

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
DALE 'JIM' POLITIS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life of James Dale 'Jim' Politis, who passed away on October 10th, at the age of 76.

A native of Chicago, Jim joined the Air Force in 1966 for four years, before attending Olympia Community College in Washington State. In 1974, he joined the family business at CB Centers of America. He met and married his wife Janice (Jan) a year later and they remained married for 47 years. Eventually, while living in Knoxville, Tennessee, Jim and his wife started their own business, J&F Distributing.

The family moved to Riner, Virginia in 1992, where they owned and operated the Brush Creek Buffalo Farm, Jan's family farm, raising Buffalo. They also ran the Brush Creek Buffalo Store in Riner.

Jim was on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors from 1998 until 2013, serving as Chair for four of those years. During his time on the Board of Supervisors, I represented the Riner area, both when I served in the Virginia House of Delegates and then as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I had the pleasure of working closely with him on a number of issues of concern.

One of the issues that Jim worked on was the legalization of Industrial Hemp. This is the product used to make fiber. The fiber product does not include very much THC (the active ingredient that gives the marijuana plant its potency). Industrial Hemp, thanks in part to Jim's lobbying efforts, was legalized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

He is survived by his wife Jan, Stepmother Lorraine Politis, Children James D. Politis II (Stephanie), Jeannetta Politis (Luis Prado-Roman), Jason Politis (Callie), grandchildren Emma, Andrew, Gavin, and Jenna Rae. Siblings Evelyn Bluemke, Karen Kaufman (Kevin), Sue Kaufman, Michael Kaufman (Debbie); as well as many nieces and nephews. I wish them all my deepest condolences on the loss of their loved one.

May Jim remain in the hearts of his loved one for years to come. He will not be forgotten for the positive impact he made on the Montgomery County community.

DECLARATION OF MURDER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, enemies of civilization are gruesomely bold and clear on their murderous in-

tentions. A heinously revealing declaration of their barbaric intentions by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) is detailed in the Hamas Covenant of August 18, 1988.

In the midst of insane provisions is Article 7: "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'"

The goal of Hamas, financed by Iran, is murder of Jews worldwide. It is fake news they care about the Palestinian people. This is not about territory. Suffering by the Hamas-oppressed people of Gaza is solely Hamas-dictated, and a two-state solution without non-terrorist domination is not possible.

Hamas and also Hezbollah is Iran in a war we did not choose between Dictators With Rule of Gun attacking Democracies With Rule of Law. Active war began with war criminal Putin's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and led to the Hamas invasion of Israel on Putin's birthday, October 7th.

Bold and clear are the dictators with Putin's treatise of July 2021 that Ukraine does not exist. The Chinese Communist Party threatens Taiwan does not exist, and Iran chants in English, "Death to Israel, Death to America."

Democracies will prevail building Peace Through Strength.

RECOGNIZING THE PANCRETAN
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to honor the Pancretan Association of America (PAA) on their many achievements throughout their 94 years of dedicated service. I am thrilled to congratulate the PAA on the establishment of their first-ever National Headquarters at the Hellenic Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and on the recent election of their organization's first female president, Diane Kounalakis.

The PAA and the Pancretan Youth Association (PYA) offer a rich array of programs to cultivate and preserve the extraordinary heritage of the island of Crete. The PAA and PYA have supported the enrichment and personal development of both Cretan Americans and the general public through educational events, study abroad scholarships, dance and music workshops, and translations of Greek literature. The PAA also has a long and storied history of advancing essential causes on the island of Crete and throughout both Greece and the United States. From helping to establish Crete's first public hospital in the 1950s to supporting orphanages, food pantries and disaster relief today, the PAA has made immense contributions.

I have no doubt that President Diane Kounalakis, a longtime PAA member and vol-

unteer, will be an exemplary leader for the PAA. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding the PAA for its many decades of service, and in wishing the PAA all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MIDWEST
ISMAILI ARTS FESTIVAL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize The Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival hosted by the Ismaili Council for the Midwestern United States. The Ismaili Arts Festival will be held at the Copernicus Center in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

The Ismaili Arts Festival stands as a testament to the profound impact of the arts, serving as a platform for Ismaili artists to share their unique visions and creations with our community. This festival celebrates creativity, and promotes dialogue, diversity and understanding among residents of Illinois and visitors. These events elevate and illustrate the pluralistic values that are held by residents of Illinois and make Illinois a more vibrant and stronger community.

This year, the Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival will bring together over 200 Ismaili artists showcasing their artistic expression in the categories of performing arts, film festival and art gallery. The theme for this year's festival is "care," in which the artists will explore their personal interconnectivity with care for the environment, care for one's heritage, and strengthening one's identity.

I am proud of the Ismaili Council for Midwestern United States and the Midwest Ismaili Arts Festival organizers, Ismaili Artists and Ismaili Volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge, and passion to promote the arts.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th District of the State of Illinois, I proudly recognize the impact of the Ismaili Arts Festival and its contributions to the State of Illinois' arts and cultural stage and celebrate this showcase of Illinois' diversity and commitment to inclusion.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO WILLIAM SMARR

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, retired United States Secret Service Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) of the Dallas Field Office William Smarr. SAIC Smarr has spent more than two decades protecting our nation's leaders before retiring on October 13, 2023.

• 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.

Mr. Smarr began his career in 1999 in the Pittsburgh Field Office with subsequent assignments in the Houston Field Office and the Presidential Protective Division in Washington, D.C. In addition to providing protection to our nation's leaders and investigating threats against the President, Mr. Smarr managed high-profile transnational fraud investigations involving the targeting of U.S. financial infrastructure and private industry victims. During his time as the Senior Executive for the North Texas District, SAIC Smarr led all operations involving executive protection and criminal investigations with offices in Dallas, Lubbock, Tyler and Waco. Before assuming his role in the Dallas Field Office, Mr. Smarr led as the Deputy SAIC in Houston, TX, where he oversaw the Secret Service's investigative and protective portfolio covering all southeast Texas and the country of Mexico. SAIC Smarr has dedicated his life to the integrated mission and responsibilities of the United States Secret Service and fulfilled his role with honor. I thank SAIC Smarr for all he had done to protect and serve our great Nation. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CLOSE AGENCY LOOPHOLES TO
THE JONES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I reintroduce the "Close Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act of 2023," which would close nearly 50 years of anti-Jones Act decisions—known as "letter rulings"—by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and having served as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018, I am committed to rebuilding the U.S.-flagged fleet including international and Jones Act vessels. For decades, Congress has stood idly by while federal regulators chipped away at the Jones Act, allowing foreign vessels paying poverty wages to take jobs from Americans working in our maritime industry. That must stop.

In December 2020, Congress enacted my amendment to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act as section 9503 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) affirming that the application of the Constitution, laws, and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States to the Outer Continental Shelf also applies to non-mineral energy resources and exploring for, developing, producing, transporting, or transmitting such resources. As I stated in my remarks on September 24, 2020 (Congressional Record, Vol. 166, No. 166), Congress always intended U.S. law to apply to any form of exploration, development, production, transportation, and transmission of energy resources under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953.

On January 25, 2021, President Biden's first executive order (no. 14005) directed federal agencies to maximize the use of American mariners, American-built ships, and U.S.-flagged vessels under the Jones Act. In re-

sponse to my amendment enacted in the FY21 NOAA, U.S. CBP issued a headquarters ruling letter "HQ H309186" on January 27, 2021, correctly holding that the transportation of "scour protection" materials from the Port of Providence, Rhode Island to a wind project on the Outer Continental Shelf off the southeast shore of Martha's Vineyard is a coastwise activity under the Jones Act.

On March 17, 2021, the national trade association for the offshore wind industry sent a letter to the Commissioner of CBP requesting that the agency withdraw HQ H309186. In this letter, the offshore wind industry mischaracterized my September 2020 remarks from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as somehow supporting its request that CBP withdraw the January 27, 2021, letter ruling. On March 25, 2021, CBP issued a revised headquarters ruling letter (HQ H317289) contradicting its January 2021 letter ruling and the President's stated policy, allowing foreign vessels to construct energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf.

To be clear, my September 2020 remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD stated that my amendment to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act simply clarified that all forms of offshore energy development are indeed subject to the same U.S. laws that apply to the offshore oil and gas industry. That does not mean that I accept the validity of the many administrative loopholes to the Jones Act created by decades of bad letter rulings and poor enforcement by CBP. Rather, I have long held that many of the activities regulators have incorrectly allowed the offshore oil and gas industry to engage in using foreign-flagged vessels are clear violations of the plain text of the Jones Act and original Congressional intent.

It is now clear to me that the regulators at CBP are unwilling to fully implement the Jones Act, as directed by President Biden's Executive Order 14005. My 'Closing Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act' would finally force federal regulators to enforce the law as Congress intended in 1920, maximizing job opportunities for American mariners, U.S.-flagged vessels, and domestic shipyard workers. In effect, my legislation would also compel CBP to implement the President's stated policy by fully enforcing the Jones Act.

On April 26, 2023, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed two key sections from my bill in the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2023" (H.R. 2741). Sections 8 and 9 from my bill are now incorporated as Section 312 (Notification) and Section 313 (Publication of Fines and Penalties) of H.R. 2741.

Section 312 requires foreign-flagged vessels purporting to operate under a Jones Act exemption to notify CBP and post online its legal basis for operating on the Outer Continental Shelf. Currently, CBP uses an honor system for foreign vessels operating on the Outer Continental Shelf and their legal basis for doing, which undermines the agency's ability to enforce the Jones Act properly and enables outright fraud. Section 313 requires CBP to publish online any penalties against foreign-flagged vessels operating illegally on the Outer Continental Shelf, including for failing to notify the agency of the purported Jones Act exemption in advance.

For this Congress, I also require in my bill that offshore energy developers on the Outer Continental Shelf pay a prevailing wage.

Under current law, project developers operating in the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone at sea can pay poverty wages, exploiting foreign workers and undermining American mariners' ability to compete for this work. After decades of failed promises, we are finally building the clean energy economy of the future. American mariners are ready, willing, and able to work in the burgeoning offshore wind industry. But they cannot be expected to compete against foreign-flag vessels paying poverty wages to workers with no legally guaranteed collective bargaining rights or labor standards.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I encourage all members of the House to cosponsor this critical and long overdue legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
NIXON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to honor the life of David Nixon, who passed away on October 1, 2023, at the age of 64 after a courageous seven year battle with cancer.

Growing up in Roanoke, David and I first crossed paths in high school when we were on opposite sides of a political battle. He went to Glenvar High School, and I went to Andrew Lewis High School. Throughout the political debate to name the new high school in Salem, David always presented his views in a calm, honest manner. I knew from that experience that I had met a man of honor.

I often think of the Abraham Lincoln quote when thinking of David, "the best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend." Instead of vilifying each other, we got to know each other and came to have deep respect for one another.

It is remarkable to me how much our lives mirrored one another. After attending Roanoke College and Wake Forest University law school, he returned home to practice law, as I did to Salem after attending law school. He served as Chairman of the Roanoke City Republican Committee while I was Chairman of the Salem Republican Committee. I am thankful that he was a strong supporter of my many political campaigns over the years.

During his life he was appointed Escheator by Governor Allen for Roanoke City, 1994, for 23rd Judicial District, 2001. He also served as Vice President of Legal Affairs, Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation; Chairman, Roanoke City Fair Housing Board; and Member, Roanoke City Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board.

A devout member of New Century Church in Roanoke, Virginia, David served many years as a volunteer greeter. After being diagnosed with stage four cancer in 2016, David used his remaining years to grow closer to Christ, finding peace and joy in his diagnosis.

David is survived by his son Kirk Nixon (Darlene Smith) and granddaughter Ella Nixon; daughter Jessica (Nick Blandy), grandchildren Finn and Declan Blandy; siblings, Carolyn "Kack" Lynch, John, and Debbie Nixon; twin sister, Denise "Cee" and Alan Campbell; as well as many nieces, nephews,

great-nieces, and great-nephews; and, his many friends, some of whom David considered like family. I pray for all of his loved ones during this difficult time.

David was a good Republican and a good Christian. He loved his family and friends deeply and lived his last days to the fullest, despite his diagnosis.

I, and many others, will greatly miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2023 AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD WINNERS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I am honored to recognize six businesses, organizations, and individuals that have been instrumental to the growth of Amherst, NY. As the pillar of the business community in Western New York's most populous suburb, the Amherst Chamber of Commerce has the responsibility of identifying many of our community leaders. At this "Excellence Event," there is no shortage of men and women who have put the interests of their neighbors ahead of their own.

This year's winner of the Stewardship Award is Goodwill of Western New York. Their mission of caring for others is not only commendable but has a tangible impact on countless individuals within our community. Goodwill's programs give those seeking employment a chance to showcase their skills and ambition in a productive environment. They take pride in helping to lift those from unemployment or underemployment while collecting millions of pounds in local donations. Annually, Goodwill of Western New York supports well over 1,000 individuals in their pursuit of workforce development programs. It is my hope that Goodwill can continue to expand their services and build on the success that earned them this year's Stewardship Award.

After more than six decades of serving Western New York families and businesses, Lawley Insurance is awarded this year's Family-Owned Business Award. A third-generation family business, Lawley has become a premiere agency in the eyes of the community they serve. Since the beginning, their leadership team placed an emphasis on ethics and maintaining the strength of the Western New York region. With offices across New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, the current stewards of Lawley Insurance have never lost sight of their home in Buffalo. With great pride in this local group, I wish Lawley Insurance a bright future in our region.

Spectrum Reach, the advertising arm of Charter Communications, will receive this year's Chairman's Award. Just this year, Charter has mentored over 700 multicultural businesses.

This program, "Pay It Forward," is an effort to give businesses free advertising, creative services, and educational resources. In a fast-paced world so focused on the bottom line, it is reassuring to know that local partners at a

company as large as Charter have a focus on bettering our community.

Fittingly, Amherst Chamber of Commerce is bestowing Buffalo AKO Art Museum with the Commitment to Excellence Award. After nearly four years of construction, AKG has transformed their campus to become a nationwide leader in art and culture. This \$230 million project was over a decade in the making and will undoubtedly be the hub to both local pride and outside tourism. As a longtime fixture in our community, it is nothing short of proper that we recognize the Buffalo AKG for their commitment to providing a welcoming atmosphere to feature world-class exhibitions while serving as a hub for creative and educational programs. Their new campus is nothing short of excellent and their recognition at this event is well-earned.

This year's Woman of Distinction Award is given to Jody Briandi, the President and Managing Partner of Hurwitz Fine P.C. A woman of numerous awards and recognitions, Jody has experience in state, federal, and appellate courts across New York State. Her sterling reputation as a professional litigator is matched by her willingness to improve her community and assist others. She has invested her time and attention to helping women realize their full leadership potential and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jody is a success in all her endeavors and a model citizen in our community.

Lastly, Gilbane Building Company is spearheading the project to build the new Buffalo Bills stadium and being recognized as the Business of the Year. A 1.35 million square foot structure, this task is no small feat, but will prove to be the home to our fans and community. Thousands of workers and hours of labor will be dedicated to this state-of-the-art facility under the leadership of Gilbane. Notably, 40 percent of contracts for this project have been awarded to minority, women, or service-disabled veteran-owned companies. Gilbane is placing an emphasis on relationships with local businesses and residents to ensure that this project will benefit our local economy.

Congratulations to the 2023 Amherst Chamber of Commerce honorees; Goodwill of Western New York, Lawley Insurance, Spectrum Reach, Buffalo AKG Museum, Jody Briandi, and Gilbane Building Company. I would like to thank each person, group, and company that continues to contribute to the growth and prosperity of Western New York.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 555TH CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON, KNOWN AS "TRIPLE NICKEL," RED HORSE UNIT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my privilege to recognize and honor the United States Air Force 555th Civil Engineering Squadron, "Triple Nickel," as one of the original RED HORSE units for their distinguished service and commendable achievements during the Vietnam War.

In the thick of the Vietnam War, on October 1, 1965, the U.S. Air Force activated the first RED HORSE squadrons, notably the 555th and 554th Civil Engineering Squadrons (CES), which would soon earn their nicknames, "Triple Nickel" and "Penny Short," respectively. Initially designated as "Prime BEEF Heavy Repair" units, these squadrons quickly distinguished themselves, prompting leaders to coin the term "RED HORSE," an acronym for Rapid Engineer Deployable, Heavy Operations Repair Squadron—Engineering. Their mission was crucial—to establish a long-term civil engineering presence and provide major repair capabilities in the combat zones of Southeast Asia.

The deployment of RED HORSE units was a strategic move at a critical juncture in the war when the demands on Army and Navy construction units far exceeded their capacity. With the Army and Navy construction forces fully engaged, RED HORSE units emerged to fill the need. Upon deployment to Cam Ranh Air Base, South Vietnam, the Triple Nickel unit immediately began operations by hitting the beach with supplies and heavy equipment.

Civil engineer units from across the United States were assigned to various Air Force installations throughout Vietnam, including Cam Ranh, with some of the most distinguished officers and airmen being selected for RED HORSE duty. The 1969 roster that served in the 555th CES was composed of four hundred civil engineer personnel, arriving in Vietnam at the height of the war and responding to urgent infrastructural needs following the Tet Offensive of 1968, which delivered damaging blows to American installations up and down the peninsula.

Cam Rahn Air Base required significant infrastructure to sustain the war effort—from paved landing strips to dormitory housing for the troops. Triple Nickel not only repaired and constructed new facilities on Cam Ranh Air Base but also saw action at various American and Vietnam installations throughout the peninsula—from the Delta to the DMZ. In Vietnam, over two thousand RED HORSE troops deployed annually where they built both horizontal and vertical facilities to support the Air Force's mission and engaged in numerous humanitarian projects for local communities.

As the Vietnam War began to wind down in the early 1970s there were calls to deactivate units that had been formed during the war. However, thanks to the foresight of certain military and Congressional leaders who recognized the inherent value RED HORSE provides to the Air Force in both peace and war, multiple units remain in National Guard and Reserve organizations.

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, the bonds formed during the conflict were not only maintained but strengthened. Now, veterans of Triple Nickel who served together in Vietnam occasionally gather to celebrate the friendships, accomplishments, and bonds that were forged in the challenging environment of a war-torn country.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the 555th Civil Engineering Squadron, "Triple Nickel," for the critical role they held in the Vietnam War and the enduring bond they maintain today.

RECOGNIZING HILL TOP BAKERY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Hill Top Bakery in Kaukauna.

For the past 100 years, the Hill Top Bakery in Kaukauna has provided exceptional customer service and delicious, daily made, old-fashioned baked goods for people throughout Wisconsin. Originally a horse stable, their building on 7th and Main in Kaukauna was repurposed into a bakery and opened in 1923, where it still remains to this day. To say baking runs in the family is an understatement. Mark and Lynn Engel have owned and operated the location for nearly 30 years after they took it over from Lynn's parents, Harry and Diane Wirth, who ran the Bakery for the previous 26 years. The family's commitment to outstanding service and quality products for more than 50 years has made Hill Top Bakery a staple in Northeast Wisconsin.

In addition to offering delicious baked goods for people throughout Northeast Wisconsin, Hill Top Bakery is known for its unwavering support of Kaukauna and the greater Fox Valley community. The Bakery has donated goods to organizations like Project Purpose, a collaborative mural experience that centers around students in Special Education at Appleton East High School. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Bakery donates a portion of its proceeds to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. I commend the dedication and unwavering support that the Hill Top Bakery team has shown to our community.

100 years in operation is no small feat and at Hill Top Bakery they have the perfect recipe for success, incredible people, a Northeast Wisconsin work ethic, and generations of family recipes that have been acquired over the last century. From their famous peanut squares to their cherry chip cookies, Hill Top Bakery provides top-notch baked goods to the people of Wisconsin. It is evident due to their continued success that the Hill Top Bakery is committed to providing homemade, authentic, and old-fashioned bakery items for people throughout Northeast Wisconsin, all the while making our community a better place.

I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Hill Top Bakery. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mark and Lynn Engel and the entire Hill Top Bakery team on this remarkable milestone and wish them continued success for years to come.

HONORING KATHLEEN AND
WILLIAM WISNEWSKI

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor a true Long Island "power couple"—Kathleen and William Wisniewski—who are both retiring this year after distinguished multi-decade long careers

at National Grid—the leading energy provider in my district. Bill began his service at National Grid—then known as LILCO—in 1986 as a meter reader making \$7.50 an hour. A second-generation company employee, he put himself through night school and rose through the ranks as a gas and electric planner, field inspector, contractor supervisor, and finally field trainer, ensuring that future generations of National Grid employees will adhere to the same high standards and dedication he so diligently displayed over his long career. Bill was also long active in IBEW Local 1049 at times serving as a shop steward and on the executive board, effectively representing his fellow employees through several acquisitions and successful contract negotiations.

Kathy started at the company in 1989 after graduating with a degree in business administration from Hofstra University. Initially hired as an energy specialist in the conservation services department, Kathy climbed the corporate ladder at LILCO, Keyspan and now National Grid eventually ascending to Director of Customer and Community Relations for all of Long Island. In this position—and all throughout her career at National Grid—Kathy worked every day to strengthen communities across the island and help my constituents access the essential energy resources that power their lives. There was no better example of this than Kathy's work in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy—a historic storm that devastated my district in 2012. Kathy put in countless hours on behalf of National Grid customers, connecting them to critical disaster relief and working to restore their life sustaining energy service as safely and efficiently as possible. For these efforts she was recognized by several municipalities and community organizations including the city of Long Beach and its Martin Luther King Center.

I also want to acknowledge Kathy's service on the boards of Girls Inc. and Vision Long Island. Her leadership in these organizations dedicated to empowering young girls and building a more vibrant and livable community guarantees that her positive impact on Long Island will continue to be felt for decades to come.

For over thirty years, through overnights, weekends, holidays and countless storms—Kathy and Bill did their part to make sure the lights and heat came on when their neighbors needed it the most. We thank them and thousands of National Grid employees just like them who work day-in and day-out to literally power our communities.

While this is certainly a loss for National Grid and my constituents, their well-earned retirement will allow them to spend more time with their daughters Jennifer and Bridget and dogs Harley and Winnie. I am happy they are staying in Lindenhurst, the town they have called home since 1993 and wish them many years of smooth sailing as they captain their boat "Club Wiz" across the Great South Bay and along the South Shore communities in my district. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, please join me in congratulating William and Kathleen Wisniewski on this momentous occasion and thanking them for their years of dedicated service.

LIVING SPRING HARRISBURG
CHURCH**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I'm honored to recognize Living Spring Harrisburg Church, a parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, as it celebrates 20 years of Christian ministry on November 4, 2023.

The Living Spring congregation was founded on November 2, 2003, under the distinguished leadership of Senior Pastor Tunde Oyelowo and his wife, Pastor Yinka Oyelowo. The Church, over the past two decades, has inspired faith, community service, and spiritual enlightenment. Its incredible growth from 8 to 500 members now represents 33 nations and a unique array of lingual and ethnic communities throughout South Central Pennsylvania.

The Church's vision of transforming lives, empowering people, and impacting communities is carried out through its 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art International Center, accompanied by 8 flourishing local churches that extend to Lancaster, Lebanon, York, and Carlisle. The Church's reach, impact, and inspiration of unity and communal growth is yet another sign of God's enduring faithfulness and blessings.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm honored and humbled to recognize Living Spring Harrisburg Church and 2 decades of success. Living Spring's cultivation of moral values, charitable activity, and community faith is truly the epitome of God's work, and I wish its community continued great health, happiness, prosperity, and success for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. IRIS SHANNON,
NURSE, EDUCATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I wish to pay my deepest respects to Dr. Iris Shannon—a nurse, educator and administrator. I met and got to know Iris Shannon in the late 1960s when I began to work in healthcare, first at the Dr. Martin King Health Center, the Westside Health Planning Organization and Mile Square Health Center.

I knew Iris as a competent, involved nurse, as Director of Nursing at Mile Square, as Director of Nursing at Rush Medical Center and as a Nursing Professor at Rush Medical School. The late 1960s and early 1970s were very serious health interest years and health activity due to the civil rights activity, changes in health law and the leadership of Democrats in government. These changes in health took place at all levels of government and Iris was what I call an activist.

There were meetings about health all over the place and practically all of the time. Iris was often present at many of these meetings, sharing her knowledge, her expertise and her wisdom. Iris worked with nurse groups, administrative groups, community groups, women

groups, black power group and the list goes on.

If it was about health and health care needs, Iris was there. Iris was an organizer, a joiner, a promoter, a practitioner, a scholar, a teacher, a mentor and a role model, not loud, but a leader who became President of the American Public Health Association.

Iris made her mark during what I call "movement time", a period when Black Americans were greatly moving out of the shadows of society. As I mentioned earlier, Dr. Shannon was not loud, but she was proud and as black as the ace of spades, if you know what I mean.

Iris possessed Black pride, expressed Black principles, stood up for Black people and excluded Black excellence. Iris was a caring and wonderful nurse, a great scholar, teacher and administrator, a visionary leader and an amazing friend.

I am so glad to have known and worked with her. Dr. Iris Shannon was a role model to so many and will be missed by the multitudes, but her legacy of service shall endure.

CELEBRATING EDEN HOUSING'S
55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize Eden Housing, which will celebrate 55 years since it first opened its doors, on Friday, October 27, 2023. Eden Housing provides dignified, affordable housing to residents across the state of California.

Eden Housing was founded in 1968 by community activists in Hayward, California. Led by California State University, Hayward Professor Bill Vandenburg, Eden Housing's mission is to provide safe, non-discriminatory, affordable housing in Alameda County. Following this mission, Eden Housing's first project was to rehabilitate six older homes in Oakland so that each family could keep making memories without sacrificing safety.

Eden Housing also develops high-quality housing communities for low-income families, seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities throughout my district, the wider Bay Area, and California. Eden Housing properties ensure that residents receive supplemental resident and enrichment programs to support their

well-being. These services include wellness checks, physical education, and financial workshops.

Over the course of its history, Eden Housing has developed nearly 12,000 affordable housing units across 155 properties in California, with more than 100,000 residents calling Eden Housing properties home. Since its inception, Eden Housing has also awarded over 620 scholarships to residents totaling more than \$1 million in support of their academic and professional goals.

It has been my privilege to support Eden Housing's work by passing a direct appropriation of \$1 million for the development of a veterans' park in Livermore. Their hard work was also recently recognized by the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund award of \$10 million.

In sum, Eden Housing is pivotal to improving California neighborhoods through nurturing relationships with residents and diverse community partners. I am grateful for the 55 years of hard work that Eden Housing has undertaken to become a leader in the establishment of affordable housing in our state. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Eden Housing's legacy and wish it many more productive years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR.
DAVID OLIVE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to honor the career of Bluefield University President Dr. David Olive, who is set to retire at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year. Dr. Olive has over 25 years of experience in higher education, serving as university president since 2007.

During his time as president, Dr. Olive oversaw the introduction of both master's degree programs, online degree programs, and a RN–BSN program. He has also overseen the expansion of residential housing and the Science Center on campus.

Prior to serving as university president, Dr. Olive served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Adult Programs at Pfeiffer University. He has also held various positions at Carson-Newman University, Tennessee Tech University, and The University of Tennessee.

During his career, he has chaired the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia, the Appalachian College Association, the International Association of Baptist Colleges & Universities. He served on the NAIA Council of Presidents, on the board of directors for the Appalachian Athletic Conference and the Virginia College Fund. He is also an ordained minister in the Southern Baptist faith.

While he transitions to full retirement, Dr. Olive has made a commitment that he will find ways to continue to serve others.

Congratulations on an incredible career to Dr. Olive. He has left a lasting mark on Bluefield University and the many students he has met, taught, and mentored throughout the years.

Besides serving others, I hope that he gets to spend sufficient time in retirement with his wife Kathryn and children, Kayla and Will.

HONORING THE LITE OF JERICO
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, St. Louis and I rise to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church in Missouri's First District.

The Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church has been a spiritual beacon in the St. Louis community. Under the leadership of Reverend Reginald D. Rogers, Sr., the church has provided meals for those in need and organized health fairs for residents in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The church has also been an avid supporter of Annie Malone Children and Family Services. I am thankful for their work and commitment to community service, including partnering with Beyond Me Outreach, which sits under the North City Community Development Corporation.

I wish the Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church success in their future endeavors, including their goal of constructing an educational facility to promote literacy among youth in the First District.

St. Louis honors the Lite of Jericho Missionary Baptist Church on a blessed 90 years of service and worship.