

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2020 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evie Nguyen of Glendale, Arizona on winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Evie's artwork, completed in charcoal and titled "Mutual," highlights the close relationship between humans and nature by showcasing herself with a Cactus Wren, Arizona's state bird.

Evie was a senior at Deer Valley High School when the artwork was completed. Her art is currently being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with the other Congressional Art Competition winners from around the country.

Each spring, I am proud to host the Congressional Art Competition to showcase the incredibly talented students across Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

It is an honor to represent these promising young artists in Congress.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL W. McLAUGHLIN

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Michael McLaughlin and celebrate his retirement from the Cosumnes Fire Department. Chief McLaughlin started his fire service career in 1988 as a Reserve Firefighter with Contra Costa County Consolidated Fire Protection District. Throughout his fire service career, he has served for South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore before being promoted to Assistant Fire Chief. He then became a Division Chief for the Merced Fire Department before serving with Cosumnes CSD Fire Department which covers my district. During his time with the CSD Fire Department, he has held the title of Deputy Fire Chief before his promotion to his current role as Fire Chief.

Before Chief McLaughlin became a firefighter, he worked as a paramedic in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. He was also instrumental in the creation and growth of the South Lake County and Lawrence Livermore Paramedic Programs and has been a licensed Paramedic in California since 1990. Mr. McLaughlin has an Associate of Science Degree in Fire Technology from Yuba College, along with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Department Administration from Cogswell Polytechnical College.

I want to extend my congratulations and thank Chief McLaughlin for his hard work and

dedication to keeping California safe. Chief McLaughlin also assisted in the development of the HERO Act, legislation I introduced to provide first responders access to critical mental health resources which passed the House of Representatives this fall. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. McLaughlin for his work in the community and wish him the best in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAMIEN JEROME LOPEZ

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Damien Jerome Lopez, a brave first responder and firefighter from Globe, Arizona, who passed away last week after his battle with COVID-19.

For over two decades, Damien bravely served his community as a first responder and firefighter, retiring as a Captain in 2016.

This year, during the coronavirus pandemic, Lopez selflessly answered the call to care for his community and began working as a health care educator, assisting COVID-19 response efforts on the San Carlos Apache reservation.

A beloved community member, colleague, friend, and father, he was known for his dedication to helping all people. Damien was a generous man with a kind heart and a warm sense of humor. I know how much he meant to the people of Globe.

My family and I are keeping the Lopez family, Damien's friends and loved ones, and the entire Globe and San Carlos Apache communities in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE PATRICK NEFF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Freddie "Fred" Patrick Neff, who passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Fred was a veteran, small business owner, a devoted family man, and he will be deeply missed.

Fred was born on March 17, 1936 in Denver, Colorado. After traveling throughout the West as a youth, Fred decided to join the Air Force. The Air Force took him to many military bases in the Far East as well as around the United States. While stationed at Clark Air Force Base he met his wife, Emerita Arrogante. Following a stint at March Air Force Base, Fred retired from the military after putting in his 30 years as a decorated veteran.

Retirement from the military allowed Fred to do many things in the second half of his life.

In his later years, he founded and served as president of two construction companies: Kadena Pacific and Cal American Construction Inc. According to his family, Fred loved dogs. Over the years, he was a proud dog dad to Herman, Nikko, Rambo, Ace, Ivan, Jude, Sadie and Rocco. Fred loved to hunt and fish, and enjoyed going out to dinner or out for a cup of coffee. Before he passed, Fred shared with his family that he had "no regrets" and truly his life's testimony reflected a full, well lived life.

In addition to his wife, Emerita, Fred is survived by his children: Susanna, Beverly, and Ray. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Neff family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Fred. Although Fred may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

CELEBRATING MR. KEN TUCKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Tucker on his retirement from Boeing.

An Alabama native and alumnus of the University of Alabama, Ken earned his bachelor's degree in American Studies and History in 1982 and his master's degree in Administrative Science in 1984. Ken began his career as Director of Governmental Relations for the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In 1988, Ken joined Boeing as a Public Affairs Specialist.

Ken held several positions at Boeing, including Community and Education Relations Specialist, Government and Community Affairs Manager, and State and Local Government Relations Manager. He concluded his distinguished career serving as Boeing's Director of State and Local Government Operations for the Southeast Region.

Ken contributed to the success of significant space and defense programs, including Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Space Launch System, International Space Station, Delta Launch Vehicles, Starliner Commercial Crew capsule, and Space Shuttle, to name a few.

Ken fostered workforce development through enhancing STEM education in the Southeast. Notably, he helped establish aerospace technician training programs at Calhoun Community College and at Nunez Community College.

Ken selflessly contributes to several professional and civic organizations throughout Alabama. He is an active member of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Business Council of Alabama, the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, and the Alabama Center for Productivity.

• 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.

Madam Speaker, Ken Tucker's tireless work over the past 32 years has made America a stronger more secure nation. I wish Ken the very best as he embarks on this next stage of life.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
SERVICE OF DR. TOM TERRY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Dr. Thomas F. Terry on his retirement after practicing for 45 years as an optometrist. All but one of those years were spent in White River Junction, Vt., not far from his place of birth in Windsor.

Dr. Tom Terry is a prime example of what another Vermonter, President Calvin Coolidge, said in Bennington in a speech on Sept. 21, 1928. During his speech, Coolidge talked about the state he loved—Vermont: "I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all because of her indomitable people."

Coolidge's description of Vermont and her people are as apt today as it was more than 90 years earlier. While there have been many Vermonters who fit this description, but no one more than Dr. Tom Terry of Wilder, Vt.

He was born in the Connecticut Valley. After graduation from Windsor High School, Dr. Terry graduated from Springfield College with majors in chemistry and physics. He then attended New England College of Optometry and graduated with a doctorate degree in 1975. A year later he returned to Vermont and set up a practice in White River Junction where he continued to serve his many patients, until his retirement on Dec. 30, 2020.

During his years of practice, Dr. Terry developed a major interest in primary and medical eye care, including macular degeneration and glaucoma care. Dr. Terry was also trained as a low vision specialist and worked, as such, with the Vermont Division of the Blind.

Dr. Terry became well-known for his skills, not only in Vermont, but throughout New England and in national optometric councils. He served for six years as President of the Vermont Optometric Association, as well as 17 years on the Board of Optometry for the state. For 27 years, Dr. Terry did service on various American Optometric Association committees as well as nine years as Acting Eye Clinic Chief at the Veterans Administration Hospital in White River Junction. Dr. Terry's deep interest in health care matters also led him to serve for 10 years on the Board of the Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in nearby Lebanon, N.H.

As much as Dr. Terry enjoyed serving his many patients in Vermont and New Hampshire, he was also instrumental in helping his town and state to promote regional health, economic renewal, and prosperity. In that regard, Dr. Terry was on the Board of Directors of the Mascoma Savings Bank for 18 years, many of which as Chair of the bank's foundation directing charitable contributions to local, regional and state organizations.

My brave state of Vermont may be small, but it is large in its spirit of community and service. Madam Speaker, that is why I take great pleasure in recounting the many commendable attributes and service of my constituent, Dr. Terry for the House and the nation. It clearly demonstrates the work that one individual can do for his town, state and the nation to make it a better place to live and work.

I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Thomas Terry and to thank him for his long service on behalf of our Vermont community. He is one of our "indomitable people."

HONORING SOUTH METRO FIRE
RESCUE CHIEF JERRY RHODES

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the achievements of Jerry Rhodes who is retiring as an Assistant Fire Chief of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District in Colorado's 6th District.

Jerry Rhodes is a proud 8th generation member of the fire service who started his career on August 20, 1974 with the City of Glendale Fire Department. There he served in many critical roles including Paramedic and Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention. His career continued with the Cunningham Fire Protection District in Colorado where he worked his way up to Fire Chief.

Throughout his career, Jerry has served on countless boards and committees to further the efforts of fire and emergency medical services and has given back to the community in so many ways, including his service as adjunct instructor for community colleges and universities. His leadership and outreach with elected officials, community groups, religious institutions, and professional organizations sets the standard for future fire service organizations. Jerry's contributions to the community and fire service have been celebrated through many honorable distinctions and awards.

In 2018, Jerry was instrumental in the consolidation of the Cunningham Fire Protection District, South Metro Fire Rescue, and Littleton Fire Rescue into a single fire protection district that will improve the quality and long-term sustainability of prevention, mitigation, and emergency response services across a community of 287 square miles.

As Jerry Rhodes retires, we want to express our sincere gratitude for his dedication, hard work, leadership, and service he has provided to the citizens and members of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District and to the entire fire service for the past 46 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SHARON PALMER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of an

extraordinarily dedicated public servant and fierce fighter for working people, Ms. Sharon Palmer of Waterford, Connecticut. My friend Sharon passed away at her home in Connecticut on Friday, December 4th, 2020. She was 77 years old.

Sharon's life represents the best of Connecticut. A longtime educator, labor leader, and ultimately, Labor Commissioner, Sharon dedicated her life to bettering the education of our children and the circumstances in which we work. She will be remembered as an energetic force to be reckoned with, solid in her values, and strong in her accomplishments.

A lifelong learner, Sharon graduated from East Hampton High School in 1961, earned a Bachelor of Science from St. Joseph College, and a master's in Marine Science from Eastern Connecticut state in 1978. Soon after, she began a passionate teaching career at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in Moodus, Connecticut. She later taught math and science at Clark Lane Jr. High School, and even took her dedication to teaching on an international tour by joining the Department of Defense and teaching our servicemembers' children in Hanover, Germany.

One way or another, Sharon was always a force for good in Connecticut. During her time teaching in Waterford, she started planting seeds for a second career outside of the classroom—still aiming to serve and advocate for others—as treasurer and then president of her local AFT chapter. In her never-ending quest to fight for the betterment of her community, Sharon also became a fervent voice in local politics as a member of Waterford's Representative Town Meeting. Despite constantly taking on new roles throughout her life, she would continue to serve in her municipal government for over 23 years.

In 1989, Sharon grew from her role as a local chapter president and became the first vice-president of AFT-CT. She kept that position for 12 years before she took on the executive vice president position for another two, and then ultimately was elected as President of the state's second largest teacher's union in 2003. She has been one of the most notable union leaders in the state and could often be found testifying at Connecticut's state Capitol in Hartford. It was because of her high profile and her vibrant credibility within the labor community that she was appointed as former Governor Dannel Malloy's first Labor Commissioner. It was only then that she would step down from her leadership positions both in Waterford and as President of AFT-CT. Before retiring from a consecutive 58-year long career, she became a vital part of the state government, acting as a strong, critical voice for the working community and an liaison to local labor organizations.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to witness Sharon Palmer's service in action and especially to be her friend. Hers is a proud legacy—one that will continue the good fight for years to come—and I ask that the entire House join me in continuing her legacy by never losing sight of the fight for working families.