HONORING FIREFIGHTER DAVE LAUVER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Dave Lauver for his 45 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Lauver has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN CARDONI, MY VIRTUAL GUEST OF HONOR FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Cardoni, my virtual guest of honor to President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s first address to a Joint Session of Congress. John is one of the many heroes of this pandemic who I am proud to represent in the House of Representatives. When he fell on pandemic hard times, he refused to give up in the face of adversity.

John lives in Dupont, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Agnes Cardoni, Ph.D. and their son, Christopher. He is the Facility Director for the esteemed Scranton Cultural Center, which was devastated by the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic as so many large event venues were. Although he was laid off early on amid the COVID–19 outbreak, John and his family were able to make ends meet with the help of direct economic impact payments and enhanced unemployment insurance made possible through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. These relief lifelines helped John and his wife keep up with their mortgage payments and meet out-of-pocket medical expenses.

A diabetic and transplant recipient, John also understood that his medical history put him at higher risk for serious COVID–19 infection, and so he was careful to avoid close contact with others outside of his immediate household.

Now, over a year later, and several weeks since the enactment of the American Rescue Plan, John and his family are fully vaccinated against COVID–19, and he has been able to gather with his mother and sisters safely in person once again. Additionally, he has been able to make plans to safely reopen the Scranton Cultural Center's doors and continue providing enriching experiences for Northeastern Pennsylvanians of all ages.

Throughout this past year, President Biden has often warned the world, ''it has never, ever, been a good bet to bet against the American people.'' He is right, and Americans like John are the people he has in mind when he boasts this sentiment.

Although I regret being unable to have John accompany me in the House chamber in person due to COVID–19 safety protocols in place at the time, I am humbled to uplift his comeback story. It is a shining example of American resilience and determination through the darkest of times.

I recognize his story in honor of him, as well as all the Northeastern Pennsylvanians who suffered, sacrificed and persevered through this pandemic.

HONORING TOMMY STEVENSON AND 36 YEARS OF TOMMY'S COUNTRY HAM HOUSE

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Tommy Stevenson on his retirement after 36 years of service to our community. His well-lived life, risk-taking, and hard work paid off, and he achieved the American Dream by establishing the single most iconic restaurant in Greenville.

More than a restaurant, Tommy's Country Ham House became the social and political heart of Greenville. There is a saying that ''the road to the White House begins at the Ham House.'' Over the years, generations of aspiring politicians visited Tommy's in the weeks leading up to South Carolina's ''First in the South'' primary. The many signed pictures hanging on the restaurant ''Wall of Fame'' are a testament to the esteem in which he is held by generations of public servants and other luminaries.

His service to our community has also extended far beyond the political realm, whether it be feeding the Furman University football team before games or providing generous discounts to our law enforcement community. I would also like to commend Tommy for employing individuals with intellectual disabilities or substance abuse problems, who are often forgotten by society when they need a hand.

Tommy treated all of his employees with the same kindness and respect that he showed his own family, and he allowed my staff to establish an ''unofficial'' office at the Ham House to assist countless disabled veterans and widowed constituents in obtaining much-needed Federal benefits. Tommy's giving spirit is truly an inspiration to us all.

Although Governor McMaster has already bestowed Tommy with the Order of the Palmetto, our community will never be able to fully thank him for the past 36 years of service to the people of Greenville and the Upstate as a whole. As this chapter of Tommy's incredibly successful business career closes, my wish is that another, equally fulfilling chapter with his wonderful family opens. May God continue to bless him and his.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IN PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, PARKS, AND LIBRARIES ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a call to action regarding the right to clean drinking water. Clean drinking water is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right that should be accessible to all regardless of your socioeconomic status.

There are over 30,000 public playgrounds and parks in major U.S. cities and approximately 17,000 public library locations today. Children and students frequently congregate in those places for learning, borrowing a book, or having fun. But neither they—nor their parents—should have to worry that the drinking water may be unsafe.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Safe Drinking Water in Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. This bill would ensure states, municipalities, and libraries have the financial resources to replace drinking water fountains, monitor them, or replace the Lead Service Line connected to such fountains. While we can test water fountains for lead poisoning, some municipalities, schools, and libraries lack the resources to replace their water fountains; this is simply wrong. My bill will ensure such entities have the necessary financial resources to accomplish this task.

Exposure to lead—even low levels—can have serious health and development consequences for infants, children under six, and pregnant women. For those exposed to this dangerous element, signs of poisoning may include cognitive impairment, behavioral problems, and other health related problems. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, ''there is no safe amount of lead exposure in children . . .,'' which is why it is critical that we advance efforts that prevents lead poisoning.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Safe Drinking Water in Public Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act. It is undeniable that the fate of our children and future generations rests on the decisions we make today on access to clean water. Let's ensure all enjoy this fundamental human right.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DAVE RAPALLO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Dave Rapallo, Staff Director of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

For the last decade, Dave has skillfully guided the Members and staff of the Oversight