

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHARON HAWKINS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO, Senator JIM RISCH, and Congressman RUSS FULCHER, I rise to call attention to the outstanding career of Sharon Hawkins, who worked for over 30 years on public policy to better the lives of Idahoans. Sharon, served the last fifteen years of her career as the Director of Operations for Idaho's largest business association, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, IACI. Sharon not only made sure every detail of the office ran smoothly, but she was an extremely vital resource to the 300 plus business members who make up that important organization.

Before joining IACI, she was the administrative coordinator for the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association, executive assistant to the Chairman and CEO of MGM and United Artists Communications, and the office administrator for the investment banking firm, Merrill Lynch.

For many, Sharon is an encyclopedia of historical and policy knowledge in the Gem State. She knows every player in the business world, not only because she worked with them, but because she became a caring friend to those who crossed her path.

Sharon is the person you go to when you need things done right. She never left a detail on the table, or a task undone during her time of service. From orchestrating some of the most important business events in modern Idaho history—to making sure Vice President Dick Cheney had a Diet Coke, Sharon never missed a beat.

Her ability to spark conversations, tireless work ethic, and thorough knowledge of Idaho policy history and business acumen will be missed among all who've worked with her over her three decades of service. We all wish her the best in her retirement and to get some much-needed rest and relaxation with her husband Cory and her three sons. I thank Sharon for her service to Idaho.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JONAH KREPPS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished accomplishments of Cadet Chief Petty Officer Jonah Krepps of Uncasville, Connecticut. As a young resident of Eastern Connecticut, Cadet Krepps's committed service to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) was recognized on February 4, 2022, in his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Petty Officer.

Chartered in 1962 by an act of Congress, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth group that helps provide young Americans aged 10 through 18 with key maritime, leadership and teamwork skills. Supporting 9,000 cadets in 380 units in 47 states including Connecticut, the program also provides young Americans with valuable experience that they can use if they go on to join the Armed Services. For Cadet Chief Petty Officer Jonah Krepps, this has meant their longtime membership in the Nautilus Division, which is stationed at the home of our nation's undersea force, SUBASE New London.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Service Committee, which has made sure that Congress follows through on its commitments to this program, I know firsthand the valuable work that the cadets and their leaders do each and every day. This year the Nautilus Division recognizes the dedication and work ethic of Jonah, and it is conferring the honor of being promoted to the position of Cadet Chief Petty Officer during the Corps' 60th anniversary of preparing our nation's next generation of leaders. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking Cadet Chief Petty Officer Krepps for his initiative and wishing him well in his future endeavors. Bravo Zulu.

SALUTING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NOAH ASSAD

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute Noah Assad for his many positive contributions to Los Angeles, both as a prominent soccer player and as an active member of our Los Angeles community.

Noah Assad was born on May 5, 1990, in Puerto Rico. He is co-founder and CEO of the record company Rimas Entertainment and the Rimas Foundation and is the representative of the internationally known artist, Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio.

Mr. Assad acquired his gift for navigating the music business early. At age fourteen, he was organizing events in his native Carolina, Puerto Rico, bringing in hundreds of people; by age nineteen, he was booking local reggaeton acts to perform in Colombia. Assad started releasing free reggaeton compilations to increase demand for the acts he worked with. His success continued and Assad launched his own label, Rimas Entertainment, in 2014.

Assad has established himself as active leader in his fields. He is a hands-on strategist and a philanthropic citizen who utilizes his talents to create unique opportunities for all ages to thrive and effectively impact the world. His efforts have improved the lives of others and laid the groundwork to improve the quality of

life of those he encounters and the community at large.

Madam Speaker, Noah Assad has shown exemplary commitment to the people of Los Angeles and beyond, and I am pleased to recognize his work as a music executive and philanthropist. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his many contributions and his positive impact.

THREAT FROM FENTANYL FLOWING OVER OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a catastrophic mass death in our country because of our open borders—all due to fentanyl.

Fentanyl is freely flowing across our southern border as seizures increased by nearly 135 percent in 2021 under Joe Biden's lax immigration enforcement.

In FY 2021, Customs and Border Protection seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl, a historic rate that is more than all that was seized in 2018 and 2019 combined. This amounts to enough fentanyl to cause 2,540,341,996 deaths, or more than 7 times the U.S. population.

The free flow of this deadly drug across our border is a direct result of the Biden administration's open border policies. The fact is, Joe Biden continues to ignore and fails to address the record high overdose deaths caused from deadly fentanyl-related substances crossing our border.

As a result, the scourge of fentanyl is destroying our communities, killing our children and devastating our families.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. overdose deaths reached a devastating new height in 2021, claiming a new victim every five minutes.

There is a direct link between fentanyl-related overdose deaths and criminal drug cartels in Mexico. The ease in which the drug cartels operate is shocking. The cartels control the borders and are taking full advantage of Joe Biden's weak immigration policies.

Last December, in my home state of Arizona, the Scottsdale Police Department and the Arizona Attorney General's Office seized a record 1.7 million fentanyl pills and 10 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

During a recent two-month public safety surge, the DEA Phoenix Field Division announced total seizures of over three million fentanyl pills and 45 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

Just one fentanyl pill can kill. Yet our open borders remain a fentanyl pipeline.

Instead of securing our southern border to stop the flow of fentanyl, Mr. Biden has doubled down on his open-border policies that will

• 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.

only worsen the ongoing border crisis and destroy more communities and lives.

Just because Joe Biden ignores the fentanyl crisis doesn't mean Congress should. Congress must address the crisis at the border.

Congress must also take action and permanently place fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire on February 18, 2022.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats are wrong to allow this order to expire.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JULIE THOMAS FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues, Senator MIKE CRAPO and Senator JAMES E. RISCH, I rise to call attention to retirement of Julie Thomas from the U.S. Forest Service.

Like many Forest Service employees, Julie started her career in 1980 as a seasonal employee. She was hired as a Seasonal Recreation Technician/Fire Technician on the Twin Falls Ranger District in Sawtooth Forest. Julie worked in a seasonal capacity on the District until August 1990, when she was offered the Resource Assistant position on the Twin Falls District.

In October of 1994, while still a Forest Service employee, Julie became the Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator. She was one of only two Forest Service employees shared with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the position of RC&D Coordinator. As coordinator, she worked and developed relationships with many local community leaders and initiated projects to help south central Idaho. During her tenure as coordinator, she accomplished many worthwhile projects, including spearheading a \$2.5 million request for a congressional funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which helped producers in Minidoka County address closing antiquated drain wells and partnering with the Shoshone District Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Power, South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association, and the College of Southern Idaho to update the Mid-Snake Recreation Study.

Julie worked as the RC&D Coordinator until November of 2009, when she accepted the position as Public Affairs Officer on the Sawtooth National Forest. In this role, she worked with Incident Management Teams throughout the country, grew and maintained the South-Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, built relationships between the Forest Service and the Idaho Congressional Delegation, was a leader in Forest Civil Rights, and was recognized in the Forest Service Intermountain Region as leader in employee deployment and engagement. Above all, Julie was a friend to all in the Forest Service. On December 31, 2021, Julie retired from the Forest Service after a 41-year career.

We thank Julie for her loyal service to the Forest Service and south-central Idaho. We have enjoyed working with her. We hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING COLIN DEMAREST

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Colin Demarest, an appreciated journalist of Aiken, South Carolina, for his new assignment at C4ISRNET, a publication covering emerging issues and trends in global military transformation in Washington. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Colin began his journalism career at The Berkshire View as a featured writer. Later, he became an editor and reporter at Limestone Communications, where he covered government in five different cities and two regional school districts.

When he joined the Aiken Standard, Colin initially focused on reporting on the Aiken city government. After some time, he was assigned to report on the Savannah River Site National Laboratory, a multi-billion dollar facility with about 11,000 employees. At times, this assignment brought him to Washington, D.C., where he reported on anything involving the Savannah River Site.

Colin was thoughtful to come to many events over the years. He would report on my Legislative Agenda Tours, Bus Tours, and any other local events that I attended in South Carolina. As a former journalist myself, I know Colin will be successful at his new assignment reporting from the Pentagon. I wish the best for Colin Demarest in all his future endeavors.

HONORING BUILDER NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RAYMOND BORDER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official renaming of the Gulfport Fitness Center in honor of Builder Chief Petty Officer Raymond Border.

Raymond Border was born on July 22, 1980, in Coshocton, Ohio. He enlisted in the Navy on September 22, 1999. Upon completion of Builder A-school Gulfport, MS BUC Border completed successful tours deploying twice with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE. His daughter, Shelvea Border and son Donovan Border currently still live in Gulfport. His father Craig Border and mother Julie Border live in West Lafayette, Ohio.

A few months after returning home from deployment in 2011 to Afghanistan's Helmand Province with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 BUC Border volunteered for an Individual Augmentee billet on a Provincial Reconstruction Team and returned to Afghanistan, where he lost his life in the line of duty.

For his outstanding service, BUC Border was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star (with combat V), Purple Heart, and Combat Action Ribbon. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal during his previous naval service.

Traditionally Seabee facilities are named after Seabees that have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. BUC Border was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was executing a road assessment for a convoy in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, on October 19, 2011.

BUC Border perfectly embodies what it means to be a true American hero and I can think of no better fit than BUC Raymond J. Border the first Seabee, and first Chief Petty Officer from the Seabee Fleet Concentration Area in Gulfport to receive this distinct honor.

His memory proudly represents all Seabees that deployed to Afghanistan and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Our military servicemembers deserve to be recognized for their commitment to our great nation and I am grateful for his unwavering dedication to our country. The naming of the Fitness Center will allow the Seabees to be able to permanently remember and honor one of their fallen Seabees and Chief Petty Officers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from voting on Roll Call 42 on February 9, 2022. Had I been present I would have voted no on the En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 3485.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor National President Jean Hamil and all members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary for their outstanding volunteer service to Veterans and their families.

In their 108th year of volunteer service the organization continues to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by maintaining memorials to their service and sharing their history with our nation's youth to ensure our nation's Veterans will never be forgotten. The 470,000 members of the VFW Auxiliary all represent the families of those who have served or are currently serving on foreign soil protecting our freedom. Member volunteers have conducted nearly one million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and other hospitals throughout the country. I thank them for their tireless service to our country and to Veterans and their families.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the service, dedication, and sacrifice of the members of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, the 349th Air Mobility Wing, the 621st Contingency Response Wing, and their partner agencies at Travis Air Force Base, which I have the distinct privilege of representing as part of California's Third Congressional District. They exemplify the best of America, and their tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

For eighty years, Travis Air Force Base has stood as a pillar of strength, projecting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and providing support to American troops around the world. This mission is only accomplished thanks to the blood, sweat, and fortitude of the 18,000 airmen and their families that maintain the highest levels of readiness and capability. Every single day this all-volunteer force provides essential aerial refueling, airlift operations, aeromedical evacuation, highly-specialized rapid response contingency operations capabilities, and unmatched support to produce and execute rapid global mobility in support of our national defense.

Last year alone the men and women of Travis Air Force Base met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Team Travis aircrews evacuated 12,962 Afghans while managing security and operations at the airport in Kabul.

The valor and heroism displayed by the men and women of Travis was imitable and worthy of recognition. Last month, I spoke with Captain Kayleigh Migaleddi, who helped evacuate 117 orphan children from the region during Operation Allies Refuge. She spoke about how she would have been at the Abbey Gate the moment a suicide bomber killed 13 Americans had it not been for an orphaned child who needed her assistance elsewhere on base. With tears in her eyes, she told me that she owed her life to that child, who she later helped reach safety and begin a new life. Captain Migaleddi's story is just one of the many stories I heard that exemplify the character leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base. Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by these men and women. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. I am grateful every day that I have the opportunity to represent such an upstanding community in Congress.

This total force effort of active and reserve airmen directly enabled the largest non-combatant evacuation operation in known world history, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. Simply put, Travis Air Force Base is the very best our nation has to offer. Its strategic importance stands as a beacon of hope to our allies and a stern reminder of American resolve to our enemies. On behalf of a grateful nation and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to thank the men and women of Travis Air Force Base and express my sincere gratitude for

their sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great nation.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BROGNA,
UNICO NATIONAL SCRANTON
CHAPTER'S UNICAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Brogna who will be named the UNICAN of the Year for the UNICO National Scranton Chapter. He will be recognized at the Chapter's annual Charity Ball on February 26.

James is the son of Frank and the late Marie Lombardo and the brother of Frank, retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Marine Corps. He attended Bloomsburg University where he earned his BA in mass communications and public relations, and he earned his MS in organizational management from Misericordia University.

James began his career in television and radio, spending five years at WVIA Public Broadcasting and working at WGGY-FM and part time at WBRE TV. In 1999, he joined Allied Services Integrated Health System as the Director of Development. He currently serves as the Vice President of Strategic Partnership for the organization.

James has been fiercely dedicated to serving his community. He is a current board member of the Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber and Leadership Wilkes-Barre, and he was elected to the Crestwood School District's Board of Education in 2019. His expertise in the health and human services industry helped guide Northeastern Pennsylvania during COVID-19 through his service on the Luzerne County Pandemic Task Force and the S.O.S. NEPA Nursing Home Pandemic Task Force. He is a past member and former board member of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons and the Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top. He has been active with both Catholic Social Services of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) as a past Chair and Board Member.

In 2010, he co-founded WNEP-TV Ryan's Run Campaign which has raised more than \$4 million for Allied Services. James himself has finished ten marathons, including the New York City, Scranton, and Marine Corps Marathons. James is also an effective fundraiser, championing veterans' causes like Catholic Social Services' St. Francis Commons for Veterans and Team Red, White & Blue, establishing a local chapter of the organization that helps veterans thrive in their transition from military to civilian life.

His sharp business acumen and his unyielding generosity with his time have earned him recognition as a Top 40 under 40 in Business in 2008 and the Outstanding Alumni Award from Leadership Wilkes-Barre. He was also named an Outstanding Fundraising Professional from the AFP and a Paul Harris Fellow Award recipient by Rotary International. He shares his extensive knowledge as a guest lecturer at the University of Scranton, Marywood University, and Misericordia

University for undergraduate and masters level courses in marketing, non-profit leadership, and health care management.

I am honored to join with the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National in recognizing James for his commitment to his community and the work he does to uphold Allied Services' mission. May he continue to feel inspired and moved to work on behalf of the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

CALLING FOR BALANCED BUDGET

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, the House is set to take up a third stopgap funding bill since the fiscal year started back in October 2021.

Let me phrase that differently. We are nearly halfway into fiscal year 2022 and Congress has yet to fund the government.

America is flat broke. Last week the Treasury Department announced that our national debt exceeds 830 trillion, reaching a calamitous level and tripling in the last decade. Inflation is at a historic 40-year high. Yet Congress cannot do its basic job and pass a budget on time.

Instead of addressing real issues facing our nation, the House of Representatives is once again kicking the can for three more weeks to give Congress additional time to try to pass another bloated budget.

Congress cannot spend its way into prosperity, and we must end the frantic habit of governing from one crisis to another. Instead of running up bills we can't pay for, we should be funding the common-sense priorities of the American people, including securing the border, adequately funding our military, reducing taxes and eliminating job-killing regulations.

Today, I reiterate my call for a balanced budget. If we cannot balance the budget rationally, we need a balanced budget constitutional amendment that would force Congress to live within its means, like everyone else.

I have spent my time in Congress trying to reduce spending and stopping this nonsense. I will be voting against this irresponsible kick-the-can-down-the-road continuing resolution. Spending more money that we don't have will not solve our nation's fiscal problems.

All of us will pay the price in the future. Unfortunately, our children and grandchildren will be most impacted. This is immoral to harm future generations but that is what today's continuing resolution does.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
STEPHEN ANTHONY HARTGEN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Senator JIM RISCH, I rise to call attention to the outstanding life of Stephen Anthony Hartgen, long-time editor and publisher of the Times-News in Twin Falls, Idaho, five-term Idaho

State legislator, community businessman, and Magic Valley cultural historian. Steve, as he was called by his family and friends, passed away on December 31, 2021, at 77 years old.

Steve was born on September 30, 1944 in Baltimore, Maryland, one of twin sons of Vincent and Frances Hartgen. He grew up in rural Orono, Maine, spending his young years in the state's forests, and along its trout streams and coastlines. He graduated from Hebron Academy in Hebron, Maine, in 1962, and from Amherst College in 1966. He later earned an MA degree from Brandeis University in 1968, and a PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1976, both in American history.

He began his newspaper career while in college as an intern reporter at the Bangor Daily News in Bangor, Maine. He went on to work as a reporter and editor at The Minneapolis Star, and later at the San Diego Union and the Casper Star-Tribune as managing editor. He also taught journalism, media history and public affairs reporting at the University of Minnesota and Ohio State University.

Steve came to Twin Falls in 1982 as editor of the Times-News, working alongside then-publisher William E. Howard and general manager Richard High as Howard publications expanded across the country. By 1990, he was promoted to publisher of the Times-News.

In his years at the Times-News, Steve's leadership raised the newspaper's visibility and impact, making it one of the state's leading conservative newspapers. His common-sense and fiscally responsible editorial perspectives earned him much respect among business leaders, public officials and the community. It was during his time at the Times-News when we had the opportunity to meet and talk with Steve during our many interviews with the editorial board. We greatly enjoyed our lively visits with Steve.

Not one to be idle, Steve continued his involvement in the Magic Valley community after he left the newspaper in 2005. He became Executive Director of Business Plus, a Magic Valley economic development group, which brought hundreds of new jobs and more than \$2 billion investment dollars to the valley. The growth was so spectacular that then Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter called it the "Magic Valley Miracle."

Steve was a stalwart member of the Twin Falls County Republican Central Committee where he served as state committeeman for more than a decade, from 2008 to 2019. He also served on the Idaho Capitol Commission from 1998 to 2016, a group which oversaw the renovation and remodel of Idaho's premier public building.

In 2008, Steve was appointed to the Idaho House of Representatives by Gov. Otter where he served until 2019. While in the legislature, Steve chaired the Commerce & Human Resources Committee. He retired from the legislature for health reasons at the end of 2018 and was replaced by his wife Rep. Linda Wright Hartgen.

Following his retirement, Steve wrote extensively on the cultural history and patterns of life in the Magic Valley and southern Idaho, publishing "Tradition & Progress: Southern Idaho's Growth Since 1990" in 2019, and "Spirit of Place: Southern Idaho Values Across Generations" in 2020. Additionally, he wrote columns for several Idaho newspapers and blog sites on southern Idaho politics and cul-

tural changes. His books and columns frequently reflected his love of the Magic Valley, which he often called the best region in the best state in the best nation on the planet.

Beyond his media work and his public service, Steve maintained an interest in western history, particularly the settlement of southern Idaho. He was also an avid fly fisherman, an outdoor activity he learned as a young man in Maine.

In his later years, Steve developed health problems, but he continued to serve in public roles and did not think of himself as disabled in any way. Steve is survived by his devoted wife Rep. Linda Wright Hartgen and his family.

While we will miss Steve's common-sense approach to public issues, fiscal policy and statewide public affairs, we will miss his friendship the most. Rest in peace, good friend, and loyal servant.

HONORING QUINLAN-HAMMOND HALL OF HONOR

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor is a state-of-the-art facility that represents the University of Southern Mississippi's commitment to honor our nation's heroes. The dedication ceremony will honor Joe Quinlan, USM alumnus and lead benefactor for the Hall of Honor, as well as U.S. Army Major General (Retired) Jeff Hammond, USM alumnus and former Golden Eagles Football Team Captain and Quarterback. These two gentlemen have earned this recognition for their service to the Golden Eagle community.

The University's Center for Military Veterans, Service Members and Families provides guidance and support to Student-Veterans in their academic and professional pursuits. Major General Jeff Hammond, who serves as the Center's Director, has led the University of Southern Mississippi to earn numerous prestigious recognitions, including the top Military Caring University across the State of Mississippi, designation as a Purple Heart Institution, and ranking No. 1 in the Southeast by Military Times in its "Best for Vets: Colleges 2021 Rankings."

The new Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor will provide more than 1,700 USM Military Students and Student-Veterans with a home of their own that is commensurate with the honor of which they are deserving.

Today is a special day. The dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor symbolizes the University of Southern Mississippi's continued commitment and gratitude to our nation's heroes for their unwavering dedication to our country. As a Marine veteran and USM alumnus, I want to thank the University's Administration, the USM Foundation, and the more than 150 USM alumni donors who made the construction of the new Quinlan-Hammond Hall of Honor possible for their commitment to honor those who serve. SMTT.

Semper Fidelis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, on February 7, I was absent for recorded vote No. 32 on agreeing to the amendment on the Buck of Colorado Part B Amendment No. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

IRAN UNVEILS MISSILE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the clearest revelation of Iran with duplicitous intent in the insane nuclear agreement discussions is uninterrupted missile development designed for nuclear attacks on Israel and the United States.

The murderous boasting of capabilities is confirmed by a Reuters report by Parisa Hafezi published by February 9, 2022. While negotiators blather with meaningless deadlines, the delivery systems continue unabated.

It is crucial we stand with Saudi Arabia and our Arab Gulf partners.

I appreciate the efforts of the America Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) to alert the American people of the growing threats. President Betsy Korn and South Carolina Midlands coordinator Dr. David Kulbersh are crucial for raising the alarm over Iran's murderous intent. I am also confident the venerated American Jewish Congress led by Jack Rosen will raise awareness of the growing threat.

[From Reuters, Feb. 9, 2022]

IRAN UNVEILS LONG-RANGE MISSILE AS
VIENNA NUCLEAR TALKS RESUME

(By Parisa Hafezi)

DUBAI.—Iran unveiled a new domestically-made missile with a range of 1,450 kilometers on Wednesday, state TV reported, a day after Tehran and Washington resumed indirect talks to salvage a 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran, which has one of the biggest missile programmes in the Middle East, says its ballistic missiles have a range of up to 2,000 km (1,200 miles) and are capable of reaching its arch-foe Israel and U.S. bases in the region.

State TV displayed the new surface-to-surface "Kheibar Shekan" (Kheibar buster) missile, which refers to an ancient Jewish oasis called Kheibar in the Arabian Peninsula's Hijaz region that was overrun by Muslim warriors in the 7th century.

"This long-range missile is domestically manufactured by the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC). . . . It has high accuracy and is propelled by solid fuel and is capable of penetrating missile shields," Iranian state media reported.

Tehran regards its missile programme as an important deterrent against the United States, Israel and other adversaries. It has rejected Western demands to halt its ballistic missile work.

"Iran will continue advancing its ballistic missile programme," Iran's armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri told a ceremony at an IRGC base

where the new missile was displayed, Iranian media reported.

**RECOGNIZING THE SPRING SWING
SUN SAFETY PARTNERSHIP BE-
TWEEN MOFFITT CANCER CEN-
TER AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASE-
BALL**

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DONALDS from Florida, and I are grateful to recognize the Spring Swing Sun Safety partnership between Moffitt Cancer Center and Major League Baseball. This partnership works to prevent skin cancer by offering sun safety education and free skin cancer screenings at Spring Training baseball games. Such efforts are important here in Florida, the Sunshine State, where we see a high incidence of melanoma and other deadly forms of skin cancer.

We are pleased, therefore, to join with Moffitt Cancer Center and Major League Baseball to raise awareness to combat this disease. It is important to limit sun exposure when possible, wear sunscreen if you are in the sun, and have your skin checked by a health care professional once a year. We hope all baseball fans safely enjoy Florida's sunshine and the great tradition of Spring Training baseball in our state.

**IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
ORVAL MULLEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Orval Mullen, an outstanding citizen from Van Wert, Ohio who will celebrate his 100th birthday on February 22, 2022. Orval has led a long, productive life, and his family is very grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate this significant birthday with him. Reaching this momentous milestone provides the opportunity to recognize Orval's many accomplishments in life, but especially his service to our country.

During World War II, Orval served as a field lineman in the Eighth Regiment of the Fourth Infantry of the U.S. Army from October 14, 1942, to September 25, 1945. Orval landed on Utah Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. In April of 1945, Orval and the soldiers of the Eighth Regiment assisted in the liberation of the concentration camp in Dachau. He was awarded two Purple Hearts for his service. He also received a Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor, as well as several other medals.

After completing his military service, he started O.H. Mullen Sales in the 1950s and owned and operated the business until the mid-1980s. His company manufactured, sold, and distributed archery equipment. He married Luella Conley on October 24, 1942, and they were together for 74 years until her passing in

2016. They had three children: Dr. Orval Lee Mullen, James Mullen of Oakwood, and Judith Wieging of Willshire. The family has grown to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will join the community in best wishes for his 100th birthday.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Orval Mullen's 100th birthday. Orval is most worthy of this recognition, and I thank him for serving our country. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I wish Orval a very happy birthday and his family all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIE NEWMAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I was regrettably detained during the following votes in question. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 286, YEA on Roll Call No. 392.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
OSCAR G. JOHNSON VAMC DIREC-
TOR JAMES RICE**

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 33-year career of the Director of the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, James Rice. Through his commitment to our Veterans and his local communities, James has become an indispensable part of the State of Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, and northern Wisconsin.

James was born in Clare, MI and attended Central Michigan University for his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Following college, he started his career in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in 1990 as the Safety & Occupational Health Manager at the Allen Park VAMC in southeastern Michigan. In addition, he served in a VHA leadership position in Washington, D.C., as the Acting Director of Safety and Technical Services. After successfully serving in multiple roles within the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 11 and 12 for over two decades, James was appointed to Acting Director for the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in 2011.

Under Director Rice's outstanding leadership, Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center continues to set the national standard for medical care within the VHA and serves tens of thousands of our nation's Veterans across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin. Along with his work at the Iron Mountain VAMC, he oversaw six Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Michigan and Wisconsin including Ironwood, Hancock, Marquette, Menominee, Sault Ste Marie and Rhinelander to offer Veterans the support and care they need closer to home. In addition, Oscar G. Johnson continues to receive 5-star ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and has been nationally recognized through several VHA-related

awards including the Best Experience Award for Level 3 Medical Centers, the Best Patient Experience Award, and the Dickinson County Chamber of Commerce's "Large Business of the Year Award." For fiscal year 2021, James was also awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award for his decades of leadership in VISN 11 and 12 and longtime dedication to our Veterans.

Madam Speaker. I ask you to join me in honoring the career and service of Director James Rice. The example he has set over the last three decades inspires us all and will continue to do so for future successors of his position, Michigan and Wisconsin's retired servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and the VA staff he proudly led will forever be thankful for his contributions. We wish him the best on his future endeavors and look forward to seeing what his next mission will be.

**COMMENDING ISRAEL-BAHRAIN
SECURITY COOPERATION AGREE-
MENT**

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the historic signing of the security cooperation agreement between Israel and Bahrain, which took place on February 3, 2022. This security agreement is the first of its kind between Israel and a Gulf nation.

Since Bahrain signed the 2020 Abraham Accords and took the important step of normalizing relations with Israel, the two countries have significantly deepened their bilateral relationship. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz travelled to Manama, Bahrain's capital, to sign this agreement and celebrates the agreement as "a new high point" in the countries' relationship.

The MoU agreement is designed to help advance intelligence cooperation, establish a framework for military exercises and strengthen ties between the countries' defense industries. As Israel and Bahrain continue to strengthen their cooperation, the signing of this memorandum of understanding (MoU) is a key step.

This historic agreement comes at a time of increased danger in the region as Iran continues to threaten the security of its neighbors. The MoU will help deepen regional security cooperation and resilience, which is critical to defending the interests of the United States, Israel, Bahrain, and many other countries in the region.

**HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF JOE WHITESIDE**

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished accomplishments of Cadet Chief Petty Officer Joe Whiteside of Killingworth, Connecticut. As a young resident of Eastern Connecticut, Cadet Whiteside's committed service to the

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) was recognized on February 1, 2022, in his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Petty Officer.

Chartered in 1962 by an act of Congress, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth group that helps provide young Americans aged 10 through 18 with key maritime, leadership and teamwork skills. Supporting 9,000 cadets in 380 units in 47 states including Connecticut, the program also provides young Americans with valuable experience that they can use if they go on to join the Armed Services. For Cadet Chief Petty Officer Whiteside, this has meant their longtime membership in the Nautilus Division, which is stationed at the home of our nation's undersea force, SUBASE New London.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Service Committee, which has made sure that Congress follows through on its commitments to this program, I know firsthand the valuable work that the cadets and their leaders do each and every day. This year the Nautilus Division recognizes the dedication and work ethic of Joe, and it is conferring the honor of being promoted to the position of Cadet Chief Petty Officer during the Corps' 60th anniversary of preparing our nation's next generation of leaders. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking Cadet Chief Petty Officer Whiteside for his initiative and wishing him well in his future endeavor. Bravo Zulu.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BENITO
ANTONIO MARTINEZ OCASIO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio.

Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio was born on March 10, 1994, in Almirante Sur, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. Mr. Martinez Ocasio wanted to be a singer since he was five years old and pursued the studied audiovisual communication at the University of Puerto Rico at Recinto de Arecibo before leaving the program to pursue his music career.

A native of Puerto Rico, Martinez Ocasio, has been a great force in the rise of the island's popular reggaeton music. His parents Lysaurie Ocasio Declet and Tito Martinez and family inspired his music aspirations. His mother Lysaurie encouraged Martinez Ocasio into music at a young age in his church choir.

Benito's family instilled in him the belief that life is not measured by the amount of money or trophies a person has but rather the challenges overcome and an appreciation for life.

Mr. Martinez Ocasio is actively involved in the betterment of his community, Los Angeles County, and in neighborhoods across our great nation including his hometown of Almirante Sur, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. He has been recognized by countless local leaders in Los Angeles County and throughout California for his tremendous support to the community and dedication to assisting those in need.

In 2018, Martinez Ocasio was vacationing in Puerto Rico when he decided to make a gen-

erous donation of \$100,000 to the nonprofit organization SER of Puerto Rico. The donation supported children with autism and muscular disabilities who require rehabilitation. At the end of a telethon that he participated in, SER received \$1.7 million in donations. Martinez Ocasio has been a role model for disability communities and is working to ensure that one day the cure for autism is found. One in thirty five children born today will have Autism, but people like Mr. Martinez Ocasio have given hope to millions in the fight to find the cure one day.

Martinez Ocasio has not forgotten his humble roots and the neighborhood that had a profound impact on his upbringing and has given back his time and resources to his community. In one instance, Martinez Ocasio helped a 13-year-old Cayman Islands boy who was residing in a hospital and in need of thousands of dollars to cover his medical expenses including a needed heart transplant surgery. When the boy's story caught his attention, Martinez Ocasio brought public awareness to the boy's critical need for an expensive surgery and called on other artists as well as ordinary people to donate any amount they could afford. Together they successfully raised the necessary resources for the boy's surgery.

Martinez Ocasio has led the way in helping others in California in the City and County of Los Angeles, focusing on assisting Angelinos with developmental disabilities. He has established himself as a leader and a charitable American utilizing his talents to create unique opportunities for all ages to thrive and impact the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio and applauding his contributions and philanthropic endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE TOLEDO CHAP-
TER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA
SORORITY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Toledo Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Its members will gather in a special celebration in Toledo, Ohio on Saturday February 12, 2022 to celebrate this milestone occasion.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is an organization of college educated women dedicated to public service and the development of women, with a focus on the Black community. Its world-wide services offer support through the organization's "Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development; Educational Development; International Awareness and Involvement; Physical and Mental Health; and Political Awareness and Involvement."

Since its founding, more than 350,000 women have been part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The sorority currently has over 1,000 collegiate and alumnae chapters located in the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, the Arabian Gulf, Southern Africa, and Western Africa. Among the chapters is one in Toledo, Ohio.

The Toledo chapter notes in its history: "In 1937, the first chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio was formed by seven young women. They were Louise Burgette, Mamie Duffy, Lillian Duffy, Constance Heslip, Mayola Senior, Ella P. Stewart, and Frances Wade. Beta Lambda Mixed Chapter consisted of undergraduates at The University Toledo, Mary Manse College and graduates residing in the city."

"On February 12, 1972, Lillian P. Benbow, the National President of Delta Sigma Theta, came to Toledo to establish the Alumnae Chapter. The graduate members formed the Toledo Alumnae Chapter and Beta Lambda became the city-wide undergraduate collegiate chapter."

"Delta has been involved in numerous activities that emphasize scholarship, public service, and international involvement. Breakfast for M'Lady has been its annual fundraiser for years at which graduating high school seniors are awarded scholarships. The chapter has also sponsored a Habitat for Humanity house in Africa. Voter registration activities, mentoring and tutoring children through its Delta Academy programs, sponsoring and participating in mental and physical health awareness events are just some of the ways the chapter has given back to our community."

Civil rights and social justice icon Angela Davis encouraged "We must always attempt to lift as we climb." For fifty years, the members of the Toledo Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta have done just that. Always in pursuit of higher goals through the generations, the women of the chapter have grown and nurtured future leaders. As they look back on a half-century of progress, I know they are inspired toward the next.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED SERGEANT
MARIO SALAZAR ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS PASSING

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the passing of retired Sergeant Mario Salazar of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department. Sergeant Salazar was born in Highland and served our community loyally for 28 years before retiring in January 2019. His passing on January 22nd of this year is a solemn loss for our San Bernardino County law enforcement community and the people of California's 8th District.

Sergeant Salazar began his career in California's 8th District in 1991 as a patrol duty officer at the Central Detention Center and the Fontana and Highland stations. He served our communities with outstanding dedication for 14 years before being promoted to detective in 2005 and then again to sergeant in 2009. Mario was critical to San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department operations during his 28-year tenure, and his leadership proved to be an invaluable asset.

Throughout his life, Mario was committed to our community. As a part of our sheriffs department he relished opportunities to engage with the community, to meet new people, and to lend a helping hand. Mario is survived by

his wife Sherri, son Ryan, daughter Erin, and grandchildren. My prayers are with his family and the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department as we mourn the loss of this dedicated officer and valued member of our community.

COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 5633,
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME-
LAND SECURITY INSPECTOR
GENERAL TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 5633, the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Transparency Act. The cost estimate was not available at the time of the Committee report filing.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2022.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5633, the Department of

Homeland Security Inspector General Transparency Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Lindsay Wylie.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 5633—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INSPECTOR GENERAL TRANSPARENCY ACT

As reported by the House Committee on
Homeland Security on January 21, 2022

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2022	2022–2026	2022–2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
	*	5	not estimated

* = between zero and \$500,000.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 5633 would require the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit to the

Congress any reports substantiating violations of certain personnel policies and allegations of misconduct, fraud, or abuse within DHS involving members of the Senior Executive Service or political appointees. This requirement would apply to reports finalized on or after 30 days from the bill's enactment, and reports would need to be published on the OIG website. The bill also would require the OIG to include information regarding ongoing audits, inspections, and evaluations in its semiannual reports and submit an additional report on compliance to the Congress within one year. Finally, H.R. 5633 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the OIG compliance report after one year.

Based on information from the OIG, CBO expects the office would need three additional employees to conduct investigations and compile reports and two additional employees to communicate with and collect information from other DHS offices. Assuming they are hired at the beginning of fiscal year 2023, CBO estimates the cost to the OIG for these employees would be about \$5 million over the 2022–2026 period. Additionally, based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates the cost to GAO of producing its evaluation would be less than \$500,000 over the 2022–2026 period. All such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lindsay Wylie. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.