

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

• 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.

thank Sylvia for her many years of service and for being a part of what makes the Granite State so special.

CONGRATULATING MYST ON
THEIR GRAND OPENING

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to congratulate MYST Hibachi/Sushi/Gastropub in Jim Thorpe on their recent grand opening.

Small business owners and entrepreneurs, like Mike Heiser and Josh Crownover, co-owners of MYST, are the lifeblood of our communities. From its pleasant restaurants to charming stores, Jim Thorpe thrives on the innovative small businesses and those who support them. I am confident that MYST will be a fantastic addition to Carbon County's flourishing small business community.

Jim Thorpe is a true gem in Pennsylvania's Ninth District. This quaint town welcomes thousands of visitors each year who come to enjoy its beauty, explore its unique shops and restaurants and appreciate the pristine nature that surrounds it. MYST will continue to build on the distinctive experiences Jim Thorpe offers to residents and tourists alike.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MYST on their grand opening. We wish them the best of luck and success on their new business endeavor.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1494—HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs) HOMELAND SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a member of the bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus and an original co-sponsor, I rise in support of H.R. 1494, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act, which strengthens partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, and the Department of Homeland Security.

As a strong proponent of the preservation of our nation's HBCU's and MSI's, I support this bill because our students deserve to receive an outstanding education and have access to equal resources, regardless of the institution they choose to attend.

H.R. 1494 would improve the quality of HBCU's and minority serving institutions by allowing the Department of Homeland Security to promote recruitment, hiring, research and acquisition opportunities.

H.R. 1494 also requires the Department of Homeland Security to send each HBCU and minority-serving institution a comprehensive list of internship, fellowship, scholarship and

recruitment opportunities within the Department for students and graduates of such institutions.

In addition to the implementation of strategies to improve governmental relations with these colleges, universities and institutions, the DHS will submit reports detailing financial awards, descriptions of how the partnerships are enforced, and summaries of outreach efforts to HBCU's and minority-serving institutions.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that one of the greatest HBCUs in the country, Texas Southern University, is located in my congressional district.

Texas Southern University has a rich history with nine academic units, 1,000 dedicated staff members, and over 9,200 esteemed students.

Like most of my HBCU Caucus colleagues, I have worked closely with my local HBCU to provide funding and resources needed to enable them to fulfill their mission of educating the next generation of social engineers and conducting research programs addressing issues of major concern to the African American community.

As Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection in the 111th Congress, I authored the legislation to establish a Transportation Security Center of Excellence at TSU and worked to help TSU secure \$1.2 million in funding over four years from the Department of Homeland Security for this Center of Excellence.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a member of Congress is my success in working with federal officials in the Clinton Administration to settle the lawsuit against TSU that had been pending for more than 23 years.

I was proud to spearhead the initiative that brought more than \$13 million in financial aid relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University.

I also worked with TSU administrators to initiate digital archive projects to preserve the records of two of its most distinguished alumni, the legendary Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both of whom preceded me as the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

I was pleased to facilitate a partnership between Comcast and TSU's School of Communication to provide scholarships and internships to TSU students and in-kind marketing services to the university.

I helped secure funding needed to establish the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in the TSU College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

HBCU's have played a critical role in American history.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated:

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

HBCUs do not just educate—HBCUs have and will continue to fill an important role in education opportunity and engagement for millions of young people from diverse backgrounds.

Funds provided by the Science and Technology Directorate grants and cooperative agreements will provide enhancements in areas relating to homeland security such as

cybersecurity, emergency management and counterterrorism.

As leaders of this country, the success and expansion of HBCUs and minority-serving institutions falls on our shoulders and we must act swiftly to ensure that these institutions are protected.

In an effort to maintain the legacy and educational quality of our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, we must act urgently to ensure the proper relationships are established between all of these institutions and the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask all members to join me in voting for H.R. 1494, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act.

HONORING A.E. HOTCHNER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in admiration of the life of A.E. Hotchner, the novelist, bon vivant, friend-of-the-famous and philanthropist who died last Saturday at the age of 102. Mr. Hotchner led a charmed life filled with movie stars, musicians, and literary lions. He was known as a loyal friend and companion, particularly to the likes of Ernest Hemingway and his Connecticut neighbor Paul Newman. With Mr. Newman, he founded Newman's Own, a non-profit brand of salad dressings and sauces created to underwrite charitable causes that has, since 1982, delivered hundreds of millions of dollars to good causes. He and Mr. Newman also founded the Hole in the Wall Gang in 1988 for children with life-threatening illnesses, underwritten in part by a 1991 Lincoln Center benefit gala starring Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Matt Damon, Joanne Woodward and her husband, Mr. Newman. It was Mr. Hotchner's adaptation of one of Hemingway's short stories, "The Boxer," that introduced him to a young Paul Newman, who played the part of the boxer originally intended for James Dean after Dean was killed in a car crash in 1955. A St. Louis native and a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and its law school, Mr. Hotchner met Hemingway in 1948 as a literary agent for Cosmopolitan magazine, where his job was to persuade famous people to write for the publication. He found Hemingway in Cuba, beginning a friendship of travel and drinking that included Spanish bullfights and hunting in Idaho and only ended with Hemingway's suicide in 1961. The best known of his many works about celebrities was *Papa Hemingway: A Personal Memoir* (1966). He also published a book of their correspondence, *Dear Papa, Dear Hotch* (2005) and two plays about the Nobel Prize winning novelist. Mr. Hotchner also wrote about film stars Clark Gable, Marlene Dietrich, Doris Day, and Sophia Loren; about the heiress Barbara Hutton and the French fashion designer Coco Chanel; and the illustrated history *Everyone Comes to Elaine's*, about the Manhattan nightclub famous for its prominent clientele. Mr. Hotchner was famous in his own right for a series of memoirs, historical novels and plays. His play

"The White House" was staged at the White House for President Clinton. His service in the Army Air Forces in World War II was chronicled in *The Day I Fired Alan Ladd* (2002), the third of four autobiographies. A series of essays on aging, written in his 90s, was titled *O.J. in the Morning, G&T at Night*. His last book, a novel about a 12-year-old living in his native St. Louis, came out in 2018, when he was 101. It's a joy to muse upon such a complicated and full life. The world was better for having Mr. Hotchner in it.

HONORING JACK BASKIN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jack Baskin, a prominent engineer, builder, and philanthropist on the central coast of California. Jack will be remembered as a generous and active supporter of his community.

Jack Baskin was born on September 20, 1919, in upstate New York. After graduating from New York University with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1940, Jack used his engineering expertise to support the domestic military aircraft manufacturing industry through World War II. After the war, he found success building housing developments throughout California and settled on the Central Coast in Santa Cruz in 1970.

Jack remained in Santa Cruz for the next 50 years, establishing deep ties to the Central Coast. Jack is well-known for acts of kindness and generosity to support his community and was named the "Man of the Year" by the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce in 1986. Many local institutions have benefitted from his personal donations, including the Dominican Hospital of Santa Cruz, Monterey Peninsula College, Cabrillo College, and the Seymour Marine Laboratory.

Jack was especially passionate about supporting the University of California, Santa Cruz campus, establishing the funding that was used to build the Baskin School of Engineering and make UCSC a destination to study and develop technical innovations. In 2008, Jack and his wife, Peggy, established the Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation to provide financial support for educational opportunities for disadvantaged women and other marginalized communities on the Central Coast.

Jack will be remembered for his convivial and generous spirit. We, as a community, celebrate his legacy and life well-lived. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Jack Baskin.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL SAN MATEO COUNTY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th Anniversary of the League of

Women Voters, an organization that was founded to prepare the implementation of the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution giving women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County join more than 700 local and state chapters to celebrate the historic centennial of the 19th Amendment.

When LWV was born on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified, founder Carrie Chapman Catt believed the organization could give millions of women voters a crash course in civic engagement and the American political system. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Women Suffrage Association, the league started out as a political experiment designed to help 20 million women carry out their newly won right to vote.

The right to vote is at the very core of our Republic. Our Founding Fathers wisely enshrined that right of every citizen to make changes in our political system in the first three words of our Constitution: "We The People." Sadly, our Founding Fathers did not include women, and it took another 131 years to get the 19th Amendment ratified.

It was an ugly battle. After it passed the House and Senate, anti-suffrage groups mobilized to continue their pressure campaign in the states. I have two framed documents in my Washington, D.C., office that I like to show visitors to illustrate that tension. One is an original copy of the 1871 petition from suffragist Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton urging Congress to give women the right to vote. The other is a 1917 letter from the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage arguing that the 19th Amendment would be an "official endorsement of nagging as a national policy;" that it would "give every radical woman the right to believe that she could get any law she wanted by 'pestering.'"

The same year, 1917, the National Women's Party picketed the White House to pressure President Woodrow Wilson. No one had ever picketed the White House before and the women were met with hostility from angry mobs. They were yelled at, spat on, peppered with rotten eggs and even beaten and sexually assaulted. On November 14, 1917, after being arrested, a group of women were met at the prison by guards with clubs, and 33 women were choked, kicked, and one was stabbed between the eyes. They were fed rotten food and denied medical treatment. When some women went on a hunger strike, they were force fed with tubes through their noses. This "Night of Terror" has been forgotten by most Americans today, but it illustrates the hard-fought battles for women to finally gain the right to vote on August 26th, Women's Equality Day.

To this day the League of Women Voters, of which I am a proud member, continues to register, educate, and mobilize voters reaffirming its commitment to "Making Democracy Work." While its mission hasn't changed, the league is taking advantage of new tools, such as VOTE411.org, a cutting-edge website utilized by millions of voters, to make it even more effective.

Madam Speaker, for a century, the League of Women Voters has empowered voters and defended democracy. It has evolved from a political experiment designed to help 20 million newly-enfranchised women to vote in 1920 to a nonpartisan organization shaping public pol-

icy, molding political leaders, and promoting citizen engagement. May it not take another 100 years until every citizen eligible to vote will cast her or his ballot to protect and be part of our democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 42. Had I been present, on roll call vote number 42, I would have voted NO.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF OAKWOOD CITY MANAGER STAN BROWN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakwood City Manager Stan Brown for his service to the people of northeast Georgia. Mr. Brown is retiring on February 28, 2020 after serving the city of Oakwood for 16 years.

Mr. Brown has worked in local government for over 25 years, holding various positions across northeast Georgia, including in the city of Carrollton, Athens-Clarke County, and Jackson County. In 2004, Mr. Brown was appointed as Oakwood City Manager, where he was tasked with maintaining economic development and promoting the interests of the local community. Throughout his tenure, he worked closely with the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council, the Lake Lanier Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Hall County Green Alliance to ensure the city is proactive and able to meet the challenges and opportunities of growth while also guaranteeing the best quality of life for its residents.

While Mr. Brown's time spent serving in local government spans over two decades, his commitment to service began long before his tenure as Oakwood City Manager. Mr. Brown attended and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and served his nation for many years, including overseas in Iraq, Kuwait, and Kyrgyzstan, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Brown continued his service as a member of my military academy nomination board, where he played an instrumental role in selecting future leaders in the U.S. military.

From his military service to his work in local government, Stan Brown has dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens, putting his heart and soul into serving our country and our community. I join the people of northeast Georgia in thanking him for his years of commitment to the city of Oakwood, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter of life.

RECOGNIZING ED MORRISON AND SHELLY & SANDS INC.

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Ed Morrison, and the entire Shelly & Sands Inc. team of my hometown, Zanesville, Ohio, on winning the National Asphalt Pavement Associations' Sheldon G. Haynes Award.

To be eligible for the Sheldon G. Haynes award, a paving company must first win the Pavement Associations Quality in Construction award for a project using more than 50,000 tons of asphalt. Paving companies must submit projects from across the United States to be judged by an independent pavement consultant. The projects are then judged on pavement smoothness, safety, and durability, and innovative techniques used during the projects. Of the thousands of largescale paving projects submitted every year, four companies are considered finalists and only one company wins.

The I-77 roadway in Guernsey County, Ohio presented a unique paving challenge for Quality Control Director Ed Morrison and the Shelly & Sands team. Shelly & Sands began paving in the middle of a bridge construction project. The team used innovative thermal cameras to ensure even asphalt cooling for surface smoothness and durability. This was just one of many masterful techniques used by the Shelly & Sands team to achieve success in this project.

I again extend my warmest congratulations to Ed and his team on this prestigious award. I look forward to hearing more about their future endeavors and wish them continued success in paving high quality, largescale projects throughout Ohio.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4432—PRO- TECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUC- TURE AGAINST DRONES AND EMERGING THREATS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of Congress, I rise in support of H.R. 4432, the Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act, which requires a full assessment of threats relating to unmanned aircrafts, development and dissemination of a security threat assessment regarding unmanned aircrafts and similar technologies, and the establishment of secure communications and critical information technology infrastructure to properly utilize analytical tools.

By requiring the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a threat assessment within one year of the bill's enactment to share with the House and Senate Homeland Security committees, Congress and the President can act swiftly to prevent any potential risks.

With national security as one of our nation's top priorities, we must begin to fully determine

the risks posed by this advanced and increasingly popular technology.

The data will be collected from agencies through data-mining and other advanced diagnostic tools at the Federal, state and local levels, as well as various infrastructure owners and operators.

Assessment of the data will include a report and classified plan to alleviate any potential threats through the use of unmanned aircrafts.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported a total of 1.1 million small hobbyist drones and about 412,000 commercial drone registrations for the year 2019.

The use of unmanned aircrafts is growing rapidly, both as a hobby and for commercial purposes, including in the oil and gas industry.

I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote in support of H.R. 4432.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE JACK B. WEINSTEIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein of Brooklyn on his retirement after 53 years on the bench at the age of 98. Judge Weinstein is well known for his liberal sensibilities, especially for his suggested reforms of sentencing guidelines to reduce the length of time most offenders spend behind bars. I related to him as a champion of women's rights, criminal justice reform and the lack of sentencing alternatives for young offenders. A submarine officer in the Pacific Theatre in World War II, he returned home and was a 1948 graduate of Columbia University Law School. As a young lawyer, he worked on briefs in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* desegregation case and recently lamented that, in New York as in so many other places, re-segregation of public schools is the reality. In a long and colorful career on the bench after being nominated to the district court by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967, Judge Weinstein presided at the trial of Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, the head of the Genovese crime family, and massive tort cases involving asbestos and Agent Orange. In a recent interview with *The New York Times*, he said that, although the country is "going downhill" with a "very conservative" Supreme Court at the moment, he was optimistic for the future because it is "essentially a good country made up of people who will fight for what's right." It's nice to know that Judge Weinstein, in retirement with his newly retired physician son, will be studying how post-Civil War Reconstruction devolved into Jim Crowism as they both pursue master's degrees in history. I wish Judge Weinstein, a productive and fulfilling retirement and thank him for his long service to our country.

CONGRATULATING HOBBIE VOLUN- TEER FIRE COMPANY ON THEIR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Hobbie Volunteer Fire Company in Luzerne County, PA on their 70th anniversary.

In 1736, our nation's first fire company was founded in Pennsylvania by Benjamin Franklin. Since then, thousands of brave and courageous firefighters have carried on our Commonwealth's distinguished legacy of selflessness, community service and commitment to safety.

Each member of Hobbie Volunteer Fire Company has continued to build on the principles of professionalism and service since their founding on October 23, 1949. Over 70 years later, they have remained steadfast in their dedication to serving and protecting the people of Hollenback Township and the surrounding communities. This 70th anniversary is a great milestone for the Hobbie Volunteer Fire Company. I am grateful for all the past, present and future members of the department and their unyielding commitment to public safety.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hobbie Volunteer Fire Company on 70 years of serving and wish you many more years of safety and service.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN PAUL GARCIA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of United States Navy Veteran and Firefighter Paul Garcia who passed away on February 14, 2020 at the age of 93. Mr. Garcia hails from my hometown of San Antonio and is survived by his wife, Aurora Garcia; children, Marie Diaz de Leon and husband, David; Leroy Garcia and wife, Carrie; grandchildren, David Diaz de Leon Jr. and Frank Diaz de Leon; and 17 great grandchildren. A World War II Navy Veteran with over 25 years of civil service, Mr. Garcia's life represents honor and commitment. His journey is one of true distinction that warrants the highest praise. He will be greatly missed.

Paul Garcia was born on February 9, 1927 in San Antonio, Texas to Policarpo and Maria de Jesus Garcia, who migrated from Mexico in 1915. At an early age, he was interested in serving the country that he so loved, and he carried such adoration throughout his life. He joined the United States Navy at the age of 17, where he eventually served in the Pacific Theater and in the liberation of the Philippine Islands from Japanese Forces during World War II. Mr. Garcia's honorable service earned him the World War II Victory Medal, The

American Campaign Medal, The Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button and the Honorable Discharge Lapel Pin. Eventually, his journey led him back to San Antonio where he worked in civil service for 25 years at Kelly Air Force Base.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful to have known such a remarkable person who dedicated himself to service and family. Although I am deeply saddened by his loss, I am comforted by knowing that his memory will live on though his many loved ones.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN WEST PALM BEACH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the legacy of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, a historically black church located in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Tabernacle Baptist Church was established in 1893, before the creation of the town of West Palm Beach in 1894. The Church has proven to be a pillar and haven in the community throughout its 127-year history and continues to maintain its strong presence today.

The Church's leadership through various projects, such as the establishment of the U.B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center, and the Rosemary Village Construction Project, illustrates a dedication to a holistic, community-driven mission. The Church has also created the first school for African American children in Palm Beach County and continues to champion education through programs such as their scholarship committee. Throughout the years, the Church has remained a steadfast spiritual guide and support and strives to strengthen its presence in order to better serve Palm Beach County.

Under the leadership of Rev. Gerald D. Kisner, Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for the past 23 years; Reverend Kevin L. Jones, Assistant Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church and the Church's Minister for Youth and Young Adults; and Ms. Gwendolyn Ferguson, Executive Assistant of the Church, they have carried the mission of the Church to serve as God's witnesses or ambassadors to people who are in need, through discipleship, outreach, teaching, preaching, community development, praise and worship.

Madam Speaker, the Tabernacle Baptist Church is indeed an exemplary part of our community. I extend my warmest congratulations to the Church for its contributions over these 127 years and wish them many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL ACOSTA ON BEING NAMED THE HOMES FOR HEROES—HERO OF THE MONTH

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Daniel Acosta

on being named the Homes for Heroes—Hero of the Month.

A citizen of Joliet, Staff Sergeant Acosta served as an explosive ordinance disposal technician in the United States Air Force from 2002 to 2009. While serving in Iraq in 2006, he sustained serious injuries from an improvised explosive device. He was later awarded the Purple Heart by Brigadier General Frank Gorenc.

Today, Staff Sergeant Acosta is a veteran service officer working as a senior caseworker with the Will County Veterans Assistance Program and is on advisory boards for other non-profit organizations such as the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes and Tee it Up for the Troops. He is also a board member for Adaptive Adventures, an organization dedicated to providing outdoor sports opportunities to people with physical disabilities and their families. I commend him for his service to our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the service and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Daniel Acosta. His service and sacrifice for this country are truly honorable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, because of my attendance at a Vermont memorial service to give the eulogy for a friend and prominent Vermonter, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call 60: "Aye"; Roll Call 61: "Nay"; Roll Call 62: "Nay"; Roll Call 63: "Aye"; Roll Call 64: "Nay"; Roll Call 65: "Nay"; Roll Call 66: "Aye"; Roll Call 67: "Nay"; Roll Call 68: "Nay"; Roll Call 69: "Aye"; and Roll Call 70: "Aye".

CELEBRATING ESMERALDA LONGORIA GARCIA

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, Esmeralda Longoria Garcia will be a centenarian on February 24, 2020 and her family will celebrate this milestone on Saturday February 22, 2020 at her home.

She was born on February 24, 1920 in Alice, Texas to her parents Leonardo Longoria and Luisa Lopez Longoria and raised in Sarita, Texas. She attended first grade in Sarita, and her father took her to school on horseback. From second to twelfth grade she went to school in the Alice Independent School District. She spent 9 months with her uncle Julian Gomez to attend school and spent her summers with her parents in Sarita.

She attended Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, now known as Texas A&M University Kingsville.

She taught elementary school at Kingsville ISD her first year from 1946 to 1947. She

taught in three different elementary grades in three different schools—Nayer, Saenz, and Mary R. Garcia—in the Alice Independent School District from 1947 to 1981.

She retired with 35 years of dedicated service as a teacher.

She married Alberto Arambula Garcia from Palito Blanco, and they lived in Alice, Texas. They had one son, Alberto Garcia Jr., two grandchildren, Victoria and Bryan Garcia, and two great grandchildren, Mila Jo and Rowen.

She has been a member of the Beta Pi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma for 57 years and a member of Tri-County Retired Teachers Association since 1981.

Congresswoman SYLVIA R. GARCIA proclaims, "Tia Mere, you have a heart of gold, a century of experiences and wisdom, and you are by far the most extraordinary person I have ever known."

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5273 SECURING AMERICA'S PORTS ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5273, the "Securing America's Ports Act."

I voted for H.R. 5273 because it secures America's land ports of entry along the border by increasing the rate of expeditious scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States.

But Madam Speaker, this bill does more than just secure the border.

H.R. 5273 also encourages the continuation of cross-cultural interactions through tourism and trade across an increasingly secure border and encourages the rich diversity of interactions and cooperation between the United States and Mexico as well as ensures mutual economic success.

As many of you know, Texas shares the longest border with Mexico of any states in the Union at 1,254 miles.

Over time, the southwest region of the country has become the largest manufacturing corridor in the world.

In 2019, it was estimated that two-way trade between the United States and Mexico surpassed \$600 billion.

Trade between Texas and Mexico alone was approximately \$200 billion each year.

In fact, in a single day, more than one million people come and go across the border, along with 300,000 vehicles and over 75,000 trucks.

This magnitude of crossings at the border demands our attention.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) uses these systems to inspect contents of commercial and passenger vehicles for potential contraband, such as drugs, without physically opening or unloading the vehicles.

My congressional district is home to one of the most racially and culturally diverse communities in the United States.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, 39.1 percent of people identify as Hispanic or Latino, 39.9 percent identify as Black or African American, and 45.4 percent identify as White.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have sought to propose and support legislation that increases the efficiency of operations at the border in addition to encouraging trade for the economic betterment of Texans.

For example, I supported H.R. 4940, the Border and Port Security Act, which prioritized improving the level of efficiency at the border by requiring the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to hire, train, and assign at least 500 new officers.

By adding qualified CBP agents, H.R. 4940 would help resolve CBP's understaffing crisis and efficiently address not only the high volumes of commercial and passenger vehicles that cross the border every day but also the seasonal surges that leave our CBP officers overwhelmed.

Today, the Securing America's Ports Act is building on previous initiatives like H.R. 4940 and improving the processes at our border.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5273 understands and acts upon the nuances between the need to secure the border and achieve safety and security while also promote the robust exchange of goods, services, people, and ideas that we have enjoyed and profited from for years.

I ask all members to join me in voting for H.R. 5273, the Securing America's Ports Act.