

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHIEF PHIL COLLUM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chula Vista Assistant Police Chief Phil Collum, a 29-year veteran of the department who we sadly lost to cancer. His service and his legacy will always be remembered.

Those who knew Assistant Police Chief Collum best emphasize his empathy, his compassion, his reputation for being fair, his work ethic, and more than anything, his dedication to his community.

Community was at the heart of everything Assistant Police Chief Collum did. He gave the directive in 2022 to create the Community Engagement Division to help foster community relationships—and he personally led this division.

He was committed to building bridges between officers and the community they serve. Through the Community Engagement Division, he worked to make sure that the Chula Vista Police Department was actively connecting with community members including residents, students, and business owners.

Assistant Police Chief Collum was also deeply involved in charity work. He volunteered at his church. He went to Tijuana every month to support orphanages and help children in need as part of the Corazón de Vida Foundation—his empathy and compassion for others on full display.

And, Assistant Police Chief Collum was a true trailblazer. He was the Chula Vista Police Department's first Black lieutenant, first Black captain, and first Black assistant chief.

He was also the first openly gay male officer in the department. In his own words, during an interview in 2022, Assistant Police Chief Collum said that he was proud to be a member of the LGBTQ community. He was proud to be a law enforcement officer. He was proud of his husband. He was proud of his community. And that he wanted to celebrate that.

I can't think of a better way to sum up his incredible contributions to our community. He broke down barriers and was a role model for so many.

Assistant Police Chief Collum is survived by his loving husband, William Lopez, and my heart is with his family, his friends, his colleagues, and our entire community as we mourn this immense loss.

We will always remember Assistant Police Chief Collum.

HONORING NELSON CRUZ AND LA VOZ HISPANA

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nelson Cruz and La Voz

Hispana, a music shop owned by the Cruz family, which has served the Chicagoland area for more than 60 years.

"Musica y Cultura", the slogan for La Voz Hispana encompasses what it has represented for Chicago.

You will find people in the neighborhood who remember buying their first guitar or first set of bongós there. Mothers took their kids to La Voz Hispana for music lessons, and the shop also helped promote new Latino artists as they passed through Chicago.

It was my favorite Latin Jazz store to visit. I bought records, tapes, cd's, maracas, a guiro and a triangle there.

This neighborhood spot will be missed by many.

I wish Nelson an enjoyable retirement, which I'm sure will be full of music (Le deseo a Nelson que disfrute su retiro, que seguro estará lleno de música).

CONGRATULATING LARRY FOSTER

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Foster of the Navajo Nation for his induction into the North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame. This honor demonstrates the outstanding leadership and athletic achievement of Mr. Foster. It is a hallmark of his commitment and dedication.

Foster was a student at Window Rock High School in Arizona where he earned All State and All Conference Honors in baseball, football, and basketball from 1966 to 1969. Upon graduating high school, he continued to play baseball at Bacone Juniors College in Muskogee, Oklahoma and later Adam State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He was named as the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Batting Champion in 1971 with a batting average of .442.

After college Foster played semi-pro baseball and was a nine-time All Tournament outfield and batting champion and continued to play in All Indian baseball tournaments from 1964 to 1976.

Foster now resides in Gallup, New Mexico with his wife Mattie Foster. He continues to be an active member of his community, including being a local sportswriter Ná baq hózhó (Congratulations), Mr. Foster. We are grateful for his contribution to sports in New Mexico.

CONDEMNING IRAN'S UNPRECEDENTED DRONE AND MISSILE ATTACK ON ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, supporting the overall intent of H. Res. 1143, condemning Iran's unprecedented drone and missile attack on Israel.

However, while supporting much of the intentions of this resolution, I believe that it is imperative to make clear that, as this resolution affirms Israel's right to "respond to this aggression through military, diplomatic, economic, and other necessary means," I do not intend my vote in favor of the resolution to be taken as an endorsement of any military action Prime Minister Netanyahu might take in response. We stand at a dangerous time for the region, and any response to Iran's attack should be measured with the goal of achieving lasting regional peace.

In advancing this resolution, let us not forget our steadfast, ironclad dedication to upholding international peace.

CELEBRATING BORICUA COLLEGE

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Boricua College is a cutting-edge higher education institution founded in 1974, by members of New York's Puerto Rican community. It is a majority minority institution, primarily serving Latino nontraditional students. Not only is Boricua College important for the population it serves but is also unique in its approach to education. Its focus on humanistic learning is one of a kind and creates a distinct learning environment serving a unique student population.

Boricua College provides an environment for historically excluded nontraditional students to reach their potential, while giving them space to explore their own cultures and the cultures of their peers across their three New York City campuses, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the South Bronx.

The college has an extensive faculty consisting of many Latino academics, providing a wide array of perspectives, and creating possibility models for the students attending Boricua College.

Their unique approach to education uses the Five Ways of Learning method. These include individualized attention, colloquium, experiential studies, theoretical studies, and cultural studies. By focusing on all five of these, Boricua College students receive a well-rounded, practical, and meaningful education experience.

• 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.

Leadership development is also central to the mission of the college. Boricua College engages and empowers all their students through encouraging the development of students' critical thinking skills and cultural competency to ignite the spark of leadership in their entire student population.

I would like to Congratulate Boricua College on 50 years of providing outstanding education and I look forward to seeing the institution's continuous dedication to their students and the community.

REMEMBERING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER THREE, (RET) CARTER SMYRE, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, outstanding father, proud grandfather, astute entrepreneur, distinguished military officer, faithful man of God and friend of longstanding, Chief Warrant Officer Three, (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. Sadly, CWO3 Smyre transitioned from labor to reward on April 12, 2024. A homegoing celebration attended by friends and family will be held on April 19, 2024, at the Ward Chapel AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The extraordinary life story of CWO3 Carter Smyre, Jr. began with his birth to the union of the late Staff Sergeant Carter Smyre, Sr. and Mrs. Selma Tinsley Smyre on June 7, 1925, in Griffin, Georgia. Following the example of his father, young Carter Smyre, Jr. set out to blaze his own path in the United States Army. One of his proudest moments was graduating from the U.S. Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, (now Fort Novosel) Alabama. For 25 years, he served his country, rising through the ranks and ultimately being appointed by the Secretary of the Army as Chief Warrant Officer Three—a technical leader, trainer, operator, maintainer, sustainer, integrator, and advisor. CWO3 Smyre's life was always the epitome of the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity, honor, and personal courage—values which give soldiers direction, purpose, and motivation to be, know, and do what is right. And for 98 years that has been his legacy.

Following his retirement from the Army, Carter Smyre owned and operated a grocery store, worked 10 years as a real estate agent at Carter Realty Company and then founded his own company, Smyre Realty Company which he operated for 42 years. He had immense joy when he was able to help others realize the dream of home ownership and because of his commitment to his craft and excellence, former Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him to the Georgia Residential Housing and Finance Authority Board of Directors where he served the entire State of Georgia.

It has been said that "The true person of success is not the person that climbs the ladder of this life with both hands but who climbs with one hand and reaches back with the other." Chief Warrant Officer Smyre always reached back to help others throughout the Chattahoochee Valley Area to include his beloved East Carver Heights Community, the

Moderns Club and the Path Seekers Civic and Social Club to name a few.

On a personal note, CWO3 Smyre was a special friend and was "family" to my wife, Vivian, and me. He encouraged us to pursue our dreams and supported us every step of the way as he did for so many others who have been blessed by his wise advice, counsel, and mentorship. He led by example and because of that sterling example, others, including his beloved son, former State Representative Calvin Smyre, have thrived in service to others.

Carter Smyre accomplished much in life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his late wife, Mrs. Mildred Bass Smyre; his current wife, P.J. Glover; his devoted son, former State Representative and U.S. Representative/Public Delegate to the 78th United Nations General Assembly, Calvin Smyre; his late daughter Gwendolyn Smyre-Foster, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other extended family members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in celebrating the extraordinary life of Chief Warrant Officer Three (Ret) Carter Smyre, Jr. and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who mourn his loss. May we all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGEGUIDE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois, an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering older adults to live with dignity and independence. As one of 622 Area Agencies on Aging throughout the United States, established by Congress to implement the Older Americans Act, AgeGuide stands as a representation of excellence in its field.

When AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois was established in 1974, the Illinois Department on Aging designated it as the Area Agency on Aging for DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Grundy, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. For half a century, AgeGuide has provided invaluable services and resources to seniors, ensuring that they are well taken care of and respected in our society.

On this momentous occasion, we honor the dedication and hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois who have tirelessly worked towards improving the lives of older adults. Their compassion, generosity, and determination have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are truly grateful for their dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a proactive and collaborative organization that has positively transformed the lives of countless individuals and I ask my colleagues to

join me in celebrating AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois' remarkable 50 years of service, advocacy, and empowerment for our seniors.

NO U.S. FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 15, I will vote No on H.R. 5921, the No Financing for Iran Act. While I agree with the bill's stated goal of preventing the Iranian government from accessing the U.S. financial system, the bill goes much further than that and has several issues.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5921 as written would likely inflict significant harm on small businesses in Oregon and across the country. The bill includes provisions to prevent the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (ExIm Bank) from financing projects associated with Iran's government. However, under current U.S. policy, ExIm is already prohibited from doing business with the government of Iran and Iran-related sanctioned persons (as are all U.S. government entities and U.S. persons).

As Ranking Member WATERS has noted, H.R. 5921's duplicative provisions will impose overly burdensome requirements on the ExIm Bank, which would dramatically increase the cost, processing time, and resources needed to review transactions and help American small businesses. The bill would also put American small businesses at a disadvantage to foreign competitors when exporting their goods abroad.

Given my own work with the ExIm Bank before holding elected office, I know how reliant small businesses engaging in international trade in Oregon and across the country are on the services provided. I cannot support legislation that undermines the ExIm Bank's ability to serve American businesses.

In addition, the bill seeks to prevent Iran from accessing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)—an international reserve asset that many developing countries around the world rely on—through the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, Iran is already prevented from having access to SDRs thanks to current U.S. sanctions, meaning this bill is unnecessary.

In practice, the bill would actually prevent increases of SDRs to all countries. This is because the IMF process for approving SDR distributions is a simple up-or-down vote on whether there should be a distribution of SDRs to all IMF member countries—there is no avenue at the IMF for SDR votes on individual member countries. As a result, this bill would likely cause significant hardship for many developing IMF member countries around the world.

The U.S. Treasury Department is also opposed to these provisions, stating that this bill would deny the IMF and U.S. Treasury "a tool for promptly responding to global economic crises and preventing spillovers to the U.S. economy."

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK
AND CRISIS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Black Maternal Health Week, to urgently address the ongoing epidemic surrounding the mortality and health of Black mothers, and to implore this esteemed body to take decisive action on legislation that can help reverse this alarming reality.

Women in America are tragically dying at a higher rate from pregnancy-related causes than in any other developed nation. The disparities are even more stark for Black women, who are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts. This heartbreaking statistic is rooted in a long history of systemic racism and bias. Studies reveal that Black women facing severe injuries or pregnancy complications, or simply seeking assistance, are often dismissed or overlooked in healthcare settings that should prioritize their care—a stark truth regardless of socioeconomic status. A recent study highlighted that even the wealthiest Black mothers and their babies face twice the risk of mortality compared to their white counterparts. This disparity transcends income, as high-income Black women and low-income white women experience similar rates of child-birth-related deaths. Additionally, many non-affluent Black mothers lack access to safe housing, affordable transportation, and nutritious food—essential elements that profoundly impact maternal health. Systemic injustice in our health care and other national capabilities threatens the lives and well-being of all Black mothers, who are unequivocally American mothers.

We cannot allow these inequities to persist when potential solutions exist. I urge my esteemed colleagues to rally behind the efforts and legislation of the Black Maternal Caucus, dedicated to addressing these pressing concerns and championing the welfare of Black mothers. A crucial step forward is the passage of The Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act, H.R. 3305 comprising 13 vital bills aimed at tackling this crisis and promoting healthcare equity for Black mothers. The Omnibus encompasses measures to enhance healthcare and economic support for Black mothers, bolster our federal and community capacity to understand and rectify this crisis, and expand and diversify our perinatal workforce to better serve Black mothers. This monumental legislation is cosponsored by 193 of my House Democratic colleagues, 32 senators, and backing from 200 stakeholder organizations.

The Omnibus Act can be a vital first step in forging an America where Black mothers can flourish. Let us unite in our commitment to ensure the health and well-being of all mothers, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, as we strive towards a future where every mother receives the care and support she deserves.

HONORING SGT. JOHN ASHE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henderson County, N.C. resident Sgt. John Ashe in recognition of his service.

This month, Sgt. Ashe retired from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office after a long and decorated career in law enforcement. He most recently worked as an officer in the Henderson County courthouse, where he developed a close relationship with my district staff.

Throughout John's 26 years in law enforcement, he worked in detention, warrant squad, criminal investigations as a general investigator, and as a narcotics detective, in animal enforcement, and was on the sniper team.

John and his wife, Lisa, have been blessed to share their lives with Meghan, Bryan and Bella, whom they cherish and adore.

I thank Sgt. Ashe for his brave and tireless service to Henderson County, and I wish him best of luck on all the hunting trips in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. VICTOR ALICEA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Victor G. Alicea, Ph.D., is the founding President of Boricua College. He began his tenure at the College in 1974. During his time at Boricua College, he has proven his steadfast leadership and commitment to moving the institution forward at a time of unprecedented challenge to the health and financial well-being of colleges and universities across the nation.

"The present is the only pathway that connects our past with our future," Dr. Victor G. Alicea, is often heard to remark. Always present in the "here and now" Victor Gabriel Alicea has worked tirelessly for the education and flourishing of all people of New York City. He is the founder and president of Boricua College for the past 48 years.

Dr. Victor G. Alicea was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and spent his childhood in New York City's East Harlem "El Barrio" and in Harlem. Victor Alicea has worked throughout his life combining intellectual strength and his vast knowledge of education and human polity with the caring he has for people. He has participated and led numerous institutes in public administration, group dynamics, community organization, health and mental health care services and is a practicing social worker, educator, planner, consultant to various community development programs and is a psychotherapist in private practice.

One of President Alicea's foremost commitments has been to New York City, a city he loves. He has served on Mayor Dinkins's Advisory Committee on Appointments. In 1990 Dr. Alicea was appointed Vice Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission by Mayor David Dinkins, and in July, 1995 was named to a second term by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, finally serving for eleven years. He also

served on Mayor Giuliani's Special Panel on the Health and Hospitals Corporation, and was appointed by Governor Pataki as a Commissioner of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and served as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, Inc. Currently serves as Member of the Board of Trustees of the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC).

In 2022, Dr. Alicea completed 48 years as the founding President of Universidad Boricua/Boricua College during which time the College has grown from one floor in a building in Williamsburg Brooklyn, and 26 students, to three campus centers with 800 students and 40 full-time faculty members, in three buildings including a campus in Manhattan, and the recently completed \$47 million campus building for the Bronx Campus, making it a tri-Borough College, the progression has been from graduating three students in 1976 to over fourteen thousand by 2023.

Dr. Alicea's recent inclusion in City & State's 2023 Higher Education Power 100 list is a testament to his unwavering commitment to serving our community and advancing education. As the longest-serving president of a private college in New York State, Dr. Alicea's legacy is one of transformative leadership and a tireless pursuit of excellence.

There are many more years to come for this colossal intellectual giant to serve the people of this great City. Typical of this self-reflecting man that his greatest pride and pleasure has been how much he has learned from the faculty and staff who helped to create the College, and the thousands of students and families that have been touched by Boricua College.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
RENDERING DAY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2nd Annual National Rendering Day. The burden of responsibility for feeding the world extends beyond the farm. Rendering plays a critical role in ensuring we can meet the growing global demand for food, feed, and fuel, while helping reduce food waste and loss. By recycling unused animal products, renderers create valuable ingredients from resources that would otherwise take up enormous amounts of precious landfill space. Renderers also collect billions of pounds of used cooking oil from restaurants and food manufacturers for upcycling into products and sustainable fuels, like biodiesel.

Rendering not only creates alternative, sustainable fuels to power trucks, trains, water vessels and other vehicles but also feeds our beloved household pets. Rendering is the largest industry involved in prevention of food loss and waste and is an important component of a bio-circular economy.

Renderers play an important role in reducing food loss and waste, sustainably recycling valuable agricultural resources, and positively contributing to local, state, and national and international economies. U.S. renderers contribute \$10 billion in annual economic activity

across the country and include many small businesses that help drive the American economy and define the American dream.

I am honored to represent many great rendering companies in the 4th District of Arkansas. I am grateful for the role of rendering in producing America's feed and fuel, and reducing food waste and loss by repurposing products we don't eat for other practical needs. Today on National Rendering Day, please join me in recognizing renderers' countless contributions to strengthening the U.S. economy and protecting the environment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROBERT BUNGER ZUFALL

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Robert Bunger Zufall, a beloved community healthcare leader from New Jersey. Dr. Zufall dedicated his life to serving others and leaves an incredible legacy in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District and beyond.

Dr. Zufall was born in Middleton, New York and raised in Irvington, New Jersey. He graduated from Princeton University and served our country in the Navy during World War II before continuing his education at Harvard Medical School. From his leadership in the military as U.S. Army First Lieutenant and Captain in the medical corps, to his service as a physician at Bellevue Hospital and Dover General Hospital, Dr. Zufall dedicated his life to caring for others.

Dr. Zufall's most well-known achievement is the creation of Zufall Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving communities across Northern New Jersey. After several medical service trips to Peru, he and his wife Kay committed themselves to providing healthcare to those in need closer to home. Initially a once-a-week, one-room clinic, Zufall has since expanded to seven counties and two mobile sites that serve 48,000 New Jerseyans annually. The clinic has received many accolades, including the Jefferson Award given to Dr. Zufall and Kay in 2009. Dr. Zufall, known lovingly by many as "Dr. Bob," worked tirelessly to make sure that all New Jersey residents regardless of means have affordable access to healthcare.

Dr. Zufall deeply cherished his family and enjoyed spending time with his wife Kay, children Kathryn, Margaret, Ellen, Nancy, and David, his three siblings, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

On March 5, 2024, Dr. Robert Zufall peacefully passed away at the age of 99. The selfless manner in which Dr. Zufall served his community is an inspiration to us all. He will not be forgotten and his impact will continue to be felt in New Jersey for generations to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Opportunity Center for the Homeless.

Since its inception on January 3rd, 1994, the Opportunity Center has been a steadfast refuge for homeless adults, originally focusing on men but expanding to accommodate the increasing number of women seeking shelter. Through this evolution, it has established permanent and transitional housing options to offer stability and hope to those in need.

Central to the Center's philosophy is the principle of recovery to service. It proudly stands as the largest employer of homeless individuals in the El Paso community, with close to 60 percent of its staff having lived experience with homelessness. This practice not only provides employment but also fosters a sense of purpose, self-worth, empathy, and dignity among its employees. In a landmark achievement in October 2011, the Opportunity Center became the first homeless shelter in the United States to receive excess food from schools, thanks to Congressional clarification on food donation regulations. This initiative has since provided over 1.2 million meals in 2023 alone, nourishing those in need and exemplifying the Center's commitment to holistic support.

Founded by Ray Tullius, a U.S. Army veteran and Golden Nugget award recipient, the Center is dedicated to aiding veterans facing homelessness and has assisted countless individuals. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, such as service providers, educational institutions, and local governments, the Opportunity Center ensures high-quality care and compassion for those experiencing homelessness.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the Opportunity Center for its 30-year legacy of service, resilience, and compassion. May it continue to make a profound impact on the lives of our community for many years to come.

FOURTH AMENDMENT IS NOT FOR
SALE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise concerning my vote on H.R. 4639.

This bill raises important issues that must be addressed by Congress. Law enforcement agencies should not be able to circumvent due process by buying information about the targets of their operations from third-party data brokers. The American people need a solution that covers federal, state, and local governments to ensure that their rights are fully protected.

During legislative negotiations on H.R. 4639, members raised concerns about conflicting possible interpretations of this bill that were

not addressed before it came to the floor. As currently drafted, it is not clear whether H.R. 4639 appropriately covers federal, state, and local governments or whether the scope is limited to only cover the federal government. I also have concerns about restrictions that H.R. 4639 would impose on the Intelligence Community's ability to protect our national security by collecting data on foreign individuals operating abroad.

Given the ambiguity over the scope of H.R. 4639 and the challenges this bill would create for our ability to monitor foreign threats to the United States, I will vote PRESENT. I am hopeful these issues will be addressed by the Senate as they consider this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (IFDC)

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, hunger and food insecurity are issues that plague many nations around the world. Luckily, within the district that I represent, there is an international organization working to alleviate this concern by working with farmers around the world to improve agricultural practices and teaching about advancements in fertilizer technology.

Founded in October 1974, the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) was created to fill a gap found in the inability to field international calls for assistance by the Tennessee Valley Authority's National Fertilizer Development Center.

After just shy of three years in operation, the IFDC was designated a public international organization in March 1977.

On this 50th anniversary, the staff that makes up the IFDC are working just as hard as they were on day one to make sure people around the world do not just have access to food, but have the knowledge needed to grow this food so that they can create a sustainable agricultural process that will feed generations.

The IFDC is headquartered in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and currently operates in over 25 countries. President and CEO Henk van Duijn, along with the rest of the International Fertilizer Development Center's Global Management Team, Dr. Oumou Camara, Chris Holt, Douglas Kerr, and Dr. Upendra Singh, make up an outstanding team that delivers needed expertise to countries around the world.

I want to thank each and everyone at the International Fertilizer Development Center for their 50 years of service to the international community. They have provided a way for people across the world to grow food and feed their communities. Congratulations to them on their incredible achievements and for representing the very best of the United States by making significant contributions to the international community. I look forward to continued great work and the success of everyone at IFDC.

HONORING CARLO A. SCISSURA,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring Carlo A. Scissura, President and CEO of The New York Building Congress:

Whereas Carlo A. Scissura Esq., President & CEO of The New York Building Congress, was honored on April 18, 2024, by the National Italian American Foundation in recognition of his service and contributions to the Italian-American community.

Whereas Carlo A. Scissura was born and raised in Bensonhurst and is a lifelong Brooklyn resident, currently residing in Bay Ridge with his daughter, Teresa Rose. Scissura is a proud graduate of Pace University and Pace Law School. He had his private law practice in Dyker Heights before joining the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. Scissura previously served on the staffs of New York State Senator Vincent Gentile and Assemblyman Peter Abbate.

Whereas for nearly five years, Carlo A. Scissura previously served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel to Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Scissura restructured operations at Borough Hall, drove the borough's economic development, and collaborated extensively with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and Economic Development Corporation. Carlo also served on the boards of the EDC, the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, and the Brooklyn Public Library.

Whereas Carlo A. Scissura is a member of the Boards of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp., The New York City Regional Economic Development Council, ACE Mentorship, Salvadori Center, and the Friends of the BQX. Carlo is a former member of Community Board 11 in Brooklyn and the District 20 School Board and Community Education Council. Scissura is also the Chair of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations, where he has led the opening of the new Italian Cultural and Community Center in Brooklyn.

Whereas in January 2017, Carlo A. Scissura was named President & CEO of The New York Building Congress. Under his leadership, Carlo and his team have achieved significant growth in membership and visibility across New York City and the surrounding region. They have maintained a strong focus on securing infrastructure investments from city, state, and federal governments. Membership has soared by over 200 percent, reaching more than 2,200 members. Additionally, the Chamber has been nationally recognized for creating exemplary models in business development, outreach, technical assistance, and regional branding. Thanks to Carlo's leadership, the New York Building Congress is stronger and more influential than ever.

Whereas Carlo A. Scissura was the Chair of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway redevelopment panel and oversaw the replacement of the BQE from the Atlantic Avenue interchange to Sands Street in Brooklyn. Scissura received numerous honors for his contributions.

The people of New York City are thankful for years of Scissura's advocacy, development, contributions, and revitalization efforts throughout the five boroughs for the betterment of all New Yorkers.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE FOOD SHED CO-OP

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Food Shed Co-op family on their achievement in organizing and establishing a community-owned grocery store. The concept of establishing a cooperative emerged from discussions among a group of friends seeking to strengthen their community. They collectively decided to create a community-owned store in McHenry County, embarking on an unpredictable and awe-inspiring journey. Their dedication to bringing this dream to fruition is truly commendable.

Food Shed Co-op is more than a simple grocery store, it is a symbol of the determination of the community. It is committed to providing everyone with access to fresh, locally sourced, and sustainably produced food. With a mission to support local farmers and producers, reduce environmental impact, and foster a sense of community, Food Shed Co-op is a shining example of what can be achieved when like-minded individuals come together for a common cause.

Nearly 2,100 people purchased equity shares in the co-op, reflecting the strong support of the community during the project's development and grand launch. This steady belief in Food Shed Co-op's mission speaks volumes about the community's commitment to building a vibrant, neighborhood-focused supermarket that is accessible to everyone.

I am proud to represent such an innovative group of individuals who continually strive to uplift their community and applaud the vital work they are doing to create a healthier and more sustainable future in McHenry County. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Food Shed Co-op in celebrating their grand opening.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SLOGAN, "FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE" IS ANTISEMITIC AND ITS USE MUST BE CONDEMNED

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of H. Res. 883, a non-binding resolution that condemns the use of a slogan that has been used by some individuals and groups for antisemitic purposes, including as a rallying cry to deny the right to self-determination of the Jewish people or even to eliminate

the State of Israel from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

I believe the antisemitic use of this slogan should rightfully be condemned. For example, this slogan has been widely used by terrorist entities—including Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah—to encourage future attacks on Israel, the Jewish community and Jewish institutions. With antisemitism and antisemitic attacks on the rise in the U.S. and around the world, we must swiftly condemn antisemitism in all its forms.

However, this resolution should have been written better. For example, H. Res. 883, fails to acknowledge that some who use the phrase do so to advocate for Palestinian liberation and equality, and others—including some members of the Jewish community—use the phrase to advocate for an end to the Israeli control and annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. The resolution should have noted that this slogan is not always intended to be used as antisemitic and not all who use the phrase are antisemitic.

As with other resolutions this Congress, H. Res. 883 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far-right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans.

H. Res. 883 also treats the slogan "from the river to the sea" as one-sided. However, this phrase has also been used by right-wing Israelis—including by Prime Minister Netanyahu himself in January—to deny the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Let me be clear: I believe that both Israelis and Palestinians have a right to their own state. That's why I strongly support a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians recognize each other's right to live in peace and have prosperity.

I also unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen in recent years and especially after Hamas's October 7th terrorist attacks on Israel. If the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students, and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start. I urge House Republicans to prioritize real action to combat hate, rather than continue to waste time and resources on non-binding resolutions.

That's why I've cosponsored legislation that thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do.

FOURTH AMENDMENT IS NOT FOR
SALE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4639, the Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act.

As Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, my priority is our national security and to protect Americans from foreign threats. Our Intelligence Community agencies at times purchase what is known as “commercially available information” from data brokerage companies to gather information on foreign spies and bad actors, and to protect America from malign foreign influence. When they purchase this data, they cannot be certain that it is entirely free of any U.S. citizen’s information. In order to protect citizens, agencies are already required to take steps to ensure that this incidentally obtained data is removed.

However, these data brokerage companies collect the personal information of Americans through their social media profiles, public records, and other commercial sources. They then sell this information to companies, organizations, or any entity with an interest in collecting data on American citizens—including foreign adversaries like China, Russia, or even cartels. H.R. 4639 would do nothing to keep any of these other entities from exploiting and sharing American’s data.

Instead of prohibiting our own intelligence agencies from accessing commercially available information to obtain foreign intelligence, we must take steps to address the broader vulnerability of Americans’ data. Congress needs to take steps to protect Americans, not undermine our Intelligence agencies and put the United States at a deep disadvantage against our adversaries.

REMEMBERING COLONEL RALPH
PUCKETT, JR., USA (RET.)**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving husband, dedicated father, committed soldier and dear friend of longstanding, Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr., USA (Ret.). Sadly, Colonel Puckett passed away on April 8, 2024. He leaves behind a legacy of service that will be emulated by many for years to come. A memorial service honoring his remarkable life will be held on April 20, 2024, at the National Infantry Museum Parade Field adjacent to Fort Moore, Georgia.

Colonel Puckett was born on December 8, 1926, in Tifton, Georgia. He graduated from

Baylor High School and then enrolled at Georgia Tech before enlisting in the United States Army during World War II. Colonel Puckett graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1949. He was assigned as Infantry Lieutenant for the Eighth U.S. Army Ranger Company when the Korean War began.

On November 25, 1950, during the Korean conflict, the First Lieutenant began a multiday operation with the Eighth Army Ranger Company, a company composed of 51 U.S. and nine Korean Soldiers against a barrage of Chinese Troops on Hill 205. During the initial assault, Colonel Puckett exposed himself to enemy fire, rallying pinned down U.S. troops to advance and take the hill from its defenders. In the following hours, the temperatures dropped, and the Chinese attempted to retake the hill. Colonel Puckett radioed an artillery strike to stop the enemy’s advance.

Over the course of the attacks, Colonel Puckett sustained several wounds to his left shoulder, feet, thighs, and buttocks. Despite being severely wounded, he was still able to command his company and call on artillery to avert enemy attacks before being carried to safety by two of his troops.

During his 22-year career, Colonel Puckett received many awards including the Distinguished Service Cross twice, along with two Silver Stars for valor, two Bronze Star medals, and five Purple Hearts. In 1992, he became one of the first people to be inducted into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Because of his courageous valor and after many years of efforts on his behalf, Colonel Puckett was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Joseph R. Biden on Friday, May 21, 2021.

Colonel Puckett gave himself to his country and to so many for so long. As such, he is one of our nation’s most decorated war heroes. Even after his military service ended, he found a way to give back to those who came after him. He remained very active with military affairs, including volunteering with the Ranger Brigade. Colonel Puckett also served as an executive with Outward Bound, a non-profit educational organization that exposes students, especially those from cities, to wilderness settings.

Colonel Puckett accomplished much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, and the enduring love and support of his wife, Jean, and their children Martha and Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia’s Second Congressional District in celebrating the life and legacy of Colonel Ralph Puckett, Jr., USA (Ret.). Moreover, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. May they all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN O’KEEFE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 19, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Kevin O’Keefe, a dedicated community leader in East Midtown Manhattan.

Kevin has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community through his roles as the founder and president of the St. Vartan Park Conservancy, the president of the Manhattan East Community Association, a member of Manhattan Community Board 6, a trustee of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, a board member of the Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, an advisory board member of the Village Trip, a coach, an entrepreneur, a writer, a husband, and a father.

In these roles, Kevin has led multiple initiatives to increase the quality of life in East Midtown. In 2019, he led a major advocacy campaign to reopen an East Midtown garden and lawn after decades of closure. Since then, thousands of individuals have enjoyed their time inside the now-public green space.

As a member of Manhattan Community Board 6, Kevin led an initiative for members of the public to make presentations to the board to better understand community needs. In this capacity, he also serves as a committee chair and member of the Youth and Education Committee and Health and Human Services Committee.

Furthermore, Kevin’s commitment extends to youth sports and education. He is a former all-American athlete who volunteers as a sports coach, heading the track and field program at a local East Midtown school and running “Swish You Were Here,” a community basketball net-replacement initiative.

Kevin is also an entrepreneur and accomplished writer. He is the author of the nonfiction bestseller *The Average American*, which follows O’Keefe’s journey to find the nation’s most statistically average person. The book has inspired many people to find a middle ground when talking with those with differing views and has earned accolades from former President Barack Obama. In his professional life, he has led New York Sports Tours and other prominent brands and companies.

On April 25, 2023, Kevin was honored at the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club’s 70th anniversary gala with the Platinum Anniversary Award for Distinguished Service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that we recognize Kevin O’Keefe for his outstanding service and leadership. His dedication not only enhances the vibrancy of East Midtown but also sets a commendable example of civic engagement and community spirit. We are grateful for his contributions and proud to count him as a distinguished member of our community.