

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the month of April as "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in my home state of Illinois. The 8th Congressional District is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful, and I wish to recognize their valuable contributions to my district and to our state and country. I believe this recognition is especially timely, given the disturbing rise in hate crimes and violent acts perpetrated against Sikh-Americans, most recently on April 15, 2021 at a Federal Express facility located in Indianapolis.

The first followers of the Sikh religion emigrated to the United States over 125 years ago, where they found work on farms located in California and in the lumber mills of Washington state. Despite suffering persecution and discrimination, these patriotic Sikh-Americans persevered and found ways to participate in civic life, including service in the United States Army. In 1918, Sergeant Bhagat Singh Thind was the first serviceman in the history of the United States Army allowed to wear a turban as part of his military uniform. Sikh-Americans continued to proudly serve with distinction in the Second World War, Korean War, Vietnam War and in our conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition to military service, Sikh-Americans have made countless contributions to our common good. They include scientists like Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany, who is widely known as the "father of fiber optic technology," and Dr. Gurtej Singh Sandhu, one of the world's most prolific inventors. They include artists and musicians like Grammy nominee Snam Kaur Khalsa, and activist and award-winning filmmaker Valarie Kaur. They include entrepreneurs like Waris Ahluwalia, an actor, model and businessman. And they include men and women called to public service, like Dalip Singh Saund, who in 1957 became the first Asian-American, Indian-American and member of a non-Abrahamic faith to be elected to serve in this House of Representatives.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds and not merely by good thoughts. These tenets of service and respect for the rights and dignity of all stand in painful contrast to the recent vile speech and acts of violence directed at Sikh communities. Madam Speaker, during this month of appreciation for Sikh Americans, I want to officially recognize the contributions of the more than 700,000 members of the United States Sikh community to business, the arts, science, medicine, literature and philosophy. Addition-

ally, I ask all Americans to take to heart the Sikh religion's belief in the sanctity of each person, respect for freedom of religion, and creed that community service is the foundation for living a good life.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT MARK SZYMANKIEWICZ

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz of the Woodhaven Police Department. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Sergeant Szymankiewicz retired on April 9, 2021 after serving over two decades with the Woodhaven Police Department. A graduate of Lake Superior State and Eastern Michigan University, Sergeant Szymankiewicz was a valued leader and mainstay of the department since August of 1999 when he began his career as a patrol officer with the unit. Assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 18, 2019.

Since 2004, he has mentored students interested in a career in law enforcement through the Woodhaven Police Explorers program. Sergeant Szymankiewicz also served on the board of the Michigan Law Enforcement Youth Advisory Committee. Active in service on duty and off, he served on the Woodhaven Police Department Honor Guard.

A lifelong resident of Downriver, he was raised in Brownstown Township, Michigan by Tony and Crystal along with his brothers Dennis and Steve. Dedicated to the community where he was born and raised, Sergeant Szymankiewicz still lives in Brownstown Township today with his son Jake.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Mark Szymankiewicz for a career of invaluable service to the Woodhaven Police Department. I join with Sergeant Szymankiewicz's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to our community and thank him for his role in serving the City of Woodhaven for the past two decades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, on April 21, 2021, I missed one Roll Call vote. Had I been present I would have voted: NO on Roll Call Vote 128, On Motion to Recommit for H.R. 1573.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FRANCIS GORITY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend John Francis Gority, who passed away on April 12, at the age of 74.

Throughout his life, John devoted himself to our nation and our community. A veteran of the Vietnam War, John was awarded a purple heart after being wounded in the line of duty. After returning home to Blair County, John worked tirelessly to serve local veterans. In addition to serving as Post Commander of the Altoona Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3, John was also a member of Catholic War Veterans, the American Legion's Gallitzin Chapter, and Disabled American Veterans.

A 1965 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School, John continued his education at Penn State University, where he studied business administration. As a businessman, he owned and operated Broadway Sharpening and Gority Cabinetry for more than 30 years.

John was a staple of the Blair County Community. In addition to his work with local veterans, John also served as a leader of the Blair County Historical Society, Open Doors for the Handicapped, Eastern Amputee Golf Association, Fire Base Eagle, and Bravo Company.

As a community leader, John Francis Gority exemplified a life of service to our nation and to his neighbors. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to honor John for his many contributions. I extend my deepest condolences to John's devoted wife Donna, their two daughters, and four grandchildren as they mourn this great loss.

H.R. 51, THE WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, for the second time in two years, the House will vote to end centuries of political repression in the District of Columbia by granting the District statehood.

For too long Congress has denied more than 712,000 Americans in the District the fundamental right to full representation in government. Today we say no more.

All 37 states that have been added to the union were admitted by legislation with a simple majority vote. There is no reason admitting the District should be any different.

The United States is a republic, but the people of its capital lack representation. The

• 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.

United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting rights in the national legislature and local self-government to the people of its capital.

Today we say no more.

My Republican colleagues would rather continue to deny voting rights for hundreds of thousands of American citizens because they may vote for Democrats.

Today we say no more.

We say no more to taxation without representation. No more to unequal rights for the District's residents. No more to this Nation failing to live up to the foundational principles that make us who we are.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE MARY
MULLARKEY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman ED PERLMUTTER, Congressman JASON CROW, and Congressman JOE NEGUSE, to recognize the life and achievements of former Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court Mary Mullarkey, who passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Mary's journey is a familiar Colorado story. She was born and raised elsewhere, in Wisconsin. While there, she graduated from St. Norbert College before earning her law degree at Harvard University in 1968. After law school, Mary traveled to Washington, D.C. in order to work for the Department of the Interior in the agency's equal employment opportunity division. Not only did she find the beginning of what would become a lengthy and distinguished career in public service, but she also found the love of her life, Tom Korson. By 1973, the two had married and moved to Denver for what was supposed to be a brief "adventure," not to exceed two years. However, as the story so often goes, they fell in love with Colorado and thankfully decided to make our state a permanent home for themselves and eventually for their son Andrew.

As many Coloradans have reflected in the wake of her passing, Mary—or "the Chief," as she was affectionately known by her former law clerks—was a remarkable woman with a brilliant legal career. She advised Governors, ran her own law firm, served as our state's Solicitor General and led the appellate division in the Colorado Attorney General's Office before her appointment to the Colorado Supreme Court in 1987. Mary served on the court for 23 years.

Mary's legacy while serving on this esteemed bench is unmatched. She was nominated by her colleagues to be the court's first woman Chief Justice in 1998. She served in this capacity for 12 years, and she is the court's longest serving chief justice. During her time on the Court, Coloradans benefited from her fair and thoughtful decisions. She authored more than 470 opinions, including her most memorable case, which was a 2002 decision granting land access to descendants of Mexican homesteaders in the San Luis Valley after decades of dispute.

Beyond the courtroom, her reputation as a trailblazer and a tireless advocate continued.

During her tenure, she accomplished the amazing feat of building a new home for the judiciary, the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, named for the state's Republican governor who opposed the use of internment camps for Japanese individuals during World War II. She also expanded access to the courts by hiring professional interpreters to break down language barriers for those who sought the court's protection. To that same end, she added more jurists to resolve more cases and insisted that childcare be provided in courthouses so that parents could more easily access the court system.

When Mary was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, she faced that challenge the way she approached life in general—with determination, grit, and resolve. My husband Lino and I are honored, along with so many others, to call her a friend and role model.

Truly, the light that Mary cast over once hidden spaces within the state's judiciary, over those parents and individuals who sought the court's haven, and over those Coloradans who get up and work hard every day despite living with a debilitating disease—that light will shine as strongly and brilliantly as Mary Mullarkey did for many, many years to come. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family, in particular to Tom, Mary's husband of 49 years, as well as to their son Andrew, and to all the friends, colleagues, and Coloradans who mourn her loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREW
SMITH'S SERVICE TO THE GREEN
BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring Green Bay Police Chief Andrew Smith.

Chief Andrew Smith's career as a Police Officer began 33 years ago when he arrived in Green Bay from Los Angeles after having served 27 ½ years with the Los Angeles Police Department. Throughout his career, he held countless command level assignments in Media Relations and Community Affairs groups, Operations, and Criminal Gang Homicide Division. For those who are unfamiliar with Chief Smith's extensive career with the LAPD, you may recognize him from the popular true crime docuseries on Netflix: The Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel.

During Chief Smith's time with the Green Bay Police Department, transparency was one of his top priorities. He gave regular updates to the public through the department's community update videos where he would address current events taking place throughout the Green Bay Area. During Chief Smith's tenure the Green Bay Police Department successfully grew, hiring 65 new police officers and swearing in approximately 190 officers.

When the attacks against our men and women in uniform sparked national attention last summer, Chief Smith continued to protect and defend the Green Bay area. I commend his selfless service and dedication to the Green Bay Police Department and surrounding communities.

Chief Smith is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by generations of po-

lice officers for years to come. After retirement, Chief Smith and his family plan to stay in Green Bay and I am confident that he will continue to be a value add to Northeast Wisconsin. Chief Smith's dedication and selfless service to his community is deserving of the highest degree of recognition and honor. I wish Chief Smith and his family all the best in his retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH
CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING
OF HENDERSON COUNTY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th celebration of the founding Henderson County, Texas. Henderson County was formed April 27, 1846, and named in honor of James Pinckney Henderson, the first attorney general of the Republic of Texas, and secretary of state for the republic, and most importantly the first Governor of Texas.

Henderson County has a rich history, including the one-time Black-Eyed Pea Capital of the world, and the home of the hamburger. Now, many Texans enjoy the wide-ranging activities Henderson County offers including recreation, entertainment, hunting, and fishing, along with the Texas Forest Trail and the Texas Lakes Trail. The county also brings in visitors from across the state and nation with events such as the Old Fiddle Reunion, held in May, and the Black-Eyed Pea Jamboree which is held in July.

After 175 years, Henderson County continues to be a vibrant community that supports family, sports, fine arts, churches, and numerous organizations for more than 84,000 residents that make up 20 municipalities.

I am proud to represent Henderson County and the many people who make it a wonderful place to live. Congratulations to everyone in the county on celebrating their 175th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 129.

IN RECOGNITION OF KASEY
MEREDITH

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kasey Meredith of Johnstown, Pennsylvania as she is named the Cadet First Captain and Regimental Commander of the Virginia Military Institute's Corps

of Cadets. A trailblazer, Cadet Meredith will be the first woman to hold the position in the Institute's 181-year history.

As Regimental Commander, Cadet Meredith will oversee the training, discipline, fitness, and morale of the Corps. She currently is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Officers Training Program. Upon her graduation and successful completion of the program, Cadet Meredith will receive her commission as a Second Lieutenant of Marines.

Cadet Kasey Meredith's selection as Regimental Commander is a testament to her strong academic performance, determination, and leadership. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to recognize outstanding Pennsylvanians as they answer the call to serve our nation. I proudly congratulate Cadet Meredith on earning this well-deserved position and wish her every continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for one of the votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 109.

HONORING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 225th anniversary of the Steuben County Sheriffs Office, and the legacy of the office's public service and dedication to public safety.

The Steuben County Sheriffs Office was constitutionally established in 1796, with William Dunn being sworn in as Sheriff on March 31, 1796. From 1796 until 1873, the Steuben County Sheriffs Office was the only law enforcement agency serving the county. The longest serving Sheriff was Jack Lisi, who served from 1970 to 1987.

Sheriff James Allard is the current sheriff of the county and is the fifty-ninth Sheriff to serve in office. James has a strong commitment to serving his community and became Under-sheriff of the county in 2013. He was elected as Sheriff in 2016.

We are honored to be able to recognize the Steuben County Sheriffs Office in this way. The Steuben County Sheriffs Office has provided service and safety to the communities it served for hundreds of years and should be honored for that service. We cannot forget the great personal risk and dedication each Sheriff showed during their service. Today, we stand and honor those efforts before the eyes of America.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor the 225th anniversary of the Steuben

County Sheriff's Office, and the legacy of the office's public service and dedication to public safety.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN ELIZABETH FURSE

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, who represented the people of Oregon's First District in this chamber from 1993 to 1999.

I am privileged to have called Elizabeth a friend and a mentor. My first experience volunteering for a political campaign was when I made calls and knocked on doors working for her Congressional race for re-election in 1994. She inspired dedication to worthy causes, including co-founding the Oregon Peace Institute, and embodied the traits all public servants should strive to uphold—to meet the needs of their community and drive meaningful change. Her trailblazing example helped shape my life and my career, and the lives of so many others.

Elizabeth was only the third woman to represent Oregon in the House of Representatives, and as an immigrant she was fully committed to protecting the rights of all. Her start in advocacy came at a young age in Kenya, and in her youth she courageously participated in the protests against apartheid in South Africa. From there she continued to grow as a leader and advocate, pursuing a career path that allowed her to serve as a fierce champion for tribal sovereignty, social justice, and peace. She aided countless people during her time in Congress and throughout her life, and her many achievements include helping the Grand Ronde, Klamath, and Coquille tribes gain federal recognition, as well as increasing access to public transportation in our region by extending light rail service to Hillsboro. After leaving Congress, Elizabeth continued to stay involved in her community and enjoyed spending time with her husband John at their winery.

Our world, and especially NW Oregon, is a better place because of Elizabeth's tireless devotion to improving the lives of those around her. Let us continue to serve others in her memory.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FORMER JUSTICE GREGORY K. SCOTT

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Congressman Jason Crow, and Congressman Joe Neguse, to recognize the life and accomplishments of the first and only African American to serve on our state's highest court, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory K. Scott who passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at the age of 72.

Justice Scott graduated from Rutgers University before attending law school at Indiana University. In 1977, he and his wife Carolyn, also an attorney, moved to Denver so that Scott could start his new position as a trial attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's regional office. Later, Scott joined the faculty at University of Denver's Sturm College of Law as a professor, where he taught numerous students about securities and corporate law. While making their life in Denver, the couple welcomed two sons, both of whom sadly preceded them in death.

In 1993, then Governor Roy Romer appointed Scott to the Colorado Supreme Court, making him the first—and thus far the only—African American to serve at the highest level of our state's judiciary. During his time on the bench, Justice Scott participated in 1,000 decisions, some notable ones including *Evans v. Romer*, which involved the court stepping in to stop enforcement of a ban that infringed the rights of our gay and lesbian Coloradans, and also *Hill v. Thomas*, a decision he penned himself to uphold the state law I wrote to mandate an 8-foot buffer zone between protesters and individuals trying to gain entrance into Colorado abortion clinics. I am proud to note that the U.S. Supreme Court later upheld this decision, finding the same truth we hold so dear in Colorado, that rights of speech and access to reproductive care can both be vigorously protected.

Justice Scott served admirably both inside and outside of the courtroom, especially when it came to championing the civil rights causes he cherished deeply. While living in Denver, he took pride in mentoring law students, especially law students of color, who believed as he did—as we all do—that diversity in the legal profession is vital to the best interests of clients, whether corporate or individual, and every Coloradan. Additionally, Scott was active with the local NAACP chapter, the Urban League, and the Sam Cary Bar Association. Even in his retirement years, Scott continued answering the call to serve. After moving to his wife's hometown in Indiana, he became the executive director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

Justice Scott has been remembered by friends and former colleagues as a "giant" in Colorado's legal community with a brilliant legal mind and a profound respect for the rule of law. Truly, he will always be remembered for his lasting legacy on our state's supreme court, but also as a bowtie-wearing jurist who was as likable as he was learned, and as socially conscious as he was compassionate. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Carolyn and to the entire Scott family, as well as to the Coloradans who are saddened by his loss.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY HICKS SHEETZ

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend Nancy Hicks Sheetz of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, who passed away on April 16.

Nancy Hicks Sheetz was an incredible community leader whose dedication defined our

region's art and culture landscape. As a lifelong supporter of the theater community, Nancy worked tirelessly to advocate for the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. She was an outstanding artist, actress, and musician who used her talents to bless others.

A lifelong Blair County resident, Nancy was born on July 9, 1935 in East Freedom and attended Altoona High School, where she was elected president of her class and graduated in 1953. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose compassion and care for her family was evident to everyone she met. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Nancy served the Altoona community as a member of the Blair County Historical Society. We also shared a love of gardening.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, it is my privilege to celebrate the life of Nancy Hicks Sheetz and honor her legacy. She leaves a profound void in the community that I share alongside all who knew her. As we remember Nancy for her many contributions to Blair County and our commonwealth, I extend my deepest condolences to the Sheetz family.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF
REVEREND ROY L. FERGUSON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Roy L. Ferguson, a beloved pastor and active community leader who passed away at the age of 76 on April 15, 2021. In 1983, Rev. Ferguson was elected Pastor of Saint John Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he served his congregation valiantly for 38 years. Demonstrating a continued dedication to public service, Rev. Ferguson contributed to the lives of many through mentorship and ministry, lifting spirits and soothing troubled souls.

Born on July 16, 1945, in Pickensville, Alabama, Rev. Ferguson graduated from Mississippi Valley College, where he studied physical education. He continued his education attending Birmingham Bible College and Samford University. In 1978, Rev. Ferguson answered the call to ministry under the leadership of Dr. J.C. Curry, Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan. Shortly after, Rev. Ferguson's employer transferred him to Tuscaloosa, where he began his tenure as an associate minister at Saint John Baptist Church in 1982. He married Coleen Hudson, and together they had seven children.

Rev. Ferguson was a dedicated public servant who contributed to the progression of Civil and Human Rights through his positions as a board member of the State Southern Christian Leadership Conference, President Emeritus of the Tuscaloosa County Chapter Southern Christian Conference, and President of Tuscaloosa Ministerial Alliance. Expanding his influence outside of ministry, Rev. Ferguson gave back to the Tuscaloosa community by acting as a mentor in the Stars Program at Tuscaloosa City Schools and Tuscaloosa Juvenile Detention Center. He lived his life by example, encouraging the members of his community

and congregation to live up to their full potential in Christ.

Throughout his life, Rev. Ferguson prioritized the importance of teaching the next generation about Black history. He believed that if we are to truly bring about change in this Nation, it is our responsibility to preserve the legacy of those on whose shoulders we stand.

On a personal note, I am eternally grateful for the support, friendship, and wise counsel that Rev. Ferguson and his dedicated wife Coleen always extend to me. The amazing congregation of St. John Baptist Church was a special refuge to my staff and I and will always be a comforting source of love and support. I am forever indebted to Rev. Ferguson for representing Alabama's 7th Congressional District at the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. I could always count on Rev. Ferguson to extend his ministry for the good of our community. I was constantly reminded by the example that Rev. Ferguson set on how to extend favor and fulfillment to others. May we find comfort in knowing that the legacy of Rev. Ferguson will live in the many people that he touched. Let us be renewed by his giving spirit to make a difference in our communities. Rest In Peace.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Roy L. Ferguson and his outstanding contributions to the Tuscaloosa community.

SHARK FIN SALES ELIMINATION
ACT OF 2021

**HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, on Earth Day 2021, together with Rep. McCAUL and 103 other original cosponsors, I am reintroducing the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

The Act bans the buying and selling of shark fins in the United States and passed in the 116th Congress with bipartisan support and, ultimately, 287 cosponsors. It was the largest number of cosponsors for any ocean conservation bill in the previous Congress.

The Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act has such strong bipartisan support, because it is an effective way to remove the United States from the devastating global trade in shark fins, at no cost. And because it does so without stopping those who want to fish for sharks and use them whole.

Madam Speaker, sharks are absolutely critical to life in the ocean. As apex predators, they help maintain balance by keeping prey populations in check. They are also critical to the tourism economy of our coastal communities. In Florida alone, tourists, who go diving to see sharks, generate more than 200 times the value of the trade in shark fins for our entire country.

Despite their importance ecologically and economically, sharks are in serious trouble. Each year, fins from up to 73 million sharks are sliced off and sold in the global marketplace. And, largely due to this demand for fins, some shark species have now declined by more than 90 percent.

Our nation has wisely banned the inhumane practice of finning sharks and throwing them back into the ocean to die. Yet, we still allow fins to be bought and sold here. And many of the fins we are buying and selling come from countries that simply do not have the same level of protection the U.S. gives sharks.

Now is time for us to take that next step. Only by banning the shark fin trade once and for all within our borders can we ensure we are no longer supporting an unsustainable use of ocean resources.

Recognizing this unsustainability, the Northern Mariana Islands, my home, was the very first U.S. insular area to ban the trade of shark fins in 2011. As an island culture 3,000 years old, the people of the Marianas understand and respect the important role that sharks play in maintaining the life of our oceans.

We are not alone. Thirteen U.S. states and three territories have also passed their own shark fin bans. But this patchwork of state laws can be challenging to enforce. That is why we need a federal ban on the shark fin trade in the United States.

A ban on the shark fin trade is supported by 45 domestic and international airlines, by 22 shipping companies, 15 major corporations, and nearly 700 U.S. businesses and organizations. A 2020 national poll found 4 of 5 American voters support a national ban on the buying and selling of shark fins. Hundreds of scientists, chefs, fishers, and dive and surf businesses have written to Congress requesting passage of a national shark fin ban.

I want, especially, to thank Oceana, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Animal Welfare Institute for those environmental organizations' work to build legislative support for the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.

I look forward to quick action in the House on the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2021.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 130. I would like to reflect how I would have voted.

On roll call vote number 130, I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 99; YEA on Roll Call No. 100; YEA on Roll Call No. 101; NAY on Roll Call No. 102; and NAY on Roll Call No. 103.

HONORING ANGOLA'S MEMORIAL
VFW POST NO. 7205

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angola's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7205 as they prepare to celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Founded in the wake of the Second World War on May 26, 1946, the Angola VFW post was named after George Anspaugh, a Steuben County native who was killed in the war while serving in the U.S. Navy.

The post, which boasts 178 members and 200 auxiliary members, earned "All American Post" status in 2019 for its community contributions, participation in VFW events and ability to recruit and retain members.

I am inspired by the mission of Angola's VFW, and VFW posts nationwide, to not only help veterans recover from the wounds of war but also to ensure that the national memory of those who served is never forgotten.

From holding a Poppy Drive every year on November 7 to commemorate the end of the First World War to hosting Veterans Suicide Awareness Day to raise proceeds for the Veterans Suicide Crisis Hotline, and more, Hoosiers thank Angola's VFW Post for their work.

This record is testament to VFW Post No. 7205's longevity and achievement, for which Angola, and northeast Indiana, is grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF REBECCA
WRIGHT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rebecca Wright, a student at Windber Area High School, on being crowned the 74th Maple Queen at the Pennsylvania Maple Festival.

A pianist, Rebecca earned accolades at the competition for her performance of "Midnight Rhapsody," including the Anna Ruth Thomas Memorial Talent Award. She also won the Promenade Award and the Interview Award.

As the Maple Queen, Rebecca will represent Somerset County's robust maple industry. Since 1947, the Pennsylvania Maple Festival has been hosted by maple producers from across the region to showcase maple production.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Rebecca and her family on this incredible achievement. As Rebecca commences her service as Maple Queen, I wish her every continued success.

4/23 ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH
STONE'S DEATH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the fourth anniversary of the tragic death of Joseph Stone, a U.S. paramedic serving with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine.

My heart and prayers go out to his family who still feel his absence each and every day.

Joseph Stone was killed on April 23, 2017, when his vehicle struck a landmine in Russian-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine. Born in my district in Milwaukee, he was a courageous young man whose life ended much too soon.

Stone gave his life serving a noble mission: helping those who document the human suffering inflicted by the Kremlin's senseless assault on Ukraine. The mission he served with, established in 2014, monitors implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which were designed to bring peace to eastern Ukraine. It is an unarmed, civilian mission that serves as the international community's eyes and ears on the security and humanitarian situation in the war zone. The SMM operates under a mandate adopted by consensus among the 57 OSCE participating States, including the United States, Russia, and Ukraine.

The tragedy of Stone's death—a direct result of this needless conflict—is compounded today by the continuation of Russian aggression against Ukraine. Recent weeks have seen a dramatic escalation by Russia, which has amassed forces and equipment on Ukraine's land and maritime borders and in Crimea, which Russia continues to illegally occupy. Moscow's actions are accompanied by boldfaced denial that these threatening moves should be of any concern to Ukraine or its friends.

The latest Russian escalation only underlines the crucial role of the SMM and the need to ensure that the mission Joseph Stone died serving can fully carry out its mandate. Moscow currently blocks the SMM from accessing Russia-occupied Crimea. And in parts of Ukraine where the SMM is able to operate, its monitors are harassed, blocked, and threatened on a daily basis by Russia-led forces, who also interfere with the SMM's equipment by jamming UAVs or blinding static cameras.

Madam Speaker, all OSCE states, including Russia, must do everything possible to support the OSCE monitors who, to this day, face unacceptable threats and restrictions as they shine a light on the daily cost of this war. The monitors must be allowed unfettered access throughout Ukraine—including Crimea. And rather than deploying more troops, Russia should be working with the OSCE to help de-escalate the situation, including to support the

deployment of more monitors to prevent further conflict and provocation moves. The mission's efforts will remain crucial in ensuring the international community has full visibility on the Kremlin's malignant actions against Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in marking the solemn anniversary of Joseph Stone's death. Let us use this solemn occasion to redouble efforts to work for peace. I also want to use this opportunity to applaud the men and women of the SMM who are still serving today, even as Russia continues to escalate. Their work is a critical part of efforts to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity and ensure respect for its sovereignty.

RECOGNITION OF THE POPE
FRANCIS PREPARATORY HIGH
SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM'S 2021
USA HOCKEY DIVISION 1 NA-
TIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Pope Francis Preparatory High School boys' hockey team on winning the 2021 USA Hockey Division 1 National Championship. The Pope Francis Cardinals defeated New Trier, of Illinois, 3-0 in the championship game. This win capped a six day national championship tournament in Omaha, Nebraska, where the Pope Francis Cardinals won 6-0, and outscored opponents 48-5.

The tremendous amount of dedication and commitment to excellence was led by Head Coach Brian Foley, who has led the Pope Francis Hockey program for eighteen years. The impressive efforts on the ice was led by goalie Ben Zaranek, with 23 saves that ensured the shutout, and by Brandon Spaulding and Ryan Leonard, that scored the three goals to solidify victory and the national title.

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team, which also includes Matt Hanscom, Jack Moltenbrey, Jake Iby, Ryan Hemenway, Colin Foyle, Evan Phaneuf, Andrew Bolduc, Jack Kennedy, Ryan Shaw, Bryce Russ, Joseph DiMichele, Stephen Rougeot, Jack Turowsky, Matthew Burke, Christopher Calvanese, Ryan O'Leary, Ryan Rhodes, Ben Zaranek, Josh Iby, and Gage Sperlonga. All should be proud of their contribution to this victorious season that furthers the legacy of Pope Francis athletics.

Madam Speaker, the players, coaches, and entire school community should be very proud of their accomplishments. I wish the graduating seniors all the best in their future endeavors and good luck to those who will return for a chance to make another run at the national championship.