

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. AND MRS. BETTERTON ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Betterton on their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Erby Wayne Betterton was born on February 28, 1948 in Decatur, Alabama. Four years later, Valeri Lynn Dunaway was born on May 21, 1952, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

While on leave from his duties in the U.S. Army, Wayne met Valeri through his brother. After Wayne finished his three-year commitment to the Army, he returned home and proposed to Valeri on her 18th birthday, which also happened to be the day she graduated from Butler High School. On August 01, 1971, Wayne and Valeri were married at West Huntsville Church of Christ.

Looking back over their life together, Wayne and Valeri recognize the many blessings they have experienced together.

For instance, Wayne served in the U.S. Army on the front lines of the Vietnam War and returned home safely. Upon returning home and completing his service, Wayne went to work as a tire builder with Dunlop Tire Company. Meanwhile, Valeri worked in the food stamp office until 1975, when she and Wayne welcomed their first daughter into their home. Later, in 1979, Valeri had another little girl. By this time, Valeri chose to change her career to become a stay-at-home mother.

Later, Valeri returned to work as a state employee and retired after twenty-five years of service. Wayne retired after thirty-three and a half years at Dunlop, which is when the plant was closed.

Today, Wayne and Valeri are enjoying retirement by being heavily involved in their grandchildren's lives and their local church and community. One of their favorite past times is watching the Atlanta Braves.

Madam Speaker, Wayne and Valeri Betterton's marriage serves as a reminder to us all, that with unwavering commitment and perseverance, marriage is truly a wonderful blessing.

I wish Mr. and Mrs. Betterton the very best as they enjoy their fiftieth wedding anniversary and celebrate with their family.

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community First Foundation as the 2020 Behind the Scenes award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

For many decades, Community First Foundation has done exceptional work in supporting Colorado nonprofits, but they showed particular leadership and commitment to our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community First Foundation was originally founded in 1975 as the Lutheran Medical Center Foundation. In these beginning years, they focused on fundraising efforts for the Lutheran Medical Center, a nonprofit hospital supporting the western suburbs of Denver. Today, they help donors with philanthropic planning, and support nonprofits with grants and resources in order to build resilient and connected communities across Jefferson County. The organization has seen incredible success in its initiatives, particularly in its founding and continued sponsorship of the annual Colorado Gives Day. Created in 2010, Colorado Gives Day is now the second-largest 24 hour day of giving in the nation, with more than \$419 million donated to Colorado nonprofits between 2010 and 2020. In recognition of this initiative, Community First Foundation was named the Outstanding Foundation of the Year by Ability Connection Colorado in 2014.

More recently, Community First Foundation served our community in exceptional ways through their efforts to strengthen and stabilize nonprofit organizations across Jefferson County during the COVID-19 pandemic. They established the Jefferson County Hope Fund to ensure the nonprofit community and government agencies serving Jefferson County could continue their services and response to the public health crisis. As of April 2020, they provided \$970,500 to 92 different nonprofits. Since then, they have disbursed three additional rounds of funding to aid in Jefferson County's recovery.

I applaud Community First Foundation for their incredible work and commitment to our community and congratulate them on being recognized as the Behind the Scenes Award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SORAYA CORREA, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Soraya Correa, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Chief Procurement Officer, upon her retirement from Federal service.

Ms. Correa has been a dedicated public servant for more than four decades. She started her Federal career as a clerk typist for construction contracts in 1980 and rose through the ranks to serve in leadership positions at several different agencies, including the General Services Administration and the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration. Ms. Correa has been with DHS since its inception. She served as an executive within DHS's Office of Procurement Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services before she was appointed Chief Procurement Officer of the Department in January 2015.

Ms. Correa has been a driving force in maturing DHS's management functions and has forged a reputation as one of the Federal government's most innovative procurement leaders. She has led several initiatives at DHS focused on building a highly qualified acquisition workforce that is empowered to take smart risks to procure what the Department needs. For example, she created the Procurement Innovation Lab in March 2015 as a testbed for new acquisition techniques aimed at improving the Department's procurement process and saving taxpayer dollars. In 2016, Ms. Correa and her team were awarded the prestigious DHS Secretary's Award for Excellence for this effort.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have come to appreciate Ms. Correa's steadfast commitment to fostering an open dialogue with industry and promoting opportunities for small, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses that face barriers to entering the Federal marketplace. Under her leadership, DHS has continued to earn an "A" grade on the Small Business Administration's Small Business Procurement Scorecard; a grade it has earned for a total of 11 years in a row.

Ms. Correa has received many accolades from both industry and government throughout her career, including the 2018 Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service. We thank Ms. Correa for her service to our country and wish her the very best in her retirement.

HONORING AUBREY ALVAREZ AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Aubrey Alvarez, the executive director of Eat Greater Des Moines, as Iowan of the Week. Since its founding in 2013, Aubrey and the Eat Greater Des Moines team have helped connect numerous nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community leaders to work to strengthen the food system in Des Moines.

Aubrey, who holds a degree in health and wellness management from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Public Administration degree from Drake University, has worked in various health and wellness positions throughout her professional career. Now, Aubrey works with the Eat Greater Des

• 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.

Moines team to make sure no food goes to waste. They emphasize the use of local foods and community gardens, and have a food rescue system to make sure restaurants and grocery stores don't throw away good food. Their work has also proved fruitful as they have supported 90 community, school, and faith based edible gardens.

One of the organization's biggest projects, Operation Fresh Produce Drop, started in April 2020 in response to the strains put on the food system due to unexpected closures and an increase in need for food. The Operation Fresh Produce Drop initiative began as a way to help move excess bulk products from wholesale distributors while also supporting organizations serving those affected by the pandemic. This evolved into distributing almost 90,000 food boxes through the USDA Farms to Families food box program. With a team of 3 full-time staff and no warehouse space or necessary equipment, Operation Fresh Produce Drop was only possible due to collaborations with local partners like Des Moines Public Schools and Forklifts of Des Moines.

Of the over 125 groups Eat Greater Des Moines worked with, 80 percent were not and are still not able to order or access food through the Feeding America food bank network or TEFAP, which makes the work Eat Greater Des Moines is doing to partner with trusted community members to get food to individuals and families even more important.

Aubrey is committed to not only making sure individuals and families in Des Moines don't go hungry, but that they also have access to fresh and healthy foods. It's impossible to tell how many people Aubrey's work has affected directly, but I do know that because of her families have and are still able to put delicious, fresh food on their tables. It is an honor to commemorate Aubrey and recognize her as the Iowan of the Week.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN BORTON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments of Melvin Borton. Mel passed from this life on July 16 at the age of 94, having dedicated six decades to the betterment of farmers in Ohio and across this Nation through his skilled leadership with the Ohio Farmers Union and National Farmers Union.

Mel's passion for agriculture began at an early age. He grew up on a family farm, where he helped his brother cultivate everything from tomatoes to wheat. In 1948, four years after his graduation from Chesterfield High School, Mel began a farming operation of his own and joined the Farmers Union.

By the end of the 1960's, Mel pursued a new endeavor: lifting up the voices of his fellow farmers as a National Farmers Union leader. He served as both a regional director and the national director of organization and field services for the National Farmers Union before returning to Ohio to serve as the Ohio Farm Union's director of marketing.

After nearly two decades of service to the Ohio Farm Union, Mel Borton served as the state committee Chairman of the United

States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. In this role, he advocated for farmers enrolled in federal farm programs.

Without his efforts, the National Farmers Union and Ohio Farm Union wouldn't be what they are today. In 2013, Mr. Borton's tremendous efforts were recognized by the National Farmers Union as they awarded him its Meritorious Service Award—the top award bestowed by the organization—for his contributions to agriculture, humanity, and the union.

Despite his numerous accolades and accomplishments, Mel Borton was a humble and soft-spoken gentleman. Ungregarious by nature, he cared most about looking out for the most vulnerable among us, recognizing that our communities are only as strong as their weakest link. His vigilance, perseverance, and compassion were palpable during our frequent visits.

Everyone who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Mel Borton knew that he, above all else, was utterly passionate about agriculture and the plight of small farmers. He made sure others were taken care of before himself and lived a life a true service.

Melvin Borton's legacy will live on forever through those that he touched throughout his life. The great state of Ohio and our Nation are better because of his contributions. To his wife, Linda, his family and friends, we offer our deepest condolences as they mourn the loss of this treasure of a man.

AMY POWELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amy Powell for being awarded the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Amy has served the Arvada Chamber of Commerce with a sense of commitment and engagement over the past few years, including on several committees such as workforce, Leadership KAPS Council as well as presented on a variety of topics.

Amy is also the founder of Well Works, which trains and coaches the construction industry professionals to address unique problems within their industry. She also spent many years at Golden Triangle Construction company where she held several different positions, including director of training and outreach. She earned her B.S. in Construction Management from Colorado State University as well as her Master's in Adult Education and Training.

When describing her job, she says, "I understand that there's the people side of building and the building side of people." She explains that in construction too often the focus is on the building and the money, but not the people. Amy understands the importance of a thriving business community and the power of people and is committed to ensuring that Arvada is a topnotch community. Congratulations to Amy Powell for being recognized as the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER MICHAEL FILES

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, one of the most important honors we have as Members of Congress is to nominate candidates from a competitive pool of young men and women who want to attend our Nation's elite military academies. Among the first I nominated was Michael Files, a James Bowie High School graduate from Austin, Texas, who sought admission to the United States Naval Academy. A nomination doesn't guarantee admission or success, but Commander Files enjoyed both.

It brings me great satisfaction to know that Commander Files has gone on to do so much on behalf of our Nation, in and out of the uniform. His service in the U.S. Navy, which led him all over world, such as Guam and Japan, earned him several awards such as the 2011 Navy Times Sailor of the Year, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and many others.

In addition to serving in the Armed Forces, Commander Files served his fellow neighbors as a Commissioner for the City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission. During his tenure from 2009 to 2011, Commander Files held public hearings related to housing discrimination and age discrimination in Employment—highlighting his dedication to civil rights. In recent years, Commander Files has led the Navy Talent Acquisition Group in San Antonio where his team recruits high-quality candidates from Texas who are interested in joining the U.S. Navy.

Outside of his uniform, Commander Files is actively involved in the community, volunteering with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the NAACP. Commander Files' exemplary service to America and his local community is emblematic of what makes America a great Nation.

I wish Commander Files the very best as he and his family celebrate his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT WARD

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Robert "Bob" Ward. Born on July 4, 1933 to Al and Lovera Ward in Huntington, California, Bob was one of six children. He would later graduate from Burbank High School, a school where he would develop his athleticism and deep faith, two traits that would become among his greatest attributes.

Bob would go on to Whitworth University, earning All-Conference honors in both football and track and field while furthering his academic pursuits. Bob would later serve his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, during which time he was on active duty at Quantico and Camp Pendleton.

While in the service, Bob would many Joyce Ross, his lifelong partner. Following his time in the military, Bob would earn his master's degree at the University of Washington and would begin his impressive teaching and coaching career at both the high school and collegiate levels. Under his leadership, the Fullerton College track team would earn five conference titles and a state championship, leading to Ward's induction into the College's Coaching Hall of Fame.

Always the learner, Bob would seek out new and innovative techniques to push his athletes to the next level. His constant quest for knowledge would lead him to Indiana University, where he earned his Doctorate in Biomechanics. This drive would soon be noticed by the Dallas Cowboys, where over the next 14 years he would become one of the most respected and celebrated strength coaches in the NFL during the notable Landry years.

Continuing his lifelong love of athletic competition, Dr. Ward competed in various Masters Track and Field competitions well into his 80s, earning world records in the 70–74 age group in weightlifting and various pentathlon weight events in track. Bob would co-author several books on sports training and a book on his life journey, *Building the Perfect Star*.

While Bob's professional achievements include an awe-inspiring list of accolades, his greatest achievement was his family. Bob was blessed with two daughters, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, as well as a life-time of partnership with his wife, Joyce.

Now as we recognize Dr. Bob Ward, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring his rich life and legacy.

AVASARALA KANYAKUMARI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor the life and talent of Avasara Kanyakumari, a revered master violinist, composer, and teacher in the Indian Carnatic musical tradition.

Born in the city of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, India, Kanyakumari began her musical life on the violin at the age of eight. Blessed with an abundance of natural talent and nurtured by her family and dedicated teachers—including the eminent violinist Maestro Ivaturi Vijayeswara Rao—Kanyakumari was soon performing in small concerts and building a reputation as a musical prodigy.

After graduating high school, Kanyakumari moved to Chennai, where she continued her education and her musical career as an accompanist and soloist of great renown, deeply admired by critics and aficionados alike for her technical skill and exquisite musicality.

The Indian Government recognized her talent and contributions to Indian music and culture with the Padma Shri Award in 2015. The following year, Kanyakumari was honored with the Kalaimamani Award from the state of Tamil Nadu, and the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi Award from the Madras Music Academy.

Kanyakumari is revered for her commitment to cultivating the next generation of Carnatic

musicians. She offers her services without charge, as her way of paying it forward and honoring the contributions made by her teachers to developing her talents. And Kanyakumari is a wonderful musical ambassador, sharing the beauty of the Carnatic tradition with music lovers all over the world. (I was especially moved by a recent rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner on this Fourth of July, performed by Kanyakumari and her student disciples.)

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the contributions of maestro, guru, and composer Avasara Kanyakumari to Indian music and culture, and the gift of her talent to the millions of devotees of the Carnatic musical tradition.

EPIC EXPERIENCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Epic Experience for being recognized as the 2020 Non-Profit of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Epic Experience was founded in 2012 by Nancy Ferro and Abby Staible, after Nancy's eldest son Michael received a testicular cancer diagnosis. This experience led the two of them to establish Epic Experience, an Arvada-based non-profit with the goal of empowering adult cancer survivors to live and thrive beyond cancer. They empower their members by offering workshops and camps to individuals who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis as a way to help cope with the mental and physical ramifications of these diagnoses. These experiences often provide a weeklong trip in the Rocky Mountains and allows patients and survivors a chance to challenge themselves physically, share their experiences with fellow survivors, and find community during a difficult time.

Since their beginning in 2012, Epic Experience has raised over \$2.5 million dollars and helped nearly 5,000 cancer survivors and thrivers. They have seen tremendous success with their program reporting 95 percent of campers having an improvement in their mental health after attending a camp or workshop. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Epic Experience demonstrated their resiliency by transforming its traditional in person camping seminars to a virtual setting to protect its immune-compromised population. In addition, Epic Experience offered free online yoga, training, and how-to videos as well as three-day virtual seminars to help maintain the close connections and support the non-profit provides so many.

Epic Experience reflects and embodies the compassion, love, and sense of community that is well-known in Arvada and is so important for cancer survivors. The success of Epic Experience has led to life-changing, positive impacts for so many and given individuals a great quality of life as they survive and thrive beyond cancer. Congratulations to Epic Experience for their hard work and dedication to our community and for receiving the Non-Profit of the Year award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING TOM FLORES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SOTO, to recognize Mr. Tom Flores for his successful career and outstanding achievements in professional football.

Tom Flores was born in Fresno and raised in Sanger, California. He is a son of immigrants who had humbled beginnings working in the agriculture fields of the San Joaquin Valley. He attended Fresno City College, where he played as quarterback for two seasons and then received an academic scholarship to study at the University of the Pacific.

Following his graduation, Flores sought to pursue a career in professional football. For him, like others, it was not easy. He was cut by the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League in 1958, and then by the Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL) in 1959. But that did not stop him: he persisted until his dream became a reality.

In 1960, Flores became the first Hispanic quarterback in American professional football after winning the starting quarterback job with the American Football League's Oakland Raiders. He later played for the Buffalo Bills and the Kansas City Chiefs. He won his first Super Bowl ring in 1969 playing quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs. After a successful playing career, he retired, following the 1970 season.

Subsequently, Flores served as an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills and Oakland Raiders. In 1979, he became the Raiders head coach and the first Hispanic head coach in NFL history. Under his leadership, the Raiders won the 1980 Super Bowl XV and 1983 Super Bowl XVIII. Tom Flores has four Super Bowl rings and is one of two individuals that earned that honor as a player, assistant coach, and head coach.

Coach Flores joined the Raiders front office after the 1987 season. A year later, he became President and General Manager of the Seattle Seahawks. In 1992, he returned to the sideline as the head coach of the Seahawks for three seasons. In twelve seasons as a head coach, Flores compiled a career record of 97–87 and an impressive playoff record of 8–3, surpassed only by the legendary coach Vince Lombardi. He later returned to the Raiders, where he spent more than two decades as a radio analyst.

After a successful career in football, both as a player and coach, Flores has used his influence to raise nearly 2 million dollars to support Sanger Unified School District's science, art, and athletics programs through the Tom Flores Foundation. Demonstrating a commitment to giving back to our communities and nation.

Coach Flores was selected to be enshrined as a member of the Class of 2021 for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, an honor well deserved and overdue. He will be the third Raiders Head Coach in the Hall of Fame. The Class of 2021 will be enshrined on Sunday, August 8, 2021, in Canton, Ohio.

Today, he remains active with the Raiders, now in Las Vegas, Nevada. Through his illustrious athletic career and commitment to his

community, Tom Flores has truly been a role model, not only for Latinos but all fans of the NFL.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tom Flores. We recognize his successful career and contributions to society, look forward to his enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING REGINA WILLIAMS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Regina Williams on being named 2020 Historian of the Year by the Bedford County Historical Society.

Throughout the past year, Ms. Regina Williams has kept the history of Bedford County alive through her work to maintain social media pages dedicated to preserving our local history.

Her love of Bedford County goes beyond social media, as she has led hikes to the historical salt cave in Sweet Root Park, as well as the Imes Cemetery. She has also created education programs about Southampton Township for the Bedford County Leadership Group. Furthermore, Ms. Regina Williams has worked tirelessly to restore the Point Pleasant School in Southampton Township.

Ms. Regina Williams' work has greatly impacted the people of Bedford County for the better and her commitment to sharing our community's history is unmatched. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I congratulate Ms. Regina Williams on being named 2020 Historian of the Year and wish her continued success in her work to tell the story of Bedford County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. HIRAM "H" BOWLIN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Hiram "H" Bowlin, who is a distinguished veteran that served our country in World War II and recently celebrated his 101st birthday on June 7, 2021. I extend my sincerest gratitude to Hiram for his dedicated service to our country, and I further thank him for his continued service to our community. I am delighted to wish him a very happy and joyful 101st birthday.

Hiram's service began when he was sent to Europe and assigned to the 94th Infantry, which was a part of the 3rd Army commanded by the great General George Patton. This infantry saw a total of 209 days of combat and participated in campaigns in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. Hiram served as a Communications Sergeant and was responsible for stringing "commo wire" to different command posts during the war.

He was discharged January 16, 1946, and he returned home to the U.S. on February 6, 1946. For his service, Hiram has been award-

ed the Bronze Star, the World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the M-1 Rifle Marksmanship Badge Medal, among other awards.

Hiram is described by his friends as a man of God who is beloved by his community. He often exchanges a warm smile and friendly wave with his neighbors as they pass by his home. He spent his 101st birthday surrounded by his friends and loved ones and even got the opportunity to ride in an antique fire truck that is as old as Hiram himself. When asked about the secret to living a long life by a local reporter, Hiram jokingly quipped, "Keep breathing."

Hiram is a blessing to everyone that knows him, and he has made a large impact on our community. He is known as a kind, caring man who loves Jesus. Veterans like Hiram are the backbone of our nation, and we owe them our sincerest gratitude. His service and sacrifice are a testament to his character and his deep love for our country. I want to extend my deepest thanks to Hiram for his dedicated service to our nation, and once again, wish him a very happy birthday.

KAT DOUGLAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kat Douglas for being awarded the 2020 Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Chairman's Choice Award.

As the Director of Jefferson County Community and Workforce Development, she has led the workforce, housing, homeless and Veterans program while supporting the economic vitality of the community and region. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kat and her teams supported the ongoing response and recovery efforts, along with their strong partner network, across Jefferson County. Specifically, Kat and her team helped manage the small business grant program, the Business and Economic Recovery Task Force, and the five-star certification program. The five-star certification program allowed certified businesses to open at a larger capacity, providing them with the ability to serve more customers and helping their bottom line following a difficult year. The process helped the Jefferson County community identify businesses as safe and responsible during times of uncertainty and helped jumpstart the economic recovery for businesses that were hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic and the region in general.

Kat's work to help businesses and the economy of Jefferson County—as well as her more than 17 years in Jefferson County government—is remarkable and clearly demonstrates her as a leader in our community and someone works hard to serve the needs of our residents and businesses. Thank Kat Douglas for her hard work and dedication to our community, and congratulate her on receiving the Arvada Chamber's Chairman's Choice Award.

COMMEMORATING ASSYRIAN MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Assyrian Memorial Day, which is observed annually on August 7 to honor the memory of all those Assyrians who have fallen victim to genocide, other mass atrocities, and persecution. I am very proud that the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts is home to a vibrant Assyrian-American community—a proud reminder of survival and perseverance in the face of mass atrocities and extreme injustice.

The Genocide that we are commemorating today is a history of persecution and the systematic destruction of a people, based on their religion and ethnicity. It is a history shared with Armenians and Hellenes, or Greeks, perpetrated between 1914 and 1923. This is the period that began to form the world's modern-day understanding of crimes against humanity and genocide, culminating 20 years later in the atrocities committed against the Jewish people of Europe.

Madam Speaker, today is a moment to remember the hundreds of thousands of Assyrians who perished during this horror were irreplaceable human beings. Each individual—man or woman, children or the elderly—were part of a family, with dreams and hopes for the future—and all those hopes, all of those dreams, all of those "possibilities" were erased. This was done deliberately. This was a choice made by leaders at all levels of the Ottoman Empire and those who took charge immediately after the empire's demise.

The Assyrian people and the Assyrian Catholic Church have existed for over 2,000 years. In their ancestral homes of the Middle East—in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey—they lived and worshipped, established communities, and broke bread together, centuries before Islam was born in the region.

Sadly, the minority religions and peoples of the Middle East are facing yet another test, as they are again being persecuted and targeted for extinction. Most of the world's 2 to 4 million Assyrians still live around their traditional homelands, although they are frequently displaced and fleeing violence and war like so many others in the region. It is estimated that some 60 percent of Iraqi Assyrians have been forced to abandon their homes and leave the country since the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003.

Today, tens of thousands of Assyrians in Northern Iraq have fled persecution at the hands of ISIS, which has attacked Assyrian villages, killing or imprisoning hundreds. And with ISIS has come another form of genocide—the war against the history of mankind—with the destruction of archaeological sites, ancient books, artifacts, works of art, houses of worship, museums, centuries-old Bibles, and relics. Yet, we can take hope from the survival of towns like Alqosh in northern Iraq and the Nineveh Plains. People survive and the culture and memory survive.

We cannot sit idly by and watch this destruction continue. We need to provide aid and protection to these communities, these villages and towns—certainly for the sake of the Assyrian and other Christian minorities defiantly

surviving the bloodbath raging around them, but also for the sake of our shared humanity.

And clearly, the Assyrian culture and religion survive within all of those who, over the centuries, fled the region and made new lives in strange lands, including right here in the United States and in Massachusetts. And what a wealth of history, culture, and religion they have brought to us, enriching our communities and our public life.

Part of that history is St. Mary's Assyrian Apostolic Church which was built on Hawley Street in Worcester in 1924. I have read that it was built by about 30 Assyrian families who came to Massachusetts from southern Turkey. They were joined in later decades by Assyrians from Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria, and more recently, from Iraq. I knew that church. It was a wonderful place. But a couple of years ago, it moved to its new home in Shrewsbury, which luckily, is also part of my congressional district.

And like the Assyrian American Association of Massachusetts Cultural Center in North Grafton, it is a place of community and a place of defiance, of resistance, in the best meaning of those words—a place where culture and religion and human potential are valued, remembered, renewed, and strengthened.

So, while I rise to commemorate the tragedy of the past and to honor its enduring memory, I also celebrate the strength of the Assyrian-American community and the hopes of their future, and their children's futures.

In 2015, the Assyrian-American community of Massachusetts dedicated a monument called "Hope." Hope gives us life, gives us purpose, and a reason to look forward to tomorrow.

For centuries, Assyrians have survived persecution and some of the greatest evils known to humankind. But far from being exterminated, the Assyrian people—their religion and their culture—continue to survive and thrive.

HONORING PASTOR CHAD D. BRYANT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated community leader, an outstanding Man of God, and a dear friend of longstanding, Pastor Chad D. Bryant who is retiring and celebrating his 40th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 3 p.m. at the church located at 3601 Yeomans Street in Columbus, Georgia.

A native son of Columbus, Georgia, Pastor Chad D. Bryant was born to the late William Bryant, Sr. and Mattie Bryant. Pastor Bryant began his Christian journey after accepting Jesus at the age of 8. At the age of 16, he confessed a calling to the preaching ministry and by 18, he was ordained—all of which happened under the tutelage of the late Reverend C.C. Cloud of New Providence Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. Pastor Bryant received his grade school education in the public

schools of Columbus, Georgia before graduating from Spencer High School in 1974. He then went on to attend Morris Brown College, where he studied Sociology with an emphasis in Psychology. He also received a certificate in Church Administration and the Old and New Testaments from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Columbus, Georgia.

In addition to being the beloved pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and a founding active member of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., he has also served as Assistant Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church; Associate Minister of Greater Beallwood and New Providence Baptist Churches in Columbus Georgia; a former instructor of the American Baptist College Extension Center; Assistant Director-General and Director-General for the Congress of Christian Education; and President and Dean of the Fourth District Congress of Christian Education under the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Pastor Bryant has gone far in life because his everlasting faith in the Lord is a vivid testimony of His greatness to all whom he encounters. His love and commitment to Christ are reflected in his compassionate and considerate leadership, which makes him a guiding light within the community. He is a humble man who always puts himself in the shoes of others. It has been said that, "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with one hand, but climbs the ladder of this life with two hands and reaches back with the other." Pastor Bryant has always climbed the ladder of life with an eye towards helping others to reach their full potential, both spiritually and socially.

On a personal level, Pastor Bryant has been a friend and supporter for many, many years, and his friendship, advice, and counsel have always been valued by me. I am grateful and honored to be able to call him my friend.

Today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the congregation of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring and commending Pastor Chad D. Bryant on his outstanding career and upon the occasion of his retirement. We wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life.

AMENDMENT TO DIVISION E OF
H.R. 4502

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment to Division E of H.R. 4502, which provides funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, for fiscal year 2022. The purpose of this amendment is to highlight the need for additional financial resources for our rural water systems to address lead in drinking water.

It was recently reported that the drinking water at three locations in Clarksburg, West

Virginia, contained lead levels above 15 parts per billion, which is EPA's action level for lead contamination. The Clarksburg Water Board, CWB has done everything in its power to address the issue at hand, yet they are still constrained and need assistance to address this issue. The \$8,804,000 this amendment subtracts and adds back to the funding level for capitalization grants under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is the total amount the CWB would need to replace their water lines and improve their drinking water distribution system. By highlighting this needed funding, Congress will ensure that our rural water systems are given the assistance they deserve.

FLATIRONS DANCE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Flatirons Dance as the 2020 Business of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Flatirons Dance was founded in 2016 by Jessica Fitzgerald. As director of the studio, she worked to create a studio based on family values and her classes highlight the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and positive group interaction. Additionally, classes provide a high-quality dance instruction by teaching the history, vocabulary, technique, and cultural context behind dance. Classes help students in their day-to-day life by providing structured and supportive interactions, practice problem solving, and experience building academic and artistic skills.

Flatirons' more than 20 professionally trained staff members work to make a nurturing, inclusive and welcoming environment for all of their students. Today, Flatirons offers both adult and children's classes and serves more than 400 students each year. Students have the opportunity to study many styles of dance including jazz, ballet, tap, hip hop, and musical theatre. For students looking for a larger commitment, Flatirons offers a competition team and a cheer program. Each student has the opportunity to showcase what they have learned in a presentation to peers, teachers, families, and the community each session.

I applaud Flatirons Dance for their work to make a difference in the lives of their students every day and their commitment to our community. Congratulations on being awarded Business of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE WICHITA BREWING
COMPANY'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th anniversary of the Wichita Brewing Company (WBC). Over the past decade, owners Jeremy Horn and Greg Gifford have built the brewery up from one location to

a community icon serving over 17 different flavors of handcrafted beer at multiple locations here in Wichita.

From humble beginnings, Jeremy and Greg have built WBC into a Kansas brand with two brew-pub locations, a wholesale production facility, and a 9,000 square-foot event venue. These locations provide Kansans of all walks of life a place to sit down and enjoy a pizza and a beer alongside their family, friends, and neighbors. Beyond its local reach, WBC has been recognized by The Brewers Association as one of the country's 50 fastest growing breweries, with deliveries to bars and liquor stores in Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Wyoming. WBC also took home a silver medal for one of its beers at the 2017 Great American Beer Festival, considered to be the Academy Awards of the craft beer industry, the most significant, most competitive, and most respected contest.

More importantly, Jeremy, Greg, and the entire Wichita Brewing Family continue to give back to their community through the charitable events and fundraisers that they sponsor and host. For the past 5 years, WBC has organized a marathon through Wichita that has raised thousands of dollars for the Kansas Food Bank. Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, WBC has made and provided no-cost hand sanitizer to first responders, law enforcement, and the Wichita Public Schools.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in honoring WBC on their 10th anniversary and wishing them further success.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAURA
HEGGINS FOR 29 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO CABARRUS COUNTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Laura Heggins for 29 years of service to Cabarrus County, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Captain Heggins began her career in law enforcement with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office in 1992 and retires today as Captain of the Administrative Support Services Division, where she oversaw all operations related to School Recourse Officers, Records, Civil Process and Training and Recruitment.

Captain Heggins has led a career of distinction and is a strong and effective leader. She became the first African American and the first woman to rise to the rank of Captain with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, paving the way for and inspiring others. During her tenure with Cabarrus County, she supervised the daily operations and personnel of the Courthouse Security and Bailiff Division, led all courthouse safety operations, managed the recruitment and hiring of all personnel for the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, served as the Team Leader of the Crisis/Hostage Negotiator Team, and was instrumental in the development and oversight of the College Intern Program. In addition to her work with Cabarrus County, she also serves as a member of the Cabarrus County Mental Health Task Force, works with homeless populations through Main Street Mission, teaches a Detention Officers Certification Course and is an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Renee and I would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Captain Heggins for her years of exemplary service to Cabarrus County, which is a better place today due to her work. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing her and her family continued success and happiness as they move on to their next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Captain Laura Heggins for 29 years of service to Cabarrus County.

HONORING MR. DALE NASH UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of Mr. Dale K. Nash, who is retiring on August 1 after serving as CEO and Executive Director of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, or "Virginia Space," since 2012.

During Mr. Nash's tenure as CEO, Virginia Space, which owns and operates the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, MARS, at Wallops Island, Virginia, has grown to include a state-of-the-art payload processing facility and a purpose-built UAS runway. Under Nash, Virginia Space has also produced three launch pads that support cargo resupply missions to the International Space Station and Lunar science missions for NASA, as well as national security payload processing and launch services for the Department of Defense. Most recently, Mr. Nash was instrumental in attracting Rocket Lab USA to base its U.S. operations from MARS, which will accelerate the expansion and promotion of the commercial and government aerospace industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Nash's time at the helm of Virginia Space is the culmination of a 38-year-long career in the space industry that includes other prominent positions. Prior to his role with Virginia Space, Mr. Nash served as CEO of Alaska Aerospace and its Kodiak Launch Complex. He also held senior management positions on the Space Shuttle program and Orion program development with the United Space Alliance, Lockheed and Thiokol Corp.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Mr. Nash upon the culmination of his impactful career. I am thankful for his dedication and service to our country's space program, and I wish him and his family the best of luck and much happiness in retirement.

MICHAEL MCCARRON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael McCarron for being awarded by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

In 1999, Michael purchased Lakeside Insurance and quickly made a name for himself in the community and the industry. He was named Insurance Person of the Year in 2016.

In addition to running Lakeside Insurance, Michael volunteers on various boards including the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, Arvada Citizens Police Academy, CU Denver College of Business Development Committee, Denver Sevens Rugby Tournament, FBI Citizens Academy Alumni, Real Colorado Soccer, and West Point Metro District.

Michael has been a rock in the Arvada Chamber of Commerce for more than ten years, and most recently ended his tenure on the Chamber's Board of Directors where he served as chair and helped lead the Chamber's advocacy efforts. He is a leader in the Arvada community and a trusted voice encouraging and leading its thriving business community.

Michael and his wife have three kids, and he enjoys coaching their soccer and hockey teams. In his free time—he loves to spend time with his family, hunt, travel and hang out at his cabin in Grand Lake. I thank Michael McCarron for his hard work and dedication to our community and congratulate him on being awarded by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING DAVID AND AMY
SNYDER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David and Amy Snyder for being named 2019 Historians of the Year by the Bedford County Historical Society.

Throughout 2018, David and Amy Snyder worked diligently to preserve and protect the history and heritage of Bedford County through the renovation of the Loy Mansion.

The Snyder family first began their research project into the property's history in 2017, and their extensive diligence in researching the history of the mansion has led to a better understanding of the Loy Family, for whom the Village of Loy is named.

David and Amy Snyder's research into the history of the Loy Mansion has contributed to preserving the story of Bedford County for generations to come. I am grateful for their painstaking work to research our history and make that information accessible to the Bedford County Historical Society and our community's schools.

On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I congratulate them on their achievement and wish them continued success as they work to preserve the history of Bedford County.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF LAURIE
FLAHERTY ON HER RETIREMENT
FROM FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

MS. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Flaherty and her extraordinary work as the Coordinator of the National 911

Program, part of the Office of Emergency Medical Services at the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA. On July 15, 2021, NHTSA announced that she will retire from her position at the end of this calendar year.

Laurie Flaherty has worked as an emergency, trauma and flight nurse for more than 20 years. In 2005, when the National 911 Program was created by legislation I cosponsored and was signed into law in the 108th Congress, Laurie was asked to coordinate efforts to strengthen our nation's 911 emergency communications systems. Much of her work has been collaborating with other federal agencies and national, state, and local organizations to implement Next Generation 911, NG911, a digital infrastructure that will increase the resilience of the nation's 911 systems.

"We are greatly in debt to Laurie for her initiative and commitment to the 911 Program from its inception," said Dr. Jon Krohmer, Director of NHTSA's Office of Emergency Medical Services.

During Laurie's tenure, the National 911 Program coordinated with the 911 community, Congress, and federal agencies to implement 911 grant programs and support information regarding funding opportunities, helped develop model 911 legislation, and collaborated with 911 professionals to ensure a smooth transition to NG911. As a co-founder of the Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus in 2003, I worked closely with Laurie for many years to achieve these important goals.

Laurie Flaherty was highly successful in creating awareness about 911 at the federal level, both in representing 911's interests and

in helping departments like the U.S. Department of Defense make progress toward both optimal 911 services and NG911. "Her strong leadership competencies—relationship building, communication, problem solving and decision making—have been extremely effective for the role she's played," said Krohmer.

As a champion for 911, Laurie's skill as a convener and collaborator has been widely recognized and appreciated.

Kelli Merriweather of the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications and President of the National Association of State 911 Administrators stated, "Laurie has been an exceptional advocate for 911 throughout her career, and 911 programs and the people who support them across the country have greatly benefited from her dedication and vision for 911 and now NG911. She will be missed more than we can say, but she leaves the 911 community stronger and well prepared for the future."

Laurie Flaherty credits much of the success of the Program to the guidance and support of the many dedicated and focused 911 professionals she has had the pleasure to know, in both public and private sectors. "I am grateful for the individuals and organizations who have been such wonderful colleagues and friends, as we have worked together to improve 911 systems nationwide," said Flaherty. "This is especially true of the DOT's support, which—absent any mandate—established a track record of more than 15 years of discretionary funding and staffing, exclusively for 911 issues. That commitment created a single federal home for 911 issues that will last beyond any single person's career."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Laurie

Flaherty for her extraordinary contributions to the safety of our nation as the National 911 Program Coordinator and in wishing her every blessing in her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD
ZIPPERER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Edward Zipperer, of Savannah, Georgia for his 90th birthday on August 8.

Ed has dedicated his life to improving the great state of Georgia.

Born in Savannah, Georgia in 1931, Ed was raised on a farm south of US 17. He went on to play football at Savannah high school and earned a degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Georgia.

Ed served in the Georgia State Senate from 1967 to 1975 and was on 13 separate committees during his tenure. He also served as the president of Chatham County Farm Bureau for 40 years. Some of his accomplishments include bringing new state parks and recreational areas to our Coastal Georgia community.

Throughout his career, Ed remained committed to conserving and protecting the beautiful lands of South Georgia.

I am proud to rise today to honor Ed for his decades of leadership, and commitment to our country.