

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAYDEN THOM

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, Hayden Thom. Hayden has been involved with the Scouts since the second grade and has been a very active member in the years since. Throughout his journey, he has held several leadership positions, earned thirty merit badges, and completed almost 200 hours of community service. His trail to Eagle Scout culminated with his Eagle Scout project where he helped design and install a new display for a World War II Anti-Tank Gun for American Legion Post 452 in Mullica Hill, South Jersey. This display included a new concrete pad, lighting, new flag poles, protective bollards for the gun, and decorative stone. He hopes to stay involved with the troops and give back by volunteering with his scout troop as an adult leader. In June of 2026, Hayden will graduate from Gloucester County Institute of Technology and plans to attend the Universal Technical Institute to further study the automotive industry. I know this young man will do big things, and I am incredibly proud of him for this accomplishment. God bless Hayden and God bless the United States of America.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Let's be clear about what this tax deal is: just another Republican handout to big corporations and oil companies. Congressional Republicans are claiming victory with this bill, touting the \$600 billion in tax cuts for corporations if the corporate tax cuts in this bill are made permanent.

The 2017 Trump-GOP tax scam has added \$1.9 trillion to the deficit. Republicans voted to raise taxes on the middle class to pay for their deficit-exploding giveaway to big corporations and billionaires. Thanks to the Trump-GOP tax scam, big corporations and oil companies have enjoyed lower taxes and have taken advantage of tax credits. Big corporations like Amazon, Google, Facebook, and Marathon Petroleum already pay far too little in taxes each year. H.R. 7024 would give them access to even more tax cuts. Congress should be ensuring big corporations and oil companies

pay their fair share rather than helping them get a leg up.

I support the Child Tax Credit and voted for it in the American Rescue Plan, but H.R. 7024 is eighty-two pages long and only three pages pertain to the credit. In those three pages, the Child Tax Credit provisions fail to replicate the success of the improved Child Tax Credit provided to families by the American Rescue Plan. Under H.R. 7024, fewer families will be eligible, and the credit will be received as an annual refund. We heard from families who said the monthly payments are what made this credit so helpful to them in 2021 to pay their monthly bills, keep healthy and nutritious food on the table, and manage a mortgage or rent. I look forward to working with NETWORK, Save the Children, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and other advocacy groups to put forward a tax bill that accomplishes all our goals with the Child Tax Credit.

I strongly opposed the Trump-GOP tax scam when it was rushed through Congress in 2017. Donald Trump and the GOP promised increased tax revenues to offset the massive debt they created, but it never materialized. Instead, the tax scam ballooned the deficit. I've been outspoken in the past about how harmful those tax cuts were, and I believe H.R. 7024 is another Republican scam to give big corporations a break while the rest of America picks up the tab. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 7024.

RECOGNIZING CHAIRMAN KEITH ANDERSON OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate outgoing Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Chairman Keith Anderson on a successful four years as Chairman of SMSC's Business Council.

Chairman Anderson served for five terms on SMSC's Business Council. I'm thankful for our strong working relationship during his time as Chairman and it is a privilege to represent the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Congress. In particular, I'm proud to have secured \$2.5 million in federal funding to help complete a clean water reclamation system at SMSC's new organics recycling facility, Dakota Prairie Composting.

Chairman Anderson continued SMSC's strong national presence having served as co-chairman of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, advocating for native farming practices and serving as board chairman for Koda Energy, a partnership between Rahr Malting and SMSC that creates energy by burning dry biomass fuels. As a member of the Business Council, he also helped oversee the construction and

opening of Hocokata Ti, SMSC's cultural center and museum. I'm grateful for our partnership and wish Chairman Anderson the best.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE CORPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January it was my pleasure to attend the Middle Township Ambulance Corps Installation of Officers Dinner in Cape May Court House, South Jersey. During this dinner we recognized members for their outstanding achievements, honored those who displayed exceptional bravery during the pandemic, and celebrated the installation of these officers. It was my honor to celebrate the following new officers as they took their oath of office: Deborah A. Rue as President, Theodore Bohn as Vice President, Deborah Brannon as Treasurer, Julie Mounts as Secretary, Joseph F. Eagan, IV as Chief, Gary Seabridge, Jr. as Assistant Chief, Brian Mounts as Captain, Zachary Lex as First Lieutenant, Andrew Raniszewski as Second Lieutenant, and Charles Roach Third Lieutenant. Middle Township Ambulance Corps, Inc. is the sole volunteer ambulance corps in Middle Township, covering over 89 square miles. Our South Jersey community feels safer knowing this group of amazing people will always be there to answer their call. I want to thank them for their unwavering dedication and their invaluable contributions to our community. God Bless Middle Township Ambulance Corps and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA ARCHER OF CANTON CITY PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Archer from Canton as the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week. Amanda is the first woman to lead Canton City Public Health as Health Commissioner in its 175-year history. In addition to working for the health department since 2014, she also worked as an epidemiologist in the Stark County Coroner's Office as an epidemiologist to inform decisions and policies to help prevent disease in the community.

This experience made her an easy fit as the lead epidemiologist for Canton's COVID-19 response in 2020, helping Canton residents understand critical information about the virus. Amanda has dedicated herself to the health and wellbeing of her community, and I am excited to see how she leads Canton City Public Health in her new role.

● 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.

Congratulations once more to the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week, Amanda Archer.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TONY JUNIOUS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a trailblazing public servant and pillar in the Summerton, South Carolina, community. Mayor Tony Junious tragically passed away on January 27, 2024. He was loved by everybody who knew him and will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in Summerton, Tony embodied the spirit of the town. Attending Clarendon County schools, he had an insatiable desire to learn and graduated from Scott's Branch High School as class President in 1995. Though Tony became a successful entrepreneur, it was his passion for education that led him to public service. The community elected him to serve on various Clarendon County School District Boards of Trustees. During his tenure, Tony increased high school graduation rates, began career readiness programs, volunteered at school events, mentored young leaders, and organized scholarship dinners for Scott's Branch High School Seniors. He was especially committed to younger students and ensuring they had a strong foundation to prepare them for the future.

After spending two decades advocating on behalf of Summerton's children, Tony ran for Mayor of Summerton with a bold vision of moving the town forward bolstering economic development, improving the water system, and bringing more healthcare options to the area. On April 5, 2022, Tony was elected the first Black Mayor of Summerton. In his first year, Mayor Junious achieved significant milestones; securing a \$25,000 Hometown Grant, securing \$12 million in infrastructure grants, initiating a Hood zone study, participating in the Broadband Internet Access Survey, establishing a Community Clean-Up Group, and passing an ordinance on firearms safety.

While Mayor Junious had big visions for Summerton, he had an even bigger heart. He had a gift for making every person in the town feel they belonged and that their voice was heard. With an infectious smile and a heart of gold, he emanated a sense of pride for Summerton that rippled through the entire community. Even during difficult times, his warm presence and astute leadership reassured everyone that no challenge was too big to overcome. Whenever Mayor Junious set his mind to something, rest assured he would achieve it.

A man of deep faith, Tony attended various churches throughout his life and was ordained an Elder and Minister. He recently received his Doctorate under the leadership of Apostle Elizabeth Gipson at the Open House of Prayer Healing and Deliverance Ministries, where he served as Chair of the Pastor aide committee.

Left to cherish Tony's memory is his loving wife, LaShenda Miller Junious, his mother, stepmother, grandmother, four sons, three daughters, stepdaughter, adopted daughter, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life of Mayor Tony Junious. In his honor, the people of Summerton have committed to moving forward with the vision Mayor Junious put in motion, a testament to the enduring impact of his legacy that will resonate for many years to come.

HARVEY AND MADALYN ROVINSKY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of celebrating Harvey and Madalyn Rovinsky and their retirement after almost 60 years in the jewelry business. Through their hard work and dedication over the years, Harvey and Madalyn have cemented their names in the luxury jewelry industry. Harvey joined the jewelry business at a young age, working with his father as a watchmaker. In 1966, he joined Bernie Robbins Jewelers, working for his future parents-in-law. He learned vital business lessons from Bernie, emphasizing credibility and customer relationships. In 1992, Harvey and Madalyn transformed the company, creating an exquisite jewelry destination that now has three locations spread over Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Under their leadership, Bernie Robbins has become a highly decorated business, receiving countless recognitions and awards. In 2022, they received the National Jeweler Retailer Hall of Fame Award and Bernie Robbins Jewelers was recognized as a New Jersey Top Workplace for employee engagement. Because of their hard work, Bernie Robbins has become synonymous with expertise and exceptional customer experiences in a welcoming atmosphere. I hope Harvey and Madalyn enjoy their retirement, and I know their legacy will continue to shine brightly for years to come. God Bless Harvey and Madalyn and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANEELAH AFZALI

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Aneelah Afzali, who is stepping down after over seven years of service as the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS-AMEN).

Aneelah founded MAPS-AMEN in December 2016 to combat rising islamophobia and empower the Pacific Northwest Muslim American community. I was proud to bring Aneelah as my guest to the 2017 State of the Union Address during my first year in Congress. Her story as a Muslim American woman of color is truly the American story. Aneelah's presence demonstrated to President Trump that he could not silence the patriotism and resolve of people in this country based on their race, reli-

gion or country of origin. Her continued organizing over the next seven years impacted the lives of thousands and exemplified her commitment to the realization of a just world.

Throughout her career, Aneelah's work with faith and non-faith communities has built bridges across religious, racial, cultural and political divides. Aneelah currently serves on a number of governing and advisory boards. Through this service, she emphasizes intersectionality and equity within the contexts of a wide array of issues such as gun violence prevention, racial justice, immigration reform and educational equity. She also continues to work with the Washington State Refugee Coordinator to welcome and resettle of Afghan refugees. She is a true community activist, interfaith leader, and civil rights advocate.

Aneelah's particular combination of brilliance, commitment to organizing and community, tenacity and strategic ability has been a true gift to our region and our people. She has inspired and celebrated the leadership of countless others, and of regular community members taking action and recognizing the power of their voices. Her integrity and values underlie everything, and she has never wavered from those no matter how challenging the situation. I have been continually inspired by Aneelah's work to combat hate and create a more equitable society.

As she continues her work to empower communities in new ways, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Aneelah's many accomplishments and contributions to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Aneelah for her partnership, service to the people of the Pacific Northwest and dedication to the fight for justice.

RECOGNIZING AARIT KOUL OF JACKSON MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Aarit Koul (Air-it Cool) from Jackson Memorial Middle School in Massillon as the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week. Aarit is the winner of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge for Ohio's 13th Congressional District. As part of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge, Aarit designed an app called "CareCivic," which is designed to encourage young people to become civically engaged.

CareCivic includes information about our government and important events in United States history, as well as games like ping pong and trivia so you can learn while playing. Aarit's app is an impressive combination of technical skill and passion for civics rolled into one. Aarit's app helps teach younger generations just how precious our democracy is and why it's important they make their voices heard to create change on the issues they care about.

Congratulations once more to the Ohio-13 Champion of the Week, Aarit Koul.

RYAN SIMPKINS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the honor of celebrating Ryan Simpkins and his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America. During his time in the Scouts, Ryan has learned valuable lessons in leadership, friendship, and service and will carry these lessons with him for the rest of his life. For Ryan's Eagle Scout project, he assembled "Little Libraries", which are a free book exchange where people can take a book or share a book. His noble goal was to encourage literacy in his home area of Hopewell South Jersey and Bridgeton South Jersey. The Scouting experience has left an indelible mark on Ryan, and he will continue his scouting experience as an adult leader in scouting later in life. Congratulations to Ryan on achieving this milestone, and I wish him all the best. God Bless Ryan and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2024 theme—African Americans and the Arts. This year's theme reflects on the important work of African American artists throughout the country who preserve history, enrich communities, and create empowerment through the visual and performing arts including literature, film, music, fashion, culinary, architecture, and more.

History has shown that the artistic contributions of African Americans have been minimized, excluded, and even denied. African American artistic movements such as the Black Renaissance, the Black Art Movement, and the introduction of the Hip-Hop music genre, to name a few, have been crucial in bringing about change, equality, and social justice to the African American community in the United States and all over the world.

Throughout the years, Northwest Indiana has been home to many successful and noteworthy art-based organizations and programs that are truly inspiring. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few of them, past and present, including Vee-Jay Records, West Side Theater Guild, Gary International Black Film Festival, Gary Theatre Ensemble, Marshall J. Gardener Center for the Arts, Glen Theatre, the Gary Public Murals and Statues Program, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, and the Gary Public Art Competition, among others. For their unwavering dedication to preserving and honoring African Americans and the arts, each organization, program, and its members are worthy of the very highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating

Black History Month and honoring the countless African Americans who have played such a critical role in enriching our culture through the arts. Let us commend each of them for their profound passion, creativity, and perseverance as they have enhanced the quality of life for all Americans.

HONORING CALEIGH GUMBINER'S SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Caleigh Gumbiner for five years and more than two full sessions of Congress as a member of my district office staff.

Caleigh has been with my office from the very beginning. They started our casework operation in 2019 with virtually no resources and have elevated to the role of Director of Constituent Services. For years, Caleigh has worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of Minnesota's Second District.

They've overseen the building up and training of a constituent services team that has returned more than \$4.5 million to constituents and closed over 4,200 cases. Caleigh's been vital to training other congressional offices having worked with the CAO Coach program. They led our district office team through the pandemic and all the various programs Congress passed to serve our constituents and have worked day and night during global conflicts to ensure constituents' safety.

I'll always be grateful for Caleigh's service to my team and our constituents in their various roles over the years and wish them the best in their new role with Second Harvest Heartland—I'm confident they'll continue to serve Minnesotans with exceptional service.

MAYOR ALDO PALOMBO**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, we come together with heavy hearts to honor the life and legacy of former Mayor Aldo Palombo, a passionate and caring man who dedicated his life to service. Mayor Palombo served as the 15th Mayor of North Wildwood from 1994 to 2005 and in his capacity as mayor, completely turned the city around. What was once a run-down city was transformed into a desirable family destination under his leadership. Mayor Palombo was a beacon of optimism and boundless energy during these trying times. His leadership breathed new life into the city of North Wildwood at the time it needed it most. He was a tireless ambassador for North Wildwood, always eager to promote the community and his efforts and commitment left an indelible mark on the city. As we bid farewell to Mayor Aldo Palombo, I extend my deepest condolences to the entire Palombo Family. His memory will live on for generations to come in the city that he cared for so deeply and helped

shape. We are forever grateful for his dedication, optimism, and enduring impact on North Wildwood. May he rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BEULAH JACKSON**HON. PATRICK RYAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of an impactful community leader, Mrs. Beulah Jackson.

As a life-long New York resident, Mrs. Jackson spent her life leading her community of Beacon where she resided for 75 years. She worked alongside politicians and organizations to promote an inclusive and equitable community for those around her.

Her advocacy roles have included being a civic leader of the African American community and a long-time member of the NAACP. She was inspired by the Civil Rights movement recognized leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Jesse Jackson. With such significant role models, Mrs. Jackson worked alongside contemporaries such as Mayor Clara Lou Gould, Peter Seeger, and Rev. Barbara Baker to promote critical relationships between community members and their leaders throughout Dutchess County and the larger New York State.

Mrs. Jackson's legacy has truly made a mark on her local and larger communities. Her incredible dedication to various programs created for uplifting communities, specifically in Poughkeepsie and Beacon, has always been inspiring to those around her and for years to come.

As the first African-American bookkeeper in Poughkeepsie and the first African-American Director of the Anti-Poverty Program in Beacon, Mrs. Jackson was a trailblazer who should be honored for her service. Even her work with scholarship programs at the local schools or in youth clubs, she has touched the lives of the young and the old, truly contributing to the social fabric for the county.

I am truly honored to say that the district I represent had such a strong leader to show all of us the importance of service and community engagement. Her leadership will remain admirable as I hope we all can learn from the accomplishments of this amazing woman.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL JOSEPH REED**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness and in joy to celebrate the life of a good man and a friend of long-standing, Mr. Michael Joseph Reed. Sadly, Michael transitioned from labor to reward on January 15, 2024, at the age of 69. A private service will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024, among family, friends, and loved ones. While his passing leaves in its wake many heavy hearts, upon prayerful reflection, the pain we share must melt into joy. For Michael

Reed leaves a remarkable legacy of service to humanity as a public servant, mentor, confidant, husband, and friend to many.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Michael earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. He also earned a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Michael's career in public service began as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Budget Policy. This experience led him to his first Capitol Hill position as an intern for former Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, who was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. After leaving Congressman Stokes, he joined the staff of Congressman William Gray, Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee, as Legislative Director. After leaving Congressman Gray's office, he was Vice-President for Marketing at the United Negro College Fund. He was also the Director of Regional Card Marketing and Vice-President for Government Affairs for the American Express Company.

When I was selected to serve on the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, I needed a seasoned specialist and adviser. I was blessed to have Michael Reed join my team—starting as a Policy Adviser and Special Assistant, later becoming my Deputy Chief of Staff, and finally my Chief of Staff where he served until his Capitol Hill retirement in 2021.

For 18 years I matriculated in the "Michael Reed School of Budgetary Policy". He was a master of the appropriations process and its nuances. He was also constantly growing and expanding his expertise. Initially unfamiliar with agriculture issues, he quickly became steeped in the knowledge of the field. He was an invaluable asset to me and was respected by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

It was no surprise that upon leaving Capitol Hill, Michael was honored by the communities and industries whose lives his work touched, most notably the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Georgia Peanut Commission. UGA's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences bestowed its Medallion of Honor on Michael in 2021. This award recognizes outstanding individuals for their dedication to the college's mission and is an expression of the University's gratitude for the time, advice, support and impact awardees have provided. The Georgia Peanut Commission presented Michael with its Distinguished Service Award in 2022, which is a testament to the decades of work Michael Reed did to help protect our peanut farmers and grow the peanut industry.

Upon his retirement from the public sector, Michael decided to re-enter the private sector and utilize his extraordinary skills and talents to make a meaningful contribution to mankind's efforts to confront the challenges of the environment and climate change. In 2021, he joined the American Forest Foundation as Vice President of Policy, exploring the pivotal role our nation's forests play and the potential they have in meeting this global challenge.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Michael gave so much to so many for so long and truly lived a complete

and full life. His public service, his devotion to his family, and his service to his community and nation, reflect the legacy he leaves and the joy we must celebrate. Truly the world is a better place because of the life Michael led.

Michael Reed accomplished so much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his loving wife, Attorney Diane Fields Reed, his late father-in-law, Judge Richard Fields, their beloved dog, Alexandra, and a host of family and friends that will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the Nation in saluting and honoring Mr. Michael Joseph Reed for service to his community, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Michael Reed's family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

JASON FETROW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the pleasure of attending Jason Fetrow's Eagle Scout Court of Honor to celebrate his achievement of the highest honor in the scouting world. Jason started his journey with the scouts at just six years old when he joined Cub Scout Pack twelve. At age eleven, he moved up to the Boy Scouts who have allowed him incredible experiences such as the opportunity to attend the World Jamboree in 2019. For his Eagle Scout Project, Jason decided to give back to the fields where he played baseball for eleven years by expanding the trophy case at Gabriel Memorial Baseball Fields by three feet so it can better accommodate the growing number of trophies on display. Just last year, Jason graduated from Cedar Creek High School and he now studies Exercise Science at Stockton University. It was my honor to celebrate this milestone with Jason and wish him all the best in his future. God Bless Jason and God Bless the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution condemning the ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Dr. King famously said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". The United States, credible human

rights organizations, and civil society have documented and published reports and findings that implicate the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in aiding and collaborating with armed groups and militias, including several that are designated for United Nations sanctions due to human rights violations.

Militias engage in illicit mining activities to finance and sustain themselves, often exploiting child labor and engaging in environmental degradation practices that undermine the DRC's economic interests and international treaty obligations.

My resolution condemns all acts of violence perpetrated against ethnic minorities by members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and armed groups operating throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It reaffirms that the United States has held and continues to hold the Government of the DRC responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, in accordance with the DRC's international obligations.

My timely resolution also holds accountable all state security forces that perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population by conducting transparent investigations and prosecutions and taking all additional necessary measures to prevent further atrocities continue progress toward the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, reparation, and resettlement of armed groups in coordination with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2666 (2022). Last, it calls on the President Joe Biden to appoint a Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa, which will be vital to addressing the enduring regional security crisis emanating from eastern DRC.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in condemning the ethnic violence in the DRC.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week across the Nation, we come together to recognize and honor the profound impact of Catholic education. On January 31st, we marked National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, a day that acknowledges the enduring commitment of these institutions to educate not only the mind but also the soul. Catholic Schools, like St. Ann's in Wilmington, Delaware where my grandchildren attend, instill faith, academic excellence, and service in their students. Together, we are not just celebrating a week; we are celebrating the noble mission of Catholic education, to educate the whole child and transcend the boundaries of traditional learning. God bless our Catholic Schools and God Bless the United States of America.