

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE WASATCH FRONT
REGIONAL COUNCIL

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. McADAMS. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Wasatch Front Regional Council on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, celebrated this year on March 28, 2019.

WFRC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the majority of the Wasatch Front Region in Utah. It is a collaborative body comprised of city and county officials, transportation agencies, and other stakeholders, who work together to plan for the future of the Region. As a convener, WFRC works with its partners to build consensus and enhance quality of life by developing and implementing visions and plans for a well-functioning multimodal transportation system, livable communities, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.

The Region's geography is unique. Bounded east and west by mountains and lakes, the linear metropolitan area extends 100 miles north to south, along the Wasatch Mountains. The majority of Utah's population lives in the Region. Since 1969, Utah's population has grown from just over 1 million to over 3 million today, and it is projected to top 5 million by 2050. This growth presents challenges, but also tremendous opportunities, on which WFRC seeks to capitalize through proactive, collaborative planning and implementation.

Utah is widely referred to as the Crossroads of the West. The multi-modal transportation system that distinctively serves the broader Wasatch Front Region—and the nation—found its birth in the WFRC plans. These plans were also fundamental in development of Utah's Unified Transportation Plan, the first comprehensive, coordinated, multimodal statewide transportation plan in the nation, which has received recognition as a national best practice from the U.S. Department of Transportation and others.

On transportation and other quality of life issues such as land use, housing, and economic development, WFRC and its partners have kept an eye to the future and a cooperative spirit. This has been instrumental to developing and maintaining one of the top-rated economies and most enviable places to live, work and play in the nation.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council is a fine example of how collaborative efforts will continue to shape plans looking ahead to 2050 and beyond, helping to ensure high quality of life for Utah's current residents and generations to come.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF OF STAFF,
TIM WALSH

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my departing Chief of Staff, Tim Walsh, and his years of dedication to our country and the communities of California's 51st Congressional District. After eight years of service as my Chief of Staff, first at the California State Senate and later in the United States House of Representatives, Tim Walsh is departing my office with a track record of success and leaving behind an unparalleled team reflective of his dedicated leadership.

Tim Walsh is a native of California and a proud San Diegan. His professional experience spans the public and private sector as the founding member of two companies at the highest levels of public management as well as an adjunct university professor. Coincidentally, we are both Magna Cum Laude graduates of the University of San Diego with Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. Tim is also a graduate of the inaugural class of the Master of Arts in Peace and Justice Studies Program of the University of San Diego, where he was awarded a Gandhi Fellowship, as well as a graduate of the Price School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California.

As you may know, in 2016, I was named one of the "Hardest-Working Members of Congress." While I am proud of that recognition, every Member of Congress relies on a dedicated team. I would not have received this award, garnered nearly one billion dollars of infrastructure funding for my district, or accomplished many other things for this wonderful country and my district, without Tim's dedicated leadership.

If asked, Tim will share that his greatest source of pride is his family. As the youngest of six children in a proud Irish Catholic clan, he credits his parents, Bill and Penny Walsh, with providing a secure foundation leading all his brothers and sisters to lives of great opportunity. As a new father, he is excited about the opportunity to spend more time with his baby girl, his remarkable wife, and the rest of their loving family.

Madam Speaker, I would like to echo the teachings of John Wooden who said, "It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." Tim truly lives by this motto. I am certain that Tim Walsh's future success will eclipse his significant past accomplishments.

On behalf of California's 51st Congressional District, I would like to formally honor Tim Walsh on his years of dedicated service to the nation and California's 51st Congressional District.

GUNNERY SGT. SCOTT A.
KOPPENHAFFER

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Marine Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer of Mancos, Colorado. Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer was killed in combat on Saturday, August 10, 2019 while serving alongside the Iraqi Security Forces in a planned operation in northern Iraq.

Instead of pursuing a job in business following his degree completion at Adams State University, Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer decided to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. His decision to serve was made during an intense period of war against radical terrorists who continue to threaten our nation's liberties and freedom. Knowing the dangers that accompany serving in war, Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer heroically put aside his civilian life ambitions and instead chose to serve his country.

As one of the world's most lethal fighting forces, Marines are also well-known for their motto, *Semper Fidelis*, or always faithful. Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer adhered to this motto and perhaps best exemplified it during his time in service which spanned nearly 14 years and three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He built an impressive resume over that period which includes two Bronze Stars, a 2018 Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command's Critical Skills Operator of the Year award, honor graduate for the special operations training school, and dozens of other prestigious military medals and decorations. Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer set himself apart from his peers by setting the example with his remarkable record and dedication to putting country over self.

Madam Speaker, Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer's life was taken all too soon. His death not only impacts his brothers and sisters in the Corps, but he also leaves behind two children, his wife, and his parents Gerald and Carla. Among his fellow Marines and family members, his hometown of Mancos bears the immense weight of his loss. With a population the size of many high schools across the country, the loss of one from our small community is felt by all who live there. It is with a heavy heart that I, along with so many from the area, say goodbye to such an upstanding citizen and a true American hero. I send my deepest condolences to Gunnery Sgt. Koppenhafer's family and pray that God's grace provides them with the comfort they need to heal.

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