

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF MASTER SERGEANT
JEREMY ROBERT BURRIS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Master Sergeant Jeremy Robert Burris.

A native of Crown Point, New York, Master Sergeant Burris attended Crown Point Central School prior to graduating with Honors from Hudson Valley Community College in 2005 with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Following his graduation, Master Sergeant Burris answered the call to protect his country and enlisted in the United States Army. He served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist, a hazardous and technically challenging position that is regarded as one of the most dangerous in the Army. Burris served his country dutifully and honorably for eighteen years, attaining numerous accolades that reflected his outstanding skills and conduct. Master Sergeant Burris earned two Bronze Star Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal, seven Army Commendation Medals and an additional one with a distinction for Valor, an Army Achievement Medal, five Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, an Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Combat Action Badge, a Master Explosive Ordnance Badge, an Air Assault Badge, a Driver and Mechanic Badge, a Combat and Special Skill Badge, Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge, four Overseas Service Bars, along with a number of other distinctions. Master Sergeant Burris's impeccable military service record warrants the Nation's undying gratitude and everlasting respect.

Despite his extraordinary service, Master Sergeant Burris was much more than his rank and military accomplishment. He was a devoted father, husband, and son. He adored spending time with his wife and children, and he found himself happiest in the company of his loving family. Mr. Burris is a touching reminder that no matter how striking one's professional accomplishments may be, their true legacy lies in the impact they impart on those around them. Without a doubt, Master Sergeant Burris's most meaningful legacy is that of his two children, Jerico and Mila.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary service and exceptional life of Master Sergeant Jeremy Robert Burris. His enduring contributions to his family, the United States Army, and the Nation will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING CASA DE VENEZUELA
ORLANDO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, as Casa de Venezuela Orlando celebrates their 20th anniversary this July, we are recognizing their impact across the Central Florida community and beyond.

In July 2003, a group of Venezuelan citizens led by William J. Diaz gathered in Orlando, Florida to create an organization tasked with promoting cultural, social, and civic values within Central Florida communities. They decided to be called Casa de Venezuela Orlando with Mr. Diaz elected as the first president and founder.

Over the next 2 decades, political turmoil in Venezuela continued and forced thousands of migrants to flee and move to the Central Florida region. Casa de Venezuela Orlando was organized and ready to provide support to incoming families and provide shipments with humanitarian supplies to those still in Venezuela. Throughout this time, Casa de Venezuela Orlando gained strength and support across Central Florida and obtained recognition from their community due to their attention to the humanitarian needs of Venezuelans, along with people of other nationalities who moved to the area.

For years, Casa de Venezuela Orlando has organized annual immigration-focused events, health and vaccine campaigns, back-to-school events, Christmas bazaars, medical and clothing supply drives, events with local food banks, and more. They also help the community with scholarship opportunities and academic credential validation.

In April 2015, Casa de Venezuela Orlando launched an initiative to request that Venezuela be designated for Temporary Protected Status, which would provide deportation protections and allow Venezuelans in the United States to live and work. Casa de Venezuela advocated for this program directly with elected officials. At that time, then Florida State Senator DARREN SOTO signed a letter to the Department of Homeland Security requesting this protection for Venezuelans. In 2019, Congressman DARREN SOTO and Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART passed a bipartisan piece of legislation out of the U.S. House of Representatives that would designate Venezuela for TPS.

Mr. William J. Diaz, through Casa de Venezuela Orlando, founded the network of Casas de Venezuela and other NGOs within the Venezuelan diaspora in the U.S. in 2018. Today, the network totals 77 organizations that provide orientation, guidance, and support to the Venezuelan community.

Congratulations to Casa de Venezuela Orlando for their 20th anniversary and their continued impact within the Venezuelan community.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF
CATHERINE HARMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Fire Chief Catherine Harman for her 40 years of fire service to the people of Garden City and Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Chief Harman began her career as a firefighter and paramedic with the Detroit Fire Department, where she served for 10 years. She went on to serve the community of Garden City 30 more years, 13 of those as Fire Chief. As a fire service professional, Chief Harman is one of only 5 percent of women in the United States who have a career in fire service. In her role as fire chief, she has blazed the trail for countless women and sets an example for young people everywhere.

Chief Harman has done an outstanding job of leading the 21 members strong Garden City Fire Department, including persevering through the challenges of serving the public through a global pandemic. Under Chief Harman's leadership, there has been tremendous improvement in improving fire safety across the community.

Please join me in recognizing Garden City Fire Chief Catherine Harman for her outstanding service the people of Michigan's 12th District as we wish her well on her retirement.

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY
MONTH

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Building Safety Month 2023 and to recognize the more than 63,000 members of the International Code Council (ICC) who have dedicated their careers to ensuring public safety throughout the built environment—whether in our homes, offices, schools, or houses of worship. One of those members is International Code Council President Michael Wich, the Director of Building Code Administration and Chief Building Official for the South Central Planning and Development Commission—who just happens to be my constituent from Houma, Louisiana.

The Code Council brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector, to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those standards are then implemented year-round by building safety officials, the fire service, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

• 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.

Building Safety Month was created by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public about the professionals who ensure buildings are safe, resilient, efficient, and livable. This year's Building Safety Month theme is "It Starts with You," which encourages the public to recognize the critical role of our local code officials who work around the clock to keep our communities safe and mitigate the risks posed by natural disasters.

Building codes and standards include important safeguards to protect the public from hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and earthquakes. As Americans rebuild following these events, we recognize and thank those who implement and enforce building codes for protecting lives, property, and businesses, and ultimately ensuring our communities are resilient to future events.

Development, adoption, and implementation of up-to-date codes and standards has enabled Louisiana to rebuild stronger following the devastation stemming from Katrina and Rita in 2005; Gustav and Ike in 2008; Lee in 2011; Isaac in 2012; the Baton Rouge flooding of 2016; Harvey in 2017; Laura, Delta, and Zeta in 2020; and Ida in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking ICC Board President Michael Wich, as well as ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month 2023.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HELEN REYNA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Helen Romero Reyna.

As the fourth oldest of 10 siblings, Helen was raised not too far from the local dairy farm by the Santa Ana Riverbed. Helen is a Santa Ana native and completed her education in Orange County at a time when segregation was still in place. Although she lived in Santa Ana, she was bussed to Hoover Elementary in Westminster and graduated from Garden Grove High School.

Helen and her husband, Tomas Rangel Reyna, raised 4 children in the city her own family raised her: Tomas Reyna, Denise Reyna, Kenneth Reyna and Roman A. Reyna. She worked at Baxter until 1990 as a crossing guard and enjoyed her family to the fullest in the last 30 years. She loved family time, especially with her 8 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed her weekly bingo, and cheering on the 49ers and the Lakers.

Helen leaves behind a legacy of love to all those who knew her. Let us join in mourning the loss of Helen. Her family and her community will never forget her.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ADELA JONES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Adela Jones, a beloved educator and superintendent.

Adela Jones has served the students of Sanger Unified for 36 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Fresno State, and her Master's Degree in Bilingual Education from Fresno Pacific University. She began her teaching career in 1984 and joined Sanger Unified as a classroom teacher in 1987. Since then, Mrs. Jones has held many positions within Sanger Unified, including Reading Development Teacher, Elementary Principal, Area Administrator, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. In 2018, Adela was appointed Superintendent of Sanger Unified.

Throughout her career in education, Adela has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of Sanger Unified students. One of her proudest achievements lies in the creation of a strong and dedicated team of teachers and staff who have tirelessly worked to meet the needs of students—particularly during the challenging times brought about by the pandemic. From the teachers on the front lines to the support staff behind the scenes, Adela has fostered a sense of unity and purpose within the district which has prompted an excellent education to every child.

What sets Adela apart as an exceptional educator is the lasting impact she has made on the lives of her students. Many Sanger Unified employees were once her students, and they fondly remember her love of singing in class and the invaluable knowledge she imparted to them. It is a testament to her dedication and mentorship that these former students still cherish the influence she had on their lives. Adela's commitment to her students goes beyond the classroom, extending to supporting their growth and achievements long after they have left school.

Under Adela's guidance, Sanger Unified has achieved remarkable milestones and received well-deserved recognition. The opening of Sanger West High School, the establishment of six community schools through an \$8 million-plus implementation grant, and the distinction of all middle schools being recognized as Schools To Watch are testaments to her impeccable leadership. However, Adela humbly attributes these accomplishments not to herself, but to her team as a whole.

Amidst these successes, Adela Jones has faced numerous challenges during her superintendency, with the most significant being the unprecedented closure of schools due to the pandemic. The decision to keep students and teachers apart was undoubtedly one of the hardest moments she had to endure, but it also brought about a sense of unity among her team. Adversity has a way of revealing the strength of character, and Adela's leadership shone brightly as she guided the district through uncharted territory, ensuring the continuation of learning and supporting her community during these trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adela Jones for her dedication and commitment to improving the lives of many students through education. May we never forget her contributions and continue to be inspired by her legacy.

HONORING DR. EMILE-BACKER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the Record a Proclamation honoring Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer.

Whereas, Dr. Magalie Emile-Backer is a native of the Republic of Haiti and migrated to the United States as a child.

Whereas, beyond science, Dr. Emile-Backer is an entrepreneur, investor, trusted community leader and advocate for global diaspora communities. From research to her community advocacy in global development, her life's work and vision is to leave a legacy of economic freedom in low middle income countries (LMICs) and to service the vulnerable by being a vessel for God's work.

Whereas, as a community advocate, Magalie spearheaded COVID-19-related initiatives throughout the African-Caribbean diaspora to address vaccine hesitancy, economic impacts of COVID and other civil society engagement programs including World AIDS Day, Malaria Nothing but Net campaigns, COVID townhalls, and advocacy for recent Census, etc.

Whereas, she is a global health advocate committed to health systems strengthening in the U.S., particularly, in developing nations. Her life's work is improving global health and eradicating poverty through creative community-based development solutions for economic empowerment.

Whereas, since 2010, Magalie and her husband Firmin Backer, Co-Founded the Haiti Renewal Alliance (HRA), a non-profit based in the Washington, DC area committed to promoting business development and foreign/diaspora direct investment for the socioeconomic growth of the Caribbean, especially, Haiti. HRA's motto is building sustainable institutions through infrastructure and trade opposed to perpetuation of aid and charity.

Whereas, HRA convenes, connects and brokers through strategic community engagement partnership models. In 2021, HRA launched another platform in partnership with USAID, diaspora partnership accelerator (DPA), in response to the growing call to action around diaspora direct funding models. HRA's Diaspora Framework and integration models provide innovative solutions in a resource constraint global development landscape.

Whereas, after the 2021 Haiti Earthquake, through her advocacy for empowering localization, she helped raise 1M through HRA's corporate donor strategy and other govt donor grants to help direct funding to diaspora locally led projects.

Whereas, the campaign also help create OneDiaspora, a network of diaspora, private sector and local NGOs committed to strengthening community-based initiatives and localization priorities. HRA has become a leading