

HONORING HOT SPRINGS POLICE
DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERV-
ICE DURING COVID-19

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of the Hot Springs Police Department. In these uncertain times, my hometown department's officers have continued serving and protecting our community.

Now more than ever, we've seen the impact of our communities' first responders and front-line workers, and in the Fourth Congressional District, none are more appreciated than our police. Throughout this pandemic, Hot Springs officers have continued to put their own safety on the line defending our streets, homes and businesses.

I take this time to honor these brave men and women who have stepped up, providing the Fourth District of Arkansas and the rest of the nation with a prime example of what it means to serve the people around you.

RECOGNIZING **KENT**
CHRISTENSEN'S DISTINGUISHED
CAREER IN THE CONGRESSIONAL
BUDGET OFFICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Kent Christensen, who retired at the end of July after 34 years of exceptional service to the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office. Kent began his Congressional career in CBO's Budget Analysis Division in 1986 where he worked as a principal analyst in the Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Cost Estimates Unit.

During his time at CBO, Kent was recognized as an exceptionally thoughtful and knowledgeable analyst. As one of the longest tenured members of CBO's Budget Analysis Division, he accrued extensive knowledge of the programs and accounts in his portfolio and a broad understanding of many other federal programs and the federal budget process in general. Kent was a valued colleague, passing along his knowledge to new and experienced analysts alike and encouraging a supportive environment where analysts respect each other and work well together.

Kent has also earned the respect of his counterparts on the staffs of the Armed Services, Budget, and Appropriations committees thanks to his thoroughness, meticulous attention to detail, and incredible memory. He worked closely with the staff of the Armed Services Committees for more than three decades, particularly on annual proposals of the National Defense Authorization Act. His acumen when estimating the budgetary effects of and providing technical feedback on legislative proposals has helped ensure enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act each year.

With his departure, the Congressional Budget Office loses a great asset. Over the past 34

years, CBO—and by extension, the Congress itself—has been fortunate to enjoy the dedication and insight that Kent has brought to his work. I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Kent for his service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Kent Christensen on his well-earned retirement from the Congressional Budget Office and recognize his outstanding work on the National Defense Authorization Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF FAMOUS HAM-
BURGER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Famous Hamburger as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Its years of service to the community are worthy of commendation.

After returning to Beirut, Lebanon from the United States, Phillip Hider and his father developed the idea to start a burger joint in Lebanon. In 1968, they two opened their first restaurant called "Little White Castle," which quickly transformed into a famous local favorite. After relocating to a new spot in Downtown Beirut, the decision was made to change the name to reflect its widespread popularity, resulting in the Famous Hamburger brand being officially established in 1970. Years later, Hider and his family chose to move to the United States to seek a better life and greater opportunity, and soon found themselves in Michigan in 1989. In March of 1997, Hider introduced the first Famous Hamburger in Detroit, and later relocated to a larger location in Dearborn in July of 2005. As in Lebanon, Famous Hamburger quickly became a beloved institution among the metro Detroit community. Today, it has locations spanning the region, such as Dearborn, Canton, and Auburn Hills.

For half a century, Famous Hamburger has been cherished by people across both Lebanon and Michigan. In Dearborn, the restaurant has become a beloved community staple. Its welcoming environment, dedicated staff, and quality meals have drawn our community together, and its burgers are recognized as one of the best across Michigan. Many patrons are regulars who have frequented the restaurant for years, and even newcomers are made to feel like life-long friends. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburgers have given our Dearborn community a reason to celebrate. It has provided a sense of comfort, unity, and normalcy in a time of unprecedented strife. Famous Hamburger's demonstrated commitment to serving Dearborn is immensely appreciated and is something we all should strive to emulate.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburger. We are grateful for its years of dedicated service, and wish the restaurant continued success in the year ahead.

INTRODUCING THE ISRAELI AN-
NEXATION NON-RECOGNITION
ACT TO PROTECT THE PALES-
TINIAN PEOPLE AND PROMOTE
PEACE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, yesterday, with the announcement of the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalize diplomatic relations, Speaker PELOSI issued a statement regarding the news. An important sentence in the statement was powerful, necessary, and correct: "The House continues to object to steps including unilateral annexation that will undermine future efforts to advance a just, stable, and lasting peace in the Middle East."

I agree.

For years, the centerpiece of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political agenda has been his explicit desire and intent to unilaterally annex as much as 30 percent of Palestinian territory in the West Bank. He calls it a "historic opportunity." Even though annexation is a clear violation of international law and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, the Trump administration, along with right-wing Jewish groups and extremists in the evangelical Christian community in the U.S., allies of Netanyahu, have championed annexation.

Millions of Palestinians have lived for decades under Israel's military occupation. Now the Palestinian people fear that any hope for self-determination or the opportunity to live with dignity, equality, and justice will be extinguished through the annexation of their land by Israel with the support of an American president.

Today, I am introducing legislation in the U.S. House—the Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act—to prohibit appropriated U.S. funds from being directed to any area in the occupied West Bank annexed by Israel. I want Palestinians and Israelis to have their human rights respected, their right to self-determination realized, and a future with peace, security, equality, and justice. Annexation is antithetical to these goals and will fuel conflict, injustice, and an abhorrent system of apartheid. This is an intolerable outcome for Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans.

I reject annexation. I condemn annexation. And, I will work to ensure the U.S. does not support, defend, or legitimize any plan or action by Israel to illegally annex Palestinian lands.

Yesterday's diplomatic agreement between Israel and the UAE changes nothing. Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump have taken nothing off the table. Their promises and commitments are worthless. They have both proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran a headline today citing comments from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel that makes it clear annexation is still being contemplated by Israeli and U.S. officials at the highest levels. Referring to annexation, the headline read, "Pro-settler Ambassador Friedman argues 'it's not off the table permanently' after historic agreement to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE."