

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ERIC HALE, TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Eric Hale for becoming the first black man to be named Texas Teacher of the Year. On September 30, 2020, the Texas Association of School Administrators named Mr. Hale the Texas Teacher of the Year for 2021. He is now a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year. Mr. Hale is a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at David G. Burnet Elementary School in Dallas ISD. Throughout his career, he has gone above and beyond and has been recognized for excellence in teaching.

Earlier this year, he appeared on the Kelly Clarkson Show and shared how he uses encouragement and positivity to motivate his students. He takes them outside for math and science lessons in the real world. He uses music to keep his students engaged.

Everyone needs a teacher who goes the extra mile, and for many students at David G. Burnett, that teacher is Mr. Hale. Mr. Hale, an advocate for his students, and through his commitment and dedication, he also teaches them to become their own advocates.

I was raised by a single mom who was a public school teacher and I went to Dallas public schools all my life. I benefited from teachers like Mr. Hale growing up and I am proud that this generation of students has Mr. Hale as their teacher.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Hale for being the 2021 Texas Teacher of the Year and for becoming the first black man to receive this important and prestigious honor.

HONORING JIM MOCK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jim Mock on receiving Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital's Advocacy Award.

During the coronavirus pandemic, many Pennsylvanians faced uncertainties. To help ensure food security, the Center for Independent Living of South Central PA (CILSCPA) started Operation Five Loaves to deliver food directly to those in need.

Throughout this crisis, Jim and his wife, Sandy, have worked tirelessly to deliver food directly to members of the disabled community in the Altoona area. Twice a week, Jim delivers 60 boxes of produce to people with mobility challenges who otherwise would have difficulty accessing fresh and healthy food. He often goes above and beyond to accommo-

date clients, putting in long hours and delivering food without contact.

Jim's selfless service is a hallmark of our community. I thank Jim and Sandy for their commitment to the Altoona region, and for their dedication to those in need. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I am proud to recognize Jim Mock as he receives this well-earned award, and I wish him the best in the chapters to come.

HONORING OFFICER MICHAEL
TACKEMA AS A RECIPIENT OF
THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize City of Fayetteville Police Department Officer Michael Tackema as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Fayetteville Police Department, Officer Tackema went beyond his call of duty on July 5, 2019.

Upon arrival to a domestic disturbance call, the scene escalated quickly and became dangerous when the homeowner opened fire from within the residence. As other officers were forced to take cover, Officer Tackema placed himself in the line of fire to protect his team and engage the subject.

Officer Tackema is a hero and that day he not only saved the lives of his fellow officers, but the lives of countless civilians as well. His quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and the entire Fayetteville Police Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Officer Tackema is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating City of Fayetteville Police Department Officer Michael Tackema for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

CONGRATULATING PHILIP MILLER
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate long-time Missouri resident, Philip Miller on his upcoming retirement from Bayer.

After 26 years of service, mainly in the crop science field, Philip is the inventor of over 20 patents, has authored 17 scientific papers and book chapters, and has spoken in numerous global and societal policy forums. Since 2012, he has served on the boards of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and CropLife International. He also found time to serve on the University of Missouri's Chancellors Advisory Board and the board of the Missouri Make-A-Wish foundation, all while working to raise corporate funds for the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

A scientist by training, Philip earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry, a Master of Science in cytogenetics, and a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences. He has utilized his expertise and leadership skills in various roles throughout his career to ensure farmers have the technologies they need to ensure that our nation continues to have affordable supplies of food.

Philip began his career as a regional sales director for PepsiCo and as a teacher at the University of Florida and Appalachian State University prior to joining Monsanto. From 2002 until Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto in 2018, Philip served in a variety of roles, including as the site lead at Mystic, Connecticut, a former Monsanto research site. Philip next served as Vice President, U.S. Commercial Technology Development before serving as Vice President, U.S. Product Management and Business Strategy.

In 2010, Philip became Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs and Science adding global government affairs to his responsibilities in 2015. The next year, his role expanded to include corporate affairs and communications and in 2018 he was also asked to lead Monsanto's merger with Bayer. At Bayer, Philip has led engagements with global governments and regulatory bodies as well as with other important stakeholders, critically shaping the industrial landscape for the better.

Having grown up farming and continuing to operate our family farm today, I cannot overstate the importance of Philip's contributions to the farming community and agriculture industry. Families across the U.S. and around the world can better feed their families thanks to his ingenuity and commitment to the availability of food.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Philip Miller for his many years of service and congratulating him on a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PAUL JOHNSON OF
GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul Johnson of Great Falls for caring for his community on the front line and for the sacrifices he made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• 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.

Paul Johnson loves his camper. His family bought their first one 10 years ago so they could spend more time together making their own Montana moments. For Paul, his wife, and their four kids, camping is a huge part of their lifestyle, and they cherish their time together. But this year looked a little different for the Johnson camper. It served as a home for Paul as he worked at Benefis West campus to keep his patients and family safe from the coronavirus.

Back in March, the Benefis Health System instituted a respiratory clinic for the sole purpose of treating COVID-19 patients. Paul was one of three commissioned physicians to oversee the clinic, putting him in direct contact with COVID-19 patients. Formerly a part of the U.S. Army Reserve and currently in the National Guard, it's in Paul's DNA to serve others.

For nine weeks, Paul camped at the Benefis West campus and the local KOA campground, away from his wife and children. Paul says he had to do what was best for his family. His eldest son was home, about to be deployed to Afghanistan. His daughter also worked at a family ranch that had guests coming and going. Paul simply didn't want to jeopardize his family's health if he was an asymptomatic carrier.

Paul is good at putting things in perspective, though. He says it certainly wasn't as bad as being deployed out of country. Still, the experience was emotionally and mentally draining, especially since there wasn't a clear light at the end of the tunnel. But to Paul, the easiest thing to do was grab the bull by the horns and take care of his patients.

His family is very proud of him, and so am I.

Living out of a camper in March with no heat wasn't easy. When it was below freezing, his water wouldn't run, so he used the hospital for a warm shower. Cooking for himself was a challenge. Paul says there were a lot of busy days and sleepless nights. To pass the time, he tied flies. When it wasn't cold, he was able to take a socially distant dog walk with his wife, but there was no hand-holding or kissing. Paul says that was one of the hardest parts.

Many may ask, "Why go to these lengths?" For Paul, he was committed to treating his patients and serving his community in a time of need.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding service to country, for his dedication to family, and for his selfless, unwavering patient care, I recognize Paul Johnson of Great Falls for his Spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE KEVIN COLLINS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pine Bluff police detective Kevin Dwaine Collins. His life tragically cut short in the line of duty on Monday, October 5, we take this time to thank him for his life of service and his family for their ultimate sacrifice.

A member of the Pine Bluff Police Department since 2015, Detective Collins had proven

himself to be a valuable resource and friend to his community. While his family and friends refer to him as a leader and a "gentle giant," it was well-known that Detective Collins held his calling to law enforcement with the greatest zeal.

Prior to his work with the police department, Collins served in a variety of public service areas like the Arkansas Department of Corrections and the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Association. In 2017, he was named Pine Bluff Police Department's Officer of the Year.

Detective Collins is named by community leaders of Pine Bluff as "one of the finest officers you could ever hope to have." His work was not just a job, "but it was his mission." It is clear from his years of service and his commitment to love his fellow man that Detective Kevin Collins is a man deserving of the highest honor. I take this time to celebrate his legacy and to thank him for the sacrifice he has made for our community and our home.

HONORING DR. GOVINDAPPA VENKATAWSWAMY

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, who devoted his life to preventing blindness in India and across the world. His work preserved the vision of millions of men, women and children, allowing them the blessing of sight and the opportunity to enjoy independent, productive lives.

Dr. V, as he was affectionately called, was born October 1, 1918, in a small village in Tamil Nadu, India. After graduating from medical school, he joined the Indian Army Medical Corps, but had to resign after contracting a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis that left his hands permanently disfigured. Unable to practice in his chosen field of obstetrics, Dr. V. returned to medical school to complete specialty training in ophthalmology and, despite his infirmity, mastered the art of cataract surgery. In 1956, he was appointed head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Madurai Medical College, where he performed thousands of ocular surgeries until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 58.

Dr. V's work at the medical college sensitized him to the terrible impact of blindness on those without means to pay for care or cope with disability. That experience, and his deep religious conviction that the noblest purpose in life is to serve others, inspired him to pursue an extraordinarily ambitious program to end preventable blindness in India. In 1976, immediately after retiring from government service, Dr. V and members of his family founded the first Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India.

Dr. V took a special interest in the lean business processes of highly efficient enterprises like McDonald's restaurants, while maintaining the highest standard of care. The self-sustaining Aravind Eye Care System is notable for its imaginative division of labor, consistent delivery of positive patient outcomes, and intense focus on reducing costs. One highly successful byproduct of this focus:

Aurolab, a Dr. V innovation that manufactures high-quality intraocular lenses so competitively priced that it exports the majority of its production to clinics all over the world.

The Aravind Eye Care System has been acclaimed by Harvard Business School and is the focus of an HBS case study; was recognized for excellence in publications including *Fast Company*, *Forbes* and the *Wall Street Journal*; and has inspired health-care organizations throughout the developing world. From its humble beginnings in Madurai, the Aravind Eye Care System now provides care to over four million patients and performs over five hundred thousand surgeries each year in hospitals and clinics in South India. Its consulting and training arm—the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO)—supports ophthalmologic health care programs throughout the world, and the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute investigates causes and evaluates treatment options for various eye diseases, and provides clinical and operations support.

Thankfully, Dr. Venkataswamy's service to humanity did not go unnoticed during his lifetime. The Government of India bestowed upon him one of its highest civilian honors, the Padma Shri Award, in 1973. Other honors include recognition by Helen Keller International, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Harold Wit Lectureship at Harvard Divinity School, and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Additionally, in 2008, the Aravind Eye Care System received the prestigious Gates Award for Global Health from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. V passed away in 2006, but his legacy continues to give eyesight to those who otherwise would be blind, and his story continues to inspire. His life is best celebrated by his own words: "[when] we identify ourselves with all that is in the world . . . there is no exploitation. It is ourselves we are helping. It is ourselves we are healing."

HONORING PARAMEDIC KIMBERLI R. WHEELER AS A RECIPIENT OF THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Kimberli R. Wheeler as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Cape Fear Valley EMS, Ms. Wheeler went beyond her call of duty when responding to a 911 call.

After her ambulance was struck by a motor vehicle and inverted, Ms. Wheeler saved the lives of two individuals who were critically injured on the scene. As she hung from her seat belt, she checked on her partner and calmed an alarmed EMS student. Bystanders assisted in freeing her and her team from the ambulance, and Ms. Wheeler immediately began to render aid to the critically injured victims in the other vehicle.

Ms. Wheeler's quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to her, her family, and Cape Fear Valley EMS. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for her unwavering service and cannot thank her enough.

Ms. Wheeler is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish her success as she continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Cape Fear Valley EMS Paramedic Kimberli R. Wheeler for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING HARRY WEDDLE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Harry Weddle on receiving Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital's 2020 Advocacy Award.

Like many Americans, Harry has faced unprecedented challenges spurred by the coronavirus pandemic. Prior to his time at Encompass Health, Harry had spent over thirty days at UPMC-Altoona and another four weeks at Select Specialty Hospital. After these lengthy stays, he was transferred to Encompass. Throughout this ordeal, Harry also courageously battled COVID-19, while enduring isolation from family and loved ones.

Harry is a fighter. He beat COVID-19 and continued on the road to recovery. Thankfully, Harry was able to return home to his wife.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Harry Weddle and celebrate his recovery. I wish Harry and his family every continued health and happiness in the chapters to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. THOMAS LAUBACH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today, not only on behalf of Missouri's 5th Congressional District, but also on behalf of the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Thomas Laubach. Dr. Laubach dedicated his exceptional economic mind to serving his county and dedicated his life to serving the world at large. His was a powerful and touching life that was tragically cut short by cancer on September 2, 2020. He was just 55 years old. Dr. Laubach's legacy will live on in the work he did, the lives he touched, and the story he left behind.

Dr. Laubach began as an undergraduate in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany at the University of Bonn, where he graduated with a degree in economics in 1993. He then went on to receive a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University just four years later. At Princeton, Dr. Laubach's thesis advisor was none other than Ben Bernanke, who would go

on to serve as the 14th Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2006 to 2014. With an illustrious education under his belt, Dr. Laubach began his even more illustrious career. First making a name for himself in my home district as an Economist at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, Dr. Laubach started on a path to change the world of economics forever. After working at the Kansas City Fed for three years, Dr. Laubach became an Economist, and then Senior Economist, for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He then took four years to teach and serve as Chair of Macroeconomics at Goethe University Frankfurt while taking research stints at Deutsche Bundesbank and the European Central Bank. He returned to the Board of Governors in 2012, this time as the Associate Director, before being appointed Director of the Division of Monetary Affairs in 2015. He served in that capacity until his death on September 2nd. At the time of his death, he was leading the central bank's new strategy to lower unemployment while responding to the changes brought on by the devastating pandemic that has so deeply affected our nation's economy.

Though his life in the economic world was impactful in countless ways, he is most well-known for two groundbreaking contributions. The first, of course, is Dr. Laubach's indelible mark on central bank interest-rate policy, which continues to affect both the U.S. Federal Reserve and central banks across the world. The second came in 2001, when Dr. Laubach co-authored a paper titled "Measuring the Natural Rate of Interest" alongside John Williams, who is currently serving as the president of the New York Federal Reserve. That paper set forth a transformational theory on the neutral rate of interest that will forever be known as the Laubach-Williams model.

Dr. Laubach wore many hats throughout his career: brilliant economist, dedicated researcher, bold thinker, curious student, and generous professor. A friend to many, he is also remembered as a kind, calm, and collegial presence. When critics attacked his ideas, Dr. Laubach responded with kindness and respect. When young economic minds sought his wisdom, he responded with patience and empathy. He was, above all, a beautiful soul who sought to employ his talents to alleviate suffering and serve others, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

When such a quietly influential figure passes on, I find myself wondering what I myself can do to help preserve their legacy. But in that respect, Dr. Laubach's own work will do much more than any tribute or eulogy could ever hope to do. His ideas, his writing, his influence is already a part of the fabric of the economic world. His legacy lives on in global monetary policy, in economics classrooms around the country, and in the thinkers he helped prepare to take on the crises of tomorrow. Madam Speaker, please join me, my district, and the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy for the House Financial Services Committee in honoring Dr. Laubach's memory and offering heartfelt condolences to his loved ones. We have lost a bright light, an irreplaceable mind, and a dedicated public servant, but we are blessed with the dark places his light illuminated, the theories his mind made crystal clear, and the lives his service helped touch. He was taken from us far too soon, so let us all carry his torch forward by committing our passions, skills, and talents to the service of others.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE WHITE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the White County Farm Bureau.

The White County Farm Bureau had its origin in 1920 when farmers organized an association to accomplish together what one farmer could not do alone. Following a mass meeting of area farmers at the White County Courthouse, and after many stirring speeches, the White County Farm Bureau was organized. The most important issue of the time was soil composition, and poultry was the most important industry in the county followed by dairy and livestock.

As is the case today, the strength of the early Farm Bureau laid with its members. For example, in 1925, a tornado crossed the county causing widespread destruction and death. The Farm Bureau worked closely with relief organizations to help neighbors get their farming work done and back on their feet.

The purchase of alfalfa seeds was a growing interest to the Bureau in the 1930s. And as the financial condition of White County farmers improved, so too did the value of the organization. Membership increased, especially with women, and in 1940 the White County Home Bureau was organized.

The Farm Bureau moved into its new building in 1947, paying the final loan installment in 1957. Through the 1960s and 1970s, the organization was involved in legislative, marketing, and membership policy development programs. Steady membership growth ensued, and member participation reached an all-time high.

In the 1970s, the Illinois and county Farm Bureau's successfully lobbied for legislation to reduce fees for farm truck and trailer license plates. In addition, the Bureau was busy studying taxation policy, concluding early on that property taxes needed reform.

Madam Speaker, the spirit of cooperation and hard work lives on in today's White County Farm Bureau, continuing a proud legacy filled with accomplishments and overcoming challenges. To celebrate this legacy, the Bureau plans to share historical photos and documents on social media, interview past leaders, compile a video presentation, produce a Centennial Booklet for members, and hold the 100th Annual Meeting in January 2021.

It is an honor to stand today to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the White County Farm Bureau, and I wish the Bureau many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN PATRICK MULLINS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor John Patrick Mullins, who is retiring as Assistant City Manager and who served the

town of Hillsborough, California, for more than 17 years in various roles. To all of those roles, he applied exemplary commitment and passion, always resulting in improvements for the town and its residents. If there was a job Hillsborough needed to get done, John was the man to ask.

John started his public service in February of 2003 as Building Inspector I, working closely with homeowners and contractors to ensure safety and adherence to building codes. In 2004, he was promoted to Building Inspector II and in 2006 to Chief Building Official. In that role, John demonstrated remarkable leadership and mentorship passing on his passion for service and his superb knowledge of the town. He was instrumental in streamlining the permitting process and improving the image of the building division. He developed a model Green Building Ordinance and was the master architect of a customer relations management system that made communication and access to information easy and effective.

Frequently serving in interim positions, John always bridged transitions and helped out where he was needed. He was the Acting Public Works Director, Interim Assistant City Manager and Acting City Manager. No matter his position, he approached it with enthusiasm and injected a sense of collaboration and team spirit.

John came to public service from the building trades. He graduated from Skyline College with an Associate's Degree in Building Technology and began his career as a carpenter, plumber and electrician in 1977. He worked in residential and commercial construction until 1995, when the City of South San Francisco hired him to coordinate the aircraft noise insulation program. I speak from personal experience in my Congressional Office when I say that solving the problem of airplane noise and its detrimental impact on human health is not an easy task. John fully immersed himself in the issue and subsequently served as a Combination Building Inspector for South San Francisco's Fire/Economic and Community Development Building Division.

It is obvious from his work history that John is a hands-on guy and knows how to turn ideas into tangible objects. In his free time, he volunteers his talent and time to Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together Peninsula and, very fortunate for Hillsborough, the Beautification Foundation. He has been instrumental in building and maintaining more than 145 parks, parklets and medians, including Harvest Garden, Town Hall campus, the Veterans Memorial, the police station, two fire stations and five school sites. He is also an outstanding event organizer working behind the scenes to make everything go smoothly. He has worked on signature events such as Geri Lane Halloween, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Light Up the Town and the Centennial Celebration.

Other areas in which John has extensive knowledge are emergency preparedness, safety and technology. That has made him an invaluable asset to the town and prepared town staff for any emergency. In his capacity as Assistant City Manager, he served as the town's risk manager handling insurance and claims with the IJPA-PLAN and providing safety programs. He managed the town's information technology program by finalizing the IT Strategic Plan, implementing the council chamber upgrade, security and hardware improvements, updating the website and improv-

ing connectivity in different departments. John also served on regional committees including the Airport Noise Committee and SAMCAT, and he supported sustainability projects related to solar and lighting and community concerns such as pesticides, leaf blowers, right of way issues and park use regulations.

In his well-deserved retirement, John is looking forward to enjoying more time with his wife Melissa and their daughters Lauren and Kailey. We thank them for sharing him with the residents of Hillsborough, who have greatly benefited from his expertise, dedication and hard work.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing John Patrick Mullins, an outstanding public servant who I have admired and whose contributions will continue to shine and reflect the welcoming and innovative character of our town. I am confident we will see his familiar face at many parades, picnic and parties for years to come.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER JUSTIN WHITE AS A RECIPIENT OF THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize City of Fayetteville Firefighter Justin White as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of the Fayetteville Fire Department, Firefighter White went beyond his call of duty on March 22, 2020.

After responding to a motor vehicle accident alongside Lieutenant Joe Bumgarner and Captain Jason Hulon, Firefighter White heroically rescued a victim from a burning vehicle that was pinned to a tree. Remarkably, this feat was accomplished within two minutes and fifteen seconds of arriving on the scene.

While Captain Hulon and Firefighter White got dressed in PPE, Lieutenant Bumgarner attempted to free the victim wearing only his turnout coat. When his superiors were pushed back by the intensity of the flames, Firefighter White saw an opening and pulled the victim to safety just as the vehicle's dash was encased in fire. He sought medical attention for the victim before successfully containing the remaining blaze.

Firefighter White's quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and the entire Fayetteville Fire Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Firefighter White is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating City of Fayetteville Firefighter Justin White for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING MISSY MELLOTT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Melissa Mellott for receiving the Encompass Health Rehab Patient Achievement Award.

After her tumor removal surgery and subsequent complications, Melissa entered rehab at Encompass. At the time, she exhibited weakness in her left side, double vision, pain, and decreased strength and coordination. As a result of these symptoms, she often required assistance to do daily tasks and needed to wear a neck brace.

Thankfully, Missy worked hard in rehab and experienced incredible progress. As a testament to her perseverance and hard work, Missy was able to walk out of the facility unassisted. Now at home, she has resumed many of the activities she enjoyed prior to the surgery, including gardening and walking.

Missy's recovery journey is a shining example of hope and hard work. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Missy Mellott on her remarkable work towards recovery, and I wish her every continued success.

CONDEMNING UNWANTED, UNNECESSARY MEDICAL PROCEDURES ON INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT THEIR FULL, INFORMED CONSENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 2020

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include these transcriptions of letters I received from my visit to the Irwin ICE Detention Center for the RECORD. The first letter was signed by 24 detained women. The second one is from another detainee. I am also including text from a drawing I received during the visit that is asking for compassion and mercy.

LETTER NO. 1 SIGNED BY 24 WOMEN FROM IRWIN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER—SPANISH TRANSCRIPT

¡Hola! ¿Como están? Nosotros estamos mal. Si estamos mal, porque nadie en estas condiciones puede decir que está bien. Yo quería decirles un bonito discurso. Pero le voy a hablar con la verdad y con el corazón. ¿Por qué habéis tardado tanto en venir? Si desde hace tiempo pedíamos a gritos "AUXILIO". Ustedes no saben todo lo que hemos sufrido. Alguien debe de pararlo. Alguien debe de responder por esto. Si nos tienen encerradas, nos han separado de nuestras familias, los jueces nos han negado todo. ¿Por qué nos castigan más? Mandándonos con un "loco", despiadado que mutila cuerpos. Y nos deportan para que nadie diga NADA y no se portan para que nadie denuncie NADA. Alguien debe de parar esto. Alguien debería de responder por esto. Y que no venga ICE y quiera limpiarse las manos si son ellos quienes lo "autorizan".

Ustedes no saben el trauma psicológico y la indignación que sentimos al ver tantas mujeres "operadas". Las hemos visto llorar

del dolor porque su estómago está inflamado, porque la cirugía se les infecto. No les dieron tratamiento, ni medicamento después de la cirugía. En ocasiones nos ha tocado servir de enfermeras y auxiliarnos unas a otras. La mayoría de las que se le practicó esa cirugía no entienden que está pasando con su cuerpo, ni que hicieron con su cuerpo. Le vamos a hacer un estudio le "dijeron" y las habéis engañado. Porque una sala de cirugías no debe ser una escuela. La escuela la habéis pasado antes. Me han referido 5 ocasiones donde el doctor Mahendra G. Amin de pies, cintura y manos nos llevaban encadenadas. Y conmigo también iban 2,3,4 mujeres más en las mismas y peores condiciones porque ellos ya estaban operadas. Yo no he visto ni una cirugía que no se haya infectado. Que nosotros seamos inmigrantes no le da el derecho para que practican y mutilen nuestro NO cuerpo. Nosotras también tenemos derecho a decir NO. Si la salud es un derecho universal que todo ser humano tiene. Mira también a estas otras mujeres que están en la misma situación, no entendemos que le han hecho a nuestro cuerpo y estamos aquí ahora.

[Redacted] y otras que decidieron permanecer anónimas, por miedo a represalias. ¡¡Por el amor a Dios!! y por humanidad. Esto debe de parar ya. Esto debe de parar Ahora. Que no nos engañen, porque la casa se ve "limpia". Que nos las engañen porque huele a pintura fresca. El piso está limpio. Pero cuando ustedes se vayan. La casa así seguir sería sucia. Porque siempre ha estado sucia. ¿Y quién va a limpiar las heridas del alma! ¿Y quién nos va a ayudar a sanar las heridas de nuestro cuerpo cuando ustedes se vayan se vayan?

Vengan a ci y miren estas mujeres como están. Miren estas mujeres como están. Miren en lo que les han hecho! Que no los engañen porque cuando ustedes se vayan las maltratos y castigos van a seguir. Pero alguien debe de correr el riesgo y debe decirlo [Redacted] Esto debe, pero de parar "ya." Esto debe parar "Ahora." Este centro de MUTILACION debe ser cerrado, y pedimos "LIBERTAD". Necesitamos un adecuado y confiable tratamiento médico. No nos dan la medicina que necesitamos. No están atendiendo correctamente nuestras enfermedades. Hemos mujeres con enfermedad de GRAVES y otras que también se están enfermando. Por Humanidad Libérennos." Firmada por 24 mujeres.

Haaaa, y pensaron que ya había terminado pues no aparte de los terribles procedimientos ginecológicos, pedimos por la persona con condiciones de salud grave y por las que ahorita se están enfermando porque aquí usted viene con una enfermedad y se le desarrolla diez. pero todo lo que usted le dice a la enfermera dice ella que es mentira, estás mintiendo, usted no tiene nada. "Las enfermedades no esperan. Cada día abundan más y más y más aquí que casi nunca hay medicina, pero cuando viene visitas. El ogro se convierte en princesa, y todo parece un cuento de hadas, pero cuando las visitas se van comienzan para "nosotras las pesadillas" porque todo vuelve a dar a la realidad que estamos viviendo aquí en Irwin. "una pesadilla" "Libertad para todas." "Por Humanidad Libérennos."

LETTER NO. 1 SIGNED BY 24 WOMEN FROM IRWIN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER—ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT

Hi! How is everybody? We are not well. Yes, we are not well, because no one in these conditions can say that it is okay. I want to give you a nice speech. But I will say truths and from the heart. Why did it take you so long to come? Since it has been a while since we cried for HELP. You do not know every-

thing we have suffered. Someone should stop it. Someone should answer for this. If they have us locked up, they have separated us from our families, the judges have denied us everything. Why do they punish us more? Sending us to a "crazy man", ruthless who mutilates bodies. And they deport us because no one is saying ANYTHING. And they deport us because no one is denouncing ANYTHING. Someone should stop this. Someone should answer for this. Do not let ICE come and wash their hands if they are the ones who "authorize" it.

You all do not know the psychological trauma and the outrage we feel when we see so many women that have been "operated" on. We have seen them cry from the pain because their stomachs are inflamed, because the surgery infected them. They did not give them treatment nor medicine afterward the surgery. Sometimes we have had to be nurses and help one another. The majority of the women who have received that surgery do not understand what is happening to their body, nor what they did to their body. They "told" them they were going to perform a study and they had deceived them. Because a surgery room should not be a school. We have already attended school. I have been referred 5 times to Doctor Mahendra G. Amin. We were taken with our feet, waist, and hands chained. And with me came along 2, 3, 4, more women in the same or worse conditions because they had already been operated on. I have not seen one surgery that has not been infected. Just because we are immigrants does not give them the right to practice and mutilate our bodies. We also have the right to say NO. If the right to health is universal that all humans have, look at these other women that are in the same situation, we do not understand what they have done to our bodies and we are here now.

[Redacted] And the others decided to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.

For the love of God!! And for humanity. This should stop now. This should stop now.

They should not deceive us, because the house looks "clean". They should not deceive us, because it smells like fresh paint. The floor is clean.

But when you all leave, the house will continue to be dirty, because it was always dirty.

And who will clean the wounds of the soul?! And who will help us heal the wounds on our body when you all leave?!

Come and look at how the women are. Look at what they have done to us! Do not let them deceive you because when you all leave the mistreatment and punishments will continue. But someone should run the risk and should say it [Redacted] This should stop "now". This should stop "now". This MUTILATION center should be closed, and we ask for "FREEDOM". We need adequate and reliable medical treatment. They do not give us the medicine we need. They are not correctly looking after our ailments. We have women with serious illnesses and other that are also sick. For Humanity, Free Us.

Signed by 24 women.

Haaaa, and you all thought that this had ended but, no. Besides the terrible gynecological procedures, we ask for the people with serious health conditions and for the ones that are beginning to get sick because if you come with an illness and it will spread tenfold. But everything you tell the nurse, she says it is a lie, that you are lying, that you have nothing.

"Sicknesses do not wait. Every day they become more and more and more numerous here that there is hardly any medicine but when visitors come, the ogre changes into a princess and everything looks like a fairy-

tale. But when the visitors leave. "nightmares begin for us" because everything goes back to reality for us living here in Irwin. "A nightmare". "Liberty for all". "For Humanity, Free Us".

LETTER NO. 2 FROM ONE OF THE DETAINED WOMEN—SPANISH TRANSCRIPT

Yo [Redacted] quiero espresarme [expresarme] por ese medio ya ke [que] en 8 meses de estar en este sentro [centro] de detension [detención] no ecido es cuchada [no he sido escuchada] por nadie y lla [ya] que tenemos la oportuna[da] de que alguien nos escuche [.] yo pido que por favor [favor] sean enbestigado [investigando] todo lo dicho de este sentro [centro] lla [ya] que en este lugar [h]emos pasado tanta atosidades [atrocidades.] asido [ha sido] muy cruel lo que [h]emos sufrido dentro de esta detencion de irwin [Irwin.] este lugar paresiera [pareciera] un lugar de tortura solo por ser personas indocumentadas [.] nomeremos [no merecemos] ser maltratados de esta manera porque como serer [ser] humanos meremos [merecemos] un trato dindo [digno] de ser respetados como persona [.] pero alpaeser [aparecer] y por lo que e [ha] pasado aki [aquí] no tienen corazón de una persona [.] No [h]ay como comparar estar persona que los [h]an [h]echo tanto daño barbar[o] y sicologico [psicológico] y en ocasiones fisico porque solo que teyeben [te lleven] con esas cadenas atada de pies manos y sintura [cintura] al medico astar [estar] tres o cuatro [h]oras de aki [aquí] por que [porque] lo evivido [he vivido.] lo ostoy [estoy] espresando [expresando] el día q [que] de el mes de junio por fin me yebaron [me llevaron] al doctor [.] me yebaron [me llevaron] ese día a las 3 de la mañana [.] yo niciquiera [ni siquiera] era savia [sabia] porque después del mes de abril que avia [había] mandado juecues [h]asta ese día me yamaron [llamaron.]

yo me sorprendí pero como siempre aquí no te permiten preguntar nada porque si pregunta[s] es peor el castigo y el maltrato de los ofiiole [oficiales]. pues me yeberaron [llevaron.] yege [llegue] al lugar [.] mi sorpresa fue que aporte de estar desde las 3 de la mañana enserada en un cuarto aki [aquí] de la detención todo el día sin comer [.] luego llego a ese lugar[r] por cierto te esperas [h]asta que te avisan si ya pueden entra[r] mientras[s] te asen peror [hacen peor] [h]asta [h]ora y medi[a] dentro de la combi y en la parte de atrás de la clinica [.] no se porque pero desde ese momento yo me pregunte que es esto [.] [h]asta parese [parece] un lugar clandestino [.] luego te avisan a los ofiioles [oficiales] que ya pueden entra[r.] ni siquiera te quitan los [las] esposa[s.] ni te [esplican] explican que ban [van hacer.] al menos yo avia pedio [había pedido una] pastilla para el dolor de mi vientre y no me dijeron nada mas que yevarme [llevarme] ase [a ese] lugar don[de] te asen [hacen] firmar unos papeles [.] luego ye dicen ocuerto te en esa camia [.] ni siquiera te disen [dicen] [scribbles] Barroser ginecologo [.] o yo soy el jinicologo [ginecólogo] noda te acuestan y luego te introdosen al adentro de nuestro vientre en menos de 5 minutos [.] el me dijo ["]tienes quiste entros [adentro de semanas.] te yegan [llegan] los resultado[s]ly si no te ban atraer [van a traer] de nuevo [.] yo me sorprendí por yerara [ya era] 5 años en el país y des[de] el 2014 me chequeo en el sentro [centro] de solo de mi condado y nunca yo

[tuve] un tratamiento sicologico [psicológico] porque los an [han] maltratado tanto que nuestro[s] cuerpo[s] esta[n] todo el tiempo nervioso[s] de los gritos de como tiran los [las] puerta[s] casi en tu cara [.] día y noche los oficiales te maltratan de una manera que tenemos que umiyarnos

[humillarnos] para que no los [nos] griten [.] pedimos ropa interior y los [nos] traen usada de otras persona[s]. eso no es correcto [correcto.] ponerse ropa interior usa[da] pero eso [eso] te la tiran si lo quieres [.] bueno [.] y si no [.] se yeva [las llevan] nde nuevo todo lo que les pides [.] ellos os ofensa [nos ofendan.] les pedimos cosas para aser [hacer] la limpieza [limpieza] y los disen [nos dicen] que no [h]ay [.] que ICE no tiene [.] pedimos mas cories y tanvien disen [tambien dicen] que pongamos decoes y [h]asta 5 decues [h]emos puesto y no los In no dan poro eyos [ellos.] nosotros[s] somos como unas cucarachas[s] de la puerta [.] te grita[n] ["¡Chao chao!"] que es la comida [.] eso es el nombre de una comida de per[r]o [.] tanvien [tambien] si no te pones en la fila [.] te dejan sin comer o si estas en la degadera ellos [ellos] no les importa[n] nada [.] luego si les per[des] tu comida [y] les pregunta y les dise que estaba[s] en el chower [ducha.] nos disen [dicen] que ICE no tiene comida para estar dando [.] no los [nos] dan nada ni para bañarte [.] este lugar es terrible [terrible] y los persenos que trabajan aquí desde el mes grande [h]asta el mes pekeño [pequeño.] durante un peso el corone[l] Bidos [.] esto asido [ha sido] peor porque siantes [visitantes] venian achekear [a chequear] [scribble] semas abril ya no entran aquí a porque disen [dicen] que les podemos contagiar eyos [ellos] gritan cuando [the rest is cut off because photocopy]

Salí con quisti [quiste] en mis obarios asido [ovarios. ha sido] ter[r]ible [.] que emos [hemos] pasado aquí todas las mujeres [.] al menos cada mes yebon [llevan] 6 a 7 mujeres al ginecólogo y la mayoría son operadas porque tienen quitis dise [quistes, dice] el ginecólogo [.] aparte de eso, te opera[n] y ni siquiera te dan una benda [Band-aid] o una postilla [.] yo he tenido que cuidar a mis compañeras que fueron operadas en ese lugar y con ese jinecologo [ginecólogo.] el maltrato comienza [comienza] desde que te saca por el medico [.] cuando regresan de allá de la clínica no puedan ni dar los pasos [.] vienen con su vientre [h]erido y inflamado a [y] los buelvan [vuelven] a meter aquí como un per[r]o sin bolvellas [volverlas a chequear.] a los tres días de [scribble] satres que joros te dan una tylenol [Tylenol] 250 [.] eso el [es] una burlo [burla] porque asto yorando [hasta llorando] el fuerte dolor de las sirujias [cirugías.] nosotros las compañeras les ayudamos a bañarlas y de las pastias [pastillas] que compramos en la comisaria [.] de esa tomamos [.] por favor [favor] ya no mas [.] [scribble] tan[ta] cruelda[d] que nosotros que sentimos un gran dolor porque ya no sabemos como bamos [vamos] a regresar con nuestras familia[a] después de todo estos [esto] que [h]emos vivido en este ter[r]ible luga[r] gde. Bamos [Vamos] a nesesar [necesitar] estas ansido [han sido] mis compañeros que yo evisto [he visto] subir estas situaciones de sirujias [cirugías] y que [h]an salido con quistes en los ovarios según el medico todos salimos con kistis [quistes] y si no [.] otros enfermedes [enfermedades] en nuestro vientre [.] como es pocible [posible] que todas salgamos enfermos de de nuestro vientre [.] eso no puede estar pasando [.]

[Redacted]
Estas persona[s] son los que a mi me costa a verlas visto en este sentro [centro] de detencio [detención] subril [sutil] sirujias [cirugías] y con quistes en su vientre claro y por supuesto yo algunos vafucto deportados a su países así en esa condición [.] an cido [Han sido] troutas los casos que [h]emos [hemos] vivo en este lugar [.] necesitamos ser liverados [liberados] de este lugar [.] Nesecitamos [Necesitamos] ser liverados [liberados] de esta tortura [.] Somos madre[s] con nuestro[s] hijos aya [alla]

afuera yorando [llorando] preguntar no momá [.]

Por favor [favor] tenemos nuestro corason [corazón] des trosado [destrozado] sin nuestro[s] hijos tanto tiempo y sin saver [saber] asta [hasta] cuando [.] Por favor [favor] nuestro[s] hijo[s] son de esta país [.] este es su nación [.] no los pueden separar de nuestros hijos [.] Por favor [favor] yo soy madre de 5 hijos que me necesitan [.] Para mi es duro escuchar su bos [voz] soyosa [solloza] disiendo [diciendo] mama cuando yegas [llegas] y so sin poder darles una repuesta positiva [.] Por favor [favor] escuchémos necesitamos estar con nuestro[s] hijos [.] Por favor [favor] no tengo mas que pedir ke [que] nos liberen de esta luga [lugar] tan terrible.

LETTER NO. 2 FROM ONE OF THE DETAINED
WOMEN—ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT

I, [Redacted], want to express myself through this medium since it has been 8 months that I am in this detention center [.] I have not been heard by anyone and now we have the opportunity for someone to listen to us [.] I beg that please they get investigated for everything that happens in this center since that in this place we have experienced many atrocities [.] This has been very cruel what we have suffered inside this detention in Irwin [.] This place seems to be a place of torture only for undocumented people [.] We do not deserve to be mistreated in this way since we are humans we deserve decent treatment to be respected like a person [.] but it appears and for everything that has happened here that they do not have the heart of a person [.] There is no way to compare the person who has done such barbaric and psychologic harm and on occasions physical because they would take you with chained feet [.] hands [.] and waist to the doctor for three or four hour from here because I have lived it [.] I am voicing the day in June when they finally took me to the doctor [.] They took me that day at 3am [.] I didn't even know because after the month of April they had sent me until that day they called me [.]

I was shocked but like always here they do not allow you to ask anything because if you ask the punishment and mistreatment is worse from the officials. Well they took me [.] I arrived at the place [.] my surprise was where I was since 3am inside that room here in the detention all day without eating [.] later after arriving at that place for sure you wait until they tell you if they can enter while they make you worse until half an hour inside of the bus and in the back of the clinic [.] I don't know why but from that moment I asked myself what is this [.] it even appears to be a secret place [.] later they notify you to the officials that you can enter [.] they do not even take off your handcuffs nor do they explain what will they do at least I had asked for a pill for the pain in my stomach and they did not say anything except take me to that place where they make you sign papers [.] later they tell you lay on that bed [.] they do not even tell you you're going to see the gynecologist [.] or I am the gynecologist. Nothing. they lay you down and enter the inside of our stomach in less than 5 minutes [.] he told me that you have cyst inside for weeks the results will arrive and if not they will bring you here again [.] I was surprised because it has been 5 years in this country and since 2014 I have checked at the center in my country and I never had a psychological treatment because they have mistreated us so much that our bodies are always nervous from the yelling from how they throw the doors almost in our face [.] day and night the officials mistreat you in a manner that we have to humiliate ourselves for them not to yell at us [.] we ask for underwear and they give us used ones from

other people [.] that is not correct to put used underwear but that is what they throw at us if you want it good and if not they take it again . . . new is all we ask [.] they offend us [.] we ask for things to clean ourselves with and they tell us that there is nothing that ICE does not have it [.] we ask for more [cories?] and they also say that we should wear twelve and up to 5 times we have put on[.] we are like cockroaches at the door [.] they yell bye bye what is the food that is the name of the dog food [.] also if you do not get in line they let you go without eating if you were in the shower [.] they do not care at all [.] later if you lose out on food and ask and say that you were in shower they say that ICE does not have food to be giving out [.] they do not give us anything to shower with [.] this place is terrible and the people who work here from the biggest person to the smallest person [.] during a weighing the colonel Bidos [.] this was worse than the visits that would come to check . . . since the weeks in April now you do find them here because they say we can contaminate them they yell [the rest is cut off because photocopy]

I got a cyst on my ovaries [.] it has been terrible what has happened to all the women here [.] at least every month they take 6 to 7 women to the gynecologist and the majority are operated on because they have cysts says the gynecologist [.] apart from that, they operate on you and do not even give you a Band-aid or a pill [.] I have had to take care of my fellow mates that have been operated on in this place and with that gynecologist[.] the mistreatment begins when they take you to the doctor [.] when they return from there from the clinic they cannot even walk [.] they come with their stomach lacerated and inflamed and they return them here like dogs without checking on them [.] by three days of . . . they give you a Tylenol 250 [.] that is the joke because even while crying the strong pain of the surgeries us the mates help each other to shower or with pills that we buy from the police station we take those [.] please no more [.] so much cruelty for us to feel such great pain because we do not know how we will return to our families after everything we have lived through in this terrible place. . . We will need this has been my mates that I have seen enter in those surgery situations and have left with cysts on their ovaries according to the doctor we all come out with cysts and yes other sicknesses in our stomachs [.] how is this possible that we all get sick in in our stomachs [.] this cannot be happening [.]

[Redacted]
These people are those that are tough to see in this detention center [.] subtle surgeries and cysts in their stomach sure and of course some in those conditions are deported to their countries in that condition [.] it has been so many the cases that we have lived in this place [.] we need to be freed from this place [.] We need to be free from this place [.] We are mothers with our children outside crying asking for their mom [.]

Please we have our hearts shattered without our children so much time and without knowing until when [.] Please our children are from this country this is their nation you cannot separate us from our children [.] Please I am the mother of 5 children who need me [.] It is tough for me to hear their sobbing voice saying mama when do you come back and I cannot give them a positive answer [.] Please listen to us we need to be with our children [.] Please I have nothing else to ask except to free us from this terrible place.

DRAWING—SPANISH AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Clemencia y misericordia
Compassion and mercy

CONGRATULATING BLAKE HURST
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize my friend and fellow Missourian, Blake Hurst who will be retiring as president of the Missouri Farm Bureau later this year.

Blake raises corn, soybeans and flowers with his family and as a farmer himself, knows firsthand the challenges Missouri farmers face, like devastating floods and changing trade tides. Because of this personal knowledge, Blake has been able to dutifully serve Missouri farmers and ranchers in this post for a decade, and in several other positions at the Missouri Farm Bureau since the 1980's.

With two-thirds of Missouri covered in farmland, we are home to a longstanding agricultural tradition that is alive and well today. I am extremely grateful that he has spent the last ten years as one of the lead advocates, supporters and resources for our state's ag industry, both in Missouri and on a national level. The Missouri Farm Bureau is the oldest in the nation and we have been incredibly fortunate to have Blake at the helm for the last ten years.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my fellow Missouri farmers, I thank him for his service and wish him all the best on his future endeavors.

HONORING DETECTIVE JONATHAN
R. MILLER AS A RECIPIENT OF
THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize City of Fayetteville Police Department Detective Jonathan R. Miller as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Fayetteville Police Department, Detective Miller went beyond his call of duty on the evening of Tuesday, August 29, 2019.

While driving over a bridge, Detective Miller witnessed a driver lose consciousness at the wheel and swerve into oncoming traffic. He saw a woman in the other lane attempt to avert the oncoming vehicle and jumped into immediate action. Detective Miller pulled over and successfully stopped the moving vehicle before impact. After securing the scene, he called for medical assistance for the unconscious driver.

Detective Miller is a hero and that night he prevented not only a head on collision, but also a possible second tragedy from occurring. His quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and the entire Fayetteville Police Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I

say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Detective Miller is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating City of Fayetteville Police Department Detective Jonathan R. Miller for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING THE WORK OF DESIGN
LAB BY LOCKER ROOM ATHLETICS
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
COVID-19

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of Design Lab by Locker Room Athletics. This local Hot Springs business has adapted their existing manufacturing to produce customized masks for organizations to continue operations during COVID-19.

When many of Locker Room Athletics' customers began to see the effects of the pandemic, they reached out to this local business to produce masks that could keep employees safe while continuing to work. By converting their manufacturing capabilities, Locker Room Athletics now serves small businesses, local school districts, corporations, and government agencies across the nation.

It is work like this that truly sets them apart as heroes in a time of national crisis. Not only does their service protect the health of their fellow man, but it also provides a way for families to continue working, for businesses to continue running, and for the economy to continue growing.

It is an honor to see work like this happening down the street in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I take this time to thank them for their service to our community and for providing an example to the rest of the nation of what true servant-leadership is.

HONORING PARAMEDIC HUNTER
FOX AS A RECIPIENT OF THE
VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Hunter Fox as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Cape Fear Valley EMS, Mr. Fox went beyond his call of duty on March 23, 2020.

When his ambulance was overturned following a collision with a privately owned motor vehicle, Mr. Fox took command of the scene. In an act of heroic selflessness, he rendered

aid to his partner, an EMS student, and the critically injured driver of the other vehicle. Working in conjunction with other EMS units, he successfully triaged all injured individuals and ensured that exceptional care was provided.

Mr. Fox's quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and Cape Fear Valley EMS. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Mr. Fox is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Cape Fear Valley EMS Paramedic Hunter Fox for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

CELEBRATING THE RELEASE OF
FIRST SERGEANT JOHN E.
HATLEY

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the release of First Sergeant John E. Hatley from Fort Leavenworth.

First Sergeant Hatley is an American hero who, throughout his twenty years of service, risked his life for his country time and time again. His outstanding military career as a soldier and leader in the U.S. Army is recognized by two Bronze Stars and an Army Commendation Medal for Valor—a true testament of his commitment to his country and his fellow soldiers.

First Sergeant Hatley was sentenced for the premeditated murder of four Shi'ite fighters in Iraq despite the complete absence of evidence. Not a single scrap of physical or forensic evidence was found in a thorough investigation conducted by the Army Criminal Investigation Division. Notwithstanding this paucity of evidence, First Sergeant Hatley has been imprisoned for nearly a decade.

Throughout his time at Fort Leavenworth, First Sergeant Hatley has availed himself of programs available within the barracks for self-improvement, and he has nearly completed a Master of Business Administration degree. He also consistently maintained a positive attitude, led other inmates by example, and even saved a fellow inmate's life.

First Sergeant Hatley is a man with strong family support, a stellar military record, a phenomenal moral compass, and an essentially perfect record while incarcerated. His career was characterized by honor, sacrifice, and valor. Now that he will return to his rightful place in life as a contributing member of society, First Sergeant Hatley is planning to build a home for his disabled mother and father. He also plans to marry his girlfriend, Pamela Miller.

John, I hope that you may continue to serve as an example to other soldiers and the American people. Thank you for your outstanding service to this country. I wish you the best of luck as you return to your proper place in society, and I wish you a lifetime of happiness in your future marriage and life.

HONORING MICHAEL KUNKO

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Kunko for receiving the 2020 Encompass Health Rehab Award.

Following a stroke, Mike entered outpatient therapy on November 20, 2019. After seventeen days of acute care, he transferred to inpatient rehab for two and a half weeks. At the time, he had minimal use of his right arm and right leg due to significant hemiparesis, impaired vision and functionality, and short-term memory loss issues.

With the help of his positive attitude and fighting spirit, Mike persevered. He worked hard in rehab and slowly began to see improvement. He attended appointments regularly, and he continued his work at home with the help and support of his family. As a result of his hard work and dedication, I'm pleased to report that Mike now can walk without assistance—and even participate in many of the activities he enjoyed before he suffered a stroke.

Mike Kunko is a shining example of the benefits of hard work and determination. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Mike on his progress and wish him every continued success in his recovery.

HONORING DR. RICHARD RIVERA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard Rivera on his well-deserved retirement from the Weslaco Independent School District. Dr. Rivera instilled his own philosophy of education throughout the local community where now many generations share and foster his ideals. He not only shaped the community as a school board member and superintendent, but also as a teacher, role model, and mentor.

Dr. Rivera's journey in education began in 1967 as a schoolteacher and coach. With every student he taught, parent he advised, and co-worker he befriended, his passion to expand and build upon the established education system grew, leading him to rise to the position of Principal at both Mary Hoge Junior High School in 1974 and Weslaco High School in 1979.

Dr. Rivera firmly believes that "education is the great equalizer," and made it his life's mission to open doors for the students of our region. To achieve his vision for the community, Dr. Rivera cultivated a nurturing and collaborative environment during his 14 years of service as the Weslaco ISD Superintendent. Dr. Rivera recognized that in order to make a positive impact on students, the educational organization and the individuals who make up the school setting are critical in enriching and growing students' knowledge and experience. As such, our region's education system underwent a phase of great transformation. Student

academic programs were expanded, school facilities were upgraded, and staff engagement was prioritized.

Dr. Rivera believed in investing in people and prioritized mentoring his employees. There are countless testimonies from Weslaco ISD Staff who credit their careers to Dr. Rivera's dedication and deep commitment to employee support programs.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Richard Rivera for his 53 years of wholehearted devotion to the students and teachers of Weslaco. Dr. Rivera has undoubtedly had an indelible impact on educators throughout our region and has made a lasting impression on our students. I commend him on a well-earned retirement and wish him the best in every future endeavor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALAN LEVY**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, and pillar of the South Florida community, Alan Levy. Alan called Fort Lauderdale home for more than 70 years and was the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and President of Great American Farms, a Pompano Beach-based agricultural marketing firm. He passed away on October 7, 2020, at the age of 80.

Alan was a selfless leader who served on numerous nonprofit boards and was a passionate supporter of HANDY, a nonprofit that serves at-risk youth in South Florida. He dedicated a large portion of his life to helping youth and families in our community by ensuring they had every opportunity to succeed, serving as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate.

His dedication and passion for nonprofit organizations was beyond compare. Once he was asked, if he could wave a magic wand and do two things for Broward County what would they be? Alan responded by saying he "wanted to strengthen our educational system from early childhood all the way through to universities." He continued by saying, "Seeing is believing. We can't just sit here and wait for somebody else to do it. You've got to get behind it, make the decision that you are going to make it happen, believe in it, and have a passion for its success."

Madam Speaker, Alan did just that, he supported our community, believed in all of us, and because of that unyielding passion, ensured our success and the success of generations to come. It is true that our community has lost a hero, but it is undoubtedly the case that we are better for having had Alan in our lives. I will miss him dearly. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marsha, and his children, Eric and Hope. I pray they find comfort during this extremely difficult time. May Alan's life and legacy live on for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRAZIL'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (APIB)

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB) and their internationally respected leader, Secretary General Sonia Guajajara, for receiving the prestigious Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award from the Institute for Policy Studies on October 15, 2020.

I would like to add my heartfelt congratulations for their important work in defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples from across Brazil and protection of the many natural ecosystems that are part of Brazil's ancestral territories.

APIB and Brazil's National Indigenous Movement have raised the profile of Indigenous rights issues through impressive grassroots mobilizations, such as the annual Free Land Camp, the implementation of the Indigenous Emergency Plan to Combat COVID-19, precedent-setting legal victories before the Brazilian Supreme Court, and international advocacy among influential spaces like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations.

I share my special admiration for the powerful leadership roles played by many Indigenous women at both national and local levels, even with the imminent threats coming from the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro. Unfortunately, under President Bolsonaro's administration, there has been an increase of violent actions against Indigenous peoples, like the invasions into Indigenous lands, illegal exploitation of natural resources and other incidents, rising from 109 cases in 2018 to 256 last year. This also includes the threats against and killings of Indigenous leaders and Forest Guardians, like Emyra Wajäpi, Paulo Paulino Guajajara, and Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau, among countless others.

While those situations are condemnable, I applaud the work performed by APIB during these difficult times, and as they continue to create a movement of solidarity. Since 2005, APIB's presence has been essential to strengthening and unifying Indigenous peoples' demands, politics, and rights. By building and strengthening alliances with the international Indigenous movement and other social movements, APIB is contributing to protect natural resources and promoting sustainable management of lands.

To conclude, I'd like to mention APIB Secretary General Sonia Guajajara's words: "Our lives are inextricable from the natural world. The creatures of the rainforest protect us, and in turn we protect them. We are the only buffers protecting our thinning forests. Our battle is not just for the future. It's for the present."

Thank you, APIB, for your extraordinary and essential work for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Earth.

HONORING EVAN RENNINGER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Evan Renninger for receiving Encompass Health Rehab's Advocacy Award.

Like many Americans, Evan faced unprecedented challenges during the coronavirus crisis and courageously overcame these obstacles.

At the onset of the pandemic, Evan's wife was admitted to Encompass Health Rehab due to a cerebrovascular accident following childbirth. To protect patients, Encompass had eliminated visitation. Knowing that the alternative would leave his wife vulnerable to loneliness and other mental health challenges shortly after the birth of their child, Evan decided to move into the hospital so that he could support her each day in her recovery. In doing so, he demonstrated many of the characteristics of the American spirit: selflessness, devotion to family, and support for each other in the midst of adversity.

Madam Speaker, the virtues demonstrated by Evan during this challenging season dem-

onstrate the best of America. It is my honor to recognize Evan Renninger for his advocacy and dedication. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I wish Evan and his family continued health and happiness in the chapters to come.

HONORING THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A RECIPIENT OF THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Fayetteville Police Department as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. In honor of heroic efforts by the Fayetteville Police Department on July 5, 2019, this award recognizes the combined actions of Sergeant Steven Bates, Lieutenant Michael Mulcahy, and Officers Daniel Jackson,

Hakim Madyun, James McLeod, Jared Backey, Jeffrey Prevatte, Nicholas Wrench, Rachel Wood, Robert Ostendorf, and Stephanie Collins.

When responding to a 911 distress call about a hostage situation at a private residence, these courageous men and women were met with gunfire immediately upon arrival. In an incredible display of teamwork, they worked together and secured the scene, apprehended the subject, and removed the hostages without any civilian casualties.

These men and women represent the best our nation has to offer, and I applaud them for their quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for their unwavering service and cannot thank them enough.

The Fayetteville Police Department is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and best wishes to them as they continue to protect our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the City of Fayetteville Police Department for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.