

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF RAQUEL
CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the outstanding public service of Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López for her work on behalf of the communities she serves in Detroit and Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Council Member Castañeda-López has proudly served the people of Detroit's Sixth Council District since 2014. She has been driven in her work to pursue social justice and a better quality of life for all residents. Her roots in social work are evident in her caring and holistic approach to assisting residents, and it is reflected in the policies she has pursued. During her tenure, Council Member Castañeda-López has prioritized making Detroit a more inclusive and welcoming place for all its residents to call home. "Team Rocky" is what the community lovingly call her staff that work to ensure access to services.

I have known Council Member Castañeda-López for many years, and it has been an honor to see her achieve so much on behalf of the people of Detroit. It has been a joy to see her love for the City of Detroit and its people shine through in her work.

Please join me as we recognize Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López's many contributions to the families of Detroit and the 13th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL STEPHEN
R. LYONS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and warrior, Army General Stephen R. Lyons, Commander of U.S. Transportation Command. General Lyons is soon retiring, having served this great Nation for 38 years and completing a most distinguished career.

General Lyons graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1983, where he received a degree in Criminology. He began his career in Germany during the Cold War and subsequently held a wide range of operational assignments to include command at company, battalion, brigade, and major command levels. Since 2003, he has spent over 40 months deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He often speaks of his time in command of the 703d Main Support Battalion, 3d Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia as being one of

his most rewarding assignments. While in command, his battalion provided mission critical necessary support during the initial "thunder run" into Iraq in 2003.

A constant voice of reason, motivation, and inspiration, General Lyons has devoted his life to this Nation. He has provided sound counsel to leaders at all levels, and built trust with the American people through his impressive actions. I have personally sought his advice, as have my colleagues. The Members of this Chamber and workers across many parts of the Federal Government will miss his leadership and candor.

General Lyons' illustrious career is culminating with his current position, where he leads the 144,000 men and women of U.S. Transportation Command. He is responsible for coordinating the Department of Defense's global deployment and distribution enterprise. His transformational leadership has bolstered warfighter readiness, increased cyber awareness and security, and prepared the Department of Defense for challenging transportation and logistics missions in the future. General Lyons' leadership abilities were on full display as he successfully oversaw the largest Non-combatant Evacuation Operation airlift in U.S. history. He challenged deliberate planning assumptions from day one and compelled the Joint Force to adapt and evolve for the dynamic and uncertain operating environment of tomorrow.

In addition to General Lyons' service, Maureen, his wife of 32 years, also selflessly served this great Nation. She devoted her life to caring for families under his command and in their community. I cannot overstate the importance of the support the spouses and families provide to their service members in our Armed Forces. Service and sacrifice are not limited to just the service member, but often extend to the entire family. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, we thank Maureen and their children, Kara and Dylan, for their continued and dedicated service to our military and our Nation. Although the Army will say goodbye to General Lyons and Maureen, we know that the Lyons family's legacy and devotion to the service of this great Nation will continue for years to come.

I would like to help close out the final chapter of this inspiring Soldier and Joint Force leader's career with a heartfelt thank you from all the men and women of the U.S. Congress and Nation. General Lyons, Godspeed. We thank you, Maureen, and the entire Lyons family, for your service over a remarkable 38-year career. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MUSIC
OF MR. JEFF STICE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend,

Mr. Jeff Stice, who went to be with the Lord unexpectedly on September 14, 2021, at the age of 61.

Mr. Stice, affectionately known as 'Mr. Piano Man,' was a multi-award-winning gospel music pianist with a prolific music career. He first laid hands on a piano as a young boy, and quickly showed a great talent on the instrument. At the age of fifteen, Jeff played for his first gospel quartet, alongside his father. He went on to study piano at Western Kentucky University, where he refined his natural talent and gained an even greater appreciation for music. Shortly thereafter, he began to venture into gospel music professionally. During his early career, he played with the Blackwood Brothers, the Rex Nelon Singers, and Perfect Heart, and appeared alongside countless other gospel groups, including the legendary Oak Ridge Boys, as well as venturing into solo performing. Jeff later helped form the Triumphant Quartet at Louise Mandrell's music theater in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Mr. Stice spent twelve years playing with Triumphant, during which time he was inducted into the Edmonson County Music Hall of Fame, in his hometown of Brownsville, Kentucky, and co-produced the Grammy-nominated album Everyday. In 2016, he was inducted into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame for his earlier work with the Rex Nelon Singers. His career as a solo musician earned him the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall, the U.S. Capitol, and other esteemed venues throughout the country.

In 2014, Jeff rededicated his life to Christ and began to focus more intimately on his relationship with God. He continued to perform as a solo musician, pianist, and producer for countless gospel groups, with the mission of using music to convey his unshakeable faith in the Lord.

Jeff is survived by his loving wife Stacey and their four children. He will be greatly missed, not only by his family and in his community, but by gospel music fans everywhere. On behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, I offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers to Mr. Jeff Stice's family and commend the legacy he leaves to his family and friends and the entire gospel music world.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF TOMMY WEAVER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tommy Weaver, a lifelong native of East Texas, who passed away recently at the age of 70.

On April 26, 1951, Tommy was born to Charlie "CC" Chester and Winnie Bell Weaver in Jasper, Texas. His father worked at Keller Industries, and his mother worked in the food

• 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.

service department at Woodville ISD. Tommy was truly blessed to have one of the best cooks in Southeast Texas as his mother, and his meals were southern-style home-cooking for the whole family. Tommy loved the holidays, as it was a time when his family came together to enjoy his mother's meals and each other's company at the old home place.

While attending Kirby High School, Tommy was actively involved in sports. As a teenager, he developed a love of hunting. Tommy felt blessed to have been raised in East Texas, surrounded by nature and wildlife. On any given day, you could find him fishing in "Dam B", swimming in Wolf Creek lake, or chasing squirrels. Being the baby of the family, there was a never a dull moment and always plenty to do.

In 1973, Tommy graduated from Lamar University with a bachelor's in accounting. Shortly after, Tommy married the love of his life, Kathy Harriett Tolar. They started their lives together in Beaumont, TX, where he worked with Edgar and Kiker, CPAs. After a few years, Tommy and Kathy returned home to Woodville, where Tommy established his accounting firm, Weaver and Smith, CPAs. In 1987, he began working at Woodville ISD as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, where he would spend the next 23 years before his retirement.

After he was retired, Tommy continued to do what he liked best: hunting, golfing, and watching his grandchildren play. He also enjoyed utilizing his financial expertise volunteering with numerous organizations such as First Baptist Church, Jacob's Ladder Learning Center, the Lions Club, and Allan Shivers Library. Additionally, Tommy served on the board of Tyler County Hospital and ultimately became Chairman.

Tommy made life-long friends over his 43 years of membership in the Woodville Lions Club, including honors such as: the Outstanding Lion of the Year, Long Time Service, Lifetime Membership in Texas Lions Camp, and the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Tommy recently received a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding commitment and dedication to service, which was presented to his sons on his behalf.

Early in life, Tommy's mother instilled in him the love of his Lord and Savior, and as a young boy he attended Ebenezer Baptist Church. Tommy later led his family to become members of the First Baptist Church of Woodville, where he served as trustee and a deacon. Tommy thoroughly enjoyed his men's Sunday school class and occasionally filled in as the teacher, using his passion and thoughtfulness to deliver the weekly lesson.

Tommy's primary devotion throughout life was the growth and support of his family. He spent many years coaching his three boys in various sports. While not on the sports field, they could usually be found out enjoying nature with their father. Nothing brought Tommy more pleasure than taking his boys hunting and "bringing home the meat." The time spent together in sports and outdoors is where Tommy instilled in his boys the same values and faith that guided him throughout his life. Tommy and Kathy were both blessed to have the privilege of watching their three boys grow to be leaders within their communities.

Tommy and Kathy both enjoyed traveling. One of their most memorable trips was to Athens, Greece, where they visited the

Areopagus (Mars Hill) where Paul the Apostle gave his most famous message. Tommy especially enjoyed reading the books of the Bible written by Paul.

Tommy's greatest love was his family and seven grandchildren, who lovingly called him "Pops." The beloved family dog, Toto, always knew when Pops was home and frequently landed in his lap for a cuddle. Tommy is remembered by his family as "an oak tree . . . strong, mighty, and courageous."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie "CC" and Winnie Bell Weaver, and his sister Virginia Carruth. He is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Kathy Tolar Weaver of Doucette; sons, Travis and wife Jamie of Doucette, Ryan and wife Amanda of Lumberton, Lane and wife Amber of Kingwood; grandchildren, Reed, Lural, Tyler, Karson, Lathan, Lucas, and Blake; brothers, Charley and wife Diana of San Antonio, Kenneth and wife Charlotte of Woodville; sister, Barbara Wilson of Woodville, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor my friend Tommy Weaver for his many years of faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

CONGRESSMAN MRVAN CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15, 2021 to October 15, 2021, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the histories, cultures, traditions, and contributions of our Hispanic American community. As a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, in honor of this special month, I would like to pay tribute to two truly outstanding local Hispanic community leaders, the late Jesse Gomez and Rosemarie Gomez.

Jesse Gomez was born on April 5, 1920 in East Chicago, Indiana. He was elected East Chicago City Councilman in 1963, making him the first person of Hispanic descent to be elected to political office in the city, as well as in the state of Indiana. Mr. Gomez served three consecutive terms as councilman and was elected Council President twice during his tenure. His election and time in office was especially significant in that it opened political doors for the Hispanic community throughout the city of East Chicago and beyond. During his career, Jesse was also appointed Manager of the East Chicago License Bureau and served as Deputy Clerk in the Lake County Treasurer's office and Assistant Deputy for the Lake County Assessor's office. Jesse Gomez passed away on August 31, 1979, leaving an indelible mark in Northwest Indiana's history. He is survived by his wife, Rosemarie, four beloved children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Throughout his life, Mr. Gomez successfully advocated for the interests and rights of the Hispanic community throughout the region and the state. We are truly grateful for Jesse's remarkable contribu-

tions, and his legacy will remain a cornerstone for the Hispanic community and for all of Northwest Indiana.

Rosemarie Gomez was born on January 14, 1926 in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. As a child, her family traveled back and forth between Mexico and the United States. She and Jesse made their home in East Chicago, and after Jesse's passing, Rosemarie was selected to replace him on the East Chicago City Council. This made her the first Hispanic female to serve in any political office in East Chicago. Throughout the years, Mrs. Gomez has given of her time and efforts to the city of East Chicago and to the Hispanic community. The pursuit of quality education has always been of utmost importance to Rosemarie, and she has always made it a point to instill these values in her children and grandchildren. Throughout the years, she has dedicated much of her time to the East Chicago Public Library. Among her many projects with the library, for twenty years Mrs. Gomez volunteered to decorate a Mexican-themed Christmas tree for the library's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit. For her dedication and commitment to the Hispanic community, and to the city of East Chicago and beyond, Rosemarie is worthy of our highest praise and everlasting gratitude.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Our nation's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people, and the extraordinary contributions of citizens such as Jesse and Rosemarie Gomez, who have improved the quality of life for generations to come. This month, and always, we honor the many Hispanic members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States and who have enriched our lives and the culture of our great nation.

HONORING PALM SPRINGS POLICE CHIEF BRIAN REYES

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes who has retired after nearly 30 years of service to our community.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Chief Reyes began his career in law enforcement as a reserve police officer for the Compton Police Department in 1991. After transferring to the Palm Springs Police Department in 1993, he rose through the ranks—serving as an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain before ultimately police chief.

Chief Reyes led the Palm Springs Police Department through difficult times. On October 8, 2016, during the first year of his tenure as Chief of Police, Palm Springs police officers Lesley Zerebny and Gilbert Vega were tragically killed in the line of duty. Chief Reyes recognized the devastating impact this would have on the department, community, and the officers' families. He prioritized the mental health needs of those affected and his guidance brought us all closer together in this time of mourning.

I am honored to have collaborated with Chief Reyes in authoring legislation to commemorate the tremendous sacrifice made by

officers Zerebny and Vega that day. Named in their honor and inspired by our local police officers at the Palm Springs Police Department, the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gilbert Vega First Responders Survivors Support Act would get families of our fallen heroes the support they need to ensure they have every opportunity to succeed in life.

During his more than six years of leadership, Chief Reyes strengthened the department's community policing in neighborhoods, expanded outreach and engagement with residents and businesses through Town Hall meetings, implemented new technology and social media platforms, and fostered trust and credibility through regular meetings with neighborhoods and community organizations. Under his guidance, the Palm Springs Police Department developed important partnerships with the Palm Springs Unified School District, Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Palm Springs, Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs, Mizell Senior Center, Well in the Desert, Desert Regional Medical Center, and many more local organizations. Further, Chief Reyes has received numerous accolades for his incredible leadership, including Life Saving Medals, the Officer of the Year award, and the Community Hero's Award.

Chief Reyes' 28 years of tireless and dedicated work for the Palm Springs community is a testament to his outstanding leadership, character, and commitment to the well-being of Palm Springs residents.

Chief Reyes will be missed, and the changes brought about under his leadership will continue to improve the lives of Palm Springs police officers and the entire Palm Springs community.

On behalf of the great people of California's 36th Congressional District I want to thank Chief Bryan Reyes for all he has done for our community. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

GORSUCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TRACEY MANN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, August 14, 2021, Timothy (Tim) and Candace (Candy) Gorsuch of Leoti, Kansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Stillwater, Oklahoma. They were joined by family and close friends for the occasion.

Tim and Candy met on a blind date in Stillwater while Tim was playing baseball for Oklahoma State University and Candy was a flight attendant for Continental Airlines. They were married in Colorado Springs in 1971 and were blessed with three children: Jack, Adrienne, and Matthew, and 6 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Tim and Candy on this exciting occasion. Happy 50th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Lexington Fire Department as they celebrate 150 years of service to the people of Lexington, Kentucky.

Lexington was founded in 1775 and quickly grew from a pioneer settlement into a village. Fire was a constant threat due to the number of wooden structures. The Lexington Fire Company was formed in May of 1790 and became the first fire department west of the Allegheny Mountains. Whenever a fire broke out in the early days of Lexington's history, all the able-bodied men, and oftentimes women, would show up, form a bucket brigade, and attempt to put out the fire. In August of 1871, two large fires destroyed significant portions of the city of Lexington. The Lexington Fire Company was then reorganized and the Lexington Fire Department as it is now known was created on September 7, 1871. The Department grew over the years, adding innovations such as call boxes and fire hydrants. The first horseless engine in Lexington was purchased in 1911. Other innovations included new fire stations, employee physicals, truck mounted radios and first aid. The Department also began to introduce public education and prevention efforts.

Over the 150 years of its existence, the Lexington Fire Department has protected the citizens of Lexington by responding to the threat of property loss, injury, and death caused by fire. The Department has made numerous changes over time to provide the best and most up to date services to meet the changing needs of the community.

Currently, the Lexington Fire Department serves as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's largest fire department. They operate out of 24 fire stations. They have responded to over 304,000 local emergencies in the past 5 years, with a current staff of 597 men and women and a budget of just over \$80 million.

In 2018, the Department began its innovative and impressive Community Paramedicine Program, which enables firefighters to take a more comprehensive approach to the care of patients who depend highly on E-911. This is resulting in saving lives and making a difference for Fayette County residents.

I congratulate chief Jason Wells and all the firefighters of the Lexington Fire Department on their 150th anniversary. It is my honor to remember the history and to recognize the brave men and women of the Lexington Fire Department before the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF SYBIL SHAINWALD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sybil Shainwald, for her unwavering dedication to

advocacy for women and especially for women's health. For over forty years, Ms. Shainwald has been at the forefront of the women's health movement.

Ms. Shainwald received a Master of Arts in History from Columbia University in 1972 with a focus on the consumer movement. In 1972, she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to establish the Center for the Study of the Consumer Movement at the Consumers Union, which she directed from 1972–1978. While director, she attended New York Law School and received her Juris Doctor in 1976.

As a trial assistant in the late 1970's, Ms. Shainwald successfully represented the first case that held drug manufacturers liable for the health problems of children whose mothers had taken the synthetic estrogen drug diethylstilbestrol (DES) to prevent miscarriage. Since then, she has represented thousands of people in the U.S. and globally, who were exposed in utero to DES.

In addition to her courtroom advocacy, Ms. Shainwald was also a professor of law at the City University of New York and currently sits on the Board of Trustees of New York Law School. In 2004, she established the Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lectures at New York Law School.

Through her writing, testimony before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Congress, and her leadership of advocacy groups, Ms. Shainwald has raised national awareness of crucial women's health issues. In the 1980s, she traveled internationally to educate women on the toxicity of Depo-Provera, though not approved by the FDA for contraceptive use, these birth control shots were marketed in 80 foreign countries and, through legal loopholes, to poor, minority, and mentally incapacitated women in the U.S. Ms. Shainwald estimated that 20,000 American women were prescribed this drug, linked to cancer in lab animals, as a contraceptive and to treat PMS and endometriosis, and were not told about its side effects.

Ms. Shainwald is former Chair of the National Women's Health Network, Co-Founder of Health Action International and Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. She was a member of the FDA Consumer Consortium and a member of the Coordinating Committee on Toxics and Drugs. She is on the Board of the Hysterectomy Educational Resources & Services Foundation (HERS) and other non-profit organizations. Ms. Shainwald also recently helped establish an Immigration Clinic at the College of William & Mary Law School.

Ms. Shainwald has received numerous awards for her advocacy, including the President's Medal from New York Law School, the Dean's Award from Columbia University, the Susan B. Anthony Award from the National Organization for Women, New York County Lawyer's Association's Edith I. Spivak Award and both New York Law School and William & Mary bestowed Honorary Doctor of Law Degrees to her. Most recently, New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright honored Ms. Shainwald with her annual Carolyn B. Maloney Leadership award.

Ms. Shainwald has worked for decades as an advocate for women's health and can be credited with many advances in the field. Her tireless advocacy has done nothing short of save lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sybil Shainwald for her remarkable advocacy for the health of women all over the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH MONACO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the Members of the House to join me in mourning the passing of Ralph Monaco, a highly talented and respected lawyer in the State of Connecticut, a devoted husband and father, and all-around outstanding citizen who cared for his community and always went above and beyond to help others. We tragically lost Ralph on July 10, 2021 at the young age of 54. Ralph truly represented the best of eastern Connecticut and was a role model to so many in the field of law. His legacy and his leadership in private practice and in the public sphere will always be remembered and cherished.

Ralph was born in the Bronx in 1967 and spent most of his adolescence in the Big Apple. After excelling in his primary and secondary education, he decided to continue his education and attended Fordham University. While there—he made the decision that he would pursue a career in the field of law and chose to attend Quinnipiac Law School in North Haven, Connecticut, where his love for law truly flourished. After a successful academic career and graduation from law school in 1993—Ralph pursued his legal career and ventured to become a trial lawyer right here in eastern Connecticut. Through his determination and hard work, Ralph ascended in the field and became a partner at a firm right here in New London, CT at Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco P.C.

His passion for the law eventually carried Ralph to becoming an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA). There, through his convivial personality and highly ethical and sophisticated knowledge of the law, he rose through the ranks and became the 87th and youngest President in the history of the CBA by 2010. With the CBA, he formed relationships with many public officials and led several initiatives within the organization including his activity as the founder of the Civics Education Committee and serving as chair of the Modernizing Lawyer Referrals & Law Firm Models Subcommittee of the State of the Legal Profession Task Force; as well as the legislative liaison of the Litigation Section. Moreover—he was a crucial contributor to the CBA's Volunteer Attorney Program which grants families and individuals in need access to pro-bono legal assistance.

Ralph's community involvement went far beyond his major contributions to the CBA. He served on the Jury Committee of the Chief Justice's Public Safety and Trust Commission and was appointed by Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill to serve on the Civics Commission. He was also an active member of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Connecticut Bar Foundation, and New London County Bar Association. Ralph was an individual who gave all his energy to

supporting the greater good and one cannot quantify all the lives he positively impacted with his contributions to our eastern Connecticut community through the field of law. We will be forever grateful for Ralph's efforts and will work to carry his legacy of compassion.

Those who had the pleasure of working with Ralph attest to his tireless and focused work ethic. Ralph was a gentleman but not stuffy—he enjoyed a good laugh and was sensitive to anyone he interacted with. I had the pleasure to get to him know him during my years in the practice of law and as his Congressman. Ralph's sudden and unexpected loss has left a void in Eastern Connecticut and the legal community. Madam Speaker, to that end, I again ask that my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Ralph's work and life and send our deepest condolences to the Monaco family. Ralph is survived by his wife Dina and daughters Abby and Anna—his sister Angela—and many other family members and friends who will carry the lasting memory of Ralph in their hearts.

AMERICAN TAMIL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor the work of the American Tamil Medical Association, an organization devoted to promoting charitable work both in the United States and around the world.

Formed by ten Tamil physicians in 2005, ATMA has grown to include 13 chapters in 3 countries. Its annual convention brings together the brightest minds in the Tamil medical community to share ideas and initiate projects to create healthier conditions for the poor and underserved in this country and abroad.

As a Tamil American, I share a deep sense of pride in the accomplishments of fellow Tamil Americans. ATMA has raised thousands of dollars to underwrite relief efforts for natural disasters all over the world. Its charitable endeavors support homeless shelters in the United States, construction of children's hospitals in India, and organizations that prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ATMA provided funding and resources for hospitals, and operated a 24-hour helpline to aid those in need of medical assistance.

ATMA also serves as an important educational resource through its efforts to mentor medical students of Tamil origin, and the Continuing Medical Education seminars it offers in the United States and India.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and commend the American Tamil Medical Association for the contributions its members make to improve public health around the world.

REMEMBERING JAY ROBERT SORENSEN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Jay Robert Sorensen, a U.S. Navy veteran, dedicated public servant, and lifelong outdoorsman. Jay's passion for the outdoors was not limited to his own fishing, as he took any opportunity to share California's natural wonders with those around him. His endless love of the water led him to become one of California's most outspoken conservationists, constantly working to protect the state's complex ecosystems.

Born on September 28, 1936, Jay grew up in Stockton before enlisting in the Navy in 1954. Upon the conclusion of his service, Jay returned to Stockton where he spent the next 17 years working for the Stockton Unified School District. When presented with the opportunity to turn his lifelong passion for the outdoors into a career, Jay purchased a local bait shop where he spent decades helping others enjoy the Delta as much as he did.

Jay's passion for fishing led to him becoming an outspoken conservationist. He was among the earliest leaders to draw attention to declining fish populations and the loss of crucial spawning environments in the Delta. In order to protect the Delta's fragile ecosystem, Jay helped found the California Striped Bass Association and wrote about the need to protect fish populations in numerous publications. I was lucky to work alongside Jay for many years in my efforts to protect California's unique natural gems. His passion for the Delta was unmatched, and his legacy will live on through the continued efforts to preserve its wildlife populations.

He is survived by his two step-daughters Sandi Smith and Theresa Forbes. I know that they, along with the rest of his extended family and friends, join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA UPON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DESIGNATION AS A CITY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Monessen, Pennsylvania, on the 100th anniversary of its designation as a city.

The land that would ultimately encompass Monessen was surveyed in 1897 by H. Dallas McCabe. Along with Colonel James M. Schoonmaker and colleagues, McCabe initially sought to expand the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railway to reach coalfields further south. Industrialist William H. Donner approached the group and decided to bring his American Tin Plate Company to Monessen, forever changing its trajectory.

The construction of the first mill spurred further settlement by businesses and families

from around the world. On September 3, 1898, the community was officially founded, and the name “Monessen” was chosen because the community would be a “New World Essen on the Monongahela,” combining “Mon” for the Monongahela River and “Essen” for an industrial city in Germany.

Perfectly situated with access to the city of Pittsburgh, the Mon Valley’s waterways, and the immense coal reserves of southwestern Pennsylvania, Monessen grew exponentially. By the early 20th century, it was an industrial hub, hosting the Pittsburgh Steel Works and the American Steel Hoop Company, among others.

On September 16, 1921, Monessen was officially designated a city under the leadership of Mayor Carl Woodward. At its peak, Monessen was home to more than 20,000 residents.

By the mid-20th century, Monessen had become a center of the budding American middle-class. So much so that it attracted the attention of organized labor leaders and prominent American politicians. President Harry S. Truman visited Monessen in 1956. President John F. Kennedy travelled there in 1962.

Madam Speaker, today Monessen is home to 7,600 men, women, and children. I am proud to represent this uniquely American city, and I have no doubt it will continue to make its mark on our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL RYLEE MCCOLLUM

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Ms. CHENEY. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Marine Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum.

Rylee was a beloved son, brother, friend, husband, and soon-to-be father who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedoms and defending our interests while serving in Afghanistan.

His family remembers him as someone who was wholly intolerant of injustice and stood up for those who could not stand up for themselves. He was a deeply patriotic young man who had a passion for learning. Specifically, he was interested in the ceremonies that encompassed our Nation’s most sacred traditions. As his father remarked “He’s the most patriotic kid you could find, loved America, loved the military. Tough as nails with a heart of gold.”

His willingness to put himself in harm’s way to keep our country safe and preserve our freedom represents a level of selflessness and heroism that embodies the best of America.

Rylee was a native of Bondurant, Wyoming, and demonstrated an interest in joining the Armed Services from an early age. He attended Jackson Hole High School, where he became a decorated wrestler, and later went on to graduate from Summit Innovations School in Jackson in 2019. It was no surprise to his friends and family when right after graduation, on his 18th birthday, he followed through on his determination to serve this Nation at the highest level by enlisting in the U.S. Marines.

Rylee McCollum died a hero, and his bravery will never be forgotten. I want to thank him

for his service to our country and express the deepest condolences of the entire Congress to his family and loved ones.

HONORING DAVID ROYBAL’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor David Roybal’s incredible contributions to our beloved New Mexico. His passion for life, for family, for the land, and for members of his community is everything that we cherish and stand for in our great state. David turns 80 years old today—still working the land and still giving back, as he has done his entire life.

David was born and raised in Chupadero, New Mexico, and comes from a family that believed and practiced service and selflessness. David’s grandfather served in the Army, David’s father served in World War II, and David followed in their footsteps and served in Vietnam. David, his father, and his father before him all received the Purple Heart. David gathers Purple Heart veterans together still and is a leader among these wounded warriors.

While David served as a firefighter for 25 years, he worked with his neighbors in the acequias. He knows the profound significance that these irrigation systems bring to our agriculture, culture, economy, and heritage. In fact, David became Mayordomo in 1970. He worked and managed the lifeblood of our communities for 40 years. He worked because of his endless spirit to help others and improve the place he called home—never even expecting to be paid for his work.

David embodies community. With everything he does, he promotes love, respect, selflessness, tradition, and kindness. There is no more perfect example of this than David’s leadership in managing the acequia that brings so much value to every single member of the beautiful valley they call home.

Happy Birthday, David. As I often say: *agua es vida y acequia es comunidad*. You are the life of our community. But it doesn’t start and end with only water. Thank you for your lifelong commitment to breathing so many different kinds of life into our beloved communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE FORSTER

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Monroe County Commissioner Mike Forster. Commissioner Forster’s unwavering sense of conviction and outstanding public service to his community earned him respect and admiration from those who knew him and anyone he crossed paths with.

Mike Forster was first elected to office in the Village of Islamorada where he served for twelve years. Before becoming commissioner,

he served as mayor twice, vice mayor twice, and served on the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

A man of dignity and integrity, commissioner Mike Forster was an exemplary role model for many. His grand contributions cannot be measured. From Uganda to the Florida Keys, he was always attentive to his community and gave it his all. He earnestly fought to ensure that anyone he met had a quality of life.

He rose to the challenge. When it was needed, he stepped up to the plate. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided free meals to servers, bartenders, cooks, bussers, and other Florida Keys residents involved in the hospitality industry out of his restaurant. During Hurricane Irma, he led efforts to assist those who were ill and help their families when the community underwent disasters.

Commissioner Mike Forster will be remembered for his lifelong charitable contributions to the Florida Keys and his genuine character. It was a pleasure knowing Commissioner Forster. He will be profoundly missed.

HONORING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2021, our nation commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001. On this solemn occasion, I rise to remember the lives lost on that dark day and honor the sacrifices made in the two decades since.

America is a nation of patriots that choose to face danger head on when others run away. When terrorists hijacked four airplanes and carried out the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the world, our nation came together to comfort, encourage, and ultimately defend one another. With two planes hitting the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the third plane hitting the Pentagon, and the fourth plane crashing in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, our first responders, including our law enforcement, firefighters, and other emergency personnel valiantly ran towards danger to save lives and prevent further destruction. We owe these heroes a great debt of gratitude, and without them, countless additional lives could have been lost.

The 9/11 attacks tragically cost the lives of almost 3,000 men, women, and children, and the following efforts to combat terrorism around the world resulted in the loss of over 7,000 servicemen and women. I am proud of the thousands of brave servicemen and women who answered the call to duty, and I’m especially proud of my constituents who have since served to defend the United States and protect the innocent around the globe. Without their heroism, the world would be a much darker place. We will always remember their sacrifice and bravery.

On this September 11th, communities across the United States, including in my hometown of Enterprise, Alabama, will gather to mourn the lives lost, honor the bravery of the American people, and dedicate themselves to ensuring that these sacrifices were not made in vain.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to memorialize that solemn day in our history and pay tribute to those who lost their lives and sacrificed in service to our great nation. May the world also never forget that tragedy that occurred on the morning of September 11, 2001, or the strength and dedication of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIVES OF FRED
AND YVONNE BARBER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Korean War Veteran and great American, Fred Eugene Barber and his wife, Yvonne Barber. Fred passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 90 years old. Fred's beloved wife, Yvonne, passed away only 13 hours earlier of heart failure at 88 years old. They are survived by their 2 daughters, Karen and Jan, in addition to 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Fred and Yvonne married in June 1953 after dating for only 6 months. This year involved several exciting milestones for the couple, as they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in June and family and friends gathered to celebrate Fred's 90th birthday in August.

The couple was also extremely active in their community and held a deep love for Lake Havasu City. Fred and Yvonne were involved in the Republican Party, PACE, and their local church. Fred taught a Constitution class at various schools and other local organizations in addition to writing and publishing over 25 novels about American historical fiction and spy fiction.

Madam Speaker, I am here to express my deepest condolences to the family of Fred and Yvonne Barber and to honor their memory. Fred and Yvonne's selfless public service and local impact will never be forgotten by the people of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
WILLIAM ST. ONGE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Attorney William "Bill" H. St. Onge after fifty years in the legal profession. Bill recently announced his retirement from a busy smalltown practice that ethically and capably represented thousands of individuals and families, sometimes at moments of crisis. Despite that demanding schedule he still found time to elevate the profession as an active member of the Connecticut Bar Association, and completed a distinguished stint serving his community as the First Selectmen of Putnam. Throughout his years, Bill has been a shining example of professionalism, compassion, and service to those around him. His retirement is one that is well-deserved.

Bill's family has a long history of public service most notably his father Congressman William St. Onge, who served the Second district of eastern Connecticut from 1963 to 1970 with great success. That example certainly rubbed off on Bill Junior who has been a life-long contributor to the local community in northeastern Connecticut and someone who avidly followed world and national politics. I have always particularly enjoyed when Bill would share stories about his father as well as his shrewd understanding of public affairs.

Bill was a graduate of Georgetown University and continued his education by attending the University of Connecticut Law School. Upon obtaining his JD in 1974, Bill went on to practice law through to his retirement. As I mentioned earlier, that while fresh in the field of practice, Bill wasted no time in running for and serving as First Selectman of Putnam, which he did so very successfully for nearly a decade.

Even after leading his town as First Selectman, Bill remained a constant in the community and utilized his expertise to give back to his neighbors. Providing a form of accessible representation for fellow towns like Killingly and Thompson, Bill ran a highly successful small-town practice for probate, municipal, and real estate law. As the local lawyer, he sought to continuously improve upon the services available to those in the area, taking the initiative to serve on the Connecticut Bar Association's Task Force on the Future of Probate Court. He was also a staple at town meetings and local proceedings, providing legal advice and often cooling local issues of passion to the respectful, personable tone that they deserved. His thoughtful nature as a practicing lawyer always kept the town discussion purposeful and productive. As someone who practiced law for 27 years in nearby Tolland County, I did have the opportunity to work with Bill on real estate closings and an occasional civil matter. He was a true gentleman—very pragmatic, down to earth and cordial in all his dealings—kind of a modern-day Atticus Finch.

Madam Speaker, Attorney St. Onge's passion for his home was a predominant presence throughout his life and career. His wife and children, Jane, Will and Caroline as well as his grandchildren and his many friends in Connecticut can attest to his caring, thoughtful approach to all he came into contact with. Although his long career is coming to an end, his family legacy of passion and work for his home will unquestionably go on to reverberate throughout the Town of Putnam and beyond for years to come. I can only hope that the example of his service is carried on and that hope he enjoys a fruitful retirement with his wife, children and grandchildren. To that end, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring and congratulating Attorney St. Onge for his dedication to the public and nearly 50-year exceptional career.