

often shares her wealth of experiences that she gained over the years in order to educate and pass on her wisdom to the younger generations.

I wish Emma the best as she celebrates her 100th Birthday with a large family gathering on August 11, 2012. Her 8 living children, 45 grandchildren, 87 great grandchildren, and 9 great-great grandchildren will join Emma in celebrating this monumental milestone. My congratulations go out to Emma, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Rialto Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating a beloved community member, Emma Shaw.

#### EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2012*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program has been an invaluable source of funding for state and local law enforcement jurisdictions across the country, including in my district. Without this broad-based source of funding, safety in our communities would suffer. This invaluable grant program supports a wide range of areas including from crime prevention and education to technology improvements for police departments.

In addition, the Byrne JAG Program provides resources for body armor, an area that I highlighted during action on H.R. 6062 in the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a Member. The grant program allows local law enforcement agencies and other grantees to purchase equipment, which can include bulletproof and stab-resistant vests. Although the Bureau of Justice Assistance ("BJA") is not required to track body armor purchases with Byrne JAG funds, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study released in February of this year, roughly 14 percent of grantees surveyed had used JAG funds to buy body armor in 2010.

Without a doubt, personal body armor plays a critical role in saving law enforcement officers from disabilities and death. As a matter of fact, FBI data shows that the risk of death for officers who did not wear body armor was 14 times greater than those who did. Despite this finding, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that only 71% of local police departments require field officers to wear body armor at least some of the time, while only 59% of departments require the officers to wear protective armor at all times. The benefits from wearing body armor are evident, and yet . . . many departments still don't require it.

Recently, the U.S. Attorney General instituted a new requirement for Fiscal Year 2011 grantees seeking matching funds from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act (BVPA)—grantees now need to have mandatory body armor wear policies in place. This means that uni-

formed officers on patrol are required to wear a protective vest. Unfortunately, this same mandate is not included in the Byrne JAG program.

This is why I proposed an amendment in Committee—similar to an amendment proposed to the BVPA reauthorization by Senator GRASSLEY, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and accepted by that Committee—that would have unified this mandatory wear policy and extended it to the Byrne JAG program. Chairman SMITH graciously noted his willingness to work with me on this front, and so I agreed to withdraw my amendment, but the issue is still worth mentioning on the floor since it is such an important issue. I welcome the interest of any of my colleagues who would also like to work with me on ensuring the extension of mandatory wear policies for body armor to additional federal grantees.

I highlighted another issue when proposing my amendment in the Judiciary Committee, which is body armor fit—an issue that concerns all law enforcement officers, but particularly the growing number of women in law enforcement. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, the number of women in local law enforcement grew from 7.6% in 1987 to 12% in 2007. In 2007, women accounted for 18% of sworn officers in 12 of the 13 largest local police departments.

The need for properly fitted body armor for women is extremely important. Much of the armor currently offered is designed for male officers and simply does not take into account the anatomical differences. This of course leads to poor fit and discomfort. Fit issues also apply to male officers, who we know also come in different shapes and sizes. And whenever officers put on body armor that is not properly fitted, they are exposing themselves to greater harm since they are not as protected as they could be.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club (Survivors' Club) has documented more than 3,150 saves from disability or death by wearing of or use of protective body armor. As noted in a July 19th letter to me from Retired Police Chief Ron McBride, Program Manager for Survivors' Club, "It is appropriate to ensure that taxpayers' dollars expended on providing body armor results in consistent wear of an issued vest. Protective body armor left in an officer's locker provides zero protection. A well fitted armor provides best coverage of an officer's torso and is more comfortable to wear. These two issues equate to enhanced officer safety."

This is why the second part of my amendment offered in committee would have required that body armor purchased with Byrne JAG funding be uniquely fitted to each officer, including female officers.

The issue of properly fitted body armor should not be taken lightly when considering the overall safety of law enforcement officers. Body armor saves lives, but only if it fits properly and is worn by officers. I look forward to continuing to work with the Chairman, Ranking Member CONYERS, and other interested Members in these areas.

REMEMBERING CARL STEPHENS,  
THE VOICE OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the passing of a beloved South Alabama broadcaster and familiar voice of Auburn University football. Mr. Carl Stephens passed away August 1, 2012, at the age of 77.

A native Alabamian, Carl Stephens was attracted to sports and broadcasting early in life, taking the mic as a sportscaster at the age of ten in his native Gadsden. He later served as student manager of the college radio station while at the University of Alabama. After graduation, Carl Stephens began his television career with WSFA-TV in Montgomery, which spanned from 1957 to 1998.

His booming, pleasant voice and professional over-the-air delivery were for decades synonymous with WSFA News. However, for many Alabamians he was best known as host of a popular children's cartoon show in the late 1950s and co-anchor of the Auburn Football Review for many years.

As Sports Director at WSFA-TV in Montgomery from 1963–75, Carl Stephens served as the producer and host of Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan's weekly television show where the popular Auburn phrase, "You're so right, Carl," was born. Following Carl Stephens' opening comments of each show, Coach Jordan would respond with, "You're so right, Carl."

Along with his duties as host of the Auburn Football Review and responsibilities at Jordan-Hare Stadium, Mr. Stephens also served as the PA announcer at Auburn basketball and baseball games and as the voice of the Auburn Marching Band at football games.

In addition to his work for Auburn, Mr. Stephens was the public address voice for the first 15 Southeastern Conference Football Championship games, 14 SEC Basketball Tournaments and six SEC Baseball Tournaments. Mr. Stephens also did public address work for NCAA Basketball Tournament games in Birmingham.

Prior to the 1973 Auburn football season, Mr. Stephens was asked to take on additional responsibility with Auburn as its public address announcer at the old Cliff Hare Stadium. Mr. Stephens held the PA duties at Auburn football for three seasons before moving to Columbia, S.C., to serve as Program Director for WIS-TV for two years.

Carl Stephens returned to Montgomery in 1978 as Program/Promotions Manager for WSFA and resumed his PA duties at Jordan-Hare Stadium for the 1979 Auburn football season, which he has held ever since.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend condolences to his wife, Mary, son Richard, daughter Sandra and entire family. Carl will be missed.

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH P.  
CRONIN JR.

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, legal scholar and friend—Judge Joseph P. Cronin, Jr. Judge Cronin has shown a lifelong commitment to public service and to Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Judge Cronin first served his nation as a Marine and following law school he joined the District Attorney's Office in Delaware County where he prosecuted cases in the Juvenile Court. Following his service as a prosecutor, he went on to become Partner at the law firm of Cronin, Emuryan and Breen. Although in private practice at the time, Judge Cronin still remained dedicated to the community by serving his township as commissioner.

On November 5, 1991 Judge Cronin was elected to his first 10-year term to the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. During these years as a trial Judge he earned a reputation as a fair-minded and wise jurist. Judge Cronin was retained for a second term and in January 2008 he was elected President Judge by the 19-member Board of Judges to serve a five-year term. In that role, Judge Cronin showed tremendous skill in leading a busy Court System with significant responsibilities. Recently, Judge Cronin was instrumental in helping Delaware County establish a veteran's treatment court to aid those heroes who now suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Judge Cronin will retire from his position on the Court of Common Pleas on August 31, 2012.

Judge Joseph Cronin's service to Delaware County has been invaluable and he has our enduring gratitude. I join the citizens of Delaware County and the 7th Congressional District in wishing him and his family the best for the future.

**RECOGNIZING MARK JOHNSON**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mark Johnson, the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight championship twice in his career. Also known as "Too Sharp," Mr. Johnson was a top pound-for-pound fighter during his sixteen-year career from 1990 to 2006. He perfected finesse, power, and speed. Attesting to his athleticism, his perseverance, and his well-developed skills, Johnson attained twenty-one knockouts before his matches made it to the fourth round.

Mr. Johnson had more than execution; he had an array of intangibles that set him apart from the rest of his profession. In his pursuits, Mr. Johnson left his natural division to take a Super Flyweight title and then go on to chal-

lenge bantamweights. While Mr. Johnson did not reach significant popularity due to his weight class and lack of defining fights, he went on to become one of the top pound-for-pound fighters in boxing for several years.

During his career, Mr. Johnson won forty-four professional boxing matches and lost only five. He had twenty-eight knockouts. During Mr. Johnson's amateur career, he won 125 boxing matches and lost only six. He won the first Junior World PentaContinental title in 1993. He held the International Boxing Federation Flyweight title from May 1996 to September 1998, the International Boxing Federation Super Flyweight title from April 1999 to November 1990, and the World Boxing Organization Junior Bantamweight title from August 2003 to September 2004. Mr. Johnson was the first African-American in history to capture both a World Flyweight and Super Flyweight boxing championship, and he did that not once, but twice.

Since 2008, after retiring from professional boxing in 2008, Mr. Johnson, along with his father and lifelong trainer, Abraham "Ham" Johnson, has been training underprivileged boys and girls in their gym located in Southeast Washington, D.C. Today, Mark Johnson is employed as a Roving Leader within the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, and in that capacity, he conducts home and school visits, and teaches at-risk children to read and write. He also is heavily involved in gang violence prevention. Mr. Johnson serves as a positive and accomplished role-model for troubled youth within the Washington, D.C. area.

Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2012, Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson was the first Boxer from Washington, D.C. to be inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame, and, at 40 years old, he is the youngest ever to have received such an honor. "I have known Mark since he was 6; he deserves it and he's the best bantamweight ever," former world-champion Sugar Ray Leonard said of Mark Johnson's induction into the Hall of Fame. I ask the House to join me in commending Mark Johnson for his outstanding accomplishments as a boxing champion and his ongoing commitment to the youth of the District of Columbia.

**TRIBUTE TO MERCERDESE CLARK**

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2012*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. On behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I rise now to offer heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary accomplished woman, Mrs. Mercereese Clark, a humanitarian, healer, life activist, and friend.

We are moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements and service of Mrs. Clark as a nurse, community leader, and social activist. She has been an advocate for social service, health awareness and a role model and mentor to youth and entrepreneurs in the Central Florida community for many years. An Orlando native who received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Hampton

University in Virginia, Mrs. Clark served as a nurse at Orange Memorial Hospital and Winter Park Memorial Hospital. Shortly after, she became the first African-American female to be the Director of the Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Florida. At the time of her retirement, she worked as a Nursing Care Coordinator at Orlando Veteran Administration Outpatient Clinic.

As a community activist, she gave of herself and her talents to benefit both the individuals and the many organizations she served. Mrs. Clark became chairwoman of the Parramore Heritage Renovation project which was responsible for assessing the needs and defining solutions for existing conditions within this historic neighborhood. She worked tirelessly to maintain the goal of the agency to preserve, develop and improve the economics of the area; improve the educational level of the residents; and preserve the cultural heritage of the community. She took special pride in the area because she had close ties to the community having grown up there as well as her own personal and historical connection her family had to the neighborhood. Mrs. Clark's parents, Leroy E. Richardson and Rosa James Richardson, her paternal grandmother, Adeline Richardson, and other family members were among Orlando's earliest residents in Central Florida. Mrs. Clark could recall the early days of the founding Orlando community where needs of families were often provided from the surplus of another. It was those memories that inspired and motivated her to become president of the Parramore Heritage Foundation, president of the Carter Street Neighborhood Association, and Board Director for the Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation. She also became a business owner in the area to contribute to the economic development of the vicinity by opening a women's boutique, Clarks' Ladies Fashion. Mrs. Clark had a very successful career and received numerous awards through her continuous involvement of various community, social and civic groups in Central Florida including the Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she was recognized for 15 years of outstanding service and commitment.

A virtuous woman and mother of two, we embrace her children and her family. She was a loving and caring mother who nurtured not only her children, but the community. We honor Mrs. Clark for the many contributions and the impact she had on the lives of many. She was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding servant. The life of Mercereese Clark was one of accomplishment, excellence and service. In her passing, we pay tribute to a consummate professional woman for her life of service and we pray that by her example each of us become the bearers of her spirit and humanitarian legacy of passion for service and excellence. We come now to join in prayer for, son, Kenneth Clark and daughter Kim G. Clark and a host of loving relatives, Sorority Sisters, and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this woman of God. We thank Our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Mrs. Mercereese Clark.