

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA
INDEPENDENT ON THEIR STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Columbia Independent's Scholar Bowl Team on their victory in Missouri's Scholar Bowl State Championship.

Asher, Sophie, Elijah, Emily, and Graham conquered the tournament, averaging an impressive 150 points higher than their opponents in each round. As winners of the first team state championship in their school's history, the Lions should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Columbia Independent's Scholar Bowl Team for a job well done.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
CONFLUENCE

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confluence, Pennsylvania, and its important contributions to southwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1870, the Confluence Land Company purchased an area in the Turkeyfoot Valley and laid out the town. Named for its location as the meeting point of Laurel Hill Creek and the Casselman and Youghiogheny Rivers, the town grew quickly and was incorporated as a borough just 3 years later, in 1873. By 1883, the town was already home to 450 people. Shipping and commerce were critical to the town's early prosperity because of its easy access to both water and railroads.

Today, Confluence is a hub of outdoor recreation. Visitors to Confluence can enjoy many miles of adventurous hiking at nearby Ohiopyle State Park, scale the tallest Pennsylvania mountain at Mount Davis, bike through the Great Allegheny Passage, and enjoy some of the best boating our Nation has to offer. The region's incredible fall foliage adds even more appeal to Confluence's already amazing natural scenery.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Confluence is uniquely American and important to our commonwealth's rich history. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Confluence on this remarkable milestone and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 150 years.

HONORING ANEIRA BANWAR FOR
HER VOLUNTEERISM

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Aneira Banwar for her volunteerism, service, and acts of kindness.

Aneira started volunteering at the age of 5. As she began this journey, she realized that there are limited opportunities for children to donate their time. This gap led her to create the "12K plan"—12 months of kindness. This plan consists of 12 monthly kindness projects that kids can do at home.

Recently, Aneira assembled and donated more than 500 "boredom buster kits" for patients at a local children's hospital. She accomplished this project by inspiring others in her community to join her in making the kits.

Now 7 years old, Aneira has logged more than 100 hours of community service. Her hope is to encourage other children to volunteer in their community, because she believes that kids "hold the power to shape and change the future in a positive way by performing random acts of kindness 1 month at a time."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Aneira Banwar. Her commitment to others is noble and inspiring—and I look forward to all that she will accomplish in the future through her volunteer work.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA'S
ROCK BRIDGE ON THEIR CLASS 5
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Columbia's Rock Bridge Track and Field Team on their victory in the Class 5 Track and Field Team State Championship.

Rock Bridge claimed the Class 5 title in 2021, 2022, and now in 2023. The Bruins fought through an intensely close state championship. They worked incredibly hard, entered the final event up 15.5 points, and finished strong to win the title. The Bruins should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Bruins for a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY TO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would require the Directors of 2 federal agencies, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency (PSA), to reside in the District of Columbia during their terms. Residency requirements for certain government positions are found in federal law, D.C. law and the laws of jurisdictions throughout the United States. The primary reason such laws exist is so that government officials have a connection to the residents they serve and in-depth knowledge of the unique issues and challenges faced by residents. Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill.

CSOSA and PSA are federal agencies that focus exclusively on D.C. CSOSA supervises individuals on probation, parole or supervised release under D.C. law. PSA makes recommendations regarding pretrial release and supervises defendants for the D.C. Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for D.C. The Directors of CSOSA and PSA should be required to be D.C. residents since these agencies serve only D.C.

Congress has justifiably required that certain federal officials live in the jurisdictions to which they are appointed, including U.S. district court judges, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Attorneys. Similarly, Congress, which controls the local D.C. court system, has justifiably required local D.C. judges and members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to reside in D.C.

There is no reason that the Directors of CSOSA and PSA, federal agencies that uniquely serve D.C., should not be required to live in D.C. These federal officials need to be part of the community they serve. A D.C. residency requirement for these federal officials will lead to better outcomes in the criminal justice system and is a matter of fairness for D.C. residents.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

● 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.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF COLONEL ADAM J. CZEKANSKI

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Colonel Adam J. Czekanski, who will retire from his post as Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District on August 4, 2023.

Colonel Czekanski served honorably in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 25 years. He began his career in 1998 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University as well as a Master of Science degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas.

Colonel Czekanski has served in a variety of important roles since joining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was the Deputy District Commander for the San Francisco region, the Operations Officer for the South Pacific Division, and the Commander of the Buffalo District before finally taking a post as the Commander of the Pittsburgh District.

During his time in leadership, Colonel Czekanski mobilized the Corps's workforce and operational capacity to confront a variety of environmental and engineering challenges unique to western Pennsylvania. During his command of the Pittsburgh District, Colonel Czekanski also traveled around the country on multiple Temporary Emergency Power Deployments to help rebuild communities after hurricanes and wildfires. His eagerness to serve those in need is an example to us all.

Over the course of his service, Colonel Czekanski was awarded a Purple Heart, 3 Bronze Stars, and a Soldier's Medal. These awards are a testament to his dedication to the United States, our nation's military, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Adam J. Czekanski's diligent service to his brothers at arms, our communities, and our entire nation is evidence of a life well-lived and a retirement well-earned. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate him on his retirement and many impressive accomplishments throughout a successful military career.

CONGRATULATING ZOE MARTONFI
ON HER CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eldon High School's Zoe Martonfi on her victories in Missouri's Class 3 1600 Meter Run, 800 Meter Run, and 300 Meter Hurdles State Championships.

Zoe claimed her first ever state titles at the Class 3 championships. Not only did she win one race but conquered her next two events as well. Zoe led the pack in the girls 1600-meter run, then won the 800-meter run less than two hours later in addition to the 300-

meter hurdles. Zoe should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championships to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Zoe Martonfi for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58; YEA on Roll Call No. 65; NAY on Roll Call No. 284; YEA on Roll Call No. 290; YEA on Roll Call No. 291; and NAY on Roll Call No. 310.

HONORING RETIRED COLONEL JERRY A. BROWN

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Colonel Jerry A. Brown for a career of service to our nation.

Col. Brown is a 1996 graduate from the Army ROTC program at Emporia State University, and the second generation of his family to serve in the United States Army. He has faithfully served our Nation for over 30 years, starting as an enlisted Petty Officer in the United States Navy before commissioning as an Officer in the United States Army. During his career, Col. Brown deployed to the Mediterranean while serving on board the USS *Forrestal* CV-59 in April 1988, he conducted operations to support the Persian Gulf War, and he participated in combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2010 to 2011.

As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer of the 63rd Readiness Division, Col. Brown has supported Army Reserve priorities, programs, and resources by building relationships, educating, and informing Senators, Representatives, State Legislators, Mayors, and non-governmental organizations across the Division's seven-state regional footprint of New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Further, as a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer, he is responsible for legislative actions with professional organizations, defense industry partners, and veterans service organizations that includes informing, advising, and representing senior Army Reserve leadership on congressional activities, and for telling the Army Reserve Story in the 7-state region.

In his last post, Col. Brown also provided support to the 7-state region as a board member for the 2022 Service Academy. He supports all local leaders of Nevada by providing them with information regarding the Army Reserve and the economic impact to states and cities. He has also supported the Army Reserve Ambassador Program, which supports students with full-ride scholarships to any ROTC program in the Nation with the hope that they will one day return to the Southwest as tomorrow's leaders.

In his over 30-year military career, including 10 different assignments and 2 different services, Col. Brown has shared his knowledge and experience with hundreds of officers and enlisted Soldiers, helping them to develop as leaders and enhance their careers. Col. Brown is an exceptional leader who will be greatly missed by the U.S. military when he moves into retirement, while his service will be long remembered by those he worked with. There is no doubt that the soldiers he helped train and mentor over his 30 years will continue to build on his legacy of service and working to make our Nation stronger.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Colonel Jerry A. Brown on his outstanding service to our Nation and in congratulating him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING OLIVIA ANDREWS ON HER CLASS 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Father Tolton's Olivia Andrews on her victory in Missouri's Class 2 3200 Meter Run State Championship.

Olivia claimed the Class 2 title with the impressive time of 11:02:24, achieving a school record and Class 2's fastest time of the season in the 3200-meter run. She ended her high school career with a bang as she dominated her last race before she heads off to college next year. Olivia should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Olivia Andrews for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Washington County on the 225th anniversary of its agricultural fair and celebrate its importance to southwestern Pennsylvania's agricultural industry over the years.

The Washington County Agricultural Fair is the oldest in Pennsylvania, having started in 1798. Since its creation, the annual fair has promoted our community's achievements in agriculture, horticulture, homemaking subjects, arts, and sciences. It is also an opportunity for 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, and many other community organizations to share their work with friends, neighbors, and visitors. Today, the 8-day event attracts over 65,000 attendees each year.

The fair is an important part of Washington County's history and heritage. Over 1,700 individual farms operate in the region, making agriculture the largest industry in the county.

Generations of families and farmers have worked to build a thriving and prosperous agricultural community, which is now a defining characteristic of Washington County's economy and culture.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the Washington County Agricultural Fair on its 225th anniversary. I thank the staff, volunteers, and exhibitors for the important services they provide to southwestern Pennsylvania communities and hope for their continued success over the next 225 years.

CONGRATULATING TRINITY RIGGS
ON HER CLASS 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Russellville's Trinity Riggs on her victory in Missouri's Class 2 Shot Put State Championship.

Trinity claimed the Class 2 title for the Indians, ending her high school career with an incredible throw of 11.93 meters. She should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Trinity Riggs for a job well done.

HONORING ANNE HOLCOMB

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Anne Holcomb's twenty-two years of service as the executive director of Humboldt County's food bank, Food For People.

Ms. Holcomb grew up in Alfred, Maine, and attended the University of Maine. She began her decades of service helping people with disabilities transition into community life, and served as the executive director of Southern Maine Parent Awareness. She moved to Humboldt County in December 2000. During her tenure as executive director of Food For People, Ms. Holcomb helped dramatically improve the scope of the food bank's services. The food bank expanded warehousing, trucking, and direct services to reach the far corners of rural Humboldt County.

Under Ms. Holcomb's leadership, Food For People grew to operate 18 unique programs for children and adults at more than 85 locations. These programs included the Backpacks for Kids weekend hunger relief effort, Children's Summer Lunch and Food Box Program, Mobile Produce Pantry, Free Produce Markets, and Senior and Homebound programs. A large network of pantries for localized response, nutrition and education programs, and CalFresh outreach was developed under Ms. Holcomb.

In 2000, Food For People's main facility in Eureka was closed due to a major sewage

leak. This preceded the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the community's need for food resources surged. The food bank continued operating to meet this need through creative problem-solving and hard work on the part of Food For People's staff, board, and dedicated volunteers. During this time, Ms. Holcomb launched a major capital campaign to build a new state-of-the-art food bank, warehouse, and office facility. This newly opened facility will allow Food For People to better serve the community, especially in times of crisis.

During her long career with Food For People, Ms. Holcomb always put nutrition first, ensuring that households, children, and seniors have access to high quality food distributed in a dignified manner. She has been a champion for hunger relief statewide and was also a mentor for staff and a committed community partner.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Holcomb has dedicated decades of her life to serving people in need and addressing hunger and poverty. Her exemplary service to Food For People and the people of Humboldt County has been meaningful and will have a positive effect for many years. Therefore, please join me in congratulating her on her years of inspiring work and wishing her the best on her next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDWIN JUDE RACHUBA

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Edwin "Ned" Rachuba, a Navy veteran and steamfitter from southwestern Pennsylvania, who passed away on March 10, 2023 at the age of 83.

Mr. Rachuba graduated from Baldwin High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy on active duty aboard the USS *Wasp* from 1957 to 1959 and an additional 4 years in the Navy Reserve.

After leaving the military, Mr. Rachuba worked as a steamfitter and was a member of the Steamfitters Local Union 449 in Pittsburgh for 42 years. His professional life and military service exemplified the values of hard work, dedication, and commitment to his community.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Rachuba was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He married his high school sweetheart, Sally, and celebrated 63 years of marriage over their lifetimes. Mr. Rachuba would travel across Pennsylvania and the country to watch his grandchildren play sports, never missing an important family event.

Mr. Speaker, Edwin Rachuba's dedication to his work, devotion to his family, and service to our Nation are an example of a life well-lived. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Mr. Rachuba's family and wish them healing during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING FORT
ZUMWALT SOUTH ON THEIR
CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fort Zumwalt South Girls Soccer Team on their victory in Missouri's Class 3 Soccer State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the third time in the first ever three-peat in girls' soccer by a Missouri public school. Isabel Montileone and Audrey Smith scored beautiful first-half goals to give the Bulldogs the win as they defeated Smithville 2-1. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Fort Zumwalt South Girls Soccer Team for a job well done.

DEFENDING ROHINGYA REFUGEES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, June 20th every year marks World Refugee Day, an international day organized by the United Nations to raise awareness of the plight of refugees around the world. The UN defines refugees as "people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country."

The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim minority who practice a Sufi-influenced variation of Sunni Islam throughout Southern Asia. The Rohingyas trace their roots back for many centuries predominantly to the Rakhine State in Burma.

The United Nations has described the Rohingya as "the most persecuted minority in the world" due to the actions taken against them by the Tatmadaw. Discriminatory policies of the Burmese government since the late 1970s have compelled hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to flee their homes. In 2017, the Tatmadaw renewed and increased violence, including reported rape, murder, and arson, triggered an exodus of Rohingya from Burma.

The majority of those Rohingya who have been able to flee have found refuge in Bangladesh. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates the population of Rohingya in Bangladesh at close to one million.

The largest exodus of Rohingya began in August 2017 after a massive wave of violence broke out in the Burmese Rakhine State. It is estimated that 730,000 Rohingya fled from the 2017 genocide seeking refuge in Bangladesh. With half of those able to flee to safety in Bangladesh being women and children.

In honor of the annual World Refugee Day, the American people commend Bangladesh for providing safety for the Rohingya refugees from the Tatmadaw. Today 17 countries are

home to significant populations of Rohingya refugees, including the United States. The Rohingya deserve to live safely anywhere in the world without fear of persecution.

We are grateful for the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed. The people of Bangladesh are well represented in Washington, D.C., by Ambassador Muhammad Imran.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 290, YEA on Roll Call No. 291, and NAY on Roll Call No. 292.

CONGRATULATING MORGAN CANNON ON HER CLASS 5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Liberty High School's Morgan Cannon on her victory in Missouri's Class 5 Javelin State Championship.

Morgan claimed the Class 5 title with an incredible throw of 45.21 meters. She fought through her shoulder pain and singlehandedly won 10 of her team's 18 points. Morgan should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Morgan Cannon for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ZANE BREAKIRON

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of Morgantown Police Officer Zane Breakiron, who sadly passed away on June 3, 2023.

Officer Breakiron, a Uniontown, PA native, exemplified the values of humility, selflessness, and dedication and provided an example for all Americans of what it means to serve our communities. While attending Uniontown's Laurel Highlands High School, Officer Breakiron was a 3-sport varsity athlete, lettering in football, wrestling, and track and field.

Following his graduation from the University of Florida, he joined the Morgantown, West Virginia Police Department. Zane served in the department's K-9 Unit and on their Underwater Search and Rescue Team. Continuing his passion for athletics in his professional life, he also served as a physical trainer for other officers in the department.

Outside of his service as a law enforcement officer, Zane Breakiron spent time giving back to his native community in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He was involved in the Catholic War Veterans of Fayette County and was an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police. The positive energy and kindness he spread in his community were a product of his unshakeable faith in Christ and active participation in the Church.

Zane Breakiron was a brave and dedicated servant to his community and will be greatly missed for his kind, selfless, and hardworking spirit. Zane is survived by his parents, Dr. Garrett and Mindi Breakiron, his 2 grandparents, his aunt and uncle, his 2 cousins, and his younger brother.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Breakiron's legacy of service to family, faith, and community should inspire all Americans. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Officer Breakiron's family and wish them healing and strength during this difficult time.

HONORING VENANCIO "BENNY" CATALA, JR.

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Venancio "Benny" Catala, Jr., known affectionately as "Big Ben" and "Benny from the Block," was a pillar of the Bronx community, touching thousands of lives through his political activism and outreach.

A proud Puerto Rican, Mr. Catala immigrated from San Juan to New York City at just 4 years old. He attended New York City public schools throughout his childhood and later enrolled and graduated from Monroe College.

By age 16, he was already serving his community via his numerous jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program. At 18, he began his career in public service as a Constituent Services Representative for the office of the Honorable Aurelia Greene, connecting constituents to resources such as education programs, housing, and state social services. He was promoted to the Constituent Services Director and later District office Liaison to the Albany Legislative Office. From 2002 to 2006, he served as Director of Constituent Services for the Office of Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., helping residents reach city agencies and services.

During the construction of the new Yankee Stadium, a beloved Bronx landmark, Mr. Catala oversaw community engagement, arranging local hiring provisions, contracts with minority and women owned businesses, and small business partnerships. In 2012, he became Director of Diversity Initiatives for the Yankees, building relationships between the Yankees and local community leaders, schools, nonprofits, and cultural organizations.

In a return to politics, Mr. Catala was appointed researcher for the State Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee in 2016 as well as serving as the Vice Chair and Sergeant at Arms of the Bronx Democratic County Committee, working with members of the Bronx Democratic party and New York State assemblymembers. He was also the Male Dis-

trict Leader of the 77th Assembly District serving Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and the president of the Rev. Jerome A. Greene Democratic Club, running voter registration drives, and supporting district leaders.

Mr. Catala's lasting impact on his community is truly immeasurable. We will never forget his tireless dedication to the Bronx; may he rest in peace.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WILL HAVE DEVASTATING EFFECTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON and Congresswoman CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for leading this Special-Order Hour.

The Supreme Court's ruling on affirmative action is a disaster for the Black and Brown young people that I represent in Northeast Ohio. It's a disaster for underserved communities across the country. And frankly, it's a terrible outcome for the entire Nation, because diverse schools are better schools, for all students. This is a ruling that denies the reality of our past and undermines our Nation's future. And we need to be upfront about what this ruling will mean for real people.

Because of this ruling, there are going to be drastically fewer Black and Brown students admitted to the Nation's most selective schools. Because of this ruling, the Nation's top schools, the schools that feed into power, influence, and wealth—are going to be whiter. So, let's be real: this ruling is a lot of things—but it's not about fairness. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honor of hosting HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra in Cleveland and introducing him to students and faculty at Lincoln-West High School.

At Lincoln-West, we have the only high school in the country located inside a hospital—and the students are doing incredible things. They're shadowing doctors and nurses, interning at MetroHealth hospital, and earning certifications at a very young age.

During our visit to Lincoln-West's facilities at MetroHealth, we met with recent graduates Tavion Lindsey and Khandah Abdullah. These talented young people impressed us deeply, introducing themselves and describing the program and their experience seamlessly with multiple members of Congress, a member of the Cabinet, and the President of the hospital. Tavion and Khandah demonstrate how this program at Lincoln-West is instilling understanding, confidence, and expertise in its students.

Mr. Speaker, Lincoln-West is in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, which is nearly 80 percent Black or Hispanic, and where a majority of students are from low-income households. The success of this innovative hospital program shows students can do so much—if they're given a chance. And Mr. Speaker, that's why this ruling cut so deep. I think of all the brilliant minds in my district and across America who are going to be denied opportunities because of this shameful and ignorant ruling. We owe it to those young people to keep fighting, keep working, and keep speaking out.

We must support schools and students and teachers in every zip code, and we must make higher education more affordable. We must invest in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and support the students that attend them. Finally, we must build a more inclusive economy, with programs and policies that are equitable.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court may have decided to ignore centuries of slavery, centuries of discrimination, centuries of inequality—but I have not. I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, because we understand that this ruling is a setback, but that it is also a call to action. We must keep fighting for an America where all people can thrive.

CONGRATULATING ELLE NORTH ON HER CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lutheran St. Charles' Elle North on her victory in Missouri's Class 3 400 Meter Dash State Championship.

Elle claimed the Class 3 title with an impressive time of 57:75. As the only Cougar returning to the state meet after qualifying as a freshman last year, she was a key contributor to her team's state championship title. Elle not only won the 400-meter dash; she also was the runner-up in the 200-meter dash. Elle should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Elle North for a job well done.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC) WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Southern California (USC) Women's Beach Volleyball National Championship win. Last month's victory marked the team's third straight championship and sixth overall national title, as well as the 135th national championship for the University of Southern California. In addition, it is the 27th National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) win for a USC women's athletics team.

On behalf of the 37th Congressional District, I want to extend an enthusiastic congratulations to Harper Hallgren, Delaney Karl, Jenna Johnson, Maby Thomas, Olivia Bakos, Madison White, Colby Bennett, Tatiana Rusich, Sterling Fischer, Bailey Showalter, Ava Gallien, Ashlyn Rasnick-Pope, Megan Kraft, Delaynie Maple, Audrey Norse, Klaire VanDeusen, Caitlin Cummings, Gabby Walker,

Madison Shields, and Nicole Nourse on their impressive triumph. Kudos for all their hard work.

I would also like to congratulate Coach Dain Blanton, Assistant Coaches Gustavo Rocha and Emily Hansen, and Director of Operations Claire Kieffer-Wright, who all played a vital role in leading these young women to victory. Coach Blanton has accomplished the near impossible by leading his team to back-to-back-to-back wins as head coach and has enjoyed prior victories as assistant coach. Coach Blanton, Assistant Coaches Rocha and Hansen, and Director Kieffer-Wright's dedication to drawing out the best in their players and serving as encouraging voices has no doubt helped the team on their path to victory.

Athletics are a celebration of the human spirit. Playing a sport at the Division 1 collegiate level is no small feat, but playing at that level and being the best requires hustle and determination. They push themselves to their limits and train hard with their teammates day after day. This team has shown us the power of unity in achieving high arching goals; their spirit of camaraderie has allowed them to overcome obstacles and emerge victorious, supporting each other along the way. Their shared goal and commitment to one another powered them through the long season and delivered them to triumph.

This month, we will celebrate the 51st anniversary of Title IX. Decades ago, women wouldn't have had the opportunity to be part of a collegiate level, championship-winning team. The USC Women's Beach Volleyball team has inspired countless young girls to pursue their dreams fearlessly and are a testament to the progress that has been made in athletics.

The Women of Troy secured their sixth beach volleyball national title while battling their crosstown rivals, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins. The neck-and-neck May 7th championship match all came down to the last set with senior twin sisters Audrey and Nicole Nourse on the court. After going back and forth in the tight set with the Bruins, the Nourse sisters led their team to a 15-11 win to claim victory in the match and the 2023 NCAA championship.

I want to offer special recognition to the graduating students on the team. Seniors Harper Hallgren, Audrey Nourse, and Nicole Nourse and graduate students Jenna Johnson, Madison Shields, and Ashlyn Rasnick-Pope should be proud of their leadership of the team over the past few years and their incredible back-to-back-to-back wins. We will all miss watching them play, and we will never forget the indelible mark they have made.

As a USC alumna, I was excited to meet the Women of Troy and congratulate them on their National Championship title. I could not be prouder to share an alma mater with these remarkable women. Fight On, Trojans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to an unexpected surgery this week, I will not be able to attend votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 328.

CONGRATULATING LUTHERAN ST. CHARLES ON THEIR CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lutheran St. Charles Track and Field Team on their victory in the Class 3 State Championship.

Lutheran St. Charles claimed the Class 3 title in an impressive team effort. With only one member of the team a returner to the state competition, the team's plethora of young talent bodes well for its future. Although their title seemed secure after 15 events, they finished strong and brought home the championship. The Cougars should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year, and I'd like to wish the team luck as they move up to succeed in Class 4 next year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Lutheran St. Charles Cougars for a job well done.

COUNT THE KICKS

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a silent crisis in the U.S. Stillbirths claim the lives of more than 21,000 babies every year.

After suffering devastating stillborn losses, 5 Iowa women took their grief and turned it into fuel; they wanted to keep other families from joining their club. So, they founded the non-profit organization Healthy Birth Day, and along with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, they have since lowered Iowa's stillbirth rate by 32 percent. Based on scientific evidence, their Count the Kicks stillbirth prevention program educates expectant parents about the importance of tracking fetal movement in the third trimester of pregnancy.

With programs to educate and empower expectant parents with stillbirth prevention education, we can save thousands of babies from preventable stillbirth each year. The stillbirth crisis is URGENT and needs to be addressed, so I want to acknowledge the powerful work of these Iowans on a bi-partisan issue we should all get behind.

I want to also take a moment to recognize Brian and Mary Lohse and their daughter Genevieve, as well as Arizona Count the Kicks Ambassador, Shawn Soumilas, and her son Zach for their tireless work to prevent stillbirths.

RECOGNIZING MR. LARRY HALLUM

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Larry Vernon Hallum, who

passed away on April 22, 2023, surrounded by loved ones. Born in Bakersfield, California, Mr. Hallum was 1 of 5 children. He grew up in the Central Valley, and attended Arvin Union Elementary, Haven Drive Junior High School, and Arvin High School. Throughout his childhood, Mr. Hallum excelled in academics and sports, won the Henry Greve speech contest in junior high, and was Senior Class Vice President in high school.

After his high school graduation in 1961, he attended Bakersfield College for 2 years where he played tennis. Soon after, he was offered a full ride to Stanford University, which he turned down to pursue an education at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Hallum graduated with his bachelor's degree in history and political science in 1966 and returned to Arvin High School as a teacher. Mr. Hallum volunteered for the draft in 1969, during the height of combat operations in the Vietnam War. He served in forward reconnaissance in the Quang Ngai Valley in South Vietnam.

Mr. Hallum achieved the rank of Sergeant E-5 and was awarded a Combat Infantryman's badge. He spent his life honoring the sacrifices of the soldiers who served alongside him. In October of 2022, Larry and his son, Ryan, visited the U.S. Capitol and the Vietnam Memorial Wall as part of the Central Valley Honor Flight. After his service, Mr. Hallum returned to Arvin High School, where he spent 40 years as a teacher. He was a vital part of the Arvin community, having taught thousands of students in the Central Valley across multiple generations of families. Mr. Hallum was devoted to his students, teaching world civilizations, geography, U.S. history, government, and economics.

Mr. Hallum led the school's Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and in 1987, started the "We the People" Constitution Team, which was nationally ranked under his leadership. He also spent time supporting his students outside the classroom—coaching football, tennis, and baseball and supporting other students as he cheered from the sidelines. Mr. Hallum was honored as the first recipient of the Jim Burke Teacher of the Year Award, received the Arvin Chamber's Citizen of the Year Award, and was gifted the Key to the City of Arvin. After his retirement, he was selected as one of the 100 Outstanding Alumni from Bakersfield College, having been recognized for his commitment to the students at Arvin High School.

Mr. Hallum and his wife of 45 years, Brenda, have twin sons together, Drew Jonathan and Ryan Wesley. Mr. Hallum was their biggest fan throughout their childhood and supported them at their football games and marching band performances. His love of teaching influenced his sons to spend time as educators in their careers. In honor of Mr. Hallum, the Kern High School District has created the "Spirit of Arvin High School" Memorial Scholarship to support future college students in the district. His service to our country, commitment to his family, and dedication to the students of the Central Valley will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Mr. Larry Vernon Hallum.

CONGRATULATING MADISON
KESSLER ON HER CLASS 3
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Osage High School's Madison Kessler on her victory in Missouri's Class 3 Pole Vault State Championship.

Madison claimed the Class 3 title in the pole vault competition, clearing the impressive height of 3.28 meters. Madison should be commended for all her hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Madison Kessler for a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES TO SELL THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE WEBSTER SCHOOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to direct the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell the federal property known as the Daniel Webster School, which is located in the District of Columbia, for fair market value by December 31, 2025. I am grateful that Representative SCOTT PERRY, the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, joins me in introducing this common-sense legislation.

Built in 1882, the Daniel Webster School, a red-brick, 3-story building, has been used for a variety of purposes over the years. However, since the 1980s, the building, which is located in downtown, has been vacant and fallen into disrepair. This bill will return it to productive use.

During my service in Congress, I have worked to transfer unused or underused federal land in D.C. to D.C. or the private sector to redevelop neighborhoods and to generate tax revenue for D.C. I passed 2 bills that enabled the transformation of the Southeast and Southwest waterfronts into thriving, mixed-use neighborhoods known today as The Yards and The Wharf, respectively. I passed a bill to transfer Reservation 13, which is in Hill East, and Poplar Point to D.C. I passed a bill that required the redevelopment of the Old Post Office, which is now a hotel. I successfully fought to ensure that at least 67 acres of the 110-acre Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus would go to D.C. for redevelopment. I also successfully worked to bring federal agencies to NoMa, which spurred billions of dollars in mixed-use development.

The sale provision in this bill is the same as the sale provision in the bill enacted in 2016 that directed GSA to sell the federal property in D.C. known as the Cotton Annex, which is now being converted into housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING FRANK WHITE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Frank Manuel White, a poet and veteran from Stafford, Virginia.

Frank wrote his first poem at the young age of 12. His love for writing poetry carried over into adulthood and was woven into his life and military career. Frank served in the U.S. Air Force for a total of 26 years, from 1957 to 1983. He served as an officer for 10 of those years. During and after his time in the military, Frank penned poems during his free time, often on weekends and evenings. These poems give us a glimpse into his life, his thoughts, and his surroundings.

Frank's poems were published in 2022 in a book titled "Frank's Homespun Poems from the Heart: A Country Boy's Poetry." Some of the poems included are poems he penned for his now wife, Dorothy, along with her responses to him. The poems exchanged between Dorothy and Frank are a reminder of their long-distance courtship—the poems were sent while Frank was stationed at Ft. Eustis, Virginia and MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida and Dorothy lived in North Carolina. These lovely poems served as their main way of correspondence and are lasting evidence of their love and commitment to one another.

In June of 2019, Frank composed a work titled "TEXAS JUNETEENTH EPIC POEM." This poem tells the story of how Juneteenth came to be, and it details history that we must not forget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Frank Manuel White for his service to our country and for his contributions to keeping the history of our nation alive through his poetry.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to include in the RECORD Mr. White's poem, so future generations of Americans can access his poetry for years to come.

TEXAS JUNETEENTH EPIC POEM

Mr. Thomas Jefferson wrote in Seventeen Seventy-six

Words which have survived for ages, addressing a problem to fix.

"All men are created equal" were his words to the British Crown,

"But the way you are treating us, has caused us to do more than frown."

So the colonies fought a war, which General Washington led,

Everyone knows the end results, colonies won, British fled.

But then Thomas Jefferson's words were cast aside put on a shelf.

They only applied to those men, who looked like Jefferson himself.

So Slavery kept on keeping on, in this land called the USA,

The issue had to be resolved, another time, another day.

Then in eighteen sixty one, Abe Lincoln was the president,

War broke out between North and South, now guess what that was all about?

An issue of human control, had once more risen to the top,

ABE Lincoln told his staff and aides, "This war and slavery got to stop."

ABE wrote a famous document, willing to set many slaves free,
 The first day of the first month of the year, Eighteen Sixty-three.
 Emancipation Proclamation, was the name of that document,
 But some folks did not get the word, until long after it was sent.
 Like all those folks in Southern States, hoping one day to be free,
 Many did not get their freedom, until the surrender of Lee.
 Members of the 25th Army Corps, on May 25, 1865,
 Boarded Steam Ships at City Point, VA for a long boat ride.
 They were headed to that Lone Star State, carrying news for a minority Race,
 The war was over, slaves were free, still they were encouraged to remain in place.

June 19th, Eighteen Sixty-five, via General Order Number Three,
 Slaves in Galveston got the word, the war over they were free.
 Those enslaved remembered that day, they celebrated far and wide,
 And Juneteenth is what they called it, celebrating that day with pride.

—Frank M. White

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 298.

On roll call vote number 298, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORI CHAVEZ-DeREMÉR

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2023

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DeREMÉR. Mr. Speaker, I was present in the House chamber and attempted to vote on an amendment, but the vote was not recorded. This was the Blumenauer Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. Had the vote been recorded, it would show that I had voted Nay on Roll Call No. 298.