

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAKU POGROMS

### HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 21, 2020*

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, this year we mark the 30th anniversary of the anti-Armenian pogroms that took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. These pogroms were a continuation of a longstanding pattern of increasingly violent attacks against Armenians. During a week-long pogrom, Armenians in Baku were killed, tortured, robbed, and tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes to escape persecution, causing families to be uprooted and torn apart.

The Azerbaijani leadership has yet to be held accountable for this violence against its Armenian civilians. Instead of condemning these atrocities of decades ago, the Aliyev government continues holding a militant policy against Armenians, especially within the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

I call upon my colleagues to join me in condemning this atrocity, strengthening our ties to the Republic of Artsakh, and holding Azerbaijan accountable for its actions. While we mourn the lives lost in this tragedy, it is imperative that we encourage Azerbaijan to acknowledge their past and that we press forward with the bipartisan Royce-Engel peace proposals.

Madam Speaker, we must follow a principled U.S. policy—condemning violence and promoting peace—both by securing foreign aid to Nagorno-Karabakh and withholding financial and military support from Azerbaijan. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Armenian Caucus to continue pushing policies promoting peace and human rights for Armenians and for all.

## RECOGNIZING STEVE COKER

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 21, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Mississippian, New Albany Fire Chief Steve Coker, who is retiring after an impressive career.

Steve Coker began his lifelong career in 1991 with the East Union Volunteer Fire Department in Union County, Mississippi. His excellent service earned him the title of Fire Chief of East Union, and later, he became the Union County Fire Coordinator. Steve was also selected to serve with the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association as Northeast District Vice President.

I thank Steve for his lifelong dedication to fire safety and for making Mississippi a better place. I wish him many years of good health

and hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

## CHRISTINE ARBOGAST

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 21, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Christine Arbogast for receiving the 2020 Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year award presented by the Colorado Water Congress.

This lifetime achievement award honors Coloradans who have long demonstrated courage, dedication, knowledge, and strong leadership in the development, protection, and preservation of Colorado water. As only the third woman to receive this prestigious honor, Christine exemplifies all of these qualities and is deserving of this recognition. Christine is the President of Centennial-based Kogovsek & Associates, specializing in water management, development and conservation, the use and protection of public lands, and American Indian issues. Christine has worked for decades on these issues and has made an impact on the state of Colorado. She is the current President of the National Water Resources Association and led its Federal Affairs Committee for years. Christine is also the President of the non-profit Women in Water Scholarship Fund. She previously served as a Special Projects Administrator for the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Christine's contribution to our state is remarkable as exemplified by the Colorado Southeastern Water Conservancy District when they stated, "She was instrumental in completing the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Rights Settlement, defeating American Water Development Inc.'s attempt to appropriate Rio Grande groundwater, and creating the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Rio Grande Natural Area."

Christine's dedication to the development, protection, and preservation of Colorado water is tremendous. I extend my deepest congratulations to my friend Christine Arbogast on this honor and for her contributions to our community and the entire State of Colorado.

## IOWAN OF THE WEEK—DR. VERGARIE SANFORD

### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 21, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Vergarie Sanford for her outstanding work and commitment as a faith leader in her community.

Dr. Sanford serves as a minister at Mount Zion Refuge Center Church in Council Bluffs.

Here, she centers her work on creating safe, supporting communities that focuses on serving God by serving others. Dr. Sanford engages young women, providing mentorship for girls between ages 12 and 18. She has also worked in local middle schools on bullying prevention programs. Her dedication to bettering her community is shown in her multiple memberships on the boards of local Council Bluffs organizations. Dr. Sanford is a true community leader and servant.

Born and raised in Council Bluffs, Dr. Sanford is dedicated to continued learning that allows her to better serve her fellow Iowans. She graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School and attended Iowa Western; most recently, she received her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Oral Roberts University, and I know her community is deeply proud of this accomplishment. She said she is inspired by Matthew 9:37 which reads "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few" which speaks to her heart and desire to serve her community.

Dr. Sanford is on the Board of Directors of Children's Square U.S.A., which provides behavioral health, educational services, child welfare, and emergency services to families. She is also the Vice Chair on the Board of Directors of Centro Latino. This organization created a social services office in Council Bluffs to help the growing Latino community navigate through different resources including pantry services, housing assistance, applications to Medicaid, SNAP, and unemployment. Through her work, Iowans are getting access to services they need to support their families.

It is an honor to commemorate the outstanding achievement of Dr. Sanford and celebrate the hard work that she has put in to give back to her community. I have great respect and admiration for activists like Dr. Sanford who continue to build up others and help them fulfill their needs.

## HONORING THE HONORABLE SYLVIA GALE

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 21, 2020*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Sylvia Gale for all she does to make the Nashua region such an incredibly special place to live.

Whether it has been her important contributions to the Division for Children, Youth and Families as a former New Hampshire state employee, her leadership on the New Hampshire House Judiciary Committee, or her activism as the Vice Chair and Secretary of Nashua's Cultural Connections Committee, her contributions to our state have been lasting and meaningful.

On behalf of my constituents across New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I

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