

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KATE
DUNCAN SMITH DAR SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my congratulations to the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Kate Duncan Smith DAR School had its beginnings at the Eighth State Conference of the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in December of 1906 with the passing of a Resolution to "adopt measures to insure greater Patriotic Education throughout the State."

During the early 20th Century, consistent public education was not widely available in the mountainous region of northeast Alabama.

Following years of dreaming, planning and fundraising, the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution opened the Kate Duncan Smith School on February 26, 1924. The picturesque campus of the school is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, through a resolution adopted by its membership in April of 1928, joined the Alabama Daughters in support of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School.

Members of the Gunter Mountain community and surrounding areas made tremendous sacrifices to secure the school for the children of Gunter Mountain.

The Marshall County Board of Education partners with the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School Board of Trustees to ensure students are receiving quality educational instruction within a safe learning environment.

The mission of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School is to provide opportunities for educational and personal growth for students, while emphasizing patriotism, responsible citizenship, and the historical legacy of the school.

The Kate Duncan Smith DAR School serves any child living atop Gunter Mountain and surrounding areas, and currently has an enrollment of more than 1,310 children. The school has provided outstanding educational opportunities to its students and support for the community's many and diverse families for 100 years.

The Board of Trustees of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School believes, as did the school's founders, in maintaining the "same spirit of dedication to achievement, patriotic and moral values, and service to community and country . . . on the campus today as it did in the early years of this unique educational experiment of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

I congratulate the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School on its Centennial Anniversary of providing students with a patriotic learning environment and on all it has accomplished in its

first century. I am pleased to honor and celebrate the school's legacy.

HONORING GOSHEN FIRE CHIEF
DAN SINK'S CAREER IN SERV-
ANT LEADERSHIP

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Fire Chief Dan Sink, who is retiring as Fire Chief of the Goshen Fire Department in Goshen, Indiana, in November of this year.

Fire Chief Sink's career in public safety spans back more than four decades, as he first joined the Goshen Fire Department 43 year ago. Danny's 19 years in his current role means that when he retires in November, he will hold the record for the longest serving Fire Chief in Goshen history.

As Fire Chief, Danny leads a dedicated team of 56 men and women comprised of professional firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians. Danny's record of leadership has been so exemplary that when the city of Goshen dedicated their new fire training center in March of last year, they did so in Danny's honor by naming it the 'Chief Danny Sink Regional Training Facility.'

Because of his service as Fire Chief, the Goshen community and Hoosiers of Elkhart County are safer thanks to this good man who exemplifies what it means to be a true public servant who sacrifices for others.

Chief Sink's example and leadership are also reminders that first responders are on the frontlines of some of the most difficult situations our communities face. When there is a problem, first responders like Danny answer the call and willingly put themselves in danger's path to keep us safe. For that, all of us are extremely grateful.

I am proud to join so many Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our appreciation to Chief Sink for his long career spent in the service of others. As he prepares to begin the next chapter of his life, I wish Danny all the very best going forward and a happy and well-deserved retirement. May God bless.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF WICOMICO COUNTY SHER-
IFF'S DEPUTY ROBERT T. WIL-
SON

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was sad to learn about the passing of retired Deputy Sheriff Robert T. Wilson of the Wicomico

County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Wilson dedicated his life serving his community and country. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Bob served at the Eastern Correctional Institute before retiring from the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office in June of 2021.

Deputy Wilson dedicated his life to helping others, putting his own life on the line to protect and serve the community he so much loved. A devoted member of the Fraternal Order of Police, Bob believed in service, sacrifice and honor. Robert T. Wilson passed away at the age of 71 years old.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to his wife Esther, the Wilson family and the entire Wicomico County Sheriff's Office. The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for DFC Robert T. Wilson.

RECOGNIZING THE JOINT EFFORT
BETWEEN THE U.S. COAST
GUARD AIR STATION CORPUS
CHRISTI AND SECTOR CORPUS
CHRISTI COMMAND CENTER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the exceptional bravery, skill, and determination of the United States Coast Guard units stationed along the Gulf Coast. These dedicated men and women came together in a large-scale Search and Rescue operation, resulting in the safe recovery of two scuba divers who had been separated from their dive vessel and lost at sea for nearly two days.

On the morning of July 24th, the Sector Corpus Christi Command Center received a distress call reporting two divers missing more than 30 miles offshore from Matagorda Texas and the Coast Guard immediately mobilized multiple assets.

Leading this Search and Rescue effort was Lieutenant Commander Nina McDonald whose knowledge and experience helped coordinate the safe return of the divers. During the search, the Coast Guard faced severe weather and a vast search area. After hours without any luck, the aircrew of Coast Guard 2306 took over the search efforts. Despite daunting conditions, including reduced visibility, overcast skies, and hazardous flying through numerous cloud layers, this crew pressed on.

After hours in the air, Petty Officer Nathan Cyrus, serving as a visual observer, spotted a faint flash of light on the water and the aircrew quickly maneuvered to the location where Petty Officer James Welzig, the dropmaster, prepared the aircraft for an aerial delivery of rescue equipment. Under the command of Lieutenant Junior Grade Jake Pritchett, the aircrew helped guide the Coast Guard Cutter to the scene where the crew successfully located and rescued the two divers, who had endured 38 harrowing hours at sea.

• 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.

This remarkable rescue operation is a testament to the unparalleled excellence of our Coast Guard personnel. Their efforts in saving these lives reflect the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these courageous men and women of the United States Coast Guard. Their actions over those intense 38 hours exemplify the very best of our Nation's values, and we owe them our deepest gratitude.

COMMISSIONING OF UNITED STATES SHIP (USS) RICHARD M. MCCOOL JR. (LPD-29)

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the occasion of the commissioning of United States Ship (USS) *Richard M. McCool Jr.* (LPD-29) at Allegheny Pier, Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is a 680-foot San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock produced by Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and assigned the identification of LPD-29. The vessel was laid down on April 12, 2019, launched on January 5, 2022, and christened on June 11, 2022. The vessel was sponsored by Shana McCool and Kate Oja, the granddaughters of the vessel's namesake.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is named in honor of Captain Richard Miles McCool Jr., United States Navy, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS *Landing Craft Support (Large)-122* during operations from June 10–11, 1945, against enemy Japanese forces in the Ryukyu chain during the Battle of Okinawa.

The commissioning will be attended by the 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro; local, state, and federal elected officials; community and military leaders; the vessel's commanding officer, Captain Jeffrey Baker; and the devoted officers and crew of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.*

The commissioning of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is the seventh such ceremony to be planned by the Greater Pensacola Commissioning Committee and the Navy League of Pensacola, led by Rear Admiral Donald P. Quinn, United States Navy (Retired), and it is the fifth to be held at NAS Pensacola. The City of Pensacola and Northwest Florida enjoy a strong Naval heritage and are honored to host this event.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the momentous occasion of the commissioning of the final USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* at NAS Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE EMANUEL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel. Temple Emanuel is a place of sanctuary and belonging, a place deeply intertwined with the history and culture of Denver, and a spiritual home for countless individuals for many generations. As we mark this milestone, it is important to remember the journey that has brought Temple Emanuel to this occasion. First established in 1866 and officially incorporated in 1874, this congregation predates Colorado's statehood. While the city has changed a great deal over these last 150 years and indeed the location of Temple Emanuel has changed more than once, the heart of the temple—a living connection to millennia of Jewish traditions for congregants—is the same.

Today, the temple is the largest Jewish congregation between Kansas City and the West Coast. For the Jewish community in Denver, Temple Emanuel is a place for life's milestones large and small. From weekly Shabbat Services to the High Holy Days, from celebrations to mourning, this temple hosts countless special memories, moments of deep personal meaning and community healing, and serves as a community gathering place for people from all walks of life.

I have seen firsthand the commitment Temple Emanuel has to bringing our community together through service work and social justice, a role that is particularly impactful during times of uncertainty as the congregation sustains and restores community. They host courageous conversations on social issues and have served as a meeting place for interfaith dialogues. In an era marked by division and discord, Temple Emanuel has emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, embracing our entire community and providing a sanctuary for those in need of solace and support.

The 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel helps us reaffirm our commitment to the values of unity, compassion, and understanding that have guided this institution for a century and a half. May Temple Emanuel continue to serve as a shining example of the transformative power of faith and community for generations to come.

I congratulate my friend Rabbi Joseph R. Black and the entire congregation on this incredible milestone of 150 years in service to Denver.

RECOGNIZING ASSEMBLYMAN DEVON MATHIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assemblyman Devon Mathis for his dedicated service to the Central Valley and to congratulate him on his retirement from the California State Assembly representing the 33rd District. Mr. Mathis has devoted his entire

career to public service, beginning with 12 years of honorable military service. He completed two combat tours in Iraq. During his deployment, Mr. Mathis was seriously injured in a roadside bomb, for which he received two medals and a Purple Heart in recognition of his bravery and sacrifice.

After returning home, Mr. Mathis received an associate's degree in social sciences from Porterville College and then a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Fresno State University. In 2014, Mr. Mathis was elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 26th District. Over the course of his legislative career, Assemblyman Mathis has built a reputation as a representative with deep roots in the community. He has been a steadfast advocate for the issues that matter most to his constituents, working to address critical issues such as reliable water access and supporting the agricultural sector. His belief in bipartisan cooperation has been at the service of all Californians.

Throughout his time in the State Assembly, Assemblyman Mathis has continually demonstrated his commitment to the success and well-being of all his constituents. Assemblyman Mathis' years of public service serves as a true testament to his character and leadership abilities. I am confident the impact he has left on the Central Valley will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Assemblyman Mathis for his many years of service to the Central Valley and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY COOKS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my first Congressional Chief of Staff, an early activist in the Civil Rights Movement, a life-long public servant, and my friend, Shirley Cooks, who passed on January 19, 2024. A celebration of life will be held for Shirley on Capitol Hill on September 12 with her family, friends and former co-workers gathering to honor a woman of substance, skill and humor who they considered a mentor and hero. Shirley ran my D.C. office with outstanding skill and loyalty, helping me, a first-term congressman, navigate a world she had known and managed relationships in for years. Her sage advice, deep knowledge, and constant grace were invaluable to me. A dedicated public servant all her life, Shirley was an ardent advocate of civil rights and had the achievements and life history to advance them. Shirley was born on August 27, 1944, to Melvina and William Wright in New York City. Her early education was divided between New York and Aboukir, St. Ann, Jamaica. Shirley graduated from St. Paul's School in Los Angeles in 1958. She became acquainted with leaders and staff members of both the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when she moved from Los Angeles to New York to live with her brother and sister-in-law, entertainer and political activist Harry and his wife Julie Belafonte, and

their children. She studied at Bank Street College, a groundbreaking school advancing early childhood education; the New School for Social Research; and New York University during that time. By the mid-1960s, Shirley had moved to Atlanta to work full-time in the Civil Rights Movement as a member of the SNCC administrative staff with additional work on Voter Registration field projects in Alabama and Mississippi. Her work included liaison outreach with SCLC, where she met her future husband, Stoney Cooks. They were married in September 1970 and settled in Atlanta the following year. Shirley gave birth to her first child in 1972, the year Andrew Young was elected to Congress, becoming the first African American representative from the Deep South since Reconstruction. Shirley worked in the principal's office at Peabody Elementary School on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and gave birth to her second son in 1976. In 1977, when Andrew Young was appointed U.N. Ambassador by President Jimmy Carter, Shirley and Stoney and their two children moved to New York City where she worked at the African American Institute (AAI). In 1981, Shirley gave birth to her third son and the couple returned to Atlanta with their three children where she served in the position of Director, Bureau of Cultural Affairs, in the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Atlanta. Continuing her work in public service, Shirley returned to work as Legislative Affairs Director at AAI in Washington, then served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of State under Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She later worked as Chief of Staff for U.S. House Representatives members Juanita Millender-McDonald of California, Laura Richardson of California, and for me, before retiring. Shirley will be remembered as a devoted public servant with a wonderful sense of humor, a serious commitment to justice and good causes, her loyalty and her kindness. I extend my sincere condolences to her sons Caleb, Judah, and Micah; her grandchildren, Stoney Nakoda and Wiyot Adeline; and her many loyal friends and extended family members. May they take comfort in the life she lived. Shirley Cooks made a difference in our world and will continue to be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Huron County Community Foundation. Since 1994, this organization has been a cornerstone of meaningful change and community development throughout Huron County, which I am proud to represent in Congress.

For three decades, the Huron County Community Foundation has made good on their mission to "Invest FOR GOOD . . . FOR EVER." This motto has, without a doubt, fostered legacies that will shape Huron County's future for years to come.

The foundation's impact covers a wide array of needs throughout our community, from

healthcare to education and beyond. Through grants and other donations, the foundation has empowered countless families and organizations to succeed in their charitable goals. It goes without saying, but the amount of work that goes into an organization like this should be inspiring to us all. As we honor this milestone, it is important to recognize how the foundation—and all its beneficiaries—have played a central role in nurturing Huron County. The very spirit of the foundation, coupled with their dedication to their community, has been central in guaranteeing a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Huron County Community Foundation on 30 years of outstanding service. I look forward to their continued success for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
KIMBERLY DREW WRIGHT

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Kimberly Drew Wright, a vibrant member of the Chesterfield County community who touched countless lives through her passion for advocacy. Kim passed away on July 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Kim was a talented author and entrepreneur, a determined advocate for social justice who inspired thousands of women to become leaders in their communities, and a beloved wife and mother. She formed and organized the Liberal Women of Chesterfield County & Beyond (LWCC), inspiring change and fostering hope across the Commonwealth.

Kim went above and beyond for her community. She, alongside LWCC, played a significant role in local, State, and national elections by encouraging more women in Chesterfield County to serve as volunteers, activists, and candidates for elected office. She also worked to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia in 2020, seeing our Commonwealth become the 38th State to ratify the amendment.

Among many awards and accolades, Kim received the 2019 Newsmaker of the Year award from Virginia Professional Communicators for her achievements as the leader of LWCC and for sharing her vision, story, and impact with local, national, and international media. Based on her personal experiences with Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS), Kim also became an outspoken advocate for recognition, research, and treatment of this rare but potentially devastating condition, and she was a fierce champion for children affected by PANS and their families.

Kim is the reason I am here today—serving Virginia's Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her dedication, passion, and love instilled a confidence in me and touched the hearts of so many. When she got sick, she demonstrated true strength and grace.

I am honored to recognize my dear friend, Kim Wright. She will be greatly missed by her husband, children, friends, and all those who will remember her strength, courage, and pure humanity. Kim's legacy will be felt in our communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Mrs. Kimberly Drew Wright.

HONORING MARK FRITTER AS HE
RETIREES AFTER 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE ON CAPITOL HILL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my constituents who has been a valued member of our community here on Capitol Hill for the past quarter century: Mark Fritter from Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He is retiring after providing crucial technical support to numerous congressional offices over the past 25 years. We ought to give thanks for his many contributions to his community, his Congress, and his country.

Mark is a bit of a kindred spirit. Like me, Mark was raised in Prince George's County. He is also a fellow Terp, having earned his degree in marketing from the University of Maryland, College Park. He kicked off his career on Capitol Hill in 1999 as a consultant helping congressional staff use the customer relationship management (CRM) software "Capitol Letters." Following a merger, he pivoted to consulting staff on how to use Intranet Quorum (IQ). Back then, computers were still a relatively new technology. Mark played a vital role in helping staff harness the power of these new tools and integrate these innovations into Congress' day-today work.

In the past 25 years, Mark provided invaluable support to hundreds of legislative coordinators, communications directors, and other top staff. He has taught communications professionals how to use IQ's newsletter software to keep constituents informed and to expand Member offices' subscriber base and digital reach. His work has helped Members engage more closely with the people they represent. Mark has been particularly adept at helping set up new Member offices on these technologies and has helped facilitate more than a dozen congressional transitions during his tenure on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, Mark is one of the thousands of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help this Congress fulfill its responsibilities For the People. His commitment to service goes beyond his professional career, however. From supporting his local church to serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 403 based out of Bowie, Maryland. Mark has devoted much of his free time to giving back to his community. He has also been a tremendous husband to his wife, Rhonda, and father to their son, Ben. Crucially, I hear Mark has been an excellent owner to their dog, Pepper, and their two cats, Lilly and Zoe-Zoe.

I know that many here on Capitol Hill and back in Maryland appreciate Mark's warmth, good humor, and willingness to lend a hand. Mark may be moving to Indiana to be closer to family, but he'll always be a Marylander at heart. It is a privilege to represent kind, generous, and hardworking people like Mark from Maryland's Fifth District.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Mark on this milestone and in wishing him and his family all the best.

RECOGNIZING JOHN "JOHNNY" L. MORRIS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I rise today to recognize an individual that has made significant contributions to our Nation's fish and wildlife conservation efforts, as well as America's longstanding outdoor traditions. This individual is also the recipient of an award named after members of this body that have made lasting and significant contributions to our Nation's outdoor heritage.

John "Johnny" L. Morris was born in Springfield, Missouri, to John A. and Genny Morris in 1948. Johnny's parents both loved to hunt and fish and soon shared their passions with their son. Johnny's love of fishing grew through high school and college but it wasn't until he attended the first national B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) tournament that he truly realized his passion for fishing after meeting fishermen from all over the country.

In 1972, Johnny Morris started selling tackle out of his dad's Brown Derby Liquor Store, which became very popular for anglers visiting the area's waterways. In 1978, Morris created BASS TRACKER, the industry's first fully outfitted, ready-to-fish boat, motor, and trailer package, revolutionizing the entire outdoor industry and making it affordable for families to get out on the water and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Today, Mr. Morris operates more than 170 Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's destinations across North America, and his commitment to his conservation roots remains stronger than ever as his company, for more than the past decade, has averaged giving back more than 10% of their earnings to conservation.

Johnny would go on to then create the Johnny Morris Conservation Foundation, one of the most significant conservation foundations in North America. The not-for-profit foundation embodies Morris and his lifelong dedication to giving back to ensure the outdoors and all it has to offer is available for future generations. In conservation circles, Johnny Morris is often referred to as today's Modern-Day Theodore Roosevelt, as result of his leadership, personal commitment, and dedication to conservation efforts. A conservationist at heart, Johnny Morris recognized the need for citizens to become more involved in the careful management and use of our natural resources.

Today, the foundation operates some of the Nation's most significant conservation attractions, including Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, a 10,000-acre-park that offers a variety of outdoor recreation. Its Conservation and Education Center is used to teach the importance of protecting and conserving our great outdoors. Most notably, the foundation also operates the most immersive conservation attraction in the world, Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, where visitors are taken on a conservation journey through a 350,000 square-foot complex of 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds where they learn about wildlife habitat management and the significant contributions of America's sportsmen and

women. This attraction is also the official home of National Hunting and Fishing Day, which was launched by Congress in 1971 as a way to recognize and celebrate hunters and anglers for their leadership in wildlife and conservation.

In recognition of Mr. Morris' service to conservation, he has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award, a fitting tribute to an individual whose life has epitomized dedication to America's outdoor heritage.

Named in recognition of the Dingell family—Congressmen John D. Dingell, Sr. and John D. Dingell, Jr. and the late Congressman Don Young, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation created the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award to recognize the extraordinary individual and collaborative leadership of the Dingell family and Congressman Young and their long-standing dedication to the advancement of conservation policy and our outdoor hunting and angling traditions. Like them, Morris' contributions to our outdoor traditions relied upon a unique commitment to a shared passion for hunting, fishing, and conservation.

Recognized as one of the country's leaders working to ensure natural habitats, wildlife, and the outdoors remain healthy and abundant for future generations, the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award is a fitting tribute for Morris.

In closing, I want to thank Mr. Morris for his many contributions to America's outdoor heritage and congratulate him for the well-deserved recognition as the recipient of the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award, the top award offered by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. In the words of Mr. Morris, Mr. Speaker, "Take a kid fishing, you'll be happy you did."

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize and celebrate the centennial anniversary of the City of Belle Isle in Central Florida. Once a Native American oasis, Belle Isle was founded by Central Floridians in 1924 to resist Orange County's attempts to drain Lake Conway and its chain of lakes, which span approximately 1,800 acres.

Belle Isle's first citizens and interim Mayor C.H. Hoffner unanimously voted on the city's name, which resembles the French phrase for "beautiful island." Today, it reflects the city's peaceful, lakefront living that provides an escape from the nearby metros.

In 1928, Belle Isle was annexed back into Orange County, and records of the City of Belle Isle ceased to exist. However, residents once again rallied against another attempt by the County to use the lakes for drainage in 1954, and the local government was reinstated. The State of Florida later recognized the City of Belle Isle's charter in 1972.

The city's government ran continuously until the early 2000s when a council-manager form of government was adopted to better serve

Belle Isle residents. Since that time, the city has flourished. Annexations, the establishment of a Belle Isle Police Department, and an agreement to open Cornerstone Charter Academy mark Belle Isle's largest achievements in recent years.

In celebration of Belle Isle's centennial, the city will be hosting a Tree Recognition Ceremony to honor two of its beautiful trees. One tree will be recognized as a centennial tree, symbolizing 100 years of Belle Isle history. A second plaque will acknowledge a newly planted tree that will stand for the next 100 years. We wish good fortune to the City of Belle Isle and its residents and hope for another 100 years of history.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL CONSTANCE C. JOHNSON-CAGE

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Colonel Constance C. Johnson-Cage, the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Director of Personnel in the Office of the Air Force Reserve. Colonel Johnson-Cage, a Kansas City resident, is retiring from the United States Air Force after more than 38 years of service.

Colonel Johnson-Cage's career has been marked by a distinguished commitment to our nation's defense and security.

This commitment began in 1985, when Colonel Johnson-Cage enlisted in the United States Air Force as an air cargo specialist. Since then, Colonel Johnson-Cage has held an impressive portfolio of leadership positions, including serving at the Secretary of the Air Force level and Headquarters Air Force level, and as a commander in the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

In her current position, Colonel Johnson-Cage assists in the oversight of Total Force policy development and guidance, prepares input for legislative initiatives and congressional testimony, and facilitates the integration of personnel policies across the Department of Defense. She also assists with the management and oversight of resources impacting a budget of nearly \$450 million for accessions, recruiting, retention, education, training, force structure, compensation, and benefits impacting 360,000 reservists and their dependents worldwide.

Her contributions have been recognized with an array of honors. Most notably, Colonel Johnson-Cage received a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and an Air and Space Longevity Service Award with two oak leaf clusters.

The Kansas City area is proud to have Colonel Johnson-Cage as a part of our community. As Colonel Johnson-Cage enters into her next chapter, I have no doubt she will continue to spread the spirit of dedication and service to country. I thank Colonel Johnson-Cage for her lifetime of public service and wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ELBERT KNOX**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elbert Henry “Toughegg” Knox, a courageous American who gave his life in service to our country during World War II. Elbert Knox first served as an Army cook from 1919 to 1920. In September 1941, at the age of 40, he answered the call again, leaving his home to work as a civilian contract worker on Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean. There, Knox and other civilians built essential facilities for the military, helping to defend the island during a fierce Japanese attack on December 8, 1941.

Despite their valiant efforts, Wake Island fell to Japanese forces after a 15-day battle, and Knox became a prisoner of war. Transferred to Japan in September 1942, he faced brutal conditions—enduring abuse, starvation, solitary confinement, and exposure. Knox’s resilience was unwavering, but tragically, he died in captivity. After the war, his remains were laid to rest in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In 1981, Knox and his fellow civilian contractors on Wake Island were granted veteran status.

Today, I am proud to report that Mr. Knox has been posthumously awarded the Prisoner of War (POW) Medal and the Purple Heart. These medals will be presented to his family, who have waited decades to see his heroism formally recognized. His story is a powerful reminder of the price of liberty and the strength of the American spirit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Elbert Knox and extending our deepest gratitude to his family. May his legacy continue to inspire us all to serve our Nation with honor and dedication, and may we never forget his sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE DESIGNATION
OF OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA,
AND FELITTO, ITALY, AS SISTER
CITIES**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable and historic milestone that unites two communities across the Atlantic Ocean. It is with great pride and joy that I announce the official designation of Old Forge, Pennsylvania, and Felitto, Italy, as sister cities. This designation not only honors our shared heritage but also strengthens the bond of friendship and cultural exchange between our two communities.

Old Forge, situated in the heart of northeastern Pennsylvania, has long been a beacon of Italian-American culture. Known affectionately as the Pizza Capital of the World, Old Forge boasts a rich history that is deeply intertwined with the Italian immigrant experience.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, waves of immigrants from Felitto, a picturesque town in the Campania region of southern Italy, made

their way to Old Forge, then known as Mudtown. Their arrival marked the beginning of a new chapter in the community’s history, bringing with them their traditions, values, and, of course, their beloved culinary heritage.

Felitto, located in the province of Salerno, is renowned for its artisanal fusilli pasta and its vibrant annual celebration, the Fusillo Festival. This festival is a testament to Felitto’s commitment to family, community, and the joy of food. The town’s dedication to preserving its cultural traditions and fostering a strong sense of community is mirrored in the spirit of Old Forge.

The Felittese Association of Old Forge, now in its 35th year, hosts the city’s annual Felittese Italian Festival on the second weekend in September in commemoration of Our Lady of Constantinople, who has been venerated in the town of Felitto since 1790. Much like Felitto’s Fusillo Festival, this annual celebration stands as a proud homage to Old Forge’s Italian roots by celebrating the rich tapestry of Italian culture through homecooked food and music with family, friends, and neighbors. It is a cherished tradition that underscores the deep connections that bind our two communities.

The sister city designation between Old Forge and Felitto represents more than just a symbolic gesture; it is a recognition of the shared heritage and enduring ties that unite us. It honors the legacy of the Italian immigrants who contributed so profoundly to Old Forge, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. and acknowledges the vibrant culture that continues to thrive today.

This partnership will strengthen economic ties and enhance the mutual understanding between our communities. It is a celebration of our shared history and a commitment to continuing the traditions that have enriched our lives and nations.

As we commemorate this new chapter in the relationship between Old Forge and Felitto, let us honor the contributions of the Italian immigrants who helped shape our communities. Their legacy lives on in the vibrant celebrations, the delectable cuisine, and the strong sense of community that define both Old Forge and Felitto.

As the Member of the U.S. House representing northeastern Pennsylvania, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this historic achievement. May this sister city relationship continue to flourish, bringing us closer together.

HONORING PAT SMITH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the incredible life and the amazing contributions of my friend Pat Smith, who passed away peacefully on August 17th. Tomorrow, September 7th there will be a “Celebration of Life” to honor and pay tribute to the remarkable Pat Smith.

Pat Smith’s extraordinary work for patients, caregivers, and Lyme-literate doctors around the country has been transformational. An incredibly well-informed and tenacious leader,

Pat fought effectively and relentlessly for greater diagnosis, treatments, and outcomes for Lyme patients.

Because of Pat Smith, legislation to better meet the needs of Lyme patients is now the law of the land.

I first met Pat in 1992 and from that moment on, my understanding, advocacy, and legislative work for Lyme patients—and frankly the work of this Chamber—was substantially and positively influenced. She was an outstanding collaborator. She did meticulous research and was painstakingly honest, reliable, and hard-working—often to the chagrin of the Lyme deniers.

A widely respected straight shooter, Pat did not mince words as she and I worked together—along with other Lyme victims and family caregivers—calling on all public, medical, and insurance industry officials to be forthright and dedicated in fighting Lyme and saving lives.

More than 30 years ago, Pat Smith came to one of my town hall meetings in Wall, New Jersey, and shared with me the plight of those suffering from chronic Lyme, including her two daughters.

Shortly after, Pat and I sat down with the top leaders at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health, who were polite but highly dismissive of our concerns surrounding the recommended treatment for Lyme.

Pat was brilliant in that meeting. She told them how CDC’s “recommendation” for prescribing up to a mere 1 month’s worth of antibiotics was being used by health insurance companies as the ceiling for what was covered. Even if the patient had Lyme for 5 years, only 1 month of doxycycline was covered.

The feds said it wasn’t their intention to limit health insurance coverage, but they didn’t fix the problem either.

If you knew Pat, you knew that answer would not suffice.

Already the founder and president of the Lyme Disease Association (LDA), Pat embarked on a personal and compassionate mission across the Nation to educate and help, spread awareness of this terrible disease, how to prevent it, and how to properly diagnose and treat it. She built synergistic coalitions around the country that worked relentlessly in support of Lyme research and to advance diagnosis and treatment for patients.

Beyond the working coalitions, Pat organized 22 national, scientific conferences and shared her wealth of knowledge at hundreds of government, business, and school events.

She provided both oral and written expert testimony in support of national and State laws and physicians’ right to fully treat Lyme in numerous States, including our own.

When Pat brought her renowned expertise, passion, and admirable no-nonsense demeanor to Washington, people listened.

At my request, Pat testified before Congress and provided critical insights for substantive reform and Federal Lyme programs. And she skillfully made her case each year during the congressional appropriations process, ensuring that Lyme disease programs—and patients—finally got their due, or close to it.

Pat also served two terms as a public member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Tick-Borne Disease Working Group, a working group created by legislation she and I worked on together and helped shepherd into law.

The working group reports, mandated by Congress, represent a true landmark in their far-reaching coverage of the persistent symptoms and persistent illness suffered by Lyme disease patients and the need for enhanced understanding of Lyme disease-associated chronic illness. And the reports referenced many published studies of chronic Lyme disease.

The groundbreaking content of the working group's reports and their positive impact on Lyme patients and Lyme study are due in no small part to two term working group member Pat Smith.

Under Pat's leadership, LDA provided 127 research grants that have been acknowledged in 62 scientific journals.

Working with author Amy Tan, she created LymeAid 4 Kids, a program that offers critical support to children with Lyme who come from families that face financial challenges. To date, this amazing initiative has provided more than \$475,000 for diagnosis and treatment for children in need.

Naturally inquisitive and loaded with "street smarts," Pat also continued to study and probe the origins of Lyme and the impact defense bioweapons experiments on ticks may or may not have had on Lyme's epidemic growth in the U.S.

Pat Smith's unyielding commitment to improving the Federal response to Lyme disease has made a huge difference and has offered so much hope for Lyme patients across the country.

She demanded fairness and honesty and never asked anybody to give more or do more than she and her husband, Rich, gave and did for the cause of conquering Lyme.

I will greatly miss my good friend, Pat Smith, a trailblazer for Lyme disease patients. Pat and I share a birthday, a last name, and a thirst for justice for patients with Lyme. For Pat, and in her honor, our fight will continue.

60TH ANNIVERSARY ALABAMA
MOUNTAIN LAKES

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association on the occasion of its 60th anni-

versary. For six decades, this organization has been a steadfast advocate for tourism in the North Alabama region, significantly contributing to the economic vitality and cultural richness of our state.

Founded in 1964, the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association was established with the vision of promoting the diverse and breathtaking landscapes of North Alabama, which range from the majestic Appalachian Mountains in the east to serene lakes and vibrant vistas in the west. Over the years, Alabama Mountain Lakes has been instrumental in showcasing the natural beauty, historical landmarks, and unique attractions that make this region a cherished destination for tourists from across the Nation and around the world.

Under the dedicated leadership of its board and staff, Alabama Mountain Lakes has successfully partnered with local businesses, governments, and communities to enhance tourism infrastructure, support local economies, and preserve the region's natural and cultural heritage. The Association's innovative marketing campaigns, educational initiatives, and community engagement efforts have not only attracted countless visitors but have also fostered a deep sense of pride among residents.

The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association is committed to sharing with the rest of Alabama, the South, and the nation the great attractions, festivals, restaurants, and other entertainment options that North Alabama has to offer. From the W.C. Handy Music Festival in Florence to the Christkindlmarkt in Cullman, to the World's Longest Yardsale in DeKalb County, there is something for everyone.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association for 60 years of outstanding service. Their tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our state, and I am confident that they will continue to inspire and lead in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association for their exceptional contributions to the tourism industry and the lasting impact they have made on North Alabama and beyond.

CELEBRATING OLYMPIC GOLD
MEDALIST AND WRESTLING
CHAMPION SARAH HILDEBRANDT

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Olympic Gold Medalist and wrestling champion Sarah Hildebrandt, who brought home the gold in the women's wrestling freestyle 50-kilograms event at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France.

Growing up in Granger, Indiana, and a proud 2011 graduate of Penn High School where she wrestled all four years, Sarah's achievements in the sport of wrestling are almost too numerous to list. Prior to coming to Paris this summer, Sarah could claim being a two-time world bronze medalist, a two-time world silver medalist, and an Olympic bronze medalist from the Tokyo Summer Games as just a few of her many accolades. With her win over Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez in the 50-kilogram weight class women's freestyle final on August 7, 2024, Sarah is now also just the fourth woman to win gold in wrestling for Team USA in history.

Upon winning the gold this summer, Sarah reflected, "this gold medal is for everyone who has ever faced a setback or felt like giving up. It's proof that with hard work, determination, and a little bit of faith, anything is possible." Sarah's determination and persistence have inspired so many around the world, especially but not limited to those in the sport of wrestling.

I have always found it fitting that the Summer Olympics take place in the same year as our U.S. presidential elections. While Americans are often divided politically, every four years the Summer Olympics afford us an opportunity to unite around our love of country and be united in pride and admiration for athletes like Sarah who represent our Nation on the world stage so well.

I thank Sarah for bringing a healthy dose of Hoosier pride to Paris this summer. I congratulate her on her incredible athletic achievements, both at this summer's Olympics and throughout her impressive, decorated career. I and so many others look forward to seeing what she will continue to accomplish going forward. May God bless.