

HONORING MEL HUBER

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Melvyn Jay Huber of Blacksburg, Virginia. At 92 years of age, this Marine Corps veteran is not done serving his country or looking out for others. Mel has been troubled by the divisions too often found in our country and the despair it has created for some. For them, he has a simple message: your life matters.

"Your life matters" is how he greets people. It is what he writes on the lowest left of every envelope that leaves his mailbox. He purchased 100 yard signs with this message, and since he is currently in hospice care, others have come by to pick up the signs and put them on display. Currently, the signs can be found in six counties and two independent cities of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, which I represent, as well as three north-eastern states.

For someone in trouble, hearing from another the simple words "your life matters" can be tremendously reassuring. I commend Mel Huber, a resident of the Ninth District, for sharing his healing message.

## CELEBRATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. ANDY LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this October, I am proud to celebrate Filipino American History Month, which acknowledges the vast contributions of Filipino Americans to our communities in Michigan and across the country. I am thrilled to join the residents of Macomb and Oakland Counties in highlighting the vibrancy of this community and celebrate Filipino Americans.

For generations, Filipino Americans in Michigan have influenced the culture and history of our state—engaging deeply in public institutions, our local economies and statewide cultural events. I am grateful for their emphasis on service and selfless commitment to their neighbors. Further, Filipino Americans have gifted Southeast Michigan with a rich culture and history that enhances the fabrics of our communities. I also recognize the vital contributions of the Filipino Americans in building spaces free of discrimination, prejudice and ignorance.

Additionally, I am honored to present the United States Pinoy's 4 Good Governance (USP4GG) Michigan with special recognition for their efforts throughout the state. USP4GG has been instrumental in promoting Filipino culture and tradition in Michigan, helping all of us develop a better understanding of their history.

Madam Speaker, I urge Michiganders to follow the many ways USP4GG and our other Filipino neighbors are helping us celebrate the Filipino American History Month this year.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ARIZONA STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANK PRATT

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Arizona State Representative Franklin M. Pratt. Frank represented the 8th Legislative District of Arizona well and served his community as a member of both the House and the Senate. A principled conservative who stood firmly for the values he believed in, Frank tirelessly advocated for the people of rural Arizona. He loved the state he called home and led a long and admirable life of civil service.

In addition to Frank's public service as a state legislator, he also served his community as a farmer, rancher, businessman, and was a dedicated family man. Madam Speaker, I am here to express my appreciation for the impact of Frank's service in our Arizona communities and to offer my deepest condolences to his family and beloved wife, Janice. Frank's achievements and community impact will never be forgotten by the people of Arizona.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4350, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member ROGERS, and the Members of the Committee for their leadership in crafting a Defense Authorization Bill that is in line with what Secretary Mattis said we needed in the 2018 National Defense Strategy: 3–5 percent real growth from FY22 to FY25.

This bill addresses the critical areas of emerging tech, research and development, Airpower and Sea power, shipbuilding, and Space among many others.

I would specifically like to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for the inclusion of critical innovation priorities that I requested, such as:

The designation of Entrepreneurial Innovation Projects, which will more effectively transition Small Business Innovation Research programs into the Services' budget process;

The Pilot Program to Facilitate the Agile Acquisition of Technologies for Warfighters and new line for Agile Procurement Transition Pilot programs in the amount of \$100,000,000. This authorization will be critical as we seek to compete with China by leveraging the innovative power of our private sector;

And for the much needed report on flexible funding for transitioning science and technology.

The DoD should not be doing research and development for the sake of doing research. We should always have an eye on developing cutting edge capabilities for the warfighter. For far too long the DoD has struggled to transition and scale critical innovative technologies from development projects to acquisition pro-

grams in a time period that meets the needs of the warfighter and ensures technology providers are able to survive. This report will help Congress understand why so we can develop ways to solve the problem of "the valley of death".

Let me be clear, we are in a geopolitical competition with China, and experts on both sides of the aisle agree that the current budgeting and acquisition process is not adequate to compete and win.

As the Defense bills move through Congress, I look forward to Authorizing and Appropriating the funding, capabilities, and resources that our warfighters need to fight tonight and modernize for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PINE BLUFF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, ENGINEER CORY COLLINS

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Cory P. Collins, a Fire and Emergency Services Engineer at Pine Bluff Fire Station No. 6 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Engineer Collins passed away on August 21, 2021, after a battle with COVID-19.

Cory was a 9-year veteran of Pine Bluff Fire and Emergency Services where he served his community honorably alongside fellow emergency responders who were like brothers to him. He excelled as a firefighter and was promoted to engineer in May 2018. Engineer Collins was a "jack of all trades," and in his free time, he enjoyed working on numerous projects, spending time with his family, and escaping to the outdoors. He will be greatly missed by his family, his brothers and sisters at Pine Bluff Fire and Emergency Services, and by his community.

I take this time today to honor Engineer Collins' exceptional service to our Pine Bluff community. His steadfast approach and dedication to his neighbors during the current public health crises will be forever cherished. With a heavy heart, I thank Engineer Collins and his family for their unwavering dedication to the city of Pine Bluff and surrounding area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, including my three amendments included in this legislation.

The FY 22 NDAA authorizes critically important funding and programs for our Armed Forces who put their lives on the line to protect our nation and our people. The legislation ensures our servicemembers and their families have the resources they need and deserve to continue serving our country.

As a parent to two adult sons, nothing is more important to me than my children being