

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING THE CHOICE IN AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from finalizing the proposed rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles" and further prohibit EPA from prescribing any regulations for new motor vehicles that would directly or indirectly result in the limited availability of new vehicles powered by any given engine technology.

EPA's vehicle emissions standards save lives. By 2030, these standards are projected to prevent 40,000 premature deaths and 34,000 hospital visits annually. However, H.R. 4468 would force Americans to breathe dirty, polluted air, needlessly putting tens of thousands of lives at risk. This bill would lock in dirty, fossil-fuel-burning vehicles for the foreseeable future, at a time when the American people are already experiencing the deadly effects of climate change. More fossil fuel cars mean more frequent and intense floods, stronger hurricanes, more dangerous wildfires, and more extreme heatwaves. Simply put, we are out of time. We must reduce climate pollution now.

California has long been a global leader in the fight against air pollution. We established the first vehicle emissions standards and the first greenhouse gas standards in the country because we know that strong air quality standards mean healthier communities and a livable climate. I am a proud Californian and a proud champion of strong vehicle emissions standards.

In July of 2023, I led 94 of my colleagues in a letter urging EPA to finalize the strongest feasible emissions standards for new light- and medium-duty vehicles, which would cut harmful emissions from passenger cars and pick-up trucks by more than 50 percent between 2026 and 2032.

H.R. 4468, however, would not only prevent EPA from implementing the proposed light- and medium-duty vehicle emissions rule—it would gut EPA's authority to regulate vehicle pollution altogether. It is disgraceful. We are faced with a choice between new zero-pollution technologies or doubling down on dirty fossil fuels. The choice is clear. I strongly oppose H.R. 4468, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS STEVEN MOORE, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Sergeant First Class Steven Moore, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country and is an embodiment of the Army values of service, courage, and integrity. I am proud to present him with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SFC Moore dedicated over 20 years to serving our country in the U.S. Army, having been stationed around the world. While he was awarded many honors including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Army Commendation Medal, SFC Moore takes great pride in knowing he served in the greatest military the world has ever known.

After over two decades in the military, SFC Moore followed his passion to continue serving our warriors, their families, and the veteran community through his countless hours of contributing his energies that work to support those who've served. As the Community Relations Officer at Fort Cavazos, he continues to showcase his limitless devotion to Central Texas warriors and veterans. His fires of patriotism and service continue to burn bright.

I join SFC Moore's friends and family in celebrating his outstanding achievements. His commitment to investing his time and abilities in devotion to his community makes him a deeply respectable and honorable recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING PEARL HARBOR DAY ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we commemorate the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2023. We solemnly remember and honor the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who were thrust into World War II by the tragic events of that fateful day in 1941.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a moment of profound loss and national awakening. It marked the beginning of a war that would test the very essence of our nation. However, it was also a catalyst that united Americans in a common cause, giving rise to the "Greatest Generation."

In the face of adversity, they displayed unparalleled courage and determination, rising above the challenges of their time to defend Liberty and justice. We remember those who perished at Pearl Harbor and the countless

others who would go on to fight and sacrifice in the years that followed.

That is why I fought to create the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall, a 17-year effort, and recently passed the Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin, whose federal sales will begin in 2024.

The legacy of Pearl Harbor Day reminds us of the strength that unity and resilience can bring to a nation. It is a reminder that even in the darkest hours, the American spirit shines bright, and we stand strong together.

Let us pay tribute to the sacrifices that paved the way for a better future. Their memory continues to inspire us to uphold the values of freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH ON CELEBRATING THEIR 175TH YEAR OF SERVING THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS COMMUNITY

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Historic Second Baptist Church as they celebrate their 175th year of serving the Greater New Orleans Community.

In the year 1848, the Second African Baptist Church was originally a group of Negroes who congregated under the guidance of the white members of the Coliseum Place Baptist Church, for the purpose of rendering praise and honor to God in their own modest way. The church was later incorporated, and in 1857 the First Baptist Church of New Orleans turned over Lot 4 (which they purchased in 1852) to four churches, all of which operated at 2525 Melpomene Avenue.

In 1861, Rev. Thomas Miles took over the church. Shortly thereafter, the First African Baptist Church came back and the two operated together until Second Baptist incorporated in 1866. Since that time, this church as an institution has been in continuous existence and has served its congregation without interruption. Even more important than age is the history of the congregation's growth. It has had a steady growth, and its service to the community has grown with time.

During the entire span of its life, the church has had only seven ministers—namely: Reverends Willis, Racks, Steptoe, Brown, Hubbs, late Pastor, Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington, and present pastor, Rev. Robert Bryant Jackson, who was elected in January of 1997. The late Pastor, Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington, served the congregation for 53 years, while his immediate predecessor, Rev. Ambrose Hubbs, was the pastor for 39 years. This is an indication of not only fine pastoral leadership, but lay leadership as well.

In September of 1961, the church grounds at 2525 Melpomene Avenue were purchased

• 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.

by the New Orleans Housing Authority. Through the kindness of Rev. C. H. Hayes and the members of Wesley Methodist Church, they worshiped in their church edifice up until March 1, 1964, when they moved to their current edifice at 2505 Marengo Street. The fine Christian spirit and friendship that was exhibited by this pastor and congregation will always be remembered with grateful hearts by those members of their church who experienced this display of Christian charity. May God forever bless them.

Over the years, God has made Historic Second a Beacon Light of Gospel Truth to this community and communities beyond. In respect to its witness to communities beyond, God not only gave our late Pastor Washington a vision to broadcast the Gospel Message over the airwaves, but also provided sufficient grace to keep the broadcast for 55 years through August 28, 2005. Begun in 1950 on WWEZ, the radio airwaves carried our services live from 10:00–11:00 p.m. People in all areas of the city began to follow the Radio Broadcast of Historic Second Baptist Church and its dynamic young pastor. As a result of these many years of broadcasting, many members were added to the church.

As a much-respected spiritual force in this city, Historic Second Baptist Church has worked to educate, equip, and empower its members and our city's residents to perform their civic duties and responsibilities. In the 1960's, under the leadership of Pastor Washington, voter registration classes were held at the church to teach citizens of color how to register to vote. Their famed Radio Choir desegregated the Municipal Auditorium with its Annual Musicals, successfully fulfilling 21 contracts. Each time 5,000 to 8,000 people gathered to hear Pastor Washington and the Radio Choir at its best. One year, the Radio Choir was accompanied by the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra—a night long to be remembered. And it was their own late Rev. Avery C. Alexander who was dragged up the steps from the basement of City Hall, as he attempted to desegregate the City Hall cafeteria. The importance of Historic Second Baptist Church is felt to this day in our community, as countless individuals seeking public office still make their way to the church on Sunday mornings to appeal to this congregation for their support.

Through the years, Historic Second Baptist Church has stood as a symbol of pure idealism in the sense of what Jesus of Nazareth characterized in His teachings. As an institution and a definite entity of the Church Universal, this assembly, in golden purposes and architectural design, represents the fulfillment of the need for the true spirit of the changing times of this ultra-modern age—that is, the promotion of institutionalized Christianity to meet the needs of children, young people, and adults.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEW WARD HIGER ON THE OCCASION OF THIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Matthew Ward Higer's retirement from our United States Air Force. His final assignment on Active Duty was as Commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. In this role General Higer led nearly 8,000 personnel in the developmental test and evaluation of the KC-46, KC-135, KC-10, C-17, C-5, F-35, F-22, F-16, B-1, B-2, B-21, B-52, T-7A, RO-4, and numerous other emerging technologies. General Higer also served as the Installation Commander of United States Air Force Production Plant 42 and Edwards Air Force Base, globally recognized as the center of the aerospace testing universe.

General Higer has proudly served our country as a military officer since he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 7, 1993, through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 060, at the University of Southern California. He served our nation as an F-16 instructor pilot and an experimental test pilot amassing 3,000 military flight hours in 40 different aircraft. His 30-year career encompasses two combat deployments, countless nights away from family, and fifteen assignments at diverse locations well beyond California including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, South Korea, and right here in Washington D.C. His leadership potential and demonstrated commitment to integrity, service, and excellence resulted in his promotion to Brigadier General on December 2, 2020.

General Higer exemplifies the very best of our High Desert community and our nation's commitment to building servicemembers dedicated to the profession of arms. His superior leadership and devotion to duty has not gone unrecognized. He is the recipient of decorations including the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and upon his retirement he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

General Higer's active duty military service to our nation would not have been possible without the love, support, and encouragement of his family. His wife of 22 years, Leslie—also an Air Force veteran, and children, Alex and Zev, are also each deserving of our deepest gratitude for their support of the General throughout his service to our country. Heather and I thank the General and his family for their devotion, service, and sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Brigadier General Higer for his three decades of selfless service to our Nation, in commending him for his steadfast dedication to our Constitution, and in wishing him many years of joy and peace in his well-earned retirement.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF REAR ADMIRAL MARTIN JANCZAK, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Rear Admiral Martin Janczak, U.S. Navy, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country as he embodies the Navy's storied code of honor, courage, and commitment.

RADM Janczak was stationed all over the world during his 30 years of naval service, ranging from places like Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, and South Korea. As the Navy force shore commander responsible for United States Navy activities in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and the surrounding islands, he supported American force projection in the Pacific. His superb work was recognized with various awards including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

RADM Janczak's life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for Central Texas. He devotes his energies to numerous organizations, has served in both elected and appointed leadership positions, and continues advocating for our nation's heroes. He has made lasting and positive contributions to the place we're all glad to call home.

MDM Janczak's Congressional Veteran Commendation is a small token of our appreciation for his contributions to the military and his community. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and wishing him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

MR. TERRY GENDRON

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to recognize Mr. Terry Gendron (Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired) upon the occasion of his retirement after invaluable years of tireless, faithful, and selfless service to our Nation.

Mr. Gendron comes from a family of service. Not only did his mother serve in the Army as a frontline surgical nurse in World War II, and his father was career Army Infantry who served in WWII and Korea, but he and all three of his brothers wore the uniform as well. While Terry would rather talk about his family over himself, his service warrants its own illustrious recognition.

Terry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1975. He graduated Officer Candidate School in 1977, and served in myriad command and staff positions until he earned an Honorable discharge after more than 22 years of loyal service on December 31, 1997. His awards and honors include—but are not limited to—the Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct

Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

After several years in the private sector, Terry accepted an opportunity to serve our Veterans in the capacity of Department Service Officer for the Pennsylvania American Legion, wherein he assisted Veterans all over central Pennsylvania. In 2016, he continued his service to our Nation and Veterans by earning the position of Director of Veterans Affairs in York County, where—amongst various other missions—he maximized benefits for Veterans and Family members to improve their quality of life. He tirelessly worked to ensure that every Veteran in York County (or surviving spouse) had a conversation with an accredited service officer to ensure any earned military/medical/health benefits were realized ASAP. His dedication to our Veterans continued via positions on several boards and memberships, to include York County Veterans Outreach, Veterans Memorial Gold Star Health and Peace Garden, Four Chaplains Memorial of York County, and Pennsylvania American Legion Post 945.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Terry dedicated himself to education. He's earned a Bachelor's degree in Resource Management from Troy University, a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to commend Terry Gendron (LTC, USA Ret.) on his well-earned retirement. His vast record of nearly 50 years of faithful, tireless, and selfless service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him Godspeed on his pending cycle trek across our beautiful Nation, and for many more years of great adventure, health, happiness, and prosperity.

THANKING JOHN CAUPERT FOR HIS 17-YEAR CAREER AS DIRECTOR OF NCERC AT SIUE

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Caupert, the outgoing Director of NCERC (National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center) at SIUE. John's 17-year journey has been marked by extraordinary achievements for SIUE and the agricultural research field.

John has presided over several significant accomplishments and advances during his 17 years at NCERC. Some of the most notable achievements include transitioning NCERC into a self-sustained center funded by research grants, serving as a pathway for more than 80 technologies, which have generated billions of dollars in revenue, and helping to lead the fight against COVID-19 by producing the first WHO sanitizer from corn-based ethanol. All of these accomplishments, along with many that NCERC has produced during his tenure, are a testament to John's dedication to his work.

I want to thank John for all of his contributions to the field of agricultural research. I wish John and his family all the best as he finds new ways to contribute to the field of agriculture research and communities across Central and Southern Illinois.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JASON HOWARD, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason Howard, U.S. Army, Retired, has always been there to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and his efforts to make his beloved community a better place has made a lasting, positive impact on the region. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SGT Howard has extensive military experience including serving at Fort Cavazos and deployments in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked closely with our Kurdish allies and even met with future Iraqi President Jamal Talabani. His great work didn't go unnoticed as he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and among others.

After retiring from the Army, SGT Howard found his way back to Central Texas. Fueled by his passion for wanting to serve and lead others. SGT Howard serves as the Alderman for the Village of Salado while giving back to his community through numerous volunteer opportunities. He pours himself into making Salado a great place to work and call home, all while ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in the halls of government. His actions reflect the commitment of a devoted public servant.

I commend SGT Howard's incredible contributions. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

CELEBRATING THE HMONG COMMUNITY'S 2024 NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Hmong community's upcoming 2024 New Year festivities in Merced County.

The story of the Hmong people in the United States begins with the tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers who stood side-by-side the United States in steadfast courage against communism in Indochina.

As the Vietnam War spread, the CIA recruited and trained thousands of Hmong men to fight, with over 30,000 engaging enemy troops both on the ground and in the skies. Hmong soldiers regularly conducted raids and

sabotage operations on the Ho-Cho-Minh supply trail and went deep behind enemy lines to gather intelligence and rescued American soldiers. As a result of the fighting, Hmong soldiers suffered immense casualties—ten times higher than their American counterparts.

After the United States withdrew its forces at the conclusion of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Hmong fled as refugees to the United States. Those who were unable to escape faced brutal oppression and massacres.

Today, over 360,000 Hmong-Americans call the United States their home, and California's 13th Congressional District is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. Hmong-Americans continue to serve our nation whether in law enforcement, the armed forces, non-profit programs, or in elected office. They play pivotal roles in our schools, our hospitals, and our businesses, and through it all, the community has continued to preserve their vibrant language, culture, and traditions.

As they have done for decades, the Hmong community of the Central Valley will gather at the Merced County Fairgrounds from December 15–17 to celebrate the 2024 Hmong New Year, which will include traditional Hmong attire and cuisine, cultural dance competitions, traditional sports tournaments, and an exhibit of Hmong art and entertainment.

I am honored to represent the Hmong-American community of the Central Valley, and I wish every Hmong-American a very Happy New Year.

RECOGNIZING SHERRI SAGER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, for her more than 30 years of advocacy for children and their families.

Sherri was born in Los Angeles and has a younger brother and sister, three nieces, and a nephew. With a passion for political advocacy at a young age, Sherri earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University.

Prior to joining the Packard Children's Hospital in 1994, Sherri worked as a legislative assistant to a member of Congress and later as a consultant to several political candidates and elected officials. She also served as the Assistant Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation.

During her tenure at Packard, Sherri organized and managed the government relations program, monitored proposed laws and public policy that may impact the hospital, and oversaw various departments. Sherri prioritized three health needs for patients through her advocacy: improving access to primary health care services, prevention of pediatric obesity, and improving youth social, emotional, and mental health.

Sherri serves on many nonprofit and regional business association boards. She is

recognized for her political acumen, leadership, advocacy, ability to organize, and knowledge of public policy, particularly in health care. Sherri is also a past chair of the government relations committee of the California Children's Hospital Association, has served on numerous statewide task forces and volunteered extensively for the Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission, and the Junior League of San Jose.

Sherri is a dedicated advocate and community leader who has worked every day over the last 30 years to put patients and their families first. She remains an integral part of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and I am certain her positivity and passion will be missed. I congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement, and hope she spends her time filled with happiness surrounded by loved ones.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR JACQUELINE COLE, U.S.
AIR FORCE, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the extraordinary career of Major Jacqueline Cole, L.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her superb service to both the Air Force and her Nation speaks to the best of our Nation's altruistic spirit.

During Maj. Cole's 13 years of service, she served in multiple countries around the world including Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, including stints as a critical care nurse in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Throughout her service, she used her extraordinary skillset to support her fellow warriors as well as educate and mentor her fellow health care professionals.

Renowned for her exemplary work ethic, exceptional patient care, and critical care expertise, Maj. Cole has continued her track record of stellar service in her civilian life. She remains active in her church, supports her local schools, and contributes her energies and resources to numerous civic organizations that work tirelessly to ensure the no one is left behind. When a service member or veteran is challenged by a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder episode, she is unafraid to reach out and guide the individual to safer shores.

Her actions speak to a public servant unafraid to put the interests of others before herself.

I am honored to join Maj. Cole's friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements. Her commitment to investing her talents to improve her community makes her a deeply respectable and honorable recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAVEN HOUSE NWI

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Haven House

Northwest Indiana (NWI) on its 40th anniversary and to commend its leadership team, board of directors, and dedicated staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of survivors of domestic violence throughout the Northwest Indiana region.

Haven House NWI began after a small group of concerned citizens gathered at Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Indiana. Founded in 1983, Haven House, located in Hammond, Indiana, has remained steadfast in its mission to provide emergency crisis intervention and shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. For those in need of an immediate place to stay, Haven House offers 25 beds for women, as well as additional accommodations for those with children. The organization also operates an invaluable transitional house, a million-dollar facility that came to be through the hard work of its members, generosity of community donors, and the unwavering support of former Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow, Jr. and current Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

In addition to housing, residents are provided basic necessities, food, and supplies while offering them a home atmosphere where they are responsible for cooking and household chores. The residents, as well as former residents, also have access to individual and group counseling sessions and other activities related to life skills, empowerment, and the arts. Additionally, with a focus on long-term stability for its residents, Haven House provides individualized service plans that assess their needs, while also assisting with safety planning, referral services, court advocacy and protective order applications.

The operation of this extraordinary community resource would not be possible without its amazing staff and its exceptional leadership team which consists of Executive Director Carrie Greer, Residential Manager Ebony Jackson, Fiscal Manager Candace Jordan, and House Manager Luz Gonzalez. Haven House is also led by its dedicated board of directors: Board President David Gearman, Board Secretary Bernie Zemen, Terence Fife, Andrea Graciano, Michelle Resendez, Ashley Ward, Jenny Winker, and Bobbi Costa, whose lifetime of service on the board has spanned the organization's entire 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Haven House NWI on its 40th anniversary. Through the years, the committed staff and leaders of Haven House have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to ensure that survivors of domestic violence have a safe place to stay and the resources needed to take back their lives, and for this, these outstanding individuals are to be admired.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER 893 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Chapter 893 of the National Association of Active and

Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), based in Springfield, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Springfield Chapter 893 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 893 was issued December 31, 1963. At that time, there were 14 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to become the largest of the 37 chapters in Virginia. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large.

While Chapter 893 has always emphasized fulfilling the primary NARFE mission, its members have also made invaluable contributions to our Northern Virginia community, Chapter 893 members have volunteered countless hours at hospitals and libraries, and they have worked with local non-profit organizations to support blood drives and Meals on Wheels programs. Since 1987, members have contributed generously to Alzheimer's Research, the charity of choice for NARFE nationwide. In 1992, members first participated in the local area Alzheimer's Memory Walk, which has raised approximately \$1,000 annually for several years. In 2009, members began participating in the collection of warm clothing items for homeless veterans for the Washington, D.C., Veterans Administration Medical Center. That same year, the Chapter began supporting the National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" program. This year, with the needs of the community increasing and to support the community during the holidays, Chapter 893 is conducting a food drive to support Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO).

Over the course of its successful history, the Springfield Chapter has benefited from many dynamic, accomplished leaders. Several past presidents have been elected as officers or appointed committee chairs of the NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters. Others have served in civic, professional, or fraternal organizations locally. Particularly noteworthy are the accomplishments of past presidents Milton Kramer, Vincent Agnelli, David Sullivan, Charles Delaplane, and Ann M. Collins. Past President Kramer played a major role in organizing the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters in 1993. Past President Agnelli served on an ad hoc committee influential in the 1993 Virginia Supreme Court federal retiree tax refund issue. Past President Sullivan served on the Board of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for several years and subsequently was elected NARFE National Secretary in 2000 and again in 2002. Past President Charles Delaplane served on the Board of the VFC for several years and chaired the National Legislation Committee at the 2008 and 2010 NARFE National Conventions. Past President Collins served on the Board of the VFC and subsequently was elected VFC President for 2 terms (2005 through 2007). In 2006, as VFC President she established NARFE VFC Congressional District Liaisons for the 11 congressional districts in Virginia as well as a Senatorial Liaison. Also, Past President Collins was appointed as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging to represent the 11th Congressional District of Virginia.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia, due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., is home to a significant number of federal employees and retirees and I am honored to represent these dedicated and honorable public servants in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary and in thanking the members for their unwavering support and dedication to federal employees, retirees, and their families.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT BOBBY EHRLIG, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Master Sergeant Bobby Ehrig, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred values.

During MSG Ehrig's service in the U.S. Army, he was a master of many assignments and responsibilities, ranging from a Team Leader to being a Supervisory Customs Border Clearance Agent. While serving for over 15 years, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Army Commendation medals, among others. His most significant memory while serving was narrowly surviving a blast that severely injured him and 57 U.S. and Iraqi policemen under his charge.

His retirement from the military marked not the end of his career, but the beginning of a new adventure. His commitment to serve and help his fellow veterans remains undiminished as he has held numerous positions committed to ensuring veterans receive the treatment and services they've earned. At every opportunity, he makes his mark while working collaboratively with others for the benefit of our nation's heroes.

MSG Ehrig's testimony is a testament to a citizen who puts others before himself, who works toward solutions that benefit all, and who isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves to do the hard work to make lasting, impactful, and positive change. He brings to life Gandhi's words "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I applaud his work and wish him success as he continues to be a champion for the veterans and families.

HONORING THE VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION REACHING 20,000 MEMBERS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Veteran Golfers Association on reaching a membership of 20,000 people.

The Veteran Golfers Association originated as an idea amongst wounded veterans at Wal-

ter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. Several friends routinely got together to play golf courses around the area to encourage each other to improve their game and heal through camaraderie and competition.

After recovering from their injuries, these friends relocated around the country and missed the opportunity to compete against one another regularly. Realizing that other Veterans might be in this same situation, these friends got together in 2014 to create the Veteran Golfers Association, which is currently based out of Pinehurst, North Carolina. The VGA is the first golfing organization dedicated to promoting the game to all veterans and their family members and annually hosts more than 450 local tournaments across the country.

The VGA develops programs that allow members to compete, socialize, and remain physically active through the game of golf. Through league play, regional tournaments, and national qualifiers, the VGA helps reinforce values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the Veteran Golfers Association on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, renowned television producer and screenwriter, Norman Lear, who passed away on December 5, 2023.

Norman Milton Lear was born on July 27, 1922 in New Haven, Connecticut. After attending Emerson College in Boston, he dropped out of college to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Force. During World War II, he served as a gunner and radio operator, and flew 52 combat missions over Europe, earning the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

Following his extraordinary military service, Mr. Lear worked in public relations before beginning a career as a freelance comedy writer, and eventually a television and film producer. Norman would go on to captivate over one hundred twenty million viewers weekly with his ground-breaking television show's of the 1970's and 1980's that dealt with consequential and critical issues such as race, social inequality, and sexuality. These iconic shows include All in the Family—which won many Emmy Awards—The Jeffersons, Good Times, and Maude.

As a kid, his show's were a staple in our household, the kind of shows families across the country would watch together, laugh, and debate. As an adult, I was proud to get to know Norman as a constituent and as a friend. When I last spoke with him, on his 101st birthday, he still wanted to know what he could do, even then, to address the challenges facing the nation he was so proud to serve.

Norman was always politically active, inspired by his uncle Jack and grandfather Shya's political involvement and view, "that a citizen can matter." In 1980, he wanted a

more direct effect on social change, so he put his television career on hold to focus on political activism. In 1981, Norman co-founded People for the American Way which sought to build a democratic society and defend constitutional values such as religious liberty, free expression and equal justice. In 1997, Norman and his wife, Lyn Davis Lear created the Lear Family Foundation, which supports a wide range of nonprofit organizations such as the Rainforest Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, Ballet Hispanico and Planned Parenthood. In 2000, Mr. Lear provided an endowment for a public policy center that explored the intersection of commerce, entertainment, and society at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism—the center was later dedicated as the Norman Lear Center. A few years later Norman founded a nonpartisan youth voter registration initiative called Declare Yourself. Additionally, in 2001, Norman and Lyn purchased one of the few surviving original copies of the Declaration of Independence and shared the nation's birth certificate with their fellow Americans by touring it in all 50 states during their Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

Norman received professional awards and acknowledgement for his humanitarian achievements, far too many to list all here. These include the National Medal for Arts from President Clinton, several Emmy Awards, two Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe Award, the Humanist Arts Award, Kennedy Center Honors, the Women in Film Lucy Award, and the National Hispanic Media Coalition's "Media Icon" Award. In addition, he was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

My heart goes out to Lyn and the rest of Norman's beautiful family. His legacy is without equal, and I ask all Members to join me in celebration of his life. America has lost a giant.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CROUCH, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Crouch, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred ideals.

Serving in the Army from 1990 until 2011, LTC Crouch served in various locations and operations however, the most significant being during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2006 through 2008 and 2009 through 2011. He is a decorated veteran with awards including the Iraq Campaign Medal (4 Campaign Stars), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and others. His most significant memory during his military service is his gratitude for his family and friends when he was coming home after his first deployment from serving in a combat zone for 12 months.

After retiring after 20+ years of military service, LTC Crouch still had more to give to his

community and local veterans. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of the National Mounted Warfare Foundation which is building a world-class military museum in the heart of Texas to honor the history of the units and soldiers who have served at Fort Cavazos and to share their untold stories. His efforts don't stop there as LTC Crouch is a part of the National Eagle Scout Association, The Association of Quartermasters, The American Legion, and among other local groups.

I proudly join LTC Robert Crouch's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selfless service. His fearless support and devotion to others make him a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING GRAVES COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Graves County of the First District of Kentucky for the groundbreaking of their new courthouse.

The former Graves County courthouse was tragically destroyed by the tornado that hit western Kentucky on December 10, 2021. I commend them as they continue to rebuild while preserving a sense of history and tradition. Their perseverance and bravery are second to none.

Graves County has a rich history and unwavering commitment to its future development. With loyal, hardworking locals and a town full of character, Graves County is a prime example of the values that our state and country stand for. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

I join with the community of Graves County in celebrating the rebuilding of their cherished courthouse. May it continue to be the centerpiece of Mayfield, bringing new traditions and a sense of pride.

MRS. BETTY ALFORD

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the auspicious occasion of her 100th Birthday on January 12, 2024.

Mrs. Alford grew up in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania, growing up through some of the most triumphant and trying times of our Nation. In 1957, she married her husband, William, with whom she shared 43 wonderful years until his passing in 2001. Betty and William have three children—Brent, Brian, and Kathleen—two wonderful daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Betty has been known for her generosity and kindness. She volunteered at Health South physical therapy clinic, and the Helen Kraus Animal Foundation well into her 90s—and is the epitome of the phrase

"age is just a number." She's also worked at Nationwide Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and served countless students at the cafeteria of Hillside Elementary School.

Betty's selfless activity, huge heart, outstanding work ethic, and tireless service to others mark her as the shining example of community service and truly making a difference in the lives of others in myriad ways.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the blessed occasion of her 100th Birthday. She is the standard by which we all should be judged, and on behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I wish her continued God's blessings.

PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO FCC
VICTORVILLE OFFICER NICHOLAS WHITEHALL

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the passing of Nicholas Whitehall, a lifelong resident of San Bernardino County and proud law enforcement officer, husband, father, and grandfather. A friend to all, Officer Whitehall was an honored member of his community and a loving member of his family. Heather and I are praying for the Whitehall family as they navigate this difficult loss.

An Inland Empire native, Officer Whitehall was born in Fontana, California on January 24, 1970, to John Henry Whitehall and Nita Joyce Latham. He attended Victor Valley College (VVC), where he earned an Associates Degree in Administration of Justice. Upon graduating from VVC, he began a long and successful career protecting our prisons, including seven years at the Desert View Prison. Critically, Officer Whitehall played a vital role in assisting in opening several institutions at FCC Victorville. He served FCC Victorville admirably for over 23 years, including work as a Lock Shop and Armory Specialist before his untimely passing.

Officer Whitehall was much more than a law enforcement officer: he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He raised four children, James, Matthew, Katherine, and Ashley and was rewarded with fourteen grandchildren—a testament to his role as a loving father and devoted husband. He cared deeply for his family and did his utmost to ensure that his wife and children enjoyed a loving and secure home. Hardworking, kind people like Officer Whitehall are critical to the future of our community, state, and country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Whitehall and recognizing him and his family for their contributions to San Bernardino County.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MATTHEW KEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I present

Sergeant First Class Matthew Key, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SFC Key continues to be an unwavering example of commitment to the well-being of others and the betterment of his community.

With twenty-one years of military service, SFC Key served his country in numerous operations including significant combat experience during the Gulf War. He received an astounding military education including Primary Leadership Development, NCO Advanced Course, and NCO Basic Course. Military leadership recognized his hard work and talents, bestowing several commendations ranging from the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and others.

After SFC Key retired from the military, he continued wanting to make positive impacts on his community. After doing stellar work as intern in my congressional office, SFC Key was promoted to permanent staff as a Constituent Liaison. District office staff have as challenging a job there is in public service. They often deal with constituents who are at their wits' end and have lost faith in the government that is supposed to serve them. SFC Key's combination of empathy and expertise has helped countless Central Texans navigate the often-challenging world of government agencies and services. His extraordinary efforts, commitment to excellence, and skillful work has enabled my office to serve Central Texans at the high level they deserve.

I proudly join SFC Key's friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his selfless service to the Army and Texas. He's been a trusted advisor, superb public servant, and vital part of Team Carter whose work has made a real and lasting difference in the lives of his fellow citizens.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAY
LAFRANCE BENDER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of May LaFrance Bender. May was born in Newton, Mississippi, in 1970. She attended high school in Hickory, Mississippi, and graduated in 1988. May worked several jobs around the community after graduation. In 1995, May married Zoaton Bender, and they have now been married for 29 years. Together they have two children: Zaheim and Zamarion.

The same year she married Zoaton, May began working at the Newton County Tax Collector's office, learning how the office worked, and serving the people of Newton County. In 2011, May decided to run for the office of Tax Collector and won, and she served Newton County for three consecutive terms. Each day in the office was a new day to learn something and strive to make Newton County a better place for everyone who came into the Tax Collector's office.

I am thankful for the 29 years of service May Bender has given to the citizens of Newton County and wish her all the best in her future pursuits.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP LESTER LOVE AND PASTOR FRAN LOVE OF THE CITY OF LOVE

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Co-Pastor couple, Bishop Lester Love and Pastor Fran Love.

Bishop Lester Love is the Lead Pastor of the City of Love. He possesses unique leadership skills, and yet, widely recognized for his ability to organize a team of people, energize them to accomplish any challenges that are set before them, and provide them with strategies for implementation. Bishop Love was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 1, 1965, and currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. He received his license to preach in 1989, and was ordained on May 1, 1992 under the administration of Bishop of the Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On December 22, 1997, then interim Pastor Love of Greater Antioch presented his first message. One year later in April of 1998, both the Co-Pastor couple were installed as Pastors. In July 2005, he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He began his leadership as the Lead Pastor of the Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in 1993.

Bishop Love, always seeking to make the Word of God as clear and relevant as possible, was asked constantly about the meaning of the word "Antioch". The Bible states that Antioch was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called Christians because of the love that they showed to one another and to the community at large (Acts 11:26). Thus, in 2009, the name Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church was changed to The City of Love. Pastor Fran was elevated to the office of Prophet in August 2022. Currently, the membership has exceeded 2,000 active members.

Bishop Love has published several books including Synergy, Catching the Mantle and The Art of Armor Bearing: God's Blueprint for Effective Servanthood, which quickly became the "how to" book for leadership and excellence in service for churches and corporations. His latest book "Whatever It Takes" encourages us to maximize our potential.

His many talents also include singing. He was the featured soloist on the CD "Where Love Abides," which won the Big Easy Award (New Orleans' version of the Grammys) for Best Gospel Artist. He has also garnered national attention for his YouTube "Love Songs" clip, which has millions of views.

Bishop Love has served as the host of the Essence Music Festival Gospel Tribute for several years and daily radio host on WBOK for "The Lester Love Show." He's been crowned "The Voice of Hope" by many and this title is fitting of Lester Love—Senior Pastor of The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lester Love's messages of hope, positive thinking and empowerment are sustaining

and motivating both young and old across the country. His motto "Living the Good Life" encourages us to 'Think Bigger, Dream Bigger, Live Better.'

Although Bishop Love's leadership abilities have been recognized across the globe, in addition God has sent him on a mission to fulfill his calling to teach and train the people of God on how to effectively serve the men and women of God.

Prophet Fran Love serves as the Co-lead pastor with her husband, Bishop Lester Love, at The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a devoted wife and dedicated mother, Prophet Fran is listed among the most influential and socially engaged women of our time. Bishop Love and his wife Fran are the proud parents of three girls, Joy, Faith, and Angel Love.

From pulpits to street pavements, Prophet Fran's commitment to providing relief to the social issues affecting all mankind birthed the ministry of Daughters of Life and Love (DOLL) and nonprofit Love 365 where she leads an effort that cares for those suffering from a lack of food and homelessness.

Prophet Fran's kinetic faithfulness for a victorious living is deeply rooted in biblical principles. The totality of her essence firmly stands on her confession from James 1:4: "I am perfect, I am complete, wanting and lacking nothing." Boldly leading revolutionary ministries, this award-winning humanitarian, spiritual leader, scholar, and actress is devoted to influencing people into higher levels of unity, forgiveness, fulfillment, and purpose.

After meeting in college, Lester and Fran Love were an immediate "can't miss" couple. Thirty-one years and three daughters later, this couple is still flowing together. Bishop Lester and Pastor Fran Love lead The City of Love Church, a loving, vibrant experience with its heart entrenched in New Orleans, LA. The Loves are touted by local and national organizations and media for their philanthropic community work. Through the church, they lead LOVE365, a community outreach organization that has fed upwards of 2,000 homeless and hungry people at the Salvation Army, Duncan Plaza and the Hollygrove Community per week. Bishop Love and Prophet Fran have been a part of the Essence Festival Celebration for several years.

Prophet Fran also leads a women's empowerment group, "Fridays with Fran". Together they were inspired to create The I AM Prayer Journey, designed to lead people into a simple, yet deeper relationship with God. The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have them as spiritual leaders to so many. I am proud to call them friends for over 25 years. What a blessing to have spiritual friends, a Bishop and prayer warrior throughout my political career. I am forever grateful for their friendship, love, and guidance as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate them on 25 years of spiritual leadership, and may they see many more years serving individuals across the country.

RECOGNIZING KATHY BABB'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of a constituent from my district, Kathy Babb. Kathy will be retiring after more than 50 dedicated years of public service to the residents of Haycock Township as a Township Supervisor.

Kathy Babb's service to Haycock Township dates back to the 1970s in which she tirelessly worked to maintain the natural beauty of the township. As a result of her efforts, today Haycock Township boasts over 6,000 preserved acres and is home to Bucks County Park, Lake Towhee, and State Park, and Lake Nockamixon. Consistently throughout her years in public service, Kathy was nominated by her fellow board members to lead the Board as Chair given her natural leadership skills.

She also served as President of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials and eagerly contributed to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials. Her dedication to local government will always be appreciated by the community and her legacy of public service will live on for future generations.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN HOWARD MCKINNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Howard McKinney, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and our nation is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During his service, CPT McKinney served in Georgia, Louisiana, and Vietnam where, as a Captain Infantry Platoon Leader, he led soldiers directly into combat during several enemy engagements. His accomplishments did not go unnoticed with his many awards including a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal.

CPT McKinney returned to Texas after his dedicated years of service. With the extensive experience he acquired with his work with automated tax systems, he started his own business, McKinney E-Systems & Associates, Inc. in Austin. Since retirement from the U.S. Army, he has devoted his time, talents, and resources to family, church, community, and veteran organizations.

I join CPT Howard McKinney's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selflessness. His fearless support and devotion to service before himself makes him a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING MR. OLAJUWON WHITE,
FL-03'S 2023 VETERAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we honor Mr. Olajuwon White as the 2023 Veteran of the Year.

Mr. White currently serves as the Veteran Service Director for Levv County, Florida. In this role he works to help veterans with case-work related to compensation, pension, dependency compensation, burial benefits, educational assistance, and more. In 2023, Mr. White received the 2023 Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce's Veteran Impact Award, the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, and a Levy County Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr. White began his career as a Hospital Corpsman in the United States Navy certified as an independent duty corpsman and surgical technician. Following his military service, Mr. White worked with Alachua County as a Senior Veterans Claims Counselor, working with hundreds of veterans to file claims and lead educational sessions for veterans and their dependents on information from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also has experience working with the VA as a field examiner in Tampa.

We thank Mr. White for his service and sacrifices for our nation and hope that his spirit of service will continue for many years to come. We are thrilled to honor him as our 2023 Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING ARMY CAPTAIN
KIRK R. PROCTOR, JR.

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to recognize Army Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., an exceptional Officer, leader and public servant.

Cpt. Proctor has concluded a year as a member of my legislative team, and within this duration, he has made a real impact on a multitude of defense, national security, and foreign affairs policy initiatives.

His on-the-ground perspective bolstered by my team's analysis—from how the industrial base ties into the operational force, to explaining the evolution of military medicine, and how readiness initiatives intersect with military family quality of life. Furthermore, Cpt. Proctor has inspired colleagues to learn more about the defense industry through his application of institutional knowledge and hard-earned experiences.

Cpt. Proctor's unwavering dedication to my office and contributions to Congress have not gone unnoticed. His commitment to the American people and passion for public service is admirable, and I hope he is offered the most unique opportunities and enriching assignments as he continues his career as an Army Officer. I wish Cpt. Proctor and his wife Sabia

the best of luck as he begins his next assignment as a legislative liaison, and I look forward to seeing him lead in the years to come.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., and I congratulate him as he continues a career of public service within the U.S. Army and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" SHEPLER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Shepler for his years of service to the Mackinaw City community and retirement as President of the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum Board of Directors.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, our country assumed heavy demands on the war materials industry. In order to sustain these increased production needs, the United States Coast Guard icebreaker, Cutter *Mackinaw* WAGB-83, was authorized for construction on December 17, 1941. Until decommissioning, The Mackinaw proved to be an essential facet of the Great Lakes' economy, colloquially becoming known as "The Queen of the Great Lakes." The Mackinaw was essential to the maintenance of the shipping lanes of the Lakes, becoming responsible for over 100 trapped ships being freed from ice blockages or buildups.

Following a long and successful career, the ship began its decommissioning process and the City of Cheboygan attempted to find a suitable home for The Mackinaw. In August of 2004, Mr. Shepler, along with Dick Moehl and Sandy Planisek, founded the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum in order to keep the ship in the Great Lakes. Following its successful development, the renowned icebreaker was decommissioned on July 10, 2006, and was moored at its permanent berth on July 21, 2006. With gratitude to the IMMM board of directors under the direction of Bill Shepler, the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum welcomed its first visitors in the spring of 2007. Visitors can now explore the ship's 62-year history, making their way around the Mess Deck, Engine Room, Captain's Quarters, Sick Bay, Galley, Navigation Room and more.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedicated efforts of Mr. Bill Shepler in preserving our history, and I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement. I'd like to wish Bill and the IMMM all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT DEBBIE ANN NASH-
KING, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to First Lieutenant

Debbie Ann Nash-King, U.S. Army, Retired. Her life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for her nation and Central Texas.

After being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, she attended the Medical Services Corp Officer's course and completed her military tour as the Fort Hood Dental Clinic's company commander. Her contributions didn't go unnoticed as she earned various commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

1LT Nash-King's commitment to service didn't end when she stepped away from the military. She's tirelessly supported her community by volunteering and serving on a broad array of important organizations and groups throughout the region, committing her talents and energies to make the Lone Star State a great place to call home. Currently, she serves as the Mayor of Killeen. Texas and has made lasting contributions to the city that is home to Fort Cavazos. She has been a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty in every step of her life.

I commend 1LT Nash-King's selfless service to the United States Army, her nation, and her community. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to others reflect the traits that make both our state and Nation great. I join her friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements.

OPPOSITION TO S.J. RES. 32, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "SMALL BUSINESS LENDING UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT"

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to S.J. Res. 32. [The Provision on Congressional Disapproval of The Rule Submitted By The Bureau Of Consumer Financial Protection Relating To "Small Business Lending Under The Equal Credit Opportunity Act].

Mr. Speaker, the beginning of so many great American stories is built around starting a small business in your family name, becoming a foundation in your local community—making it in America.

Small businesses are major drivers of wealth creation in our overall economy. They account for two-thirds of net new jobs and nearly half of our U.S. economic activity.

For many of them, that dream stalls with going to a bank and getting a small business loan. For many Americans, the sound of their name, the color of their skin, the language that they speak or who they love can doom that dream if a bank says that they are at risk.

This isn't hypothetical. I, too, was born and raised in south Texas, I can tell you that when I go home and I see some businesses that have closed, I ask my family whether it was due to the pandemic, or no demand for the

cost of services that they had. I am told that they just had trouble with finances, and they couldn't get a loan.

In some small rural areas, like where I grew up, there aren't credit unions everywhere like there are in the city of Houston where I live now.

Even in the city of Houston, many small businesses during the pandemic couldn't secure a PPP loan in round one. We [as Congress] had to go in and do a carve-out to literally force the banks to provide loans to small businesses.

I am glad that one of my colleagues was openhearted and gave people a lot of loans. I just hope that that included loans to minority small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is real. It is not hypothetical. We know that minority-owned small businesses were less likely to receive a loan during the pandemic compared to White firms. Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, racism and discrimination flourish in the darkness. We need to shine a light and allow the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to make lending more transparent.

Mr. Speaker, a transparent market will be a competitive market.

With transparency in lending, banks are driven to compete and offer better terms.

With this resolution, extreme MAGA Republicans are protecting the secret discriminatory practices of big banks and lenders. Repealing this rule would harm all those who stand to benefit from much-needed transparency.

Make no mistake, extreme MAGA Republicans continue to put the interests of the big bank CEOs and corporate lobbyists ahead of their constituents. It is they who, time and time again, put profits over people. House Democrats will continue protecting everyday consumers and small business owners, while holding corporations accountable.

We will always put people over corporate profits. We will always put light over darkness.

For additional information on an April 19, 2022 Report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau titled "Data Spotlight: Challenges in Rural Banking Access." Please see (<https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb-data-spotlight-challenges-in-rural-banking-2022-04.pdf>).

I include in the RECORD an April 4, 2021 New York Times article by Stacy Cowley titled "Minority Entrepreneurs Struggled to Get Small-Business Relief Loans." (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/04/business/ppp-loans-minority-businesses.html>).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.

[From the New York Times, April 4, 2021]

MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS STRUGGLED TO
GET SMALL-BUSINESS RELIEF LOANS

(By Stacy Cowley)

A year after the Paycheck Protection Program started, studies show how its design hurt Black- and other minority-owned businesses.

Southern Bancorp is a lender serving the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta, where poverty rates are among the highest in America and decades of redlining shaped neighborhoods with little generational wealth.

When the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses started last April, so many of Southern Bancorp's customers didn't qualify for the relief money that the Arkansas bank's chief executive, Darrin Williams, turned to donors to raise money for

\$1,000 grants so it wouldn't have to turn applicants away empty-handed.

The bank made 128 such grants, giving more than 100 of them to businesses run by women or minority owners. One let a nail salon owner buy plexiglass so she could reopen. Another allowed a small cafe to buy safety gear for its staff. A day care used the money for the new sanitizing equipment it needed.

"So many companies will never come back, and disproportionately more of those that will be lost are Black and brown businesses," Mr. Williams said.

Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program in March 2020 as an emergency stopgap for what lawmakers expected to be a few months of sharp economic disruption. But as the pandemic raged on, the program—which made its first loans one year ago this past week—has turned into the largest small-business support program in American history, sending \$734 billion in forgivable loans to struggling companies.

The program helped nearly seven million businesses retain workers. But it has also been plagued by complex, changing rules at every stage of its existence. And one year in, it has become clear that the program's hasty rollout and design hurt some of the most vulnerable businesses.

A New York Times analysis of data from several sources—including the Small Business Administration, which is managing the loan program—and interviews with dozens of small businesses and bankers show that Black- and other minority-owned businesses were disproportionately underserved by the relief effort, often because they lacked the connections to get access to the aid or were rejected because of the program's rules.

ROLLOUT WAS SPEEDY

After Congress created the program in last year's CARES Act, President Donald J. Trump's administration—especially his Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin—put a priority on getting money to needy businesses fast. Just seven days after the law was signed, the earliest applicants received their checks.

But the haste meant the rules were mostly written on the fly. Reaching harder-to-serve businesses was an afterthought. Lenders and advocacy groups warned that the relief effort had structural challenges that were likely to inadvertently but disproportionately harm women and minority business owners. Reaching the most vulnerable businesses required determination, they said, and the program gave lenders no incentives to put in that effort.

The government relied on banks to make the loans, creating an obstacle for borrowers who didn't have established banking relationships. Some banks favored their larger and wealthier clients, which pushed ordinary customers to the back of the queue. "Mystery shopper" studies found that Black applicants were consistently treated worse than white counterparts.

The program also largely locked out sole proprietors and independent contractors—two of the most popular structures for minority-owned businesses. Those companies weren't eligible to apply for the program's first week. When they got access, a rule barring loans to unprofitable solo businesses—a restriction that didn't apply to larger companies—prevented many from getting help. Most nonbank lenders, including those that specialize in underserved communities, were shut out for weeks while they waited for the Small Business Administration to approve them.

"The focus at the outset was on speed, and it came at the expense of equity," said Ashley Harrington, the federal advocacy director at the Center for Responsible Lending.

In the program's final weeks—it is scheduled to stop taking applications on May 31—President Biden's administration has tried to alter its trajectory with rule changes intended to funnel more money toward women- and minority-led businesses, especially those with only a handful of employees.

Mr. Biden took a swipe at his predecessor's track record last week as he signed a bill extending the program's deadline. "Many small businesses, as you know, particularly Hispanic as well as African-American small businesses, are just out of business because they got bypassed the first time around," the president said.

But Mr. Biden's revisions—which, most prominently, expanded lending to independent contractors and others who work for themselves—have run into their own obstacles, including the speed with which they were rushed through. Lenders, caught off guard, struggled to carry them out, with little time left before the deadline.

"The rules are complicated and constantly changing, and that alone creates an access barrier," Randall Leach, the chief executive of Beneficial State Bank in Oakland, Calif.

BLACK AND MINORITY BUSINESSES SUFFER

Because lenders are not required to collect demographic details on their borrowers, data on the Paycheck Protection Program's racial breakdown has been scarce, but economists have consistently found signs of gaps.

An analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York noted that some counties with large numbers of Black-owned businesses—most notably the Bronx, Queens and Wayne County, Mich., which includes Detroit—had strikingly low concentrations of the relief loans. Majority-white ZIP codes in several metropolitan areas had higher loan coverage than ZIP codes with heavily minority populations, according to a San Francisco Fed analysis released last month.

And data from the Small Business Administration shows the relief effort's tilt. The vast majority of lenders did not report demographic data on the 3.6 million loans they made this year, but of the 996,000 that included information on the borrower's race, 71 percent of the dollars went to white-owned businesses.

Pilar Guzman Zavala founded Half Moon Empanadas, a small chain of restaurants, in Florida 12 years ago. She employed 100 people before the pandemic and had established bank accounts and years of detailed business records. But Ms. Zavala's application stalled at the first two lenders she tried, forcing her to spend a month hunting before she finally found a local bank that would process her loan.

She's grateful for the aid, which helped her hold on to 50 workers, but found the process infuriating.

"The financial system doesn't get to truly small business, Hispanic businesses, women-owned businesses. It just doesn't," she said.

Of the 1,300 Paycheck Protection Program loans that Southern Bancorp made last year, many went to customers who had been turned away by larger banks, Mr. Williams said.

In a recent Federal Reserve survey, nearly 80 percent of small-business owners who are Black or of Asian descent said their companies were in weak financial shape, compared with 54 percent of white business owners. And Black owners face unique challenges. While owners from all other demographics told the Fed that their main problem at the moment was low customer demand, Black respondents cited a different top challenge: access to credit.

When Jenell Ross, who runs an auto dealership in Ohio, sought a Paycheck Protection Program loan, her longtime bank told

her to look elsewhere—a message that large banks like Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo delivered to many of their customers in the program's frenzied early days.

Days later, she obtained a loan from Huntington Bank, a regional lender, but the experience stung.

"Historically, access to capital has been the leading concern of women- and minority-owned businesses to survive, and during this pandemic it has been no different," Ms. Ross, who is Black, told a House committee last year.

COMMUNITY GROUPS STEP IN

Community lenders and aid organizations took a shoe-leather approach to filling the gaps.

Last year, the American Business Immigration Coalition, an advocacy group, worked with local nonprofits to create a "community navigator" program that sent outreach workers to Black, minority and rural businesses in Florida, Illinois, South Carolina and Texas. They plowed through roadblocks, Whac-a-Mole-style.

Language barriers were common. Many business owners had never sought a bank loan before. Several didn't have an email address and needed help creating one. Some hadn't filed taxes; the coalition hired two accountants to help people sort out their finances.

"Our folks literally went door to door and walked people through the process," said Rebecca Shi, the group's executive director. "It's time-consuming."

The group's work netted \$8 million in Paycheck Protection Program loans for 219 businesses. For those companies, the help made a profound difference.

TruFund Financial, a New York lender that focuses on historically disadvantaged communities, spent two hours of staff time, on average, on each of the 490 loans it made last year—far more than larger lenders put in. Dozens of its applications took 10 hours or more to complete, said James H. Bason, TruFund's chief executive.

Many of TruFund's customers walked in the door after being turned away by large banks, where "not being able to speak to anybody at the bank, sitting around waiting to hear, and then not hearing anything for weeks—all of that created a lot of anxiety for our small-business borrowers," Mr. Bason said.

Shaundell Newsome, a Las Vegas business owner and a co-chair of Small Business for America's Future, an advocacy group, said improving outcomes for Black business owners would require deliberate, sustained changes throughout the banking industry.

"The solution is intentionality," he said. "What I mean by that is making sure bankers, regulators and policymakers stay intentional on building Black businesses and helping us get access to capital."

That's a message Mr. Newsome passed on to Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen in a recent meeting. Ms. Yellen has pledged to increase support for minority-focused lenders and make other changes to alter a financial system that, in her words, still produces outcomes unacceptably similar to those of the days when Jim Crow laws were in effect.

Economic crises like the one now gripping the country "hit people of color harder and longer" and intensify economic inequality, Ms. Yellen said at that meeting. "I am worried the current crisis will do this again. In fact, I know it will, unless we act."

HONORING OFFICER MARK FROST UPON HIS RETIREMENT FOR 27 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Mark Frost, upon his retirement on December 1, 2023 for 27 years of dedicated service to the people of the State of California as a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer.

Officer Frost began his journey in law enforcement in Sacramento at the California Highway Patrol Academy on December 2, 1996, and successfully graduated on June 6, 1997. Following his graduation, he was assigned as a California Highway Patrol Officer to the CHP Hayward Office.

He later transferred to the Merced Office on October 1, 2001, where he served in various roles such as the union representative in the California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP) for the CHP Merced Area, and as the CAHP District 3 Defense Representative.

Additionally, Officer Frost was certified as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and served as a CPR instructor. His expertise also extended to firearm safety as the Weapons Range Safety Officer.

Showcasing his attention to detail and commitment to maintaining the integrity of the law enforcement process, he served as the Evidence Officer for the CHP Merced Office. His leadership qualities were further recognized as he assumed the responsibilities of Officer in Charge (OIC) and Acting CHP Sergeant for the Merced Area.

Officer Mark Frost exemplifies the highest standards of duty and commitment to public service with his 27-year career as a California Highway Patrolman. Every day, he tirelessly strived to serve the people of the State of California, earning the admiration of myself and his local community in the Central Valley.

RENEWABLE FUEL FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to co-sponsor the "Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act" (H.R. 6681), with Representatives MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS (R-IA01), NIKKI BUDZINSKI (D-IL13), and CARLOS A. GIMENEZ (R-FL28). This bipartisan bill would make maritime biofuel fully eligible under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renewable Fuel Standard, which currently only applies to biofuels for motor vehicles, airplanes, locomotives and, in limited circumstances, recreational boating or vessels on inland waterways.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), Congress authorized the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which works to simultaneously reduce transportation-related emissions from fossil fuels and support do-

mestic agriculture, forestry, and biofuels manufacturing. However, current law excludes otherwise eligible biofuels for ocean-going vessels. No rationale was ever provided for this exclusion in the Congressional hearing record or Committee reports for the 2005 and 2007 Energy Bills.

This arbitrary, counterproductive exclusion denies the burgeoning advanced biofuels and renewable natural gas industries in the United States important maritime customers. Our bipartisan bill would fix this problem by simply striking the exclusion, allowing domestic biofuels producers to obtain an RFS credit for selling to customers in the Jones Act and global maritime industries. The United States Navy has even sought to use renewable maritime fuels but has so far been stymied as domestic blenders simply do not make renewable maritime fuel because of this unnecessary exclusion.

To be clear, although modern engines for large vessels are increasingly capable of burning advanced biofuels instead of heavy bunker fossil fuels, our bipartisan bill would not require the use of renewable fuel in all ocean-going vessels. Instead, our bill would merely expand the potential market for biofuels and remove a statutory disincentive for developing renewable maritime fuels.

According to the USEPA's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks from 1990 to 2021, the transportation sector accounted for approximately 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions nationally, the largest of any economic sector. Tackling the climate crisis requires every industry to transition to cleaner, renewable fuels including the international ocean shipping and cruise industries. In July 2023, the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted new global standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from commercial cargo vessels and cruise ships. Our bipartisan "Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act" (H.R. 6681) would support the global maritime industry's transition to alternative fuels like advanced biofuels and renewable natural gas from methane capture.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Renewable Fuel Standard's exclusion of fuel for ocean-going vessels, without any stated rationale, has created unnecessary regulatory complexity, hindered the advanced biofuel and renewable natural gas industries, and undermined the global effort to reduce maritime emissions. I encourage all Members of Congress to join me in removing this outdated restriction by co-sponsoring our bipartisan the "Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act" (H.R. 6681).

HONORING CAROL WOOD FOR HER DEVOTION TO THE CITY OF LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and community leader who has been a constant voice and a steadfast advocate for the city of Lansing, Michigan, for decades. Carol Hallman Wood was first elected to Lansing's City Council in

1999, but has been involved in neighborhood and community issues her entire life. As she now steps back from elected office, I offer my deep gratitude for all she has done to make Lansing a better, stronger place.

Carol was just a toddler when her parents and two siblings moved across the country from Colorado to Michigan. They settled in Lansing and quickly instilled in their children the notion that there was nothing more important than being part of a community and helping the people in it. A proud product of Lansing Public Schools, Carol attended Michigan Avenue Elementary School, Genesee Street Elementary School, West Junior High School, and graduated from J. W. Sexton High School. After high school she made a big move to Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked for the state's public school library system, but returned to Michigan following the death of her sister in a plane crash. This would unfortunately not be the only time Carol and her family experienced profound tragedy.

Upon her return to Lansing, Carol picked up where she left off, working alongside her mother, Ruth Hallman, to build up the community. The two were so close Carol eventually moved right next door, living in the very same neighborhood where she grew up. In partnership with community groups, the two spearheaded the effort to change the city's housing code, turning rentals back into ownership opportunities for low to moderate-income residents. They also worked with local law enforcement to implement team policing, and in collaboration with Neighborhood Watch and the Genesee Neighborhood Association, brought the number of homes in the community with documented drug activity down from a high of 137 in 1988 to just 6 today.

But the neighborhood that made Carol who she is also brought her greatest pain, when her beloved mother was brutally attacked in her home in July of 2007, and died a few days later of her injuries. Devastated but unbroken, Carol refused to let this horrific incident drive her from her home, and instead redoubled her efforts to fight for her community, an angel no doubt fighting right alongside her.

Six times the voters returned Carol to the Lansing City Council, and during her nearly quarter-century tenure she has chaired every committee and held virtually every position, including Council President on five occasions. She continues to give back to the community by serving on various boards and commissions, and as executive director of Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties. She is the proud mother of two sons, and a grandmother to four.

Carol personifies the ideals of service, and has shown us all the power and true definition of living in community. I thank her for her extraordinary devotion to Lansing.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer

Act, which would give the District of Columbia the authority to increase the pay of its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The D.C. CFO is a local D.C. official and is paid with local D.C. funds. D.C. should have the authority to set the pay of all its employees. Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability passed this bill.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, Congress established a maximum rate of pay of the CFO, and the D.C. Council has no authority to increase that rate. Congress does not cap, or otherwise establish, the pay of any other D.C. employee. Under this bill, the CFO would be paid at the greater of a rate equal to the current maximum rate of pay or a rate established in law by D.C.

D.C. requested that I introduce this bill to enable it to retain and recruit the best CFOs. The D.C. CFO was established by Congress in 1995. Congress vested the CFO with extraordinary powers and designed the CFO to be independent of the D.C. Mayor and Council. D.C. cannot obligate or expend funds without the CFO's approval. The CFO manages an approximately \$20 billion budget that consists of state, county and city functions, and the CFO has more than 1,700 employees. The CFO may be removed only for cause by the Mayor, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Council and a 30-day congressional review and comment period. This bill would help maintain the independence of the CFO by establishing a permanent floor on the CFO's pay and by prohibiting the Council from reducing the CFO's pay during the CFO's term.

Although the D.C. CFO is the most powerful non-elected official in D.C., more than 20 D.C. employees are paid more than the CFO. D.C. must compete with both the private and public sectors for high-quality CFOs, and there are many private- and public-sector CFOs who are paid more than the D.C. CFO.

This bill is critical to the financial operations of D.C. and is an important step to increase home-rule authority for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE VENTRIS C. GIBSON UNITED STATES MINT DIRECTOR, GREATEST GENERATION COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGN DISPLAY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks by the Honorable Ventris C. Gibson.

Good Afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here to introduce the designs for the 2024 Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin Program. Every day, across the Nation, the Mint connects Americans through coins. Next year, it will be our great privilege to connect America to the service and sacrifice of American soldiers and civilians during the Second World War.

The National World War II Memorial stands as an important symbol of America's national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and power that flows when free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause for liberty. This is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World

War II and acknowledges the commitment and achievement of the entire Nation. It honors the more than 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Their legacy is part of our American story.

Since the Mint's establishment in 1792, the women and men of our workforce have taken great pride in rendering the story of our nation through enduring examples of numismatic art.

As the largest mint in the world, the United States Mint produces the coinage required by our Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. In addition, Congress authorizes a maximum of two commemorative coin programs annually to celebrate and honor American people, places, events, and institutions. I would like to thank Senator Browne, Representative McHenry and Representative Waters for their work to get the Greatest Generation out of their respective committees and working with the sponsors, leadership and Mint to ensure the language was correct and passed in time for 2024.

Since the beginning of the modern commemorative coin program in 1982, the United States Mint has raised more than \$522 million in surcharges authorized to help build or enhance new museums, preserve historical sites, and support important national programs. In accordance with legislation, the Mint includes a surcharge as part of the price of each commemorative coin. These surcharges are authorized to be turned over to the sponsoring organizations for projects that benefit the community. In this case, surcharges are authorized to be awarded to the Friends of the National World War II Memorial to support the National Park Service in maintaining and repairing the memorial, and for educational and commemorative programs.

I'd like to tell you a little about the designs. The gold obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Heidi Wastweet and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Eric Custer, depicts the Wall of Stars at the World War II Memorial with an olive branch. The inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," "2024," and "WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL."

Designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Ben Sowards and sculpted by United States Mint Chief Engraver Joe Menna, the gold reverse depicts a folded flag with the inscriptions "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "WWII MEMORIAL," "TO UNITE THE GENERATIONS OF TOMORROW," and "FIVE DOLLARS."

The silver obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Beth Zaiken and sculpted by United States Mine Medallist Artist Phebe Hemphill, features an allegorical tableau of figures supporting a globe. Each figure represents a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII (Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy, Army, and Marine Corps) plus a figure representing the critical work of the Merchant Marine. The inscriptions are "1941-1945," "WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL," "DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM," "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "2024."

Designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Ben Sowards and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Renata Gordon, the silver reverse design depicts a view from beneath a baldacchino, a sculptural canopy, inside a victory pavilion in the World War II Memorial featuring four eagles holding a laurel wreath. Inside the wreath is a globe centered on the Pacific Ocean. The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "VICTORY," "IN THE AIR," "AT SEA," "ON LAND," "WWII MEMORIAL," and "ONE DOLLAR."

The half dollar obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Elana Hagler and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Craig Campbell, features a reimagining of the figure of Liberation on the World War II Victory medal, awarded to all who served in the Armed Forces during the War. The inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," "WORLD WAR II," "2024," and "WE ANSWERED THE CALL."

The half dollar reverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Matt Swaim and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist John McGraw, depicts the World War II Memorial from the point of view of a person walking up a ramp leading to one of the towers. The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," and "HALF DOLLAR."

The Greatest Generation commemorative coin designs are emblematic of the National World War II Memorial and the service and sacrifice of American soldiers and civilians during World War II. We hope this program will honor their courage and their spirit. It is our pleasure to assist the Friends of the National World War II Memorial in their efforts to teach the lessons of yesterday to unite the generations of tomorrow.

Thank you all very much.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT R. GOSNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Colonel Robert R. Gosney, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country, fellow warriors, and neighbors. I am proud to present him with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

During his years of service in the U.S. Army, he went above and beyond to serve his country. COL Gosney was a master of many assignments and responsibilities during two tours in Vietnam (where he served alongside his brother), including various field artillery, army aviation assignments, and commanding the 25th Infantry Division Aviation Battalion. COL Gosney also served as Chief of the U.S. Military Mission in Monrovia, Liberia.

His commitment to service didn't end when he left the military as he remains active in numerous community organizations. COL Gosney was a member of the Temple Founder Lions Club for 38 years, serving his neighbors by identifying and responding to the needs of the community as their main goal. He also is a valued member of the Christ the King Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus in Belton, TX. He's made lasting and indelible contributions that make Central Texas a place we're all glad to call home.

COL Gosney's life tells the story of a man unafraid to contribute both his time and energy to the defense of our nation and the betterment of his community. His devotion to service before self reflects the best of the generous American spirit.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 13

- 10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Space and Science
To hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy. SR-253
- Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights. SD-226

DECEMBER 14

- 9 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress, S. 461, to make certain irrigation districts eligible for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 1118, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic

rivers, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1662, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, S. 1776, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, S. 1955, to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2247, to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the "Mount Blue Sky Wilderness", S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees. SD-366

- 9:30 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine substance use trends among older adults. SD-106
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the diabetes epidemic. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions. SD-562

1 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Human Rights and the
Law

To hold hearings to examine protecting
the human rights of foster children.

SD-226