

FIGHTING FOR PRO-LIFE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week in my district, under the leadership of Lisa Van Riper, Holly Gatling, and Sally Zaleski with South Carolina Citizens for Life, along with Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette and Attorney General Alan Wilson, I was grateful to participate in the largest ever-attended pro-life events in the state.

Tomorrow in Washington, the annual Pro-Life March will take place where thousands come together to embrace the birth of babies on the anniversary of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision.

This increasing level of support is better understood than ever before.

I am grateful to fight for pro-life values and am committed to advocating for the lives of the unborn, while also protecting the rights of health care providers who refuse to engage in abortions.

The Democrat elite think they are smarter than everyone and think Democrat voters and Democrat media are ignorant to believe that trillion-dollar spending “costs zero dollars.”

In conclusion, God Bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUG HEAD

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Doug Head was born in Midland, Michigan. He earned a degree in economics at Lawrence University in Wisconsin but spent over a year studying at the University of Singapore. He served in the Peace Corps in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay before becoming a Central Florida resident in the early 1980s. Doug became the Executive Director of an organization that lobbied on behalf of AIDS patients, which he received recognition for in Forbes magazine calling him one of the ten most powerful voices in the insurance industry.

In the late 1980s, Doug became interested in politics and ran his first campaign in 1986. He also volunteered for the local Democratic party and worked to modernize their computer database. Soon after, Orange County's party registration flipped from a majority of Republican voters to a majority of Democratic voters. Doug served as Orange County Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) Chair from 1992 to 2004 and as the Orange County DEC's State Committeeman from 2016 to 2020.

As Chair, Doug encouraged interest groups to form clubs within the party. The first of which was the Orange County Rainbow Democratic Club, which was created in 1993 to promote the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community. He also hosted a monthly social event, called “First Friday,” which became a gathering place for likeminded Demo-

crats in Central Florida who attended the event to network and strategize about campaigns and registering Democrats.

Doug later became the chair of County Watch, a local watchdog group, that pushed for transparency and accountability in county government and agencies. He also worked with local non-profit organizations to empower minority committees. Doug was a mentor to many aspiring political operatives and community leaders. His wealth of knowledge was widely recognized and respected among political leaders across Florida.

He made several TV appearances, including the Daily Buzz and Central Florida news affiliates for FOX (WOFL) and ABC (WFTV), as well as being quoted in journals and newspapers, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, National Underwriter and Chicago Tribune, among others.

Doug Head passed away on the evening of November 13, 2021, in Orlando and is survived by his sisters, Meredy Jenkins and Barbara Cornelius, and his brother-in-law, Dennis Jenkins. His decades of commitment to the Central Florida community and the Democratic Party left a lasting foundation for others to build upon. His wisdom and guidance will be missed by many.

LAND CONVEYANCE FROM BEALE AIR FORCE BASE TO THREE RIVERS LEVEE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation that would convey a small land parcel at Beale Air Force Base (AFB) in northern California to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority for the Congressionally authorized Yuba Goldfields Levee Improvement Project. I thank my colleague Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA01), the bill's original cosponsor, who represents the neighboring Congressional district.

The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority is responsible for providing 200-year flood protection for southern Yuba County in California, protecting homes, businesses, and military infrastructure at Beale AFB. As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I secured authorization for the Yuba Goldfields Levee Improvement Project in the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-270). The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority is the non-federal sponsor for this project, which will provide 200-year level of flood protection to the community surrounding Beale AFB.

Specifically, this project extends the Yuba River South Levee and crosses Beale AFB outside the fence line. Upon completing survey work for the proposed levee improvement project, the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority discovered that the U.S. Air Force owned a small parcel of approximately 0.3 acres outside the fence line and separated from the rest of Beale AFB by Smartville Road. In September 2020, I helped to secure a 25-year easement from the Air Force on be-

half of the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority needed to construct, operate, and maintain the levee.

However, this legislation would convey ownership of the 0.3-acre parcel from the Air Force to the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, so that the non-federal sponsor can continue to ensure area flood control in perpetuity. This public interest land conveyance will ensure that the area, including Beale AFB, is better protected from future flooding.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I plan to legislate this land conveyance necessary for the long-term maintenance of the Yuba Goldfields Levee Improvement Project in the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act, if necessary. This is but one example of how Congress can make our military installations more resilient to flooding and other extreme weather exacerbated by climate change by improving coordination between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works projects and the service branches.

REMEMBERING DONALD EUGENE JORDAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Donald Jordan, who passed away on November 28th after a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer.

Mr. Jordan is a lifelong Michigander born in Flint, Michigan, on April 15, 1943. In 1961, he graduated from Plymouth High School but stayed connected to his school and classmates through his leadership as a member of the Class Reunion Committee. In college, he was an active member of the Fraternity Phi Delta Tau and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1975 with a Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Jordan worked at Ford Motor Company for over 30 years, during which time he earned his Professional Engineering Certification. He is survived by his wife Alice Jordan, his sons James and David, and his grandchildren Maxwell, Isabella, and Josue.

Mr. Jordan loved spending time with his family. They traveled on many vacations, including camping trips up North, Cooperstown, Myrtle Beach, Toronto, and Key West, but his favorite was the annual trip to Cancun. As a husband, he was deeply devoted to Alice, and they cared for each other through the course of their 49 years of marriage. As a father and grandfather, he was dependable and comforting, very involved in his children and grandchildren's activities, and always in the stands cheering them on.

In his free time, Mr. Jordan was a band member at his church and a proud member of the Plymouth Community Band. He played several instruments, including the euphonium, and taught accordion lessons. Furthermore, he volunteered at the Ascension Hospital for many years, where he valued the opportunity to care for others.

Mr. Jordan lived his life devoted to his family, helping others, and caring for the community around him. His example of love for his family and his community will forever be a reminder to his children, his grandchildren, and

all who knew him. Mr. Jordan will always be remembered for his love of family, spirit, and commitment to his community—all of which he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JAMES HOOLEY, HEAD OF POLITICAL
SECTION AT THE BRITISH
EMBASSY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service of James Hooley, who has served as the head of the political section at the British Embassy in Washington D.C. for the past five years. Throughout his tenure, James has personified the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom with his tireless work, diligent commitment, and affable personality.

As one of our key liaisons with the United Kingdom, James has facilitated bipartisan engagement with Congressional members and all levels of the British Government, from Prime Ministers to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Royal Family. Through two Presidential Administrations and two Prime Ministers, James has led the British Embassy's political operations, ensuring we in the United States remain well connected with our allies across the Atlantic. James has been steadfast in ensuring the highest diplomatic channels between our two countries remain open and well-used for the range of issues covered by the U.S.-U.K. relationship.

James will be transitioning back to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London where I have no doubt he will achieve the same success. The Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom remains special thanks to the work of diplomats like James Hooley. We in Congress will miss his work at the Embassy and wish him nothing but the best for his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE SECOND VICTIM OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
IN ERIE COUNTY, WALTER
MONAHAN, A DECORATED VETERAN,
FAMILY MAN, AND A
FRIEND TO ALL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the remarkable life of Walter Monahan, an exceptional man who was taken far too soon due to COVID-19. Walter was a decorated Vietnam military veteran, an active community leader and volunteer, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Walter became the second resident in Erie County to pass due to COVID-19. His wife, Valerie Monahan, and

his family, wishes for the public to remember Walter for the extraordinary person he was, not just as a statistic in a public health emergency. Walter's unfortunate passing allows us to honor his legacy and the incredible work he did while reminding us all that we must continue to actively take a stand against COVID-19.

Walter's lifelong commitment to serving his country is beyond commendable. He was a Petty Officer second class in the United States Navy. Walter's military career began when he served two tours on a destroyer during the Vietnam War. From there, the Navy truly became a part of Walter's blood. When his tours ended, Walter was transferred to the Pentagon to work for the Chief of Naval Operations. Walter also was a dedicated and active veteran. He marched with the Rochester Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20 marching unit and served on the board of directors.

I had the honor of meeting Walter myself and presenting him with a Vietnam Lapel Pin in thanks for his remarkable service. Walter's immense dedication, sacrifice, and service does not go unrecognized. He exemplified what it means to truly be a patriot, dedicating himself to our American values and serving his country proudly.

It was while he worked at the Pentagon that Walter met the love of his life, Valerie. The two soon got married and returned to Rochester, where Walter had grown up. Together, Walter and Valerie raised two lovely children, their daughter, Kelly and their son, Michael. After moving to Buffalo in 2007, Walter worked as a facilities director for People Inc's Senior Centers. He is remembered by his co-workers for his exceptional customer service, incredible family-oriented mindset, and his immense compassion. They reflect on Walter as being "the kind of employee everyone would want on their team—skilled, caring, friendly, funny and enjoyable to know."

A pinnacle of his community, Walter additionally dedicated his time to being an active member of numerous organizations. He served as a Eucharistic minister at St. Joseph University Parish, a docent at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park, a Meals-on-Wheels volunteer, and a school bus driver. Walter, a true family man at heart, also became a fixture at just about every event involving his grandchildren during his retirement. Walter nobly dedicated his life to service in all manners. He went above and beyond in working to make a better community for all, a true testament to his dedication to service.

COVID-19 wrongfully claimed the remarkable life of Walter, taking his life all too soon. After noticing Walter was not getting enough oxygen, his wife of 50 years, Valerie, called 911 and Walter was admitted to Kenmore Mercy Hospital. Walter's family believed he would recover quickly, thinking he simply had pneumonia or bronchitis. Unfortunately, Valerie was never able to see her beloved husband conscious again. Hours after he arrived at the hospital, Walter was attached to a ventilator and put under a medically induced coma. The family was allowed just moments at his bedside before Walter's passing. Despite the persistence and dedication of the doctors, there was nothing more that could be done for Walter. Walter passed on March 25, 2020 at the age of 74 due to COVID-19, being the second Erie County resident to lose their life to the deadly disease.

After Walter's tragic passing, Valerie dedicated herself to mobilizing people in the community to take a stand against COVID-19. Valerie's early and persistent calls for mask usage along with her active pursuit in spreading the truth about the virus was vital in keeping our community safe during such challenging times. The people are forever in debt to Valerie for her work in taking preventive measures against COVID-19 and advocating for others to do the same.

Today, I wish to echo Valerie's calls for action and encourage the American people to get the COVID-19 vaccine. We now have the means to protect ourselves and our loved ones from this horrible disease. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way we can prevent another loss such as Walter. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Walter and the extraordinary life of service he led and in choosing to actively stand against COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. Walter was an incredible man who dedicated his life to serving his country and community nobly. His life was cut all too short due to this horrible and deadly virus. By getting the COVID-19 vaccination, each person is actively taking a step to ensure we do not lose any more American citizens to this illness. May we honor Walter's legacy and remarkable life by ensuring his death is not in vain; we must continue to protect our communities and country in the same fashion Walter did during his lifetime.

HONORING NIKOLA "NICK"
VOYVODICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nikola "Nick" Voyvodich in celebration of his longstanding career in law enforcement.

Born in Oakland, California, at Oaknoll Naval Hospital, Nikola "Nick" Voyvodich was no stranger to the definition of bravery, as his father was wounded in action as a United States Marine. After receiving an associate of the arts degree from Ohlone College, on August 25, 1994, Mr. Voyvodich joined the Newark Police Department as a reserve officer, jump starting his career in law enforcement. A few years later, on March 2, 1994, Mr. Voyvodich became a full-time police officer with the Martinez Police Department.

His illustrious career included a strong dedication to training others in the law enforcement field and in defensive tactics, and so much more. He served as a member of the bicycle patrol team, detective, corporal, and a special agent in Central County Narcotic Enforcement Team (CNET), which is a team that specializes in narcotics. He was often accompanied by his beloved late K9 partner, Brit.

Mr. Voyvodich received two awards while serving as the President of the Police Officers Association, further highlighting his dedication to his community. He received a Chiefs Commendation in 2012 and a Life Saving Award in 2016. Specializing in narcotics, he worked tirelessly to maintain the safety of Martinez.

Mr. Voyvodich and his wife Melissa Voyvodich have six beautiful children: Austin, Elizabeth, Kaitlin, Christopher, Thomas, and