

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  
CHRISTOPHER PEPLER

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and life of the late Deputy Chief Christopher Pepler, who passed away on November 1, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. Pepler was a member of the Torrington Fire Department since 1999 and had served as Deputy Fire Chief. He was a beloved member of the Torrington community and a model public servant.

Deputy Chief Pepler was a Torrington native, and he dreamed of becoming a firefighter from a young age. He began volunteering with Torrington Fire Department when he was only 15, and he was hired by the Torrington Fire Department in 1999. The Department recognized his leadership and commitment to keeping the community safe, and Pepler was appointed Deputy Fire Chief in 2013.

He was an active member of the department and worked hard to support his fellow firefighters. He served as the Assistant Director of Training for the Wolcott Regional Fire School, sharing his expertise with young and aspiring firefighters. Pepler also worked on behalf of his fellow firefighters as the president of the IAFF Local 1567 prior to his appointment as Deputy Chief.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Chief Christopher Pepler brought a passion for serving his community and helping others to the Torrington Fire Department, and his work leaves a legacy of service that will inspire future generations of firefighters in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his life here today. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Lori, and all those who knew and loved Christopher.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF  
ELAINE ROBERTS

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2017*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Elaine Roberts, who is retiring from her service to the Ohio aviation community this month.

Elaine has been a leader for Columbus, for Ohio, for the aviation industry, and for women in leadership roles in the transportation industry everywhere.

Fourteen years ago, Elaine was recruited to serve as the first ever CEO of a combined aviation authority—the passenger facility serving Columbus and Central Ohio, a dual-use freight/military facility outside Columbus, and a general aviation field.

Over the last decade and a half, she led all three with distinction and has been a catalyst

for growth at Port Columbus, overseeing a major renovation and life extension of the facility.

At Rickenbacker, our dual-use facility, she has worked with government partners at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private sector, to transform the area into one of the country's leading intermodal facilities.

International and domestic freight operations—served by rail, highways, and international aviation—help provide a livelihood to 20,000 plus residents in our area.

Elaine has been an inspiration to her fellow executives in aviation and transportation, and the region as a whole. She was nominated and selected by the White House in 2015 as a “Champion of Change” for her work at Rickenbacker.

Elaine will be missed in the region, but I join the entire Ohio community in wishing her well.

IN MEMORY OF SHADY SHORES  
MAYOR OLIVE STEPHENS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2017*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Shady Shores Mayor Olive Stephens. Mayor Stephens, who passed away on October 30 at the age of 101, was known for her commitment to her family, her neighbors, and the Shady Shores community. She was a dedicated public servant who helped Shady Shores grow from a small weekend fishing and camping spot to an incorporated city with a population of more than 2,800.

An East Texas native, Mayor Stephens and her late husband moved to Shady Shores in 1956 and opened a general store. In 1963, Olive Stephens began her public service career when she volunteered to serve on the Town Council. After 10 years as a council member, she ran for higher office, and in 1973 won a successful bid to serve as the first elected mayor of Shady Shores. Mayor Stephens served her community in this capacity for almost 40 years until she retired from full time public service at the age of 94.

A pioneer of local Texas politics, Olive Stephens left a legacy of lifelong commitment to public service. We will miss her leadership and passion for her Shady Shores community and all of Texas.

RECOGNIZING MICHELE BLAKE

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2017*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michele Blake, a proven leader in the Yuba City, California community with a

strong desire to make a difference. Michele currently serves as the Executive Director of the Sutter County Children and Families Commission, also known as First 5 Sutter.

Michele has been a strong advocate and was instrumental in making positive changes in her role as executive director. She is responsible for ensuring children ages 0–5 reach their full potential by administering and coordinating community programs and activities that have a positive effect on their development. She has collaborated with Friends of the Sutter Library to implement a program which delivers books directly to preschool children's homes to increase literacy awareness; she has worked with the Sutter Sheriff's Department to implement a children's lifejacket loaner program which increases water safety; and working alongside healthcare clinics, she was instrumental in implementing breastfeeding friendly practices in existing Commission programs. Michele is also a strong advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and, together with her family, established the Nicole Bull Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Michele's experience includes her previous work as the Health Education Director and Public Information Officer at the Sutter County Public Health Department where she planned, created, budgeted, developed, and implemented comprehensive health education programs and was instrumental in securing federal funding to develop IGNITE Yuba City, a program to help people make healthy choices.

Michele continues to support the Yuba Sutter community and as a single mom finds time to contribute to the activities of her 8 and 12-year-old children.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD  
ANDREWS

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 6, 2017*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Arnold Andrews from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge constituents who selflessly answered the call to serve and defend our freedom. A United States Army veteran of World War II and member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Andrews served his country with honor. Self-sacrifice, personal responsibility, and humility are traits this generation embodied. The tremendous strides our country has made since World War II are a direct result of these great Americans. North Carolina is truly fortunate to have Mr. Andrews, an outstanding representative of our community and country.

I join with his family, friends, and the Sixth District in thanking Arnold Andrews for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

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