

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BRENDA CONNOLLY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and appreciation that I rise today to honor Brenda Connolly, who is retiring after serving 35 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ms. Connolly has been a member of my team since I was first elected to the House of Representatives. She is a trusted advisor and a centering force throughout the unpredictability of Washington. If you have met Brenda, then you know her retirement means more than just losing a staff member—it is the loss of an incredibly funny, talented and caring person who left a profound impact on everyone she has come across.

I was recently asked if there was anything I would change about Brenda's time in our office, and without hesitation I simply responded 'nothing.'

Before coming to Washington, D.C., Brenda grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan. She then graduated from the University of Michigan—Go Blue—where she met her husband Doug with whom she has two children, Nicholas and Caitlin. Brenda has been such a keystone of my team despite our superficial differences, because we understand one another. We both attended the University of Michigan, we value time with our families above all else, our children always come first, and we have the same sense of humor.

Our team shared many of Brenda's firsts while she worked with me: her first manicure, her first Kahlúa, and her first viewing of The Office. Brenda was also there for one of my most significant firsts: my first day in Congress. Brenda taught me more about Capitol Hill than she probably realizes. She put my job in perspective, made sure I was on time for the important things, and helped me understand how to let the small things slide. Brenda was always proactive about what we needed, always raising potential concerns before I thought of them. Brenda has an incredible talent for making meaningful people-to-people connections; and in her 35 years on Capitol Hill, I can only imagine the countless connections she has made through the years.

I know we will dearly miss Brenda's nature paintings, holiday sweaters, and unrepeatable metaphors. From her first day on February 7, 1985, Brenda understood that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. I wish her a wonderful and fulfilling retirement with many years of happiness.

On behalf of all the people she has made laugh, served, and worked with, I thank Brenda for her many years of service to New York

and the United States of America. Brenda will be deeply missed.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF PAULA SPRINGER BOASE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the esteemed life of Paula Boase. Paula will forever be remembered for her tremendous impact on our community, and she will be deeply missed.

Born in Detroit, Paula Boase was a life-long Michigan resident who left a significant mark on our state. After graduating from Michigan State University, Paula became a buyer for Hudson's and later worked for Heinz. A short while later, Paula began her career with the Downriver Community Conference (DCC), where she remained for the past thirty-six years. After initially serving as a job developer who helped community members connect with employment opportunities, Paula quickly became a fixture in the DCC and eventually rose to the position of Director of Economic Development. Among her colleagues and peers, Paula was regarded as a humble leader who endeavored to make a lasting difference, and she will always be recognized as the motivating driver behind the Brown Field redevelopment in the Downriver community. Paula dedicated her life to working for causes she believed in, and her efforts truly affected change throughout the Downriver community.

Beyond her impact in a professional capacity, Paula Boase was a generous, kind, and compassionate community figure. She was a fierce environmental and animal rights advocate, a creative baker, and an adventurous traveler. Above all, Paula was a loving mother to Hilary and Daniel and doting grandmother to Leah, Bryce, Evan, and Elena. Paula's passing represents a loss to the entire Michigan community, but her memory will endure through the countless lives she touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Paula Boase. We are saddened by her loss, but we will forever remember her remarkable life, work, and community impact. May she rest in eternal peace.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Special Districts Provide Essen-

tial Services Act," at the request of the California Association of Special Districts. I want to thank my original cosponsors for their support of this much-needed legislation.

Special districts are independent units of local government that provide public services cities and counties do not provide for residents. Those services include first responders, policing, firefighting, public health, transit, and more, making special districts critical to the communities they serve.

However, special districts are currently ineligible for direct federal financial assistance under the "Coronavirus Relief Fund" established by the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136). My legislation would ensure that the 2,700 special districts in California and 30,000 special districts nationwide are eligible for any additional assistance provided by Congress to state, county, and local governments to aid in the fight against COVID-19. There are 237 special districts alone in California's third Congressional district, which I am honored to represent.

The "Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act" would also allow special districts access to the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility, which provides states, counties, and cities federally guaranteed bridge financing to offset unexpected short-term revenue shortfalls. Like states, counties, and cities, many special districts serve large populations and have the legal authority to issue short-term tax and revenue anticipation notes. However, special districts are not currently granted direct access to the Municipal Liquidity Facility, even to offset revenue shortfalls caused by the current pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to co-sponsor the "Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act" to ensure that all local governments have the support needed to deliver crucial quality-of-life services for our communities during this global pandemic.

HONORING RAY "GUMBI" SALAZAR

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Ray "Gumbi" Salazar, a true giant of Arizona, who passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at the age of 71. We will remember him as a civil rights pioneer who dedicated his entire life to the advancement of a more just and equitable Arizona. His unwavering positivity, artistic spirit, and commitment to education serve as an inspiration to our community and our state.

Salazar was a changemaker who fought for opportunity and a brighter

• 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.

future for all. He was born in the Golden Gate Settlement in South Phoenix, which the government later razed through eminent domain for the expansion of the airport. His commitment to education was shaped by his early days at Phoenix Union High School, where students walked out over discrimination and educational inequities. For decades, Salazar served on the board of Chicanos Por La Causa, both as chairman and as a member of the Board Veteranos, where he never lost sight of the importance of education for the Latino and underserved communities. Today, education remains one of the organization's five mission pillars of impact.

His dedication to justice was also evident through his work with youth and the formerly incarcerated. For 28 years, Salazar served at the Arizona Department of Corrections, where his steadfast belief that everyone deserves a second chance led him to working with persons who were returning to society. A long-time member of the Latino Peace Officers Association, Salazar actively participated in community education to combat the influence of gangs and drugs and encourage young people to choose lives of service.

Salazar's creative spirit inspired generations of artists. At the young age of five, he developed a passion and vision for the arts. Salazar became an immediate sensation, moving audiences with his choreography, vocals, and live performances. He graduated from Arizona State University with a major in music and became a Latino trailblazer in music, both as a percussionist and vocalist. For more than six decades, his beloved music celebrated Mexican culture and brought enjoyment to countless Arizonans, forging the path forward for the young artists he shaped and inspired.

Salazar gave all his time, heart, and soul to the betterment of the Latino community and all Arizonans. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his service to our state; Arizona is a better place because of him. His legacy will continue to live on for years to come. Godspeed, Gumbi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY CORRIDORS ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Promoting Equitable Transit-Oriented Development and Mobility Corridors Act along with my colleague Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN.

Pent-up demand for walkable communities has accelerated land prices and rents which has displaced both small businesses and affordable housing faster than state and local governments can respond. Additionally, suburban and rural communities lack the resources needed to upgrade their local infrastructure, housing and economic strategies to remain economically viable.

The Promoting Equitable Transit-Oriented Development and Mobility Corridors Act will

combat housing affordability issues and displacement of businesses by reversing the incentive to build luxury dwellings near transit. Instead, the bill will promote affordable housing development near transit and in priority investment areas.

This legislation establishes an Office of Equitable Transit Oriented Development in the DOT, creates incentives to combat gentrification, promotes affordable housing near transit, and reduces vehicle miles traveled and carbon emissions. It will also allow rural, suburban, and urban governments to develop more equitable planning practices through Technical Assistance grants.

I am glad that the Promoting Equitable Transit-Oriented Development and Mobility Corridors Act is endorsed by Elevated Chicago, The Chicago Community Trust, Smart Growth America, LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors and Transportation for America.

The Promoting Equitable Transit-Oriented Development and Mobility Corridors Act will ensure all Americans have equal access to healthy, walkable and prosperous communities.

I urge this body to swiftly pass this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF MORRIS "MO" HOOD III

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the esteemed life of a dear friend, Morris "Mo" Hood III. Mo will forever be remembered for his tremendous impact on our community, and he will be deeply missed.

Morris Hood embodied every characteristic of a passionate public servant. Following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, Mo was an active politician who dutifully and thoughtfully served Detroit. He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2003 and later was elected to the Michigan Senate, where he served as Michigan Senate Minority Leader until 2018. In his 15 years in the State Legislature, Mo touched the lives of countless Michiganders and never stopped working to improve the community and better the state.

Morris Hood will be remembered as a kind, humble, and dedicated community leader. He was a proud Detroit resident who never forgot his roots and always fought for those he represented—even before his political career began. Prior to his election to the State Legislature, Mo worked on the assembly line in the Dearborn Engine Plant and served as an alternate committeeman. In this capacity, Mo worked tirelessly to support his fellow workers and ensure their rights were being protected. After running for public office, Mo never lost this passion and continued being a tenacious advocate for working people statewide.

Beyond his political impact, Morris Hood's legacy is one of compassion, warmth, and charisma. He brought people together and

was a rock and voice of reason in turbulent times. He focused on the things that united us and refused to dwell on negativity or divisiveness. He always could be counted on to act with integrity, and encouraged all to be thankful, cherish life's blessings, and take advantage of every single day. Mo's passing represents a loss to the entire Michigan community, but his memory will undoubtedly endure through the countless lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Morris Hood III. He was a pillar of Michigan, and we will forever remember his remarkable life, work, and community impact. May he rest in eternal peace.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER CATECHIS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2020

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jennifer Catechis for her years of service to my office and the people of New Mexico's Third Congressional District.

Jennifer and I have known each other for decades. We first met in high school. Later, she would work with me at New Mexico's Public Relations Commission. For the last twelve years, she has overseen the district offices of New Mexico's Third Congressional District.

But the titles and years don't speak to who Jennifer Catechis is—she is family. And she treated her team and the fellow New Mexicans she was honored to serve like family.

Under her leadership, she guided my local operations, helping countless constituents navigate the federal system—ensuring veterans received the medals and benefits they earned, helping communities get support in times of strife, and always responding to need no matter the hour. If you called her for assistance, you didn't just get a seasoned, industrious professional staffer—you got a voice of compassion.

To our team and those she worked with, she responded with similar care. Birthdays were never forgotten, milestones recognized, and every year Jennifer's carefully chosen holiday gifts meant the season had truly arrived. Coworkers, neighbors, visitors—just about any New Mexican within driving distance—would be invited to her home for her Greek Easter celebration.

During difficult times, battling cancer, Jennifer maintained her unsinkable spirit—both while caring for her own health and continuing to fight for the people of New Mexico. After her recovery, she lent her voice to the fight against cancer—proving that even when a cause was personal, it was still about how she could be of service to others in need.

As she transitions onto future endeavors, I want to thank and recognize Jennifer—a public servant, a team leader and mentor, a fierce cancer survivor, an incredible mom, and a member of our proud New Mexico family.