tenures of multiple Navy leaders. His staff has flawlessly executed Congressional Delegations throughout the world, supported hearings, and negotiated the NDAA while considering military, political, and budgetary priorities. His team works flawlessly, and is my, and many of my colleagues, staff of choice when dealing with defense issues.

I believe Brad's success is built on his understanding that what makes this country great is the ability to establish and keep relationships. This fundamental approach to his craft has gained respect and admiration in

both chambers of Congress and on both sides of the aisle. He has worked with us to broaden the Navy's outreach beyond just those members of defense committees. His efforts, solidified alongside those of the Navy's senior leaders, exposed the House of Representatives to the great work our sailors are doing around the globe each and every day.

As Admiral Cooper continues his Naval service, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Navy as Chief of Legislative Affairs. I would like to send him, his wife, Susan, and their children, Bradford and Katie, my very best wishes for continued success in Norfolk and their future endeavors.

Well done Admiral. Fair winds and following seas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
SILVA

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in Honor of Robert Silva who passed away on May 13th. He served as Mayor and Councilmember in Mendota, California and was a pillar of the community. Mr. Silva was a lifelong resident of Mendota and attended Tranquility High. After high school, Robert joined the Army to serve his country. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and devoted member of the Mendota community.

During his years as a city official, spent every day improving lives in the community he served. He was a champion during the recession years where the economy and numerous droughts severely impacted the agricultural industry and Mendota's farmworker community. He fought to bring back businesses and his efforts resulted in the restart of stalled construction of a federal prison and a scheduled groundbreaking of a solar-energy farm. Mr. Silva never stopped advocating for his community and in his last years as Mayor he was able to secure a donation for the Mendota Boys and Girls club that prevented it from closing. Ensuring that the children of Mendota retained a safe place where they could learn, play, and grow as well as be provided with a daily nutritious meal.

As one of the founders of the Latino Water Coalition Mr. Silva made sure that the voice of his community, and indeed the voice of all the Fresno Westside communities, was heard, and their needs brought to the attention of the media. He proudly defended his community because he knew that even though they are smaller than other communities, his was made up of hardworking people who were just as deserving as any other. The City of Mendota chose to honor Mr. Silva in 2018 for his service to the City as the longest serving mayor by dedicating a newly built plaza in his honor.

The Mendota community has experienced an immense loss, but his spirit lives on through the lives he touched. He was a man of great integrity whose dedication and contributions to the Mendota community are innumerable. He will always be remembered, and his leadership will be missed. Mr. Silva leaves behind his wife Mary, their children and grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA STENTOFT
OF SCOBAY

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for providing Eastern Montana's health care providers with personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Let me start of by saying Melinda wants everybody to know she doesn't think she deserves this recognition. She said, "I just honestly felt like it needed to be done."

That speaks volumes to the type of person Melinda is. She owns a boutique in Scobey, Montana. Once the COVID-19 outbreak forced everyone indoors and businesses, like hers, to close their doors, business really started picking up on line. In fact, her numbers doubled in the past two months.

But through all this success, she saw the harsh reality of the coronavirus and its impact on her community, state, and nation. When health care providers indicated they had an immediate need for PPE, Melinda realized there was a way she could help.

Melinda's boutique sells cloth masks to the public. She says everyone was ordering them, so she pledged to help with Eastern Montana's health care PPE shortage. For every five masks her business sold, she would donate two to health care systems like Daniels Memorial in Scobey, Roosevelt Memorial in Culbertson, and the Billings Clinic. Thanks to her efforts, hundreds of masks will be delivered to protect providers.

This unprecedented time has reminded Melinda of her childhood when, she says, people were so close, and the sense of a tight-knit community came back because of the outbreak. Instead of rushing all the time, Melinda feels people are taking more time to talk to each other, and she loves how people have found their own way to help.

Madam Speaker, for identifying the needs of her community and selflessly giving back, I recognize Melinda Stentoft of Scobey for her Spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF EL NUEVO DÍA NEWS-
PAPER

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an important anniversary in Puerto Rican journalism.

Fifty years ago, what is today the leading newspaper in Puerto Rico, El Nuevo Día, was launched under the direction of the late editor Carlos Castañeda. It was his vision and leadership that transformed one of our older regionally-oriented papers into a major islandwide publication, marking a new era in the Puerto Rico press.

During its half century of existence El Nuevo Día newspaper has been home to valued and respected reporters, commenters,

photojournalists, analysts and writers. I congratulate each one of these distinguished individuals who have helped make El Nuevo Día newspaper what it is today—from the many figures long established when the paper came into existence, to those who made their careers reporting for El Nuevo Día newspaper, to those who have moved on to other outlets, to those who are just getting started. It is their collective efforts that have kept the record of moments of joy and of pain, of achievements and challenges, of history in the making, often pioneering new ways to cover daily news, politics, economics and business, sport and cultural events. Even today, as we face this on-going pandemic, El Nuevo Día newspaper continues to find innovative ways to bring timely news to the people of Puerto Rico and beyond.

A dynamic free press is essential to a dynamic free society and its role is vital in the process of informing the people and of maintaining accountability, especially in times of uncertainty. I wish to congratulate the Ferré Rangel family and the whole family of El Nuevo Día newspaper, past and present, on this anniversary, and extend my best wishes to continue a path of success.

RECOGNIZING AARON BAXTER

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Aaron Baxter for his outstanding work in the ICU at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Aaron began his career in health care at UAMS in 2015 as a patient care technician after working in the energy and manufacturing sectors. While working as a patient care technician, Aaron attended nursing school and obtained his RN.

With the current pandemic, Aaron has taken on yet another role in his unit, working as both a COVID nurse and a dofficer, where his role is to help colleagues make sure they are properly using and removing their protective equipment.

His previous experience working with high voltage powerlines and steel fabrication has provided him with the ability to carefully monitor and identify safety issues during this process.

Aaron's superiors say that he is a team player who stands out due to his high regard for patient care and safety.

I thank Aaron for his dedication to protecting the health of Arkansans during this time. He, and frontline workers like him, are vital to us overcoming COVID-19 as a nation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
MARITIME DAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize May 22nd as National Maritime Day. On this occasion, we are especially

proud of Michigan's status as a maritime industry powerhouse, which we owe to the many men and women who drive commerce on our beautiful Great Lakes. According to the American Maritime Partnership, this industry provides Michigan's economy with an annual \$2.8 billion, in addition to \$703.6 million in worker income and 12,140 jobs.

Michigan's First District features more coastline than any other congressional district in the contiguous United States, and is home to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, which continues to supply our waterways with the next generation of Merchant Marine officers. We have no shortage of reasons to celebrate this day and the proud maritime traditions of the Great Lakes.

While the circumstances of today and our nation's fight against the coronavirus make it difficult for anyone to participate in festivities, National Maritime Day 2020 is celebrated in spirit by our brave essential workers who are—at this moment—navigating ships, running ports, and operating locks. And as of this month, there are now those who are building a new lock in the Soo Locks complex. This historic milestone, as well as the jobs, growth, and security that will come with the new lock's completion, are well worth celebrating on this commemorative day.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring National Maritime Day and the millions of individuals across the Great Lakes who maintain our national security by keeping our nation's economic engine running, even in these most trying times.

KAY MARTINEZ-ACOSTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kay Martinez-Acosta, who after 30 years of teaching, is retiring. Kay's dedication to education in the Jefferson County School District and to the State of Colorado has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

Kay Martinez-Acosta was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Growing up, Kay was known for being an exceptional student and avid reader. She was committed to her chosen career path at a young age. Kay always knew she wanted to be a teacher. After she graduated from Marycrest High School in 1986, she received a scholarship and enrolled in the teacher's program at the University of Northern Colorado. She received her bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1990 and did her student teaching with Denver Public Schools. In 1991, Kay accepted her first elementary school teaching position with Jeffco Public Schools and remained with the district throughout her career. She taught at Eiber Elementary School, Sierra Elementary School and has been currently teaching at Vanderhoof Elementary School for 24 years!

In 1992, Kay married her husband Lee Acosta and they moved to Arvada, Colorado and raised two daughters, all while maintaining her teaching career and continuing her education. In 1999, Kay received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Development

from the University of Phoenix. In addition, she received an English Language Learner endorsement. Kay has made a difference teaching first, second and third graders, touching the lives of more than 750 school children during her notable career. She has even

taught two generations of Jeffco families. I salute Kay on her retirement from 30 years of teaching in the field of elementary education and thank her for her incredible service to our community.

Kay's contribution to the Jefferson County School District and the Jefferson County community is remarkable. I congratulate Kay on a lifetime of service and wish her all the best in retirement.