

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK  
AND CRISIS

HONORING SGT. JOHN ASHE

**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.

**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.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
ROBERT BUNGER ZUFALL

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**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.

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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.

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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.