

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### STANDING WITH CHAR BAR IN COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM

#### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, America stands in solidarity with Char Bar, which, as the only kosher restaurant in DC, was the target of antisemitic vandalism right on the eve of the 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Although the purpose of the attack was to strike terror in the heart of the Jewish community, the leadership and loyal clientele of Char Bar refuses to be covered by hate. It has no intention of shying away from its proud Jewish identity.

An attack on Char Bar as a Jewish business is an attack on all of us. Every American has a moral obligation to fight antisemitism whenever, wherever, and among whomever it appears. The Jewish diaspora should have no greater friend than the United States of America.

### RECOGNIZING COLONEL LEE R. BOUMA

#### HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Lee R. Bouma, United States Air Force, for his exceptional dedication and selfless service to the United States of America. Colonel Bouma retired on November 6, 2024, from his current assignment as Commander of the 173d Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We thank him for his commitment to our country over the past 27 years.

Colonel Bouma graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1997. His service includes Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, and Balad Air Base in Iraq. In 2015, Colonel Bouma was stationed at Kingsley Field. After serving in several positions at Kingsley Field, he earned the Command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in 2022.

Kingsley Field serves as a critical asset for American national security as it serves as an outstanding training center for the Air National Guard and active-duty pilots. In his time as Commander, Kingsley Field was selected as the next F-35A Lightning II training squadron. Colonel Bouma has ensured that Kingsley Field will continue to be an integral piece of the Air Force's modernization plans, continuing their legacy of training the next generation of fighter pilots. As commander, Colonel Bouma commanded the sole F-15C Formal Training Unit in the United States Air Force, led over 1,050 personnel, and was responsible

for overseeing a total inventory of 23 F-15 aircraft and managing 26 primary assigned aircraft. Colonel Bouma has flown over 2,200 hours in multiple aircraft, including the F-16 and F-15, and has achieved the rating of Senior Pilot. Colonel Bouma's impressive operational experience includes flying 22 combat sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, amassing over 75 hours of combat flight time. His contributions to international operations include serving as an F-15C Instructor Pilot in the Netherlands and supporting contingencies in South Korea. Colonel Bouma has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. Colonel Bouma embodies the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do as Commander, leader, and Airman.

As our nation continues to face challenges around the world, no matter the trials and uncertainty that might come our way, we have confidence in the leadership of those who have served our country, and we owe a debt of gratitude to Colonel Bouma. His dedication to training the next generation of pilots and ensuring the readiness of our forces reflects the highest ideals of military service.

Colonel Bouma has dedicated his life to serving this nation, and we thank him. We thank him for his proud service, vision, leadership, and gratitude demonstrated both at home and abroad. As we reach the culmination of his distinguished career, I join my colleagues today and congratulate Colonel Bouma for a lifetime of service to his country. We wish him, and his wife Laureen, and his children Ashley, Kamron, and Brant the best wishes as he retires from the United States Air Force.

### HONORING TERRY LINDLEY

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the enduring work of Terry Lindley on the occasion of his retirement from Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Board of Trustees after thirty years of supporting higher education.

Raised on a family ranch in Humboldt County, Terry developed an early appreciation for agriculture and respect for the community who farms it. While attending Ferndale High School, Terry met the agriculture instructor, Steve Olson, who became a trusted friend and mentor throughout his life. After graduating high school, Terry studied agricultural business at Santa Rosa Junior College while living with Steve and his wife in 1976. Steve, who eventually became Chairman of the Agriculture Department and the Dean of the College, provided counsel and guidance as Terry embarked on a distinguished career focusing on community leadership and agriculture.

After earning his degree, Terry was hired as a loan officer and appraiser at American AgCredit. Terry's excellence in agricultural business promoted him to many executive positions throughout his forty-year career, including senior vice president and chief marketing officer. Terry's aptitude for hard work, deep understanding of agriculture, and business acumen made him a remarkable pioneer in the agricultural business industry, establishing the first marketing department in the Farm Credit System.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Terry has made many enduring and positive impacts on the community during his decades of public service. For 30 years, Terry has been a trustee of Santa Rosa Junior College where he has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to providing high-quality education to the next generations of leaders in the North Bay. While he will be greatly missed in his retirement, Terry's enduring legacy will be remembered by the Lindley Center for STEM Education, a new facility to provide hands-on learning activities to support students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Terry has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to supporting agriculture and future agricultural leaders. He has been awarded numerous accolades in recognition of his service, including the SRJC's President's Medallion, 4-H Foundation's Shining Star Award, the Spirit of Sonoma County Award, and Sonoma County's North Bay Rancher of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Terry Lindley has been an excellent steward of the Santa Rosa Junior College and a dedicated community member of Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

### HONORING MS. ESSIE NORRIS

#### HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Essie Norris for her over thirty years of dedicated volunteer service with incarcerated women and men at the Alexandria City Jails. Ms. Norris was drawn to the jail ministry by a powerful scripture in Matthew 25:43-45, where Jesus said, "I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." This scripture served as a clear call to action for her. In 1992, when Elsie Taylor Jordan, a prominent community leader and Sheriff with the Alexandria City Police Department, launched the Prison Ministry at a Women's church meeting at Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1992, Ms. Norris immediately joined to support the mission. The ministry's goal was to remind the inmates that, despite their circumstances, they were not forgotten by God and that a community of faith was there to encourage

• 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.

them through their time in the Alexandria Jail. A year later, her sister and daughter joined her, singing, praying, and testifying about God to the incarnated men and women there, and together, they have continued to carry this legacy of service on.

Initially, the ministry visited every Sunday, with Essie pouring her heart into the work. As other community ministries emerged, the Ebenezer Baptist Church scaled back visiting twice a month, and now they visit once a month. One of the most memorable experiences for Ms. Norris and her family was their visit to Lorton Prison with the Missionaries of Ebenezer Baptist Church—an experience that profoundly shaped them.

Today, I am honored to recognize and celebrate Ms. Essie Norris for her work as a Prison Ministry. Her work has made a lasting impact in Northern Virginia and is a testament to her dedicated faith.

RECOGNIZING K9 HURRICANE'S  
HEROES EVENT

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the K9 Hurricane's Heroes for all the work they have done providing service to our nation's four legged heroes. Through the years, we have seen working dogs bring criminals to justice and serving alongside our servicemembers in uniform keeping our country safe. In 2014, secret service canine Hurricane stopped an intruder on the White House lawn and was awarded the Medal of Valor for it. Shortly after, K9 Hurricane's Heroes was established sponsoring 140 retired working dogs from the United States Secret Service, police departments, all five of our armed service branches and other government institutions. This organization makes sure that their service isn't forgotten and gets them the help they need to live long, happy lives after retirement. I thank them for helping our service dog heroes and keep up the great work. God bless K9 Hurricane's Heroes and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MANDY GREWAL'S  
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO  
PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mandy Grewal, Supervisor of Pittsfield Charter Township, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement. Her decades of public service to the residents of Pittsfield Township and Washtenaw County are worthy of commendation.

Mandy was born in Chandigarh, India as the youngest of three children. Her father, a Brigadier General in the Indian Army who she describes as the "original feminist", and her mother encouraged Mandy and her sister, in the early 1990's, to move to the United States so they could pursue their graduate studies.

Mandy graduated with a Master's degree in Development, Trade & Planning from Eastern Michigan University. She went on to work as an Institutional Research Analyst at EMU before moving to the Great Lakes Commission where she found her passion for environmental preservation. This led to her pursuing a doctoral degree in Urban Planning at the University of Michigan.

After graduating with her doctoral degree in 2004, Mandy became active with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and was appointed to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners in April 2006. Mandy campaigned for her first election later that year and was elected to the position of Pittsfield Charter Township Supervisor. She was the first woman and first person of color elected to the township supervisor's position and said she is proud to have been a part of a diversification of the township board, now majority women and among the most racially diverse elected bodies in the county.

Along with cultivating a culture of team work at Township Hall, Mandy credits her many successes to the partnerships she nurtured in the community, not just with Pittsfield residents but also through her civic engagement at Ann Arbor SPARK, Michigan Association of Planning, Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, SAFE House Center, Therapeutic Riding Inc., Urban County, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Some notable accomplishments under her tenure include pioneering multimodal transportation in the Township by installing connecting sidewalks, bike lanes, and improving public transportation. She also was crucial in Canton acquiring over \$60 million in grant funding to push through such legacy projects as the Public Safety Building improvements and Michigan Avenue reconstruction. Outside of her position as Supervisor, Mandy serves as Chairperson of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) where she is also a member of both the Executive Committee and the Finance & Budget Committee. In 2021, she was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Michigan Municipal Services Authority and in 2022 was appointed to the Board of the Michigan Planning Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the tremendous career of Mandy Grewal. Under Mandy's leadership, Pittsfield Township has become an example of how inclusive, respectful, and transparent planning practices, undertaken with patience and consistency, can yield a physical and cultural landscape that is both sustainable and equitable. I thank Mandy and we are excited to see what she accomplishes in her next chapter.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT G. BRIGGS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Robert G. Briggs, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, of Keller,

Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Briggs enlisted in the United States Army in 2003, serving as a signal intelligence analyst, with a combat deployment to Afghanistan. During his deployment he served as a low-level voice intercept team leader in remote areas of Afghanistan, supporting an infantry unit with signals intelligence collection and engaged in numerous firefights with insurgent forces.

Mr. Briggs' decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the NATO Afghanistan Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (2nd Award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, and the Combat Action Badge.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He is a public servant to the City of Southlake, serving as the Deputy Director of Economic Development & Tourism, and has worked tirelessly to establish a Veteran's Recognition Program for the city. He also volunteers as a youth baseball and soccer coach, serves at the Tarrant County Food Bank, and works in numerous capacities at St. Ann Catholic Parish.

Mr. Briggs' service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING SUPERVISOR JIM  
HOLMES

**HON. DOUG LAMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the two decades of public service of Supervisor Jim Holmes for the people of Placer County and Northern California.

Jim's roots run deep in Northern California, having descended from two of Placer County's pioneer families. His maternal great grandfather came to Placer County from Massachusetts in 1853 to settle and search for gold while his paternal great grandfather traveled west from Iowa and settled in Ophir, California in 1864 becoming an orchardist growing: pears, apples, cherries and peaches.

Jim was born in Auburn, California. He would attend Placer High School and Sierra College; he would then go on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Humboldt State University in 1973. To help pay for his education, Jim worked at a gas station and auto repair facility.

Jim would go on to open his own auto repair shop, which he owned and managed for nearly 30 years. As a young business owner, Jim joined many community service organizations including the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce, becoming a founding member of the Highway 49 Business Association and the North Auburn Municipal Advisory Board.

Due to his community leadership and involvement, Jim was asked to run for the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District Board

of Directors, where he would serve the community for 18 years. Jim would also serve concurrently as a Trustee of the Auburn Union Elementary School District for 8 years.

In 2003, Jim was approached by community members of North Auburn and Auburn to run for the Placer County Board of Supervisors. Jim was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2004 where he would serve the next 5 terms as Supervisor.

As Supervisor, Jim was deeply involved in the advocacy of rural counties and representing the interests of Placer County. From the very beginning of his tenure, Jim served on: Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), Air Pollution Control District Board, Criminal Justice Policy Committee, Area 4 Agency on Aging Advisory/Governing/JPA Boards, as well as many other committees and governing groups. Additionally, Jim has served as the Placer County Supervisor's Chairman of the Board in 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2023.

Jim and his wife, Pat, have three children: Stacy, Amy, and John, along with four grandchildren: Amber, Mandy, Lyla, and Mia.

We thank Supervisor Jim Holmes for his work to represent the good people of Placer County, and his many years of hard work promoting a pro-business and pro-agriculture sentiments to the Board of Supervisors. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING VFW POST 51 SPOKANE  
CHAPLAIN WESLEY S. ANDERSON

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual who has dedicated his life to the principle of "honoring the dead by caring for the living." Chaplain Wesley S. "Wes" Anderson of VFW Post 51 in Spokane, Washington, has committed decades of service to ensuring that veterans, both past and present, are remembered, respected, and supported in every way possible.

Chaplain Anderson began his journey of service as a Hospital Corpsman with the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969. Upon returning home, he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Post 7480 in Davenport, Washington. Since then, he has dedicated more than five decades to supporting his fellow veterans through various roles including Post Commander, Post Chaplain, District Commander, and State Chaplain. Through his current roles as Chaplain, Service Officer, and Judge Advocate of VFW Post 51 in Spokane, he has continually demonstrated a profound commitment to veterans and their families.

Chaplain Anderson's dedication to honoring the dead is evident in his ongoing engagement in memorials that respect and commemorate veterans who have passed, providing solemn and respectful services that give peace to families and uphold the honor of those who have served. He serves as Chaplain on call at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, Washington, and has participated in the Missing in America Pro-

gram, which ensures that unclaimed veterans receive a proper and dignified burial.

At the same time, Chaplain Anderson has devoted himself to caring for the living, particularly in times of isolation and need. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic restricted visits at the Spokane Veterans Home, Chaplain Anderson launched the "Valentines for Veterans" initiative. Knowing how a simple card could brighten a lonely day, he worked with local organizations to bring heartfelt Valentine's Day messages to residents. The initiative quickly grew, sending a powerful message that these veterans remain valued and respected. For Chaplain Anderson, this program was driven by a commitment to let veterans know they are still cherished and valued members of the community.

Chaplain Anderson's service extends to his work with the Veterans Service Center in Spokane Valley, where he brings comfort and support to veterans transitioning back to civilian life. A certified drug and alcohol counselor and tireless advocate for the prevention of veteran suicide, he offers specialized assistance to veterans in need, meeting them with understanding and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, Chaplain Wes Anderson stands as a shining example of what it means to honor the dead by caring for the living. His compassion and dedication have touched the lives of countless veterans and families, ensuring that they know they are not forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chaplain Anderson's extraordinary service and legacy.

May his example inspire us all to continue the important work of supporting our veterans, caring for those in need, and honoring the memory of those who have served.

DEPLOYMENT OF 114TH DELTA  
INFANTRY COMPANY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I am recognizing the men and women of Delta Company, 114th Infantry Regiment from Woodstown, South Jersey. As they embark on their deployment, I want to thank them for their sacrifice to serve the people of New Jersey and the United States of America. The men and women from Delta Company who have come before them have left a great legacy for them to follow. Going back to the 1860s, their predecessors played a vital part in ending the American Civil War, contributing to the Confederate States surrender at Appomattox, ending the war, ending slavery, and reuniting our great country. Since then, Delta Company has served in both World Wars, the Global War on Terrorism, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. As they prepare for their deployment, I hope they remember the great men and women who have come before them and be proud that they are carrying on that invaluable tradition. Godspeed and God bless Delta Company, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES NEWTON  
SIMPSON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Charles Newton Simpson, Major General, United States Air Force, of Southlake, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and for his continued service to his community.

Major General Simpson was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force in 1972, serving as an aviator on the F-4 Phantom, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and Lockheed U-2, with assignments in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He served as a former commander of the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, as well as two operations groups and two wings, later serving on the Joint Staff and at Headquarters, U.S. European Command.

Major General Simpson's decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, the Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Overseas Ribbon—Short with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Overseas Ribbon—Long with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, the Air Force Longevity Service with silver and three bronze oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently works with the ICW Texas Ramp project to build accessibility ramps for those with disabilities, delivers food for Metroport Meals on Wheels, and serves as the Air Force chair for the Dallas Military Ball. He has also been recognized by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for his service to the community, earning him the DAR Medal of Honor.

Major General Simpson's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA SCRIBNER'S SERVICE TO PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Scribner, Treasurer of Pittsfield Charter Township, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement. Her decades of public service to the residents of Pittsfield Township and Washtenaw County are worthy of commendation.

Patricia got her start in local politics when she joined the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission in 1989. She is still a member and has been serving as the commission's Vice President since 2007. A resident of Pittsfield Charter Township for thirty years, she has been the Township Treasurer since 2008.

Patricia's time as the Township Treasurer has been a boon for the Township and the surrounding areas. Under her direction, the Treasurers Office set a higher standard for fiduciary responsibility, resulting in Standard & Poor's Bond Rating for the Township being upgraded by two steps to AA+. They also implemented additional tax payment options, updated software programs to increase efficiency, and implemented an online payment system for Parks and Rec programs. She has earned the Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer (MiCPT), credential certified by the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association (MMTA) in 2011. Patricia has continued to maintain her credential as a MiCPT through a yearly MMTA program accredited by Central Michigan University and through additional treasury-specific education offered by the MMTA.

Outside of her work with the Treasurer's Office, Patricia also serves on Pittsfield Charter Township's Board of Trustees, Washtenaw County Treasurers Association, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, Pittsfield Historic District Commission, and the Arts & Culture Excellence in Pittsfield Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the tremendous career of Patricia Scribner. Her dedication to her community and determination to be the best Treasurer she can be is a shining example of what we should expect from our elected officials. I thank her for her service and wish her the best as she opens up the next chapter of her life. I thank Patricia.

REMEMBERING JOHN EDWARD ALLGEIER

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of John Edward Allgeier who passed away on October 24, 2024.

Born on October 17, 1930 in Louisville, Kentucky, John graduated from Fern Creek High School in 1948 and served in the United States Army before he received a Bachelor of

Science in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Kentucky in 1958. Upon graduating, John began his long career working at Olin Chemical Plant before retiring after 33 years of service.

A devout Christian, John was a dedicated member of St. John the Apostle Church and volunteered at many church picnics and was the pitcher for the church softball team. John was also an active member of his community, volunteering at the MARC Anchor House and at Churchill Downs. He enjoyed spending time fishing, hunting, and participating in community sporting events such as the local bowling league.

A loving father, grandfather, and husband of 65 years, John is survived by his wife Verna, sons Gary and Charlie, daughters Linette and Gwen, and several grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with is family during this difficult time.

HONORING DR. MIKE GALIAZZO, A 2024 MARYLAND MANUFACTURING STAR

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and great Marylander: Dr. Mike Galiazzo. He was recently named a 2024 Maryland Manufacturing Star by the Regional Manufacturing Institute (RMI) of Maryland and the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership. I hope all my colleagues will join me in celebrating him for this achievement.

I've long called Mike 'the Godfather of Maryland Manufacturing'—and for good reason. He was the one who founded RMI in the first place, 35 years ago, outlining its mission 'to advocate for Maryland manufacturing and help companies grow and be competitive.' He's brought together leaders from private industry, labor, education, and local, state, and federal government to make progress toward that goal. From helping students and young Marylanders build successful careers in the field to incentivizing manufacturers to set up shop in Maryland, Mike has devoted his life to creating new opportunities for our state's workers and businesses to get ahead.

Mike has also been an extraordinary supporter of the Make it in America agenda I launched back in 2010 to ensure that the American economy can meet the challenges of the twenty-first century and continue to outcompete the rest of the world. From the start, manufacturing has been a cornerstone of that agenda. He and I have worked to provide our workers, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers the tools and opportunities they need to Make it in America—and Make it in Maryland. Mike's work is especially crucial at a time when we are implementing the historic CHIPS and Science Act and ensuring that this once-in-a-generation investment in manufacturing reaches every corner of our state and country.

Mike's advocacy is more than just his work; it's his calling. He believes—as I do—that America is a nation of builders. American factories churned out the innovations that led to tremendous improvements in quality of life around the globe; that defeated the forces of

fascism and authoritarianism; that turned our country into the greatest economic powerhouse in the history of the world. American strength and prosperity depend on American manufacturing, and, Mr. Speaker, American manufacturing depends on tireless, principled advocates like Dr. Mike Galiazzo.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Mike for receiving this award and in thanking him for his indelible contributions to Maryland and America.

HONORING CLOVERLEIGH FARM FOR 10 YEARS OF OPERATION

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10 years of operation for Cloverleigh Farm of Columbia, Connecticut. Cloverleigh Farm is owned and operated by Susan Mitchell. Susan's remarkable leadership and tireless work ethic has grown the farm into a staple of eastern Connecticut agriculture. Cloverleigh's success is inseparable from Susan's.

Susan's agricultural journey started in the State of New York. She taught science in Cornwall, New York, a town in the center of the Hudson Valley which is dense with small, sustainable farms. Susan's love for cultivation was apparent even before officially becoming a farmer. As a science teacher, Susan transformed her environmental science classes into an army of horticulturalists. Using Cornwall High School's garden, Susan taught her students how to seriously tend to the land. The fruits of the school garden were sold to the school's cafeteria as ingredients and donated to a food pantry in the town over. She then began farming in New York's Hudson Valley before moving to Connecticut in 2010 and starting Cloverleigh Farm in 2014.

Her gift for agriculture and support for her community has become infectious since she planted her roots, literally and figuratively, in our State. Susan became a founding member of the New Connecticut Farmer Alliance, a member and leading advocate of the National Young Farmers Coalition. She is also a member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut as well as the Connecticut Farm Bureau.

Susan has trekked down to Washington to advocate for issues pertaining to young and beginning farmers, including the crucial issues of land access, support for organic operations, access to capital for young and beginning farmers, and student loan forgiveness. She works with local school districts, including that of my hometown, Vernon, to supply the produce for their farm to school programs. Susan has participated in novel approaches to getting nutritious food out to the community, including the Healthy PlanEat food delivery box program, and participating in annual "Know Your Farmer Fair" events. Most importantly, I have had the pleasure of being a customer of her produce at a local farmer's market. The carrots, radishes and melons she grows are the best.

Community lays at the center of Susan's agricultural vision. Just as the Cornwall school garden gave back to the community which fostered it, Cloverleigh has time and time again

reinvested into the eastern Connecticut community. After years of farming in Columbia, CT, Susan finally owns land of her own in Columbia. During my many visits to Susan's farms, I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand the care and love she puts into farming. She has introduced me to UConn students who are working with her and bringing that knowledge back to the university; she has been a tireless advocate for the needs of small, new and beginning, and specialty crop growers; and her friendly demeanor and tenacious spirit have driven her to this incredible milestone of 10 years in operation.

I congratulate Susan on this incredible achievement. I am indelibly grateful for her advocacy and support for the community, and I wish her the best as she embarks on the next decade of this farm.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FLAG REDEDICATION

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of having a flag flown over the United States Capitol for the re-dedication of the Fourth Degree St. Vincent Pallotti, Assembly 680 of the Knights of Columbus for their new location in Hammonton, South Jersey. For nearly 150 years, the Knights of Columbus have been a beacon of true brotherly love by showing God's power in men of the Catholic faith. St. Vincent boasts of having the fourth degree, the most prestigious members of the order, all of them obtaining the title of "Sir Knight." It is the highest degree and extension of the third with the primary objective being to "foster the spirit of patriotism and to encourage active Catholic Citizenship". I salute the men of the Fourth Degree at St. Vincent Pallotti, Assembly 680 on doing an exemplary job of serving God through the Catholic faith and being outstanding patriots to our great Nation. May God bless Fourth Degree St. Vincent Pallotti Assembly 680 and God bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING GAVIN DAREK TADE

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Gavin Darek Tade, Colonel, United States Air Force, of Southlake, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Colonel Tade was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force in 1994, serving as an aviator and drone pilot, flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the MQ-9 Reaper. He has served in leadership capacities as a Squadron Commander, a Group Commander, Vice-Wing Commander, and as a mobilization assistant to four different gen-

eral officers. With over 100 combat hours, he conducted missions over Iraq and Afghanistan deploying air-to-ground weapon assets to destroy hostile aggressors in the War on Terror.

Colonel Tade's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Leadership Ribbon, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Air Force Training Ribbon, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He coaches youth football, volunteers with schools and boy scout troops, mentors students for future careers in the Air Force, and volunteers to clean up trash alongside the road in his community. Colonel Tade sponsors ride-along flights for future pilots at the Grand Prairie Airport-as well as hosts tours for students interested in military service at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

Colonel Tade's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

#### CELEBRATING DELBERT KOHLER'S 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT DAVIS MACHINE

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Delbert Kohler's 50-year anniversary at Davis Machine, a manufacturing company based in Texas's 24th Congressional District. Delbert began his career at Davis Machine in 1974 and has consistently demonstrated immense dedication and talent.

Davis Machine built a solid reputation among its customers as a high-quality production facility, originally producing a limited range of parts in low volumes. Seeking to expand its capabilities to produce more complex components, the company purchased an Okuma LB-15 lathe equipped with Computer Numerical Control (CNC) technology. This transformed the business from a manual machine shop to a CNC-driven facility. As one of the company's most trusted experts on manual lathes, Delbert was chosen to become the CNC lathe programmer.

A master craftsman, Delbert has been instrumental in transforming the business into a high-volume production shop that continues to serve its valued customers. In 2014, he played a key role in The University of Texas at Arlington's project for the school's FSAE racing team and has trained thousands of employees over the years.

I would like to congratulate Delbert on his 50th anniversary with the Davis Machine family and wish him the best as he continues to help this high-tech operation thrive in North Texas.

RECOGNIZING LA QUINTA DE LOS REYES BEING NAMED 2024 ILLINOIS HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate La Quinta de Los Reyes in Aurora, Illinois, for being named the 2024 Small Business of the Year by the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. This award is a testament to the restaurant's dedication to exceptional service, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

Established in 2003 by Jesus Sanchez, an immigrant from Durango, Mexico, La Quinta de Los Reyes began as a family dream that has since become a culinary cornerstone of the Aurora community. Since 2014, together with his partner Claudia Urrutia, also an immigrant from Durango, Mexico they have overseen the growth of this business creating an atmosphere that celebrates Hispanic culture and traditions, while demonstrating a commitment to fostering inclusivity, supporting local events, and giving back to the community.

Beyond its culinary offerings, La Quinta de Los Reyes hosts traditional celebrations, such as Reyes Magos, gifting thousands of toys to children in the community, and Dia de Los Niños, bringing families together for a fun-filled day of children's activities and delicious food.

Located at 36 East New York Street, La Quinta de Los Reyes occupies a historic building that dates back to the 1820s. This site has evolved over the years, from housing a shoe store and the Grand Lodge of the Knights and Ladies of Honor, to hosting Jacob Bellon's German Tavern in the early 1900s. Today, La Quinta de Los Reyes exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that makes small businesses the lifeblood of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have a family enterprise like La Quinta de Los Reyes in my district, to serve as a reminder of the essential role that Hispanic-owned businesses play in shaping the economic and cultural fabric of our Nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jesus Sanchez, Claudia Urrutia, and their entire family and team on this well-deserved honor.

#### HONORING ANN PETRONACI (QUILT OF VALOR)

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure to present Petty Officer Second Class Ann Petronaci with the Quilt of Valor in Little Egg Harbor Township, South Jersey. Ann valiantly served our country for seven years in the United States Navy as a Radio woman, playing a crucial role transmitting and receiving radio signals both onshore and at sea. The Radio woman was one of the most important roles in the U.S. military, as the success of missions heavily relied on effective communication between units. At the time,

radio technology was extraordinarily hard to maintain due to the limited advancements that we now have today. Despite this, Ann persevered and made sure that the units she served with received the necessary communication needed to complete missions across the globe. She spent a big part of her time away from her family, spending time stationed on military bases in Spain and Germany, but Petty Officer Second Class Petronaci honorably served her time and was discharged in 1982. I want to thank Ann for her distinguished years of service to our country. God bless Ann and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF TOMMY AND CINDY McLEOD

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Tom and Cindy McLeod.

George Thomas McLeod, Jr. was born in Birmingham, Alabama on January 3, 1953, to George Thomas McLeod and Marie White McLeod. Cynthia Diane McAuley was born in Mobile, Alabama, on August 30, 1954, to Claude Ewing McAuley and Barbara Delores McAuley. When Cindy was in elementary school, her family moved to Birmingham.

Tom and Cindy attended Shades Valley High School and that's where their love story began. Tom graduated in 1971 and stayed in Birmingham to work for the family business. Cindy graduated in 1973 and briefly attended classes at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, before Tom convinced her to move back to Birmingham. He sold his motorcycle to buy her an engagement ring and she said yes.

They married on November 2, 1974, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Birmingham. They started a family in 1978 with the birth of a son, Christopher Neal McLeod. Chris is married to Joanna Mazzone of Pelham, and they have two sons: Caden Thomas (13) and Coker Neal (10). Their daughter, Kimberly Lynn McLeod, was born in 1982. Kim is married to Dr. John Flannagan of Anniston, and they have one son: Will Rivers (8).

Fifty years later, Tom and Cindy enjoy spending time with friends and family, traveling in their RV, bird watching, yardwork and attending their grandsons' sporting events. Tom also enjoys golfing while Cindy serves her friends and family and rescues stray animals.

The McLeod's attend Double Oak Community Church in Mt. Laurel and are members of Greystone Golf & Country Club. They celebrated their 50th anniversary with friends and family at Greystone Country Club Legacy, with a surprise party hosted by their children and their spouses on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone and wishing them a happy 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metra and all its employees on their 40th anniversary of delivering public transportation services for the communities in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District and beyond.

Metra is essential to our work in Illinois to build a strong, vibrant regional economy. Public transportation connects residents of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District to high-quality jobs, public amenities, and local businesses, from DuPage County to downtown Chicago and beyond.

When public transportation provides reliable, affordable, and accessible service, the benefits go beyond economic development and opportunity. We can achieve cleaner environments, better family health outcomes, and safer communities.

This is why I am proud to have secured \$8 million in federal funds from the Department of Transportation's Rail Crossing Elimination program to support the separation of train traffic from pedestrians and cars in the Franklin Park community in my district—a project that will improve safety and mobility for local residents in my district.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Metra and its commuter rail service, I will continue advocating for policies and investments that support public transit improvements, strengthen green, resilient infrastructure, and expand choice and equity in our transportation systems.

I thank Metra, for their service to connecting our communities. Let's continue rolling together towards a bright future.

RECOGNIZING BRADLEY LINCH

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Bradley Linch, Specialist, United States Army, of Southlake, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Linch enlisted in the United States Army in 1987, serving as a food service specialist in the 25th Infantry Division. During his time in service, Mr. Linch wrote a paper titled, "The Army's Food", which his college professor encouraged him to send to Members of Congress. After receiving the paper, former Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen reached back out to Mr. Linch, and after correspondence, a Senate investigation paved the way for more nutritious food to be served at dining facilities across the Army.

Mr. Linch's decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Army Service Medal.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently serves as a mentor to students on financial markets, as well as a member of the Southlake Chamber of Commerce assisting with fundraising activities. He also volunteers with the Kids Matter International local chapter, and has coached youth sports for ten seasons with the Miracle League of Southlake. He is also a member of the American Legion and a graduate of the Southlake Citizens Academy.

Mr. Linch's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING KYLER CAMPSMITH

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the great honor of attending the Eagle Scout ceremony for an extraordinary young man in Kyler Campsmith. Kyler comes from a legacy of Eagle Scouts in his family and has been involved in scouts since the first grade. Since that time, he has been involved in a variety of leadership roles to include patrol leader, senior patrol, and troop guide where he displayed his gift for teaching by being exceptionally patient with the younger scouts. For his eagle scout project, Kyler demonstrated his love for God by building a Gaga ball pit for the youth ministry for Wellspring Church of which he is a member and plays guitar for the worship team. Kyler is also a tremendous athlete playing both varsity basketball and baseball at the Pilgrim Academy in Mays Landing, South Jersey where he will graduate from in June. He works exceptionally hard outside of boy scouts working as a lifeguard and will continue to work at the Ocean City Waterpark this summer until he begins pursuing his dream. He has always dreamed of becoming an electrical line worker and once he graduates from the Pilgrim Academy, he will begin the path toward achieving it. I have no doubt that Kyler will be successful in whatever endeavor he decides to pursue and will continue to be an invaluable member of his community. God bless Kyler Campsmith and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN SNEIDEMAN'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CANTON

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Sneiderman of Canton, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement from Canton Township's Board of Trustees. His dedication to his community during a career of service is worthy of commendation.

Steven started out his education career by earning his Bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and a Master of Business Administration from New York University. Steven moved to Canton in 1994 and over the

last three decades has held multiple positions helping the Canton community. He served on the Partnership for the Art Board and the Plymouth-Canton School Board from 2006 to 2012, where he was President for two years. While on the board, Steven was instrumental in diversity and inclusion programs at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and adding Chinese Language to the curriculum.

After his time on the Partnership for the Art and School Boards, Steven was elected to Canton's Board of Trustees in 2016. He has been instrumental in the passing of the Human Rights ordinance, as well as the Canton roads program and the balancing of the township budget. In recognition of his hard work and dedication to his community, Steven was inducted into the Canton Hall of Fame in 2019 as a resident that has supported the community for many years. From preserving green spaces to addressing deteriorating and crowded roads and ensuring equal rights for all that live there, Steven has consistently showed the love that he has for his community. Presently, Steven is the Chairman of the Canton Community Foundation and has led the foundation in offering scholarships to students, providing grants to organizations for local youth and seniors, as well as veteran support. Steven has done all this while balancing being a global program manager for AT&T and a dedicated family man to his wife, Kelli, and his two daughters, Maggie and Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the tremendous career of Steven Sneiderman as he continues to be a pillar of the Canton community and is a beloved friend and neighbor. I thank Steven.

HONORING SUPERVISOR MAT  
CONANT

**HON. DOUG LaMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the agriculture impacts and public service career of Sutter County Supervisor Mat Conant.

Mat is deeply rooted in California as a fifth generation California farmer, including three generations of farming in Sutter County dating back to the 1920's. Mat is a lifelong resident of Rio Oso where his family farms.

Mat's early education was in Sutter and Yuba County where he proudly attended East Nicolaus High School and Yuba College. Mat would further his education at California Polytechnic State University (CalPoly) in San Luis Obispo earning a Bachelor's Degree. Mat also joined the California Agriculture Leadership Program furthering his interest and advocacy for the agriculture industry.

Mat is a 21-year veteran of the East Nicolaus Fire Department, where he served in many different capacities during his tenure working to keep Sutter County firesafe. He is a Eucharistic Minister of the Catholic Church and an over 30-year member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mat has served as a board member for the California Farm Bureau, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, South Sutter Water District, East Nicolaus High School, Brown's Elementary School Board, South Sutter Little League, and

as a Committee Member on the Diamond Walnut Advisory Committee.

Mat with his wife, Lorene, have two sons one of which works with Mat and continues the strong Conant family legacy of farming in Northern California.

We thank Supervisor Mat Conant for his many years of service and advocacy for the agriculture industry while on the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

CELEBRATING BUENA BOROUGH'S  
75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to wish Buena Borough of South Jersey a happy 75th anniversary. This wonderful community has been a major part of the history of South Jersey, despite being one of the newer incorporated townships in the area. It was first settled as a part of Cape May County in 1692, making it one of the oldest settlements in the entire United States. Through the years, this community had a significant role in growing the economies of Cape May, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties before becoming its own incorporated town in 1949. A mass meeting was organized in the Landisville Fire Hall to discuss the formation of this new small city, drawing a record attendance. The new township resolved many issues related to the public water system and other industries, paving the way for many firms to come to the area in the years after. Buena Borough has flourished for the last 75 years, and I am proud to say they are an outstanding part of South Jersey.

God Bless Buena Borough and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JACI BOBBITT

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to remember Jaci Bobbitt, an incredible resident of South Jersey and a great friend of mine. Jaci lived a remarkable life, starting in Portsmouth, Ohio before attending West Virginia University, where she met her husband, John. Her vibrant personality kept her social calendar full, allowing her to enjoy quality time with family members and beloved friends. Her and John both shared a passion for music; she was a fantastic dancer, specializing in the jitterbug, fox trot and the waltz. Jaci was a tremendously involved member of her community, volunteering and running numerous organizations throughout the years. Some of those include Chairperson of the Candy Striper Committee at the Memorial Hospital of Salem County, Charter member and Secretary of Boots and Saddles Riding Club, and Leader of two winning State Horse Bowl Championships. She received multiple awards for her dedication including the Woman of Achievement Award and the prestigious Crystal Rose Award from

the Salem Chamber of Commerce. As a longtime member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Pennsville, South Jersey, she continually nurtured, studied and grew her faith. I will miss seeing Jaci at the Salem County Fair, but I take comfort knowing she is with our Lord in Heaven.

God bless Jaci and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING ITA INTERNATIONAL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of ITA International LLC of Newport News, Virginia to the nation through their transition of Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) developed technology to government and commercial use.

Their approach is unique in that, first, they use commercial off the shelf products for the front- and back-end of the tool with the SBIR-developed analytic algorithms "in the middle". This approach significantly reduces the cost required to deliver solutions by leveraging existing government software licenses integrated with SBIR-developed algorithms. Secondly, rather than providing a piece of software, they marry their data analytic algorithms with subject matter experts with profound understanding to provide unsurpassed service, that ITA refers to as "technology enabled professional services," to their customers. Finally, they have a structured process for applying these algorithms, a proprietary approach based on agile development that ensures continuous interaction with the customer and iterative improvement of the tools and services they provide.

ITA provides a shining example of the exact intent of the SBIR program. ITA leveraged federally funded research in Phase I and Phase II to develop data analytic algorithms and then applied those algorithms to solve government and industry problems in Phase III through innovative services. While their focus has been on the Department of Defense, customers across the federal government and in industry are seeing the benefit of the technology enabled professional services they provide.

One example is how ITA has perfected and extended a SBIR tool (LOGCOP) using SBIR Phase III contracts over the years to provide advanced data analytic and artificial intelligence techniques or decision support tools. ITA continues to develop one of the resulting tools, called the Availability Management System (AMS), for the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center to better plan and execute surface ship maintenance periods. This tool has allowed the Navy to avoid hundreds of additional ship maintenance delays, improving readiness and diverting hundreds of millions of dollars to other critical purposes for a government investment a small fraction of that. AMS is being evaluated for broader use and integration into existing Navy decision support tools.

On behalf of the 1st district of Virginia, I thank ITA for its service to our Nation, and I look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP  
OF TY BLACKFORD

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, I rise to recognize the leadership of Ty Blackford within his roles as President and Program Manager at the Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC).

During his time as President and Program Manager at IEC, Ty Blackford led his team to advance the cleanup mission at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Laboratory Site (INL). Under his leadership, in 2022, IEC completed the exhumation of legacy waste at the Site's Subsurface Disposal Area 18 months ahead of schedule. Following the demolition of two ancillary structures at the Naval Reactors Facility, his team began demolition of the Submarine 1st Generation Westinghouse reactor prototype and recycled more than 420 tons of non-radiological metals. In 2023, Ty's team completed the transfer of spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage nine months ahead of schedule.

In 2024, Ty led the IEC team to complete the Accelerated Retrieval Project, one of the largest demolition projects completed in the history of DOE's environmental cleanup program. The project was completed three months ahead of schedule and under budget. In all, workers demolished more than 520,000 square feet of building space, which is equivalent to three times the footprint of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Under Ty's leadership, operations began at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit in 2023 as well. To date, the project has processed over 100,000 gallons of sodium-bearing waste. These most recent accomplishments have paved the way for DOE to meet two significant milestones outlined in the Idaho Settlement Agreement for the State of Idaho.

Each of these accomplishments speak to Ty's 30-plus years of experience leading and managing large and complex projects for DOE's cleanup and nuclear operations programs at sites across the Nation, including the Idaho Cleanup Project, Savannah River, Hanford and Oak Ridge. He has set the bar high for future leaders and has established a baseline for success, of which Idaho can be proud.

We thank Ty Blackford for his diligence in his role as President and Program Manager at IEC and for his accomplishments in the cleanup mission at INL.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY CEBALLOS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas. The 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Zachary Ceballos, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps, of Eules, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America

and for his continued service to his community,

Mr. Ceballos enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2008, serving as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, deploying to Sangin, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. During his deployment, his unit would suffer significant losses that would lay the foundation for his current dedication to supporting veterans from all eras of service.

Mr. Ceballos' decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 service stars, the NATO Medal—ISAF Afghanistan, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and the Expert Rifle Badge.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently serves as a veteran peer support specialist for GallantFew, a local veteran service organization. He devotes his spare time to coaching veterans on mental health, teaching them rock climbing, helping lead the Metroport Veterans Association, and planning Melborial Day as well as Veterans Day observances in the community.

Mr. Ceballos service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENT  
SERGEANT FRANCIS MCCARDLE

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to present the Quilt of Valor to Army veteran Sergeant Francis McArdle, in recognition of his great service to our country. Sgt. McArdle gave three years of his life to the United States by serving in the U.S. Army during one of the toughest times of American history, the Vietnam War. He served his country in a multitude of ways, first beginning with a special designation as a Forward Observer to the 101st Airborne Division with the 527th Artillery Unit. He then served as Communications Sergeant for Battery Company of the 527th Artillery before finishing his enlistment with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Not everyone answers the call to defend our freedom, particularly during such a turbulent time for our country. Sgt. McArdle was one of those rare patriots that did, and it was my great honor that I was able to present him with the Quilt of Valor. May God bless Sgt. McArdle and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING "A SLAVE'S STORY"

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of

Wisconsin, I would like to recognize the Arnwine Family for honoring their family's legacy of perseverance, activism, and dedication to create a more equal and just nation.

Sterling Arnwine's 1936 interview with the Federal Writers Project captured the unimaginable hardship and persecution of him and his family while enslaved. I am inspired by the story of Sterling Arnwine and the commitment of his descendants to share the stories of Black Americans who suffered under the violent institution of American slavery.

The sharing of stories not only memorializes the many people who suffered but also gives voice to the survivors. I thank them for all they have done to benefit our communities. The Arnwine Family has touched the lives of many, and I look forward to seeing the continued impact and change their family creates in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE MARSHALL  
STREET ARMORY

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the 100th anniversary of the Marshall Street Armory, a historic landmark that has served as a vital cornerstone of the Lansing community.

Since its opening in 1924, the Marshall Street Armory has played an important role in supporting our military through numerous conflicts and serving the people of Mid-Michigan.

Originally home to the 119th Field Artillery Regiment of the Michigan National Guard, the armory was designed by Michigan's first state architect, Lynn W. Fry, and stands as one of the earliest examples of Gothic-inspired military architecture in the state. For more than 80 years, it housed Lansing-based National Guard units that contributed to the defense of our Nation in nearly every war during that period. The Marshall Street Armory was also the staging ground for Guard units providing aid during domestic crises and natural disasters, helping to protect our country and assist those in need.

Beyond its military purpose, the armory became a gathering place for local residents. It hosted weddings, concerts, swap meets, boxing matches, and even circuses, cementing its place as a hub for social events and activities. Whether for celebrations or service, the Marshall Street Armory always brought people together in times of peace.

After the 119th Field Artillery Regiment was decommissioned in 2007, the armory closed its doors as a military facility. In 2010, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, securing its legacy as an architectural and historical treasure.

In 2012, following extensive renovations, the Marshall Street Armory reopened as a non-profit collaboration center. Today, it houses several organizations, including Capital Area United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Capital Region Community Foundation. It continues to serve the Greater Lansing area in a new capacity, providing essential services and strengthening the fabric of Mid-Michigan.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Marshall Street Armory, let us honor both



its military heritage and its present role as a center of service and opportunity, filled with organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Lansing residents. It is with great appreciation and respect that I recognize the Marshall Street Armory's century of service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF SUPERVISOR JOHN HIDAHL

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of El Dorado County Supervisor John Hidahl, who passed away on November 2, 2024, at the age of 73.

John Hidahl was born and raised in California's Central Valley and graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Throughout his successful career, he worked at Aerojet for 31 years and Northrop Grumman for 10 years, where he filled various roles, such as a rocket test engineer, the director of engineering, and the chief systems manager. Coming from a farming family, Supervisor Hidahl was also the Chairman of Hidahl Ranch, where he helped manage the almond and walnut farm.

Outside of his career success, Supervisor Hidahl tirelessly worked to improve the community around him. His motto of service before self is evident in the various areas where he volunteered and served his community. Among his many other roles in the El Dorado Hills community, he served for 33 years on the County Water District, 36 years on the Area Planning Advisory Committee, and 23 years on the Community Council.

Supervisor Hidahl was elected twice to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, where he served as the District 1 Supervisor while advocating for a balanced budget, open space preservation, and housing options for seniors. Supervisor Hidahl was also engaged with his community outside of his formal roles, as he also actively supported the boy and girl scouts along with groups that serve the county's homeless population. In his spare time, Supervisor Hidahl enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, and being outdoors.

Supervisor Hidahl is survived by his wife Eileen, their five daughters, and their 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Hidahl was a devoted public servant who loved his country, his county, and his community. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR.  
BRIAN E. FUCHS

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Brian E. Fuchs, who retired this month after 41 years of faithful and dedicated service as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army.

After graduating from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. Fuchs chose to apply his knowledge and experience to the U.S. military's munitions research at Picatinny Arsenal located in NJ-11. The contributions he has made to our national defense, and to our allies' defense, are enormous, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Dr. Fuchs first entered the U.S. Army in 1983 where he worked in energetics materials testing, detonation physics, and energetic formulations. Since then, Dr. Fuchs has maintained a variety of different positions on various boards and organizations focused on insensitive munitions research. Dr. Fuchs is also a leader in the rapidly growing field of research on explosive ink where, under his leadership, his team was able to produce the first qualified explosive ink.

Along with his long career in munitions development, Dr. Fuchs is an Adjunct Professor for the Stevens Institute of Technology and serves as the Steering committee chair for NATO's Munitions Safety Information Analysis Center (MSIAC).

Widely recognized by several organizations, Dr. Fuchs was awarded the National Defense Industrial Association Firepower Award for Technology Development in 2016. Dr. Fuchs has also been awarded the Academic R&D Award by Printed Electronics USA, the Six Army Research Development Achievement Award for Technical Excellence, and the Army Research Development Award for Leadership. These awards were all given in recognition of Dr. Fuchs' outstanding devotion to duty and his contributions to research and development of munitions.

I want to thank Dr. Fuchs for the critical engineering and research work that he and his team have done over his career to support our national defense, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT ANDREW  
"TIM" KINIRY (WWII ARMY MEDIC)

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to pay tribute to Sergeant Andrew "Tim" Kiniry, a 102-year-old U.S. Army veteran who served his country gallantly on the shores of Normandy during World War II. Sergeant Kiniry performed one of the most courageous duties a soldier can do by volunteering as a medic right on the front lines of one of America's bloodiest battles. Not only did he charge bravely into battle with his unit, but he also simultaneously treated his fellow soldiers for injuries while under fire. Army medics were often the primary target on the battlefield, marked by the Red Cross for protection, but it ultimately led to increased fire by the Nazis. Tim, however, carried out his duties with bravery, applying tourniquets, bandaging wounds, and helping evacuate casualties to hospitals. This past year, he returned to Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and pay homage to all the fallen heroes. In the years following the war, Tim has devoted much of his time educating the youth of the atrocities that war brings, and he loves to remind me of the great quote "Lest we forget."

I thank Tim for all he has done for the United States. God bless Sergeant "Tim" and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUR LOWER  
SNAKE RIVER DAMS AND THE  
VALUE THEY PROVIDE TO EAST-  
ERN WASHINGTON

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four Lower Snake River dams and the value they provide to Eastern Washington.

The Columbia River System is the beating heart of the Pacific Northwest. This critical infrastructure helped transform our region from a dry, barren sage brush into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

It serves as a super-marine highway for farmers to ship their products all across America, while keeping thousands of trucks off the road every year. The dams along the Lower Snake River have strengthened our energy grid, lowered energy costs, and made us a leader in reducing carbon emissions.

They help prevent life-threatening blackouts during extreme weather, not just in Washington state, but in California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Wyoming. They also support a thriving tourism economy of small businesses and protect parts of our region from devastating floods.

To put it simply: the Columbia River System is critical to our entire way of life.

Thanks to historic investments by Congress through the years, the four Lower Snake River dams are nearly transparent to salmon. With some of the most effective fish passage systems in the nation, these dams have achieved an average survival rate for ocean-bound juvenile salmon of between 95 and 97 percent. For adults, that average is more than 98 percent.

The scientific evidence supports the reality that dams and salmon can—and do—co-exist. According to a 2018 evaluation conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 99.6 percent of juveniles and 97.3 percent of all yearling Chinook salmon safely bypassed the Lower Granite Dam—a survival rate that exceeds the NOAA Biological performance standard of 96 percent.

The same study found that steelhead salmon enjoyed a 100 percent juvenile survival rate and an overall dam passage rate of 99.4 percent. On top of that, available data suggests that 2023 was the highest count for adult sockeye salmon on record at Lower Granite Dam with 2,921 adults returning.

Despite the rhetoric surrounding the Lower Snake River dams and salmon, we continue to see improvements in the returns with 2024 currently on track to be the third straight year of exceeding the 10-year average sockeye return.

This is not a coincidence. The Lower Snake River dams utilize some of the most informative technology we have to help fish migrate the river, including fish slides and fish ladders to help salmon get over the dams safely, fish friendly turbines, spillways, and bypass facilities.

As a result, a recent study conducted by NOAA Fisheries concluded that survival rates along the Snake River system are approaching levels seen on rivers without dams. In fact, this study found that wild juvenile steelhead transported through the dams by barge return as an adult at an 80 percent higher rate than in-river migrating fish.

In 1938, before the dams were built, it is estimated that 1.67 million salmon and steelhead returned to the mouth of the Columbia River. In 2022, that estimate grew to 2.38 million. We do not have to choose between saving our dams and preserving our salmon populations. We can continue to protect endangered salmon without sacrificing our way of life.

The Lower Snake River dams are critical for strengthening our energy grid and providing our region with some of the lowest energy costs in the nation. They help give us our competitive edge. In the Pacific Northwest, roughly 60 percent of the power consumed comes from hydroelectricity; in Washington state alone, that figure is closer to 70 percent.

Lower Granite Dam alone has six hydroelectric generators that generate up to 135 megawatts (MW) of energy each. Together, they have the capacity to generate 810 megawatts, which is enough electricity to power a city the size of Portland, Oregon.

Ice Harbor Dam, another part of the Columbia-Snake River System, can generate enough electricity to power all of the homes in Spokane, Spokane Valley, and Wenatchee. Perhaps one of the most underappreciated aspects of the hydropower produced by these dams is that it can be dispatched at a moment's notice, helping families and businesses keep their lights on year-round.

The Columbia-Snake River System also serves as a super-marine highway for farmers to ship their products all across America and around the world, all while reducing carbon emissions and lowering shipping costs.

Each year, nearly 10 percent of all U.S. wheat exports are barged on the Snake River. Additionally, roughly 250,000 tons of wood chips are barged between locations on the Lower Columbia River and Lewiston, Idaho, where they are turned into pulp for paper production at mills across our region.

In 2020, approximately 4.2 million tons of cargo were transported through the Snake River dams. It would have taken more than 42,000 rail cars or 162,000 semi-trucks to transport that amount of cargo on land. If these dams were breached, it would lead to an increase in diesel fuel consumption by nearly 5 million gallons per year. It would also result in an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful emissions by more than 1.2 million tons per year.

The increased trucking activity would also increase the cost of fuel, highway and terminal facility maintenance, driver time, and vehicle maintenance by more than \$69 million per year, all of which would be passed on to consumers.

The bottom line is that tearing out the Lower Snake River dams would not only diminish grid reliability and make it harder for local farmers to feed the world, it would be counter-productive to achieving our carbon reduction goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous benefits the four Lower Snake River Dams provide for the people of Eastern Washington and for the entire Pacific Northwest.

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RECOGNIZING THE GLOBAL MEDICAL RESPONSE 2024 STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients for 2024.

Each year, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) honors a select group of Emergency Medical Services professionals for their commitment to patient care, integrity, and compassion through the Stars of Life program. Global Medical Response, a member of the AAA and the world's largest provider of emergent and non-emergent medical transportation and healthcare services, has identified 33 of its frontline heroes for this distinction, representing the best of the best in the air and on the ground.

We will find these heroes all around us in our communities. From Maui, Hawaii where a Paramedic, served as the Incident Commander for EMS ground units during the deadly 2023 fire that devastated Lahaina to an advanced EMF in Lagrange, GA, who safely delivered a baby while the baby's mother was being transported to a hospital, and performed lifesaving interventions on the newborn, who was "pulseless" at the time of birth to Waco, TX where a paramedic, saved the life of a cardiac arrest patient after working on the individual for 30 minutes before achieving return of spontaneous circulation.

There are countless stories to share and so much that we can learn from the day-to-day lives of these heroes. We must learn to exhibit integrity in everything we do and everything we say. We must act with compassion and grace in even the most daunting and challenging of situations. We must be vigilant, never wavering in our commitment to doing what is right for the community and answering the call to serve.

So that we will never forget the immense contributions to our communities made by the 2024 Global Medical Response Stars of Life award recipients, I respectfully request that each of their names be included in the

RECORD to honor their service and humbly thank them for showing us what it means to truly serve, while providing care to the world at a moment's notice.

GLOBAL MEDICAL RESPONSE 2024 STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Frank Alba, Critical Care Paramedic of Kansas City, KS; Johan Alvarado, Flight Paramedic of Laredo, TX; Aubree Arneson, Advanced EMT of Brookings, OR; Henry Barsh, EMT of Washington, D.C.; Antoine Berenger, Firefighter, EMT, of Tempe, AZ; Heather James, Advanced EMT of Lagrange, GA; Emily Chandler, EMS Programs Manager of Springfield, MA; Josh Cavaness, Flight Paramedic of Chanute, KS; Andrew Davalos, Paramedic of Rancho Cucamonga, CA; Riggs Egolf, Paramedic of Hampton, VA.

Juvencio Estrada, Flight Nurse of Laredo, TX; Brent Fisher, Flight Paramedic of Poplar Bluff, MO; Jason Florance, Paramedic of Topeka, KS; Scotland Hamlin, EMT, Field Training Officer of Orlando, FL; Jason Henry, Fire Captain of Tempe, AZ; Jason Hodges, Operations Supervisor of Portland, OR; David Kingdon, Paramedic of Maui County, HI; Daniel "Dan" Laguna, Pilot of Elko, NV; Matthew Lambert, Paramedic, Lifeguard of Florence, AL; Miki Leslie, EMT, Field Training Officer of Yakima, WA.

Alyssa Meier, EMT of Prescott, AZ; Eli Melamed, Paramedic of Prescott, AZ; Megan Overbeck, Paramedic of Decatur, IL; Michael Pernna, Critical Care Transport Registered Nurse of Redlands, CA; Kevin Rochford, Paramedic of Waco, TX; Lance Smeal, Advanced EMF, Field Training Officer of Buffalo, NY.

Raquel Soto, Paramedic of West Hartford, CT; Jason Southard, Operations Supervisor of Tucson, AZ; Shane Terry, Flight Paramedic of Big Spring, TX; Andrew Varela, Paramedic, Field Training Officer of Modesto, CA; Lucie Walters, Flight Respiratory Therapist of Birmingham, AL; Nikki Warren, Flight Nurse of Poplar Bluff, MO; Ambrose Stevens, Paramedic, Operations Manager of Redding, CA.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, due to air travel cancellations. As both a co-sponsor and a signer of the discharge petition that brought this bill to the floor, I am a strong supporter of eliminating the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO) that denies some retirees from receiving their full Social Security benefits.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 456.