

around the Lakes. Whether it is tourism, agriculture, shipping, fishing, or recreational boating, the Lakes are vital to our very livelihood.

The Great Lakes face many challenges these days, but there is nothing more threatening to the health of the Lakes than the infiltration of Asian carp—an invasive species that are about 40 miles from our doorstep.

For this reason, today I introduced the Defending Our Great Lakes Act of 2015. This is a bill that will prevent the spread of Asian carp once and for all.

This bill does three things: First, it authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to update the infrastructure and install necessary technologies and measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site. Second, it requires the Army Corps to develop a long-term plan, in consultation with federal agencies as well as the Great Lake states and impacted business and environmental communities. Finally, this bill reaffirms the need to continue to examine the ongoing needs across the entire Great Lakes region for measures that protect our waterways from invasive species.

The Defending Our Great Lakes Act, by design, provides a broad authorization for the Army Corps, and it authorizes the use of the best technologies, including, but not limited to, electric barriers. The importance of this broad authorization is that it will allow them to use new, yet-to-be-developed technologies going forward.

It is important to note that this bill also instructs the Army Corps to consider the protection of the area's ecosystem to the greatest extent feasible so that no native populations are inadvertently harmed as we attempt to remove the threat of invasive species. Additionally, this bill also instructs the Army Corps to ensure the efficient flow of navigation so that there is no unnecessary impediment to commerce. Including these provisions further demonstrates the dynamic nature of the Great Lakes and how we must work with all interested stakeholders to accomplish the goal of preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin.

This bill was introduced with a broad bipartisan cross section of members from across the Great Lakes basin and in partnership with Senator DEBBIE STABENOW who will introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

In the many years I have been so honored to serve in Congress, the protection of our magnificent Great Lakes has been one of my primary advocacies.

I remember well battling the scourge of invasive species like zebra mussels, the sea lamprey, Eurasian Milfoil and phragmites.

All of these invasive species have taken an ecological and economic toll on our Great Lakes, and we have spent billions over the past two decades trying to mitigate their damage.

With Asian carp, however, we cannot afford to respond to the untold damage they are certain to have on our Lakes.

They represent the most grave threat we have faced, and they must be dealt with using preventative, proactive measures.

The Asian carp threaten our \$17 billion tourism industry and our \$7 billion fishing and recreation industry.

They threaten our very way of life, and potentially billions of dollars every year to our regional economy. We simply cannot turn our backs on this threat.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Defending Our Great Lakes Act and help ensure the long-term health and beauty of our precious Great Lakes. The Lakes are vital to our identity and livelihood.

BARBARA JORDAN—PATRIOT OF THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas lost quite the political patriot. A dear friend and tenacious community warrior, Barbara Jordan of Kingwood, Texas will be greatly missed. It gives me honor to recognize a lifelong volunteer, advocate and inspiration to the Kingwood community. The City of Houston and, indeed, the entire State of Texas, lost a dedicated leader and friend on February 22, 2015.

Barbara was born November 28, 1939 in Eagle Lake, Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have described her as “the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done.”

As her friend Pauline Adams put it, “Barbara was a force to be reckoned with. She was funny, irreverent and loved by everyone who knew her because she always had a smile on her face and a kind word for all. However, underneath the graciousness was a true Southern ‘Steel Magnolia’. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.”

Barbara was a political activist. She was a pioneer for the GOP in Houston and Texas back when there were not that many Republicans in Texas. She served on numerous boards and organizations throughout the years. She was past President and founding member of the Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club.

Barbara Jordan had an infectious spirit. She came to me along with Patti Johnson and Peggy Englehardt and suggested that I leave the D.A.'s office and apply for the vacancy in the criminal district court in Harris County.

With these women's help, I obtained appointment by then Governor Clements and then they helped me get elected as one of the only Republican criminal district judges in Harris County in 1982. I have Barbara to thank for the 22 years I spent on the bench. But Barbara wasn't through.

Barbara and other Republican women can be credited with getting me elected to Congress in 2004. She served as President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women from 1996–1997, and she is responsible for designing a pin for the Greater Houston Council officers and club presidents. The tradition of presenting a pin to officers and club presidents continues to this day. She has also been a member and an officer with one of the most powerful women's political organizations in Texas, the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Most GOP elected officials credit their elections to the Texas Republican Women like Barbara.

In 1999, Barbara was named Chairman of the Texas Federation of Republican Women State Convention. Barbara was ever working for God, home and country. She had a pas-

sion to keep America strong and Texas RED. Many Republicans owe her thanks. Her drive helped get other Republicans elected in Harris County.

My thoughts are with the love of Barbara's life, Ken Jordan—her husband of 54 years. The passing of Barbara has left four sons in mourning of their mother—John, Mark, Scott, and Todd. She also leaves behind four daughter-in-laws and seven cherished grandchildren. Her memory will live on, in the many lives she touched along the way. Last summer, I visited with Barbara and Ken at their home in Kings Forest.

Barbara was always gracious and welcoming; she simply was the best hostess. She was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by her loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship that we shared. She will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a mentor, genuine friend and a great patriot.

My Grandmother used to say there was nothing more powerful than a woman—that has made up her mind. Barbara was one such unique woman.

Barbara was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in her lifetime and for her community, state and political party. And for that, Texas and our people are better because of Barbara Jordan.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROLAND J. “ROCKY” GANNON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Roland “Rocky” J. Gannon, a resident of Florence, South Carolina and join with his friends throughout the Pee Dee area of South Carolina in celebration of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Gannon is a decorated veteran, having served thirty-seven years in the Air Force before retiring in 1980. His service began in 1943 while he was a high school junior when he entered an Air Force pilot training program, from which he graduated one month after D-Day. During his decades of service, he flew more than 6,000 hours in thirty-four different types of aircraft. Fourteen of those years were served overseas and included 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After the end of World War II, “Rocky” spent three years in Iwo Jima, Japan. His service in these theaters, as well as in the Korean War and Belgian Congo, earned him fifty military awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and ten Air Medals.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1980, Mr. Gannon took his expertise to the private sector as an independent aviation consultant and was subsequently named Executive Director of the Florence Regional Airport. In 2001, commemoration of his accomplishments in both civilian and combat aviation, he was named South Carolina Aviator of the Year and was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Association Hall of Fame.

“Rocky's” passion for aviation is matched only by his dedication to the Boy Scouts of

America. He joined the scouts when he was twelve years old and rose to the rank of Eagle Scout before joining the Air Force. He credits the training he received as a Boy Scout to much of his success in military and civilian life. He has given back to the scouts throughout his career and in 2009 received the Distinguished Eagle Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gannon on this milestone and thanking him for his outstanding contributions to Florence, the Pee Dee area, to South Carolina, and to our great country. I wish him Godspeed and a happy and healthy 90th birthday celebration in the company of his friends and family.

STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 5, the Student Success Act. This bill undermines the fundamental purpose of the Ele-

mentary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was created to ensure that disadvantaged children are provided a high-quality education that allows them to compete on a level playing field with their more-advantaged peers.

Among its many problematic provisions, this bill cuts crucial education funding, fails to hold states and districts accountable for supporting and improving the achievement of all students, eliminates and weakens protections for disadvantaged students, and lacks critical support systems for our nation's educators.

I believe No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is flawed and must be reformed, and reauthorization presents a tremendous opportunity to make much-needed improvements and bring our education system into the 21st century. However, instead of fixing the problems of NCLB, the Student Success Act does not reflect best practices and fails to strike the appropriate balance between flexibility and accountability.

Reauthorization should support college and career-ready standards, address the overuse of testing in teacher and school evaluations that currently forces educators to substitute test preparation for instruction, and feature an accountability system that includes meaningful targets for improving student attainment that gives schools and districts flexibility in how they achieve those goals.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5 and instead support reauthorization that restores our nation's commitment to providing equal opportunity for all students regardless of their background and protect our country's stu-

dents including the most vulnerable, which was the intention of this landmark civil rights law.

KINGWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL
SWIM TEAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, the boys from Kingwood Park High School in Houston, Texas won another state swim title. This marks the fourth state championship for the high school. According to the team's head coach, Greg McLain, this wasn't even supposed to happen. But, he said that they believed in each other and worked hard, noting that they didn't do it with superstars, but "as a team."

The Kingwood Park Panthers swim team pays homage to the old saying: "when it comes to talent versus hard work, hard work will always win."

Congrats to Kingwood Park's State Championship team: David Amoruso, Spencer Balog, Brenden Bennett, Austin Bradshaw, Eric Broussard, Matt Crowe, Trae Floyd, Christian Frey, David Johnson, John Johnson, Hunter Lang, Ryan Logan, Sam Poulin, Tate Stevens.

Go Panthers!

And that's just the way it is.