

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAWONA FROZEN FOODS

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Wawona Frozen Foods in the Central Valley. Since its founding in 1963, Wawona Frozen Foods and the Smittcamp family have produced some of America's favorite fruits, including plums, strawberries, pears, and more. However, Wawona is best known for its delicious peaches.

In 1945, Earl Smittcamp returned home after fighting in the South Pacific as a United States Marine during World War II. Like many Americans seeking out the American Dream after the war, Earl and his wife, Muriel, embarked on their own journey and purchased a 200-acre farm at Minnewawa and Nees Avenues in Clovis, California from Muriel's father in 1946. Wawona Ranch was born, and it would soon become a fully-integrated agricultural operation led by Earl and his sons, Bill and the late Bob Smittcamp. Today, Wawona is a third generation, family-owned business located in the congressional district I proudly represent.

Headquartered in Clovis and with additional processing plants in Fresno and Watsonville, Wawona Frozen Foods is a major employer and economic contributor to our community. Wawona ships more than 100 million pounds of food annually to schools, retail stores, and the food service industry. Its delicious products can be found in the nation's largest supermarkets, restaurants, and resorts and are used by pastry manufacturers and in baby food. Most notably, Wawona processes over 65 million pounds of peaches annually.

Aside from the nutritious foods found in stores all throughout North America, the Smittcamp family has made lasting contributions in the community. They are dedicated to improving the quality of life through civic and philanthropic involvement with numerous community organizations, including Fresno State (and its Smittcamp Family Honors College), the Smittcamp Family Foundation, and Valley Children's Hospital. Bill and his wife, Linda, have lived in Clovis for nearly 50 years and have three children: Blake and his wife Cherie, Brad and his wife Courtney, and Blair and her husband Nathan, all of whom work in the family business. Bill and Linda also have six grandchildren: Aubrey Rose, Austin, Beckett, Harvey, Savanna, and Teddy. The Smittcamp family can always be counted on to wish you a "peachy day!"

On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Wawona Frozen Foods and the Smittcamp family on 60 successful years in business and for their contributions to our community, California, and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: CLARENCE MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who laid down their life in service to our great Nation. Memorial Day is a holiday of reverence: a time for us all to come together as a Nation and remember those brave soldiers who died defending our freedoms.

On May 29, 2023, this Memorial Day, 21 names will be added to the Clarence Veteran's Memorial Honor Walls. I am honored to include in the RECORD their names to be remembered forever.

James D. Cottrell—Army
Bernard J. Fisher—Army
David C. Hartzell III—Navy
John W. Hastings—Air Force
Edwin J. Hens Jr.—Army
Thomas R. Hens—Marine Corps
John M. Hens—Marine Corps
Peter J. Hens—Army
John L. Leamer—Army
Cletus F. Leising—Army
George V. Mesaros—Army
Ronald J. Michnik—Army
John S. Nowak—Army
Arthur O'Leary—Coast Guard
John E. Pajak—Navy
Michael A. Pasquarella—Army
Lee A. Rowlands—Army
John (Jack) W. Smeltz—Navy
Michael P. Stockmeyer—Navy
Robert G. Trowbridge—Air Force
R. Scott Wilson—Army

Though gone, these men and women will not be forgotten. It is now our duty to remember their sacrifice, courage, and valor as we go forward and continue to grow and build the greatest Nation the world has ever seen.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN BELL'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MILAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ellen Bell, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department of Milan, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement. Her dedication to her local community is worthy of commendation.

Ellen is a lifelong resident of Milan and graduated from Milan High School in 1976. Working as a beautician and delivering newspapers until 1985, Ellen embarked upon a career in public service first as a secretary for the Parks and Rec Department. She quickly

rose through the ranks, becoming an integral member of city government and, through the years, earning the title of Program Director, Interim Director, and finally the Director of Parks and Rec. Ellen has dedicated herself to improving the quality of life for Milan residents. Her legacy will live on through the many projects she pioneered; Ellen's final project as Director of Parks and Rec—a splash pad in Wilson Park—will provide area youth with countless hours of summer fun for years to come.

Ellen is an active and well-known participant in Milan's civic life. Along with her husband, Mike, and her children and grandchildren, her entire family regularly participates in community events, demonstrating the value of volunteerism to the next generations. She regularly donates her time at Milan Seniors for Healthy Living, where she teaches quilting and other crafting projects. She is an active member of the Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan where she is an elected Elder, spending countless hours teaching Bible stories to children, as well as organizing the Christmas Pageant and countless Chicken Broils and Steak Fry's over the years. Ellen was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the Milan Chamber of Commerce in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Ellen Bell's service to the city of Milan. Over the last 38 years, she has dedicated herself to making her city more attractive and welcoming, both in public and in private. She is a tremendous example for all those who serve as a public official and those who wish to serve their community on their own time. I thank Ellen.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my Republican colleagues to stop playing politics with the full faith and credit of our Nation.

Through the threat of a default on our debt in pursuit of draconian cuts, they are prompting a crisis of their own making—one that will have lasting, devastating impacts to our global economy and to the livelihoods of millions of Americans.

We are on the brink of catastrophe, yet Republicans sent Congress home for the Memorial Day weekend. At a time when we should be united in honoring our brave service members, extreme Republicans are willing to trigger a recession so they can cut veterans benefits.

Democrats are ready to pay America's bills without gambling with working people's livelihoods by imposing cruel cuts.

The clock is ticking. Moderate Republicans must join us now to sign the discharge petition, end this crisis, and save our economy.

• 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.