

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NORA RIKEL

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nora Rikel of Paducah, Kentucky, for her retirement from Greater Paducah Economic Development after 34 years of service.

Nora Rikel first began working with Greater Paducah Economic Development in 1989, assisting in the recruitment of Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation project (AVLIS). Serving as the CFO, Nora provided endless institutional knowledge of local government and steadfast commitment to her community that made her invaluable.

As a veteran of Paducah-McCracken economic development, Nora's leadership and contributions will be missed deeply. I commend her for an outstanding career. I join with the community of Paducah in celebrating the service and dedication of Nora Rikel. I want to thank Nora for being an extraordinary leader to her community and the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR.
KEITH LILLIS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keith Lillis who has served six terms as the District One Supervisor on the Board of Supervisors for Neshoba County. Keith Lillis previously served as president of the Board and will retire as vice president of the Board.

Mississippi born and raised, Mr. Lillis graduated from Neshoba County High School and attended East Central Junior College where he played football for the East Central Warriors. Mr. Lillis met and married Union, Mississippi native Marcha Howle, and together they have two sons and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Lillis has committed his time and expertise to the supervisor community in Mississippi, serving on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors since 2012. He also attended and graduated as a member of the inaugural class of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Institute for Excellence in County Government. Since 2020, Mr. Lillis has also served on the Board of Directors of the East Central Planning and Development District.

Mr. Lillis's career of service is appreciated throughout Neshoba County, and I am thankful to honor his service here today. I wish Mr. Lillis well in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF WWII VETERAN
CHARLES PLATZER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Williamsville, New York resident and World War II Navy Veteran Charles Platzer.

Mr. Platzer was born on December 24, 1923 in Depew, New York and worked at the Chevrolet plant on Delavan Avenue. At the young age of 18 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was sent to bootcamp in Sampson, New York. He then received training at the quartermaster school in Newport, Rhode Island where he learned to navigate the ocean. Afterwards, he began his amphibious training in Virginia where they learned the important skill of attacking the land from the sea which would obviously prove to be important during World War II.

When it was time to put his skills to the test he sailed through the Panama Canal, around through the West Coast and eventually ended up in the Marshall Islands. They landed during a battle.

Eventually he headed back to the United States and went through the Panama Canal again on his way to the Philippines where he waited to invade Japan. He was part of the armada that was about to invade Japan but thankfully the war ended, and he was one of the lucky ones who headed safely home on January 12, 1946.

After the war he returned to school to finish what he started and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University at Buffalo and his master's degree in education from Canisius College. The skills he learned in the military helped him focus on pursuing an education while raising his family and working. When he was 46 years of age, he began teaching at Erie Community College as an assistant professor and eventually became a full-time professor. He believes that living honestly is the key to living a long life. Today, I am asking all present to join me in celebrating the wonderful life of Charles Platzer.

HONORING JACK MIDDLETON ON
HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 95th birthday of Jack Middleton, an attorney and senior member of McLane Middleton's Litigation Department. A dedicated member of the New Hampshire legal community, Jack's storied career and his dedication

to his colleagues has inspired countless individuals.

Born and raised outside of Philadelphia, Jack attended Lafayette College before earning his law degree at Boston University. Camping in the New Hampshire mountains as a child and working for the Appalachian Mountain Club as a young adult solidified his love for the Granite State. In 1956, Jack joined McLane Middleton, then just a firm of ten lawyers that today boasts approximately one hundred. Jack's keen interest in civil litigation allowed him to form long-lasting bonds with lawyers from around New England that carried him throughout his career.

Throughout his more than sixty years in the legal profession, Jack has remained committed to public service and the pursuit of justice. A certified trial specialist for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Jack served on the National Center for State's Courts Lawyer's Committee and as a New Hampshire District Court Judge. Jack has consistently displayed a level of professionalism and altruism throughout his career and has served as an inspiration to the Granite State legal community.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I wish Jack a very happy 95th birthday and commend him for his lifetime of hard work and dedication to our community. I hope he has a wonderful birthday and year.

HONORING MR. LAFON CRAVENS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lafon Cravens of the 1st District of Kentucky for his dedicated service to our country and his community of Liberty.

Mr. Cravens courageously served in the United States Navy From 1951 through 1955, while being deployed to Korea, Hong Kong, and the Philippines. While on a destroyer escort, Mr. Cravens was aboard the USS *Ernest G. Small*, which struck a mine and sank. Mr. Cravens was in the water for several hours before he was able to be rescued. Upon his rescue, he was able to return to shore and continued to serve his country for the coming years.

I join with everyone in Casey County and throughout the Commonwealth in thanking Mr. Cravens for his valorous service and sacrifices. I am honored to represent Mr. Cravens and appreciate his service to the United States Navy.

• 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.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO INSTALL THE D.C. SEAL IN THE MAIN READING ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill that would require the Library of Congress (LOC) to install the District of Columbia seal in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the LOC. The LOC provides not only D.C. residents but visitors and researchers from across the nation access to incomparable resources. The bill would require the LOC to depict D.C.'s seal on the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, where the seals of all the states and territories that existed when the Thomas Jefferson Building was constructed are depicted. The seals of Hawaii and Alaska are not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time argues for the inclusion of D.C., which, after all, was the nation's capital at the time. This omission was brought to my attention by a D.C. resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the LOC.

D.C. residents have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the LOC, was burned, prompting construction of the Thomas Jefferson Building. It is, therefore, without question that D.C. and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained-glass windows that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized.

There is existing evidence that the D.C. seal should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Thomas Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, has a painted depiction of the D.C. seal included with state seals on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces our request to be represented among the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public.

Congress already includes D.C., or has corrected the omission of it, when honoring the states. For example, each state is entitled to two statues in the Capitol, and D.C. has two statues in the Capitol. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the D.C. flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation gave D.C. a coin after D.C. was omitted from legislation creating coins for the states. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal with the seals of the states in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY MOSSER

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, Major General (MG) Gregory Mosser on his retirement from the United States Army Reserve.

For exceptionally meritorious service while serving in positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in a 36-year career as the Deputy Chief of Army Reserve, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, Washington, DC. MG Mosser's leadership significantly and positively impacted the lives of countless service members, and his career of service and achievements will have a lasting impact on the Army's future ability to fight and win the nation's wars. Upon retirement, MG Mosser is recognized for distinguished performance of duty that represents exemplary achievement in the finest traditions of the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. GEORGE THOMAS HAYES

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 26 years of service of George Thomas Hayes to Newton County, Mississippi.

George was born in 1948 near Trenton, Tennessee, and graduated in 1966 from Peabody High School. After graduation he attended the University of Tennessee and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science. His first job out of college was with Massey Ferguson Tractor Corporation where he worked as a salesman until 1982. George then decided to embark on his own and bought a tractor dealership in Union, Mississippi. Upon moving to Mississippi, George met and married Lynn Hayes in November of 1982. Together they had two children and five grandchildren.

George fell in love with the Newton County community and dedicated much of his life to service within the County. In 1987, George was elected as the Justice Court Judge where he served for five years. In 1992, he was elected as the Newton County Tax Collector and served there for four years. George then ran for Newton County Chancery Clerk and was elected in 1996. He served from 1997 until December of 2023.

I am thankful for the many years of service George has dedicated to Newton County, Mississippi, and wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING THADDEUS L. BETTNER

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Thaddeus L.

Bettner, the General Manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID). Thad has served as the GCID's General Manager since 2006.

Thad is a registered Civil Engineer with the State of California and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Thad has an unparalleled wealth of experience from a 33-year tenure within irrigation and water agencies. During his career, Thad has served with many different water agencies in planning, design, operation and management of water delivery systems on local, state and the federal level.

Thad has also worked on almost every water issue in the state, serving with water agencies in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Imperial Valley.

During those many years, Thad has also worked alongside the Northern California Water Association, served on the Board of the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, and as a Board Member of the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority. Thad has also published several papers on agricultural water use efficiency and irrigation systems efficiencies.

Thad has been a critical advocate and resource for the development of Sites Reservoir, even serving as the Chair of the Sites Reservoir Committee for a time. The Sites Reservoir project would not be where it is today without his efforts and leadership.

Thad has always been someone my office and I could turn to for answers on the many ongoing water issues we face in this state. I thank him for his work in serving our rural North State community and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING GLADES COUNTY COMMISSIONER DONNA LOU STORTER LONG

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Glades County Commissioner Donna Lou Storter Long, who sadly passed away in December after a hard-fought battle with cancer. A Hendry and Glades County native, Long pursued her calling to serve her community through impactful public service.

After a career in office management and financial accounting, Long became a devoted civic servant for nearly two decades. She was appointed to the Glades County Commission in 2004 by former Governor Jeb Bush. Her passionate leadership reverberated throughout her community as she consistently advocated for the betterment of Glades County. She served as a mentor to many who knew her.

Long is survived by her husband, two sons and stepdaughter, along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews who all enjoyed spending quality time together playing cards and getting together for Sunday dinners.

May Donna rest in peace. She will be remembered as one of the most dedicated community leaders in the state of Florida and will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE TAMIL SANGAM
OF MISSOURI

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the Tamil Sangam of Missouri organization and their mission to preserve and nurture the Tamil language and culture. The Tamil people have a long and beautiful history, and I am delighted that so many Tamil families call Missouri's second congressional district home. The community contributes much to the St. Louis region as leaders in business, medicine, education, and other fields generating economic growth and prosperity.

The Tamil Sangam of Missouri has worked to preserve and teach the Tamil language—one of the world's oldest surviving languages, with a history and traditions stretching more than 2,900 years. Tamil is widely spoken in South India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and many other countries globally. The Tamils embrace the great responsibility of passing their culture and language to the next generation and I am eager to see that my district is playing a role in this ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating their culture.

The Tamil community has also made significant contributions to the bilingual literacy in our great state. Missouri Tamil School students have acquired the "Missouri Seal of Bilingual Literacy" for the Tamil language. Additionally, the school has displayed remarkable enthusiasm in charity and volunteer efforts globally. These efforts have made the Missouri Tamil School one of the certifying organizations for the U.S. President's "Volunteer Service Award" to recognize the most exceptional volunteers.

The Tamil community is worthy of recognition from the State and Federal government as they have played a vital role in the preservation and advancement of the vibrant Tamil culture and heritage in our state. It is a privilege to represent the many Tamil families who live and work in Missouri's second congressional district and I send my wishes for a happy Pongal to all who celebrate.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY,
AND IMPACT OF FORMER CON-
GRESSWOMAN EDDIE BERNICE
JOHNSON OF TEXAS'S 30TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lay tribute to the late former Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, who passed away Sunday on December 31, 2023.

Born in a segregated South in Waco, Texas, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson never lacked the courage that would prove her to be a trailblazer and one of the most dedicated and iconic leaders the State of Texas has ever had. Her early experiences with racism fueled the beginning that is the legacy she now leaves behind.

Congresswoman Johnson was a woman of many firsts. She became the first Black woman to serve as Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the Dallas Veterans Affairs Hospital where she worked until becoming only the third ever Black woman elected to the Texas State House of Representatives. She would later be elected as the first Black woman from Dallas since the Reconstruction to serve in the Texas State Senate. During her time in the Texas Legislature, she worked to better the lives of the people she served, particularly by advancing fair housing and access to health care.

Congresswoman Johnson would later become the first registered nurse to ever be elected to the U.S. Congress and the first woman and African American to chair the Science, Space, & Technology Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. During her three decades in Congress, Chairwoman Johnson secured hundreds of millions of federal dollars for the Dallas area, including to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit. And as a tribute to her legacy, the Dallas Union Station was renamed as the "Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station."

During her last session in Congress, Chairwoman Johnson ushered the CHIPS & Science Act into law. While most people know about the historic number of domestic jobs created from this law, few know that Chairwoman Johnson helped ensure this law also had historic investments for STEM and research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. For decades to come, her work will live on.

Her legacy is not only marked by the titles she held, but also her decades worth of vigorous work for the people of Texas and the United States. As her successor, I do not take lightly the honor and heavy responsibility I have to honor her work and continue her legacy of excellence. Effectively serving in Congress is no easy task, but it is a noble endeavor—a fact Chairwoman Johnson knew well. Each and every day, I dedicate myself to the people of Texas' 30th Congressional District and fight for those same values Chairwoman Johnson honored.

My thoughts and prayers are with Chairwoman Johnson's son, Kirk, and her entire family, friends, and the community she impacted through her remarkable journey of public service. During this time of mourning and the days ahead, I pray that her family and friends find the peace knowing Chairwoman Johnson lived a dutiful life in service to others.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARK
HANEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Mark Haney, who is retiring as the longest serving President of Kentucky Farm Bureau. Mark has dedicated the last 15 years at the helm of Kentucky's largest property and casualty insurance company in the Commonwealth and served on the board for more than three decades.

Farming is in the Haney bloodline. In fact, Haney's Appledale Farm in Nancy, Kentucky

is Pulaski County's oldest business in continuous operation, having been passed down through five generations to Mark and his brother Don Haney. His experience on the farm at an early age primed him to advocate for better agricultural policies on Capitol Hill and in the Bluegrass.

Family farms account for 96% of all U.S. farms, according to the latest census report on agriculture, generating more than \$318 billion worth of agricultural products across the country. Knowing the battles that legacy producers face, Mark has engaged and inspired the next generation of farmers and producers, to protect the future of the industry that feeds and fuels our nation. His name has become synonymous with Kentucky Farm Bureau, taking on a national voice in our legislative chambers to ensure future funding is secured for agricultural needs and removing regulatory burdens from our hardest-working Americans.

Over the last two years, Kentucky Farm Bureau has faced some of the toughest storms with Kentuckians, from devastating tornadoes in western and central Kentucky, to one of the deadliest floods in Eastern Kentucky's history in July 2022. KFB agents not only responded to critical insurance claims, but actively volunteered in our hardest-hit communities, serving food, and helping families and businesses through the lengthy and challenging recovery process.

As a family man and insightful community leader, Mark has always marched forward with devout courage of conviction, ready to lend a helping hand and readily giving back to the Lake Cumberland region where he was raised. Although he is retiring, Mark's legacy and voice will carry far beyond the farmlands of southern Kentucky. He has diligently planted and watered the seeds of a plentiful harvest for the people of Kentucky and the future farmers of America.

My wife Cynthia and I deeply appreciate the loyal friendship of Mark and Marlene, and we wish them the most joyful years of retirement in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. FRANK J. ANDREWS, JR.

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mr. Frank J. Andrews, Jr. Mr. Andrews leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to the Solano County community.

Born in Illinois, Mr. Andrews moved to Fairfield, California in 1950, where he attended Bransford Elementary and graduated from Armijo High School in 1967. Mr. Andrews demonstrated his industrious spirit and natural talent for leadership from a young age. He served as a leader in Future Farmers of America and worked picking and drying fruit at the German Dry Yards in Suisun Valley, where he discovered his appreciation for supporting his community through agricultural work.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Andrews began working at his family's commercial plumbing company, Amos and Andrews, where he learned the importance of hard work, grit, and persistence. From digging

ditches to working as a plumber to eventually becoming a construction foreman, Mr. Andrews came to understand the importance of every single role in the company, a perspective that served him well as he progressed in his career.

In 1988, Mr. Andrews founded his own land development company, Andrews, Lando and Associates, with his partner Bob Lando. He also went on to form ASB Properties, with his partners David Stroud and Michael Books. For over 40 years, Mr. Andrews' land development expertise and knowledge of city planning significantly impacted communities in Northern California. His crucial contributions and indispensable leadership played a vital role in developing major master-planned communities that spanned from the Bay Area to Yolo County, including Goldridge, Canon Station, Rancho Solano, Bridgeway Island, and Bridgeway Lakes.

Mr. Andrew's commitment to California was not only expressed through his critical work in land development, but also through his public service to Solano County. He served on the Solano Land Trust for 40 years, working tirelessly to protect the environment and ensure Solano County's natural landscapes are preserved for future generations.

In addition to his community leadership, Mr. Andrews also exemplified the spirit of altruism and innovation in all areas of his life. Mr. An-

drews and his wife, Helen, sponsored the Airmen Committed to Excellence Program, which helps provide the opportunities and services necessary to allow all servicemembers at Travis Air Force Base to thrive.

Mr. Andrews will be remembered not only for his critical work in the land development industry, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness, compassion, and humility. He impacted the lives of countless members of his community and his steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of his fellow Solano County residents.

Mr. Andrew's enduring spirit will live on in his wife, six children, 10 grandchildren, and the community he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Andrew's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Solano County, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING MR. HOWARD GARRETT

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Howard Garrett of the 1st Dis-

trict of Kentucky on his retirement from Edmonton State Bank after 50 years of service and dedication. This momentous occasion gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the extraordinary achievements of Mr. Garrett, a respected member of the community.

A lifelong resident of Metcalfe County, Mr. Garrett has devoted his time to improving the community he calls home. In addition to his years of service at Edmonton State Bank, Mr. Garrett also served as the mayor of Edmonton for a quarter of a century. During his tenure as mayor, he championed several projects that helped the city to continue to progress in development, including the establishment of Edmonton Memorial Park.

Mr. Garrett has also served as President of the Fair Board and as a trustee of the Metcalfe County Public Library. He has dedicated his life to serving the people of Metcalfe County.

I join with everyone in Metcalfe County in honoring the incredible career and devotion of Mr. Garrett to the community. I wish him the best as he begins the next phase of life and express my gratitude for his service to the 1st District of Kentucky.