

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ANA S. HERNANDEZ MORALES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ana S. Hernandez Morales for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ana has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ana, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ana's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ana S. Hernandez Morales on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REFLECTING ON MY TIME IN CONGRESS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, last year, my efforts to ensure foreign adversaries can't control American social media applications was declared dead, and TikTok's lobbyists were celebrating. Today, I'm proud to say its on the path to passing the Senate and headed to the President's desk. The CCP's last ditch attempts to destroy the bill and me personally failed.

And though I didn't expect to have to prioritize my family and leave Congress early, I'll confess this is how I always wanted to go out. On top, with the select committee at the height of its influence, having just passed the most consequential bill of my career, perhaps the most consequential bill of this Congress, and having just completed two historic investigations. And with FISA and these national security supplemental across the finish line, this Congress has completed its most important homework, for which the Speaker deserves enormous credit.

I firmly believe the Speaker has emerged on the other side of this stronger and a statesman. Any Motion to Vacate will fail, the Republican majority will grow as three special election seats get filled in the coming weeks, and what remains of this Congress will involve bipartisan oversight and legislation. And though I will be stepping away from politics, I think after this week my Republican colleagues will have a strong case to make come November, that they held the line for freedom at home and abroad.

It's typical at moments such as these to say "I have no regrets." This is true legislatively and professionally. I accomplished my mission and got to chair the most significant committee in the 118th congress. Yet I have a lingering personal regret. I wish I had devoted more time to building personal relationships with my colleagues. Our time here is frenetic: filled with overlapping committee hearings and constant fundraising events. It's hard to carve out time just to get to know your colleagues, to understand their background and motivation, and thereby develop trust.

Where I was able to do that, with Senator ANGUS KING my co-chair on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, and with RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY on the China committee, it produced the biggest legislative successes of my 8 years. Put differently, my effectiveness as Congressman wasn't primarily a function of intellect or op-ed writing prowess and certainly not fundraising, it was a direct result of forging friendships across our caucus and maybe more importantly across the aisle.

So if there's a lesson in that for my successor or any of my colleagues it's after a grueling day of a thousand meetings, still make the effort to get that beer with a member you don't know that well. Drink more, tweet less. Get to know your colleagues in real life before trashing them on social media. At the end of the day, Republicans and Democrats, we're all Americans, citizens of the greatest country in the history of the world. Even on our worst day the world is looking to us for leadership. God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 142.

HONORING MAGGIE GARRETT FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AT AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the work of Maggie Garrett, who recently left Americans United for Separation of Church and State (Americans United or AU) after leading AU's Public Policy Department and advocating for the separation of church and state for nearly 20 years. Maggie worked on church-state issues before state legislatures, Congress, and the Executive Branch, becoming a nation-

ally recognized expert on religious liberty issues and how these issues intersect with other civil rights.

Prior to joining Americans United, Maggie served as Legislative Director and Staff Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Georgia, and as Staff Attorney at the ACLU of Alabama. During her time in Alabama and Georgia, Maggie litigated high-profile cases. At the ACLU of Georgia, she also lobbied the state legislature, working with legislators across the political spectrum to fight for policies that protect civil rights and civil liberties and improve the lives of all Georgians. She played a key role in educating legislators about the harms of a proposed state Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), successfully working to ensure that the measure did not advance since it was drafted in a manner to deny civil rights protections in the name of religious liberty.

In 2007, Maggie joined Americans United as Assistant Legislative Director and remained at AU for almost 17 years, achieving the position of Vice-President for Public Policy. In her role at AU, Maggie worked tirelessly to ensure that religious freedom is not misused to license invidious discrimination. Maggie led the work of the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination (CARD)—a diverse set of stakeholder groups she brought together from religious, religious freedom, civil rights, labor, reproductive rights and health, LGBTQ rights, and secular organizations—to oppose taxpayer-funded religious discrimination in social service programs. Maggie's leadership of CARD, together with her expertise, helped ensure that the religious freedom of people who use taxpayer-funded social services is protected and that these programs include safeguards for the separation of church and state.

Also, as part of her work at AU, Maggie co-chaired the National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE), a group of more than 50 national organizations working to oppose private school vouchers. Maggie has long been a champion of public education and fought to ensure that public funds remain in our public schools to be used for the education of all students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Maggie for her years of service to the cause for separation of church and state and to protecting civil rights. Her decades of expertise were invaluable to me and my staff. Our Founding Fathers knew from personal experience the dangers of governmental entanglement with religion, leading them to enshrine religious freedom in the First Amendment of our Constitution. In fact, Thomas Jefferson warned against such excess in the Virginia Assembly in 1779, with the introduction of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom which would serve as the nation's precursor to the First Amendment; he cautioned that, "our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions on physics and geometry." Maggie's work carried on that tradition. For over two decades, Maggie fought to uphold

• 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.

the separation of church and state, a foundational principle that is the cornerstone of true religious freedom.

I wish her the best in her next role as Vice-President of Federal Affairs with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where she will follow her other passion, advocating for the humane treatment of animals, inspired by her beloved rescue dogs Atticus and Finn.

RECOGNIZING FRANK JONNA

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear good friend, Frank Jonna, as he is honored as the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Businessperson of the Year.

Frank's entrepreneurial instincts can be traced back to working with his older brother, Jimmy, after he founded Jonna Construction in 1965. Early on, Jimmy's leadership taught Frank the meaning of hard work, patience, and perseverance firsthand, propelling him to later become CEO of Jonna Construction.

With over 40 years of dedication to the Metro Detroit area, Frank has served on the numerous Boards including Henry Ford Health, Catholic Central High School, Angel's Place, and Detroit Public Television.

Alongside these accomplishments, his legacy will forever live on in the community Jonna Construction has contributed to and built, including Michigan National Bank Building, the Henry Ford Detroit Pistons Performance Training Center, Mother of God Church, St. Thomas Church, Shenandoah Country Club, and the Chaldean Community Foundation Headquarters.

Frank is the embodiment of the American Dream. In every step of his career, he has showcased a never-ending commitment to the Southeast Michigan community, so on behalf of all of Michigan's 10th Congressional District, congratulations to Frank Jonna.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to celebrate April as Second Chance Month—a time to recognize that interventions that help justice-involved individuals make our communities safer and healthier, grow our economy, and reduce recidivism.

I am deeply proud of my successes during my Congressional career that have given people a second chance. The impact of the criminal justice system is deep and harmful—breaking families, removing workers from their workplace, and weakening our families, communities, and economy. We know that providing opportunity for improvement strengthens lives, and it also saves taxpayer resources on re-incarceration that could support citizens in other ways, with the Illinois Sen-

tencing Policy Advisory Council estimating that the average cost associated with one recidivism event is \$151,662. Further, economists recognize that integrating individuals with records into the workforce boosts our economy by increasing earnings and tax revenue.

In April of 2008, Congress passed and President George Bush enacted my bill—the Second Chance Act. This law has provided over \$600 million to state, local, and tribal governments as well as reentry-focused non-profit organizations to operate programs and services to ensure the success of people re-entering their communities after incarceration. A study completed by Texas Southern University of the effectiveness of the Second Chance Act in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia found that education, vocational and work release programs, substance abuse programs, and family support are integral activities in reducing recidivism. Just this week, I joined with colleagues from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to reintroduce the Second Chance Reauthorization Act to keep these programs running.

Research demonstrates that postsecondary correctional education is greatly needed, has tremendous effectiveness, increases economic well-being, reduces recidivism, and saves taxpayers money. Two of my bills to improve educational opportunity for justice-involved individuals became law in 2019. The REAL (Restoring Education and Learning) Act restored Pell grant eligibility to the incarcerated. According to the Vera Institute study, states can save an average of \$7.6 million in incarceration costs each year for which people in prison have access to Pell Grants. The FAFSA act removed the prohibition on federal student aid to people with felony drug convictions. This policy unfairly targeted poor and minority students and cost society more in terms of crime and lost economic productivity. These policy changes are smart, cost-effective investments of taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, more needs to be done to improve educational access for justice-involved individuals. My DEMO (Demonstrating that Empowerment Makes Opportunities) Act would help those with records obtain successful health careers. This bill is modeled on the successful work of Johns Hopkins and the Safer Foundation that created intensive training programs for workers in hospitals coupled with legal services, support services, technical assistance for businesses, and job placement services. The programs are wildly successful, giving people with records good jobs and giving the hospitals quality, loyal workers. My ED ACCESS Act would repeal the lifetime ban on the American Opportunity Tax Credit for those with felony drug convictions. The antiquated lifetime AOTC ban for people with felony drug convictions makes it harder for these individuals to afford college and get their lives on track. My REO (Reentry Employment Opportunities) Act would codify the successful REO program that improves job training for justice-impacted workers. I am pleased that the House passed a WIOA bill this month that included key provisions of my bill.

We also must do more to divert people from the criminal justice system. Each year about 20,000 youth enter foster care due to parental incarceration. I worked with Rep. BARBARA LEE to secure money in FY22 to help parents whose children would be orphaned were they to enter prison. This trauma is avoidable, and

quality diversion programs can strengthen families and protect millions of children from harm.

I support and applaud my home state of Illinois for enacting the SAFE-T Act to eliminate cash bail. Illinois was the first state to end cash bail. This ban was championed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. Justice should not target the poor. Individuals who pose a threat to the community will remain in jail, but those who simply can't pay for bail will not. According to a November report from Researchers at Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice, the Cook County jail population decreased by 12% in the month after implementation, with similar decreases in several other Illinois counties.

As we celebrate Second Chance Act month, I recognize our successes and commit myself to continue to do more to help those who made mistakes to get the opportunities to turn their lives around.

RECOGNIZING JULIANNA MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julianna Martinez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Julianna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Julianna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Julianna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Julianna Martinez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

REMEMBERING CHULA VISTA ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF PHIL COLLUM

HON. SARA JACOBS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chula Vista Assistant Police Chief Phil Collum, a 29-year veteran of the department who we sadly lost to cancer. His service and his legacy will always be remembered.

Those who knew Assistant Police Chief Collum best emphasize his empathy, his compassion, his reputation for being fair, his work ethic, and more than anything, his dedication to his community.

Community was at the heart of everything Assistant Police Chief Collum did. He gave the directive in 2022 to create the Community Engagement Division to help foster community relationships—and he personally led this division.

He was committed to building bridges between officers and the community they serve.

Through the Community Engagement Division, he worked to make sure that the Chula Vista Police Department was actively connecting with community members including residents, students, and business owners.

Assistant Police Chief Collum was also deeply involved in charity work. He volunteered at his church. He went to Tijuana every month to support orphanages and help children in need as part of the Corazón de Vida Foundation—his empathy and compassion for others on full display.

And, Assistant Police Chief Collum was a true trailblazer. He was the Chula Vista Police Department’s first Black lieutenant, first Black captain, and first Black assistant chief.

He was also the first openly gay male officer in the department. In his own words, during an interview in 2022, Assistant Police Chief Collum said that he was proud to be a member of the LGBTQ community. He was proud to be a law enforcement officer. He was proud of his husband. He was proud of his community. And that he wanted to celebrate that.

I can’t think of a better way to sum up his incredible contributions to our community. He broke down barriers and was a role model for so many.

Assistant Police Chief Collum is survived by his loving husband, William Lopez, and my heart is with his family, his friends, his colleagues, and our entire community as we mourn this immense loss.

We will always remember Assistant Police Chief Collum.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and stand in solidarity in the remembrance of the millions of lives lost during this tragic event.

Let us not forget the hate and mistreatment Armenian families faced and make sure that this terrible event is never forgotten in the minds of Americans and our history. The Armenian Genocide was one of the darkest moments in human history, resulting in the deaths of approximately a million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Today, let us be reminded to always treat our neighbors with love and human dignity, and inspired by the memory of those lost, to never stop fighting for a better world in their honor.

I join the Armenian communities of Michigan and across my district in recognizing the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide as we remember the lives of the loved ones lost a century ago.

RECOGNIZING U–M DEBATE TEAM

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan debate team for winning the 2024 National Debate Tournament, the first in their history. As an alumni of the University of Michigan, I am incredibly proud of your accomplishment!

On April 8, 2024, the 78th annual National Debate Tournament took place and in a unanimous decision, the University of Michigan’s debate team made headlines by bringing home the National Championship. This achievement is the culmination of hours and hours of hard work and preparation and is truly commendable.

In the elimination rounds, Michigan bested many other qualified teams before defeating Kansas in the championship round. U–M is proving once again that our great state of Michigan is yielding the next generation of leaders.

As a Michigan alum, I’d like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire U–M Debate Team, Coach Aaron Kall, and the University of Michigan. Go Blue.