

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COMMANDER VANCE D.
SCOTT

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native of Baltimore City who has committed himself to exceptional military service, which has led him to be the 21st Black Submarine Commanding Officer in the history of the United States Navy. Commander Vance Scott will take on the distinguished task of leading the USS *Nebraska* through war and peace. His story of dedicated service is rooted in Maryland's 7th Congressional District and emphasizes, as Commander Scott puts it, "that your present circumstances do not dictate your future potential."

Commander Scott's journey began in Baltimore, where he was raised by his grandparents, William and Delores Swinton, who taught him the critical lessons of respecting authority and treating everyone with respect. As a product of the Baltimore City Public School System, he attended Baltimore Polytechnic Institute where he was a member of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Here he discovered military service as a way to give back to the community and contribute to something larger than himself.

After graduating from high school, Commander Scott attended the Naval Academy, upon nomination from my dear friend, the late Congressman Elijah Cummings. Commander Scott recalls that this was a particularly demanding time for him, but it was the support and guidance of his Naval Academy sponsor parents, Colonel Warren and Harriet Kiilehua, who helped to sustain him through this phase of his maturation.

Commander Scott graduated from the Naval Academy in 2004, but his academic journey did not stop there as he eventually went on to receive master's degrees from the University of Maryland, U.S. Naval War College, and Old Dominion University. Additionally, he has had several supplementary educational experiences that have prepared him for his next assignment, including studying naval nuclear power, participating in submarine officer basic and advanced courses, and joining the Naval Academy's Leadership Education and Development Program.

After his time at the Naval Academy, his first major assignment was in the Naval Academy's Electrical Engineering Department. He was subsequently assigned to the Naval Academy as an adjunct professor and company officer, leaving him responsible for leading and mentoring over one hundred midshipmen through student development. These experiences pushed him out of his comfort zone and prepared him to lead projects and sailors in various settings.

Commander Scott has had several sea tours and duty assignments that have further

prepared him to command USS *Nebraska*. His sea tours have included serving on USS *Albany*, USS *West Virginia*, and USS *Henry M. Jackson*. His shore duties include serving as Force Strategic Weapons Officers and Force Strategic Operations Officers. Additionally, he has served on the Commander Submarine Force Pacific staff as a tactical and strategic department head, where he had the opportunity to work with and learn from senior-level officers. Included in the list of officer mentors to Commander Scott are the first seven Black Commanding Officers within the first one hundred years of the submarine force, known as the "Centennial Seven." Finally, he completed a tour on the Hill in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs and manager of the undersea and strategic programs portfolio.

In July 2020, Commander Scott was selected as a Submarine Commanding Officer. He was humbled by the honor and found it overwhelming at times. He soon will be leading our finest; it is not lost on him the special place in Navy history he is taking on as only the 21st Black Commanding Officer of a U.S. submarine.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Scott's life is a testament to overcoming the odds and using all of life's experiences as opportunities to grow, serve, and give back to the communities that have given to you. He is an inspiration to us all, and I wish him the very best as he continues to represent Baltimore well aboard the USS *Nebraska*.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAVEL FOR CARE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Travel for Care Act.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court upended decades of precedent set by overturning *Roe v. Wade*. In the months since, we've seen the horrific effects of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision including an increase in states implementing abortion bans. As a result, a third of women of reproductive age in the United States now live more than an hour from the closest abortion facility and the average travel time to get an abortion has more than tripled.

After the *Dobbs* decision, President Biden signed an executive order to preserve abortion access, which included protecting people's ability to travel. Additionally, the House of Representatives passed the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act which prohibited states from interfering with people traveling for an abortion. Several major Fortune 500 corporations announced or reiterated that they would offer reimbursement for employees who needed to travel to receive abortion care.

The unfortunate reality is that far too many Americans are now dependent on their health

plan and employer benefits to access care that they deserve to have. The Travel for Care Act would remove additional barriers to implement or within these benefits by ensuring that any reimbursement is not taxable income, raising the dollar limit for related costs like meals and lodging, and allowing employees covered by high deductible health plan to access this reimbursement without having met their deductible.

It's egregious that employers have stepped in where the federal government hasn't. Nobody should be forced to leave their state to seek medical care, but in a world where that's the case, they shouldn't face additional financial barriers. I will continue working to ensure that we are increasing access to abortion care in every way possible and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE TWELFTH ANNUAL COCOA BEACH "FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND" KIDNEY WALK AND THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIFE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 13, 2023, thousands of residents from across Central Florida will gather at the Cocoa Beach Pier in Cocoa Beach, Florida, to take part in the Twelfth Annual "Footprints in the Sand" Cocoa Beach Kidney Walk. Katie and I have joined others in our community in participating since the first walk was organized in 2012 by Rich Salick, Bill Hahn and volunteers with the Florida Affiliate of the National Kidney Foundation.

The "Footprints in the Sand" Kidney Walk brings our community together to show our love and concern. So many of us have family, friends and loved ones that are afflicted by kidney disease, and they need our strength and support. The road ahead is not easy for them, but as the kidney walk demonstrates, they do not have to travel that path alone.

The National Kidney Foundation of Florida, its supporters and activists have made a significant difference in people's lives. They not only raise awareness about this disease, but they have helped push for much needed changes in our laws and new innovations to give patients more treatment options and a better quality of life. This year organizers of the kidney walk will recognize organ donors and their families for giving the precious gift of life so that others could receive a second chance and continue with their lives.

Those recognized include:

Nancy Velazquez honoring Pedro Batista, Moncia Beyrooti honoring Seth Anthony Beyrooti, Pat Brown honoring Michael Brown, Mary Carpenter honoring Shawn Carpenter, Kayla Carroll Lopez honoring Keegin Carroll,

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