

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE POLICE OFFICERS MICHAEL COLLAZO AND REX ENGLEBERT, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AND VALOR IN CONFRONTING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the outstanding bravery and valor of Metropolitan Nashville Police Officers Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert. Nearly one year ago today, two men answered the call to serve the most vulnerable members of our Nashville community, and without regard to their own physical well-being, they confronted a murderer and saved countless lives.

At 10:13 am, on March 27, 2023, Metropolitan Nashville Police confirmed an active shooter situation was taking place at The Covenant School, a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. After the first 911 call, officers rushed to the campus, entered the building, and reported shots coming from the second level of the school. On the second floor, in a common area, a team of officers encountered the shooter who had been firing through a window at arriving police cars. Two members of an officer team, the men we are honoring today—Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert—fired on the shooter and fatally wounded her.

The Covenant School shooting remains etched in the minds of the Nashville community as an evil, brutish, and senseless assault against the most innocent members of our society. Six lives—three children and three adults—were needlessly taken from their families and those who loved them. In the face of such depravity, we are fortunate and grateful that two men acted in such a manner that they were willing to give their own lives to preserve the lives of strangers. The heroism of Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert serves as a poignant reminder to each of us that evil will never triumph over good.

On behalf of Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District, I express our profound gratitude to Officers Collazo and Englebert for their devoted service to their community. May we learn from these two men the virtues of self-sacrifice and fidelity to our beloved Nation.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALISTOGA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of

Calistoga, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Since its chartering on March 10, 1924, the Rotary Club of Calistoga has worked tirelessly to give back to our Calistoga community. As the second-oldest Rotary Club in Napa County, the club has worked to embody Rotary International's 5 areas of service—Club, Vocational, Community, International and Youth Services for 100 years.

The members of The Rotary Club of Calistoga are people of action that have joined a global network of millions of neighbors, friends, and leaders volunteering their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs. They aim to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill. They also generously serve our community with the time and the money they raise.

Over the course of its history, the Calistoga Rotary has repeatedly endeavored to serve its community. For example, the organization was the first to bring scouting groups to town. In 1933, it was the original sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 18, which it continues to sponsor today. The Rotary Club of Calistoga also supports international causes such as the Health, Hunger and Humanity Program, which has raised millions of dollars to help improve health, alleviate hunger, and enhance the human condition everywhere. The organization has also generously supported Calistoga schools and students. The Calistoga Rotary has donated money in the form of scholarships to local students throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Calistoga is deeply appreciated for their work on behalf of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Calistoga Rotary on its 100th anniversary.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTROLLED APPLICATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in opposition to H.R. 7521, the so-called "Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act." This bill would force the sale of the social media application TikTok, whose parent company ByteDance is based in China.

Let me be clear: I share the national security concerns of many that the Chinese government is collecting Americans' personal data via TikTok. However, I believe H.R. 7521 is an inadequate proposal that unconstitutionally singles out a specific company, setting a dangerous precedent. Additionally, by restricting access to a social media application, I believe this bill threatens Americans' constitutional

rights to free speech, expression and a free press.

I also believe the bill's provisions to force ByteDance to divest from TikTok within 180 days are unrealistic. In reality, a sale of this magnitude could trigger an antitrust acquisition review in the United States—a process that could take up to a year or longer. During this period, TikTok users in the U.S. could lose access to the app.

This bill also ignores the fact that the Chinese government and other public and private entities around the world—including the U.S. government—are still able to purchase Americans' private information from third-party brokers. That's why I support comprehensive privacy reforms to protect Americans' constitutional right to privacy and close the data broker loophole.

The United States has rightfully criticized other countries for infringing on the rights of their own citizens by restricting free speech and censoring access to the internet. However, H.R. 7521's restriction of Americans' free speech and singling out of one company makes us no better than our adversaries, and it invites reciprocal attacks from other countries on U.S.-based companies.

We must not forget that the U.S. government also engages in what I strongly believe to be unconstitutional surveillance and collection of Americans' personal data and communications. If TikTok were sold to a U.S.-based company, I'm not convinced that American users' private data would be secure.

Instead of rushing a vote on a bill that was written behind closed doors without proper debate, Congress should pass comprehensive data privacy and security reform legislation that protects Americans from unconstitutional data collection by all companies, governments, and digital applications—not just one.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OPHELIA MARTINEZ SILVA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Ophelia Martinez Silva.

Ophelia was born March 8, 1924, in Los Angeles, California. She lived and worked throughout Southern California for her entire life. She married Henry Albarran Silva on August 8, 1947 at St. Joseph's Church in the City of Fontana. They were married for 63 years. They moved from Los Angeles to El Monte in the 1950s, where she worked at the city's Sears for 25 years. In her personal time, she volunteered at Epiphany Catholic School and the local adult school.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Ophelia on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent incredible

• 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.

people like her. I hope that she and her family enjoy an incredible celebration in April. I wish her much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SENATOR ALAN G. SIEROTY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former California State Senator Alan G. Sieroty, a champion for disability rights and a leader in efforts to preserve California's coastline and natural beauty. Mr. Sieroty, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy of devout public service and advocacy.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Sieroty demonstrated his hard-working spirit from a young age. After earning his bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and graduating from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Mr. Sieroty began a lifelong career in public service. He served as an Administrative Assistant and Executive Secretary to California Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson and went on to become the Deputy Director of the Chile-California Program.

In 1967, Mr. Sieroty became a California State Assemblymember and, after a decade of service, was elected to the California State Senate, where he served until his retirement in 1982. While serving in the State Assembly and Senate, Mr. Sieroty authored over 100 bills, many of which were critical pieces of environmental protection legislation. One of his most significant accomplishments was his leading role in creating the California Coastal Commission in 1972. Today, the Commission continues to play an integral part in protecting California's coastal waters and regulating environmentally sustainable development.

Mr. Sieroty's commitment to his community expanded beyond his extensive career in public service. He served on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the Venice Family Clinic. In addition, Mr. Sieroty and his family partnered with the Los Angeles Family Housing nonprofit to transform a former motel into a temporary housing facility for unhoused seniors.

Mr. Sieroty will be remembered for his decades of service to California and his critical efforts to preserve our environment for future generations. His enduring spirit will live on in his family and the communities he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Sieroty's loved ones. I know they and the people of California will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING SHARON SCHAUER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Schauer, a member of the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Ms. Schauer is

being honored at this year's Yolo Crisis Nursery Crab Feed for her limitless volunteer contributions, which have greatly benefited the Yolo Crisis Nursery and our community.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery was founded in 2001 as a child-abuse prevention program. The Nursery aims to help children thrive and become resilient after traumatic experiences. The Nursery fulfills its mission through signature programs such as Crisis Overnight and Respite Care, Wraparound Services for Families, and a Specialized Infant Day Care and Preschool.

Since joining the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery group in 2016, Ms. Schauer has brought a superior level of professionalism to the organization through her management and leadership. Not only has she been an active member, but also she has served as a Co-Chair of the organization since 2020, as well as a Board Associate on the Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors.

Ms. Schauer's talents and contribution to the Yolo Crisis Nursery are invaluable. She is the only member of the volunteer organization to have a critical role in planning all fundraising events. Ms. Schauer is a skilled project manager with a background in business and finance. As a result of this, she has made every Crisis Nursery event a resounding success through her budget management and keen attention to detail.

Ms. Schauer's vision for expanding the resources of Yolo Crisis Nursery came to life when she added a fall Barn Dance to the organization's annual calendar of events. The result of this event is that it strengthened our community and raised awareness for child abuse prevention programs offered by the Yolo Crisis Nursery. The Nursery has provided more than 5,000 care packages of basic needs as part of their services and 3,000 safe stays in the Nursery's loving, home-like environment for children whose caretakers found themselves temporarily unable to provide a secure environment.

Through Ms. Schauer's selfless leadership, she has motivated the group of volunteers at the organization to raise approximately 10 percent of the annual operating budget for the Yolo Crisis Nursery through their unique events and community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Schauer for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR FRED MOSES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Moses of Plano, Texas and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Fred is an outstanding leader who has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

As a young man, Fred was passionate about the political process and knew he wanted to play a bigger role in shaping the future of our Nation. Shortly after graduating from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in marketing, he was elect-

ed Justice of the Peace in Bridgeport and officiated marriages. Fred later moved to Plano and has remained active in local Republican politics for over 40 years. In 2008, he was elected as the Chairman of the Collin County Republican Party and worked diligently to advance the conservative agenda in North Texas. For his outstanding leadership and service, Fred was awarded the prestigious John McVeigh Award by the Collin County Republican Party.

Furthermore, Fred has launched numerous charitable initiatives to benefit our community. Since 1980, he has worked with the Plano Community Forum to provide scholarships for students in need and established scholarship endowment awards at colleges and universities nationwide. He has also supported charitable programs to help eradicate cancer and heart disease. For his work, Fred was awarded the Living Legend Award by Collin County Community College and inducted into the Minority Business Hall of Fame in 2019. Fred is a devoted man of faith and serves as an Associate Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, where he also teaches Sunday School. In his free time, Fred enjoys golfing and volunteering with local community organizations.

It is an honor to bestow Fred with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA OWENS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a Hoosier whose exemplary service has led to the betterment of Indianapolis and our Nation. Christina Owens of the Indianapolis Vet Center served as a combat medic in Iraq and has since been aiding and encouraging veterans through the various changes in life that arise after military discharge.

Christina's service to country began in Iraq as a combat medic in the U.S. Army and continues through her work with the Indianapolis Vet Center and the Indianapolis Veteran Court Mentor Program. As the Post Commander for IUPUI's American Legion Post No. 360 and as District 11's Vice Commander, she continues to serve her community in a significant way by providing support to Hoosier veterans and their families, enabling so many to overcome immense challenges and lead healthy and meaningful lives.

Her work to engage veterans through programs like Irreverent Warriors is inspiring, and as a liaison between veterans and a variety of services, her mentorship and advocacy directly impacts the lives of Hoosier veterans. For her unwavering advocacy, Christina has received numerous accolades, and the legacy she has fostered will be cherished by Hoosiers for years to come.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are too often overlooked and underrepresented. Beginning with its namesake, the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier veterans whose service to their community and Nation is unparalleled. I am proud to honor Christina Owens for her service to our community and country by recognizing her here today.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the inspirational woman veteran, Christina Owens.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL PHILADELPHIA HARRIS

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris, who passed away at his home on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Lt Col Harris was born here, in Washington, D.C., to two loving parents. He grew up in Satellite Beach, Florida before making the decision to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a Marine, he served at home and overseas in Syria, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.

A lifelong learner, Lt Col Harris devoted much of his free time to education. While enlisted, he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in logistics on his own time.

His dedication to excellent service and to his country was evident. He served as a Marine for 30 years and rose through the ranks from Private to Lieutenant Colonel Electronics Maintenance Officer. He also served as a Marine Security Guard and bravely completed two tours in Okinawa, Japan, as well as a deployment to Southwest Asia as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Throughout his service, Lt Col Harris earned various awards—including four Expert Rifle Badges, three Expert Pistol Badges, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medals, as well as Kuwait Liberation Medals for both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, four Southwest Asia Service Medals, three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, and a Marine Security Guard Ribbon. Prior to his retirement in October 2005, he was awarded many unit commendations in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement. After retiring from the service, he continued to provide insight and brought his expertise to various roles as a government contractor.

Paul’s love for dogs was well-known and he devoted much of his time to caring for his wife Marty’s service dogs. He was often seen walking Sergeant III throughout the neighborhood in the early mornings. During his free time, he volunteered at the local SPCA, providing animals in the shelter with love and care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris’ life and legacy of service. He will be greatly missed by his friends and loving family who will remember him for his kindness, courage, and strength.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DIXON’S ANNUAL CRAB FEED

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Dixon, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Annual Crab Feed.

Since its chartering in 1930, the Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to give back to the Dixon community. The Rotary Club of Dixon is an organization of men and women who are united to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace worldwide. It generously serves our community with time and the money it raises.

The Rotary Club of Dixon held their 20th Annual Crab Feed on February 24, 2024. This event serves as the organization’s largest fundraiser of the year, and all members work tirelessly to ensure the event’s success. The Dixon Rotary uses the money it raises at this event and others to fund high school scholarships, the Dixon 4th of July Fireworks, its work on behalf of local veterans, and the eradication of polio worldwide. They have generously given over \$90,000 to our community in 2022 and 2023.

The Dixon Rotary is dedicated to serving the veterans and armed service members in our community. This can be seen when the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery opened in 2006. Members of the Dixon Rotary arrived to place wreaths on the graves of fallen service members. Ever since this event, Dixon Rotary has continued to support the cemetery and has donated thousands of dollars to continue this tradition. Further, they annually purchase Christmas gift cards to give to the veterans living in the three different veterans’ homes in Dixon. Dixon Rotary generously supports the Veterans Standdown, which is an event dedicated to connecting homeless and at-risk veterans with services and support by making breakfast for attendees. The organization also assists at events at the Travis Air Force Base by preparing and serving food to airmen and their families.

The Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to support Dixon schools and students. Every year, the organization donates between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in high school scholarships, \$1,500 and \$2,000 to new teachers for their classrooms, \$1,000 to Bids for Kids, and \$6,000 to Camp Royal, the leadership training opportunity provided to outstanding high school students through Rotary. Throughout their history, Dixon Rotary has been committed to supporting educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Dixon is deeply appreciated for their work on behalf of Dixon’s veterans, current armed forces members, and students. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Dixon Rotary’s outstanding work in our Solano County community, and the 20th anniversary of its annual Crab Feed today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS REMOVAL ACT OF 2024

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the “Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Removal Act of 2024,” which builds upon legislation by the same title sponsored by the late Congressman Pete Stark (D–CA) in 1997.

As detailed in a blue-ribbon report published by the State of California and other Pacific State’s Oil Spill Task Force in 2020, the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels is a pervasive problem. Vessel owners abandon personal and commercial boats due to damage from severe storms, high maintenance and disposal costs, and many other factors. Abandoned and derelict vessels are a safety hazard, blight to our waterways, and eyesore. As these vessels decay, they pollute our waterways with debris, fiberglass from hulls, left-over gasoline, motor oil, battery fluids, and other harmful chemicals. This endangers people enjoying the water and harms the environment.

My new bill legislates the 2020 blue-ribbon report’s recommendations, improving the inter-governmental response to abandoned and derelict vessels. Specifically, my bill would unlock up to \$1.5 billion annually from the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove abandoned vessels at no expense to taxpayers. Under current law, federal responders can only tap the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the costs of stopping fuel leaks from vessels. My bill would also hold those dumping their derelict vessels in our waterways accountable. Every vessel removed is one step closer to keeping our working waterfronts and waterways safe and clean for all to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working across the aisle to advance the proposed reforms in my bill. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to legislate key provisions from my bill in the coming “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024” and the “Water Resources Development Act of 2024.” I encourage all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this commonsense bill.

RECOGNIZING PAUL RUSSO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Paul Russo, a dedicated public servant, on his upcoming retirement. For the past forty years, Mr. Russo has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our Nation’s heroes through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since 2018, he has been employed as the Director of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. In this capacity, Mr. Russo has overseen the delivery of healthcare for more than 130,000 Veterans in Florida. In addition to running the main hospital, Mr. Russo has managed eight outpatient clinics,

supervised 4,500 employees and managed an annual operating budget of more than \$1 billion. Mr. Russo also served as Director of the Miami VA Healthcare System for six years and at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina for two years. Mr. Russo is a recipient of numerous awards for distinguished service. He has also served on many boards and committees within the Department of Veterans Affairs and external to the agency. It is clear that Mr. Russo has made a profoundly positive impact on the lives of many Veterans, and I am grateful for his service.

PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO
DAVINA KEISER ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER PASSING

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Davina Keiser, who passed away on January 30, 2024 after her battle with brain cancer. Her family, friends, and community are devastated by this loss. A resident of Sugarloaf, CA, Davina was known as a selfless and caring individual and was a true friend to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Davina was a devoted educator for forty years in the Long Beach Unified School District, including over decade of service as a piano and mathematics teacher at Wilson High School, while simultaneously serving as the elected treasurer for the Teachers Union of Long Beach. She was an effective PTA President and Treasurer at Fremont Elementary School and was a highly recognized teacher throughout Southern California. Moreover, she was a proud elected delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly and worked tirelessly in many teaching organizations to ensure that her pupils and students throughout Southern California had access to quality education.

Davina was no less engaged with her San Bernardino mountain community. As a part-time Big Bear resident for over twenty years, she was deeply engaged in local politics, serving as a member of the Big Bear Valley Republican Assembly and as Executive Vice President of the California Republican Assembly. She was a passionate advocate who believed in the promise and opportunity that the Big Bear Valley and the Golden State represent. A 3rd generation Californian, Davina stood for the best of what our home state offers and fought to safeguard the freedoms and prosperity that are corner stones of the American dream.

Davina had an impact on every life she touched, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with Davina's family and fiends as they navigate this difficult loss. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning Davina's passing and celebrating her life.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD
FOR FRED AND SUE WORLEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred and Sue Worley of Emory, Texas, and present them with the Congressional Patriot Award. They have dedicated themselves to serving and uplifting our community.

Fred and Sue have known each other since elementary school, and they married in 1968. Together, they raised five amazing children. Fred's public service career began in 1973 when he became one of the first certified firefighter paramedics in Hunt County. During his time as a first responder, he spearheaded numerous initiatives to streamline ambulance and fire prevention services for North Texas residents. Thanks to Fred's efforts, our community can count on reliable and robust emergency services today.

Furthermore, Fred and Sue have passionately fought for Texas veterans to be honored for their life and service. Through their advocacy, the State of Texas has designated the Staff Sergeant Shawn Henry McNabb Memorial Bridge at Lake Tawakoni. Staff Sergeant McNabb served in the U.S. Army and was tragically killed while serving in Afghanistan in 2009. Fred and Sue were also instrumental in securing the naming of the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge. Mrs. Garrett enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War and served as a city councilmember and mayor pro tempore in Rains County. I highly commend Fred and Sue for their commitment to improving the world around them. I am proud to represent such wonderful and distinguished Americans.

It is an honor to bestow Fred and Sue with the Patriot Award for their exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

HONORING ROBERTA DUTEIL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 102nd Birthday of Bartonville, Texas resident and World War II Navy veteran, Roberta Maxwell Richardson DuTeil. Mrs. DuTeil was born on January 10, 1922, in Waycross, GA.

In 1943, after graduating from the University of Alabama, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy. She trained first at the Midshipman's School then the Communications School, graduating with the rank of Ensign. Stationed at the U.S. Naval Base Headquarters, Terminal Island, CA, she worked rotating shifts around the clock, covering communications for Navy and Army installation in the area. Roberta was honorably discharged from active duty on May 11, 1946, at the rank of Lt (jg) and continued to serve in the Navy Reserves until March 1953.

Roberta married Army Captain Claude DuTeil in 1946 and supported his call to the ministry as he attended and graduated from

Virginia Theological Seminary before being ordained as an Episcopal Priest. Over the next four decades, the DuTeils ministered to congregations in Hawaii and established a full-scale homeless shelter. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Bartonville to be close to their family.

Roberta has been very active in her church and local communities, supporting many charities. She is always proud to participate in patriotic celebrations and has served as a high-lighted participant in the annual Double Oak Fourth of July parade. I was pleased to present her with the 26th District Congressional Veteran Commendation in 2016.

It was a privilege to join the Town of Bartonville for the special celebration of Roberta "Tutu" DuTeil's 102nd birthday on March 13, 2024. I request that my colleagues join me in commending Mrs. DuTeil's service on the mission field and military service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE
FRANK CHOPP'S SERVICE TO
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and legacy of Washington State Representative Frank Chopp. Representative Chopp is leaving the Washington State Legislature after three decades of committed service to the people of the 43rd Legislative District. Representative Chopp's impressive tenure also included 20 years of service as the Washington State House Speaker. I am proud to have worked alongside Representative Chopp and witnessed his strength of character firsthand during my time as a Washington State Senator.

Many of the strides that the State of Washington has made in support of workers' right to organize, critical infrastructure development, access to housing, immigration, expanded healthcare, and educational equity can be attributed to Representative Chopp's exceptional public service. He has been a relentless champion for low-income and working people across our state, doggedly pursuing every single opportunity to provide more affordable housing and safety net services.

Thanks to Representative Chopp's career and many accomplishments, thousands of Washingtonians have access to opportunity and the pursuit of the American Dream. I am very grateful for his incredible service and confident that he will be a staunch advocate for working families as he returns to his roots as a community organizer. His leadership will serve as a model for years to come.

HONORING HARRIET ROBERTS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harriet Roberts, an esteemed Tribal Citizen of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Harriet Roberts is being honored at this year's Yocha Dehe Fire Department Awards for her longstanding dedication

and leadership within the Tribe and its enterprises.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Roberts has served on various Boards and Committees, serving eighteen years on the Health & Wellness Committee and Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy Board, thirteen years on the Cache Creek Casino Resort Board of Directors, nine years on the Community Fund Board of Directors, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, Property Farm & Ranch Committee, and Youth Adult Assistance Program Committee, eight years on the Events Committee, and six years on the Fire Commission and Cultural Resources Committee.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has for generations lived on lands which include Yolo, Solana, Lake, Colusa, and Napa counties. As longtime stewards of the land, Yocha Dehe has become a growing agricultural presence in the Capay Valley of Yolo County. The Tribe is an important member of our community and provides essential services—such as critical fire and emergency services—to the entire Capay Valley community. I am grateful for the critical work Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has done on behalf of its community and citizens. As a respected Tribal Citizen of Yocha Dehe, Harriet Roberts has been a beacon of strength and wisdom, her contributions spanning generations and leaving an indelible mark on her community. Her work on behalf of the Tribe is inspiring and humbling. Ms. Roberts traces her lineage back to the Lorenzo family, which has been rooted in the Capay Valley since time immemorial. She is admired and loved by her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews for her wisdom, guidance, and service to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Roberts for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Waynesburg University.

Originally formed in 1849 when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church united Greene Academy and Madison College, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania officially chartered Waynesburg College on March 25, 1850. The college gained early acclaim in 1857 when it became one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States and earned widespread praise for grounding its curriculum in faith and service. Following a decade of growth, the college gained university status in 2007 and officially became Waynesburg University.

Each year, the university's students, faculty, and staff engage in more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service to better the surrounding community. The university also remains committed to providing a quality and practical education. As a testament to its academic strength, nearly 99 percent of the class of 2022 reported employment or enrollment in a graduate program within one year of graduation.

Waynesburg University's reputation for excellence extends far beyond Pennsylvania. The institution's additions counseling program ranked fourth nationally in 2021 and 2022, while its online Master of Business Administration ranked 21st nationally for the 2023–2024 academic year. Additionally, Waynesburg University's business and nursing programs were placed on the Colleges of Distinction roster during the 2023–2024 academic year.

Mr. Speaker, Waynesburg University is an integral part of our region's heritage and history. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the university's leadership and community on their 175th anniversary and thank them for their service to southwestern Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month. As a country, it is important that we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and unique abilities of all individuals, regardless of developmental disabilities. By doing so, we promote a deeper understanding of developmental disabilities and the need to create a more inclusive and welcoming society for everyone.

In my district, several non-profit organizations are dedicated to providing positive opportunities and support for families impacted by disabilities. They work collaboratively with other stakeholders to foster a culture of inclusion, advocacy, community and learning.

We can certainly agree that all individuals deserve the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life, pursue their dreams, and contribute to the betterment of our society. I recognize and appreciate the good work of all non-profit organizations throughout Florida's 12th Congressional District that are working to advance this important goal through public-private partnerships. Together, we affirm the value and potential of every individual, regardless of developmental disability status, not only in the month of March, but throughout the year.

CELEBRATING JENNYFER CRAWFORD-WILLIAMS: A DECADE OF EMPOWERING MICHIGAN'S SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jennyfer Crawford-Williams, an inspiring entrepreneur and advocate for Michigan's small businesses, on the 10th anniversary of All Things Detroit. In 2014, with just \$1,500, she ventured into entrepreneurship, becoming a renowned name, supported by accolades like Crain's Detroit Business' 40 Under 40 and the Detroit Young Professionals Vanguard Award.

As founder of Ask Jennyfer and the successful All Things Detroit showcase, which

draws 12,000 attendees and earned its own holiday, Jennyfer has created a vibrant community for small business owners. Beyond events, she established All Things Marketplace, an online and brick-and-mortar hub, fostering opportunities for growth.

Her commitment to showcasing Detroit's small businesses is evident in initiatives like Conversations, Ask Jennyfer: The Podcast, and All Things Ticketing. Jennyfer actively curates small business markets for local non-profits within the City of Detroit and serves on advisory boards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jennyfer Crawford-Williams for her impactful contributions to Michigan's small business community. Her dedication is a beacon of inspiration and deserves our commendation.

TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK TEMPORARY AID CENTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) in Burbank, California, upon its fiftieth anniversary.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center was founded in 1974 when the Burbank Ministerial Association saw the need for a centralized source of services to provide assistance to those in the Burbank community who were less fortunate. Under the leadership of the late Reverend Larry Stamper, the association worked with various community members to create a center to address these needs. Originally located in one of the founders' garage and having operated out of several different buildings in Burbank, in the 1990s, BTAC relocated to a storefront property on Burbank Boulevard. After a building effort which spanned 18 months, in 2006, BTAC unveiled its remodeled and expanded facility which included several features, such as a modernized food pantry, to better provide for its clients.

Over the years the center has adapted in response to the changing needs of the community. With its original mission to provide food and clothing to housed residents of Burbank, services have expanded to include unhoused residents, and short-term assistance is now a long-term necessity for some people in the community. Among those receiving help are retired adults, people impacted by labor strikes, individuals and families, and refugees.

The center's main service is as a food pantry. For those with access to a kitchen, BTAC offers a robust monthly grocery program, with the option to personalize each order based on the household. To support the unhoused community, sack lunches are offered to ensure their nutritional needs are fulfilled. At the facility, personal hygiene items are distributed, and there are shower facilities and laundry machines available for use at no cost.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center is funded by donations from foundations, religious institutions, private individuals, and service organizations. BTAC receives donations of hygiene items and food from various businesses, service clubs and local churches, in addition to daily and weekly donations from major grocery stores.

It is my great privilege to represent BTAC in my Congressional District. My commendations to longtime Executive Director Barbara Howell, BTAC staff, the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their dedicated and outstanding service to the Burbank community.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Temporary Aid Center upon its fiftieth anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF AUDREY BURGETTE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Audrey Burgette. Mrs. Audrey lived a life of selflessness, service, and desire to better her community. There are individuals whose impact transcends time, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to have known them. Audrey June (Stewart) Burgette, the first Black female graduate of William Jewell College, was one of these special people.

Audrey Burgette was born in Liberty, Missouri on July 18, 1930. The circumstances of her childhood were a reflection of the times—Liberty was a racially segregated community still in the grips of Jim Crow laws. Her early educational years were also plagued by second-class treatment due to her race. This was before the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, so her schooling occurred under less than ideal conditions. She grew up in a supportive African American community and a loving family, which bolstered her to remain steadfast in her pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. As a testament to this, she graduated as Valedictorian of her class at Garrison School in Liberty.

Throughout her life, Audrey stood as a beacon of resilience and determination for overcoming numerous challenges. In her early 20s, she married John West Stapleton and welcomed two children, Carrie Eileen Stapleton and John West Stapleton, Jr., Esq. At the young age of 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and was partially paralyzed by the disease. She battled back and regained her ability to walk, only to face the pain of divorce. Fortunately, she found love once again with Herbert Lee Burgette, a Korean War veteran from Kansas City. Together with Herbert, Audrey welcomed two more children into her loving embrace, the late Dr. Phillip Leroy Burgette, M.D., and Brigitte Burgette Bradley, Esq. Love was always present in her blended family's lives. Even though she and John were divorced, her second husband, Herbert, would sometimes connect with John Sr., a disabled war veteran, and offer to drive him to milestone events in Carrie and John Jr.'s lives, such as graduations and sporting events.

While raising four children under the age of 10, Audrey was unrelenting in her quest for education. She achieved her dream of attending and graduating from William Jewell College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1966. She later earned a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1972.

Audrey's dedication to education extended beyond her own academic pursuits. She was a revered elementary school teacher and counselor in the Kansas City MO School District for over 26 years. She touched the lives of countless children, instilling in them a passion for learning and a belief in their own potential. This commitment expanded beyond her professional life. Audrey became a foster parent to several young people during this time, giving them the same love and support she showed for her own students and children.

Audrey's commitment to excellence in education has also shaped the lives of her four children in profound ways, guiding them towards fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. They were inspired by her example to achieve great success in various fields, from law to medicine to public relations. Her legacy lives on through her three grandchildren, Carrie Nicole Randle, Langston Colin Taylor Burgette and Brandon Byron Hays; and one great-granddaughter, Nya Simone Payne. Carrie Nicole holds a master's degree and is pursuing a doctorate.

In the community, Audrey was an active member of the Kansas City Chapter of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., for which she was an officeholder and served on several committees. She was also a charter member of the Kansas City Chapter of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which was established in 1979 by the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. Later in life, she added entrepreneur to her list of endeavors—she owned and operated a successful small business, the Stuart House of Maids.

Her relationship with Christ was a central force in her life with one ultimate goal: to give Jesus the glory. She was a member of Liberty's St. Luke A.M.E. Church, and later found her spiritual home at the Unity Church of New Life in Kansas City. She also wanted her children to put Jesus first . . . every Christmas Eve, her family would celebrate by holding a birthday party for Jesus with a cake with one candle, singing Happy Birthday to him, making sure they knew the real meaning of Christmas.

In 1986, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City's Black Family Recognition Committee honored the Burgette-Stapleton Family as a Model Black Family, recognizing them for their "sterling qualities or support, love, sharing, stability, nurturing, and the ability to overcome adversity."

Tragically, Audrey's life was cut short by cancer at the age of 62. Her passing left a void in the hearts of all who knew her, but her spirit of love, laughter, and dedication to education continues to inspire all who were touched by her presence. Her unwavering support for her family and community endures—a shining example of the transformative power of a life lived with purpose, perseverance, and passion.

As we remember Audrey June Burgette, we honor her trailblazing spirit, her commitment to education, and her profound impact on all of those whose lives she touched. As Audrey herself said in a letter to her daughter in 1983, "Remember to love all people, places, things, and mainly yourself. With love you need nothing else, but without it you have nothing else." Mr. Speaker, let us rise today and honor Audrey's life and legacy. May her memory continue to inspire future generations to em-

brace challenges with courage to pursue their dreams with determination, and to always strive for excellence in all endeavors. Audrey June Brigitte, a pioneer in education and a mother extraordinaire, will forever hold a special place in our hearts and in local history.

CELEBRATING JANIE BARRERA

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of the House in celebration of a true Texas visionary, Ms. Janie Barrera, for decades of work to provide small business owners and working families with the means to achieve their dreams.

A native of Corpus Christi and a sixth-generation Texan, Ms. Barrera's entrepreneurial spirit began in her youth. At the age of 12, after her mother denied her request to purchase a new bicycle, Janie went door-to-door selling raffle tickets for her old bicycle and used the proceeds to purchase a new one. Later, as a waitress in her parents' restaurant, Ms. Barrera witnessed both the hard work and the great financial risks of running a small business.

After high school, Ms. Barrera became a nun and joined a local covenant. She ran the Telecommunications Center for the Diocese of Corpus Christi for 15 years. When a bishop told Ms. Barrera that she couldn't get a promotion because of her lack of business experience, she pursued a Master of Business Administration from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She left the covenant shortly after graduation.

Ms. Barrera's parents ended up with nothing saved for retirement after running their restaurant for 20 years. This motivated her to use her personal experience and academic training to support both small businesses and working families. In 1994, Ms. Barrera founded Accion Texas (later renamed LiftFund) with the commitment to provide small businesses with sorely needed financial support through microloans and ongoing guidance as they navigated complex financial systems.

Today, LiftFund has over 100 employees and has disbursed close to \$500 million to small business owners in underserved communities, particularly people of color and low- and moderate-income individuals. Ms. Barrera stepped down as CEO of LiftFund in 2023 after three decades.

Ms. Barrera has been an integral part of the creation and sustainability of countless small businesses. Her work has received high recognition in Texas and beyond, including the "Small Business Administration Financial Services Advocate of the Year," and the "Minority Enterprise Development Consortium's Corporate Advocate of the Year." She received the 2022 Ned Gramlich Lifetime Achievement Award for Responsible Finance, which is the Community Development Financial Institution industry's highest individual honor. Ms. Barrera has also served on boards of directors at various levels, including the Federal Reserve Board's National Consumer Advisory Council. An invaluable leader in her field, President Barack Obama appointed Ms. Barrera to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability.

As Texans, we are all forever grateful to Ms. Barrera for her vision of shared prosperity, her decades-long service to creating economic mobility, and her unwavering dedication to our community. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate Ms. Barrera and LiftFund on 30 years of service in Texas, and beyond.

HONORING DOUGLAS G. LEE FOR
HIS SERVICE TO WAYNESBURG
UNIVERSITY

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Douglas G. Lee on his exceptional decade of service as President of Waynesburg University. He assumed the office on July 1, 2013.

President Lee devoted the past decade to improving the educational experience for students and serving the Waynesburg, Pennsylvania community. He managed a \$32 million revitalization of the Paul R. Stewart Science Hall and successfully implemented a health and safety plan that allowed students to remain on campus throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. His efforts ensured continued academic excellence and a safe environment for the university's thriving student population.

A Waynesburg University alumnus himself, President Lee graduated from the university in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. His loyalty to the institution deepens his connection to the school's faith, academic mission, and focus on the community. President Lee continues to serve the university and Pennsylvania's academic community as secretary and treasurer of the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania. He also serves on the NCAA Division III Board of Governors to help student athletes grow their academic and athletic character.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce awarded President Lee the Distinguished Service Award to recognize his contributions to the university and community. President Lee lives out his faith as an elder at his church, a board member of several local charities, and a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, President Lee leads a life of integrity and service. He inspires all members of the Waynesburg University community to pursue a life of leadership and purpose. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate President Douglas G. Lee on this remarkable anniversary and look forward to Waynesburg University's continued success under his leadership.

HONORING DR. RONALD VAUGHN
AND HIS EXCEPTIONAL CAREER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career and service of Dr. Ronald Vaughn, president of the University of

Tampa. Throughout his 28 years of leadership with the University of Tampa, Dr. Vaughn has lifted students, faculty, the university, and the Tampa Bay community. He spearheaded a remarkable turnaround for the university and leaves UT ranked among the best medium-sized private universities in America.

Dr. Vaughn's remarkable career, his lifelong commitment to education, and exceptional stewardship of the University of Tampa have propelled the school into being an academic powerhouse. During his tenure as president, the school's academic offerings and footprint grew into the dynamic, community-connected institution that we are proud of today. Dr. Vaughn embraced the history of the historic Tampa Bay Hotel, Plant Hall and the iconic minarets and infused the university with life and amenities for students including an expanded campus with 71 construction projects completed or underway and investments worth a total of \$950 million.

The University of Tampa now hosts students from all 50 states and from almost all 195 countries. Dr. Vaughn's leadership has been fundamental to achieving academic excellence with a unique entrepreneurial spirit.

Dr. Vaughn's academic journey is a model for my others—a B.A. and an MBA from Indiana State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Georgia. Dr. Vaughn's comprehensive career as a business owner of a multi-office marketing research and consulting company provided him with the skills to lead the university into the established institution we know today.

His journey with the University of Tampa started in August 1984 as the Coordinator of the Marketing Department and holder of the Max H. Hollingsworth Endowed Chair of American Enterprise. Dr. Vaughn subsequently served as Director of the MBA Program, Dean of the College of Business and Graduate Studies and Co-Chief Academic Officer. In January of 1995 he became the president of the university.

Dr. Vaughn and UT hosted President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in 2010 for a major economic policy announcement and a visit with students—the first time in UT's history that a sitting President made an official visit to the UT campus, and a rare joint appearance. President Joe Biden also visited the campus in 2023, the day after his State of the Union address, with many students watching from the pool deck and one noting "pretty cool vibes." As Vice President, Joe Biden also made a major international affairs speech in the Fletcher Lounge to Bay area business leaders in 2016.

Beyond his work as president of the university, Dr. Vaughn and his wife, Renée Vaughn, have been active members of the community. He has served on numerous boards and leadership positions, including the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Aquarium.

Dr. Vaughn has received numerous honors in recognition of his lifelong commitment to education and his exceptional stewardship of the University of Tampa. Among the countless awards that have been bestowed upon him nationally as well as locally are the Hillsborough County Administrative Volunteer of the Year for Tampa Bay's Chapter of the American Red Cross and the prestigious national recognition by the Ellis Island Honors

Society in 2004. Furthermore, the multi-purpose Vaughn Center facility is named in his honor, and it serves as the hub of student life and activity on the University of Tampa campus.

As we congratulate Dr. Vaughn for his remarkable career, we also express our gratitude for his continued commitment to uplifting the youth and laying the groundwork for a better tomorrow. Dr. Vaughn is the definition of a true public servant. On behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area, the great State of Florida, and our Nation, I thank Dr. Vaughn for his years of dedicated service and tireless commitment to making the University of Tampa the dynamic and growing university it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude sending best wishes to Dr. Vaughn and his family in their future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING JAMES
SOLOMON RUSSELL DAY

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the Virginia General Assembly proclaimed March 28th as James Solomon Russell Day. Today, I use to honor his legacy and incredible contributions to our Commonwealth.

Born enslaved in 1857, James Solomon Russell's life journey exemplifies resilience and determination. After receiving his teaching license in Warren County, North Carolina, and beginning to teach in the area, he attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in 1874. However, due to financial difficulties, he was unable to complete his studies and returned to teach in Warren County.

Thereafter, he became interested in the Episcopal Church and was the first student at Saint Stephen's Normal and Industrial School (later Bishop Payne Divinity School) in Petersburg, VA. He dedicated himself to uplifting his community and worked among Zion Union members in Brunswick County. His tireless efforts included the establishment of schools, senior housing, and the founding of Saint Paul's College in 1888. Through his leadership, thousands of African American youth were empowered to pursue education, becoming beacons of progress across the Commonwealth.

Despite closing its doors in 2013, James Solomon Russell's indelible mark at Saint Paul's College is kept alive at the James Solomon Russell—Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives in Lawrenceville, Virginia. I commend the James Solomon Russell Commemoration Committee and the Saint Paul's College Museum Committee for spearheading the community effort to open the museum to the public in 2019.

Moreover, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture Robert F. Smith Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History. Their collaboration with the James Solomon Russell—Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives is invaluable. The Center's expertise in archiving and digitizing historical records ensures that Russell's story, along with the rich

history of Saint Paul's College, remains accessible to future generations.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN NESTANDE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and former California State Assemblyman Brian Nestande, who passed away at his home in Palm Desert earlier this month. Brian was a dedicated leader in the Coachella Valley who has left us far too soon, and he will be deeply missed.

Born in Orange County, California, on January 10, 1964, Brian was exposed to the world of public service and politics at an early age. Brian's father, Bruce, was a staff member for then-California Governor Ronald Reagan and later an elected member of the State Assembly and Orange County Board of Supervisors. After graduating from California State University, Fullerton in 1991, Brian started his own political career by taking a position as the Deputy Campaign Manager for the successful congressional campaign of Michael Buffington in Santa Barbara County. A few years later, Brian managed then-Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono's congressional campaign, which was also successful. He went on to serve as Sonny's Chief of Staff. In 1998, it was Brian who made the unforgettable phone call to me to share the shocking and tragic news of Sonny's death.

After Sonny's passing, Brian went on to serve as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Mary Bono from 1998 until 2000. He launched a government affairs consulting business named Nestande and Associates, and worked collaboratively with clients on alternative energy and healthcare issues. In 2008, Brian's own name was on the ballot for the first time and he was elected to the California State Assembly, where he would serve until 2014. In Sacramento, Brian was a tireless advocate for the Coachella Valley and Riverside County, working on important local issues like the Salton Sea and improving our infrastructure. After his time in the Assembly, Brian joined the County of Riverside where he served as Deputy CEO, coordinating legislative priorities with state and federal representatives in the region.

Brian is survived by his wife Gina; his son Hayden; his daughter Sophia; and his stepchildren Sadie, Tad, Mason, Molly and Savana. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Nestande family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Brian. Although he may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family have left an enduring legacy.

HONORING ERVAD ZARIR F.
BHANDARA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zarir F. Bhandara, a resident of Irvine

and Ervad of the Zoroastrian Temple in the City of Orange, for his dedication to inspiring his community with his spiritual leadership.

Ervad Bhandara has dedicated his life to promoting the message of the Zoroastrian founding prophet, Zarathustra, through prayers, religious classes, and pastoral services. As a leader of the Zoroastrian community, Ervad Bhandara provides his communities in Orange and Irvine with support, guidance, mentorship, and motivation.

During COVID-19, Ervad Bhandara served his community by visiting hospitals and providing food, counseling, and financial assistance to those in need. As a way to keep his community connected during trying times, Ervad Bhandara live-streamed prayers with messages of Peace, Unity, Harmony, and Hope, reaching hundreds of people quarantining at home. Since 2020, Ervad Bhandara has donated his platelets and plasma over 545 times, helping save over 1,635 American lives. He leads by example to spread the messages of service and sacrifice for our great country.

Please join in recognizing Ervad Bhandara's unparalleled selflessness and humanitarian services to his community. His compassion has helped make a positive difference in the lives of countless people.

RECOGNIZING JULIE
SHAMBARGER'S CONTRIBUTIONS
RESTORING THE TIMES THE-
ATER IN ROCHESTER, INDIANA

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Julie Shambarger for the incredible work she has done to revitalize downtown Rochester, Indiana, by spearheading the effort to refurbish and reopen The Times Theater in Rochester.

As is the case with so many venues on Main Streets across America, The Times Theater was an iconic symbol of Main Street Rochester before closing its doors in 2014.

Rather than accept The Times Theater's apparent fate as a project of the past, Julie Shambarger poured her heart and soul into the mission of ensuring this cherished community fixture would be open for business and welcome visitors once again.

Guided by her belief that The Times Theater could be restored as the vibrant heart of the Rochester community, Julie marshalled the effort to acquire the grants and donations needed to renovate The Times Theater so its reopening could be not only a possibility, but a reality.

Today, The Times Theater is host to not only movies but also live music and community events, and it has welcomed over 9,000 guests since reopening last February. It has elevated the cultural landscape of Rochester and been a beacon of artistic innovation and creative expression.

At a time when many of America's social and civic ties are fraying, places like The Times Theater—places the community can take pride in and congregate at—are all the more important.

I and so many other Hoosiers are immensely grateful to Julie Shambarger for the

dedicated and diligent work she has done to bring more energy and life back to downtown Rochester and all of Fulton County.

I look forward to visiting The Times Theater again soon and seeing how Julie Shambarger's efforts will continue to pay dividends in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO PETER ANDREW
STURROCK, PH.D. ON HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Andrew Sturrock, Ph.D., who celebrates the centennial of his birth on March 20, 2024.

Dr. Sturrock grew up in Essex, England and studied at Palmers School, Grays, Essex, where his favorite subject was mathematics. He studied mathematics at Cambridge University, then helped develop radar systems at what is now the Royal Radar Establishment. He earned a scholarship to St. John's College where he was elected to a fellowship.

Dr. Sturrock then pursued work in electron physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, the National Bureau of Standards, and the Ecole Normale Supérieure at the University of Paris.

In 1951, Dr. Sturrock earned his Ph.D in astrophysics. He researched nuclear physics at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment; plasma physics at St. John's College, Cambridge; microwave tubes at Stanford University; and accelerator physics at the European Organization for Nuclear Research. He invented a number of implements, including a novel microwave tube later dubbed the "Free electron laser."

In 1961, Dr. Sturrock was appointed Professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University, where he lived for nearly 40 years with his wife Marilyn. He is Emeritus Professor of Applied Physics at Stanford and Emeritus Director of the Center for Space Science and Astrophysics. In 1990, he was awarded the Arctowski Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Sturrock founded and then served as president for many years at the Society for Scientific Exploration. He also served as Chairman of the Plasma Physics Division and the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

In 2009, Dr. Sturrock published his autobiography, *A Tale of Two Sciences: Memoirs of a Dissident Scientist*, which covered both his research in conventional physics and his less mainstream investigations.

In 2013, he published *AKA Shakespeare: A Scientific Approach to the Authorship Question*. In this book, he lays out a method for weighing evidence which he developed for studying pulsars. Dr. Sturrock then invites the reader to apply the method to tabulate their own "degree of belief" in three different candidates for authorship of the works usually attributed to Shakespeare.

He was elected a Legacy Fellow of the American Astronomical Society in 2020 and has a deep interest in unidentified flying objects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Peter

Sturrock on achieving this extraordinary milestone and in thanking him for his lifetime of superb scientific endeavors. He is, indeed, a national treasure.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. This bill would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, *Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB*, that stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from their jobs on grounds of ineligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to be no longer eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the decision to stand. This bill is cosponsored by Representative ANDRÉ CARSON.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal employees who are designated as “noncritical sensitive” from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision affects at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated

as noncritical sensitive. Even more concerning is that most federal employees could potentially lose the right to an independent review of an agency’s decision because of a rule issued by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that permits agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive, which went into effect in July 2015.

The decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers, as required by the Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right to an independent review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head. This bill would stop the use of “national security” to undo a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79 (E-BRIDGE Act); YEA on Roll Call No. 80 (Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act); NAY on Roll Call No. 81 (Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies); and NAY on Roll Call No. 86 (Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act).

HONORING REVEREND DR.
ANTHONY L. RILEY

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the people of St. Louis to honor the outstanding tenure of Reverend Dr. Anthony L. Riley. Rev. Riley has served as Senior Pastor at Central Baptist Church for five years.

As a historically Black church in the St. Louis community, Central Baptist Church has a rich 178-year-old history. Rev. Riley has made his mark as the church’s fourteenth senior pastor. He formerly served as Executive Pastor for the Luke Church in Texas, where he provided leadership to staff, associate ministers, and deaconate.

As a devoted father and dedicated pastor to the congregants of Central Baptist Church, Rev. Riley has consistently answered the call of public service. In 2022, Rev. Riley earned his Doctorate of Ministry degree in Leadership and Preaching at Virginia Union University’s School of Theology. Within his education and ministry, Rev. Riley has strived to establish holistic practices for the next generation of ministers. His goal of teaching and unifying our communities of faith distinguishes him as a leader for all people.

Rev. Riley truly embodies the principles of love, dignity, service, and humility that define the characteristics of a successful leader in ministry. On behalf of Missouri’s First District, I congratulate Rev. Riley on his five-year anniversary and thank him for his continued commitment to service.