

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RABBI GOPEN LIPOF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Emily Gopen Lipof on her 80th birthday. An extraordinary woman who has raised a loving, still growing family, Rabbi Lipof has dedicated her life to strengthening her community and the world around her. As she gathers virtually with friends and family to celebrate her 80th birthday, it is my honor to play a small role in recognizing her.

At five years old, when most of us struggle to choose a favorite toy, Emily had already decided that she would be a Rabbi when she grew up. Not deterred by the lack of female Rabbis to look up to, she knew her calling and always strove towards that ultimate goal. Even as her path diverged throughout her early years as she built a family and a career in politics, she used her powerful voice and infectious personality to become a leader in her community.

After earning a bachelor's degree with four toddlers, Emily used the power of politics to shape her hometown of Newton, her Commonwealth of Massachusetts and her country. She served as campaign manager for her husband Michael's campaign for Alderman, Senator Edward Brooke, and Newton's longest serving Mayor, Theodore Mann. But still, she remained committed to her calling as a Rabbi.

In 1980, Emily organized a communal wedding for 60 Jewish couples from the former Soviet Union who had been denied a Jewish wedding in their youths. That powerful experience inspired her to reunite with her path towards becoming a Rabbi. So committed to her calling, Emily began commuting to and from The Academy for Jewish Religion in New York for one long day of classes. Despite the demanding, grueling schedule, she was ordained just five years later.

Just days after receiving semichah, she was offered a position as interim Rabbi at Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, becoming the first woman in the United States to be named senior Rabbi of a major congregation. For decades, she has continued to be a fearless, compassionate leader in her community. She founded the Temple Shalom Nursery School to help nurture young children and support their families. She married a gay couple on the very first day marriage equality became the law of our Commonwealth in 2008. And quietly, she has offered counsel and guidance to countless neighbors in need of support.

Happy 80th birthday to Rabbi Lipof. And on behalf of a grateful Commonwealth and country, I thank her for demanding better of, and for, us all. Enjoy the day.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF F. MICHAEL HOFFSCHNEIDER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madame Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the service of F. Michael Hoffschneider upon his retirement.

Michael grew up in Oakland, California, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966. He served with distinction, rising to the rank of Sergeant and earning the position of Drill Sergeant. After Michael's separation from the Army in 1969, he attended the University of California, Berkeley with the assistance of the GI Bill. He graduated with a B.A. in Political Science in 1973, and began working as a Veterans Claims Examiner for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

With Michael's new job in San Francisco, he and his wife, Conny, settled in Pleasant Hill, California, where they would raise their family. While working for the VA, Michael further pursued his education, graduating from John F. Kennedy University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He continued to work his way up through the VA and eventually became the Veterans Service Center Manager at the Oakland Regional Office.

Although Michael retired from the VA in 2004, his work with veterans was not complete and he soon started working for the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office. During this time, Michael assisted veterans with his many years of experience and wisdom and even served for a time as the interim County Veterans Service Officer. His work has helped train the next generation of Veterans Service Representatives, leaving a legacy that inspires those who follow in his footsteps. Additionally, to commemorate Michael's work with veterans, he was given honorary lifetime membership with the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley as a Vietnam-era veteran.

Michael's work has impacted the lives of countless veterans and their families. Please join me and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in congratulating Michael as he retires from the Contra Costa Veterans Service Office and thanking him for his dedicated service.

HONORING W.C. GORDEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor W.C. Gorden.

W.C. Gorden was a native of Nashville, Tennessee, a former longtime football coach of Jackson State University and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. Mr. Gorden was considered the school's winningest coach.

Mr. Gorden served in the U.S. Army before beginning his coaching journey in 1956.

Gorden led the Tigers from 1976 to 1991 and guided the football team to eight SWAC championships and nine NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances. He had just one losing season.

Jackson State won its second HBCU national championship in 1985. He finished his storied career with a 119–48–5 overall record and was a six-time SWAC Coach of the Year. Gorden was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008.

He was named to ESPN's Top 150 list of the greatest college football coaches of all time.

Gorden produced 29 NFL Draft picks at Jackson State, including Jimmy Smith.

Last month, the Jackson City Council voted unanimously to rename Jaycee Park after him in his honor.

Mr. Gorden, who was 90, died on October 23, 2020.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Hall of Famer, W.C. Gorden.

RECOGNIZING DONALD E. LAPLANTE FORTY-ONE YEARS SERVING DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald E. LaPlante, a long-time resident of the City of Downey who is retiring from his service as a member of the Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District representing Trustee Area No. 4. Donald served on the Board since December 1979. He was elected to ten terms on the Board, in years 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015.

During his tenure on the Board of Education, Donald has served six times as president of the board; six times as vice president and six times as clerk. He has been a member of both the Budget and Audit Committees and has served on each for over 15 years.

Mr. LaPlante has also been actively involved in school board organizations during his time on the Board. In 2012, he was elected by his colleagues in the southern part of Los Angeles County as director for Region 24 of the California School Boards Association. Previously, he served as a member of the Delegate Assembly for the California School Boards Association for 28 years.

From 1997 to 1998, he served as president of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, representing all of the almost 500 school trustees in the county. Prior to that he served as vice president, secretary/treasurer

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and as a director of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association. He continues to serve as a member of the Executive Board as a Past President.

Professionally, Mr. LaPlante is retired from teaching English and United States history for the Duarte Unified School District. He taught at the seventh and eighth grade level for more than twenty years. He received three awards from the PTSA at Northview Intermediate School in Duarte for his service to the school and the students, including a Continuing Service Award. He holds credentials for the teaching of English and social science and is certified to provide instruction to limited-English speaking students. Donald also holds a credential in school administration.

A graduate of the University of Southern California with majors in political science and journalism, he also holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University. He did work for his teaching credential at California State University, Long Beach.

Prior to becoming a teacher, Mr. LaPlante held a managerial position in the printing industry for over twelve years. He has lived in Downey for more than 55 years and is a graduate of Warren High School in Downey. He was honored by the Downey Unified School District in 2007 when it named the new science building on the Warren High School Campus as "Donald E. LaPlante Hall."

Donald E. LaPlante will officially retire in December after more than 41 years as a member of the Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Donald E. LaPlante for his many years of exemplary leadership and outstanding service to the education of our youth and their families.

CONGRATULATING ASSISTANT
CHIEF YOGANANDA PITTMAN OF
THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Assistant Chief Yogananda Pittman of the United States Capitol Police on being awarded the Women in Federal Law Enforcement's 2020 Outstanding Advocate for Women in Federal Law Enforcement Award. Ms. Pittman joined the U.S. Capitol Police force in 2001. Her USCP career began with security and protective services for the U.S. Senate. She has continually risen through the ranks, and in 2012 became the first African-American female supervisor to become Captain. From 2016 to 2018, Ms. Pittman completed the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) CEO Mentoring Program, and in October of last year, she became the first female to achieve the rank of Assistant Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police—the same year she completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration and enrolled in a Doctoral program. As if these accomplishments were not enough, Ms. Pittman has been promoting diversity and mentoring through the U.S. Capitol Police's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Action (IDEA) Office—all in addition to her police force responsibilities. To call her impressive is truly an understatement. I'd like to formally express my gratitude for her dedicated public service and congratulate her on her well-deserved achievement of the Outstanding Advocate for Women in Federal Law Enforcement Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF DONALD KENT HOBERT, M.D.

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Donald Kent Hobert, M.D.

Born in Iowa, Dr. Hobert grew up on his family's hog farm. His education began in a one-room schoolhouse, but he later attended junior high at a city school. During his freshman year at Charles City High School, Dr. Hobert met his future wife, Nancy, when they ran against each other for class president. The two eventually reconnected during their college years, fell in love, and married in 1959. Dr. Hobert attended medical school at the University of Iowa before the couple relocated to California where he worked as an intern at San Joaquin County Hospital in Stockton.

The Hobert family relocated again during Dr. Hobert's service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. The family then settled permanently in Martinez, California, where Dr. Hobert began working at Contra Costa County Medical Center and later started a private medical practice. He dedicated his professional career to caring for and helping his patients. Dr. Hobert's life changed when he became confined to a wheelchair in 1983, but it never deterred him—he found ways to continue practicing medicine in his pursuit to help others.

Beyond his career, Dr. Hobert adored his family and was committed to the happiness of his loved ones. He cherished family vacations and used his time working to make gifts for family and items to be donated for auctions to various organizations that he supported.

Sadly, Dr. Hobert passed away this year. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren, sister, and stepmother. He will be remembered for his compassion, generosity, and determination. Please join me in honoring Dr. Hobert for his many contributions to our community.