

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KELLY WHEATON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Kelly Wheaton, who is retiring after more than 38 years of faithful Service to our Nation culminating in his service as the Deputy Chief Counsel for Enforcement in the Transportation Security Administration for the past 14 years.

Kelly Wheaton was born in Dallas, Texas, and was raised in a small town in the middle of Tennessee after his father died at a young age. Mr. Wheaton went on to attend the University of Notre Dame on a four-year ROTC scholarship and graduated with honors. After undergrad, he graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

His passion for service and dedication to our country led Mr. Wheaton to the U.S. Army in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. There, he served 23 years and rose to the rank of colonel. He held almost every position in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990, Liberia in 2003, and Afghanistan in 2005. He received numerous accolades and honors throughout his military service, including the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan and the Defense Superior Service Medal for his service as the Chief of Staff for the DoD General Counsel.

In 2008, Mr. Wheaton joined the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the role of Deputy Chief Counsel for Enforcement. As the Deputy chief Counsel, he held authority from the Administrator to address violations of TSA's security requirements. He oversaw the work of attorneys providing legal advice and support in the areas of regulatory enforcement, intelligence, international law, criminal law and internal investigations, and credentialing, vetting, and screening.

From January 2021 until June 2021, Mr. Wheaton was selected to accompany the Administrator when he served as the Acting Secretary and Acting Deputy Secretary. That year his efforts were recognized when he received the prestigious Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Rank Recipient, an award that was established back in 1978 to honor a select group of career members for a sustained record of exceptional professional achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wheaton on his retirement. I am proud to represent Mr. Wheaton in Congress, and I thank him and his family for his honorable 38 years of service to our Nation with the U.S. Army and Transportation Security Administration.

HONORING THE IMPRESSIVE SERVICE OF ANDREW O'GRADY

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Andrew O'Grady, CEO of Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County, for his extraordinary 30 years of service to those affected by mental illness and addiction in the Hudson Valley.

Andrew has been with MHA of Dutchess County for 23 years and managed the transition of Case Management Services and Mental Health Clinics, from Dutchess County government to MHA and local hospitals. Through his embrace of change and leadership in development, design, and staffing, New York State has had successful major transitions in the human services sector.

Andrew has appeared on both radio and television speaking about mental health in an effort to eradicate stigma associated with getting care.

He has been a leading voice in discussing mental health and addiction in his community and has been recognized locally and statewide for his leadership and commitment.

As President of the NYS Care Management Coalition, Andrew helped grow the annual conference and the Coalition added a new website. Andrew also lobbied for the continuation and modification of the Health Home Care Management system in New York State. He is also a senior adviser to a new whole health support app-based business called PACIFYr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Andrew O'Grady for his service in fighting for mental health awareness.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7176, UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 7176—the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024.”

This bill, H.R. 7176, would substantially weaken the federal review and authorization process for natural gas exports.

Specifically, it removes the requirement under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) that the Department of Energy first determine liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports be in the public interest before approving export applications to non-free trade agreement countries.

These determinations currently involve a review of the economic impacts, including potential changes to domestic natural gas and electricity prices on consumers and manufacturers.

They also consider the environmental impacts of the exports.

Finally, they consider potential effects on the security of the U.S. natural gas supply.

Instead of maintaining this time-tested and reliable process, this bill assumes that all LNG exports are automatically in the public interest. This is reckless and irresponsible.

By removing a crucial safeguard for American consumers, this bill allows our adversaries, like China, to purchase even more of our energy to use against us.

Multiple analyses have found that increased LNG exports directly lead to higher natural gas prices here at home.

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, LNG exports cost American consumers over \$100 billion over a 16-month period.

Over the last five years, doubling our LNG exports has led to natural gas prices more than tripling in 2022.

Expert testimony supports this conclusion as well.

On February 7, 2023, the Subcommittees on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a joint legislative hearing entitled “Unleashing American Energy, Lowering Energy Costs, and Strengthening Supply Chains.” At this hearing, the Subcommittees heard testimony from Mr. Tyson Slocum.

In his written testimony, Mr. Slocum detailed how increased LNG exports have raised costs for American consumers, and that loosening the approval process for LNG exports would likely further increase the high prices Americans pay for heating and electricity.

Mr. Slocum also testified that increased LNG exports would further tie American natural gas prices to international natural gas prices, decreasing our economic independence and exposing Americans to increased gas price volatility.

Supporting documents entered into the hearing record further underscored the point that a sudden decrease in U.S. LNG export capacity has historically resulted in a plunge in natural gas prices.

That is not the only problem with this negligent and short-sighted bill.

H.R. 1130 also eradicates existing protections that ensure American LNG is not being exported to rival nations against the public interest.

According to the Energy Information Administration, 13 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to China in 2021—that is over 450 billion cubic feet.

As it stands, this bill is far too overinclusive to be in the best interest of the people.

During both the Subcommittee and Full Committee markups, Democrats introduced reasonable amendments designed to address their concerns.

However, the majority has voted down all such efforts.

• 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.

Democrats have tried and tried again to meet Republicans in the middle on this.

Instead of working with us, however, our colleagues across the aisle have remained entrenched.

Instead of focusing on the welfare of our American people, they are attempting to pass out a giant handout to Big Oil and Gas that will simultaneously enrich many of our economic adversaries.

Many of these companies already enjoy billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies and are taking in recordbreaking profits since Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Republicans may point out that last month, President Biden announced a temporary pause in the Department of Energy's (DOE) approval of LNG exports while DOE completes a public interest analysis.

Importantly, however, this pause only applies to new export applications.

It does not impact currently-operating export capacity or impact capacity that is under construction, and it does not impact capacity that is permitted but has not yet started construction.

DOE's updated public interest determination is an opportunity to take long-overdue action to make sure additional exports are benefitting Americans.

This extreme bill would kill all efforts to ensure that our LNG exports are in Americans' best interests.

I will always stand behind the hardworking middleclass individuals that are the backbone of our society.

As such, I urge my colleagues to do the same and vote no on this reckless and overbroad bill.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
ELI TREMONTI AS VETERAN OF
THE MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S
NINTH DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valor and contributions of Private First Class Eli Tremonti, who I am honored to select as the Veteran of the Month for February from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. It is with great honor that I highlight the exemplary service and dedication of this true American hero, whose courage and commitment has left an indelible mark on our Nation's history.

Born on December 8, 1923, in Vassar Township, Michigan, to an immigrant family with deeply rooted values of hard work and patriotism. Eli Tremonti was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1943, during a pivotal moment in world history. His service during World War II as a B-24 tail gunner in the European theater is a testament to the bravery and resilience of the Greatest Generation.

PFC Tremonti's military accolades reflect his exceptional service and dedication. During his service, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon, adorned with one Bronze Star and one Silver Star, which recognizes his participation in critical battles and campaigns. These include

Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and "Air Offensive, Europe." His accolades as a Carbine Expert and Rifle Marksman were beyond distinction, and also showcased his proficiency and steadfast service in the face of remarkable adversity.

Beyond the battlefield, Eli Tremonti's story is one of love, commitment, and community. Married to his beloved wife Virginia for 65 years, he has exemplified the virtues of loyalty and devotion not only on the front lines but in his personal life as well. After returning from the war, he dedicated himself to his work at Eaton Manufacturing in Vassar, contributing significantly to his local community until his retirement in the early 1980s.

PFC Eli Tremonti's life story is one of heroism, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our Nation. His service during one of the most challenging periods in world history reminds us of the profound impact that one individual's courage can have. It is with immense pride that I honor him today as the Veteran of the Month for Michigan's 9th District, a fitting tribute to a distinguished veteran who truly embodies the American Dream.

It is an honor to express my deepest gratitude and respect for PFC Eli Tremonti. His legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our service members and their families, inspiring future generations to uphold the values of freedom and democracy that define the United States.

VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT
BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY
CONTEST—1ST PLACE HIGH
SCHOOL WINNER, ZAHARA FLOWERS

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay by 1st Place High School Winner, Zahara Flowers:

As a student and a future voter, the words of Barack Obama resonate deeply within me. In a world that constantly calls for transformation, it is crucial that we do not wait for others to usher in the change we desire. Instead, we must recognize our own influence and seize the opportunity to become active participants in shaping the future of our communities and our nation. Through a combination of education, advocacy, and civic engagement, we can harness our collective power to effect meaningful change.

Education is the foundation of empowerment. As students, we have a unique opportunity to expand our knowledge and understanding of the pressing issues facing our society. By immersing ourselves in subjects such as history, civics, and social sciences, we gain valuable insights into the root causes of inequality, injustice, and structural barriers. Moreover, education equips us with the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze complex problems and develop innovative solutions. As such, I encourage my peers to prioritize their education and to actively seek out opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom.

However, education alone is not enough. We must also translate our knowledge into action through advocacy. This involves raising awareness about key issues, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, and

holding our elected officials accountable. One way to do this is by engaging in community outreach efforts. Whether it's through volunteering with local nonprofits, participating in protests and demonstrations, or simply having conversations with friends and family, every action we take has the potential to create ripple effects of change. Additionally, we can utilize social media platforms to share information, mobilize support, and build solidarity around important causes. By harnessing the power of our collective voices, we can create a momentum that compels policymakers to take meaningful action.

Furthermore, civic engagement is essential for fostering a culture of democracy and social responsibility. As future voters, we have a responsibility to participate in the electoral process and to exercise our right to vote. This means registering to vote, staying informed about candidates and ballot measures, and turning out to the polls on Election Day. Moreover, we must recognize that our civic duty extends beyond casting a ballot every few years. We must also actively engage with our elected officials, advocating for policies that reflect our values and priorities. Whether it's writing letters, making phone calls, or attending town hall meetings, our voices have the power to shape the political landscape and influence decision-making at every level of government.

In conclusion, the journey toward meaningful change begins with recognizing our own power and embracing our role as change makers in our communities. Through education, advocacy, and civic engagement, we can harness the power of collective action to address the pressing challenges of our time. As students and future voters, we have the opportunity and the obligation to shape the future we want to see. Let us heed the call to action, knowing that the power to create change lies within each and every one of us. As the first Black President of the United States, Barack Obama, once said: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 NORTHERN
VIRGINIA FOOTBALL HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEES AND AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame (NVFHOF) and congratulate the 2024 inductees, youth and high school award winners, citizen volunteers, and scholarship recipients.

Participation in organized sports instills many values that will serve our youth well throughout life, including sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and the work ethic developed by striving for success and working together to achieve a common goal.

This year, the NVFHOF recognizes the efforts of players, coaches, officials, and dedicated volunteers from local youth and scholastic football programs, and will induct two exceptional individuals, who have made significant contributions to the game. In addition, the NVFHOF presents several outstanding student athletes with scholarship awards to help defray the cost of college.

I commend the NVFHOF and congratulate the following players, coaches, and community leaders who are being recognized during the 2024 NVFHOF Awards Banquet:

Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame 2024 Inductees: David Hall and Oren Burks

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Michael Terence—Musician

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Ed Miller—Assistant Commissioner CYA

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Jeff Fehrman—Gainesville/Haymarket Football

Football Official of the Year: Steve Lorenzetty—Northern Virginia Football Officials Association

High School Players of the Year: Cord Yates—Madison HS, Kevin Kabasele—McLean HS, Brady Echols—West Springfield HS, Elijah Williams—Edison HS, Brandon Binkowski—Battlefield HS, and Luke Jarvis—Madison HS

High School Coaches of the Year: Justin Counts—James Madison High School and Mike Dougherty—Lake Braddock High School

Youth Coaches of the Year: Luis Siguere—Gainesville/Haymarket, Damon Raymond—Ft. Hunt Football, Calvin Parker—Vienna Youth Inc., Scott Diep—DI Sports & Athletics

Youth Players of the Year: Giovanni Noble, Scott Shaw, Tyler Cabrera, Jeremiah Rosario, Karim Jean, Kaden Golston, Gabriel Helmstutler, Cole Henson, Thomas Polivka, Anthony Hunter, Benjamin Scheuerman, Hudson Rita, Elijah Otchere, Josiah Bolme, Zachary Lesniewski

Scholarship Recipients: Ivan Flores-Gomez, Annandale HS; Charles Beamon, Westfields HS; Ryan & Lucas Matheny, Lake Braddock HS

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable students, coaches, and community leaders for their tireless dedication to becoming the best that they can be. As their achievements are memorialized during the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame Banquet, I hope that we can all learn from the example these individuals have set, working as a team to accomplish great things.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF
BOB MOORE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the amazing life of my friend, Bob Moore. He was an icon in so many ways.

It was such a delight to visit him in his company headquarters. The connection he had with all his employees was astounding. He was an evangelist for healthy foods, understanding nutrition, and giving quality products to the public. He built a thriving business, and then turned it over to his employees to continue his amazing tradition of quality, innovation, and service.

I learned a great deal from Bob about healthy food and of course caring for the public. We are all richer for his legacy. Evidenced each time young people go overseas with packages of his food to help sustain them.

I thank Bob for enriching our lives with a model that everyone should embrace.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
LAWRENCE D. McRAE UPON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Lawrence D. McRae and to honor his retirement as vice chairman and corporate development officer of Corning Incorporated in Corning, New York.

A native of Berkeley, California, Mr. McRae earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Morgan State University and an MBA from Harvard University.

Mr. McRae began his career as a senior accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He joined the Controllers division at Corning in August 1985 and held a broad range of leadership positions in finance, sales, marketing, and general management. In 1990, he was named manager of International Sales, before being named business director for Revere Ware Corporation, a unit of Corning Consumer Products Company, in 1993. He was then appointed vice president of Corning Consumer Products Company and president of Revere Ware Corporation in April 1995. He next moved to Telecommunications Products, serving as division vice president of Global Development from 1996 to 2000. McRae led Corporate Development beginning in 2000 and joined Corning's Senior Leadership Team in 2007. In 2015, Mr. McRae was named vice chairman.

For nearly four decades, Mr. McRae played a pivotal role in shaping Corning's evolution—contributing to its past successes and helping build its strong future. He was a key partner and leader on many of Corning's most critical and successful projects, including the acquisition of Samsung Corning Precision Materials, the strategic realignment of Corning's ownership interest in Dow Corning Corporation, and Corning's majority ownership position in Hemlock Semiconductor. Over the course of his career, Mr. McRae also served on the board of directors of the Dow Corning Corporation, Samsung Corning Precision Materials, Samsung Corning Advanced Glass, LLC, Hemlock Semiconductor Group, and the Corning Foundation. In 2023, the Corning Black Employees Network honored him with a lifetime achievement award named for its inaugural recipient, Lawrence D. McRae.

Corning Incorporated is the beating heart of the Southern Tier's economy. On behalf of the state of New York, it is a privilege to thank Mr. McRae for his 38 years of distinguished service to Corning Incorporated and his important contributions to our great state and Nation. I wish the McRae family—including his wife, Sharon, and daughters, Lauren and Rory—health and blessings in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND RE-
FLECTION ON THE LEGACY OF
BLACK BUSINESSES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Black History Month, to reflect on the legacy builders that contributed to the rich entrepreneurial history and culture of the great city of Chicago and beyond. Manufacturing, banking, retail, grocery, and restaurant ownership are among the industries that the 6 Collins brothers dominated on the south and west sides of Chicago for more than 50 years.

The eldest Collins, Ernest T., founded Seaway National Bank in 1965 and was credited with pioneering the 24-hour supermarket concept at his four grocery store locations called The Food Basket, founded in 1952. Argia B. Collins, Sr., the youngest Collins brother, an accomplished restaurateur, created Chicago's original barbecue sauce brand—Argia B's Mumbo Sauce in 1950. Crafted as a signature sauce for his popular southside restaurants, the Mumbo Sauce brand debuted in a national advertising campaign in Life magazine. Collins not only tantalized the taste buds of Chicagoans but also became an integral part of the local community. A visionary entrepreneur and champion of small business, Argia B. was passionate about economic development and the growth of the African American business community. In fact, Collins was involved with Operation Breadbasket, a program initiated in 1966 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to address economic issues affecting African American communities. He assumed a key position in operation breadbasket's efforts in Chicago, working alongside Reverend Jesse Jackson and other business leaders in the Chicago chapter. Argia B. utilized his business acumen to help advance the organization's goals, particularly in promoting economic empowerment and financial opportunities for African American businesses. The association with Operation Breadbasket resulted in the Argia B's Mumbo Sauce brand being among the first products manufactured by an African American company to gain chain-wide distribution with major grocery retailers in 1967. Other Chicago brands that were part of this significant campaign included Joe Louis Milk Company, Parker House Sausage, Grove Fresh Orange Juice, and Conway Cleaning Products, all quality brands created and manufactured by African American producers.

I recognize and commend the contributions of the Collins brothers and the other African American business vanguards of the Operation Breadbasket movement which embody the spirit of resilience and ingenuity that defines the city and exemplifies the legacy of Black entrepreneurship. Indeed, the Collins family's Chicago roots run deep, anchoring them to the values of integrity, generosity, and solidarity that define the city's spirit.

Today, Allison Collins, the daughter of Argia B., carries the torch of her father's vision as CEO of Select Brands, preserving its important 74-year legacy and ensuring that the spirit of the Mumbo Sauce brand continues to

thrive. The company has expanded the distribution of Argia B's mumbo barbecue sauce beyond the confines of Chicago. Over the years, mumbo sauce's popularity has soared, and it is now prominently displayed on retail shelves across the country. This iconic sauce brings a taste of our city's culinary excellence to households nationwide, showcasing the enduring appeal of the company's 74-year commitment to quality and flavor. This accomplishment not only underscores the sauce's widespread appeal but also reflects select brands' dedication to sharing the flavors of Chicago worldwide.

Again, I thank the Collins family for their tireless efforts and unwavering devotion to the city of Chicago. Their legacy will continue to inspire and uplift generations to come.

We wish them continued success.

CELEBRATING R&R PARTNERS
FOR 50 YEARS OF ADVERTISING
EXCELLENCE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate R&R Partners for 50 years of promoting Las Vegas around the world.

On January 18, 1974, Sig Rogich founded R&R Advertising. The firm quickly made a name for itself by landing casino accounts and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. A short nine years later, Sig Rogich hired Billy Vassiliadis, then a 26-year-old Chicagoan and fellow Greek American. I had the pleasure of teaching Billy at UNLV where he was a political science major and already engaged in local politics.

Just as Southern Nevada grew from a population of 350,000 in 1974 to 2,300,000 in 2024, R&R Partners has grown from a small firm to an advertising and public affairs institution with hundreds of employees in offices around the country and in Mexico. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1999, R&R Advertising changed its name to R&R Partners, emphasizing the full service that R&R provides to clients. In addition to advertising, the agency offers legislative advice and often works pro bono for good causes.

In a 2004 profile, the New York Times declared Billy, "The Pied Piper of Las Vegas", saying that, "Every dream needs a merchant, every myth a mythmaker. In Las Vegas, the job falls to Billy." I've always said that while other congressional districts make cigarettes or cars, in Las Vegas we make dreams come true. And Billy and R&R Partners have played a key role in spreading that message around the world.

In 2003, R&R developed their most famous advertising campaign, one that has made Las Vegas the international tourism destination that it is today. "What happens here, stays here" is heard in movies, music, and even commercials for unrelated products.

This simple and suggestive slogan ushered in a new era of tourism for Las Vegas. The iconic tagline was honored on Madison Avenue's Advertising Walk of Fame and won R&R Partners and LVCVA Brandweek magazine's Grand Marketer of the Year Award.

Billy and R&R have not only created winning campaigns for Las Vegas's casino and tourism industry, but also for causes like the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, and "Flip the Script", a state-wide anti-bullying campaign. R&R has also assisted various public entities like the Southern Nevada Water District in its compliance campaign, "It's a desert out there. Be water small."

Today, R&R remains at the forefront of advertising and public affairs in Las Vegas and around the world. Whether it is the 2020 remix of their famous slogan for LVCVA, "What happens here only happens here"; campaigns for the Las Vegas Raiders, Las Vegas Grand Prix, and Super Bowl LVIII; or innovative work for Fortune 500 companies, and non-profits and government entities, R&R continues to deliver for its clients and for Southern Nevada.

I am honored and pleased to call Billy Vassiliadis a longtime friend and am proud of the work R&R Partners has done for our community over the past 50 years. I cannot wait to see what the future holds. What happens at R&R, does not stay at R&R.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
VANESSA GRANT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McCaskey High School senior Vanessa Grant for her recognition as "Most Outstanding Attorney" at the Empire Mock Trial tournament in Chicago, Illinois.

For the past four years, Vanessa has participated on the McCaskey High School Mock Trial team, beginning her time virtually during the pandemic. Despite the added challenges, she overcame the obstacles and became the team's leader a few years later.

This year, Vanessa led her team of twelve to the invitational competition against teams from across the world before sitting judges. The judges awarded Vanessa a perfect score in the defense of her case, an esteemed honor coming from legal professionals.

Vanessa's dedication to her team is admirable. She spends hours every week reviewing numerous cases her team will argue at future competitions, or even for fun.

The coaches and attorney advisors of the team praise Vanessa's growth and confidence as a leader and future international criminal lawyer, high praise reflected in her long list of accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Vanessa on her success at the Empire Mock Trial tournament and wish her and the rest of the McCaskey Mock Trial team all the best as they finish out the rest of their season and going forward. I wish Vanessa continued success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Chapter includes the communities of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Stafford County.

Coinciding with the local chapter's 20th Anniversary is the international organization's 112th Anniversary. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on November 17, 1911, by three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman, along with their faculty adviser, Professor Ernest E. Just. Together, they laid the foundation of an organization based on the core principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul", the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. For 112 years, the membership has upheld a strong tradition of friendship and civic engagement.

The chapter was chartered on January 24, 2004, by the fraternity's Supreme Council led by the 37th Grand Basileus, Dr. George H. Grace and the Third District Representative, Brother Curtis Baylor. The 29 Charter Members of the chapter are Brother Crispin A. Abad, Brother Honney L. Barner, Brother David Bell, Brother Gene Bryson, Brother Willie D. Camp, Brother Byron L. Cherry, Brother Leonard Daniels, Brother Phillip Ferguson, Brother Anthony M. Fields, Sr., Brother Walter Gooley, Brother Gregory L. Hamlett, Brother George M. Hampton, Brother Darryl K. Hairston, Brother James Harris, Brother Steven B. Holmes, Brother William H. Hundley, Brother Alexander King, Brother Johnny Q. Ledbetter, Brother Bennie J. Lotlie, Brother Herbert Mitchell, Brother Bernard V. Oliphant, Brother George M. Parker, Sr., Brother Jordon C. Pope, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Carl T. Ross, Brother Andre Smith, Brother Arthur A. Sobers, Brother David Stevenson, and Brother Algie Walker, Jr.

The chapter members are expected to participate in social action programs and activities that will uplift their communities. Some of the activities under the umbrella of social action include voter registration, education, Assault on Illiteracy, Habitat for Humanity, mentoring, and participation in fundraisers for charities such as American Diabetes Association, United Way, Sickle Cell Anemia, etc. Additionally, the chapter offers 5 different scholarship opportunities for students.

The chapter leadership over the 20 years has been past Chapter Basilei: Brother Bernard V. Oliphant, Brother Byron L. Cherry, Brother Harvey L. Woodson, Jr., Brother George M. Parker, Sr., Brother Trevor J. Hamilton, Brother Tony B. Bullock, Brother David Holliday, Brother Raymond Bell, Brother Eddie Stephens, Jr., Brother Jeffrey Allen, and the current Chapter Basileus, Brother Charles Hunter.

The chapter has won many fraternity and civic awards most notably the following International Awards:

2005–2006 International: Social Action Chapter of the Year

2006–2007 International: Social Action Chapter of the Year

2010–2011 International: Social Action Large Graduate Chapter of the Year

2010–2011 International: Graduate Large Chapter of the Year

2011–2012 International: Graduate Large Chapter of the Year

2014–2015 International: Graduate Large Chapter of the Year

2019–2020 International: St Jude & Omega—The Power of Giving 2020 Top Chapter Fund Raiser

2020–2021 International: St Jude & Omega—The Power of Giving 2021 Top Chapter Fund Raiser

2021–2022 International: St Jude & Omega—The Power of Giving 2022 Top Chapter Fund Raiser

2022–2023 International: Social Action Chapter of the Year

2022–2023 International: St Jude & Omega—The Power of Giving 2023 Top Chapter Fund Raiser

The Pi Lambda Lambda's 20th Anniversary Celebration was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, in Dumfries, VA. The committee chaired by Brother Trevor J. Hamilton and assisted by Brother Daryl Furman, Brother James Lloyd, Brother James Rowe, Brother Derwin Babineaux, Brother Randall Webb, and Brother Rowland Webb, Sr. has planned a wonderful event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc for their 20th Anniversary. It is civic groups like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

HONORING BURT BUNDY

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Tehama County resident, Burton Miles Bundy, my good friend who passed peacefully at home, on January 25, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Burt was born on October 2nd, 1941, in Santa Maria, California. In 1946 his family moved to a ranch in Los Molinos, California, where he lived until his last day. He was a graduate of Los Molinos High School in the class of 1959 before attending University of California, Davis. Burt enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1960 and specialized as a jet aircraft mechanic on F102's, F105's and F106's. He was stationed at McCord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Washington where he met and married his wife Joyce McGinn in 1962. Afterwards, he deployed to Thule, Greenland before being discharged in 1963.

In 1968, Burt and Joyce opened the Los Molinos Feed and Supply Store. They owned the business until Burt was elected to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors in 1981.

Burt was a leader in water, land, and fish issues throughout the North State. Burt not only served as County Supervisor for five terms, but he also served as a board member on the California Bureau of Reclamation, the California State Farm Bureau, the Tehama County Farm Bureau, the Regional Council for Rural Counties, the Northern California Land Trust, the Mill Creek Conservancy, and the Los Molinos Mutual Water Company. In 1998 he developed and led the Sacramento River Conservation Forum until his retirement in 2010. His outstanding service and dedication to his community was instrumental in the development of the area and his contributions will live long past his time of service.

Burt was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and a friend to so many. He and his wife Joyce have attended nearly every Tehama County event. They were always willing to volunteer and lend a hand when anyone needed help. He coached his sons for years with Little League, was a lifetime member of the Central Tehama Kiwanis and played cards with a group of friends for over 35 years. He was a dedicated husband and father as well as a public servant, volunteer, and businessman who spent hours working for the betterment of the community around him.

An avid hunter, Burt's special place was a cabin located on Mill Creek where he enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends. He loved the San Francisco Giants and listened to all the games on the radio. He loved to fix up old cars and raised cattle his entire life. Burt not only traveled with Joyce but traveled around the world representing his lifelong passion for farming and ranching as a graduate of the 1998 AG Leadership Class 29.

He will take a seat at the poker table with his buddies in heaven who are waiting for him.

Burt is survived by his wife Joyce of 61 years, sons Lance and Justin, his grandchildren Britta, Carson, Angus, Abbey, and Axel, and his sister Ruthe. Burt leaves a legacy and example to follow. He will be missed dearly.

HONORING MRS. ZETELDA WYNTER ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Zetelda Wynter of Lithonia, Georgia, in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Wynter was born in the Parish of St. Mary, Jamaica, on February 20, 1924. After attending Carron Hall School and dressmaking school, she became a professional seamstress and opened her own clothing store.

After some time, she and her family set their sights on a new beginning in the United States. In 1968, she settled in Virginia and later the greater DMV area with her family. She also had a notable career in various aspects of the hospitality industry. She became a naturalized citizen in 1986 and staunchly advocated for her children to follow in her footsteps.

Mrs. Wynter's life has been about resilience, service, and determination. In the face of unspeakable tragedy when she lost her youngest

son at the hands of a drunk driver, she joined the Washington, D.C. chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) where she turned her pain into purpose by working to save lives and prevent families from experiencing the same grief she had.

Seeking a warmer climate and a new chapter in their lives, Mrs. Wynter and her husband, Egbert, moved to Lithonia, Georgia, in 1997. A devout Christian, she was very active in her local church and continued serving her community by visiting nursing homes. She is an inspiration to all who meet her, including the many generations of her large and loving family.

I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Zetelda Wynter a very happy and blessed 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Entrepreneurship Week. During Black History Month, I am proud to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Black small business owners and champion solutions that will build on the progress that has been made.

Thanks to historic federal investments through the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Inflation Reduction Act, Black business ownership is growing at its fastest pace in 30 years and Black wealth is up 60% from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we celebrate these historic gains, it is important to recognize the challenges that Black small business owners still face when seeking access to credit. According to the Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity, Black-owned businesses are three times more likely to be labeled a higher credit risk than non-Black counterparts, and 72 percent of businesses use personal savings to overcome difficulties accessing credit from other sources.

Business owners in my district have experienced these barriers. Ché Houston, the "Macaron Maven of Atlanta" and owner of Ché Rene Macarons & More, has herself experienced difficulty securing financing for her growing business. Despite these challenges, Ché's business has continued to grow at a rapid pace. Last year, she earned recognition as OUT Georgia Business Alliance's New Business of the Year, and she continues to serve as an Ambassador for OUT Georgia Business Alliance where she assists new members in Food and Beverage startups. She is also a stakeholder with the Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs.

Here in Congress, I am fighting for solutions that will eliminate barriers that business owners like Ché face when developing and growing their small businesses. And back home, I am committed to sharing federal resources that have been made possible through the historic investments from the Biden-Harris Administration. I urge my colleagues to consider additional solutions to help our entrepreneurs thrive. Together, we can champion solutions that invigorate our communities and strengthen our economy.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. HENRY STANLEY ZAYTOUN, SR.

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the one-hundredth birthday of Dr. Henry Stanley Zaytoun, a significant figure in the North Carolina orthodontic community and beloved father, grandfather, and grandfather. Henry turns one hundred on February 23, and he will be surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Henry Zaytoun grew up in New Bern, North Carolina before enrolling at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed his pre-dental studies. He subsequently attended the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. After graduating from the V-12 Navy College Training Program, Henry went on active duty and served as a Naval Dental Officer at the U.S. Third Army Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. Following his tour in Germany, Henry married Martha Nassif of Wilson, North Carolina, and practiced general dentistry in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Henry returned to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to earn his M.S. in Orthodontics and moved to Raleigh in 1960 to establish his orthodontic practice, where he worked for the next 50 years. He has steadfastly supported the UNC Adams School of Dentistry over the years, co-chairing the capital campaign to construct the building that houses the school, establishing an endowment for a Term Professorship in Orthodontics, and establishing the Henry S. and Martha N. Zaytoun Professionalism and Ethics Award.

In 2004, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley awarded Henry with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest honor that acknowledges exemplary service to the state. He has also been recognized for his support for the arts across the state, even endowing an associate principal trumpet chair for the North Carolina Symphony.

Henry is a beloved father to nine children, grandfather to 24, and great-grandfather to 15. He has made significant contributions to the dental and orthodontic communities in North Carolina and has led a lifetime of extraordinary dedication to the Wake County and North Carolina communities. I am pleased to celebrate his achievements as a community leader and philanthropist, and I wish him well in his next year of life.

RECOGNIZING GARRETT,
INDIANA'S FFA CHAPTER

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Garrett, Indiana's FFA Chapter as they celebrate 90 years of community service, leadership, and agricultural education.

Agriculture is at the very heart of Indiana. Indiana has some of the best farmers in the nation, and America has the best farmers in

the world. Perhaps no organization has had more to do with this than the FFA, which teaches the longstanding values of American farming to each subsequent generation. Farmers don't just cultivate the land and grow America's food; they serve in other ways too.

The Garrett Chapter of the FFA is an excellent example of this service on display. The students spend many of their days in Northeast Indiana giving back, showing up to community events, and advocating for farmers at every level of government.

The Garrett FFA Chapter has experienced nine decades of often tumultuous history. Since its founding in the 1930s, its members have persevered and fed America through droughts, wars, and other perilous conditions. As such, the students who currently constitute this chapter are the recipients of an impressive heritage of Northeast Indiana farmers. They and their children can be proud to carry on this legacy for the next 90 years or more.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CHAPLAIN CHARLIE GRANT

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated public service of Chaplain Charlie Grant of Loudoun County Fire and Rescue.

Before his passing on December 6th of last year, Chaplain Grant was one of the leading members of our community who was known for his dedication to others, integrity, and passion for helping those in need.

Throughout his life Chaplain Grant worked tirelessly in his service to others. He filled his time working to help those in need and to make his community a better place. This is seen in the countless hours he spent serving the members of his community although he did more than just serve. Rather, chaplain Grant established many of the systems and programs still used to help people in our community to this day.

Chaplain Grant was instrumental in creating multiple institutions in our community such as the LINK Against Hunger and the Good Shepherd Alliance which provides housing services for those in need. Further, it's this desire for service and compassion for his community which led him to establish the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Chaplain's Program, the program for which he is perhaps most well-known, in which he was instrumental in providing support and services for the brave men and women of Loudoun County Fire and Rescue.

This legacy of service will be fondly remembered in the community as Chaplain Grant exemplified the ideals of service, dedication, and compassion. The services and programs he established are being carried on by his successors. Even after his passing, Chaplain Grant is still watching over his community.

I want to formally recognize the service of Chaplain Grant to our community and the Nation. He exemplified the ideals of service, charity, and compassion and has irrefutably benefited the lives of countless people of the 10th District of Virginia and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I returned home to Green Bay, WI and was unable to participate in Roll Call Nos. 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 44; YEA on Roll Call No. 45; YEA on Roll Call No. 46; YEA on Roll Call No. 47; YEA on Roll Call No. 48; and YEA on Roll Call No. 49.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF VICKI MODELL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but fond memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman and my good friend, Vicki Modell. Along with her husband, Fred, Vicki became a respected leader and fierce advocate for those diagnosed with Primary Immunodeficiency and their loved ones. Though she will no longer be a daily presence in our lives, those fortunate enough to have known and worked with her will most certainly carry on her legacy.

In 1986, Vicki and Fred Modell lost their only son, Jeffrey, to Primary Immunodeficiency, a genetic disorder that leaves the body unable to fight off infections. Not long after their son passed away, the Modells created the Jeffrey Modell Foundation—not to commemorate Jeffrey's death, but rather to celebrate his life by giving life to others who suffer from the same illness. Today, the Foundation is a global organization devoted to early and precise diagnosis, meaningful treatments, and research toward a cure. Vicki was the heart and soul of the Foundation, and its continued mission to meet its ultimate goal—to find a cure—is her legacy.

I first met Vicki and Fred when they came to me to advocate for increased federal investments in research of Primary Immunodeficiency. From our very first meeting, I was impressed, not only with their determination but their passion. They transformed the devastating loss of their child into a lifelong advocacy effort. Today, the Jeffrey Modell Foundation is recognized as a respected voice for advocacy, education, and research. I could not be more proud of the work we have done together to ensure federal investments in this critical work.

In one of many remembrances, Vicki's family recounted the story of Jeffrey asking his parents to "do something." Through her work at the Foundation and her unwavering advocacy, that was just what Vicki did. Whenever faced with challenges or obstacles, Vicki never took no for an answer—she just kept going. In doing so she made such a difference in people's lives. One of her favorite programs, Roots & Wings, provides lifesaving travel and related support to families whose child has

been identified with a potentially life-threatening Primary Immunodeficiency requiring life-saving medical care far away from home. Jeffrey asked Vicki to “Do Something,” and she did.

As I stand today and extend my heartfelt condolences to Vicki’s husband, Fred, as well as her family, friends, and colleagues, I am inspired to continue to work with them and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation to honor Vicki’s memory by making a difference in the lives of those diagnosed with Primary Immunodeficiency and their loved ones. I look forward to the day when we realize her ultimate dream of finding a cure. I know I, like so many others, will keep the memory of Vicki Modell close as we continue this important work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday February 14, 2024, I voted NO on Roll Call No. 48, when I intended to vote AYE.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE N. SCOTT MOMADAY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor N. Scott Momaday for his remarkable and unforgettable life, a legend to the last word. Mr. Momaday passed away on Wednesday, January 24 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the age of 89. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family. They are in my prayers to find peace and healing.

Mr. Momaday was born in Lawton, Oklahoma on February 27, 1934. After moving to Arizona, his family moved to Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico, also known as Walatowa—meaning the “people of the valley.” There is no surprise in my mind as to why N. Scott Momaday was inspired by this beautiful place, which was often featured in his brilliant works.

Indeed, Mr. Momaday received the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his House Made of Dawn, which is largely credited with igniting a wave of modern Native American literature. He showed us the power of storytelling and the oral tradition—of bringing imagination to life—and shed light on the Native experience and culture. As he once said, “Our very existence consists in our imagination of ourselves.”

Mr. Momaday also reminded us of the importance of the land. He wrote, “We Americans must come again to a moral comprehension of the earth and air. We must live according to the principle of a land ethic. The alternative is that we shall not live at all.”

Today I say thank you to N. Scott Momaday for these stories that preserve the beauty of our lands so that in a changing world, they remain indispensable to our collective well-being for years to come.

Mr. Momaday will be forever remembered across Native America and New Mexico. His writing sparked our imagination and took our

hearts to places our bodies have never touched. He had the ability to paint the picture of a story through the finesse of power in his words. He created space necessary for creative culture to follow. For all this and more, we recognize N. Scott Momaday for his incredible influence on the state of New Mexico and to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM LYNCH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William Lynch for his dedicated service to the Kings County community and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the Kings County Fire Department.

Mr. Lynch’s passion for the fire service began 40 years ago as a volunteer firefighter for Kings County Fire Department. After a few years with the department, Mr. Lynch joined the Hanford Fire Department as a professional firefighter. He quickly moved up the leadership ranks, and was promoted to Captain in 1995, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal in 2004, and Deputy Chief in 2008. In 2011, Mr. Lynch was named Kings County Fire Chief following 24 years of dedicated service with the Hanford Fire Department. After his retirement from the department in 2016, he returned as the Fire Chief in 2020. Over the course of his career, Mr. Lynch has received many professional certifications by the California State Fire Marshal’s Office, including Fire Instructor, Fire Investigator, and Fire Prevention Officer. Mr. Lynch has served as an instructor of fire technology at College of the Sequoias, as well as an instructor of hazardous materials for the California Standardized Training Institute, where he teaches students the skills required to protect their communities from fire hazards and other dangers. Throughout his entire career, and in his many different roles, Mr. Lynch continually demonstrated his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. Mr. Lynch’s decades of service to his community serve as a true testament to his character and leadership abilities. I am confident the impact he has left on the Kings County Fire Department and the broader Central Valley community will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Lynch for his decades of service to the Central Valley and wishing him a happy and well-earned retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNUAL SOJOURNER TRUTH LIFE WALK

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 5th annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk, happening this Saturday, February 17th, at Kingston Plaza in Kingston, N.Y.

Truth was an advocate for civil and women’s rights, abolition, and temperance. Born in

Ulster County, NY, in my district, Sojourner Truth endured the brutal and violent punishments of slavery. In 1826, a year before New York’s abolition law went into effect, she and her young daughter ran away to the household of an abolitionist family in New Paltz, New York. Truth became the first Black woman to sue a white man and win, after her son was illegally sold to a plantation owner in Alabama.

Truth joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, an abolitionist organization, where she launched her activist career.

In 1851, at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention, Sojourner Truth spoke powerfully about equal rights for Black women and her experience, as an emancipated Black woman living in America. Her speech moved audiences and captured the attention of many.

As I commemorate her life on Saturday with the Kingston community, I would like to thank the organizers of the event, Black History Month Kingston, My Kingston Kids, Harambee, the City of Kingston, and Seasoned Gives, and all they have done to put this together. Their work has not gone unnoticed.

VIRGINIA’S FOURTH DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST—1ST PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER, FRANCES WIDMER

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay by 1st Place Middle Schooler, Frances Widmer:

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm did many amazing things to pave the way for Black women in politics during her life and legacy. Her childhood, experience in national politics, and tenure as a congresswoman all speak to the remarkable legacy she left behind. She paved the way for Black women to lead in politics by pushing against the odds, by running against white men, and by challenging the political system.

Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn, New York, but when she was three she moved to her system parents’ homeland of Barbados to live with her grandmother. She was an intelligent girl and excelled in school and was “bossy” to all her older cousins. When she was eight years old, she moved back to Brooklyn with her parents. There she would listen into the political conversations her dad would hold and she became more and more interested in politics. She continued in her education and went to Brooklyn College to study Spanish and sociology, but she was not allowed to study political science because she was a Black woman.

As Shirley became more interested in politics, she attended political meetings and joined the 17th Assembly District Democratic Club. In her club, she realized that they did more chores, like writing thank you cards and holding fundraisers, than helping their community. Shirley Chisholm also began to realize that the congressmen were making promises they could not keep. Wanting to change all of these things, she got into action.

In 1968 Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to be elected to congress. For her to get to this point, she had to face lots of opposition both because of her race and

gender. Despite that, she knew that she had what it took to govern our country. She won by over 21,000 votes, but not everyone applauded Shirley's win. No one in the congress looked like her. In Congress, her first assignment was a position in the Agricultural Committee in America, but she was disappointed. She then used her position to help feed the hungry including people in Brooklyn, her hometown, Shirley Chisholm said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." She kept trying and succeeded in her goal.

In 1972 Shirley Chisholm ran to become the Democratic candidate for the Presidential election. She thought that the U.S. government should reflect America. Though her bid was unsuccessful, she broke the barrier for Black women in politics. Chisholm was the first African American to make a bid for a major party's candidate. She famously said, "If you don't have a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair." She made an opportunity for herself and for others to serve in government.

Shirley Chisholm had many firsts: She was the first Black woman to be in Congress and the first Black woman to make a bid for president in a major party. By doing this, she paved the way for Black women to serve in government. Rep. Lee said, "Ms. Chisholm's mission to include women, children, African-Americans, and other minorities in public policy opened the door to a whole new debate lacking in Congress during that time. She is a remarkable woman who paved the way for many of us . . ."

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
159TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 159th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 19 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the dev-

astating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 159th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 159th Recruit Class:

Michael F. Bookwalter, Blair E. Cerino, Christopher Chong, Antonio J.P. Cipolta, Christopher N. Cognetta, Collin J. Fisher, Kevin J. Flannery, Joshua M. Ford, Imani Y. Gillen, Joseph T. House, Benjamin R. Klingaman, Jacob M. McCabe, Erick Mejia, Erik K. Muhlenhaupt, Nicholas D. Sirinek, Lloyd E. Turner, Jr., Joseph S. Uriarte, Ryan E. Victor, Mitchell J. Wadas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CIVIL
RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
ICON, THOMAS N. TODD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable civil rights leader and social justice icon, Thomas N. Todd. Although his name may not be familiar to everyone, his contributions to social justice and equality in this country are remarkable and have benefited millions of people in ways few others have accomplished. Tom Todd was one of the most electrifying speakers of our time. His impressive oratorical skills were so impactful that his initials "T-N-T" became synonymous with the powerful effect he had on his audiences.

Tom Todd was born in Demopolis, Alabama, in 1938. He later moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he married Janice Roberts. They had two children together, Tamara Nicole and Tracey Newborn. Tom lived in Chicago until he passed away on February 8, 2024.

As a child in Demopolis, Tom's family was poor. His father passed away shortly after his birth. Tom was raised by his mother and stepfather. Unfortunately, his mother also passed away when he was only 20 years old. Due to his stepfather's illiteracy, Tom stayed in Mobile to help with the funeral and burial arrangements. He even considered dropping out of school to assist further. However, he eventually enrolled at Southern University in 1959, where he studied political science and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After graduation, Todd returned to Mobile and worked odd jobs for nearly a year until a friend suggested he apply to law school. Todd returned to Southern University for law school

in 1960 and was admitted solely on the recommendation of a dean who met Todd as an undergraduate and recognized his potential. There, law professors and students represented other students who had been arrested for sitting at whites-only lunch counters at five-and-dime and drug stores—an act of civil disobedience aimed at protesting segregation in Baton Rouge. Todd actively participated in the first lawsuit regarding these protests to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, *Garner v. Louisiana* (1961). He graduated magna cum laude and passed the bar exam on his first attempt in 1963.

Todd then secured a position at the solicitor's office in the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., leaving that job in less than a year to train for the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He practiced law while serving in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967. That same year, he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago. In 1968, he made history by filing the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer for violating an individual's civil rights.

According to United Press International, Todd's case was also the first indictment in the country against a law enforcement official under a new civil rights amendment to the federal criminal code. Chicago police officer Joseph Fine was accused of beating up Eldridge Gaston outside a South Side restaurant. Gaston died as a result of his injuries. Although the case ended in an acquittal, the indictment itself sent shockwaves through the Chicago Police Department and political establishment.

In 1969, Todd opened an office devoted to civil rights that became the country's first local U.S. attorney's civil rights office. His next police brutality case would originate from a fight between black and white students at Chicago's Tilden High School, where police officers had allegedly beaten black students. A newspaper photographer captured one incident, which showed Officer James J. Gorman standing over 16-year-old Roxanne Norfleet with his baton raised as she lay on the ground. Todd got that case to trial, but it ended in 1971 with a hung jury, though 11 panel members favored conviction.

Tom Todd was admitted to many bars and courts, including the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the United States Court of Military Appeals, the Supreme Court of Illinois, and the United States Supreme Court. He was a distinguished black lawyer in the U.S. attorney's office—standing tall, fighting for police brutality victims, challenging the status quo, and prosecuting police brutality cases at a time when the families of murdered Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark had filed civil rights lawsuits against federal, state, and Chicago officials—a time when it was almost unheard of for a U.S. attorney's office to prosecute a police brutality case.

Todd received honorary doctorates from Grambling State University in 1987, Syracuse University in 1990, and Wilberforce University in 1993. Between 1970 and 1974, Todd taught at Northwestern University School of Law, becoming the school's first full-time black law professor. Genuinely interested in seeing young lawyers succeed, he was known to use a lot of anecdotes, legal stories, and significant cases in his teachings.

Todd was also known for helping to improve programs at historically black colleges in Louisiana, ensuring they were on par with other

schools in the state. Former Grambling State University President Joseph B. Johnson credits him for helping to secure \$300 million in state funding that enhanced campus facilities and introduced graduate-level courses.

In the early 1980s, Todd became president of the local chapter of Operation Breadbasket and helped launch Operation PUSH, now known as the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. He advocated for social change and economic empowerment.

When Harold Washington ran for mayor in 1983, Todd headed the campaign's speakers bureau and served as Washington's surrogate. Because of his magnetism with audiences, he was often called on to warm up the crowd before Washington took the stage.

Todd had a deep voice with a mesmerizing cadence that resembled the voice of James Earl Jones. His tone was powerful, fluctuating in waves and creating a fascinating rhythm. A Chicago journalist once described Todd's speaking style as "a deep, rhythmic growl that carried a sense of the South's segregation history and the civil rights movement and conveyed a sense of urgency and anger about the present and the future."

Todd's booming voice got the attention of the iconic hip-hop group Public Enemy, who incorporated Todd's voice as a powerful tool in their 1989 song "Fight the Power" for the first 16 seconds and also used his voice to sample "Revolutionary Generation" in 1990.

Todd is reputed to have delivered speeches at every historically black college in the country where he would encourage students to let verbs like give, serve, and help guide their actions but to lead their lives defined by nouns like courage, commitment, and compassion.

Tom Todd's journey was one of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice—challenging systemic injustices and uplifting marginalized communities. Through powerful oration and bold, courageous advocacy, he fought to dismantle barriers to equality, promote minority-owned businesses, and advocate for fair employment practices. Tom Todd transformed lives, empowered communities, and inspired a generation to stand up and fight for what is right. He leaves a profound and impactful legacy of lasting change that continues to shape our Nation's path forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. JACK AMOROSO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jack Amoroso for his dedicated service to the Kings County community and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the Hanford Police Department.

Mr. Amoroso was born and raised in San Francisco and moved to the Central Valley in 1974 to attend College of the Sequoias, where he played baseball. His passion for law enforcement was inspired by his father, who retired as the Deputy Chief of Police of the San Francisco Police Department. Mr. Amoroso's career in law enforcement began in 1979 at the Hanford Police Department, where he earned two stripes and was promoted to Sergeant. In 1988, Mr. Amoroso became the Swat Team Leader and Range Master at the

Kings County Sheriff's Office. During his time at the Sheriff's office, Mr. Amoroso was awarded the Medal of Valor to honor his bravery while protecting the Corcoran community and was later promoted to Commander. In 2009, he retired as Commander and was sworn in as the Police Chief of the Avenal Police Department. During his tenure as Police Chief, Mr. Amoroso was steadfast in his commitment to reducing violent crime, leading the department to reduce the city's gang crime rate by nearly 80 percent. In 2023—more than 40 years after he was first hired by the department—Mr. Amoroso returned to the Hanford Police Department, this time as its Interim Police Chief.

In addition to his more than 35 years as a law enforcement officer, Mr. Amoroso has served for decades as an instructor at the Tulare-Kings Counties Police Academy, where he teaches young recruits the skills, responsibilities, and dedication required of future Central Valley law enforcement officers. From 2017 to 2019, Mr. Amoroso served as the Academy's Director. It is because of the dedication of public servants like Mr. Amoroso that our future law enforcement officers are prepared to protect our Central Valley communities. Mr. Amoroso's dedication to his colleagues, his work, and his community is a true testament to his character and leadership. I know that his service to the Department and his commitment to the safety of Kings County will have a lasting impact for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mr. Amoroso for his decades of service to the Central Valley and wishing him a happy and well-deserved retirement.