

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 348; YEA on Roll Call No. 349; YEA on Roll Call No. 350; NAY on Roll Call No. 351; and YEA on Roll Call No. 352.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF RYAN HENDRIX

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Deputy Sheriff Ryan Hendrix. A lifelong resident of Western North Carolina, Ryan dedicated his life to the service of his county, his community, and his cherished family.

Ryan was born in Asheville on December 9, 1985, the son of Donald and Heidi Hendrix. As a Christian, Ryan faithfully served his Lord by regularly attending Grace Blue Ridge Church with Pastor Chas Morris.

He graduated from Hendersonville Christian School in 2004. Through the school's mission trip program, Ryan cultivated the passion for service he demonstrated throughout his life. Ryan went on mission trips to border towns in Mexico and worked to better the lives of children.

At 19 years old, Ryan enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps. He trained at Parris Island where he was a squad leader and a sharpshooter. He graduated as a Lance Corporal Marine in 2005 and served in the Marine Reserves for five years. In 2006, Ryan volunteered to serve a tour of duty in Iraq.

Ryan began his career with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office as a detention officer in June 2012. In May 2015, Ryan became a patrol deputy upon completing Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), and he later became a field training officer. He was an active member of the SWAT team and served the Henderson County Sheriff's Office for a total of eight years. Ryan loved his work and serving the local community.

Ryan excelled in sports, especially baseball and soccer, and enjoyed being outdoors. On his days off, he would often go fishing, hunting, biking, and camping.

While Ryan's dedication to serving his community and others is beyond dispute, he reserved the largest piece of his heart for his two children, Ellore and Merritt. He spent all his days off with his children and continuously shared his passion for being outdoors with them. They, along with their mother, Emily, Ryan's fiancée, were the love of his life and always his greatest priority.

On September 10, 2020, Deputy Hendrix tragically lost his life in the line of duty. The loss of Ryan has left a hole in many hearts of those who love him and whose lives he touched.

Today, we honor Ryan with the renaming of the U.S. 64 bridge over Interstate 26 as the "Deputy Ryan P. Hendrix Bridge."

Ryan's life and his legacy—his courage, his bravery, and his dedication to service—shall forever serve as a reminder to North Carolinians that freedom isn't free.

LEADERSHIP, LOYALTY, AND LEGACY: HONORING KIMBERLY S. CLIFTON RUDOLPH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in gratefulness, praise, and thanks to honor the unique leadership, loyalty, and legacy of Kimberly S. Clifton Rudolph, who recently retired from the House as my Chief of Staff.

A proud Hoosier, Kim also has strong ties to Tennessee and Michigan. Thanks to hard work, dedication, and the influence of her aunt—Olympian and trailblazer Wilma Rudolph—Kim became a talented track athlete in high school. Despite receiving athletic scholarships, Kim's mother, Charlene, insisted on her children utilizing their intellectual capacity. As a result, Kim chose to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Graduating with honors with a degree in communications was not enough for Kim, however. She was selected, and attended, the University of Caen in France where she expanded her education in international business. Returning to her second home of Nashville, Tennessee, Kim completed a master's in business education from Belmont University before becoming a successful bank executive and managing her aunt's philanthropic Olympic non-profit organization.

Despite her success in the non-profit and private arenas, Kim, like many Hill staffers, chose the moment over the money. She started out as a communications director and served as legislative director before rising to chief of staff to my friend and mentor, former U.S. Representative Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI). Under Kim's leadership, Congresswoman Kilpatrick was able to steer over \$2 billion to the State of Michigan and helped Representative Kilpatrick become the first, and so far only, Black woman to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Subcommittee for Defense. Kim accepted the opportunity to lead my office when Congresswoman Kilpatrick retired.

Leadership is Kim's strongest quality. Kim is a woman of deep faith, and the equanimity she manifested daily in Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis was essential throughout many challenging moments and accomplishments:

the turmoil of the fight for healthcare reform, my selection as the first Muslim on the House Intelligence Committee; and the upheaval of our Nation during and after January 6, 2021. Kim remains one of the most respected, honored, and decorated chiefs of staff in Congress. Kim is also one of the elite staffers who completed the bicameral and bipartisan fellowship in the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service while simultaneously serving as chief of staff.

Kim helped me bring millions of dollars in Appropriations to the people of Indianapolis and guided a steady, capable staff in Washington, D.C., and in the district office with very little turnover. The dozens of Members of Congress, Hill staff, and others who Kim mentored directly will continue carrying on Kim's legacy. And now, Kim will continue giving back her years of wisdom and experience to serve future leaders as an executive coach.

Kim brought selfless service and moral courage to Capitol Hill for decades, and I thank her for her leadership, loyalty, and legacy of public service. On behalf of the grateful people of the city of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana, I thank Kim and wish her nothing but the best as she continues to make her mark on the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERNA ADAMS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the honorable Judge Verna Adams as she becomes only the fourth recipient and first woman to accept the Marin County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Verna grew up in the town of South Bend, Indiana, as the youngest of five siblings. Even at an early age, she knew that a law career was in her future. After graduating as the valedictorian from her high school, Verna received her bachelor of arts from Wellesley College in 1967. She enrolled at Columbia Law School for her first year before transferring to Stanford. During her time at Stanford, she interned with the legal branch of the California Farm Workers' Union, which was led by Cesar Chavez. Upon receiving her Juris Doctorate in 1970, Verna began working at a small law firm in San Francisco.

Verna moved to Marin County in 1971 when she was offered a full-time role as an associate by a female-led firm, Diamond and Savitt. Her arrival made it the largest all-woman law firm in the nation. It was here that she would discover her passion for family law and community engagement. Verna served on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood and volunteered at Legal Aid of Marin, taking pro bono cases whenever she could. In 1986, Verna was among a small group of attorneys

• 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.

who founded the Family and Children's Law Center to provide low-cost legal services to those with family law issues, including those suffering from domestic abuse.

Judge Adams was sworn in as a Judge of the Marin County Superior Court in 1999, marking the beginning of more than 24 years of service on the bench. During that time, she was elected by her fellow judges to serve as Presiding Judge and was selected by the Chief Justice of California as one of only nineteen judges to serve on the Strategic Evaluation Committee, entrusted with improving court administration across the state. Judge Adams' new role and responsibilities imbued her with the power to create meaningful change for self-represented litigants. She founded the Legal Self-Help Center of Marin, where those without attorneys could obtain assistance with filling out legal forms and gain general legal information. The center has provided for an immense need in Marin County.

Judge Adams has dedicated her illustrious career to empowering some of the most marginalized people of our community—children, women, victims of domestic abuse, and anyone else who must traverse the legal system without legal representation—to access our justice system. When Judge Adams was first appointed to the bench, Marin had only one specialty court. Almost 25 years later, Judge Adams' leadership and advocacy for undeserved populations has led to the creation of three specialty courts for mental health, domestic violence, and drug use.

Judge Adams' legacy is one of distinguished service to the County of Marin and worthy of distinction. Please join me in congratulating her as she accepts this prestigious lifetime achievement award and expressing our deep appreciation for her long and exceptional career and outstanding contributions to our legal system.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF GENERAL DANIEL R. HOKANSON

HON. ANNA PAULINA LUNA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor General Daniel R. Hokanson, the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

General Hokanson was born on June 27th, 1963, in Happy Camp, California, where he graduated from Happy Camp High School and attended the College of the Siskiyous before being accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

General Hokanson graduated from West Point with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army on May 28, 1986. Upon his graduation, General Hokanson spent several years in the United States Army where he served as an aviator with the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, California, including a deployment to Panama for Operation Just Cause from 1989 to 1990. In 1990, he attended the Aviation Officer Advanced Course and AH-64 Combat Aircraft Qualification Course where he became qualified as an Apache pilot. He subsequently served with the 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation

Regiment, including command of Company B at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In 1995, General Hokanson left the United States Army and joined the Oregon Army National Guard where he initially served as the Aide-de-Camp for the Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard. Following this assignment, he served in the Oregon Army National Guard in numerous roles to include Deputy Director of Army Aviation, Commander of the 641st Medical Battalion, and Commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

General Hokanson decided to leave the great northwest in 2010 and pursue a career at the national level by accepting a promotion to brigadier general and assuming the position of Deputy Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. In 2012, General Hokanson was given the opportunity to move further east and serve as the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC, where he was subsequently promoted to Major General.

After spending a few years away and gaining national-level experience, General Hokanson decided to move back home to Oregon in 2013 when he was selected to serve as the Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard. Without a doubt, this assignment accelerated his leadership trajectory and set him up for future assignments in the National Guard, including the Deputy Commander of the United States Northern Command, the 11th Vice Chief of the National Guard, the 21st Director of the Army National Guard, and eventually his current position as the 29th Chief of the National Guard, where he has served since August 2020.

As Chief, General Hokanson led the National Guard through the COVID-19 pandemic, the withdrawal from Afghanistan, multiple major disasters, the overseas deployment of tens of thousands of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, and the addition of 23 State Partnership Program nations. A tireless advocate for National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, General Hokanson and "Team 29" focused on ensuring the National Guard was fully integrated into the Joint Force. He championed the re-establishment of the Army National Guard's eight divisions and elevation of the Vice Chief of the National Guard to a four-star general. General Hokanson is married to his wife Kelly and all three of their children served in the military, following proudly in the footsteps of their father.

Please join me in appreciation for General Hokanson who has selflessly supported and defended our freedoms both at home and abroad, while ensuring our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have remained, "Always Ready, Always There." Thank you, General Hokanson. May God Bless you, your family, and the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING TIARA YACHT'S

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tiara Yachts for

50 years of operation in West Michigan. Founded in 1974 by Mr. Leon Slikkers, this locally owned and operated boat manufacturer has remained committed to manufacturing the highest quality watercraft.

As a multi-generational, family-owned and operated business, the story of Tiara Yachts is a true representation of the American Dream. Mr. Slikkers began building boats in 1946 and founded his own boat company, Slickcraft, shortly after. He then sold this company to launch S2 Yachts, later known as Tiara Yachts, with his sons David and Robert. Together, they worked to revolutionize the marine industry, introducing the Tiara Powerboat in 1976.

With the next generation now at the helm, Tiara Yachts has stayed true to the vision Mr. Slikkers first established: designing and delivering a legacy of quality, innovation, and unrivaled customer experiences that withstand the test of time and continue to evolve with their customers' desires. It is evident that this family organization remains committed to producing the highest quality, American-made boats that provide a lifetime of joy and entertainment on the water.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tiara Yachts as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. I wish them all the best as they continue their legacy of success.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE JEFFCO PROSPERITY PARTNERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambrosia Williamceau, Maria Abeyta, and Charlotte Williams for earning this year's JeffCo Prosperity Partners Achievement Awards.

The Achievement Awards are granted to recognize individuals of the JeffCo Prosperity Partners (JPP) Program and Head Start families who reach significant milestones in education, employment, and economic opportunity. The recipients must successfully graduate from the JPP Program, gaining skills in career development, academics, and financial literacy education.

This year's Achievement Award honorees are recognized for their outstanding determination and hard work during the JPP Program. Receiving this award demonstrates dedication to personal growth, distinguishing their drive for professional development and improving their lives on a multigenerational level.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional district, it is my honor to congratulate Ambrosia, Maria, and Charlotte on their incredible accomplishments and for receiving the 2024 JeffCo Prosperity Partners Achievement Award.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTH-
WEST INDIANA CEO SANDRA NOE

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize Sandra Noe and to congratulate her on her retirement from her position as Chief Executive Officer of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana. Sandra's efforts to improve the quality-of-life for the aging community and those faced with disabilities throughout Northwest Indiana make her worthy of the utmost praise and our sincere gratitude. For her 38 years of unwavering dedication to the organization, Sandra will be honored at a retirement celebration taking place on Friday, July 19, 2024.

Since its humble beginnings in 1977, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana has seen consistent growth, and its immense impact has been a source of pride throughout the community. During her illustrious tenure, Sandra has been instrumental in every aspect of the organization, from managing human resources to developing computer programs for food purchases and inventory control to assisting in a building expansion to construct two central kitchens. A testament to Sandra's outstanding leadership, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana now delivers more than 2,000 meals each day to children and adults throughout the region and recently reached an incredible milestone, having served its 9 millionth meal. Under Sandra's direction, the organization has continued to thrive, and we as a community are truly grateful for her service.

In addition to her impressive career, Sandra has dedicated much of her time to charitable endeavors and organizations throughout the region. She has served on advisory boards for the Indiana University Northwest School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the advisory committee for Northwest Indiana Community Action, and as a board member and finance committee member for Meals on Wheels America. Notably, Sandra is a proud founding member of the board of the 219 Health Network, and she was named the 2015 recipient of the Influential Woman of Northwest Indiana Women in Non-Profit Award by the Northwest Indiana Influential Women Association, a prestigious accolade befitting her noteworthy career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the remarkable work of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana and the lifetime of selfless service and tireless dedication of Sandra Noe. Her commitment to the Northwest Indiana community serves as an inspiration to us all, and we extend our best wishes upon her retirement in the years to come.

HONORING KATIE WHEELER
MATHEWS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the California Democratic Congres-

sional Delegation to honor the public service of Katie Wheeler Mathews, as she retires from her role as Senior Advisor for Federal Affairs for the State of California. Katie's career in state government spans over 36 years and is characterized by dedicated service, a bipartisan spirit, and a profound commitment to her home state of California.

Katie has worked across five gubernatorial administrations under both Democratic and Republican governors, demonstrating a unique ability to bridge political divides. Her tenure in Washington, D.C., has been marked by tireless advocacy for California's policy priorities and effective collaboration with our congressional offices and other federal partners. Prior to that, she spent eight years in the California Governor's office in Sacramento, fostering partnerships and crafting solutions across geographical divides.

Katie has been a formidable advocate for California's interests before Congress, across multiple federal administrations, and before organizations such as the National Governors' Association and the Western Governors' Association. Her understanding of complex policy issues and ability to navigate the intricacies of federal-state relations have made her a valuable member of the Governor's office, including her work in recent years to support California's leadership on climate, immigration, and combatting the fentanyl crisis. Katie's extensive government experience and relationships with leaders on both sides of the aisle have solidified her reputation as a trusted advisor to many.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending a heartfelt appreciation to Katie Wheeler Mathews for her outstanding service to the State of California and in wishing her the best in her next chapter. California is better for her service, and we thank her for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 353; YEA on Roll Call No. 354; and YEA on Roll Call No. 355.

HONORING PRETRIAL, PROBATION
AND PAROLE SUPERVISION WEEK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Nation's community supervision professionals, who are dedicated public servants and perform many vital roles in their work with justice-involved adults and juveniles. Community supervision professionals identify opportunities and services to help justice-involved individuals contribute to society, while holding them accountable for their actions. They remain mindful of their role in protecting public safety.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024, we salute all those

who have chosen this important career. In the District of Columbia, we especially thank the employees of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) for their service. CSOSA and PSA are models of excellence in community supervision. The theme of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024 is "Wellness Unveiled: Navigating the Journey."

Community supervision agencies are valuable partners of other government agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood-based groups and all who strive to make our Nation safer and stronger. We extend our gratitude to community supervision professionals and encourage all people to recognize their many achievements as we proclaim July 21–27, 2024, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2024.

HONORING MR. GENE LEEHAN'S
RETIREMENT FROM CLEAR
CHANNEL OUTDOOR NORTH
AMERICA

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a fellow Texan upon his retirement on July 19th. Mr. Gene Leehan is a past president of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas (OAAT) and has worked in the out of home advertising industry for 38 years. Mr. Leehan is retiring from his position as Executive Vice President and Senior Regional President of Clear Channel Outdoor North America (CCOA).

Over the years, CCOA and the Texas association have been key partners with federal and state agencies in times of emergency, using outdoor advertising assets to display important public messaging. This partnership has been valuable to constituents in my district, and to all Texans, including recently with Hurricane Beryl.

In recognition of his many industry contributions, Mr. Leehan was inducted into the out of home advertising Hall of Fame in 2015. Mr. Leehan's public service also includes work with the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum, a Texas non-profit that recognizes pioneers of the American western frontier.

Again, I want to congratulate Mr. Leehan on a long and fulfilling career.

CELEBRATING MRS. KIMBERLY
LEACH-WRIGHT ON 40 YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mrs. Kimberly "Kim" Leach-Wright for her outstanding service at the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review.

For more than 40 years, Mrs. Leach-Wright has been a dedicated public servant. She

started her career in 1983 as a student at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trade Office. Later, in 1985, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice, Marshals Service where she worked to advance their mission of enforcing federal laws and aided various elements of the federal justice system. Over the last 22 years, she has served in the role of Supervisory Case Management Specialist of the East Team at the Clerk's Office where she has been committed to coaching employees and nurturing their professional growth into long-term career successes. She is described in the office as energetic, funny, and committed to helping others—an invaluable set of skills that will be greatly missed.

Early on, Mrs. Leach-Wright demonstrated her skills and received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award for her excellence in General Legal Support in 2001. In recognition of her leadership, she received the Executive of Immigration Review Director's Award again in 2020.

Her dedication, commitment, and passion for serving others is inspiring. Her contributions as a Team Leader help shape our future by both empowering professionals with knowledge and inspiring them to continue to learn. I am honored to recognize Mrs. Leach-Wright for her unwavering service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Kimberly Leach-Wright for her dedication to public service over the last 40 years. I join her friends and loved ones in celebrating her contributions and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her husband, Ron, and her grandchildren.

HONORING SECOND CLASS OF DHS ICDF PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the second class of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Intelligence and Cybersecurity Diversity Fellowship (ICDF) Program. The ICDF Program intends to help DHS cultivate diverse talent to enter public service in Federal cybersecurity offices and components. This exemplary fellowship class is working across the homeland security enterprise—in DHS Headquarters, the Office of Intelligence and Analysts, Coast Guard, Secret Service, and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

This year's class includes four returning fellows and eleven new fellows. They represent 10 States and hail from universities of all sizes. Six of this year's class attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and three attend other Minority Serving Institutions. This talented class of fellows represents the diverse perspectives that are needed to help strengthen DHS's ability to analyze the evolving threats facing our Nation. I am proud that the fellowship program I passed through the House has provided pathways to success for each of these future homeland security leaders.

Congratulations to Veronica Kyles, Christian Lopez, Erin Sullivan, Reyben Cortes, Kiara Kelly, Ariel Henderson, Ethan Polhemus, Sage Despignes, Sharanya Padithaya, Zaria Gibbs,

Daryan Lassiter, Kamryn Brown, Shaqandra Roberson, Tori Johnson, and Kaari Harsila.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to following their careers as they progress toward making our homeland even safer.

HONORING MAGGIE VALLEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Maggie Valley's incorporation as a municipality in North Carolina. Home to about 1,800 North Carolinians, Maggie Valley's rich history predates the town's official incorporation by many years.

Located in Haywood County, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians occupied this region prior to the first White settlers. In the early 1800s, mountain settlers began to move into the valley and brought with them the characteristics that still define Maggie Valley—self-sufficiency, resourcefulness, independence and free-thinking.

In 1890, one of the valley's residents, Jack Setzer, became fed up with having to pay someone to take and pick up mail from the nearest post office located five miles away. Setzer began contacting officials with the United States Postal Service to establish a post office in his area that everyone in the valley could use.

When the U.S. postmaster general approved the creation of the post office, authorities requested that Setzer submit three potential names. He gave them the names of his three daughters: Cora, Mettie, and Maggie Mae.

On May 10, 1904, Jack received a letter from the U.S. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock that postal authorities had decided on a name: Maggie, North Carolina.

In 1974, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to approve Maggie Valley as an official municipality and approved the town's formation of a local government, consisting of a mayor and a five-member board of aldermen.

Maggie Valley serves as the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The town's proximity to these two attractions allows thousands of visitors to experience the beauty of Maggie Valley each year.

This year commemorates Maggie Valley's five decades as an official town. As residents celebrate the 50th anniversary this week, they honor the virtues and traditions that have defined Maggie Valley for half a century and look to carry those forward for 50 more years.

EXONERATION OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro for exonerating the Port Chicago 50 after a second review of their case since 1994, correcting 80 years of injustice. As the Congress-

man for Port Chicago, California, I am pleased that justice delayed is no longer justice denied for these American veterans of World War II and their families.

On July 17, 1944, a tragic munitions explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine killed 320 sailors and civilian workers, the majority of whom were African American. While white officers were given time off following the accident, white Navy officers ordered African American sailors to return to work in the same unsafe conditions that killed their fellow servicemembers. When 50 of these men refused, they were wrongfully charged with mutiny and convicted in a hastily conducted trial overshadowed by the scourge of racism.

The convictions of the Port Chicago 50 were not just a miscarriage of justice; they were emblematic of the broader racial prejudice that African Americans faced within the military and society at large, even while serving in their country's uniform or contributing to the war effort on the Homefront as civilian workers. These men stood against dangerous conditions and racial discrimination, maintaining their innocence up until their deaths decades later.

Public outrage over their Navy trail and conviction lead to the U.S. Navy becoming the first military service branch to officially desegregate in 1946, helping to civil rights for all Americans. President Truman ordered the desegregation of all U.S. military service branches in 1948. In 1999, President Clinton pardoned Freddie Meeks, one of the three surviving sailors of the Port Chicago 50 and the only to request one. The two other surviving sailors declined a presidential pardon, refusing to ask for clemency for a crime for which they were wrongfully convicted. All three men have since passed away.

Exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 is a long overdue step in addressing historical injustices and affirming our national commitment to equality for all service members and all Americans regardless of race or creed. Now, 80 years later, the families of the Port Chicago 50 finally have closure and justice. I am proud to stand with the families of these World War II veterans and my colleagues, Representatives MARK DESAULNIER and BARBARA LEE, in celebrating this historic moment. By exonerating them, we honor their memory and rightful place in American history, ensuring their legacy is remembered with dignity and as early leaders who helped to inspire what later became the American civil rights movement.

WISHING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT BOHYER A VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to World War II veteran Robert Bohyer.

Robert embodies what it means to be a member of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions upon millions, Robert answered the call to serve, joining the U.S. Army Air Corps—which later became the Air Force—when he was only 18 years old.

As a B-17 tail gunner, Robert was assigned to the 486th Bombardment Group near Sudbury, England and then later to the 483rd Bombardment Group in Italy. All told, Robert flew 35 missions from England and Italy, and he faced down mortal danger with the kind of heroic courage and valor that we desperately need more of today. Robert succinctly captured the danger he confronted by saying "We were shot up but never shot down." Robert distinguished himself in service, and he has the medals and citations to prove it.

President Ronald Reagan reminded us that freedom is fragile and must constantly be fought for and guarded by each generation. That noble mission is exactly what Robert helped carry out when he wore the uniform of the United States Military. Because of the service and sacrifice of veterans, generations of Americans have been able to experience the blessings of liberty and live in a land that is free. For that, all of us owe Robert and his fellow veterans a debt that we can never fully repay.

As Robert celebrates a century of life lived to the fullest, I join his family and countless Hoosiers in wishing Robert Bohyer a very Happy 100th Birthday. I commend him for his loyal service to our Nation in uniform and the many great contributions he has made to our country. May God bless Robert.

HONORING DR. TIMOTHY MURPHY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Timothy Murphy as one of this year's recipients of the University of Buffalo's President's Medal. The University of Buffalo's President's Medal recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to the quality of life and development in the University's community. I can think of no one who is more deserving of this award than Dr. Timothy Murphy.

Dr. Murphy is an internationally recognized expert in respiratory infections and has transformed the way the medical community approaches them. His research has made significant breakthroughs in the understanding of bacterial infections in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vaccine development for both ear infections and COPD.

Outside of his groundbreaking research, Dr. Murphy is the founding director of the University at Buffalo Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which advances research throughout the University and its partners to reduce health disparities in our community. With a team of approximately 40 faculty and 118 staff members, the Institute has catalyzed a transformation of the clinical and translational research environment. More recently, the University at Buffalo launched the Community Health Equity Research Institute

under Dr. Murphy's leadership. Working closely with community partners and faculty from all 12 schools at UB, the Institute works to support research that address the root cause of health disparities while developing and testing solutions to the social determinants that cause them.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Dr. Timothy Murphy on his well-deserved achievement of receiving the University of Buffalo's President's Medal. I thank him for his tremendous efforts to advance the medical field all while supporting his community.

RECOGNIZING THE AUBURN MEN'S GOLF TEAM'S NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Auburn University Men's Golf team for winning the NCAA Division I National Title.

On May 29th, the Auburn Tigers held off Florida State University three matches to two to secure their title win. The tournament came down to the last match of the day and was finally won on the 17th hole with a par. The tournament was played at the Omni La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, California.

This is the first national championship for the Auburn Men's Golf Team and advanced the team to 4-1 all-time in NCAA championship match play. Previously, the team had not advanced past a semifinal round.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Clinard, the Auburn University Men's Golf team, students, faculty, and all the fans. War Eagle.

HONORING NURSE HONOR GUARD OF SAINT LOUIS

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the people of St. Louis today to solemnly pay homage to the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis and its visionary founder and president, Aine Howard-Boerner, MSN.

Since its establishment in 2023, the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis has emerged as a beacon of compassion dedicated to honoring nurses nearing or entering eternal rest, offering solace to grieving families across Missouri and Illinois.

Inspired by the tradition of military honor guards that honor fallen servicemen and women, police officers, and firefighters, the Nurse Honor Guard wears traditional white

nursing uniforms, complete with a red and blue cape and traditional nursing caps. They attend the funerals of their fellow nurses, paying homage and extending comfort to families in their time of mourning.

The organization has conducted 124 memorial tributes, four living tributes, and one memorial table for departed colleagues. Comprised of 30 retired and active nurses, these tributes honor the departed and serve as a source of renewal for the members of the Nurse Honor Guard amidst the formidable challenges and demands of their profession, particularly underscored by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. Nurses and their communities are reminded of their steadfast courage and unwavering commitment through these services.

As we reflect on the profound impact of the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis, we follow our pledge to honor the memory of our fallen nurses, support grieving families, and uphold the pride and dignity of the nursing profession with enduring gratitude. As a nurse and Congresswoman, I am honored to join our St. Louis community to commend the Nurse Honor Guard of Saint Louis and its members for their exemplary service.

HONORING SIC LESLIE KENNETH CHAMPNEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the life of Leslie Kenneth Champney in recognition of his service in the United States Navy Reserve during the Second World War.

Seaman First Class Leslie Champney served his country from September 1, 1943 to May 25, 1946. While in enlisted in the US Navy Reserve, Mr. Champney served overseas as a security officer aboard the SS *Charles J. Folger* and the USS *Barber* for a total of twenty-three months, experiencing both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war.

Once while on a ship in the North Atlantic, Mr. Champney and his shipmates encountered a majestic whale, a memory he would often share with his children.

Upon his return from service, Mr. Champney fathered seven children and worked hard as an automotive mechanic, primarily focused on diesel vehicles.

Although he did not often speak of his time in the military, he deserves our gratitude and proper recognition for his contribution to the Allied victory in World War II.

Today, we present the late Mr. Champney's son, Kenn, with the five medals his father earned through his service during World War II.