

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMENDING THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971 TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN REPORTING VIOLATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing support of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations.

As the expiration deadline of December 31, 2023, approaches rather quickly, we, the Members of the House of Representatives, have an opportunity to continue a trend of bipartisan oversight of the Federal Election Commission.

If passed, S. 2747 will mark the seventh time lawmakers have recognized the administrative importance and financially beneficial structure of the Administrative Fine Program.

As the former Florida Secretary of State, I know firsthand that voters will always seek transparency from political candidates and campaigns.

Elections officials have a saying: Elections are partisan. Elections administration is not.

This bill is an example of the transparency and confidence that Americans want to see in their elections. These same themes can be found in the American Confidence in Elections Act, which passed out of the Committee on House Administration in mid-July.

Today, however, we have the opportunity to showcase the diligent work completed by members of the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2747, so the Federal Election Commission can continue to ensure confidence in our political process.

TRAREZE WILSON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Trareze has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Trareze, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Trareze's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TIM LEONG

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. DeSAULNIER. I rise today along with my colleagues, JOHN GARAMENDI and JOSH HARDER, to recognize Tim Leong as he retires from the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) after 15 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his career, Tim has devoted himself to advancing quality, affordable higher education and serving students throughout California. He joined 4CD in 2008 as Director of Communications and Community Relations, bringing decades of communications and government relations experience to the district. Through this role, he helped expand the district's outreach.

Prior to joining 4CD, Tim was a reporter and producer for KRON-TV and KCRA-TV, helping to provide critical news coverage to community members. He was also the first Asian American spokesperson with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), leading the company's grassroots advocacy and charitable efforts. After leaving PG&E, Tim became the President and Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund, providing consulting services to nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies.

Tim has been a longtime advocate of public higher education, speaking at many national conferences and staying engaged with the California Community College system. Additionally, he is the former president of the Community College Public Relations Organization and is a current member of the Strategic Enrollment Management Academy's Core Leadership Team. We and our staffs have enjoyed working with him to help arrange trips for him and 4CD students to come to DC.

Please join me and Representatives GARAMENDI and HARDER in congratulating Tim Leong on his well-earned retirement from the Contra Costa Community College District.

HONORING MAYOR MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the Honorable Mary Katherine Greenlaw for her dedication to public service on behalf of the people of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mayor Greenlaw has always been a pillar of the Fredericksburg community, and through

her leadership, has shepherded an extraordinary period of growth and prosperity for the city. Throughout her life, she has continued her family's legacy of service—Mayor Greenlaw served as a Trustee on the Mary Washington Hospital Board from 1978 to 1994, then as both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Fredericksburg Planning Commission. In 2008, she was elected to the Fredericksburg City Council, where she served until being elected as Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg in 2012.

Throughout her tenure as Mayor, she has been an advocate for small businesses, the arts, and families across the city. Her work has focused on creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs, improving the infrastructure throughout the city to increase transportation options, and supporting projects that ensure the longevity of local schools. Mayor Greenlaw has delicately balanced her support for the city's growth while working to preserve the historical charm for which Fredericksburg is well-known.

Mayor Greenlaw has earned several accolades throughout her tenure, including Volunteer of the Year by Pratt Mental Health Association, Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scout Commonwealth Council, and the Prince B. Woodard Leadership Award from the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce. She has also served with distinction as a representative of the city on the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance and as a founding member of the Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts.

Mayor Greenlaw has been a wonderful partner to me as we have worked together on local and federal issues. On a personal note, I thank Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw for the example she has set for women in politics and the young girls and boys across the city who look up to and have learned from her leadership. She has been a true and steady leader for the City of Fredericksburg. Her devotion to public service and her dedication to the betterment of the city have left a legacy that will continue to inspire us all for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

MATTHEW MARTINEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Matthew has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Matthew, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

• 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.

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Matthew's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINEVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Lineville, Alabama.

Lineville is the largest city in Clay County and was originally called County Line because of its location on the border of Talladega and Randolph counties. In February of 1870, the city's name was changed to Lineville because Clay County had been formed.

Native Americans were the first to live in Lineville, but after The Creek Indian War of 1812, the Indians were removed, and the Lundie Family settled on the land. In 1898, Lineville was incorporated while graphite mining took off and National Bank began its operations there. Then it was known as Lundie's Cross Roads.

Once more families of settlers arrived, a post office was established on April 4, 1856, and the official name of County Line took the place of the Lundie nickname. After the post office, the Lundie brothers divided five acres of their property into lots on the east side of today's downtown traffic light and used the proceeds from the property to establish a school.

After the Civil War, Clay County made up the state's 58th county and was named after Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky.

In the late 1890s, a secondary college, Lineville College opened its doors with H.J. Willingham as the first president. The baccalaureate degree granting institution closed after 1911.

Over the years, Lineville has changed, but the beauty of the area has not. Under the leadership of Mayor Roy Adamson, a celebration will be held on December 14th and a vault which has been sealed for 25 years, will be opened.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Lineville on this incredible milestone.

HONORING DR. JIM ROSS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim Ross, President of Pamlico Community College (PCC), upon his recent announcement of his retirement. Dr. Ross is a servant leader who has improved life outcomes for thousands of individuals in Pamlico County. Under his leadership, PCC was recognized for excellence, being among the Top 25 Smart Asset Best Community Colleges on

five separate occasions and the WalletHub list of the top 10 community colleges for Educational Outcomes for three different years. He also spearheaded the development of the first Dental Laboratory program on a community college campus in Eastern North Carolina and added many hands-on healthcare career courses.

Dr. Ross has used his position to advocate for the betterment of incarcerated individuals. He and his team started a new program at PCC called Human Service Technology which included courses to help combat recidivism and focused on life skills such as anger management, abstinence, and teamwork. This program also included for-credit courses and a liaison to connect the incarcerated with employment opportunities after serving their sentences.

Dr. Ross has opened his heart to some of the most judged, forgotten, and shamed members of our society and has been relentless in his fight in using his position to give them meaningful opportunities and a second chance. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing this wonderful educational leader. I wish Dr. Ross all the best in the future.

LAVOE ETERNITY ARELLANO

HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Lavoe Eternity has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Lavoe Eternity, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Lavoe Eternity's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Lavoe Eternity Arellano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING WILLIAM JENNINGS FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF BROADALBIN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Broadalbin Town Justice William Jennings for his 50 years of valiant service to his local community.

A lifelong resident of the Town of Broadalbin, Justice Jennings has been dedicated to serving his community in many capacities throughout his storied career. After graduating from Broadalbin High School in 1965, he began work at the John Hancock Life Insurance Company before answering the call to serve and joining the Army Reserves in 1968. Four years later, Justice Jennings re-

turned to Broadalbin High School where he diligently served as the school's bus driver and groundskeeper for the next 46 years before retiring in 2018 and going to work part-time as a bus driver for Gloversville Transit.

Justice Jennings was elected to the office of Broadalbin Town Justice in 1973 and has been a staple of the community, adjudicating the town's issues for more than a half-century. Known for both his wisdom and compassion, few individuals are held in such high regard in the Town of Broadalbin. Justice Jennings should be extremely proud of his illustrious career and the positive impact he has made along the way.

Above all, Justice Jennings is a family man who enjoys spending quality time with his loved ones. Married to Candyce O. Weiss in 1968, the pair have three sons; James, Jeffrey, and Jonathan; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. On a clear summer's day, Justice Jennings and his family can often be found driving up Broad Street in an automobile from his beloved classic car collection.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Town Justice William Jennings for his exceptional leadership and his enduring contributions to his community.

CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN HONDURAS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call this chamber's attention to concerning developments in Honduras that pose a growing economic risk for Central America's Northern Triangle region.

Earlier this year, Honduran President Xiomara Castro announced her government's intent to pursue substantial investments from China after establishing diplomatic ties with the PRC in March. The Castro administration is also seeking to effectively nationalize U.S. public and private investment in Honduran special economic zones, where U.S.-led businesses are operating and focused on the creation of nearshoring facilities and bolstering the Honduran tourism industry. The elimination of these zones would constitute a violation of 50-year legal stability agreements guaranteed under the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement. This is counterproductive to both bilateral economic development and stability for Hondurans. We all know that better jobs and economic opportunities in country benefit Honduran families while reducing the pressures that lead to irregular migration.

In July, I cosigned a letter urging the State Department and U.S. Trade Representative to protect U.S. interests in Honduras. Earlier this week, the State Department announced visa restrictions on Honduran individuals involved in what the Department described as an anti-democratic scheme to name an Attorney General and Deputy AG without the required votes through violence and intimidation. I commend the State Department's efforts and continue to stand with those seeking to strengthen democracy and rule of law in Honduras.

KELTON KEHL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Kelton has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kelton, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kelton's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEAL ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Incentivizing Dual-Eligible Alignment (IDEAL) Act.

This legislation seeks to better coordinate and improve care for dual beneficiaries enrolled in integrated special needs plans (D-SNPs). Highly integrated D-SNPs (HIDE SNPs) and Fully Integrated D-SNPs (FIDE SNPs) already manage dual beneficiaries' Medicare and Medicaid benefits, and this legislation will improve their ability to deliver needed services.

First, this legislation creates a pilot program to give Safety Net Health Plan HIDE and FIDE SNPs a rebate to provide services related to social determinants of health. We all know that a person's health is affected by far more than what happens in a doctor's office. If plans can deliver services like meals for people with chronic conditions, rental assistance, and pest eradication, they can address all the factors that contribute to the health of their beneficiaries. This five-year pilot can help inform future policy decisions as Congress weighs how to better improve outcomes. Second, this legislation provides regulatory flexibility to states to align administrative processes between Medicare Advantage and a state's Medicaid plan, allowing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and states to determine better ways to coordinate care for HIDE and FIDE SNP enrollees.

Fundamentally, the way we approach our health care system needs to change. The United States spends nearly one-fifth of GDP on health care and more per person than other economically comparable countries yet has lower life expectancy. I'm grateful for organizations like Care Oregon that provide care to my constituents and try to challenge the status quo. The federal government must be a partner in delivering care in better, innovative ways, and I believe the policies proposed here can be a part of that.

HONORING MR. HOUSTON SALTER

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible American, Mr. Houston Salter, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who turned 103 last month on November 10th. Mr. Salter has sacrificed greatly for his Nation and community. He enlisted into the Coast Guard in 1942 during World War II, serving important and dangerous roles until 1945, such as unloading bombs from ships on Ellis Island and working port security at the Hellgate Bridge in New York City. After serving in the Armed Forces, Mr. Salter returned to his hometown of Harkers Island, North Carolina. He served his Nation and community honorably for another 28 years at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Mr. Salter is among the highly dedicated individuals who continue serving their country after they depart from the Armed Forces. This year, Mr. Salter was presented a Proclamation of Honor by the Carteret County Board of Commissioners and recognized as the oldest living member of the Coast Guard at the branch's 233rd birthday celebration this summer. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in extending this chamber's tribute to this National Hero.

JOSE SOTO CATANO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Jose has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jose, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jose's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jose Soto Catano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM EDWARD MONFORT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Mr. William Edward Monfort, on his 107th birthday. Mr. Monfort, a Floridian and a revered member of our greatest generation, has led a life marked by exceptional service and resilience.

As a young man, he enlisted in the Navy and served with valor and distinction during

World War II. Aboard the USS Claxton and in the Destroyer Squadron 23, Mr. Monfort played a crucial role as a Chief Radioman, ensuring critical communications during some of the most pivotal battles of the Pacific Theater, including Pearl Harbor, Midway, and Okinawa.

After the war, Mr. Monfort continued to serve his community in profound ways. He co-founded Angels Unaware, a pioneering organization in Tampa Bay that provides care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We thank Mr. Monfort for his exemplary contribution to our country, and wish him a happy 107th birthday. May his story continue to inspire us all.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HEROES, THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes, the Fort Worth Police Department.

For several years, Fort Worth Police officers have rallied together to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to community members in need. Continuing the tradition, this year, Fort Worth police officers provided more than 600 turkeys to families in need. The officers organize turkey giveaways across Fort Worth where they also provide services such as entertainment for children or hot meals to-go.

Fort Worth's Chief of Police, Neil Noakes, took an active role in distributing turkeys with the help of other officers and volunteers. Chief Noakes made note of his officers' dedication to their community and also highlighted that their roles do not end at law enforcement. By the end of the turkey giveaway, they had distributed three and a half tons of turkey to members of the Fort Worth community.

I want to thank the Fort Worth Police Department for all they do to take care of our North Texas community while also keeping us safe.

GABE PETERS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Gabe has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Gabe, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gabe's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Gabe Peters on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHIEF CHRISTOPHER BURNETT**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and retirement of Christopher Burnett, Chief of the Mount Laurel Fire Department who selflessly served his community for over thirty years.

A lifelong Burlington County resident, Chief Burnett first started with the Mount Laurel Fire Department in 1992 when he joined as a volunteer firefighter in high school and later became an Emergency Medical Technician. In 1997, Chief Burnett began his tenure as a career firefighter. During this time he climbed through the ranks, always focused on protecting his community and neighbors. After 10 years as Deputy Chief, Chief Burnett was appointed as Chief of Department in 2021 and Chief of Emergency Medical Services in 2022.

During his tenure at the Mount Laurel Fire Department, Chief Burnett received several notable recognitions from various universities and from the State of New Jersey. These include the Certified Public Management designation from Rutgers University and the Class 6 Merit Award Citation for his bravery during an apartment fire in 1992 in which he rescued a trapped elderly female. Chief Burnett's dedication to his community knew no bounds, as throughout his tenure he served in various roles on the Burlington County Fire Chiefs Association, Eastern Division of the international Association of Fire Chiefs, and the New Jersey Fire and EMS Institute.

In addition to his tireless commitment to the Fire Department, Chief Burnett is a friendly face in our community who dedicates his time to the betterment of his neighbors. He is the creator of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in Mount Laurel, in addition to the 'Get Fired Up for Literacy' program in the Mount Laurel School District and Library. Through these programs, Chief Burnett connected and uplifted his community, dedicating every aspect of his life to public service.

A father, husband, and neighbor, Chief Christopher Burnett believes in servant leadership and organization above oneself. His work ethic and dedication to the Fire Department will leave a lasting legacy of service and leadership for decades to come. Outside of his family, he believes his service to the Fire Department and community is his greatest achievement.

Chief Burnett embodies the spirit of service that makes me proud to represent people like him in New Jersey's Third Congressional District. We are lucky to have him as a member of our community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
JOE FRICKS**HON. KAT CAMMACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph Eugene Fricks, a resident of Marion County, Florida.

Joseph Eugene Fricks was born in St. Petersburg, Florida on July 7, 1939. Joe's father was a true aviation pioneer having served in both World Wars and working in commercial aviation. Following in his father's footsteps, Joe took his first flight in Marathon, Florida, piloting a DC-3 at the age of 16.

Joe's military service began as a tank driver in the Army National Guard of Florida where he was honorably discharged from the 211th Infantry on April 11, 1957. Unable to recover from the aviation bug, Joe pursued his Commercial Pilot's License and began flying 727 passenger jets for National Airlines—"Florida's own airline"—on September 17, 1969. His aviation career continued with Pan-Am Airways where he graduated to international routes piloting 747s around the world.

During his career, Joe had the true patriotic honor of serving on the flight-deck and transporting the Presidential Press Corps during the presidencies of Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton. Joe also volunteered to transport equipment and supplies to the Middle East during the Iraq campaigns. He proudly transported countless American troops home from the Middle East during this period.

In the summer of 1975, he moved his wife and four children to Marion County, Florida and eventually retired in Ocala as a flight instructor for Fed-Ex on January 3, 2005.

Joseph never stopped giving back to his community and country. Whether it was fundraising by piloting airplane rides at local airshows, contributing his aviation skills to safely transport the Presidential Press Corps, or volunteering to clean the bathrooms every Sunday after Mass at Ocala's Blessed Trinity Church, he continued giving until the end.

Considered an expert and authority among his peers, a smiling face with his neighbors, a "Daddy" to his children, and loving "Pa" to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Joe will be missed dearly.

BRIANNY NAVA VAZQUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Brianny has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Brianny, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Brianny's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Brianny Nava Vazquez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR AARON REEP**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major Aaron Reep and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Aaron earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Northwestern—St. Paul. After graduating from Northwestern, he commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. While in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked his way up from Student Officer to Infantry Platoon Commander to Company Commander, eventually earning the rank of Major.

A graduate of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School, Aaron has served in the II Marine Expeditionary Force and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Aaron was deployed in Afghanistan twice, where he conducted himself valiantly during the 2021 evacuation of American personnel from the Kabul International Airport.

Aaron joined my office as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in January 2023. As a Defense Fellow, he served our Nation both as a Marine and a public servant. He contributed enthusiastically to my House Armed Services Committee work, including my role as the Chairman of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee. On my staff, he distinguished himself in his tireless work supporting our veterans.

I would like to thank Aaron for his contributions and dedicated service this year. He has been a key member of my defense team and staff, and I wish him all the best as he continues his journey here on Capitol Hill as a Marine Corps Legislative Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Major Aaron Reep for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Aaron and his family as he continues his career in public service and the U.S. Marine Corps.

RECOGNIZING JERRY L. FOWLES'
42 YEARS OF SERVICE**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerry L. Fowles as he retires after 42 years of service.

Jerry Fowles has served the United States of America for the past 42 years. His story began as a student at Saks High School. Upon graduation, he made the decision to enlist in the United States Army.

Jerry is the youngest son born to John Fowles, Sr. and Lona Bell Fowles. Two days after his graduation, he boarded a bus to Texas and began his career as an Army soldier. After completing a four-year enlistment, he returned home to Anniston only to realize that his passion was the military, so he reenlisted. His love for the military encouraged him to continue re-enlisting until he had served a total of 21 years.

While in the military, Jerry furthered his education and attended City Colleges of Chicago

where he obtained an associate degree. After retirement, he returned to Anniston once again and began seeking other employment. He was employed at Federal Mogul Corporation in Jacksonville, Alabama, prior to applying for a position at General Dynamics. After working at General Dynamics for roughly a year, Jerry decided to apply for a position at the Anniston Army Depot. During his employment at the Depot, Jerry has worked in several different positions and after 21 years of service he has decided to turn in his "I.D. Badge" and retire. Throughout Jerry's career he has met many wonderful people and is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the ANAD family.

In June 2002, Jerry married Melinda Madden, a psychology major who works in the social service field. They have one son, Travis J. Fowles, and two beautiful grandchildren Gabriel (6) and Summerlyn (4) Fowles.

Jerry and Melinda are both members of World Changers Church International. Jerry is also a member of a community group called Kingdom Men's Fellowship Ministry. This ministry consists of men from the community who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ while helping those in need. Some of Jerry's hobbies/interest are reading his Bible, spending time with his wife and watching Alabama Football. Roll Tide!

The past 42 years have truly taught some valuable lifelong lessons, yet Jerry leaves Bynum knowing his years of government service have ended. Retirement will be an opportunity for him to begin a new chapter in his life. In the book of Philippians 1:6, one of his favorite scriptures, speaks to being confident in knowing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day in which Jesus Christ returns. Jerry has now completed his time of government service and now will be able to enjoy retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Jerry for his service to our country. Wishing him the best in retirement.

ANDRE GURULE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Andre has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Andre, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Andre's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Andre Gurule on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING BETSY JANE FLENNER

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Mrs. Betsy Jane Flenner for 16 years of dedicated service to our country.

As a Lead Congressional Correspondent and Security Manager in the U.S. Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Betsy has helped answer thousands of questions from the American people. In the office, she is known for her willingness to take on any question and find an answer, no matter how easy or how complex.

Betsy is admired and respected by her colleagues—her work ethic and heart for service have made her an asset to her team and to the many Virginians who have benefitted from her help. She has built long-lasting relationships with staff in the halls of Congress, an example of her exceptional service and her willingness to go above and beyond her job description.

Throughout the last eight Congresses, Betsy has been a standout team member. Her commitment to providing excellent service has earned her the Superior Civilian Service Award—one of the highest honorary awards under the Department of the Navy Civilian Awards program. Her enthusiasm for providing our Veterans and servicemembers with the answers they need will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mrs. Betsy Jane Flenner and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 11, 2023, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call Nos. 707, 708, and 709. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Roll Call No. 707—H.R. 3224, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act, as amended; NO on Roll Call No. 708—H.R. 5378, Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, as amended; and YES on Roll Call No. 709—H.R. 6503, Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II.

AMELIA GORDON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Amelia has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Amelia, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Amelia's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Amelia Gordon on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE FIRST BLACK
JUDGE IN VIRGINIA'S 24TH DISTRICT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Butler.

Eugene Butler was recently appointed to be a judge in Virginia, for the 24th judicial district. He will be focusing on Juvenile and domestic relations.

As impressive as that is, he now is the first black judge to hold that position in that district.

Originally from Washington, D.C., where he attended Patrick Henry High School, he later graduated from Washington & Lee Law School. Judge Butler has been practicing law for 20 years and is the former president of the Lynchburg Bar Association. Judge Butler is the son of a Methodist minister, and the brother of D.C. resident Brian Butler.

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Judge Butler and his family and I wish him continued success in his legal career.

HONORING MR. STEPHEN VIRAY
OF FLORIDA, NEW YORK FOR HIS
SUCCESS

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stephen Viray for winning this year's Congressional App Challenge.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages creativity for high school students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related education fields. This nationwide contest allows these students to compete against their peers by creating and exhibiting their software applications.

While in school, Mr. Viray created an app called District Insights, dedicated to being a resource for anyone who wants to know more about their own congressional district.

The opportunity to explore, understand, and engage in local government allows users to get involved and stay up to date on legislation that directly impacts their community.

District Insights simplifies the process of identifying your congressional district. Its intuitive map and user interface makes it effortless for users to pinpoint their district, ensuring they stay informed about their representatives, and issues that directly impact their lives. District Insights provides a wealth of statistical information, giving users a comprehensive understanding of the factors that shape their community.

This year's Congressional App Challenge was exceptionally competitive this year. Within

the district, Stephen's app was challenged by eight other impressive software applications. I am always glad to see these yearly submissions from bright, young students who have been able to combine their interests with their impressive coding skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Stephen Viray. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his extraordinary work.

HONORING THE CONTRA COSTA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and JOSH HARDER, to recognize the contributions of the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) on its 75th anniversary.

For 75 years, 4CD has been a vital part of Contra Costa County. Founded on December 14, 1948 by a countywide vote, 4CD was the first countywide junior college district in California. Since its inception, 4CD has committed itself to providing quality and affordable higher education to students of all backgrounds. Serving over 45,000 students each year at their campuses in San Pablo, Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg, San Ramon, and Brentwood, 4CD creates an academic environment that promotes cultural competency, diversity, and community engagement.

The district offers a wide range of courses allowing students to pursue an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university, or hone in on their professional skills through specialized vocational and technical trainings. 4CD also offers a number of courses that use open educational resources, helping to cut costs on textbooks. 4CD's more than 3,600 employees are devoted to empowering all students to fulfill their educational and career aspirations by providing accessible, equitable, innovative, and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.

Please join me and Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI and JOSH HARDER in recognizing the Contra Costa Community College District for their many contributions to our community and in congratulating them on their 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF TIM
LESLIE

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Tim Leslie on his retirement from the Minnesota Sheriff's Association and wish him well as he begins his next chapter.

After getting his start in law enforcement with the St. Paul Police Department, Tim went on to be appointed Assistant Commissioner

for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. He then served within the Dakota County Sheriffs Office for over 20 years and spent the last year helping the Minnesota Sheriffs Association with government affairs work in St. Paul after a decorated law enforcement career. It was my honor to work with Sheriff Leslie during his tenure as Dakota County Sheriff.

Sheriff Leslie served as Sheriff of Dakota County from 2015 to 2022, where he led the department through challenges with the opioid epidemic, the COVID-19 pandemic and increased community policing efforts. He remains a pillar of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Community. I'll always appreciate Tim's advice and counsel on law enforcement legislation and am proud to have worked together to pass the bipartisan Public Safety Officer Support Act in the 117th Congress.

I wish him the best in retirement and hope he can spend some more time with his grandkids and a little more time fishing.

RECOGNIZING LISA ROYBAL

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and advocacy of Lisa Roybal, and congratulate her as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement from VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Lisa is a true champion for women veterans in California's 39th Congressional District, the Inland Empire, and beyond.

Lisa has a long history of public service, first serving in the United States Navy for 20 years before joining the staff of VA Loma Linda. As a Nurse Practitioner and the Women Veteran Program Manager for the newly established Women's Health Center at VA Loma Linda, Lisa championed the well-being of veterans throughout her career.

In 2006 at the beginning of Lisa's civilian career at VA Loma Linda, women veterans' enrollment constituted roughly 2,500 patients. Under Lisa's direction, this number has increased remarkably with more than 10,000 women veterans enrolled this year. The development of the Women's Health Center at VA Loma Linda, from its inception at the Redlands Based Outpatient Clinic, its relocation to the Juliet clinic, and its current establishment as a stand-alone fully operational clinic reflects Lisa's unwavering commitment to expanding accessibility to meet the evolving needs of women veterans.

Lisa's resolute leadership has played a pivotal role in establishing an inclusive and supportive environment for all women veterans. Her efforts have not only broadened access to VA services but also cultivated a deeper sense of community and belonging for all who have served our nation. Lisa is undoubtedly a champion for women veterans throughout our community, and a true hometown hero who utilized her experience in the U.S. Navy and applied it for the well-being of her peers. I commend Lisa for her tireless commitment, perseverance in providing healthcare for women veterans, and her courageous service to our Nation; I wish Lisa a well-deserved and happy retirement.

MR. OHIO SOCCER, BRADLEY
POPPELL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bradley Poppell, a senior at Archbishop Moeller High School, on being named Mr. Ohio Soccer by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

The Men of Moeller amassed a 24-0-1 record, being ranked number one in the country for three weeks during the season. The team only allowed one goal during the regular season and would go on to be state runner-up in Division One.

Bradley led his team with 23 goals and six assists this season as the team captain. Alongside his play at Moeller, he plays on the Cincinnati United Premier U19 team, which is ranked number one in the state of Ohio.

In the classroom, he is ranked near the top of his class with a 4.7 GPA and is also a school captain. This is alongside his high test scores and multiple AP-level courses.

I am excited to nominate Bradley to the United States Air Force Academy, where he will be a member of the men's soccer team. He hopes to receive a pilot slot, just as his grandfather did in the Class of 1970.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to family obligations, I regret missing the 3 votes on December 11, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 707, YEA on Roll Call No. 708, and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

HONORING MICHELLE Y. CROMWELL ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service and career of a hardworking, talented, and principled Marylander from my district: Mrs. Michelle Y. Cromwell. I thank her for her 43 years of dedicated service with the Department of Defense, more specifically, the Department of the Army from December 29, 1980, to December 31, 2023. Throughout her career, Mrs. Cromwell has served the Department of the Army faithfully and personified the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. As the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division within the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison (OCLL), Mrs. Cromwell worked with many Congressional offices on a wide variety of Army issues and programs with the

highest degree of professionalism and outstanding resourcefulness. We all ought to recognize and celebrate her many accomplishments.

Mrs. Cromwell began her career working for OCLL's Congressional Inquiry Division on December 29, 1980, as a Clerk Typist. Mrs. Cromwell has served in many positions within the Congressional Inquiry Division, including a two-year stint in the Senate Liaison Division on Capitol Hill. She has worked her entire federal career in the OCLL, supporting and responding to countless inquiries from Members of Congress and their staffers, the Army Senior Leader, and constituents. Mrs. Cromwell has also helped with the release of Army contract and casualty announcements to Congress, ensuring the needs of contractors, civilians, soldiers, and their families were met. Additionally, she was tasked with several special missions directly supporting the Secretary of the Army. From these successes she was ultimately promoted to Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division in 2018. During her tenure, Mrs. Cromwell has guided the division and organization through numerous major events.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cromwell has loyally served the Department of the Army throughout the Cold War, Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, the September 11, 2001 tragedy, Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel. For her indelible contributions to our country, Mrs. Cromwell received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, Superior Civilian Service Award, Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Civilian Service Achievement Medal. She did not serve because she wanted awards and accolades, however. She served because she believed in the vital importance of her work.

Mrs. Cromwell has been an invaluable asset to our government, our men and women in uniform, and the American people. Although many will be sad to see her departure, she deserves a long and happy retirement. As she starts this next chapter, I wish her, her husband Stewart, her two sons, and the rest of their family and friends well. I am certain that all my fellow Members of the House will join me in thanking Mrs. Michelle Cromwell for her commitment and contributions to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on rollcall No. 716, and YEA on rollcall No. 717.

RECOGNIZING ABRAHAM
SCHNITZER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of First Lieutenant Abraham "Abe" Schnitzer of Houston, Texas, and his service as a navigator in the United

States Army Air Corps during the Second World War.

Mr. Schnitzer was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on August 18, 1923. After graduating from Port Arthur High School, he went to work for Bethlehem (previously called Pennsylvania) Shipyard in Beaumont, Texas. In 1942, while working as a foreman overseeing shipbuilding operations, Mr. Schnitzer felt called to quit his "safe job" and join the military to defend his country. He did so and was commissioned in the United States Army Air Corps.

He specialized as a navigator on the B-17 Flying Fortress. He was first assigned to the 445th Bombardment Group of the 2nd Air Division of the Eighth Air Force to continue training on B-17 bombers. He was soon designated the lead navigator of the entire group and guided many bombing missions over Nazi-occupied France and Belgium.

As the war continued, he was eventually placed in the B-24 Liberator, where he and his crew carried out 20 dangerous missions over Germany. In fact, his bombardment group led the first bombing mission on Berlin. American actor and icon Jimmy Stewart was one of the officers in that group, and he would join Mr. Schnitzer and the other airmen in their downtime.

During his time in the European Theater, Mr. Schnitzer flew 24 combat missions and accumulated 165 combat flight hours. According to his service records, he "navigated B-24 aircraft over land and sea by dead reckoning, pilotage, celestial, and radio navigation." For his military duty, Mr. Schnitzer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars, and a commendation from the French government.

Interestingly, two of Mr. Schnitzer's missions over Kassel, Germany, carry personal significance, as it was the very town that his future wife and her Jewish family fled during the early years of what would be known as the Holocaust in 1937. He met Edith Isenberg as an Air Force Cadet in 1942 and sent her a daily postcard from Europe until he returned home in 1945. They were married for 68 years and had three children: Robert, Dinah, and Alan.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Abraham "Abe" Schnitzer, a centenarian and distinguished patriot of our great Nation. May God continue to bless Mr. Schnitzer—a proud member of the Greatest Generation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 707, Bill Number H.R. 3224; NAY on rollcall No. 708, Bill Number H.R. 5378; and YEA on rollcall No. 709, Bill Number H.R. 6503.

ALONZO MEDINA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

Alonzo has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Alonzo, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alonzo's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a serious illness that required medical attention, I missed several votes last week. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on rollcall No. 692; NAY on rollcall No. 693; YEA on rollcall No. 694; YEA on rollcall No. 695; YEA on rollcall No. 696; PRESENT on rollcall No. 697; YEA on rollcall No. 698; NAY on rollcall No. 699; YEA on rollcall No. 700; NAY on rollcall No. 701; YEA on rollcall No. 702; NAY on rollcall No. 703; NAY on rollcall No. 705; and NAY on rollcall No. 706.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, I was not present in the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 716, and NAY on rollcall No. 717.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
AND LEGACY OF JUDGE JOHN J.
RUFÉ

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of a notable constituent from my district and friend, the Honorable John J. Rufe, who passed away on November 18.

Judge Rufe had served the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County as a judge since 1989, serving in a full-time capacity until 2009,

whereupon he entered into a Senior Judgeship within the County of Bucks. Judge Rufe was dedicated to serving the residents of Bucks County, and during his years of service he always looked forward to a day's work at the bench. During his tenure as a Senior Judge presiding over drug court, Judge Rufe fully supported and advocated for efforts to meaningfully help the rehabilitation of those suffering from addiction throughout Bucks County.

Judge Rufe left the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas in December 2018, leaving behind a profound legacy that touched so many lives. Judge Rufe will be remembered for his commitment to serving the residents of Bucks County and for his dedication to learning from the past and to confronting the challenges that our community will face in the future.

Judge Rufe will always be remembered as a loving Husband, Father, and Grandfather and we are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact he has had on our community. Let us continue his legacy of public service each and every day.

COMMEMORATING THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF BORICUACTIVATED

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when most people imagine American democracy, they picture the House, Senate, or the President and the work that we do as lawmakers to enact critical legislation to carry out the Nation's business. Or maybe they imagine themselves and their friends and neighbors in the voting booth, casting ballots that will determine the make-up of government at the state, local, and federal levels.

To me, however, American democracy also takes another form: the ongoing dialogue between citizens and public servants like us they elect to represent them. In these conversations we learn our constituents' hopes and dreams for the future, learn to make their priorities our priorities, and live up to our founders' ideal that the people should be allowed—and encouraged—to petition their government.

That is true civic engagement; and that idea is at the heart of BoricuActivatEd, a stellar, Philadelphia-based volunteer-run organization that is now celebrating its 6th year.

The organization was created during the tragedies of Hurricanes Maria and Irma which struck Puerto Rico in 2017, killing an estimated 3,000 people and leading to the longest power blackout in U.S. history. The group was created to mobilize people across the country to advocate for needed disaster aid and was immediately successful in marshaling the combined voice of the Puerto Rican Diaspora. They made their power felt and demonstrated that civic engagement works.

Through their civic engagement workshops, BoricuActivatEd has provided over 4,000 individuals with the tools they need to make their voices heard. Thanks to BoricuActivatEd's tireless efforts, countless more high school students, former juvenile offenders, and community members from across the country will have the opportunity and ability to advocate for the issues important to them. And their elected officials are listening. Indeed, I can personally attest, having participated in their workshops, how effective and valuable these sessions can be.

As it enters its seventh year, BoricuActivatEd continues to grow its programs, developing new curricula for high school students—including the Esperanza Academy in my district—and expanding their programs into new cities, to empower the next generation of Americans.

By training people of all ages and securing the participation of elected officials at all levels

of government, BoricuActivatEd embodies civic engagement and community empowerment at its finest.

I am proud to congratulate BoricuActivatEd on their 6th anniversary and wish them every success as they embark on new accomplishments in the years ahead.

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 Thursday, December 14, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the future of arms control and deterrence.

SD-419