

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
MARGARET M. MEDELLIN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Margaret “Marge” M. Medellin, an inspiration and trailblazer of public service.

Born on October 8, 1937, to Mary and James Martinez, Marge was a lifetime resident of Madera, California. As a child, she discovered her love of reading and learning, laying the foundation of her 46-year career at the Madera County Office of Education beginning in July 1956. Married in July 1957 to Victor M. Medellin, Marge and Victor raised four children. They were blessed with 35 years of marriage before his passing in 1991.

Dedication to her community and a call to service led her to run for Madera City Council. Beginning her campaigning in 1977, she won her first term as the First Councilwoman in the City of Madera. This was Marge’s first step in her successful political journey spanning 1978 to 2002. Winning her second term in 1982 and elected as mayor of Madera on April 20th, Marge was recognized as California’s First Hispanic Female Mayor in the State of California. She served for two consecutive terms and an additional 4-year term.

In December 2016, Marge and her son, Andy Medellin, made history when she swore him in as the mayor of Madera. They are believed to be the first mother and son duo that have been elected mayor of the same city in California.

Marge’s passion for learning and love of helping people was not limited to her career in office. Serving on countless boards and commissions, she worked to understand and assist residents of the Central Valley. She was a founding member of the Pan American Club which provides college scholarships for young Hispanic students. She was also a founding member of Latinas Unidas which empowers young Hispanic women.

In Marge’s passing, we celebrate a life that has left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know her. Marge’s legacy lives on in her family: son, Paul Medellin and Frances Harris; Rick Medellin and Fiancé Tammy Parnow; Andy and Marsela Medellin; daughter Teri (Medellin) and Sid Greene; 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. May we draw inspiration from Marge Medellin, a catalyst of change and beloved friend to the Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Marge Medellin, a true pioneer, advocate, and mentor.

RECOGNIZING MR. JULES GOUDY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jules D. Goudy, a native Hoosier, and a World War II veteran whose unique contribution as a bugler brought both service and music to the war effort.

Born in 1925, Mr. Goudy enlisted in the U.S. Army on October 4, 1943, in Indianapolis, Indiana, ready to serve his country in a time of great need. Assigned as a bugler in the 343rd Regiment, Mr. Goudy played a key role in maintaining the morale of his fellow soldiers. The sound of his bugle not only communicated critical orders but also brought comfort and unity to troops during some of the war’s darkest moments.

Music has always had the power to inspire and heal, and Mr. Goudy’s service as a bugler did just that. In times of uncertainty and hardship, his bugle calls served as a reminder of home, resilience, and the camaraderie that bound these men together. Whether signaling the start of a new day or honoring the fallen, his music was a source of strength and hope.

Mr. Goudy’s enlistment during World War II reflected his dedication to both his nation and his fellow soldiers. A high school graduate, Mr. Goudy left his civilian life behind to serve for the duration of the war and beyond, ensuring that his service did not end until victory was secured.

On behalf of the people of Indiana’s 5th District, I thank Mr. Jules D. Goudy for his service to our Nation, for the music he brought to the battlefield, and for the lasting impact he had on his fellow soldiers. His dedication will forever be remembered.

PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Newhouse for bringing H.R. 9456 to the House floor, and for his good work leading the Western Caucus.

The Chinese Communist Party is infiltrating America. Over the last decade the CCP has spread its tentacles into our backyards by the purchase of airable lands—the very ranches and farmlands we need to feed our country and the world.

Their acquisitions of agricultural land in the U.S. have increased tenfold, posing a serious threat to our national security, economic stability, and food supply.

We can better protect ourselves from foreign adversaries, like the CCP, through support

of Mr. Newhouse’s H.R. 9456, the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act.

This bill would prohibit foreign adversaries, such as the CCP, from buying U.S. agricultural land.

Just like making sure weeds do not overtake a field, this legislation better allows us to weed out bad foreign actors from our ag lands.

By passing this legislation, Congress is standing firm against our adversaries and making it clear: we have the backs of the American people. We are taking a strong stance to protect our land, our economy, and our food supply from foreign enemies like the CCP.

This is a direct action to safeguard our Nation’s future, and we will not allow those who seek to harm us to gain control over America’s agricultural resources. We’re not just strengthening our defenses—we’re sending a message that we will always stand against those who threaten our security and way of life.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

God bless our farmers and ranchers.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL SANITATION FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) on the 80th anniversary of their founding. For the last 8 decades, NSF has been setting the standards for food and water sanitation in Michigan, North America, and around the world, and their contributions to the health of our people and our planet is worthy of commendation.

NSF was founded in 1944 by Walter Snyder, Henry Vaughan, and Nathan Sinai as a part of the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Shortly afterwards the NSF formed the Council of Public Health Consultants, which introduced NSF Standards 1 and 2, marking the inception of food equipment standards in the United States. To date, NSF has developed more than 80 public health and safety standards that have been accepted by the American National Standards Institute.

In the decades since, the mission of NSF has become much larger and more diversified. They now not only have a Food Division, but also Health Sciences, Consumer Products, and Biological Safety. Education and training in food safety, water, health sciences, and consumer products is also offered to those in the industries. Serving manufacturers operating in over 180 countries, NSF has earned the Collaborating Center designations by the World Health Organization (WHO) for Food

• 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.

and Water Safety and Indoor Environment. Its 1,200+ staff includes microbiologists, toxicologists, chemists, engineers, food safety specialists, food scientists and public health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring NSF for their accomplishments over the last 80 years. Their commitment to public health, safety, and the protection of the environment has fundamentally changed how the world operates, and their influence is crucial as we try to tackle the challenges facing our people and the planet in the 21st century. We thank them for their dedication and are excited to see the developments they make over the next 80 years. Thank you to NSF.

U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, history has a way of “upending” best laid plans or the logical outcome; the wishful thinking; or even the old admonition that “things work for the best”.

It was a beautiful calm day . . . until it wasn’t—at 4:30 a.m. in Charleston on April 12, 1861; 7:55 a.m. Honolulu time on December 7, 1941; at 8:46 a.m. on that spectacular early fall day of September 11, 2001; and, horrifically, at 5:07 a.m. on an overcast cold morning of February 22, 2022, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Wishful thinking is not a strategy.

Across our Nation there is a growing movement of wishful thinking that somehow the United States is best when isolated from the world’s woes of war, and authoritarian communism and radical religious fanatics who are “committed to the death” of America or Western Values.

I witness it on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I see and hear it in both mainstream and social media.

And I am face to face with it in regular conversations at home in Arkansas.

The consistent line goes something like this:

We should give no money to other nations because we are running huge deficits.

We should only spend national security money here on our borders and our defense, not the defense of some other nation’s freedom or their sovereign borders.

We should abandon the United Nations because our contributions there just fund those who hate us.

We must end our support of Ukraine as Putin has no beef with us; Ukraine and Crimea are Russia’s anyway; and Ukraine is a failed, corrupt state.

Some even argue why bother to continue to support Taiwan—it belongs to China anyway.

Of course, these type of arguments are not new.

We have faced these movements as a part of our politics since our founding.

In stark contrast, without allied financial support, no one denies that there would simply be no United States of America.

Our beacon on liberty would have been still born.

Yet thankfully the Continental Congress took the risk based on Benjamin Franklin’s wise ob-

ervation that “we must all hang together, or most assuredly we will hang separately” by dispatching Dr. Franklin and John Adams to French Court and the Dutch bankers, respectively, to achieve essential military and financial aid.

In a modern context we have learned the age-old maxim that appeasement does not work—and, as successive U.S. Presidents in both political parties have urged: peace is, in fact, achieved through strength.

Appeasement of Hitler was advocated by many in the 1930s, including famous Americans, flyer Charles Lindbergh and FDR’s own ambassador to the United Kingdom, JFK’s father, Joseph Kennedy.

These partners in a Munich Mentality were in stunned silence after Hitler’s invasion of Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Appeasement coupled with weak, ineffective security capabilities—demonstrated by history, and reality—result in failure, misery and subjugation.

So, we must ask ourselves, what is the response to these arguments by these successors of Lindbergh?

Yes, our federal spending levels are unsustainable. We all agree on this.

And, yes, I will also agree that there could be tremendous improvements in the scope and effectiveness of U.S. defense spending.

But, our support of our allies’ freedom, strategic foreign aid in key regions, and our global military and economic leadership are not driving our deficits.

Our deficits are driven by our unreformed mandatory spending programs and big government advocates that continue to initiate new massive, multitrillion dollar federal spending programs as well as enormous, often overdone and poorly structured federal intervention as in the 2008 financial crisis or the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

Such intervention is always clouded by the fog of the “unknown unknowns” of the particular predicament.

To those Americans that continue to resist NATO, the United Nations, and are cool on our allies in Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan, my message to them is that these institutions and alliances are a key to peace through strength.

America is a less prosperous place when we abdicate leadership. Global leadership without the United States is a “Venn Diagram” with no intersection. And, very importantly, to be successful, peace through strength is not achieved alone.

And this is the lesson of the post-Cold War decades. Looking at the world through the lens of the post war period of 1945 to 1995 is a mistake.

We now reside in a multipolar world with changing alliances and new risks.

The binary choice of Soviet Union vs. United States is dead.

In that post war period, the United States rode in as the cavalry in any conflict pitched as counter to our national interests or “the heads we win, tails you lose” cold conflict with the Soviets.

Today, achieving open seas, improved trade market access, deterrence of warfare and invasion on land, under the sea, in space or via a computer network are all at the core of the U.S. led global order.

But in a multipolar environment, accomplishing these agreed upon outcomes require more complex diplomacy and partnership.

To be against the global order is to be for chaos and expanding threats and destruction.

This will result in fewer sales and fewer jobs for the world’s largest economy and her families—us, our home, our country, the United States.

I believe that to be for America First, then one must support U.S. diplomacy crafting flexible alliances that while built on the foundations of the post war period, are in no way nostalgic.

Standing against this global order of open seas, open markets, deterrence of invasion of sovereign nations, safe and secure use of cyber and space are the self-described “axis of resistance”—China, Russia, Iran, North Korea.

And, in my view, their very active proxies around the world: state actors like Cuba, Syria, and Belarus, and nonstate fundamentalist terror groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, Al Qaeda, ISIS; and the Houthis.

Their coordinated malevolence has only grown since the 2002 now almost quaint description by President George W. Bush of this group of actors as the “axis of evil.”

Unfortunately, through “resets, unenforced red lines, and appeasement, the Obama Administration empowered this axis of resistance and any constraints imposed by Trump officials have, for the most part, been dismantled by the Obama 2.0 policies by the Biden-Harris administration.

Iran sells 80 percent of its oil—free from sanctions by President Biden—to China.

Iran takes this funding, and additional funds freed by President Biden in frozen accounts in South Korea and Iraq and uses it to build its weapons arsenal and spread its disorder:

Sending drones and missiles to Russia to kill Ukrainians.

Sending Shia militia to Iraq and Syria to protect the murderous Assad regime, and to kill Americans along with Syrian women and children.

Sending missiles and targeting technology to the Houthi rebels in Yemen to kill Yemenis, attack cargo ships and U.S. and Allied vessels in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

Sending money and weapons to Hamas in the Gaza Strip to kill Israelis and start the now 11-month long war.

Sending millions of dollars in weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon to attack and kill Israelis and, ensure that beautiful Lebanon is a bankrupt, failed state.

China and North Korea are aiding Russia with material necessary for its continued economic advance as it bombs children’s hospitals in Ukraine.

North Korea and Iran continue to advance their offensive nuclear weapon capabilities.

And, in the midst of its invasion of Ukraine, Russia, according to public reporting, is launching a nuclear weapon in space in violation of treaties and as a threat to the entire global civilization.

The December 1950 Time magazine quoted one of Putin’s role models, Lenin as saying—“the road to Paris lies through Peking” signaling Russia will partner with China to advance global domination of communism.

Never has it been more true.

These new authoritarian axis powers have set out to achieve global domination by way of countering the United States and the rule of law and by poisoning the minds of millions with cyber warfare propaganda.

To preserve our economic vitality and opportunity for our future, the United States and likeminded peoples, must echo Churchill in his commitment to repel the Nazis . . .

We must commit to fight this toxic blend of communism and terror on the beaches, in the streets, on the seas, in the air—but also on the network and in orbit.

Failure to do so will impoverish our economic future and our American spirit best voiced by President Kennedy in his inaugural address when he promised:

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to ensure the survival and the success of liberty.”

Or maybe, as we are in a multipolar world you may find an old Chinese proverb (a favorite of Mao’s) more compelling: “you have to choose between killing the Tiger or being eaten by it.”

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MAJOR RANDELL VOAS

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Major Randall Voas of Lakeville, Minnesota. Maj. Voas tragically lost his life on April 9, 2010, in an aircraft crash during a combat mission in Afghanistan. Though he lost his life that day, his heroic actions and flying skills helped save the lives of sixteen other passengers on board the aircraft.

Maj. Voas was a man of honor and integrity, serving our country in the United States Army and Air Force for nearly twenty years before his death. During that time, he served in Germany, Korea, England, Iraq, and Afghanistan. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Major Voas participated in the largest airdrop operation since Vietnam, earning a Cheney Award for his exemplary conduct during the mission.

Maj. Voas’ military career was one of remarkable service and immense sacrifice. In May of this year, the Air Force Special Operations Command honored that sacrifice by presenting his family with a Distinguished Flying Cross in honor of his extraordinary aerial skill in saving the lives of sixteen other souls on board his aircraft.

I want to both congratulate, and offer my deepest condolences to Maj. Voas’s wife, Jill, his children Maddeline and Mitchell, and the rest of his family on this posthumous recognition of Maj. Voas’s service to our country. May his memory be a blessing to them all.

CELEBRATING CARROLL DALE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Super Bowl Champion Carroll Dale. Mr. Dale dedicated his career to the sport of football, playing in the National Football League as a wide receiver for several seasons.

Born in Wise, Virginia on April 24, 1938, Mr. Dale attended Wise’s very own J.J. Kelly High School.

As an athlete for Virginia Tech Football, Mr. Dale excelled at his preparation and game routine. He played 39 games between 1956 through 1959 for Virginia Tech, amassing 15 touchdowns and over 1,000 yards receiving, which was unusual in the 1950’s. These statistics caught the eyes of NFL scouts. The university also retired his No. 84, being the first Virginia Tech athlete to receive such an honor.

Following his collegiate career, Mr. Dale entered the 1960 NFL Draft. In the 8th round, the Los Angeles Rams selected Mr. Dale with the 86th overall pick. In his NFL debut, Mr. Dale scored on a 57-yard touchdown pass.

After 5 NFL seasons with the Rams, Vince Lombardi came calling. Mr. Dale was traded to the Green Bay Packers in 1965, where he became a receiver for one of the best pro football teams.

In his first season with the Packers, Mr. Dale provided a versatility to the team’s passing attack. The Packers played the Cleveland Browns and Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown in the 1965 NFL Championship. Mr. Dale scored the first points of the game on a 47-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bart Starr in the first quarter, helping the Packers win the championship match 23–12. Mr. Dale was a world champion.

In 1966, the Packers returned to the NFL Championship game. Mr. Dale scored on a 51-yard passing touchdown. Lead by Hall of Famers such as his coach Vince Lombardi and quarterback Bart Starr, the Packers then advanced to Super Bowl I.

In Super Bowl I, Mr. Dale caught four passes for 59 yards. He also scored on a 64 yard touchdown pass in the 2nd quarter, but a motion penalty was called on Green Bay and negated the touchdown play. Despite the penalty call, the Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs and won the first ever Super Bowl.

The following season, the Packers played the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II. Mr. Dale caught four passes for 43 yards in the Packers victory and won a second Super Bowl ring.

Still catching throws from Bart Starr, Mr. Dale was selected to his first Pro Bowl appearance because of his 1968 season. This was the first of three consecutive Pro Bowl selections in as many seasons.

For the 1973 season, his last in the NFL, Mr. Dale played for the Minnesota Vikings. The Vikings advanced to the Super Bowl but lost to the AFC champion Miami Dolphins.

Overall, in 14 NFL seasons Mr. Dale put together 52 receiving touchdowns and 438 receptions for 8,277 receiving yards.

His No. 84 is one of only ten numbers retired by the Hokies football program. Since his retirement, he has served the UVA-Wise athletic program to play a role in its growth and development.

As impressive as his accolades are, Mr. Dale maintained devout spiritual beliefs throughout his life. When he signed with the Packers, he signed a 10 percent tithing provision so the money could go to Hunt United Methodist Church in Bristol. His appreciation for the Lord was always evident.

I wish Mr. Dale well and thank him for being a role model for kids and athletes that grow up in Southwest Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was otherwise detained seeking medical attention after taking ill. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 412; YEA on Roll Call No. 413; NAY on Roll Call No. 414; YEA on Roll Call No. 415; NAY on Roll Call No. 410; YEA on Roll Call No. 411; and YEA on Roll Call No. 409.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARK PLECKER

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hoosier Hero, Mr. Mark Plecker, of Noblesville, Indiana, who has led a life of dedicated service to our nation and his community.

A graduate of Noblesville High School, Mr. Plecker joined the U.S. Air Force in May 1964, and deployed as an air traffic controller during the Vietnam War, stationed in both Vietnam and Thailand from 1966 to 1967. His role was crucial in ensuring the safety of countless missions, as he managed the complex and high-stress task of his mission objectives.

After his honorable discharge in 1968, Mr. Plecker returned home to Indiana and dedicated himself to his community through a career in plumbing. At 80 years old, Mr. Plecker is still working in his field—truly showing the gumption and work ethic of the generations preceding us.

This year, Mr. Plecker has the privilege of joining the Indy Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he will visit the Vietnam Memorial and Arlington Cemetery—his first trip to our Nation’s Capital. He will be accompanied by his daughter, Kris Noe, making this a very special family moment as well.

Mr. Plecker’s life is a testament to service, both in uniform and in the years since. His dedication to his country and community reflects the true spirit of a veteran, and I am honored to recognize his service here today. From myself and on behalf of Indiana’s Fifth Congressional District, I thank Mr. Plecker for his service.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
MAHSA AMINI

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mahsa Amini on the second anniversary of her heinous murder. I join people around the world in remembering her life and legacy for the Iranian people.

Mahsa Amini was devoted to her family; especially her parents and younger brother. From a young age she felt a call to service and set her sights on entering medicine to help keep her community safe. Tragically, this

dream was cut short when the Iranian Regime's morality police arrested, beat, and murdered Ms. Amini over an alleged dress code violation.

Yet, in the aftermath of her death; the world witnessed firsthand that Ms. Amini's story would not be defined by that horrible day. Her sacrifice galvanized hundreds of thousands of Iranians to stand up to the Iranian government's draconian oppression of its people, particularly its treatment of women. The Iranian people refused to be silent and formed the Woman, Life, Freedom movement as a powerful force for change. For weeks, thousands of protestors risked and lost their lives to bring justice for Ms. Amini and freedom for Iran. I am confident that Ms. Amini's memory and the Woman, Life, Freedom movement will not fade but serve as an enduring symbol of the Iranian people's struggle for freedom and equality.

The United States has an obligation to advocate for women like Ms. Amini, whose voices are too often marginalized. We must forcefully oppose human rights abuses and gender-based subjugation, wherever it occurs. This is the only way to properly honor the memory of the valiant individuals who have lost their lives in service of a better future.

Today, as we honor Mahsa Amini's life and legacy, we should also recognize the Iranian people's fortitude and perseverance. Despite heartbreaking setbacks and daunting odds, they are working to chart a new course for their country. I, alongside many of my Congressional colleagues, stand with the Iranian people in their fight for freedom, self-determination, and a democratic society.

PROTECTING OUR FOOD SUPPLY:
THE CCP'S GROWING THREAT
AND THE DANGERS OF THE
EATS ACT

HON. NANCY MACE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those of my colleagues who are coming to the Floor this week to speak about, and to legislate in response to, the growing threat from the Chinese Communist Party. The threat is real, it is significant, and it is the solemn duty of this body to respond to it.

You will hear a lot this week about the threat to our intellectual property. You will hear about the threat to our privacy, our economic security, and our national security. But I rise today to make sure we don't overlook the very real threat of food security.

I've heard Members of both parties say, "Food security is national security." But tucked into the current version of the House Farm Bill is the H.R. 4417—EATS Act of 2023, a bill that would be a gift to the CCP. It's been lauded by the Chinese media as a way for Chinese-owned companies to dominate market share in the American food industry.

Mr. Speaker, the American Farm Bill should benefit American farmers and protect the American food supply. It should not make it easier or "more efficient" for the CCP to control our food supply.

After all, food security is national security.

HONORING HEAVEN ROSE
ARCHULETA

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an inspiring young girl from my hometown of Las Vegas, New Mexico—Heaven Rose Archuleta. Heaven Rose, a seventh grader at West Las Vegas Middle School, has already proven herself to be a remarkable young leader. At only 13 years old, she delivered a powerful TED Talk about teachers' salaries, earning her first place at the Educators Rising National Competition in Washington, D.C.

Heaven Rose is not only a passionate advocate for strengthening our education system, but also an active member of her school and community. She participates in cross country, track, and Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) at West Las Vegas Middle School and serves at her local church. Her dedication, passion, and commitment to her community and education have made her a true role model for her peers.

Her achievements have been recognized across the state. At the first New Mexico Highlands University football game this season, she was honored at halftime for her accomplishments.

Heaven Rose Archuleta continues to shine brightly, representing her state, city, community, and school district with distinction. She is a source of pride for all of us, and I look forward to seeing the many ways she will continue to lead and inspire others in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN UHRICH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kevin Uhrich, the long-time editor of the Pasadena Weekly from 1999 to 2020, who passed away on August 23, 2024.

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Uhrich for many years. His unwavering dedication, passion for the issues, and intellect were on full display for those of us who were lucky enough to work with him and read his work. He was truly a remarkable and inspiring individual—a champion for social justice issues committed to covering the vulnerable and disadvantaged of our community.

At all times, like any good journalist, Mr. Uhrich sought to uncover the truth, and fight for what he felt was right and good in his community—always standing up for those whose voices were marginalized and who had few other advocates. He could be tough on elected officials—I can say that too from personal experience—but that was part of his job, part of holding those in power accountable, and he was always fair, professional and transparent in his analysis.

Mr. Uhrich was born on February 24, 1959, and raised in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He moved to Southern California in 1979 to pursue a career in journalism. After stints at the LA Daily News and the Pasadena Star-News,

Uhrich landed at the Weekly, serving as its editor for twenty-one years.

In his passing, Kevin leaves a legacy of service to his community. Through his commitment to the public's right to information and truth, he went above and beyond, not only addressing the critical local issues that demanded attention but also shining a light on the often-overlooked stories that mattered just as much. Kevin truly cared about the people he served and made every effort to truly understand the people within his articles.

Mr. Uhrich's dedication was recognized through many prestigious accolades throughout his journalism career, including the John Anson Ford Award and awards from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia (AAN), California News Publishers Association (CNPA) and the LA Press Club.

My thoughts go out to Marina, Ted, and the rest of Mr. Uhrich's family. His legacy will resonate for years to come, and he will always be remembered for his work and the bright essence of his spirit.

HONORING BILL MASSEY ON HIS
40TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE PENINSULA AGENCY ON AGING

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable individual and a significant milestone. Today, we celebrate Bill Massey, the President & CEO of the Peninsula Agency on Aging, on his 40th anniversary with the organization.

For 4 decades, Mr. Massey has shown his commitment and compassion for older adults in Hampton Roads, and his work has empowered both older adults and their caregivers. Mr. Massey has been a cornerstone in the Hampton Roads community, working tirelessly to ensure the Peninsula Agency on Aging fulfills its mission to promote healthy aging by offering a wide range of services to seniors tailored to their specific needs.

The Peninsula Agency on Aging offers older generations the opportunity to foster greater independence, security, and an improved quality of life. The organization specifically implements several vital programs authorized under the Older Americans Act—the country's preeminent law that supports our nation's seniors. The Peninsula Agency on Aging also provides seniors with information regarding Medicare and Medicaid, as well as other supports for families and caregivers. In 2022, under his leadership, the Peninsula Agency on Aging served over 10,200 clients and provided 183,000 home delivered meals to senior citizens as well as transportation for non-emergency medical appointments. Simply put, Mr. Massey and his organization have helped Virginians stay healthy and safe.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Bill Massey's 40 years of service with the Peninsula Agency on Aging, I want to express my gratitude for all of his hard work and dedication to supporting seniors, understanding the obstacles they face. His dedication has made a lasting impact.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY QUINTEN L. MIGHT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifesaving efforts of Deputy Quinten L. Might of the Gibson County Sheriff's Office and thank him for his continuing service to his community and state.

Deputy Might grew up in the community that he serves today, attending and graduating from Wood Memorial High School in Gibson County. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army where he served as a medic. He continued his record of service when he joined the Gibson County Sheriff's Office in 2019 as a correctional officer and was sworn in as a deputy in 2021. At only 25 years old, Quinten has proven that he is willing and ready to protect and save the lives of those in his community, including in four separate incidents since July of 2023.

One of these lifesaving occasions was on May 24, 2024, when Deputy Might and another deputy responded to a personal injury accident involving a two-vehicle collision. Upon arrival, Deputy Might came to the aid of an individual who was unconscious and not breathing. Despite multiple small explosions from the fire of the crash, the two deputies moved the victim to safety, and hooked up an AED unit and began two-person CPR until the individual thankfully regained consciousness, ultimately surviving the incident.

More recently, on August 9, 2024, Deputy Might responded to a residence call about a two-year old girl who fell into a swimming pool and was unresponsive. As soon as he arrived, Deputy Might called an ambulance and quickly moved the child from the backyard to the front, during which time he freed up her airway by striking her back, likely saving her life.

I am grateful that we have law enforcement officers like Deputy Quinten Might serving our communities today and thank him for his service and dedication to Gibson County, and the State of Indiana.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BERMAN AND VIOLET LAYER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate a husband and wife from my Congressional district in Dayton, Ohio, who have reached a rare milestone, celebrating their 80th wedding anniversary.

Berman Layer and his wife Violet Layer are both 101 years old. They were married on Berman's 21st birthday, on September 16, 1944. At the time, Berman served in Europe as an aerial photographer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After serving three years in both France and Germany, Berman retired from the military and returned home to the United States. He used the GI Bill to attend Ohio State University, and graduated in 1950.

During their eight decades of marriage, Berman and Violet have served as business and

civic leaders in their community. They owned and managed a small business called Layer Repair Solutions in Dayton. Berman was elected to the Miami Township Board of Trustees in Montgomery County and served from 1978 through 1997. He helped establish the Miami Township Park Board, was a member of the Ohio Township Association, and served as an officer for that organization for 15 years.

Berman and Violet have been faithful members of the Parkview Methodist Church in Miamisburg for the past 70 years. They served as nature tour guide volunteers for school children at Cox Arboretum for over 40 years. They have visited all 50 states and toured 23 foreign countries. The couple have one son, two daughters, and eleven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Berman and Violet's love for each other has kept them together for more years than many people live. Together, they have shared the joys and challenges of marriage, and set a fine example for many young husbands and wives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Berman and Violet Layer as they each celebrate 101 years of a life well-lived, and 80 years of love and treasured memories. I wish them more years of good health and happiness together.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL SUZANNE C. NIELSEN FOR HER SERVICE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Colonel Suzanne C. Nielsen, Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

She graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in the class of 1991 with a B.S. in political science. She holds a master's degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and is an alumna of the National War College. She also has a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University. Colonel Nielsen serves on the governing council of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Upon commissioning, Colonel Nielsen moved to Augsburg, Germany, where she served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Operations Officer for the 204th MI Battalion, 66th MI Brigade. She then went on to serve in many roles in the United States Military, both at home and abroad, from 1995 to 2009, including serving in Korea and Iraq. Her career at West Point began in 1999 as an Instructor and Assistant Professor with the Department of Social Sciences. Colonel Nielsen assumed the role of Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point in 2013 and became the head of the department in 2016, where she has served since.

Colonel Nielsen has written six books, including her most recent American National Security, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2018. Over her distinguished 34-year career, Colonel Nielsen has proven herself to be a superb Soldier, an inspirational leader, and an outstanding educator. As the Head of

the Department of Social Sciences for the past eight years, Colonel Nielsen's leadership has positioned the department to provide a 21st-century outlook for cadets, faculty, staff, and the Army.

Colonel Nielsen's unwavering dedication to duty and her lifelong impact on the careers of faculty members and future Army officers have contributed immeasurably to the Department of Social Sciences and the United States Military Academy. I commend Colonel Nielsen for her life-long service and wish her all the best as she transitions to civilian life and continues to serve in new ways.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL BOBBY M. GINN, JR. ON HIS NEW ROLE AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Bobby M. Ginn, Jr. on his new role as the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard.

Major General Bobby Ginn was appointed by Governor Tate Reeves on August 1, 2024. From Tylertown, Mississippi, Major General Bobby Ginn has a long history of military tradition. His grandfather served in WWI, and his father served in WWII, both mobilizing through Camp Shelby, Mississippi—the very same military post that Major General Ginn commanded from July 2017 through November 2020.

Ginn has over 34 years of service in the Armed Forces. He started his career in 1990 as an enlisted soldier and was commissioned as a Logistics Officer in 1993 through Officer Candidate School. He became a Supply Officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 114th Area Support Group, and then was assigned as a platoon leader in 1994 of the 367th Maintenance Company—a unit he later commanded. Ginn has completed many critical assignments, including playing a vital role in the response effort after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He answered the call in 2007–2008 when he was deployed overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2017, he was appointed commander at Camp Shelby and, most recently, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. Ginn earned a B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College.

Major General Ginn is a decorated officer having earned the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and many other commendations.

I am proud of his appointment as the new Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. His service both to our Nation and the State of Mississippi are well recognized, and I am thankful for his leadership. Major General Bobby Ginn is a true American patriot.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREERS OF THREE RECENTLY
RETIRED KVOA JOURNALISTS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the remarkable careers of three distinguished journalists who have recently retired from KVOA, one of Tucson's premier news organizations: Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika.

Lupita Murillo joined the KVOA team in 1978 as a general assignment reporter, specializing in crime reporting. A pioneer in her field, Lupita was the first Hispanic female in broadcasting in South Texas before moving to Tucson. Her career at KVOA spans an impressive 46 years, during which she has garnered numerous accolades, including awards from the Arizona Press Club, United Press International, and the Associated Press. She has also been honored with several Edward R. Murrow awards and has received national recognition from the American Women in Radio and Television. Lupita's commitment to community service is exemplified by her involvement with organization such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson and Santa Cruz County, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, and the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Her dedication extends beyond the newsroom, making her a cherished member of the Tucson community.

Frank Velasco has been a steadfast presence at KVOA since 1965, starting with janitorial work and rising to become the station's first official news photographer in 1973. Over his extensive career, Frank has witnessed and adapted to significant technological changes in the industry. His passion for videography and production has left an indelible mark on the station, and his creative contributions have shaped many of the station's memorable broadcasts. Frank's deep-rooted connection to KVOA is evident in his long tenure and his role in helping the station evolve over decades.

Al Mazeika joined KVOA in 1975, initially as a part-time booth announcer and eventually transitioning into roles such as audio technician, technical director, and commercial producer. With nearly 50 years at the station, Al's versatility and dedication have made him an integral part of the KVOA family. Known for his engaging voice and behind-the-scenes work, Al has not only contributed to commercial production but has also made occasional on-air appearances. His enduring commitment to KVOA and his personal connection to the station, including meeting his wife Cathy through KVOA, highlight the deep ties he has with the organization.

Together, Lupita Murillo, Frank Velasco, and Al Mazeika have exemplified excellence in journalism and broadcasting. Their careers have enriched the Tucson community and the field of journalism through their unwavering dedication, innovative contributions, and deep connections to their work and audience.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Lupita, Frank, and Al in their retirement and life after journalism. Their legacy of service and excellence will continue to inspire

and influence the next generation of journalists and broadcasters.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES MARTIN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Martin, a Hoosier hero of the Vietnam War who has dedicated so much to our country and to Indiana. Drafted into the U.S. Army on St. Patrick's Day of 1965, Mr. Martin took on multiple roles in the Army, including mailman, fireman, battery clerk, and supply clerk. In Vietnam, he was a critical element to the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, within the notorious 1st Cavalry Division.

Mr. Martin's unit was vital to the war effort, often serving as a lifeline to fellow soldiers and the South Vietnamese Army via cover and support. He and his fellow men were known as "Shining Star" by those they saved in combat.

After returning home in 1967, Mr. Martin continued to serve in a different way—working in finance with Northwestern National Bank, which later became Wells Fargo, and eventually shifting to computer work in the final 20 years of his career.

Since moving to Noblesville in 1998, Mr. Martin has been actively involved in Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, contributing his time and passion to honoring fellow veterans.

We are forever thankful to the service of Mr. Martin, and so many others who answered the call and sacrifice so much for our Nation. From me and on behalf of the people of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Mr. Martin.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF COLONEL JACOB HELGESTAD

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Colonel Jacob Helgestad, who recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer.

Col. Helgestad was born and raised in Lonsdale, Minnesota. He attended New Prague High School where he played football, hockey, and baseball. His life of service started earlier than most—before he even graduated high school, he joined the National Guard as a private. He continued to serve in the National Guard while he attended college at Mankato State University, where he met his wife, Karry.

In 2001, Col. Helgestad deployed to Saudi Arabia as an enlisted chemical reconnaissance specialist. A few months later, in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11, he made the selfless choice to dedicate his life to serving our country. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was then deployed to Kosovo and later Iraq as a company executive officer of an infantry company in the Al Anbar province where he spent two

years leading the soldiers of Charly Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For his final deployment, Col. Helgestad served as the Battalion Commander of the 1-194 Armor Regiment. He led a historic deployment for Operation Spartan Shield based out of Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Under his leadership, 425 soldiers participated in the evacuation of Kabul, Afghanistan in August 2021 by securing vital sectors of Hamid Karzai International Airport and providing humanitarian assistance. His battalion was awarded the Army Presidential Unit Citation, the U.S. military's highest unit award, for their work. Col. Helgestad's life and career were characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represented the best that this country has to offer.

I offer my deepest condolences to Col. Helgestad's family—his wife, Karry, and his two children, Lucy and Sam. And I thank him and his family for their service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING CHAIR JHEANELLE
WILKINS, THE PEOPLE'S POLICY-
MAKER

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Maryland leader who is a visionary when it comes to policymaking and the epitome of Black excellence. Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins is a commanding trailblazer in our state who is currently serving as the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

Delegate Wilkins was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to the United States at just five years old. She was raised in neighboring Delaware and attended the University of Delaware before concluding her studies with a master's degree from American University.

Chair Wilkins has always been steadfast in her lifelong mission of enacting policy change that makes a substantial difference in people's lives. Before she ever held public office, Wilkins began her professional career as an intern at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She would impressively develop within the organization from her position as an intern all the way to her current full-time role as the Director of State and Local Government Affairs working fiercely in the realms of immigration reform, education equity, and civil rights legislation.

Wilkins' first steps into the political arena were through her positions on the board of the Montgomery County Association of Black Democrats and the Montgomery County Young Democrats. In 2014, she was elected to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

Then, in 2016, she was appointed to fill the vacant state delegate seat in the Maryland House of Delegates 20th District—becoming the first African American woman to assume this position. From the moment she took office, Delegate Wilkins has been a passionate and powerful voice in the House of Delegates on behalf of all of her constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is respected by so many of her peers for being unapologetic in her fight for what is right.

Delegate Wilkins masterfully embraces the spirit of legislating and swiftly transforms her legislative ideas into law. As the Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, she has used her standing within the legislature boldly to lead the passage of election policy and expanding voter access—including the passage of Maryland's permanent mail-in ballot list, voting access for incarcerated individuals, and expansion of early voting sites.

Her other legislative pursuits have encompassed other consequential policy areas including the passage of legislation pertaining to racial profiling and justice reform, maternal health, and increasing educational outcomes for all students. Wilkins' monumental record in the House of Delegates resulted in her being elected Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland in 2022.

Without question, Chair Wilkins displays steadfast resoluteness with the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland as she paves the path forward for Maryland's diverse communities at the helm of the nation's largest state Black Caucus. Her tenure as the Caucus Chair has been forward thinking, dedicated, and triumphant fighting every day to improve the quality of life for Marylanders everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pen these words to commend Chair Jheanelle Wilkins for her pride, determination, and spirit. I am eager and enthusiastic for her future, and Maryland's future, with Chair Wilkins at the forefront of our historic State House.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS
CITY'S UNION MISSION CHURCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I jubilantly rise today in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Kansas City's Union Mission Church. For the past century, City Union Mission has valiantly and faithfully dedicated itself to its Godly mission of serving the Fifth Congressional District's community. As a public servant, I am eternally grateful for its tireless work and endless sacrifice in service of our community. As a pastor, I am awestruck by the institution's relentless devotion to God and unwavering faith in His mission. Please join me as we take a moment to recognize City Union Mission's one hundred years of service to the Fifth congressional district and to the Lord.

In 1924, Rev. David Bulkley, an inspired minister and veteran U.S. Army Chaplain created City Union Mission Church. Rev. Bulkley served in France during the First World War and was understandably shaken by the carnage and human cruelty he witnessed there. Upon his return, he and his wife, Beulah, made it their mission to prevent the suffering at home that David had seen abroad. The Bulkley family set up shop in Kansas City's West Bottoms neighborhood and immediately began serving free meals to the area's poor

and houseless. From there, City Union Mission only continued to grow, expanding to provide shelter, as well as food, in the 1930s, and eventually evolving into the citywide enterprise we know today.

City Union Mission's vision has stayed consistent with its original purpose: to meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of men, women, and children who are underserved. The problem the Bulkley family observed in our society is still prevalent today; in 2024, around 1,798 Kansas Citians are without a place to sleep on any given night. As relentless and persistent as poverty and homelessness have been in Kansas City, City Union Mission has been equally relentless in fighting these dire issues. Last year, the Church provided shelter for 210 people a day on average, providing a total of around 76,899 nights of safe shelter. Its work has not stopped there, however; last year, City Union Mission provided around 137,834 meals, administered 4,733 medical services, and taught 30,236 hours of job training and hands-on experience for Kansas Citians. In its full century of operation, City Union Mission has developed an inspired, multifaceted approach that successfully addresses the needs of Kansas City's most needy.

Our community's most vulnerable are also more at risk of substance abuse issues and mental health concerns, a harsh reality that the folks at City Union Mission were sure to recognize. The Church initially addressed this problem in 2018 by establishing the L. Minor Care Center, a safe living facility for men with barriers to care and special needs, including behavioral health challenges, mental illness, and emotional struggles. The L. Minor Care Center is a testament to City Union Mission's ability and willingness to adapt to the times and recognize that mental health is just as important as physical health and is similarly imperiled for those who already face the challenges of poverty and homelessness.

When I think about City Union Mission Church, I am reminded of Matthew 22:39: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," as I believe that City Union Mission embodies it so perfectly. City Union Mission has demonstrated unconditional love for its fellow Kansas Citians and their humanity. The organization has executed a such flawless vision for a century now to demonstrate the extent of Christian charity in its tireless endeavors to serve Kansas City's most vulnerable. On behalf of the United States Congress and Missouri's Fifth District, I applaud City Union Mission Church on 100 years of faithful service.

IN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL
JOHN D. FOY FOR HIS SERVICE
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional leader in our U.S. Air Force.

Colonel John "JD" Foy has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. For the past two years, Colonel Foy served admirably as the Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. Transportation Command where he led his team to plan and execute over one hundred congressional engagements between the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Members of Congress.

Colonel Foy has had a remarkable twenty-three-year career after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant. After graduating with honors from Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training and C-130 Navigator Qualification Training, Colonel Foy deployed seven times and accrued over eight hundred combat hours, earning the Air Medal six times in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010, he won the U.S. Air Force's Cheney Award for leading thirty-six Airmen to establish an airfield in Pakistan providing aid and relief to over 20 million flood victims. From 2018 to 2020, as a Squadron Commander in Japan, he led over three hundred maintainers and aerial porters to support over twelve thousand missions throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Later, the Commander of U.S. Transportation Command selected Colonel Foy to serve as her Director of Legislative Affairs after graduating U.S. Marine Corps War College. As the primary liaison between Members of Congress, our staffs, committees, and U.S. Transportation Command, Colonel Foy communicated the commander's legislative priorities and ensured appropriations for three sea-lift vessels valued at \$300 million into the Ready Reserve Force and enrollment of the first ten tankers into the Tanker Security Program. Colonel Foy also led the charge in coordinating the commander's support for appropriations of a digital U.S. Coast Guard credentialing system that will drastically improve accountability of our U.S. merchant mariners.

Mr. Speaker, next month Colonel Foy will assume command of the 621st Contingency Response Group at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. It has been a great pleasure to work with Colonel Foy during his time representing U.S. Transportation Command on Capitol Hill. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Colonel Foy and his wife, Natacha. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our U.S. Air Force. They have dedicated their lives to the service of our great Nation.

Together, We Deliver.