

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF RALEIGH BALDERSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson, in honor of his 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to take this time to recognize the many achievements of Mr. Balderson, as well as commemorate this special occasion in his life.

Mr. Raleigh Balderson is a resident of my hometown, Montross, Virginia. He is a very well-respected citizen and barber in the town of Montross, and he is known and loved by the entire community. He has served as a deacon and trustee at Nomini Baptist Church and is currently a deacon emeritus, a testament to his strong involvement in the community and care for those he knows and loves.

This year marks a second major milestone for Mr. Balderson, as he retired from his own barber business on March 21, 2020. Mr. Balderson started his own business in Montross, Virginia, and recently retired after 62 years of being in business. Mr. Balderson's barbershop in Montross is well loved by the entire community and is known for a place of good company and great conversations.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to honor and celebrate Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson's 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to also recognize and remember the late Bonnie Jean Owen Balderson, Mr. Balderson's beloved wife of 59 years. I wish Mr. Balderson a happy 90th birthday, and I hope this time is filled with celebration and God's continued blessings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act on December 4, 2020 to leave to care for a sick family member. If I had been present, I would have voted "Nay" on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act, Roll Call No. 235.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Johnson, Assistant Manager for the City of Roanoke, Texas,

as he retires from a career spanning almost four decades in public service.

Prior to his work for the City of Roanoke in 2003, Chief Johnson served the City of Watauga's Department of Public Safety for more than two decades, from 1982 to 2003. His tenure at Watauga DPS included several positions including Detective, Paramedic, Fire Fighter, SWAT Team Leader, Patrol Commander, and Deputy Chief. During this period, the agency was a totally integrated public safety department with all personnel cross-trained in the areas of law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.

Chief Johnson joined Roanoke's Police Department as Chief in 2003. Under his leadership, the Roanoke Police Department became one of the best in the state, achieving the Texas Police Chief's Best Practices Recognition in 2011, a highly respected accomplishment requiring meeting 168 standards. This recognition has been repeated every four years since and is one of many achievements that led to the addition of his role as Assistant City Manager in 2016, with responsibility over Police and Fire Services and special projects.

In 2018 Mr. Johnson transitioned to assume full responsibility as an Assistant City Manager, providing invaluable administrative input on operations, budgets, personnel policies and other support critical to the City Manager's Office. He also carried responsibility for many major City initiatives, including the role of Project Manager for the New City Hall facility, the implementation of the Roanoke Citizen's Academy and many others. His departmental direct reports included the Police Department, Fire Department, Informational Technology, Special Projects, Solid Waste Services, and City Hall facilities.

A graduate of both Dallas Baptist University and having completed a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Texas, Denton, Chief Johnson is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy; 207th Session. Beyond his duties with the City of Roanoke, he was also active within his profession as a member of the F.B.I. National Academy Associates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association, which he served as President in 2018.

Through his decades of service in Public Safety and City Management, Gary Johnson's effort and leadership have created a legacy represented in the quality of life citizens of Roanoke and the other communities enjoy in the communities he has served. I wish him and his wife, Sherrill, his daughters and family, all the joy and satisfaction deserved in a well-earned retirement from a life of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEGACY OF SHERIFF MICHAEL J. ASHE, JR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of retired Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr. Sheriff Ashe, in a career spanning over four decades, has created the model of rehabilitating inmates across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the country. A native of my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts, Sheriff Ashe has spent his life embodying the fundamental principle that all who are willing to work for a second chance, ought to receive one. His signature philosophy of "strength reinforced with decency; firmness dignified in fairness" led to countless lives being changed for the better, while resulting in one of the lowest reincarceration rates in the United States.

Originally a social worker, Sheriff Ashe sought to provide long-term care and housing to the youth who were most in need of it. Serving as the first Assistant Director of Downey Side homes for the youth, Mike Ashe displayed remarkable leadership by being the first to welcome to his home battered or at-risk children, a reminder that no member of the community shall be forgotten. His commitment to those who are often forgotten in society led to his candidacy for Sheriff of Hampden County. Since his initial election in 1974, Ashe was re-elected every 6 years without contest until he announced his retirement in 2016.

Anyone who has gotten to know Sheriff Ashe will affirm that he had never been in the business of incarceration, rather his focus was on corrections. His doctrine on correctional supervision was guided by the simple principle that inmates should be held accountable and be positive and productive. The Sheriff long understood that if he were to adequately rehabilitate his inmates, he would need to put together a competent coalition of staff and volunteers who could command the situation, while exemplifying the upmost professionalism.

Sheriff Ashe instituted an inmate Basic Intensive Regimen in which all inmates are required to undergo during their first 5 weeks of incarceration. During this critical time, inmates are required to participate in programs that focus on substance abuse, anger management, cognitive thinking, victim impact, and more. In Hampden County, it is excepted that inmates work on assignments or some sort of productive activity, for at least 40 hours per week. With over 140 programs available, inmates are encouraged to famously "answer the bell" for a productive day, just like they will have to do if they are to be productive citizens.

Under his leadership, Hampden County was home to the nation's first Day Reporting Center, the first program of its kind to offer support

• 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.

for inmates close to re-entering society. A model that has been replicated throughout the country. Similarly, Sheriff Ashe was responsible for the nation's first Incarceration Support Systems, offering assistance to those newly freed from incarceration. And if that wasn't enough, Sheriff Ashe helped construct the Western Massachusetts Correctional Addictions Center, one of the nation's original correctional facilities dedicated to substance abuse treatment.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Ashe's tireless work has made our community a safer, more just, caring place. During his tenure, Sheriff Ashe witnessed over 4,600 inmates graduate his educational programs, earning a GED or a high school equivalent diploma. While Mike Ashe oversaw his inmates contribute over 1 million hours of community service to Hampden County communities. While heading the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, Ashe was able to present his successful philosophy for community corrections to the rest of the Commonwealth, further promoting an emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment. A recipient of the White House "Champions of Change" Award, Sheriff Ashe has made the Commonwealth proud while illustrating through his work, that the United States is indeed a nation of second chances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 244.

DALE SCHMITZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale Schmitz, WWII Veteran who served with the 115th Cavalry. Mr. Schmitz not only served his country honorably; he is a grandfather and a man of integrity that has committed to serve his community. On December 22nd, Mr. Schmitz will turn 100 years old. On this day, Adams County will proclaim, "Dale Schmitz Day", honoring his six years of service to our country and commitment to his family and community.

After his service with the 115th Cavalry in World War II, Mr. Schmitz took a job with Eaton Metals in Denver, CO, staying with the company until the 1980's. During this time, Mr. Schmitz continued his service to the community by helping the Guardian Angels Catholic School in the Berkley neighborhood with maintenance work. Mr. Schmitz was an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity until the age of 95 and continues to give back to Veterans through organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project. At the age of 97, Mr. Schmitz flew to Washington, D.C. by himself with the, "Rocky Mountain Honor Flight Program", visiting the memorials and landmarks that were dedicated to the service of WWII Veterans.

Mr. Schmitz has been recognized by his community and has helped every neighbor through acts of service by shoveling their snow, mowing their grass, outdoor repairs, and becoming a favorite with the neighborhood dogs by providing them with hot dogs. Mr. Schmitz was called to service when his country needed him, and then continued his service to his fellow neighbors and community. I want to extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to Mr. Schmitz for his contribution and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BENNY NAPOLEON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of public servant Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon as we honor his memory.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Benny Napoleon began his law enforcement career working in Detroit's police department in the 1975. He worked his way up the ranks to serve as chief of police in 1998 before retiring in 2001. Napoleon became assistant Wayne County executive in 2004. In 2009, he was appointed Sheriff of Wayne County, the role he continued to serve in until his recent death.

Benny Napoleon's tenure as Wayne County Sheriff was marked by his work to reduce inmate populations, by utilizing alternatives to incarceration and employing electronic tethering. Napoleon was well-known for his affable personality and big-heartedness. He is a true son of Detroit. His absence will be felt by the communities of Wayne County.

Please join me as we recognize Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon for his many contributions to Wayne County and the 13th Congressional District and honor his memory.

HONORING THERESA SCHUTA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant contributions of Theresa "Terri" Schuta, one of my closest friends as well as a true leader within the Buffalo Public Schools and the South Buffalo community she has so diligently served, on the occasion of her retirement as Principal of South Park High School.

A proud product of the Buffalo Public Schools, Terri returned to the halls of the schools we walked together as classmates throughout the 1970's as the Principal of Southside Elementary School for seven years until her appointment as South Park High School Principal in 2009. Rising through the administrative ranks, she also gained experience as the assistant principal at Lorraine Elementary.

In the profile of Mrs. Schuta following her appointment, The Buffalo News headline got it just right when it said "Community roots anchor new principal to South Park," Calling her-

self a neighborhood kid, Terri said, "Someone needs to lead South Park who loves South Park. I think that is going to resonate with the kids."

As Principal, Mrs. Schuta has more than resonated—she initiated, innovated and when necessary, intimidated, to deliver quality educational opportunities for her students, their families, her faculty and staff. She introduced new programs into her school, fought for more resources, stood up for her students and demanded more from them as well as herself to better prepare her students to achieve and succeed.

Terri brought the same energy, enthusiasm, tenacity and work ethic I saw in her as our 1978 class president with her every day as South Park High School Principal. She led the way in building partnerships with local businesses and non-profits and now as a designated Community School, South Park students and their families benefit from enhanced learning opportunities, parent engagement and healthy living experiences. She has been a source of positive change in the city's education system as a whole and has impacted the lives of both her students and colleagues.

Terri's enormous contribution to South Park High School has not gone unnoticed. In fact, she has been recognized for fostering accountability in the high school, which resulted in a 10 percent increase in its graduation rate over the past several years. She also pioneered the Bright Lights of South Park program. This project highlights successful South Park graduates as a source of inspiration for current students. Students can then use that inspiration as motivation for their academic work and to live up to their full potential. She oversaw the well-received and extensive building renovation project, the successful 100th Anniversary Celebration including the 2016 release of "Our Fallen Warriors, Remembered," a timeline of more than 150 of our bravest during their experiences as South Park students through their loss of life in service to our country.

Amazingly, Terri has always found time for others as she is an active and passionate community volunteer. Terri was awarded the organization's Campaign Volunteer of the Year award in 2019 in recognition of outstanding commitment to the United Way. Her professional achievements and personal contributions earned her well-deserved recognition as one of 42 extraordinary women featured in the book, "Women in The City of Good Neighbors."

Her work with United Way, local charities and families in need has positively impacted and inspired so many individuals as she personifies the values of faith, friendship and service others instilled in her as a member of the Drilling Family of Lilac Street. She and her husband, Michael Schuta, a retired Buffalo Police Officer, continue that tradition of service with their daughter, Katie, who has followed in Terri's footsteps as the principal of the Buffalo Public Schools' school of culinary arts and management. Katie and husband, Jonathon Whiteside, have recently had a son, Joseph Michael Whiteside, adding proud grandmother to Terri's many titles. Their son, Michael, holds an MBA and works as a senior accountant at PCB Piezotronics in Cheektowaga, New York.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud of all Terri Schuta has accomplished, the indelible mark she has made in uplifting the lives of her

South Park High School family and the legacy she has left for others to follow in school and in the community. Her spirit, steady leadership and unwavering belief in the value of "doing your life's work where you live," is her legacy and an example for others to follow. I look forward to years of continued friendship and wish Terri much happiness and fulfillment in her retirement. I have no doubt that she will find that and more with her loving family and friends in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TASK FORCE AND OMAR HOSSINO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to serve as the Chairman of the Republican Study Committee's National Security and Foreign Affairs Task Force this Congress. In June, the Task Force issued its National Security Strategy report after convening a number of meetings with top policy experts and engaging in complex discussions on the foreign policy challenges we face. The RSC's National Security Strategy spans over 120 pages and includes over 100 detailed policy recommendations on tackling the Chinese Communist Party, Russia, Iran, and the Salafijihadi movement, and for standing up for democracy and human rights. The report boldly stood up for a foreign policy of American leadership through the principle of peace through strength. It was also noticed and condemned by adversaries such as the Chinese Communist Party, the Kremlin, and the Chief of Staff of the President of the Iranian regime. In only a few months a number of the report's ideas have already been implemented by the Trump Administration, or have been introduced as legislation. For example just last week Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party would be sanctioned, something first proposed by the RSC Task Force report. This month also, RSC members introduced six bills taking on China for its IP theft, Rep. JACK BERGMAN introduced a bill to audit U.S. contributions to the United Nations, and I was grateful to introduce the Badr Organization Designation Act, and the Stop the Killing in Syria Act, both based upon the National Security Strategy report.

I am grateful for the leadership of my colleagues on the Task Force including RSC Chairman Rep. MIKE JOHNSON, Rep. ROB WHITMAN, Rep. DON BACON, Rep. ANN WAGNER, Rep. DAN CRENSHAW, Rep. RALPH NORMAN, Rep. BRYAN STEIL, Rep. ALEX MOONEY, Rep. JACK BERGMAN, Rep. NEAL DUNN, Rep. CLAY HIGGINS, and Rep. MICHAEL WALTZ.

I appreciate the hard work of Omar Hossino of the RSC staff in managing the Task Force's meetings, developing policy recommendations, and writing the report. I am grateful for Omar Hossino's dedication and service to the Task Force. Omar Hossino has been a key advisor and invaluable asset on foreign policy issues

not only to members of the Task Force but also to the broader RSC. His vast knowledge of the intricacies of both complex foreign policy issues as well as the intricacies of legislation, especially economic sanctions has been invaluable to me and Task Force members. Omar Hossino's passion and tireless work ethic has also been a driving force behind turning the report into legislative initiatives. Finally, I would like to recognize my Legislative Director Oren Adaki of my staff for his deep dedication and important contributions to this project as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present for them, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call 247—H.J. Res. 107, Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 YAY.

HONORING JUDITH PAXTON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Judith Junkin Brown Paxton of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on December 7, 2020 at the age of 90. She was a pillar of the Salem community who served her fellow citizens as a volunteer and good neighbor.

Judy Brown was born on September 9, 1930 in Roanoke, Virginia, to Elijah Brazelton Brown and Martha Judith Junkin Brown. She graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1948.

Her family, church, and community were the objects of her activity and energy. As a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, she sang in the choir for 70 years, directed the children's choir, served on the Vestry, read to the children at St. Anne's Day School, and performed numerous other services for the congregation. She also volunteered at the office for the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia. Her compassion and faith inspired her work as a coordinator for the St. Paul's volunteers who serve lunches for the Roanoke Area Ministries.

As her friends and neighbors, the people of Salem enjoyed Judy's goodwill and hospitality. She cooked chili for the crews of the Street Department as they cleared snow, organized decorating of lampposts for Christmas, and put up flags for Independence Day. From progressive dinners to bridge games, the activities of Salem were brightened by Judy's friendliness and generosity.

Judy was married to the late William Joseph Paxton Jr., who served as Salem's City Manager. She is survived by sons W. David Paxton and his wife Vicki of Roanoke, Joseph Paxton and his wife Annette of Broadway, Virginia, and James Paxton and his wife Hilda of Salem; daughter Martha Paxton Nowlin and

her husband Melvin of Big Island, Virginia; brother William O'Brien and his wife Ellie of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and sister-in-law June Newman Paxton of Roanoke. She is also survived by ten grandchildren and their spouses Corey (Danielle) Paxton, Traci (Matt) Rowe, Jessica (Scott) Mackaro, Katie (Marc) Palmieri, Jennifer Paxton, Sara (Greg) Hall, William (Brittany) Paxton, Theresa (Michael) Peregoff, Kimberly (Lacy) Burnette, and Robert (Courtney) Paxton, as well as ten great-grandchildren, Hannah, Shiloah, Norah, Paige Judith, Tyler, Victoria, Evelyn, Ava, Anna Grace, and Joey.

HONORING CHEN LOK LEE

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential and dedicated man, Chen Lok Lee. Mr. Lee was a devoted educator and prominent printmaker and painter based in Philadelphia, PA. For over twenty years, he was a Professor of Printmaking, Silkscreen and Lithography at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, which is the first and only visual arts college for women in the United States. Additionally, he taught Chinese calligraphy and painting classes to the community through the Community College of Philadelphia and other private venues.

Mr. Lee was a political refugee from China who escaped narrowly with his life from communist forces in 1950 and was forced to leave his family behind. When his life was in jeopardy, his family helped him escape, and he swam towards Hong Kong and was rescued by a boat and eventually taken to the shores of Hong Kong. He stayed in Hong Kong for eight years, studying at the prestigious Hong Kong University, and then went on to enter the United States as a political refugee in 1959. He settled in New York City's Chinatown and worked his way through the Chinese restaurant business to support himself as a burgeoning artist and to learn enough English to establish footing in his new country. He also began to study under some very prominent and contemporary artists. While at the Arts Students' League in New York, he worked with George Grosz, Stephen Greene and Robert Hale, along with New York painter Hans Hoffman.

From 1967 to 1970 Chen Lok Lee studied abroad at the Rome Academy in Italy and earned an MFA at the Tyler School of Fine Arts as a printmaker, painter and lithography under Romas Viesulas and Richard Callner. In 1973, he was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the Ford Foundation to study at Tamarind Lithographies in New Mexico. He was recognized at an international exhibition in Hong Kong, as invited by Her Majesty's Service in 1982. In his new adopted hometown of Philadelphia, he was selected to participate in the Mayor's Commission for Cultural Exchange between Philadelphia and sister city Tianjin, China, from 1986 to 1987.

Mr. Lee was a loyal and dedicated husband to Linda, whom he met while studying in Rome. Linda, also an artist and educator, brought Chen home to her family in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and then married him

in 1973. They moved to New Mexico, and then Chicago, before settling back in Pennsylvania where Professor Lee was hired at Moore College of Art and Design.

He was the loving and devoted father to Romana (Cliff), whom they named after the city of Rome where he and Linda first met, son Raymond, and doting grandfather of Hanalee, a naturally talented artist. He raised his children with every devotion and detail, ensuring they had resources, support, guidance and care to grow up well. He sacrificed much to give them a good life and the promise of futures they would be proud of. He was very proud of them all.

Chen Lok Lee passed away on December 13, 2020. Professor Lee leaves behind a legacy of strength, courage, honor and devotion, and touched the lives of all who knew and loved him.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia I extend gratitude to the late Chen Lok Lee for his dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING LIEUTENANT VEDA FLEETON

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Veda Fleeton of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for her 25 years of service. The calling to be a peace officer is one of the highest vocations of public service. An individual who accepts this calling is worthy of the highest respect and honor from their community, the State, and our nation.

Lieutenant Fleeton's career with the California Highway Patrol began on November 6, 1995, and after successfully completing her Academy training, she reported to the East Los Angeles Area as a CHP officer. She was later assigned to the Southern Division, where she excelled in connecting with the public in her many roles. As part of the Southern Division Recruitment Unit, she was dedicated to recruiting the best candidates to protect and serve our communities. While at Southern Division, she also contributed to the Public Information Unit through her interactions with the news media and to numerous Dignitary Protection details where she provided security for top-level dignitaries from around the world. Lieutenant Fleeton also dedicated her time and skills to the Southern Division Background Investigative Unit, a temporary assignment that occurred during her road patrol tenure at Baldwin Park that began in 2003. Within this unit, Lieutenant Fleeton conducted thorough and comprehensive backgrounds for hundreds of applicants who were later chosen to begin their careers with the State highway patrol. Because of her deep engagement with the community in these assignments, Lieutenant Fleeton received multiple accolades for her hard work.

Lieutenant Fleeton was promoted to Sergeant on August 1, 2007 and was assigned to the Morongo Basin Area, later transferring to Rancho Cucamonga Area. As Sergeant, she focused on providing her field officers with in-

valuable direction and guidance. On July 1, 2013, Lieutenant Fleeton was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to the Santa Fe Springs Area for two years before transferring to the San Geronio Area. In March 2016, Lieutenant Fleeton was appointed Lieutenant Commander of the CHP's Inland Communications Center in Fontana, where she provided unwavering leadership and guidance to over 75 dispatch and Transportation Management Center (TMC) personnel, including the Riverside and San Bernardino County Freeway Service Patrol programs. Lieutenant Fleeton's unequivocal passion to mentor and develop field officers shined throughout all these roles.

Lieutenant Fleeton officially retired from her service with California Highway Patrol on November 17, 2020. For her remarkable accomplishments and 25 years of commitment to public service as a peace officer in the greater Inland Empire, it is my honor to recognize Lieutenant Veda Fleeton on this day.

HONORING KATHRIN (KATE) SEARS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kathrin (Kate) Sears for her outstanding career in public service as Marin County's District 3 Supervisor.

Kate has been a resident of Southern Marin for most of her life, and it is the place where she developed the principled values that have guided her private and public careers.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Asian studies at Carleton College in Minnesota, a master's degree in Chinese studies at the University of Washington, a doctorate in political science from the University of Michigan, and a law degree from Harvard University. In 2005, after working as an attorney in a private practice for 16 years, Kate joined the Consumer Law Section of the California Attorney General's Office. In 2011 Governor Jerry Brown appointed Kate to the Marin County Board of Supervisors after the heartbreaking death of Charles McGlashan. She was reelected in 2012 and 2016.

Throughout her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Kate represented the residents of Marin, its renowned public lands and the environment with passion and skill. She worked to improve public transportation, strengthen services for older adults, and increase affordable housing opportunities. Kate has helped to plan and implement key Marin initiatives including Bay WAVE and Drawdown: Marin. As Chair of Marin Clean Energy, Kate worked to develop energy efficiency programs and expanded electric vehicle charging stations in Marin.

From Angel Island to Muir Woods, Kate has also fought for Marin's parks and open spaces. I am proud to have worked with her to find compromise in resolving community issues, including through the Muir Woods Parking Reservation System.

Kate is a champion for the people and places of Marin County and leaves an appreciable legacy as she retires from the Board of Supervisors. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring Kate for an accomplished tenure, and extend to her best wishes in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 248.

REINTRODUCTION OF H.R. 8768, THE "KEEPING AMERICA'S ENERGY RESOURCES MOVING ACT"

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to echo the words of my Texas friend and colleague, Mr. WEBER, to support the reintroduction of H.R. 768, the "Keeping America's Energy Resources Moving Act". This is vital legislation needed to support a vital industry, the U.S. lightering industry. In turn, this legislation will support our domestic refining industry and its workers and help support U.S. energy security and independence. It is a small technical fix to the law that will allow seafarers aboard lightering vessels to continue to do the vital work they do—import and export crude oil and natural gas to and from our refineries in Texas and the Gulf Coast, Delaware and Southern California. We have bipartisan support for the legislation and the approval of the agencies who will administer and implement this legislation when it becomes law. As my colleague Mr. WEBER has said, we simply ran out of time to move the bill—but we will continue our efforts and press forward in the next Congress. I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation and look forward to enacting this important technical fix in the next Congress.

HONORING HYNDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF RONALD ALLEN SPIKER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Hyndman Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ronald Allen Spiker, who passed away on December 1, 2020.

Chief Spiker selflessly served the Hyndman Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years. He also was an EMR for the Hyndman Rescue Squad. For this work, he gained a reputation as a man who was always willing to offer help to anyone who needed it. Chief Spiker also generously invested time in teaching and mentoring younger firefighters.

In addition to his service as fire chief, Chief Spiker was a truck driver for his entire professional life and worked at Croner Inc., New Enterprise Stone and Lime, and Rice Tire. He was also a member of the Kennells Mill Sportsmen's Club and the National Rifle Association.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Chief Spiker's parents Ron and Jessie, his loving wife of 31 years Anita, and his son Tyler. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize Chief Ronald Spiker's legacy of service to the John Hyndman community.

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Charles Houston Bar Association (CHBA) and their 65 years of service throughout California's 13th congressional district and the country.

CHBA was originally founded in 1955 as the Charles Houston Law Club and was named in honor of the groundbreaking lawyer and educator, Charles Hamilton Houston. Bearing his name, CHBA continues to uphold his legacy by fighting for racial equality and social change.

Located in Oakland, California, The Charles Houston Bar Association has been a driving force promoting diversity in the legal profession and advocating against racial injustice.

In 1975, The California State Bar's Board of Governors recognized the Charles Houston Bar Association as an official state bar association. The CHBA is also an affiliate member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and the California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL).

The CHBA has been a continuous source of legal advocacy in the African American community. Their focus on protecting the legal rights of the people has kept them on the precipice of change.

During the early 1980's CHBA partnered with the California Association of Black Lawyers to criminalize the KKK. Through their efforts California passed legislation that can still be found in the penal code today.

The Charles Houston Bar Association has always fought to protect civil rights and advocated for equality. These efforts led to the CHBA earning recognition from the National Bar Association as one of its Most Outstanding Affiliates in 1977, 1986, 2002, and 2004.

The CHBA's values and mission are reflected in accomplishments and legacies of its members. From California's first African American Supreme Court Justice Wiley Manuel to the First African American Vice President-elect KAMALA HARRIS, The Charles Houston Bar Association and its members continue to dedicate themselves to creating and being the engineers of social change.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone. I thank the Charles Houston Bar Association for being a tireless advocate for an inclusive community. I wish them continued success in training and organizing future generations of leaders to address the issue of diversity in the legal profession and the challenges of racial inequality.

RON WAGONER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Wagoner with the City of Lakewood for his long tenure with the City and his countless contributions to our community.

Ron began work with the City of Lakewood on December 28, 1970 and, after 50 years of service, plans to retire in January 2021. Throughout his time with the City, he has had many different responsibilities and roles—from Laborer to Maintenance Supervisor—but he is best known for his work ethic and delightful nature.

Through 50 winters, he has ensured snow removal and ice control for the City of Lakewood and its residents. He actively participated in the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), particularly related to snow, ice and pavement, and chaired the APWA Snow and Ice committee from 1985 to 2013.

During his service, he also managed pavement quality for 1,345 lane-miles of city streets. This meant selecting, coordinating and directing suppliers of multiple maintenance materials including pavement, sewer, waterline, sand, and salt as well as evolving equipment purchases to support maintenance of streets, sewers, waterlines and storm water facilities. Ron also helped lead and participate in emergency responses to infrastructure failures, storm damage, police responses and fire responses, and helped hire and supervise untold numbers of employees with varied backgrounds.

Ron's work ethic and leadership earned him Lakewood's Employee of the Year in 2016. Outside of work, Ron is a dedicated father and grandfather. I want to extend my deepest appreciation for Ron's long career in public service and countless contributions to our community. I wish him the best in retirement and future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOYCE HABER SCHUCK

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Joyce Haber Schuck, cherished wife, mother, grandmother, patriot, community activist, and dear friend.

Joyce was born December 9, 1937, to loving parents, Frank and Florence Haber, in Long Island, New York. She met the love of her life, Steve, while at a party hosted by a mutual friend. They married in 1958, following his college graduation. As newlyweds, Steve and Joyce lived and worked in Syracuse and New York City until they accomplished their dream of starting a family and moving to Colorado Springs. They had three beloved children: William David (1959), Thomas Allen (1961), and Ann Elizabeth (1968).

Joyce lived an extraordinary life by all measures. Her husband, Steve, describes her as "beautiful at many levels, and bordering on being renaissance." Joyce embraced the popular role of being a homemaker to her family, but her efforts and passions didn't end there. Joyce returned to college in her 40s and graduated with a degree in social work. Her passion was always in the well-being of those less fortunate.

Joyce blazed historic trails in her community. She co-founded Community Transitions, a non-profit organization that served homeless families, established a volunteer program for the District Attorney's office, and built the DA's 'Shape Up' initiative. She was appointed by Governor Bill Ritter to the board of the Charter School Institute and served on the boards of the League of Charter School and the Youth Transformation Center. Additionally, she co-founded and chaired the board of Colorado's first military charter school, the Colorado Military Academy.

The Schuck's had an unwavering commitment to children, particularly to those who are disadvantaged. They founded Parents Challenge, a nationwide nonprofit to empower low-income parents with financial and informational resources so that they may choose the schools best suited for their children's needs. Parents Challenge has been carrying out its mission of serving parents and children across our nation for over 21 years.

In a move that took her out of her comfort zone, Joyce embraced the campaign life when Steve sought the Republican nomination for Governor of Colorado in 1986. Not so secretly, many expressed that they wished she was the candidate because she excelled at building relationships and communicating with people from all walks of life. Unbeknownst to Steve, Joyce kept a diary of her experience on the campaign, which she converted into a trail-blazing book titled, "Political Wives, Veiled Lives."

Joyce had many passions in her life, but none more than her family. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Florence, and sister Rolene. Joyce is survived by her loving husband Steve, children: Bill (Dede), Tom, and Ann; her grandchildren: Emily, Molly, Hillary, Whitney, Gabriel, Conner, Colton, and Bryce; great-grandchildren: Madyson, Emyrson, Grayson, Hudson, and Liam.

Joyce leaves behind a legacy of grace, kindness, compassion, and generosity. She lived her life with enthusiasm and purpose, and her commitment to those in need will benefit generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 246, and YEA on Roll Call No. 247.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
FRANK J. MCGUIRE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Frank J. McGuire. Mr. McGuire passed away on July 7, 2020 at the age of 92, after a lifetime of business and community leadership, philanthropy and service to Buffalo and Western New York.

His contributions are so many in so many arenas, including economic, civic, cultural and charitable that even his son found it difficult to describe so he let the quote that guided his father's work speak to how Frank McGuire lived his life. "A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships were built for." As reported in the Buffalo News, this well respected and well-known leader, "was not afraid of risk or challenge, and always described as brilliant, tough, honest and fair."

Frank McGuire was a job creator and a generator of opportunity; he was an entrepreneur for decades before that term became more widely embraced and celebrated. Still working into his nineties as chairman of the McGuire Group, Frank McGuire never acquired titles, he built companies—30 of them—giving 1,700 people employment and careers as an industry leader in the fields of construction, health care, commercial and industrial real estate development.

His roots were anchored into the South Buffalo community as the oldest of five sons of Frank J. McGuire Sr. and the former Mary Kelly, and a graduate of Holy Family School and South Park High School. Sergeant McGuire served his country honorably from 1946 to 1948 having joined the U.S. Army after becoming an electrician.

His ability to lead was recognized by his fellow classmates as he was president of the School of Engineering of the University at Buffalo Class of 1953. His work as an electrician during his college days took him to new heights as he personally climbed to install the aircraft beacon light at the top of a local radio tower. If there was a challenge to be met, Frank McGuire was the man to step up to get it done.

His innate skill set was more fully on display as an employee of General Electric Company where at the age of 26, he became one of the youngest managers and contributed to the design and development of the nuclear reactors used in the first atomic submarines. Those experiences formed the foundation on which this pioneer took his limited savings and with the support of his parents, who mortgaged their home, founded his first company, Industrial Power & Lighting Corporation. This electrical engineering and construction organization became a powerhouse completing more than \$200 million in projects throughout upstate New York, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Colorado and Alaska and became the first American company of its kind to work in the People's Republic of China in 1981. Real estate development in Western New York and Florida would follow as well and expansion into health care operating nursing and rehabilitation facilities in Western New York, Long Island and Michigan.

While expanding his businesses locally, nationally and internationally, he always gave back to his community as he led the Chamber of Commerce in the 1970s with a focus on bringing back jobs. Even an unsuccessful run for political office never steered him from public service as he served as a trustee of the New York State Urban Development Corporation and was chairman of the Western New York Economic Development Corporation. His efforts as a member of the New York Sportsplex Committee secured state funding for the Buffalo Bisons baseball stadium and as a major player on the Business Backs the Bills Committee in the late 1990s, he certainly contributed to our beloved football team still calling Buffalo its home.

I, like many others, sought his counsel and can attest to his direct and no-nonsense way the exchange of ideas, priorities and strategies were debated. You knew where you stood with Frank McGuire as he knew the value of family, faith, friendship and loyalty. He knew the value of a job well done and always kept his focus on creating and expanding employment opportunities for the community that gave him his start.

Though never seeking the spotlight, his generosity and significant contributions to numerous charities were deservedly recognized. These included University at Buffalo School of Management Niagara Frontier Executive award in 2001, the United Way Tocqueville Society Philanthropist of the year in 2007, and Business First's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Madam Speaker, I honor the trailblazing legacy of Frank J. McGuire. He embodied the passion, energy, and commitment to cause that makes Buffalo unique. We will forever be grateful for his outstanding service and leadership. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Donna, his children, grandchildren and the friends and family of the McGuire Group.

THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF CONGRESS

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HALL. I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement on behalf of my predecessor John Lewis and constituents of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. We have some unfinished business, and I call on Congress to:

1. expunge all records for nonviolent offenders impacted by the war on drugs;
2. permit those individuals who were previously incarcerated to vote and end the practice of disenfranchisement on these bases;
3. make it more difficult for police to escape accountability when the rights of law-abiding Americans are violated;
4. pass legislation that once and for all bans the box and prevents employment discrimination against those previously incarcerated individuals;
5. establish the John Lewis Institute with an allocation of money from Congress to support this endeavor;
6. support the Prince Hall Masons Building;
7. support the renovation and the restoration of Dr. King's office; and

8. support funding for the John Lewis TOD loop which can be a national Pilot and model similar to our esteemed Beltline, without displacing long-time residents.

I challenge my colleagues in this body to pass these pieces of legislation and deliver on the unfinished business of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

I would also like to take a moment to thank leadership in the House and their staff for welcoming me with open arms but more importantly for their leadership in these very challenging times. Their commitment to getting results on behalf of American people is laudable, and the work over the last few years to keep this giant ship on course and to get it back on normal course.

We also need to adapt to the changing times. The post-World War II economy is not coming back. The gig economy is here to stay.

The gig economy is upon us and to remain competitive we have to invest in and reinvest in strategies of empowering people at all stations in life to be their best selves and own their own futures.

As more Americans choose independent and flexible work, this coverage gap will only get bigger, which is why our lawmakers need to update our safety net as soon as possible.

That is why I am proud that today's Coronavirus relief bill delivers \$900 billion in much-needed aid but this is not enough. We need to pass another round of stimulus checks and we need to ensure that state and local governments—which are at the forefront and bearing the impact of paying for this pandemic—are reimbursed.

And, I would like to close on a point of personal privilege.

I have a picture of a man who was a straight-A student at George Washington Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama who was pushed out of the educational system because he chose to stand up for justice and equality for all in the 1960s.

He was a peaceful and law-abiding student who organized hundreds of other students to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March. It was only a few years ago that I found out who he was. I was reflecting with my mother on her photo collection from the civil rights movement one day, and to my astonishment she stated that the peaceful protestor being dragged on the ground by a police officer in 1965 was my father.

His name was Leon Hall and he was the youngest staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, from 1963 to 1968. He was a foot soldier in the fight for justice along with Hosea Williams, who stood on the Edmund Pettus bridge next my predecessor John Lewis. All three of them were beaten, verbally abused, and illegally incarcerated countless times, just as we see today with Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others. This has been an unfortunate reality in the U.S. and around the world for millions of black and brown people for far too long—injustice and unlawful treatment by those responsible for upholding the law has to end and it has to end now.

While I have seen this picture for my entire life, before that conversation with my mother I never realized that the individual in it was my father.

The picture was taken in 1974 and showed my father. Leon Hall, a board member of the

Southern Regional Council, testifying before this very body about the issues related to education and students being pushed out of education systems, such as he was. Our Majority Whip Representative CLYBURN and Representative BENNIE THOMPSON were also board members of the SRC at that time.

The body of work they established at that time is the scholarship we now refer to as the school to prison pipeline. Some of America's greatest talents, our most brilliant minds—capable of creating inventions, innovations, or great companies that can employ thousands and provide cures to ailments—are languishing in prison due to an unjust legal system. Many of them were brutalized on a traffic stop or walking innocently down the street.

I rise to bring attention to the need for justice reform and to explain the import of why I support justice reform projects, like the last prisoner project, the innocence project, banning the box for reentry to work. I support the overall evolution of the way we work, who works, and how we contribute and provide value to a future society that truly is just for all.

Young people who fill prisons should be empowered to create and build our companies as knowledgebased workers with or without a college degree doing jobs that require new tech skills that they have, and those in jails for non-violent offenses should be released and given training to do the same. That's why I support the MOREs act and SAFE act. But the critical component of this is the categorical expungement of records and wholesale investment in the creation of companies with, for, and by citizens reentering the economy—companies that will pay taxes and keep people off the streets. The SAFE Act should have minority- and women-led financial institutions at the center of the transition that we need to move our country forward in a uniformed fashion.

We need a comprehensive solution to end these injustices. I believe in second chances and the power of redemption. People returning from incarceration should have opportunities and pathways to succeed and contribute to society in a meaningful way without stigma from the wrongs they've done in the past. This same principle is applicable to Congress too.

I would end on the following observation. The country was built on the backs of African descendants of slaves, indigenous people and other immigrants including Chinese, Irish, Italians, Mexican and Central Americans, those from South Asia and people from all over the world. We need a country that functions without regard to where your ancestors come from. We need opportunity mindful of that. We need a justice system mindful of that. Only then can we begin to end the divisions of our country and begin to unite.

Tough times bring out the worse or the best in people and we need to standup and ensure that we not let the COVID crisis continue to bring out the worse but rather take the next few weeks of this administration and first 100 days to 6 months to get something right in this country and get the country back on course.

SUPPORT FOR S. 1310 (ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2020)

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I want to express my support for the Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act.

The Organization of American States (OAS) brings together the nations of the Western Hemisphere to promote democracy, human rights, security, and economic development.

This bill directs the Department of State to develop a strategy to support efforts in the OAS to strengthen critical anti-corruption efforts and promote human rights.

It also requires a report detailing the organization's progress toward advancing human rights, combating impunity, and supporting the participation of democratically elected legislators in OAS activities.

Finally, this bill encourages democratically elected legislators from member states to discuss the most important issues facing the region—including defending human rights, promoting democracy, and supporting anti-corruption efforts.

As co-chair of the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group, I recognize the important role that legislators can play in advancing shared foreign policy interests. However, the United States must take all necessary measures to ensure that any interparliamentary forum created under this legislation provides a platform for substantive discourse to address serious issues impacting the region, including countering threats to democracy and human rights, transnational crime, impunity, and systemic corruption in accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The United States must also make all efforts to ensure that interparliamentary forums are not coopted by actors who aim to undermine U.S. policy interests in the region by promoting socialism and embracing malign actors like the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

This legislation includes critical language ensuring that only democratically elected legislators participate in any newly-created forum. A "democratically elected legislator" under this legislation should be strictly defined as an individual who was elected as a result of periodic, free and fair elections. Further, any legislator who is known to be convicted for or engaged in corruption or transnational criminal activities, including trafficking of people, goods, or illicit narcotics, moneylaundering, terrorist financing, acts of terrorism, campaign finance violations, bribery, extortion, human rights violations, or undermining democracy, should be barred from participation.

The U.S. must also work with the OAS to ensure that any forum or action taken under this legislation is feasible and cost effective, keeping in mind the ongoing budgetary constraints of the OAS and the importance of advancing the objectives outlined under the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013, including the implementation of a results-based budgeting process in order to strategically prioritize, and where appropriate, reduce current and future mandates.

The State Department should also maintain communication with the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives through regular briefings on the progress of any forum that is created under Section 4 of this legislation and its implementation.

With the Western Hemisphere facing serious threats from authoritarian regimes and malign actors, it has never been more important for the U.S. and our partners to promote values of freedom in the region.

I commend Senator CARDIN and Senator WICKER for their leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE 2020 CHRISTMAS TREE BILL:
"MONEY VERSUS WEALTH"

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, Americans should wonder why Pennsylvania Senator PAT TOOMEY—a Harvard educated, former Wall Street foreign currency swap trader—held up this relief bill so necessary to help people in our pandemic-plagued nation. He was wrong to hold up the bill, but he is right on putting a spotlight on the Federal Reserve. Bottom line: How will our nation pay the \$2 trillion bill for this necessary relief to the American people, and our escalating debt? First, let me begin with this basic lesson President Franklin Roosevelt's generation taught mine: There is a difference between "money" and "wealth." Senator TOOMEY appears to be concerned about America's deteriorating financial position. So am I.

Wealth = tangible assets that produce real products (agricultural land, a factory, a donut shop, a forest, etc. . . . real products. Money is but an ephemeral accounting transaction. As Congress debates this \$2 trillion-dollar vital bill, of one thing we can be certain: it is not paid for. The U.S. has gone from the world's largest creditor (+\$360 billion) in 1980, to its largest debtor (−\$97 trillion) in 2019. The percent of household debt equals 68 percent of the GDP, an astounding figure—(\$14.35 trillion of a GDP of \$21.16 trillion). The Federal Reserve soon will gather its member banks to figure out how to finance this debt. The money to pay for it will be borrowed as onerous taxation at this time would harm the recovery. But the American people will have to pay back lenders for years to come, including increasing payments to foreign creditors that are financing America—China, Japan, and Brazil, among others. Senator TOOMEY is shining a laser beam on the Fed as it will be the supreme negotiator in these "money" transactions that will impact our nation's future "wealth". Our nation has been accumulating more and more debt and not been paying down principal for a very long time due to wars, huge tax cuts to the wealthy, and a haughty attitude among some that the U.S. is invulnerable to the selling off of productive assets. During the 1990's, to ease the interest payments on our accumulating U.S. debt, the U.S. financial system was turned inside out to inflate and leverage globally Americans' wealth in the housing sector. Wall Street, with

the Fed looking on, ushered in the horrific 2008 housing crisis with millions of transactions that failed. Individual American families are still recovering from that hard body blow to their real wealth achieved through home ownership, their primary source of savings. Yes, Wall Street feverishly booked paper money losses while big securities firms ate one another, leaving about 4 giant firms that now transact the majority of money trades in our country. Incidentally, their CEO's took away more money and bonuses than before the crash. They transferred their losses to homeowners in every hamlet in our nation as well as booked losses to many lenders that had less money power.

Senator PAT TOOMEY is a former Wall Street refugee as the bank at which he worked was gobbled up by Germany's Deutsche Bank. He holds a rigid fealty to free markets as a Club for Growth endorsed Senator. He and I hold vastly differing views about many issues, but we come from manufacturing states deeply harmed by the current Wall Street-Fed economic model, where every real asset is disposable. We both share a deep concern about rising U.S. debt levels and the role of the Federal Reserve as an agent of national decline. He has focused on America's terrible "money vs. wealth" predicament whether one chooses to listen to him or not. Our nation's capital markets are now dependent on foreign investment to prop them up. Our nation is not financially independent. The question is which sector of our economy will next fall victim to Wall Street's financial roulette with the Federal Reserve's acquiescence—will the wealth of our states and municipalities be compromised or emptied out as was our housing sector? That is a deep concern in view of what Wall Street orchestrated as the housing bubble burst.

For foreign investors buying U.S. debt, U.S. taxpayers annually now shell out over \$130 billion annually in interest payments to China, Japan, and Brazil to name three. Since the 1980's the share of foreign ownership of US debt has risen from less than 4 percent to well over 40 percent. This is an astounding indict-

ment on our unfortunate inability to live within our means. Frankly, to be a strong and independent nation, with wealth creation here at home, these are bills we should aim to pay ourselves. That requires real leadership.

The Fed's Chair, an unelected position, is now the second most important office in Washington, DC. 99 percent of the public doesn't think much about the Fed. But it becomes the key lynchpin in the ability of our nation to float economically. Its growing, subterranean financial control over daily life can come at a terrible price. The Fed's money and debt penchant for our nation is like consuming a tad of arsenic at a time. Rather, to reverse the cycle of middle-class downward mobility, America needs real wealth creation at home, not just money supply manipulation again. For example, why shouldn't seniors be able to earn fair interest again on their accumulated savings? They loan their precious dollars to banks and are paid nothing in return. The aspiring generation should not have to be pawned through heavy education debt loads from which the financial sector benefits. If Congress fails to pay attention, real assets of local municipalities and states could well be leveraged by the Fed to pay more American interest to foreign bond holders. Heedless borrowing continues to fund America's inability to grow the real economy here at home. The significant diminishment of manufacturing as a robust sector of our economy that creates broad economic uplift of the middle class cannot be matched by the "financial services" sector nor the new "tech industry" which produce very lopsided economies, with a few very rich but many more poor.

Record credit card debt and the indebting of the aspiring generation—all are signs of a creeping financialization of our society that takes power and control away from ordinary citizens. Is it any wonder Americans are in backlash mode? The amount of interest taxpayers are paying foreign creditors has been on an ascending curve since the 1980s. It cannot continue if our nation is to remain free. With this "debt bomb" hanging over our

heads, in the future any bill Congress passes must protect the real value of our municipal and state assets—water and sewage systems, bus systems, parks, hospitals and universities, roads, equipment, etc. They should not be leveraged through international borrowing that requires growing interest payments over time that in turn indebts our communities in perpetuity as has occurred already with student debt loans and the housing melt down.

A truly strong America requires we look ourselves in the mirror and design a "Build Back Better Recovery" that is not financialized but is truly "made in America", not borrowed. The American people deserve no less for what they have been enduring during this Pandemic and with the accelerating economic washout of the middle class since the 1980's. There is a huge difference between money and wealth.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.