EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SCHOOL TESTING IN DISTRICT

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is going to help get kids back to full, in-person learning in the Massachusetts Fourth. Since even before taking office, opening the schools has been my top district priority.

With the Rescue Plan, we are not only boosting the production of vaccines that protect teachers and staff, we are also providing money for HVAC upgrades and for ongoing COVID surveillance testing in the schools. This testing catches outbreaks early and breaks transmission chains. It provides confidence and transparency as we reopen. I'm proud that scientists & operators in my district are developing these cutting-edge, low-cost school-testing technologies, including at Ginkgo Bioworks, CIC Health and Project Beacon. Classrooms must be open, and they must be safe for students and teachers alike. With vaccines and testing, they will be.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHELSEA KERR VENESKEY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chelsea Kerr Veneskey on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional of the Year Award, which recognizes a leader who is making Blair County a better place for young people to live and do business.

Chelsea consistently is involved in community service projects and regularly mentors other young professionals as they develop professional strengths. She also promotes participation in our region's civic and business organizations, and she serves on numerous boards. Chelsea is immensely dedicated to our community's growth.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Chelsea on this accomplishment and thank her for her service to the Blair County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK WALTON ALLEN

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Frederick Walton Allen of Peoria, Illinois, who passed away on January 24, 2021, at the age of 97.

Fred Allen, born on June 10, 1923, in Ripon, Wisconsin, had a long and distinguished career as a plaintiff's attorney. A self-made businessman, Fred built his law firm in Peoria around respect and integrity, virtues admired by both his clients and community. These priorities helped him become the first downstate Illinois lawyer to win a $1 million award for a client and become a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an elite national group limited to plaintiff's attorneys who had won seven-figure awards.

Fred lived a full life and his accomplishments were not limited to his legal career. As a young man, his studies were halted early due to the start of WWII. Mr. Allen enlisted on December 7, 1942, exactly one year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and became a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces. After his military service, he signed a contract as a pitcher with a minor league affiliate for the Cleveland Indians. In 1949 when Fred graduated from Law School at Northwestern University, he immediately took the ''rocket train'' to Peoria where he applied for his first job at a firm. He continually served others through countless years of membership at the Elks Club, the American Legion, the Country Club of Peoria, and the First United Methodist Church of Peoria. He loved central Illinois and made many quiet contributions to better the lives of those in his community.

Fred will also be remembered for his love and commitment to his wonderful family. He was preceded in death by his wife Tilley, who said Fred's love and devotion to her throughout their 66 years of marriage were beyond measure. He was blessed with three daughters, Diane, Rita, and Laura, 7 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Fred's fondest memories in life were ones spent with his family and his love and pride for them were boundless.

I want to offer my condolences to the Allen family and the people of Peoria on the loss of a great man. Fred left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing him. May his memory be eternal.

RECOGNIZING MARGARITA ''MARGIE'' NELSON IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Margarita ''Margie'' Nelson, whose dedication towards bettering Southern Florida and giving back to her community has had a significant impact on Florida's 25th Congressional district.

Born in East Chicago, Indiana in 1958, Margie moved to Naples, Florida in the 1970s. It is here where she met her husband, Kevin, and together they have three children, Teresa, Sheri, and Billy. Margie began her long career with the Collier County Sheriff's office in 1970, where she worked for the Department of Investigations. While working and raising her family, Margie received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Hodges University. She continued her career with the Collier Sheriff's office until her retirement in 2014.

Unable to stay away from serving her community, Margie returned to school and received her teaching certificate. Then, in 2016, she rejoined the workforce as an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teacher for the Hendry County public school system. Presently, Margie is the guidance counselor at LaBelle Middle School, where she uses her wisdom and experience to assist and support her students. Her commitment towards helping her students cannot be matched, and, if Margie wasn't busy enough, she is currently in the process of receiving her master's degree for school guidance counseling.

Her passion for serving others is not limited to working with students, she is also an active volunteer in several organizations within her community. She is an integral member of a sewing group at the First Baptist Church of LaBelle, where she creates activity bags for her local children's hospital and participates in projects to help an orphanage in Guatemala. Additionally, she volunteers to acquire and assemble boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which provides gifts to needy children worldwide during Christmastime.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong public servant, Margie's commitment to giving back knows no bounds, and it is truly a privilege to know and work with her. Her determination to help others has never wavered, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

COVID–19 HATE CRIMES ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, at a time when all families are struggling with the threat of COVID–19, various communities are also suffering from the rise in hate crimes. In the last year, nearly 3,000 firsthand accounts of physical, verbal, and online attacks against those of Asian descent were reported. Asian Americans are fighting not just the COVID–19 pandemic, but an additional pandemic of hate and bigotry.

One third of Americans have witnessed someone blaming Asian Americans for the coronavirus. Eight out of ten AAPI youth report being bullied or verbally harassed due to their race. Elderly Asian Americans are being assaulted—tragically resulting in even death. Online hate speech and cyberbullying against Asians has increased by 900 percent during the pandemic. This is horrific—and it goes against the moral fabric of our nation. We

● 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.