

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.) on its 150th anniversary. M.E.B.A. has been the steadfast voice of the men and women who power our Nation's maritime industry, supporting American commerce through their skill, dedication, and solidarity for one and a half centuries. On this milestone, we pay tribute to the generations of maritime professionals who have propelled our Nation's trade in both peace and war.

Founded in 1875 in Cleveland, Ohio, M.E.B.A. arose from the dangerous working conditions faced by mariners at the time. Shipowners valued profit over safety, leaving workers vulnerable to hazardous conditions. A small but determined group of engineers, led by Garrett Douw, came together to form a union dedicated to creating a safer, more secure, and equitable maritime industry. Their vision laid the foundation for a labor movement that has fought tirelessly for fair wages, job security, and improved safety measures.

M.E.B.A.'s legacy extends far beyond its early struggles. Over the years, its members have answered the call during every major conflict and disaster. From World War II to our engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, from providing humanitarian aid to ferrying people to safety after September 11th, their resilience and professionalism in times of crisis are a testament to the values that define the American mariner.

Today, M.E.B.A. continues to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members while strengthening the American Merchant Marine. Their contributions are vital to our economy and national security, and their dedication to public service remains as strong as ever.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, congratulations to M.E.B.A. on this remarkable 150-year anniversary. May their strength, service, and solidarity continue to guide them for many years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
KATHY MAHAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Mahan for her dedicated service to the people of the Central Valley and to congratulate her on appointment as the Central California Regional Director with U.S. Senator ADAM B. SCHIFF.

Kathy earned her bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from California State University, Sacramento, in 1994. In July of 2000, she started her career in Journalism working at the Fresno Bee. She served in many roles, which included Digital Editor, Audience Editor, Feature's Editor, Metro Editor, and Assistant Metro Editor. She went on to complete her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Fresno Pacific University in 2012. For over 17 years, she dedicated her life to a career in Journalism at the Fresno Bee, leaving an undeniable mark on the company and community.

In October of 2017, Kathy assumed the role of District Director for my 16th Congressional District, serving the residents of the Central Valley. She played a pivotal role in shaping the office's outreach and operations. In this position, she was responsible for managing all district-level activities, including coordinating communication efforts, overseeing constituents' services, and leading a team dedicated to addressing the needs of the local community.

After serving as District Director for two years, Kathy became Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Jim Costa's office in January of 2019. As Deputy Chief of Staff, she served as an adviser as we transitioned to my new district, CA-21. Kathy's insight was invaluable in helping to shape priorities and positions on issues affecting Central California. Kathy's strong leadership and commitment to public service made her an indispensable figure in the office, and her dedication to the community left a lasting impact on everyone she worked with.

Kathy demonstrated the qualities of a strong leader, always making it a priority to ensure the success and development of all congressional staffers under her guidance. With her husband, Kevin Mahan, by her side, she continues to uplift the ones around her and put the community above her needs.

I invite everyone to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of my former District Director and Deputy Chief of Staff, Kathy Mahan. Her dedication and strong work ethic exemplify the true spirit of public service. Seven years ago, Kathy began her career serving the Valley and she continues her commitment to public service in the U.S. Senate.

Mr Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Kathy Mahan. May her work ethic, vast knowledge and unwavering dedication continue to inspire us all in our mission to serve the people of the Central Valley. Kathy's character and passion stand as a beacon of inspiration for many.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR OFFICER CARLOS PERALEZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Department Senior Officer Carlos Peralez for his service to our community and country. He proudly served our country in the United States Army for six years, with three years of active duty and three years in the reserves, before joining the Euless Police Department in April 1997.

Officer Peralez has exemplified excellence and leadership throughout his career in law enforcement. He has served in various divisions, including patrol and criminal investigations, held key roles as a crime scene technician, bicycle unit officer, and crisis negotiator for the Euless SWAT team, and served on the North East Tarrant County Area SWAT Team. His dedication to public service extends beyond tactical operations—Officer Peralez became a School Resource Officer to build strong relationships between the police and youth in our community. As a neighborhood police officer with the community services division, he works to foster trust in our community through the Euless Police Inspiring Champions (EPIC) program where he and fellow officers visit local elementary schools, joining physical education classes to build connections with students and staff.

Officer Peralez earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Columbia College and holds a Master Peace Officer certification. He has received numerous commendations and accolades, including the prestigious David Hofer Servant Leadership Award and the City Employee of the Month in September 2004 and January 2021. In his free time, Officer Peralez continues to embrace the values of community and family that have defined his career and life, including spending time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and raising cattle.

As Officer Peralez begins his well-deserved retirement, I thank him for his devoted service to protecting our North Texas community and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 24, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 28, No 29, No. 30, No. 31, No. 32, No. 33, No. 34, and No. 35 on February 4, 2025, February 5, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 7, 2025 due to the passing of my father. Had I been present, my votes would have been:

● 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.