

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN CHAPEL AME CHURCH IN YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan on the 180th anniversary of their founding. The services they have provided to the Ypsilanti community and all those seeking a better life are worthy of commendation.

The Brown Chapel AME Church was founded in 1843 with a goal of worshipping God without any form of discrimination. They wanted to be a home for those searching for peace, solitude, and freedom at a time when oppression and religious abuse was extremely prominent in society. This church played a key role in the Underground Railroad, as it was one of the last stops for escaped slaves on their way to freedom in Canada.

The Brown Chapel is the second oldest active AME Church in the state of Michigan. The congregation has continued to serve their surrounding community while maintaining the ideology of a global church with a local touch. The Brown Chapel hosts a Brotherhood Banquet that has focused on brotherhood and racial unity for the past 70 years. The church also has a 30-year-old weekly Good Samaritan Feeding Program that works to provide fresh food, produce, and canned goods for anyone in need in the community. They partner up with educational institutions and nonprofits like Food Gatherers, Growing Hope, Crop Walk, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and more, to help provide care and community for those in need. The chapel also has worked with the Michigan Conference of the AME Church to further impact not only the city of Ypsilanti, but those throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 180th anniversary of the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Ypsilanti, Michigan. At a time of such discord throughout the country and around the world, the unifying work of Brown Chapel AME Church is more important than ever. We are proud to have such leaders as our neighbors and are excited to see all the good work they can accomplish over the next 180 years.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TINA SCARPELLO WEBSTER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's

Mercy Devotion Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Tina Scarpello Webster. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a staff member at Mount Mercy, Tina has been afforded the rare opportunity to make a tangible impact on the hearts and minds of countless students. Upon graduating from Erie Community College, Tina's brief time working in North Carolina made her recognize her passion and love of our community in Buffalo. Upon her return, Tina eventually found her way to working at the school that she, and her sisters Cheryl ('82) and Joelle ('84), love so dearly: Mount Mercy Academy. She assumed the roles of Recruitment Manager, Director of Admissions and Communications, newsletter creator, class moderator, club facilitator, and social media coordinator, among a myriad of roles. Tina has been the cheerleading coach for even longer, this skill has shaped her work on behalf of her alma mater. There is no shortage of ways that Tina has bettered the Mount Mercy community, and she shares this enthusiasm in Buffalo, as well. She has volunteered with the South Buffalo Football Association for twenty-five years, assisted in the creation of the Brian Bauer Memorial Golf Tournament, and coaches Buffalo Envy, another local cheerleading team. Tina has been an inspiring mentor to young women in Western New York, and her hard work at Mount Mercy makes her an excellent role model.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Tina Scarpello Webster continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4820, Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. With this bill, House Republicans are cutting vital investments in our nation's crumbling infrastructure, jeopardizing housing supply, and inserting right-wing policy riders into funding bill debates.

Last Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fix our roads and bridges, reduce emissions, and address historical inequities caused by our nation's interstate highway system. Now, Republicans are using H.R. 4820 to undo the progress Democrats made. H.R. 4820 includes a drastic cut to transit programs and zeroes out funding for the RAISE and MEGA grants that are essential to rebuilding infrastructure in our communities. Additionally, Republicans have made a drastic 35 percent cut to Amtrak National Network funding. This will devastate Amtrak's resources, resulting in a cut to train service for the Empire Builder and loss of jobs for Amtrak workers.

This bill fails to address the lack of affordable housing in Minnesota's Fourth District and across the country. Republicans have made a devastating \$1 billion cut to the HOME Investment Partnership Program, the best tool states and localities have to increase the supply of affordable houses for rent and home ownership. As Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I know all too well that a lack of supply in off-base housing has increased competition among military families and driven up housing costs. We see this all over the country. Last Congress, we had to increase the Basic Allowance for Housing to try to offset some of the challenges military families face, but as long as there is a shortage of affordable housing, this is only a band aid and not a permanent solution. The 67 percent cut to the HOME program included in H.R. 4820 will certainly result in less affordable housing options in our communities and drive up the cost of off-base housing for military families and the Department of Defense.

My opposition to the bill is not solely due to the inadequate funding levels. This bill, like all of the Republican appropriations measures, embraces right-wing social policy fights that have no place in the bills that fund our government. H.R. 4820 would explicitly allow discrimination based on same-sex marriages, strips away protections enshrined to all Americans in the Fair Housing Act of 1958, and ties the hands of the Department of Transportation to curb carbon emissions and build climate resilient infrastructure. These provisions must be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, government funding runs out November 17th. Instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond next Friday, House Republicans have once again wasted time considering a bill that is too extreme even for their own party. Republicans don't have the power to pass their own bad bills. H.R. 4820 now joins the Agriculture bill in a purgatory of Republicans own making. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan fashion to cut through this Republican chaos and avoid a government shut down.

• 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.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment that has been included in En Bloc amendment #1 to the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government Funding bill that would ensure the U.S. Postal Service is effectively working to protect our postal employees.

With a continually increasing delivery network of more than 163 million delivery points, the U.S. Postal Service delivered over 129 billion mail pieces on more than 233,171 routes in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

That work would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of many postal employees, including letter carriers, who interact with the public almost every day and are a cornerstone of the service that Americans expect from our Postal Service.

But that work also carries great risks for the men and women of the Postal Service, including assault, robberies, and even death. It was nearly a year ago in December 2022 that a letter carrier was killed in uniform in my district. My thoughts are with his family as they prepare to celebrate their first Thanksgiving without him.

At a 2022 congressional hearing, Frank Albergo, national president of the Postal Police Officers Association testified, "The Postal Service, perhaps America's most beloved federal institution, is in peril. Postal workers are being attacked and mail is being stolen at unprecedented levels."

Earlier this year, police in the Milwaukee area arrested and charged eight members of a mail theft ring, seizing six guns, a bag of opened mail (including personal checks made out to hundreds of different people), and two arrow keys. Earlier this month, at least two postal workers in Milwaukee were robbed at gunpoint while on duty. This remains an ongoing and national problem.

These assaults, threats, and other crimes against postal employees directly impact mail delivery and the ability of the Postal Service to recruit and retain workers.

That is why I have been pushing the Postal Service to proactively use all available resources and tools to better protect its employees, working closely with other federal, state, and local officials. And I know others in this body have also been pushing the Postal Service to do more.

In a response to one of my inquiries on this matter this year, the Postal Service noted a number of steps it was taking including installing more theft resistant mailboxes and heightened mail theft prevention efforts in selected cities nationwide.

My amendment is intended to help ensure that those measures actually work to effectively protect our postal employees and ensure that those preying on them are caught and held accountable. I am pleased that it was included in this En Bloc amendment. And I hope the Postal Service will take very seriously its charge and responsibility to the safety and well-being of its employees.

Our postal employees are working hard to serve communities across our nation, and they deserve to be able to go to work knowing that they can do so safely.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PATRICIA KEANE MARREN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Sister Sally Walz Memorial Award at Mount Mercy Academy, Patricia Keane Marren. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

The recipient of this award requires "an expansive heart," and Pattie Keane certainly fits the bill. She began her career as a programmer at Marine Midland Bank (now HSBC Bank), and after attaining a master's degree in business administration, became Vice President at HSBC in 1997. Pattie worked for over two decades and led several company-wide initiatives and philanthropic efforts. As community leader and avid volunteer, she consistently puts the needs of others before her own. She assisted in fundraising events and organizational activities of O'Sullivan School of Irish Dance, Cazenovia Hockey Association, Canisius High School, and naturally, at Mount Mercy Academy. There she served as Treasurer and Board Member of the Alumnae Association, co-chair (with her husband, Dan) of the McAuley Gala, and an active member of the Board of Trustees. And even in the face of considerable medical challenges, Pattie continues to find new ways to advocate for others. In fact, as a patient at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, she was responsible for improvements to safety practices for patients and visitors with disabilities. Pattie has always embodied selflessness and compassion, and it has been to the benefit of all those who know her.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Patricia Keane Marren has always embodied these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, with her husband, Dan, and children Katherine ('11) and Thomas.

RECOGNIZING SUE SCHOONER'S SERVICE TO THE YOUNG WOMEN OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Schooner, the founder and Ex-

ecutive Director of Girls Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her work to mentor and support the young women of Washtenaw County over the last 20 years is worthy of commendation.

Sue was born in Boston, but her family moved almost every year for her father's Army career. She worked full-time as a high schooler, graduated at the age of sixteen, and worked three jobs to pay for her tuition at Ithaca College. After graduation, she attended the Harvard Business School where she attained her MBA.

Sue is a retired automotive executive and developed mentoring programming at both the Chrysler Corporation and Textron Automotive. What began as a volunteer stint working with girls at Peace Neighborhood Center and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan (now the Jean Ledwith King Women's Center) became a passion. In 2003 Sue founded Girls Group to support young women who face obstacles to completing high school. Its goal is to first get them through high school—and then to help them become first-generation college graduates.

What started as one woman hoping to mentor a few young ladies is now a staff of over 20 helped by interns from nearby universities, numerous volunteers, and 16 board members who do a lot of hands-on work. Today, Girls Group facilitates weekly programs within the public schools, an intensive college prep program that includes college tours, SAT and ACT prep courses, and scholarship opportunities, as well as a returning mentor program created for women who have graduated high school and are now in a position to mentor the next generation. Girls Group now works with over 750 young women, and that number is growing steadily. "The reality is these girls are super smart, but if you can't manage your anger and you can't self-soothe it doesn't matter how smart you are," Schooner says. "You still have to be able to focus in class, not get in fights with other kids, and do your homework."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the 20 years of service that Sue Schooner and the Girls Group have provided to the young women of Washtenaw County. Through her efforts and the efforts of all those involved in Girls Group, an entire generation of young women have been given the tools to succeed. We are excited to see what advances can be made in the next 20 years. I thank Sue.

HONORING JEFFERSON COLLEGE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Missouri on its 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1963, the college provides post-secondary education at its campuses in Imperial, Arnold, and Hillsboro, as well as online. Jefferson College offers customized business and industry training, continuing education courses and technical career programs. The college has adapted to the times, working to adjust its educational opportunities as changes occur in the needs of the workplace.

More than 27,000 students of all ages have graduated from Jefferson College in its first 60

years. Many have gone on to become community and business leaders, educators, healthcare and technical professionals or law enforcement officers.

The university is led by Dr. Dena McCaffrey, its 8th president and under her leadership, JeffCo is poised to continue its successful educational mission through the next 60 years. It is my great pleasure to congratulate Jefferson College on this milestone today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS
WRIGHT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Christopher Douglas Wright and reflect on the remarkable life he lived. Though a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Chris left an impact that can be seen far and wide.

Chris was born on November 13, 1984, to loving parents Greg and Janet Wright. Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Chris attended The Baylor School in Chattanooga beginning in 1997. A significant member of the Baylor community, Chris was widely known for his versatile athleticism, academic prowess, and magnetic personality amongst his peers, friends, and teachers. His athletic achievements, which included a state championship in baseball and two-year All-State football honors, left a legacy that inspired countless future Baylor athletes. However, Chris was also not one to be outdone in the classroom as he was a highly accomplished student, excelling academically as a National Honor Society member.

After high school, Chris continued his academic and athletic career at Yale University, where he was a four-year letterman and 2006 Ivy League Football Champion. A consummate gentleman and scholar, he was known and loved for his sincerity among classmates and friends.

Chris further propelled his business education after Yale by attending the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he received a Master of Business Administration.

Emboldened by a long-term desire to leverage his honed business acumen in his hometown, Chris returned to Chattanooga in 2016, where he most recently served as a Principal at Alderman Enterprises.

I had the opportunity to meet Chris several years ago, and it was abundantly clear that he was a man who possessed a deep devotion to God and his family. He fervently loved his wife, Acacia, and their children, Declan, Abbott, and newborn daughter, Aprilia, with no exceptions. He valued character over image and humility over pedigree. He was a man of discipline and a role model to many.

Chris passed away on September 29, 2023—a life cut far too short but a memory that will live on.

It is an incredible privilege to honor that memory today. Chris Wright blessed so many, and I am certain those individuals will spend their remaining days in deep appreciation of the opportunity to have known him. My pray-

ers remain with his family, friends, and loved ones during this tragic time.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESSICA TURNER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Athletic Excellence Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Jessica Turner. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

As a leader on and off the court, Jessica has been exemplary in her commitment to service. While playing Division I basketball at Niagara University, she served as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and was selected as an Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholar. The skills Jessica gained as a student-athlete were directly transferable to her role in the business world. She has consistently advanced as an employee at New Era Cap Company and was a critical force in the creation of New Era's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DEI). Jessica was the first person to hold the title of Director of DEI. Outside of work, she spends her time as a mentor with the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars and volunteers with the Festival of Trees, FeedMore WNY, the Special Olympics, Willie Hutch Jones Education and Sports programs, and the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Jessica's love of basketball was formed by her father, and it has shaped the person that is deserving of this award. Though athletics can be seen as an all-encompassing time commitment, Jessica has used her passion of sports as fuel to better the lives of others.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Jessica Turner continues to live these values in her career, relationships, and most importantly, as a mother to Maya and Kellan.

REMEMBERING RICHARD L.
BUTTERFIELD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard L. Butterfield.

Richard was born in Mansfield, Ohio on April 25, 1945. His family moved to New York in the following years, and he graduated from Averill Park High School in 1963. He enlisted in the United States Army the same year, attending the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia and graduated to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in March

1965. He was subsequently deployed to Vietnam as a Pathfinder Team Leader, 11th Pathfinders, 1st Cav. Division. His team directed helicopter resupply, medical evacuations, and rescue missions. When Lt. Butterfield was wounded in action, he refused to leave until all other wounded servicemembers were removed from the battlefield.

Lt. Butterfield returned to duty on his second tour in 1968 as Captain and Commander of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne, later serving as Team Commander with 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Green Berets. He was honorably discharged in 1970; for his valiant service, he received dozens of medals and commendations including the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and several Federal Badges, Vietnamese Medals, and New York State Medals.

Richard continued to serve in the New York Army National Guard as a Commander until 1995. Upon his retirement, he was breveted to the rank of Brigadier General and given the Long and Faithful Service Award (25 Years). From 1970 to 2006, he was also a member of the New York State Police. He worked as a canine officer with his partner Frey, a firearms instructor, rifle sharpshooter, member of the underwater recovery team, delegate to the Police Benevolent Association, and as an undercover investigator with the Community Narcotics Enforcement Team and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. After retiring from the State Police, he joined the Warren County Sheriff's Office as Marine Patrol on Lake George.

When not on duty, Richard was a family man. He had three children—Lori, Hayden, and Eric—and seven grandchildren, and he married his wife Cathy on July 27, 2020. As an active participant in his community, Richard remained a lifelong member of the Castleton Boat Club and the Nassau Sportsman's Club, served as a board member for the Lebanon Valley Speedway, and rode with the Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to share the incredible story of Mr. Richard L. Butterfield, a patriot who dedicated his life to serving his country and his local community.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHRIS
MADZIK'S SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF NORTHVILLE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Madzik, Captain of the Northville Fire Department in Northville, MI on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication and commitment to the City of Northville over the last 28 years is worthy of commendation.

Chris joined the Northville Fire Department in 1995 because they were offering free training for a three-year commitment as an on-call firefighter. He fell in love with public service and became a full-time firefighter in 1998. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2002, followed quickly by another promotion to Lieutenant in 2003. He has been a Captain with the Northville FD since 2017.

Armed with a Masters of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Chris has spent his time

with the Northville FD revamping policies and developing HR training. Chris, a charter member of Local 3961, served as the first union Vice-President and worked to implement 24-hour staffing for the fire department. When the Department transitioned to Advanced Life Support, Chris attended and graduated from Eastern Michigan's School of Fire Staff and Command in addition to earning his Paramedic's license. He served as a representative on the Westen Wayne Hazardous Materials Response Team for over 10 years, and he was selected by his peers as the Firefighter of the Year in 2017.

Almost 12 years ago, Chris rediscovered his love of music. Currently, he is a tenor in the Livingston County Choir and participates in concerts hosted by Expressions Music Academy in Novi. He has had the unique opportunity of representing the Department while singing the National Anthem at First Responder nights for the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings, and Pistons. He plans to continue his work in public service for Howell Public Schools as a paraprofessional, where he will assist impaired children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Captain Chris Madzik for the 28 years of service he has dedicated to the City of Northville. Chris's dedication and respect for the job serves as a constant reminder that local communities are dependent on the commitment of such public servants to keep its residents safe. We need more public servants like Chris, and though he may be retiring from fighting fires, I am hopeful that we will continue to hear that beautiful voice ringing out for years to come. I thank Chris and we wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LATE RICHARD
STEWART

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Richard Stewart, a beloved and well-known figure from my hometown of Petersburg, in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Stewart was the honorary "Mayor of Pocahontas Island," one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in our Nation.

Since 1732, enslaved, escaped, and free African Americans have called Pocahontas Island home, and Mr. Stewart fought relentlessly to preserve artifacts, properties, and the stories of those who lived there. He even created the Pocahontas Island Black History Museum, the first Black history museum in Petersburg, to educate visitors and memorialized the storied history of the neighborhood. He was a veteran, a community leader, and an engaged citizen who devoted his life to preserving our history and preparing the next generation through storytelling and learning.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy and will be sorely missed by the Petersburg community and our Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MARJORIE "MARGE" STANTON RYAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Spirit of Mercy Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Marjorie "Marge" Stanton Ryan. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend all of those who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

Marge Ryan is one of South Buffalo's most dedicated activists, and her passion for bettering this neighborhood is nothing short of commendable. After graduating from South Park High School in 1959, Marge worked as a stenographer with RJ Walsh/Equitable Insurance before marrying Tom Ryan in 1959 and raising six children. Marge took on an active role in the parents' guilds at Mount Mercy Academy and Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School while her children were in school. Marge was a founding member of South Buffalo Alive, a nonprofit organization that dedicates its time and energy to improving the quality of life in South Buffalo and beautifying the neighborhood. She has worked with the Olmsted Conservancy Board and has a long history of working with elected leaders in the community to get things done including, the Mayors in the City of Buffalo, Buffalo City Council Members, the Parks Department, and the Department of Public Works, as well as working closely with county, state and federal representatives on important projects in our community. Marge is consistent and attentive, and you can tell almost immediately which gardens Marge makes her own by their beauty, simplicity, and by the way they are kept—tidy. Marge still actively helps to maintain: Mount Mercy Academy, Trocaire College, the Firemen's Memorial, Morgan/Heacock Park, the traffic circle gardens on McKinley Parkway, and the brick paths in Cazenovia Park and pocket park gardens around Abbott and South Park. Of course, her passion of gardening has been a constant through all her years, and it has led to the beautification of countless areas and parks in South Buffalo. Her friendship with Sister Marie Bernard was the foundation of her involvement and gardening at the Mt. Mercy Convent and Trocaire College. As a friend of Marge, I can say with confidence that our community is a better, more attractive place to live because of her unrelenting efforts.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Marjorie Stanton Ryan continues to live these values in all she does. Marge shares this legacy with her husband, Tom, as well as her children, Mary Lynn ('79), Karen ('80), Maggie ('83), Kevin, David, Tom, Jr., and their grandchildren.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
KALPANA KOTAGAL

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus to recognize Commissioner Kalpana Kotagal as we celebrate her well-deserved ascension to EEOC Commissioner.

As you may know, women still lag behind in pay and promotions, are the victims of pregnancy discrimination, and are the primary survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace. We cannot overstate the importance of enforcing EEOC laws and pay data collection. Commissioner Kotagal will do exceptional work to ensure that every individual, regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information, has an equal opportunity to succeed in the workforce. This mission is not just a legal requirement; it is a moral imperative.

We know that having strong equality laws are not enough. Enforcing these laws requires dedicated individuals who understand the urgency of their mission. Our newly sworn-in commissioner embodies this commitment. Her experience, expertise, and unwavering dedication to the principles of equality makes her the right person for the job.

I would like to personally thank her for her leading role in the class action against Sterling Jewelers which was an impetus for two major bipartisan bills that became law in 2022, nullifying forced arbitration and nondisclosure agreements in cases of sexual harassment and abuse.

As we celebrate this moment, we recognize that the EEOC's work extends beyond individual cases. When people are given an equal opportunity to succeed, we all benefit. Diverse teams lead to innovation and stronger decision-making. Equal pay ensures that every family can thrive. A discrimination-free workplace fosters a culture of respect and dignity for all.

The work of the EEOC is also about fostering a culture where respect for diversity is not just a requirement but a guiding principle. It's about educating employers and employees on best practices and the benefits of a more inclusive workforce. It's about shaping our collective future by ensuring that opportunities are open to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

So today, we celebrate our commitment to equality, fairness, and justice in the workplace by congratulating Kalpana Kotagal and wishing her only the best on her new journey. I am confident that as commissioner, she will continue her life path of exceptional work.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN DAVE
CRESICO'S SERVICE TO
YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Dave Cresico of the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department in Ypsilanti, MI

on the occasion of his retirement. His tremendous dedication to protecting our community is worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Ypsilanti Township, Captain Cresico joined the Fire Department in 1993. He consistently moved up the ranks of the department, advancing to Lieutenant in 2010 merely three months before becoming Fire Captain later that year. Members of Captain Cresico's crew salute his legacy of selflessness, describing him as someone who always puts the lives of others ahead of his own. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Cresico served as a powerful force for good in our Ypsilanti Township community. He has saved countless lives, risking his own safety to rescue citizens from burning homes and acting quickly to administer life-saving medical care under immense pressure. Captain Cresico exemplifies the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department's dedication to providing excellence in all aspects of fire safety, and his steadfast commitment to protecting the township and its residents is laudable. Effective and devoted public servants like Captain Cresico are the backbone of this nation, and I am proud to have had such an admirable individual leading our Ypsilanti Township community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Dave Cresico for over 30 years of exemplary service. He has selflessly worked for the benefit of Ypsilanti Township in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department, and his heroic legacy will continue to inspire our community for decades to come. I sincerely thank Captain Cresico for his three decades of dedication, and join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING CAMP BLANDING
MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Veterans' Day, I thank each and every one of our brave servicemembers who heroically answered the call to defend the United States of America from those who despise our free country.

These men and women, of whom some suffered the ultimate sacrifice, deserve our unending gratitude. One way we can attempt to pay back our impossible debt is to preserve these veterans' legacy, and the Camp Blanding Museum, since its inception in 1990, has been doing an incredible job undertaking this responsibility.

As the flagship training base for our Florida National Guard, Camp Blanding is a shining example of Northeast Floridian excellence. Offering a rich military history coupled with a tremendous Museum and Memorial, I could not be prouder to honor Camp Blanding on this Veterans' Day. Camp Blanding has my unending support and best wishes.

HONORING STAFF SGT. TANNER
GRONE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the life and service of Staff Sgt. Tanner Grone of Gorham, New Hampshire, who tragically died on November 10, 2023. Tanner was a beloved son, who proudly served our country and was one of five soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in the Eastern Mediterranean, and assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR).

A graduate of Gorham High School, Staff Sgt. Grone enlisted in the Army as a helicopter repairer in 2017. He was later assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR, also known as the "Night Stalkers," which is composed of the Army's best qualified soldiers. In 2018, Staff Sgt. Grone deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively. He also deployed on multiple "no-notice deployments" supporting our nation's national security and freedom.

Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered for his leadership, conduct, and selflessness. He was awarded and decorated with the Air Medal with Combat Device, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal with Combat Device. Staff Sgt. Grone will be remembered by his Gorham community for winning the first NHSL D2 Championship for the Mount Washington Valley Soccer Club following an undefeated 10–0 season as well as helping at his family's business, Scoggin's General Store alongside his sister and parents.

During this difficult time, my thoughts and condolences are with the Grone Family, including Staff Sgt. Grone's parents, Steve and Erica, and his sister, Emily. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Staff Sgt. Grone for his service and sacrifice to our nation. His legacy of service and commitment to our country will live on through those who knew and loved him.

CELEBRATING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY
OF NATIONAL ADOPTION
DAY

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of National Adoption Day.

Each November, National Adoption Day is celebrated across the country to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in need of permanency. On November 1, 1995, President Clinton proclaimed that November would be recognized as National Adoption Month, and the first National Adoption Day occurred in 2000. Over the past twenty-two years, more than 75,000 children have been adopted from foster care during National Adoption Day ceremonies alone.

In the Fifth Judicial District, which is comprised of Onondaga, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego, Herkimer, and Lewis counties, the first National Adoption Day ceremony was held in November of 2001 with just fifteen people in attendance. This year, on Friday, November 17th, Family Court judges will convene at the OnCenter in Syracuse to finalize the adoptions of 42 children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important day for children who will finally have a forever family.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE YPSILANTI FIRE-
HOUSE MUSEUM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti, MI on the 25th anniversary of their founding. The historical education they provide while celebrating the accomplishments of our firefighters is worthy of commendation.

The Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum was established in 1998 by Norma and Howard Weaver. Norma's father, Henry Clement, was a firefighter for the city of Ann Arbor and died while on-duty in 1961. The Weavers were members of several vintage car clubs, including the Antique Fire Truck Association, also known as SPAAMFAA. In 1998, they created the Michigan Firehouse Museum and Education Center.

Needing a permanent home for their museum, the Weavers purchased the Old Firehouse in the historic district of Ypsilanti. The building, still standing from 1898, contains a bunk area and brass pole. A modern, multi-level exhibit area was constructed in 2002. Now encompassing a total area of over 26,000 square feet, the exhibits feature the history of fire fighting in the State of Michigan and the evolution of fire fighting technology. The collections include trucks, hoses, extinguishers, ladders, breathing apparatuses, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum. For 25 years they have provided not only an excellent educational experience for people of all ages but have also honored our brave men and women who fight fires and save lives on a daily basis across the state of Michigan. We thank the volunteers who make the Museum possible and wish them all the best for the next 25 years.

CONGRATULATING KEITH COLE OF
THE WOLF RIVER CONSERVANCY
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keith Cole, the executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, who will be retiring December 15 after helping build fourteen miles of an eventual 26-mile corridor of trails

protecting the once-foul Wolf River that runs through the heart of Memphis before emptying into the Mississippi River. Keith, who took on the director's role twelve years ago, brought a business perspective and organizational and fundraising abilities to a loose confederation of conservationists organized in 1985 to oppose a gravel mine near the river. During his time as executive director of the Wolf River Conservancy, he helped raise \$62 million to preserve land that is the watershed that produces the region's drinking water aquifer while earning the accreditation of the Land Trust Alliance and doubling the conservancy's staff. An ambassador to the private donor community, he also lobbied state legislators and others in Nashville, securing a \$10 million grant from the state of Tennessee. A native of Hayti, Missouri, Keith retired in 2009 after selling his business as a Blockbuster Video franchise owner in Knoxville, Little Rock and Jackson, Mississippi. He soon took up the challenge of righting the Conservancy, which was an organization mired in debt and uncertain of its mission. By the time he enters retirement for the second time, the Conservancy will have protected 20,000 acres of land in Shelby and Fayette counties in Tennessee and Benton and Marshall counties in Mississippi. As a practical matter, that means there is no development or sources of pollution that can flow into the Wolf River's 522,000-acre watershed. The improved water quality now attracts recreational boaters and sportsmen and has stimulated the tourist economy. In September, I was pleased to announce that the Department of Interior's Migratory Bird Conservation Commission approved a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant of \$1,308,567 to the Conservancy to protect 1,536 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands along the Wolf River and its tributaries. The grant is expected to be matched by \$2,095,142 in funding from partners including the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the City of Memphis, Shelby County, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and private landowners. I congratulate Keith on a job well done and join all in our community in thanking him for the environmental victories he and the Conservancy have achieved, benefits to our city and region that will be felt for decades and decades, if not a century or more. Job well done.

OPPOSING H. RES. 845 CENSURING REPRESENTATIVE RASHIDA TLAIB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly object to this censure resolution that seeks to punish Representative RASHIDA TLAIB (MI-12), who is the only Palestinian American Member of Congress, for using her Constitutionally protected right to free speech. Representative TLAIB was elected by her constituents to represent them in the U.S. House, and her voice and perspective are unique and valuable to our national debate.

Members of Congress have the right to express their viewpoints and represent their constituents. Our constituents will hold us ac-

countable for the job we do. What makes democracies like ours unique is that they allow free speech even when it is offensive, false, or shocking. I do not agree with everything that Congresswoman TLAIB has said, just as I do not agree with anything Congressman BRIAN MAST (FL-21) said in his remarks on the House Floor on November 1, 2023. Their First Amendment rights to free speech are still protected.

Censure is a serious tool that should be reserved for holding Members of Congress accountable for unethical or criminal behavior, like committing assault or accepting bribes, or for specific categories of speech that are not protected by the First Amendment, including direct threats against individuals, inciting treason or insurrection, or the use of aggressively insulting "fighting words" against another Member on the House Floor.

Protecting speech is the only way to ensure debate among diverse viewpoints that is an essential ingredient in every true democracy. As my colleague and constitutional scholar Representative JAMIE RASKIN rightly pointed out, we are at a moment when democracy is under attack around the world, and that makes it even more vital that we remain vigilant about protecting free speech rights here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against this censure, and will continue to defend our right to free speech to represent our constituents and voice our conscience as Representatives in this great democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIANETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 2023, a malfunction of my electronic voting card resulted in my vote not being recorded for the first two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 634 and YEA on Roll Call No. 635.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. The job they have done in providing invaluable social services and resources to a diverse, international population in Washtenaw County is worthy of commendation.

JFS traces its roots back to the late 1970s, when several passionate volunteers formed a group to assist the growing number of Soviet refugee families settling in Ann Arbor. Over the course of the next two decades, these individual volunteers built the JFS's initial resettlement program, primarily addressing the needs of these "new Americans" for the first 90 days after their arrival, until they became

eligible to receive government assistance. These essential services included locating suitable housing, providing basic furnishings, assisting with employment searches, and teaching English and Civics lessons, among others. Upon the JFS's official founding in 1993 by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, its members continued to focus on this resettlement program while analyzing other potential areas of need in the community.

Over the last 30 years, JFS has expanded to provide a diverse array of programs and services that widely benefit the residents of Washtenaw County. Today, the organization serves more than 9,000 clients annually, offering services pertaining to Aging & Caregiving, Employment and Economic Empowerment, Community Assistance, Crisis Intervention, and more. Their Resettlement and Immigration Services programs are as strong as ever, helping individuals and families from over 20 different countries and offering assistance in 35 different languages. In recent years, they have focused on helping those escaping conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine, easing the transition into a new community and helping these refugees achieve self-sufficiency as they begin this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. For the last three decades, JFS has been working tirelessly to provide valuable services to all residents of Washtenaw County, from the old-timers to the newly-settled. We thank them and are excited to see how they continue to serve our diverse Washtenaw County community over the next 30 years.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4664, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024. With this bill, House Republicans are enabling tax cheats, harming consumers, and inserting unacceptable right-wing policy riders.

With the \$1.1 million cut to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) budget in H.R. 4664, Republicans are once again protecting sophisticated tax cheats and greedy corporations over hard-working families. The Department of Treasury recently announced that, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS is pursuing back taxes owed from about 1,600 taxpayers with income over \$1,000,000. The IRS has closed 100 of those cases and collected \$122 million in back taxes. If Republicans were really serious about cutting down on our national debt, they wouldn't be gouging the budget of the agency responsible for ensuring everyone pays their fair share and follows the law. Additionally, the IRS needs to be fully funded to ensure that my constituents have their tax refunds processed quickly and aren't placed on indefinite holds when they call the agency. Democrats know that if the IRS budget is cut, it will only make it easier for tax cheats to skip out on paying their fair share.

Republicans are also including drastic cuts to agencies designed to ensure the products we buy aren't harmful to our families. Since 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has worked with manufacturers to protect Americans from unsafe consumer products by issuing recalls, developing safety standards, and conducting research into product-related illness and injury. Republicans have cut the CPSC budget by over \$13 million. Why would we limit the CPSC's ability to issue recalls on products that will harm our families? Instead, Congress should be encouraging CPSC to explore all allegations that appliances or other consumer products are unsafe to children and adults and should give the CPSC more, not fewer, resources for eliminating or mitigating the safety risks they uncover.

My opposition to the bill is not solely due to the inadequate funding levels. This bill, like all of the Republican appropriations measures, embraces right-wing social policy fights that have no place in the bills that fund our government. H.R. 4664 would prohibit the IRS from developing a free tax filing software for all taxpayers, prohibits agencies from enforcing regulations to curb climate change, and prohibits federal employees from using their health insurance to make personal healthcare decisions. These provisions must be rejected.

Mr. Chair, we are nine days away from a government shutdown. Instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans have once again moved forward with a bill that is so extreme that they can't even get members of their own party to vote for the bill on the House Floor. Republicans don't have the power to pass their own bad bill. H.R. 4664 joins two other appropriations bills in a purgatory of the Republicans' own making, with no chance of ever becoming law. I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan fashion to cut through this Republican chaos and avoid a government shutdown.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of Rep. GROTHMAN's Part B Amendment No. 37 to the FY24 THUD bill, to reduce funding for the CDGB program by 50 percent. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 611.

HONORING THE LATE CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE LYNNVILLE, TENNESSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THEODORE G. "TEDDY" LOFTIS, SR.

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Chief Teddy Loftis,

who sadly passed away November 5, 2023, after 51 years of service to various law enforcement agencies, including his most recent position as Chief of Police for the Lynnville Police Department, located in Giles County within the Fourth Congressional district of Tennessee.

Chief Loftis was born in Nashville, graduated from Hendersonville High School, and immediately embarked on a career of public service. He received his Emergency Medical Technician License from Volunteer State in 1975 and was a graduate of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1980. During his long and successful career, Teddy would serve his local communities with honor and distinction including the Goodlettsville Police Department, Hendersonville Police Department, Sumner County Sheriff's Office, Millersville Police Department, and Ethridge Police Department. His experience and skills led him to the position of Chief of the Lynnville Police Department, where he continued to serve his community until his untimely passing.

Working in law enforcement is a difficult and dangerous job regardless of the size of the community, and the best officers are the ones that go above and beyond the call of duty. Teddy was well regarded as a personable soul, a man who made friends easily, and a man who knew the distinction of when firm law and order was needed and when friendly advice and understanding would suffice. He also knew the value of continuous training for himself and the value of sharing his experience and knowledge with the future generations of law enforcement leaders.

A devoted family man who loved the outdoors and could handle any "do it yourself" fix-it project, Teddy most enjoyed spending time with his wife Teresa and all his children and grandchildren. His decades of dedication to the citizens of Tennessee are truly respected and appreciated. I am proud to represent a community that has the utmost respect for all the men and women who serve our communities as members of the law enforcement community. Teddy had a professional standard and a kind, personal touch that should be the established standard for service to a community. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying respect to Chief Teddy Loftis for a job well done and a life well lived, and I ask this institution to join me in sending the deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING PORTSMOUTH ORTHOPEDICS, LLC

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the acceptance of Portsmouth Orthopedics, LLC into the National Center for the Veteran Institute for Procurement. A veteran-owned small business, Port Ortho has developed a program specifically to address the needs of both veterans and active-duty individuals. Port Ortho prides itself on providing the best care to those that have sacrificed everything for our freedom, and we deeply appreciate their dedication and service to our community.

The Veteran Institute for Procurement is a certification program for veteran-owned businesses aimed to increase their ability to earn government contracts by establishing best business practices. As part of the VIP GROW program, Port Ortho will further hone its business skills and accelerate its success in government contracting, allowing it to have an even greater positive impact on the Granite Staters that it serves. We look forward to seeing how Port Ortho continues to strengthen its practice and works to extend its reach throughout the community.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Portsmouth Orthopedics for its dedication to our nation's heroes. Granite Staters are fortunate to call them members of our community. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DOÑA ANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doña Ana Community College for its 50 years of exemplary service to the New Mexico community. DACC's commitment to education, community development and workforce training have opened doors to new opportunities for thousands of students.

DACC opened in 1973 as the Doña Ana County Occupational Education Branch. Since that time, the college has expanded to six campuses, training students in a wide variety of occupations that keep our communities moving. From public health workers to teachers, electrical lineworkers to firefighters, and chefs to welders, DACC graduates can be found performing essential jobs throughout southern New Mexico. Additionally, their adult education programs and high school partnerships ensure that age is not a barrier to higher learning.

DACC has been enriched by the service of its past presidents, including Dr. Alex Sanchez, Dr. Patricio Quintana, Dr. Donaciano Gonzalez, Dr. Andrew Burke, Dr. Margie Huerta, Dr. Renay Scott, and current president Dr. Mónica Torres. On behalf of all who have benefitted from DACC's work, I thank these leaders for their vision and their commitment to educating our community.

DACC continues to look forward, with programs such as a new scholarship to support education towards renewable energy jobs. I believe that New Mexico should be a leader in building a clean energy economy, and I am grateful for the work of DACC and all of our educational institutions to build our future workforce.

As DACC commemorates its 50 year anniversary, I thank all who have worked for DACC for their service. They have ensured that education is available to all who seek it out for 50 years, and I wish them and their students the best going forward.

HONORING ERNESTO GÓMEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Ernesto Gómez, who for the last fifty years has stewarded one of the premier health care organizations in Texas, CentroMed. Founded in 1973 as El Centro del Barrio, CentroMed began as a project on San Antonio's South and West sides to offer culturally competent mental health services to vulnerable members of the community. Since then, CentroMed has expanded the services it offers, providing much-needed medical care to tens of thousands of people every year.

This growth would not have been possible without the efforts of Dr. Gómez, who has served as CentroMed's President and Chief Executive Officer since its inception. He has helped grow the organization from a single clinic to twenty-seven clinics and two fitness centers across Bexar and Comal counties.

CentroMed has forged powerful partnerships, allowing it to serve even more of the South Texas community. CentroMed's collaboration with Methodist Healthcare Ministries allows it to provide services for low-income, uninsured, and houseless populations. Through partnerships with CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care, CentroMed has also expanded efforts to provide care for uninsured pregnant women and infants.

Mr. Gómez has also made sure his efforts continue through the next generation of social workers, health care professionals, and activists. For the last thirty-seven years, Dr. Gómez has taught graduate-level courses at San Antonio's Our Lady of the Lake University, focusing on public policy, administration, and human behavior.

The dedication that Dr. Gómez has demonstrated for the last fifty years has been an invaluable service to San Antonio. His efforts with CentroMed have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude for Dr. Ernesto Gómez a man who has helped transform my city of San Antonio for the better.

REMEMBERING YOSSEI
HERSHKOVITZ**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Yossi Hershkovitz was a man of extraordinary integrity and kindness. His commitment to family and community, and of course to defending his beloved Israel, formed the cornerstone of his life. He had a serious, steadfast, calm demeanor and a smile that warmed your soul. Resolute and principled, he balanced his strength with a soft-spoken, warm, and generously compassionate nature. Yossi was a deeply feeling and caring person and educator. There seemed to be an endless reservoir of goodness within him. Yossi personified the essence of being a "mensch" (a person of integrity). He consistently showed up for others

and sought to increase the feelings of unity, light, and positivity in the world. When Israel's innocent were targeted, there was no question that he would rise up to defend them; and, of course, he made the ultimate sacrifice in doing so.

Yossi was born in Jerusalem on May 31, 1979. He graduated from the Horeb School and the Birkat Moshe Yeshiva in Ma'ale Adumim and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at Bar Ilan University and a master's degree in educational administration from Herzog College. In September 2012, he and his wife Hadas, along with their two children, arrived in the Bronx to work at SAR Academy, a Modern Orthodox Yeshiva day school. While this adventure took them away from Israel, its purpose was actually an extension of Yossi's deep commitment to Israel and the Jewish people, as they spent the next four years working with American students to deepen their connection to Israel, and instill a love of Hebrew and Jewish unity. They settled in Riverdale, leaving their family and support system behind in Israel. A young couple with two small children who did not speak English, they quickly found a supportive network within the Bronx and at SAR. Even as they worked to adjust to their new community, the Hershkovitz family generously opened their home to others, becoming an integral part of the community rather than "visitors." During their four year stay, they left an indelible mark on the neighborhood and hundreds of students.

Teachers from SAR Academy remember how Yossi truly saw the good in every single child he met. Central to SAR's mission is the idea that every child has a "divine spark," and it was immediately clear that this came naturally for Yossi, as he effortlessly connected with each child by believing in them fully. As SAR Principal, Rabbi Krauss, shared, "Yossi's approach to teaching was rooted in compassion and caring for each student as an individual. He was a man of strong ideals and Torah principles, living out his beliefs both in and out of the classroom." Yossi's previous work with at-risk youth in Israel gave him a soft spot for connecting with kids in need of extra care, and in his quiet way, he made a tremendous impact in the lives of so many students. His care was felt by all. As one student, Avi, described: "Moreh Yossi taught me to believe in myself. All of his students looked up to him and sensed he was unique in his courage and heroism." This was echoed by another student, Oren, who remembers, "he taught us discipline and exemplified a focused, serious mindset. At the same time, he laughed with us, and in doing so taught us that completing any task can be enjoyable and meaningful. He taught us important values of living a Godly life."

Yossi and his wife Hadas were a power couple. They gave 110 percent to everything that they did while at SAR. Yossi was an elegant musician who added depth to any musical performance in school, especially on Israel's Memorial Day. When he played the violin, he did so with his whole soul. His colleague in Israel, Shalom Weil, later wrote of his playing: "He was a strong, solid fellow, but when he played the violin, his whole soul peaked out from his heart." He and Hadas took their mission seriously and were roll-up-your-sleeves, "can-do" people who endlessly gave of themselves. Teachers spoke about

how when chaperoning a trip, having Yossi around was like having 10 people. No task was beneath him. He was always on board. The entire family would join the students on weekend retreats. Yossi remarkably balanced being a fully engaged teacher and a present father. Students and teachers remember watching him sitting on the floor with the babies to give his wife time to relax and enjoy during the school trips. As their family grew with the arrival of their new baby in 2014, they continued to make the most of their time in America. They regularly took advantage of time off to travel, packing into their car and traveling cross country to see the great American sights.

Upon his return to Israel in August 2016, Yossi and Hadas moved to Gush Etzion's G'vaot. As Rabbi Krauss described, "This community integrates people with special needs—in and of itself a testament to Yossi's inclusive spirit and commitment to fostering a supportive environment for all." He also became the principal of ORT Pelech for Boys in Jerusalem. While the head of school, Yossi was instrumental in introducing the use of an app named 'good point' which encourages teachers to spend a few minutes a day writing positive notes about a student into an app which automatically sends the compliment directly to the student and their parents. The app exemplifies Yossi's commitment to seeing and growing the good in people. Israeli Education Minister Yoav Kisch expressed his deep sorrow, describing Yossi as "a well-known and beloved educator who inspired his teachers and students . . . a first-rate educator. The entire education system aches and mourns his fall."

Above all, Yossi's enormous heart and belief in humanity could be seen in his deep commitment and connection to his family. "Hershkovitz was as devoted to his wife, Hadas, and his children as he was to his students," his former principal wrote. "He truly loved his wife. I learned about how to be a father and how to be a spouse from him." Yossi and his wife, Hadas, were true partners in life, making decisions together that exemplified their commitment to each other, their family, and to Israel. His legacy will live on in his five children, Be'eri, Halel, Tal, Shire and Neta, each of whom either spoke or wrote something to be read at his funeral. They spoke of his deep devotion to them, thanking him for studying with them and for being their hero. While they questioned who would now be strong for them, it was also clear that although there is no way to fill the gaping hole that has been left in this world, his family would certainly carry on his legacy.

Yossi's deep commitment to Israel shaped his entire life, and he knew that this war may mean the ultimate sacrifice. When he left to join the war, he shared with Hadas that this would probably be the last time he went into battle. As a member of the 551st brigade, he was killed alongside four of his fellow unit soldiers as they approached what turned out to be a booby-trapped tunnel next to a mosque in Beit Hanoun.

As Zvika Peleg, CEO of the ORT network put it, "Yossi's fall in the war of light against the dark, unjustly, is a symbol of the extraordinary man and educator he was." Yossi's students will need to adjust to entering school without being greeted by his warmth and deep belief in them. Yossi's children will need to

learn how to be strong in his name and live without their hero. Yossi's wife will need to learn to make her way through life without her partner, her rock, her anchor. Medinat Yisrael will have to learn to forge on without one of their champions, a man molded by the nation's values and who gave his life protecting them. And, the world will need to learn how to go on without Yossi's light, and must make a promise to do whatever it can to make sure that all he stood for is never extinguished.

May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING HAL DAVIS

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Hal Davis, an East Tennessean who has served the United States and the State of Tennessee for over 50 years.

Hal Davis was born on July 18, 1947 in Ashland, Kentucky. After graduating from South High School in Knoxville, Hal attended the University of Tennessee and took classes from multiple other universities while deployed as a United States Marine. While Hal was a U.S. Marine he was stationed in South Carolina, North Carolina, California, as well as overseas in Spain, South Vietnam, and the Dominican Republic.

Hal served in the United States Secret Service in Washington, D.C. where he was tasked with the protection of President Nixon, President Ford, multiple presidential candidates, and vice presidents and their families throughout the years. He was also employed as a special investigator with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and a Special investigator with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In addition to his military and federal service, Hal was a Tennessee State Trooper in both Chattanooga and Knoxville's districts.

He has authored and published two books about travel and his years serving his country. I thank Hal for his service.

RECOGNIZING OGEMAW VETERAN OF THE YEAR MR. CHARLIE PUZJAK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year, Mr. Charlie D. Puzjak of West Branch, Michigan. Charlie's dedication to supporting his community is an inspiration to Veterans and makes him a deserving recipient of this recognition.

The Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance, a nonprofit organization representing all Veterans of Ogemaw County, annually honors a hero for their outstanding service to the United States and their continued activism in their community post-service. This year, the Veterans Alliance has chosen Mr. Charlie D. Puzjak to receive the highest honor the organization can bestow.

Charlie served honorably for 18 and a half years in the United States Army as a MOS

H63. In December of 2004, he answered the nation's call once again, this time for deployment to Iraq. After completing his training in El Paso, Texas, Mr. Puzjak was deployed to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait and subsequently served at 12 other bases in the Middle East. Following an unfortunate accident in 2005, he received an honorable medical discharge. Despite this, Mr. Puzjak maintains that he would re-enlist in a heartbeat.

Mr. Puzjak's commitment to service extends beyond his military career. After his honorable medical discharge, Charlie immediately began advocating for other Michigan Veterans. Since 2005, Charlie has served as the Director of the Ogemaw County Veterans Museum, founder of the nonprofit "A Soldiers First Aid from Home", and organizer of many other Veterans' fundraisers and community events. It is incredibly heartening to see how Mr. Puzjak consistently puts others before himself.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. Charlie Puzjak on this well-deserved award. I extend to him my gratitude for his continuous efforts to uplift Veterans in his community and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING EVANGELIST BARBARA GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evangelist Barbara Green, a devoted Crossing Guard in Clinton, MS.

Barbara Green is a native of Bolton, MS, and now resides in the City of Raymond. She is a mother of 2 children, a grandmother of 3 and a great grandmother of 2. Barbara Green started her first job right out of high school at Blackstone restaurant on Farris Street in Jackson, MS. She then went on to work at Hunter Engineering for 17 years.

After retirement a friend of Barbara Green's informed her of an open position at Sumner Hill for a Crossing Guard, she then went to try it out and fell in love with the job.

She has been a Crossing Guard for 14 years in the Clinton Community. Some of Barbara Green's most genuine moments are seeing the kids and parents every day as she directs them safely through traffic with a smile on her face.

Outside of her inspirational job as a crossing guard, she is a devoted community servant. Mrs. Green is a choir member and Evangelist at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church and Corner Stone Missionary Baptist Church.

When asked what words she lives by, Evangelist Green expressed her favorite Bible Scripture which is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Evangelist Barbara Green for her hard work and dedication to her community.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF FLORENCE "FROSTY" TAYLOR

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a fellow patriot and beloved editor of the Republican Briefs, Mrs. Florence "Frosty" Taylor.

Two weeks ago, Arizona lost a dear friend. With two beautiful children, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a husband of 68 years, Frosty lived a life full of love, service, and passion for adventure. She would never lie idle when there was more work to be done for our country.

Born on April 7, 1937, Frosty grew up on her grandfather's cattle ranch in South Dakota and married her high school sweetheart. In 1964, she won the Mrs. Nebraska pageant and subsequently embarked on a career in public media. Beginning as a columnist, she quickly advanced to the position of editor and earned the titles of first female reporter to ride in a Phoenix Police helicopter and honorary Phoenix firefighter.

After great success in the media industry, Frosty worked in the Arizona Attorney General's office and the Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund.

But Frosty's true service was performed within her community. She served as President of the Wickenburg Republican Club and was one of her district's precinct committee-women and state committeeman, while reporting Arizona news as editor of the Republican Briefs, a role from which she retired only this past August.

She had a thirst for knowledge, but not for her own benefit. Whether it was working for the media or humbly publishing a 500-page family cookbook, Frosty strived to share all she learned with others.

Every time we met, she amazed me. She knew politics through and through, from the local to the national level. If you visit the Republican Briefs website, you will find countless testimonies to Frosty's advocacy on behalf of Arizonan Conservatives.

On November 4, 2023, Frosty passed away at the vivacious age of 86. Although this is a time of mourning, her life and legacy will be celebrated for years to come.

She will be remembered as a woman of principle, but most of all, a long-time supporter and friend of mine. When you have a friend in Frosty, you have a friend indeed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LEAVE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Federal Employee Leave Fairness Act, which would prohibit the Department of Defense (DOD) from recouping pay from District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) members who

are federal civilian employees or District of Columbia employees and took encampment leave. The DOD claims these employees were not entitled to encampment leave without a loss of pay. While I disagree with the DOD's interpretation, I am introducing this bill to resolve this matter.

Congress partially addressed this matter in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (NDAA) by adopting my amendment that effectively prohibited the DOD from recouping pay for encampment leave taken by DCNG members after the enactment of the NDAA. That amendment, however, did not apply to encampment leave taken before the enactment of the NDAA because of budget rules.

In 1899, Congress codified in the D.C. Code the original authority for entitlement to leave when federal civilian employees were mobilized by the DCNG. In 1968, that authority was moved into 5 U.S.C. § 6323. In that same year, Congress authorized two additional leave entitlements in 5 U.S.C. § 6323, as well as established a salary offset provision in 5 U.S.C. § 5519 referencing those two additional leave entitlements. However, because the U.S. Code had not been updated to include the earlier DCNG authority, the U.S. Code contained a duplicate subsection, one referring to DCNG mobilizations and one to a general leave entitlement for the National Guard and Reserves.

Based on this legislative drafting error, the DOD has sometimes attempted to apply a salary offset to DCNG members who are federal employees and took encampment leave, and the DOD has indicated it will do so again soon. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), has said that 5 U.S.C. § 6323(c) was not intended to be subject to a salary offset under 5 U.S.C. § 5519 and noted in 1990 that the "[Office of Personnel Management] advised that it now believes that the salary offset provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 5519 do not apply to D.C. National Guardsmen under the circumstances described in 5 U.S.C. § 6323(c)." However, the Office of Personnel Management once again believes that the salary offset provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 5519 apply to 5 U.S.C. § 6323(c).

DCNG members sincerely believed that they were taking this leave correctly, they have relied on this money, the recoupment will cause financial hardships for current and former DCNG members and it was Congress' intent that DCNG members were entitled to this leave without a salary offset.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREA SALINAS

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call numbers 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, and 564. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 559; YEA on Roll Call No. 560; YEA on Roll Call No. 561; YEA on Roll Call No. 562; NAY on Roll Call No. 563; and YEA on Roll Call No. 564.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGHAN CROTTY QUINN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize this year's Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumnae Honoree at Mount Mercy Academy, Meghan Crotty Quinn. For over a century, Mount Mercy Academy has been a beacon of light and an indispensable institution within our community. With a unique focus on academic excellence, women's leadership, and a commitment to building a just society, it is only proper to commend the alumni who have contributed to this much-deserved reputation.

A proud South Buffalo resident, Meghan and her husband Kevin Quinn are the proud parents of Kiera (Mount Mercy Academy, Class of 2027), son Rory and daughter Colleen. Meghan is the daughter of Anita Durkin Crotty (Mount Mercy Academy Class of 1963) and Patrick Crotty. Meghan is a business and community leader. She graduated from John Carroll University in 2007 and earned the title of Certified Public Accountant shortly thereafter. Meghan's rise in the banking industry has been rapid; after a stint with M&T Bank, she now serves as a Senior Vice President in the Commercial Banking division at HSBC Bank. She has twice been recognized by her peers as a top 100 performer in United States commercial banking and is a recipient of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Award in 2021. Meanwhile, her professional success has been coupled with a steadfast commitment of paying it forward. Meghan is the Treasurer of South Buffalo Roots, a rising community organization responsible for organizing the very successful South Buffalo Porchfest, Music in the Park series and South Buffalo Irish Festival. This dedicated group of volunteers in turn supports an array of neighborhood organizations using a creative model of giving back to other charitable organizations including, the South Buffalo Community Table, Buffalo Irish Center, Buffalo Refuse, local sports and school organizations, 11-Day Powerplay, Kids Escaping Drugs, and Feed the Front Line. Citizens like Meghan—those who are consumed with doing right by their neighbors—are what makes Buffalo so special. Her commitment to professional excellence and bettering the Western New York community make for an incredible endorsement of Mount Mercy Academy and its principles.

The award recipients and honorees tonight for Mount Mercy Academy's 22nd Annual Dinner have exceeded the already rigorous standard for the members within this community. Mount Mercy's values and commitment to service are steeped in decades of tradition, and Meghan Crotty Quinn continues to live these values in her career and relationships.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF BRADLEY UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH JIM DEROSE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Jim DeRose on his retirement as Bradley University's Men's Soccer Coach after 28 successful seasons.

Beginning his career in 1996 at the age of 28 as the youngest coach in NCAA Division I men's soccer, Jim quickly emerged as a dominant figure in the soccer community. Jim guided the Braves to the regular-season Missouri Valley Conference title in 1998, followed by the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2000. Under Jim's leadership, Bradley's soccer program reached new heights and resulted in a 2007 run to the NCAA Elite Eight, where Jim was chosen as the Soccer America National Coach of the Year.

Jim's record speaks volumes of his commitment and dedication to the game. During his tenure as head coach, Bradley held a 267–227–66 record with seven NCAA tournament appearances, the highest for any coach in Bradley University Athletics history. Jim finishes his career as the second-winningest coach in Missouri Valley Conference soccer history and coached the only four-year all-Americans in MVC men's soccer history.

In addition to his accomplishments on the pitch, the accomplishments of his players in the classroom and post-graduation are a testament to his ability to grow his players into successful young men. Six former assistant coaches have gone on to become NCAA Division I head coaches, sixteen players have been selected for all-American academic awards, and nine have been selected in the Major League Soccer SuperDraft.

Jim has been an integral part of growing the game of soccer throughout central Illinois and his legacy will last for years to come. It is my privilege to congratulate Jim DeRose on his retirement after 28 years with Bradley University Men's Soccer and wish him, his wife Robin, and his two children, Raleigh and J.R., all the best.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUSINESS UNINTERRUPTED MONETARY PROGRAM ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Business Uninterrupted Monetary Program Act of 2023 (BUMP Act). This crucial piece of legislation provides essential funding to businesses and nonprofits that have been directly and measurably financially impacted by major transportation projects, with the goal of keeping them solvent.

With major transit and highway projects planned across the country, the livelihoods and survival of some local businesses may be at risk because of construction disruptions that impede customers' access to their store fronts.

In my own district, on the heels of closures caused by the COVID pandemic, a major transit project prevented customers from accessing stores in downtown Santa Ana, CA for months. Many of those businesses struggled to pay their rent and utility bills, pay for their inventory, and some had to close permanently as a result. Efforts to help the businesses, such as signage, failed. What they needed were financial resources. What happened in my district can happen anywhere in America, in any downtown. We can and need to do more to minimize the economic damage inflicted on local businesses from projects that receive federal transportation monies.

The legislation will require local sponsors to create a BUMP fund that provides financial assistance for local entities that will experience a measurable interruption causing negative financial impact from the project. The fund can cover utilities, insurance, rent or mortgage, payroll, loss of income, and any other expense that the sponsor determines is needed for the impacted businesses. Importantly, the local sponsors who know the local community and best understand the impacts of the project create and manage the BUMP fund. The local sponsor further determines how much to contribute to the fund, how the fund is structured, which entities are eligible for funding, and what type of expenses should be covered.

The requirement to create a BUMP fund only applies to highway projects with a total cost equal or greater than \$50 million and transit projects with a total cost equal or greater to \$100 million with measurable negative financial impacts on local businesses and non-profits. The bill also creates a one-time grant opportunity for businesses and nonprofits that are currently struggling financially from an interruption created by a major transportation project.

It is important to America's economy that local businesses can continue to serve our communities after completion of transportation projects. I am introducing this legislation to make sure no other business is forced to face financial turmoil or close due to an interruption caused by a major transportation project. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this crucial initiative, allowing our Nation's vibrant local economies to stay afloat during the construction of major infrastructure projects and reap the benefits of these transit and highway projects upon their completion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2023

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 639.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees

to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine opportunities in industrial decarbonization, focusing on delivering benefits for the economy and the climate.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States leadership on artificial intelligence in an era of strategic competition.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1898, to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make improvements to that Act, and S. 2088, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine veteran entrepreneurship, focusing on from service to small business success.

SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine aging Americans and a waning workforce, focusing on demographic drivers of our deficit.

LHOB-1334

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine VA's Fourth Mission, focusing on supporting our na-

tion's emergency preparedness and response.

SR-418

NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress, S. 461, to make certain irrigation districts eligible for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 1118, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1662, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, S. 1776, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, S. 1955, to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2247, to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044,

to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”, S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Prescott, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture,

with the rank of Ambassador, Charlie Crist, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, with the rank of Ambassador, Cardell Kenneth Richardson, Sr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Nicole Shampaine, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and Joann M. Lockard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Burkina

Faso, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider an authorization for subpoenas relating to the Supreme Court ethics investigation.

SH-216

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine modern scams, focusing on how scammers are using artificial intelligence and how we can fight back.

SD-106