

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HELEN BUYCE'S
104TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Buyce, a remarkable constituent from my district celebrating her 104th birthday. Helen was born February 2, 1920, in Wells, New York, but now resides in Newtown, Pennsylvania to be closer to family.

Helen Dampier graduated from Wells Central School in 1938. She first started working as a housekeeper and then moved on to a job at General Electric during World War II working alongside Rosie the Riveter. During this time, she began to date Roy Buyce, who joined the United States Army while Helen waited patiently for her true love to return. On February 26, 1946, they finally were married and made their home in Wells, New York, where she lived until moving to Bucks County. While living in Wells, Helen worked for the United States Postal Service.

Helen and Roy spent many of their winters in Florida. She and Roy had their own vegetable garden, and she was well known for the pickles she made. Helen lost Roy in 1998 but stayed in Wells until she was 99. She kept active in the Wells community and enjoyed baking and cooking, especially for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She spent her time relaxing by reading her favorite novels. Helen's nightly ritual included watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, reading the newspaper, and doing crossword puzzles.

Since Helen first arrived at Buckingham Valley Rehabilitation Center, she has never missed a BINGO game. She loves getting her hair done weekly and never misses an appointment. She comes to all entertainment and makes sure to sit upfront. Helen relishes conversation with staff and always leaves you smiling.

Helen could not be prouder of her growing family in Bucks County, PA. Joan, her only child and her son-in-law, Jim, live in Yardley, PA. Her two granddaughters, Jenny, and Katie, having families of their own, live only short distances away. Helen is well known to be a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and aunt. She is affectionately known as "Granny" to 5 great-grandchildren.

To Helen, family is everything. Her daughter Joan calls her every evening and comes to see her regularly. On special occasions, Joan will help her FaceTime other members of the family so she can enjoy and participate in life celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's Blessings to Helen Buyce on the celebration of her 104th Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 8, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

RECOGNIZING OFFICER CAMERON
FLINN

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Officer Cameron Flinn on earning the status of the 2023 Springettsbury Township "Officer of the Year."

Officer Flinn began his service with the Department in February 2022. After several years' experience in two other agencies, their loss clearly was Springettsbury's gain. In his short time serving Springettsbury thus far, Officer Flinn is a Department leader in calls handled, criminal investigations, and traffic enforcement. In 2023 alone, he handled 587 incidents, had 277 traffic contacts, investigated 58 motor vehicle crashes, and executed 136 criminal arrests. He frequently welcomes new challenges, and assumes as much responsibility as possible to serve our community—all while soliciting additional training that resulted in his recent selection as a member of the York County Forensics Team.

In one of many notable incidents, Officer Flinn was dispatched to Hollywood Casino at the York Galleria Mall for a subject in cardiac arrest. While attending to the individual, responding officers were alerted to a second individual also in cardiac arrest on the casino floor. Officer Flinn administered lifesaving Naxalone and CPR to both individuals, who regained consciousness and were up and talking within a half hour.

While maintaining his high productivity and professional standards of conduct, Officer Flinn also excels in the area of community engagement. The Department receives myriad Citizen calls commending him and his performance of duty(ies), as well as testifying to his friendly interactions with them. He's also earned various praise from numerous colleagues for his outstanding work. During the holiday season, Officer Flinn took the initiative outside of his official duties to organize a "Shop With a Cop" event at a local store; he took note of the families that received gifts at the event, and then raised additional funds to purchase gifts for those children. His impact on the community both in and out of official duty status is exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I'm truly grateful, privileged, and honored to recognize and commend Offi-

cer Cameron Flinn for earning the Springettsbury Township Police Department 2023 "Officer of the Year" award. His tireless, loyal, and dedicated service is the standard by which all others should be judged.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MR. PORTER FRIERSON

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Porter Frierson, who served in the 42nd Regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War.

A native Tennessean, Mr. Frierson was born in 1849 in Macadonia. Joining the Union Army at a young age, Mr. Frierson served as a drummer in Company A of the 42nd. Formed in both Chattanooga and Nashville, the 42nd performed valuable service as a garrison regiment; providing for the protection of territory held by the Union Army before being disbanded in 1866. Mr. Frierson is buried today in Rose Hill Cemetery in Humboldt, Tennessee.

The son of an enslaved woman with two brothers and a sister, Mr. Frierson would go on to raise a family of his own after serving his Nation. He is remembered today by his descendants, who are rightly proud of his service. I invite all my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of this great American hero.

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY
YELENCHIC'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Yelenchic, an amazing constituent from my district about to celebrate her 101st birthday. Dorothy was born in Broughton, Pennsylvania on February 7, 1923. Dorothy had three brothers and one sister.

Dorothy attended school in Pennsylvania and worked at a drugstore afterwards. Following this, Dorothy worked in a bakery, which she loved, and still enjoys a sweet treat every now and then.

Dorothy met and married her husband, Stephen, in 1947 after the pair met at a dance. Together, they moved to Levittown, Pennsylvania for Stephen's job at United States Steel Corporation and were among Levittown's original homeowners.

They raised three children, Gary, David, and Carole in the Blue Ridge Section. Dorothy was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her family at Penn Warner Club, as well as shopping in Levittown Shopping Center with

• 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.

her daughter and son. Dorothy was an excellent homemaker and an especially good cook, known for her soup.

Dorothy now has one grandchild, Candice, and three great-grandchildren, Valerie, Hannah and Dylan. Dorothy loves music, having engaging conversations, and is always happy with a good cup of coffee. To this day, Dorothy still loves polka music.

As we celebrate her 101 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the positive impact she has made on all who know her.

CONGRATULATING SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SEWA DIWALI

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hindu Community in Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize the successful completion of Sewa Diwali in the Salt River Valley, led by Vaibhav Navghare and the dedicated members of the non-profit Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh. This excellent organization was founded by Kenyan Hindus in the 1940s and is active in 156 countries. They are responsible for putting together Sewa Diwali each year, which is a large food drive to celebrate the spirit of selfless giving during the festival of Diwali. Under Mr. Navghare's leadership, 9,300 pounds of food were collected by over 110 volunteers from 40 different organizations in the Salt River Valley. All of the proceeds directly benefitted the Navajo tribes at Flagstaff.

I am incredibly proud of the hard work that Mr. Navghare and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh put into helping those in need and I thank them for their service. May their charitable endeavors inspire others to give back as well; they exemplify the best of Arizona.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote series on Monday, February 5, 2024, and the first vote series on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, due to an unexpected medical emergency and corresponding recovery time in the hospital.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 32; YEA on Roll Call No. 33; NAY on Roll Call No. 34; and NAY on Roll Call No. 35.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I missed the votes because of travel complications. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DUIS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, the deceptively titled "Protect Communities from DUIs Act" uses a catchy name to mask the true intent of the bill. This flaw led me and others who care deeply about public safety and the threat of drunk drivers to oppose. There are already existing laws that make someone deportable if they are convicted of a "crime involving moral turpitude," where the crime—including a serious DUI—is punishable by imprisonment of one year or more.

H.R. 6976 would expand current law for individuals who have been convicted of a single misdemeanor. This could include a legal resident who is 50 years old who had a single offense at age 18. Disrupting families and communities in such a case doesn't make sense and public safety would not be served.

TRIBUTE TO TARA VANDERVEER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise an extraordinary American, Stanford Women's Basketball Coach, aka 'T Dawg', Tara VanDerveer. On January 21, 2024, she won her 1,203rd game, setting an all-time record for the most coaching wins in the history of college basketball. She achieved this in 45 seasons and has led her team to three N.C.A.A. championship victories.

Tara VanDerveer is the daughter of Dunbar and Rita VanDerveer and was born in Boston in 1953. She didn't play basketball at her first high school, but she played when she transferred to Buffalo Seminary in her junior year. She attended Albany University where she played as a freshman, then transferred to Indiana University, Bloomington where her team reached the AIAW Final Four.

After college, Tara took an unpaid assistant coaching position at Ohio State where she quickly ascended to Assistant Coach and Head JV Coach. She then became Head Coach at the University of Idaho. She returned to Ohio State as Head Coach for the 1980–1981 season and left to become Stanford's Head Coach in 1985. Her record at Stanford was 27–5 by her third year, and her team earned a bid to the N.C.A.A. tournament in 1988 and has done so every year since. In 1989 Stanford won the Pac–10 regular season and in 1990 reached the Final Four. Tara took a one-year leave from Stanford to coach the U.S. Olympic team, winning the Gold at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Tara is loved by her players and is known for her fairness and her moderate temperament. Her rules for leadership success include having a vision for her team, maximizing each player's strengths, and minimizing their weaknesses. She wants her players and staff to complement her, not compliment her, and she always remembers her father's advice that you

'can't win the Kentucky Derby on a donkey.' She is a good listener and a constant learner who credits her parents for teaching her the most about leadership.

Tara VanDerveer and the Stanford Women's Basketball team have brought entertainment and joy to legions of fans. Home game nights are sacrosanct for the team's devotees. They won't miss a game for anything. The fans know how much Tara deserves the almost fifty Coach of the Year awards she has earned.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Stanford Women's Basketball Coach Tara VanDerveer. I'm exceedingly proud to represent her and her teams in the Congress and know that all my constituents join me in a huge college cheer for this amazing champion. She is widely and affectionately known by her well-earned sobriquet, G.O.A.T. Tara VanDerveer is indeed the Greatest Of All Time. She is a national treasure and a jewel in the crown of the 16th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not able to vote for the first suspension yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 32.

CELEBRATING AVANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate AVANCE for their 50 years of service uplifting Latino families to their fullest potential. San Antonio is proud to be home to the headquarters of this leading nonprofit, which is dedicated to improving the lives of Latino communities through high quality and culturally responsible early childhood and parenting education.

In 1973, San Antonio native Dr. Gloria Rodriguez saw a need to address growing systemic racial inequalities in education on our city's Westside. Fifty years later, what started out as a program serving 35 San Antonio families at one housing development project has grown into a national-scale operation. AVANCE now serves more than 13,000 caregivers and children every year throughout Texas and California.

AVANCE believes that parents are their child's first teacher and that home is a child's first classroom, and that thinking guides their core Parent-Child Education Program. They work tirelessly to foster economic mobility for Latino families by opening the door to opportunity for both caregivers and children.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of families have been impacted by AVANCE's work. By 2030, Latinos will make up nearly 30 percent of the American student population.

Our nation's prosperity goes hand in hand with the success of these students, and organizations like AVANCE that are ensuring that the next generation of American leaders have a strong foundation. I look forward to many more years of powerful work from AVANCE and endless possibilities for Latino families to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. QUENTIN
ROMAN STAMBAUGH

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Quentin Roman Stambaugh on the auspicious occasion of his 100th Birthday on February 8, 2024.

Mr. Stambaugh dedicated much of his impressive 100 years to the honorable service of our Nation. He first reported for duty on 6 April 1943, to then-Camp George G. Meade, where he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and then completed Basic Training in Miami Florida. He was assigned to the U.S. Army Technical School in Sioux Falls SD, where he trained to become a Radioman and Mechanic. He progressed to Yuma, AZ as a Gunnery School trainee, and learned to operate the B-25/Mitchell Aircraft. After vigorous training, he was deployed to the Southwest Pacific region at the height of WWII, serving as a Radioman and Tail Gunner, and making his mark on our Nation as part of "The Greatest Generation."

Mr. Stambaugh heroically flew 38 Combat Missions, during which he had four take downs against the Japanese enemy, and numerous enemy installations. He earned the Expert Marksman badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and a personal letter to his parents from General George Kenney, Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific. In the letter, General Kenney cited Mr. Stambaugh's "Meritorious Achievement while participating in aerial flights in the Southwest Pacific area from February 25, 1945 to March 30, 1945 . . ." and noted his service as ". . . a real and very tangible contribution to victory and peace." General Kenney further stated that "I would like to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have men such as your son in my command, and how gratified I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our Country's battle against the aggressor nations. You have every reason to share that pride and gratification." Mr. Stambaugh, having brushed with death numerous times, never forgets his Brothers-in-Arms who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation, fellow Warriors, and our way of life.

Returning home after earning an Honorable Discharge on 18 December 1945, Mr. Stambaugh transitioned to civilian life at PH Gladfelter in Spring Grove, and earned a Magistrate position in York County—further serving our Nation in a judicial capacity for four consecutive six-year terms. Mr. Stambaugh and his wife, Bertha, had three children, and he still lives in the home he and Bertha built together near his childhood home in Spring Grove.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored, privileged, and humbled to celebrate Mr. Quentin Roman Stambaugh on the blessed occasion of his

100th Birthday. His tireless, selfless, and dedicated service of our communities, Commonwealth, and Nation sets the standard by which we should all be judged. I wish him continued Godspeed.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I share my colleagues' support of H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. This bill is pro-growth, pro-small business, pro-family, and will truly help our people in southern and eastern Kentucky.

I want to first point out that this bill will help folks in my district who are still recovering from the devastating flooding that we endured in 2021 and 2022. The recovery process has been long and difficult, and this bill takes important steps to make it easier for flood survivors to deduct their losses by eliminating minimum loss requirements and not penalizing individuals for compensation they received. Our people need all the help they can get, and this bill will help us move forward and build back stronger than ever.

This bill will also help our families struggling with the lingering impact of inflated high prices by expanding access to the child tax credit, eliminating the penalty for larger families, and ensuring that the tax credit is adjusted for inflation, so this benefit isn't reduced over time. This will truly make a difference for the people of Kentucky's rural Appalachian region.

This tax relief bill will also boost our economy, jumpstart innovation by allowing businesses to deduct research and development costs immediately, which will enable us to always be at the forefront of the world economy. It will also help small businesses by incentivizing capital investments, enabling them to boost their growth and increase productivity. Finally, this bill eliminates wasteful COVID era spending by accelerating the deadline for backdated claims under the employee retention credit.

This credit system has experienced rampant fraud and abuse, and its elimination will save hardworking Americans taxpayer dollars.

I am proud to support this legislation, and urge the Senate to consider it quickly to provide much-needed tax relief in southern and eastern Kentucky and across our great Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EL PASO COUNTY SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the El Paso County Senior Meal Program.

Since February 1974, El Paso has been assisting seniors across our community to receive at least one warm meal a day through

the Older Americans Act. The program first started at the Sacred Heart Church Center and St. Alban's Church Center and there are now over 16 centers across El Paso. The El Paso County Senior Meal Program ensures that no senior goes hungry.

Today, in partnership with various regional government entities such as the City of El Paso, City of Socorro, City of San Elizario, Town of Clint, as well as grant funders including the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, El Paso County remains committed to delivering essential services, including providing nutritious meals, facilitating socialization, conducting wellness activities, and performing safety checks. These services are consistently offered across 16 congregate sites, where a dedicated team of both staff and volunteers works collaboratively to serve approximately 12,057 congregate meals each month. Additionally, an impressive 39,000 home-delivered meals are distributed monthly as part of this initiative.

Today, it is my privilege to recognize the significant contributions of the El Paso County Community Services Department personnel, as well as their partners and the multitude of volunteers involved in delivering these essential and crucial services to our community, for the last 50 years. I wish them continued success and impact for many years to come.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, do you all remember when our good friend, MITT ROMNEY, talked about the 47 percent of the takers?

This bill locks in the principle that we have takers and makers. We have \$600 billion of tax breaks to the wealthiest corporations that may become permanent, and yet some woman who gets up in a rural area and marches off to the grocery store and works 30 hours a week still won't be able to get the full refundable child tax credit because she is too poor. She is a taker; she is not a maker.

This is a compromise bill. It is better than current law where that same minimum wage worker would have to work 70 hours a week in order to get this tax credit now only has to work 40 hours a week, plus do a little Uber on the side to get the tax credit.

So I think we need to compromise, but we don't need to capitulate. And I represent the 47 percent of those deemed takers. We are going to expand this tax credit for poor children, but the poorest will be even poorer.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO SECURE OUR NATION'S SOUTHERN BORDER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I share my colleagues' support for H.R. 5585,

the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, H.R. 6678, the Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act, H.R. 6679, the No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act, and H.R. 6976, the Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act.

Our Nation is amid unprecedented chaos at our southern border. Every day, thousands of illegal aliens are flooding over the border and into our cities, increasing crime at alarming rates. The rise of unabated human trafficking at our southern border should be among our greatest motivations for meaningful action. While some illegal aliens are fleeing oppression and poor economic conditions in their countries, many of them are trafficking large quantities of drugs, weapons, and other contraband. At a time when Americans are dying from fentanyl and other drug overdoses at catastrophic rates, we must do everything in our power to slow the stem of trafficking. Moreover, with surges in violent crime across our country, we need to ensure that our federal immigration authorities have the resources necessary to remove illegal aliens who commit crimes against innocent Americans.

Each of these bills aim to empower federal authorities to reject or remove illegal immigrants who commit certain crimes. This includes aliens who intentionally evade border patrol agents or law enforcement assisting those agents; aliens who commit social security fraud; aliens who are convicted of driving under the influence; and aliens who are members of the Hamas terrorist group or involved in the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

We must take action to make the United States safer, and I am proud to support these efforts to do exactly that.

HONORING DR. CLEOPHUS A.
ROBINSON

HON. ANDY KIM
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible accomplishments of Dr. Cleophus A. Robinson of the Willingboro Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

Serving as a Tuskegee Airman in the United States Air Force during World War II, Dr. Robinson dedicated almost 40 years of his life to serving our country. It was in the Air Force when he joined the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, of which he has been a member for 74 years. In 1975, Dr. Robinson became a Grand Chapter Life Member of the fraternity and went on to become a founding member of the Willingboro Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base Alumni Chapter which aims to inspire interest in public service. Dr. Robinson's dedication to the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and service has had ripple effects across our communities in Burlington County, New Jersey, and across the Garden State.

Not only has Dr. Robinson dedicated his life to serving his community and bettering the lives of those around him, he also received his Masters of Public Administration from the City University of New York, and later went on to earn his Doctorates in Education from Rutgers University.

The scope of Dr. Robinson's work has touched innumerable lives. He was one of the

founding members of the Southern Burlington County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and served 15 years as a member of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP. Through his work with this organization, Dr. Robinson uplifted the voices of his community and empowered underrepresented families across the state to stand up for what is right and just.

Dr. Robinson not only excelled at serving his country and community, but he is a family man, married to his wife, Leonia McClland, for over 60 years with three adult children.

While many community members locally know Dr. Cleophus Robinson and his positive impact in our community, today I'm proud to honor his tenure as a public servant and veteran of the United States Air Force. We are lucky to have his inspiration in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND AMERICAN SAMOA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act, which would authorize tuition assistance grants to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition costs for Marianas and American Samoa community college graduates seeking to attend a four-year public university.

The importance of having an educated citizenry is a bedrock principle of our nation and has been since our founding. And in today's competitive job market, a postsecondary education is increasingly becoming a critical necessity for obtaining a decent job with a decent wage.

The Northern Mariana Islands has only been part of America for forty-five years. We understand well that education is key to our continued growth, but the reality is that household incomes in the Marianas are less than half the national median. The U.S. territory of American Samoa is in similar economic straits. Poverty and unemployment rates there are among the highest in the country.

I believe the best way to improve economic conditions in these territories is to improve the educational opportunities available to our residents. Unfortunately, however, neither the Marianas nor American Samoa have a four-year institution of higher education. In fact, they are the only U.S. states or territories in the country without a public four-year college or university. Each has an accredited community college, but academic offerings are substantially limited.

Students from these U.S. territories wanting the advantages of a four-year university in another state or territory face significant financial difficulty. Nonresident students spend an average of \$16,380 in out-of-state tuition and fees more per year than their resident peers at public four-year colleges, according to College Board. That \$16,380 differential puts a four-year college degree out of reach for many students from our islands where the median

household income is \$30,000. And many students in the Marianas and American Samoa wanting to attend a four-year university not only face the cost of out-of-state tuition, but also the significant expense of travel. The Marianas is over 3,700 miles from the nearest state, Hawaii—a \$1,100 one-way trip by plane. American Samoa to Hawaii is over 2,500 miles, which is over \$800 one-way.

The bill follows the model of P.L. 106–98, the D.C. College Access Act, which allows students residing in the District of Columbia to apply for grants to help pay the cost of attending colleges outside D.C., but much smaller in scope and cost. My legislation creates a program through which public four-year schools in the 50 states, D.C., and other U.S. territories may be reimbursed for offering in-state tuition to undergraduate students from the Marianas and American Samoa.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and help give students from the Marianas and American Samoa the means needed to make their educational dreams a reality.

HONORING PAUL DILLON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the career and accomplishments of one of southeastern Connecticut's most prominent veterans' advocates, Mr. Paul Dillon. Paul has dedicated his retirement from his service in the U.S. Navy to being a staunch defender of veterans both within his hometown of Gales Ferry, Connecticut, and around the southeast region.

Paul served in the Navy for nearly a quarter century from 1956 to 1980 and was an exemplary sailor. His service encompassed the Vietnam War and his tenure saw him promoted to U.S. Navy Master Chief. After service, he became a member of my Veterans Advisory Council, the president of the Nautilus Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Navy, and more. In 2012, he was befittingly inducted into the CT Veterans' Hall of Fame. The efforts he has made to protect and serve his country reflect his generosity and patriotism. His selfless commitment to his community and to veterans from across the country has undoubtedly inspired future generations.

Paul Dillon courageously and honorably served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, putting his life on the line to defend our nation. He was a Master Chief Radio Man on the USS *Oklahoma City* and USS *Providence* for three years. Paul rose to the challenge of working over 18 hour days, surrounded by constant fire. The stressful conditions of war were no match for Paul's tenacious spirit. He continued to work tirelessly to protect our country. His presence was integral to the protection and preservation of democracy and every American's liberty.

Unfortunately, Paul was exposed to Agent Orange during his tours and to this day he suffers from the health complications caused from the chemical exposure. After his years of active-duty service ended, he quickly focused

on advocating for veterans, especially for Blue Water Navy veterans like him who suffered from similar service-connected health complications. Shockingly, the U.S. Veterans Administration in the early 2000's refused to grant "presumptive eligibility" for agent orange exposure health illness for veterans of AMERICA'S sea services. The VA's "foot on the ground" rule granted such coverage for Army and Marine Corps ground troops creating an outrageous disparity and discrimination against Navy and Coast Guard veterans of the Vietnam War. It took 17 years of constant advocacy to finally get Congress to pass a new law correcting this injustice. Paul's personal experience with the lasting impact of exposure served to enhance his advocacy ability, giving him a unique understanding of the hardship endured by many Vietnam era veterans. It was an honor for me as his congressman to help achieve this hard-fought legislative victory as an original cosponsor of this measure.

When he was appointed as the Northeast Regional Vice President of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), he worked on behalf of other veterans to protect and enhance their earned benefits.

After his retirement from the Navy, Paul joined Sonalyst Inc. By 1983, he started at Northeast Utilities as a telecommunication manager at Millstone Nuclear Power Station, retiring from his second career in 1997. One year after his second retirement, Paul started at the Retired Activities Office (RAO) at NSB New London where he remains today.

Paul's sense of modesty and obligation to the Connecticut veteran community has been evidenced through his numerous volunteer commitments. In addition to his work at the RAO, he participates in events to honor the veterans of the district, such as when he lays wreaths on graves of veterans at the Jordan Cemetery in Waterford as part of Wreaths Across America. Moreover, he served the Co-Chairman of Kaps for Kids in Groton. With Kaps for Kids, he visits sick children, brightening their days, at a local hospital each Veteran's Day. His attentiveness to those experiencing adversity is heartening and inspiring.

I am honored and privileged to know Paul Dillon on a personal level. Paul has been an irreplaceable asset as a member of my Veterans Advisory Council. His wisdom surrounding veterans issues is extremely useful, it is a pleasure to receive his guidance. He is a dear friend of my office and frequently assists on myriad issues relating to veteran affairs.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and immortalize the continued works of Paul Dillon. In addition to his distinguished service career, he has been a mainstay of the veteran community within my district. It is no small consolation to know that model citizens like Paul continue to inspire future generations. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending and thanking Paul Dillon for his endless service to the public.

HONORING TONYA FINLEY-MCCAW

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Tonya

Latrice Finley-McCaw. Mrs. Finley-McCaw was a remarkable servant leader who touched the lives of so many people across the St. Louis community.

A passionate advocate, Mrs. Finley-McCaw fought tirelessly for the rights of families and workers, including aiding efforts across the region and state for living wages and the right to unionize. Together, alongside her inspiring son and a stalwart community leader, Rasheen, the pair were never far from a picket line, joining striking workers and allies demanding fair wages in the "Fight for \$15" movement.

Mrs. Finley-McCaw was indefatigable. In addition to her strong support of labor rights and economic justice, she also chaired St. Louis City's Moms Demand Action chapter in an effort to tackle the crisis of gun violence in our communities and received several leadership certificates and accolades for her wide-ranging work and advocacy throughout the St. Louis region.

Born on July 7, 1970, in Chicago, Illinois, to her loving parents, Samuel and Dorothy Finley. She was also blessed with an amazing sister, Tejuania Finley. Finley-McCaw attended and graduated from Parkway South High School, where she was crowned prom queen. She later pursued higher education at St. Louis College of Health Careers and obtained her certification as a phlebotomist.

Mrs. Finley-McCaw was married to the love of her life, Rick McCaw, for 27 years. She is the proud mother of three sons: Rashaad Crawford, Rasheen Aldridge, and Rasheed Finley. She is the stepmother to Rickey McCaw, Rikieya McCaw, Malik McCaw, and Bernard Wings. When she wasn't spending time with her family or working to improve the lives of her St. Louis neighbors, Mrs. Finley-McCaw loved to cook (especially on holidays), play with her dogs, travel, and spend time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Finley-McCaw was a great friend and mother figure to many. I have fond memories of her. I have fond memories of her helping to support me as I worked hard to represent the people of Missouri's First District. She provided unparalleled guidance and never faltered in the work of ensuring St. Louis has the representation it deserves at every level of government. I got to witness what a remarkable human she was to those around and what an incredible mother she was through my personal friendship with Rasheen. She touched so many of our hearts and she will be deeply missed. May her memory forever be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN
MACFARLAND'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marian MacFarland, a remarkable constituent from my district who is about to celebrate her 100th birthday. Marian was born on February 13, 1924, in Eldred, Pennsylvania, moved to Feasterville, and now resides in Newtown, Bucks County.

Marian Edgar graduated from Eldred High School, in Eldred, PA. She moved to Philadel-

phia, PA working at a Munitions Plant where she met John Russell MacFarland. Russ worked at the Naval Yard as the Chief Petty Officer in charge of repairs and re-outfitting the Naval ships. Marian and Russ were married on January 17, 1948, after he came home from World War II.

Marian and Russ moved to the suburbs in 1952, building their dream home together in Feasterville, PA. Marian worked for Strawbridge's department store in Philadelphia before starting a family. She and Russ are blessed with two sons, John and David, and one daughter, Jean Marie. She also has six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. She is immensely proud of the many family "get togethers" at her home where the main course was always chips and dip served with tuna hoagies.

Marian made her move to Buckingham Valley Rehabilitation Center with ease, making new friends as she shared her joys of life. She still enjoys gardening, working in the yard, trimming her plants, and attending to her flowers daily. Marian loves dancing, and she insists that it is what kept her in such great shape all these years. She loves her pet therapy visits and a nighttime snack with her roommate. Everyone who knows Marian would agree that her sweet tooth is her top priority.

Marian has an enthusiastic sense of humor and imagination. She loves to reminisce with her daughter Jean and son-in law, Bill about life's great memories, while her son David always comes for nightly visits. Marian has created lasting memories that affect every person she has encountered thus far in her life, and it is my fervent hope that she continues her positive impact on our community, district, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's Blessings to Marian MacFarland on the celebration of her 100th Birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BELLE ORTIZ, THE MOTHER
OF MARIACHI

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of the House in recognition of the life and legacy of Belle Ortiz, a legendary San Antonian and the Mother of Mariachi.

Born on February 12, 1933, Isabel "Belle" A. Ortiz grew up on the west side of San Antonio, TX. She began her musical journey at the age of four, and as a youth, Ms. Ortiz performed across the city with various orchestras. After graduating from Our Lady of the Lake University, she began her career as a public school music teacher, eventually landing at Lanier High School, her alma mater, in 1970.

At a time when speaking another language besides English was frowned upon, Ms. Ortiz was committed to teaching music that reflected the rich cultural diversity of Texas. At Lanier High School in San Antonio, she created the high school ballet folklorico program, the first of its kind in the country. Through her continued advocacy, thousands of schools,

colleges, and universities worldwide now offer their student musicians a mariachi education.

Ms. Ortiz helped co-found the Mariachi Campanas de America, an award-winning ensemble of musicians that have performed all across the country, bringing the rich history of mariachi to places like the Hollywood Bowl, the Kennedy Center, and performed at the White House for five different U.S. Presidents.

An active member of her community in San Antonio, Ms. Ortiz served on many local

boards and committees, and was a recipient of many lifetime achievement awards and honors for her dedication to making mariachi and its rich history accessible to generations of aspiring musicians.

Her life is now being celebrated in the award-winning documentary “Suena La Educación: The Story of Belle Ortiz”. This month, the Lanier High School music building in San Antonio, TX, will be renamed in her honor.

In Ms. Ortiz's final days, hundreds of mariachi musicians came to her bedside and played for her, paying tribute to this trail-blazing icon. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas, I am honored to celebrate the life of Ms. Belle Ortiz, who left behind an incredible legacy that transformed mariachi music from a local tradition into a worldwide cultural phenomenon.