

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD HOUSING EQUITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the National Guard Housing Equity Act, which would codify into law a new National Guard Bureau (Bureau) policy on housing allowances.

Under federal law, National Guard members who are deployed on active duty for 30 days or less receive the Basic Allowance for Housing Reserve Component (BAH-RC). National Guard members who are deployed on active duty for 31 days or longer receive the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). BAH-RC is less than BAH. This can lead to unfair results.

For example, when District of Columbia National Guard members were deployed to respond to protests in the District last summer, they were originally deployed on orders for less than 30 days, but ended up serving for over 30 consecutive days. However, they only received BAH-RC.

After I raised this issue with the Bureau, the Bureau informed me that it would change the policy to allow a National Guard member who served over 30 consecutive days, no matter the length of their initial deployment orders, to receive BAH. This bill would codify this new policy into law.

This bill would ensure National Guard members receive the full benefits to which they are entitled and ensure that they are not short-changed because of guesswork on how long a deployment might last.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH A. TORMALA

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph A. Tormala, who was recently appointed as a National Americanism Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Through his tireless work ethic and devotion to the common good, Joe has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

A native Yooper, Joe served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps through seven overseas deployments between 1983 and 2004 during the Cold War, Gulf War, and Liberation of Iraq, where he was wounded. His devotion to service continued upon his return home to Michigan, where he has been active as a member and leader of Veterans Service Organizations, including the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). Formed in 1932, the MOPH is composed entirely of men and

women who have received the Purple Heart award while serving in the Armed Forces. Their Americanism Program works with schools, churches, and other organizations to promote U.S. history and love for our country. In his role as a National Americanism Officer, Joe will help carry out this mission—ensuring future generations always remember the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in recognizing Joe Tormala for his appointment as National Americanism Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Joe all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. BADIE IBRAHIM NADDY

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Dr. Badie Ibrahim Naddy of Columbia, Tennessee.

Badie Ibrahim Naddy grew up in Amman, Jordan and attended the American University of Beirut in Lebanon before coming to the United States as a young man to study as a Fulbright Scholar. He became a Fulbright Scholar (a program that had only recently been established) to pursue his master's degree at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Continuing his graduate education at Kansas State, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry. A few years after receiving his doctorate, Dr. Naddy briefly left the United States to serve as the Director of the Analysis Laboratory for the Jordanian government in the mid-1960s.

Dr. Naddy was able to realize his passion for teaching when he returned in 1967 to work as the first chemistry instructor at Tennessee's first community college, Columbia State Community College (CSCC). Over the next 42 years, Dr. Naddy became an American citizen, taught over 5,000 students during his tenure, and built a reputation for being an outstanding instructor who brought out the best in his students and challenged them to learn. He is the proud father of three sons, all of whom have earned doctoral degrees and achieved success in the medical field.

In retirement, Dr. Naddy has been an active philanthropist constantly seeking to aid those in need and create opportunity. Whether using his personal funds to create the STEM Endowment Scholarship and Veterans Endowment Scholarship at CSCC or purchasing UV lights for Maury Regional Emergency Medical Service to disinfect ambulances during the

pandemic, Dr. Naddy exemplifies the spirit of the Volunteer State.

Without question, Dr. Naddy is a true scholar who has dedicated his life to the betterment of others. His life is a testament to the power of the American Dream, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this great American's tireless commitment to educational excellence and helping his community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations in New Mexico, the 574 federally recognized Tribes across the country, and the Native Hawaiian community to highlight the American Rescue Plan's life-saving support for Tribal Nations, including through the Tribal Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. This monumental bill will, among other support, provide \$20 billion of desperately needed assistance to Tribal governments throughout the United States, and uphold the federal government's longstanding trust responsibility.

Many of these communities suffered disproportionately during the pandemic. American Indian and Alaskan Native people were twice as likely to die from COVID-19 compared to white Americans. Long-standing failures in public funding, infrastructure, housing, and access to health care in Indian Country contributed to this crisis of equity.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for securing dedicated Coronavirus Relief Funds for Tribes under the CARES Act last Congress. However, the lack of Tribal consultation and narrow rulemaking during the previous administration severely delayed and prevented many Tribal nations from receiving the help that they needed, when they needed it. This was most apparent by the roadblocks that prevented Tribes from effectively utilizing their economic recovery funds under the CARES Act to make up for the devastating loss of critical governmental revenues given that they lack traditional tax bases enjoyed by state and local governments.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States, I'm proud that we secured the largest one-time investment in Native communities in our nation's history in the American Rescue Plan. Importantly, Congress intended to distribute this aid flexibly, allowing Tribes to help their struggling small businesses, address health and economic issues, and preserve their language and culture.

That is why it is so important that the Biden Administration is committed to engage in robust Tribal consultation so that they can distribute these funds in a timely, flexible, and

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