

the city's sports and entertainment opportunities, and spearheaded an inventive campaign to brand Sacramento as America's Farm-to-Fork Capital. By taking advantage of Sacramento's unique location in the heart of California's Central Valley, Mr. Hammond launched a movement that has revitalized Sacramento's restaurant scene and boosted business for local hotels and farmers.

In great part due to Mr. Hammond's dedication to his agency, Visit Sacramento's budget has grown from \$2 million to \$11 million, and its staff has more than doubled. In addition, Mr. Hammond is an extraordinarily active member of the community: He sits on the Boards of the Sacramento Downtown Partnership, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Regional Sports and Education Foundation, and the Sacramento Hotel Association.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to pay tribute to Steve Hammond, outgoing CEO of Visit Sacramento, as his friends and colleagues celebrate his well-earned retirement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his tenacity and dedication on behalf of the people of Sacramento, as well as his creativity in building up my beloved hometown as a destination for business, food, and culture.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER
WILLIAMSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christopher Williamson, a dedicated individual who devotes his life to protecting and defending the communities of South Carolina. Mr. Williamson has recently been appointed as the South Carolina Highway Patrol's first African American commander.

From the time he joined in 1988, Williamson has led a rewarding career within the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Williamson is a native of Darlington, South Carolina and was born into a family whose values were founded on hard work, personal integrity and community service. He graduated from Fayetteville State University in 1985 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a minor in Police Science. Soon after college, Williamson began his career within the law enforcement realm as a Correctional Officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

In 1986, Williamson accepted a position with the Darlington County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy and within two years, he joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol. His service on the Highway Patrol showed his great dedication, leadership, and dedication. He rose through the leadership ranks by eventually becoming Lieutenant Colonel in 2011 and last month, he was appointed the Commander of the South Carolina Highway patrol. As Commander, he is responsible for overseeing all Patrol operations statewide.

Mr. Williamson's service to his community is not limited to his position as Commander. In 2014 he received a master's degree in Clinical and Behavioral Counseling. He has served as a Youth Advocate Counselor in Berkeley County, a Camp Counselor, and even founded his

own non-profit organization that provides mentoring and life skill services for youth. He works hard to prepare youth within his county to become productive members of society. He is a fellow member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and he represents our fraternity by providing service to the world around him.

Mr. Williamson's career has taken him across the state of South Carolina and he has touched many lives. His humble upbringing and genuine qualities have enabled him to effectively serve his community. Throughout his career, he was actively involved in community service and has received numerous honors and awards for these efforts. He has made history by being appointed to this position and I am proud to call him a fraternity brother and personal friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing this barrier-breaking public servant, and to wish him Godspeed and continued success. Col. Christopher Williamson is a pioneer and an innovator in the law-enforcement arena and has earned the respect of the great state of South Carolina.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAS-KINGSVILLE

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville as it marks 75 years of service to the U.S. Navy and our nation.

Located in Kingsville, Texas, the Naval Air Station was opened on July 4, 1942. Inspired by the establishment of the nearby Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, a group of Kingsville civic leaders approached Navy officials at NAS Corpus Christi about creating a military airfield in February, 1941. While they did not receive official permission at that time, NAS Corpus Christi's commanding officer, Captain Alva D. Bernhard, expressed enthusiasm about the idea.

After the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Captain Bernhard predicted a military build-up including the influx of new trainees which would exceed the capacity of NAS-Corpus Christi, and plans to construct a new airfield in Kingsville began.

The airfield was quickly built on 3,000 acres of land bought from the B.O. Sims family. During World War II, the airfield, designated as "P-4," housed four squadrons. The squadrons taught gunnery skills for combat air crews, in addition to fighter and bomber tactics. After the war, the base was given to the City of Kingsville, which leased it to the Texas College of Arts and Industries. It was primarily used by the Department of Agriculture and expanded under the college's ownership.

The base was reactivated as a military installation in April, 1951, as an auxiliary air station, and trained roughly 300 aviators a year during the mid-1960s. In 1967, Congress approved \$3.8 million in funding for NAS-Kingsville, allowing it to improve operation and maintenance facilities, as well as troop housing. The base was re-designated as a naval air station on August 9, 1968. In 1990, it became the headquarters for Training Air Wing Two, a mission that continues today.

Training Air Wing Two includes Training Squadron Twenty One and Training Squadron Twenty Two. Around 150 students report to Training Air Wing Two annually for Undergraduate Jet Pilot Training. The Naval Air Station at Kingsville currently occupies 23,000 acres of land, spread across four sites, and employs around 1,350 people, in addition to training 50 percent of Navy and Marine Corps tactical jet pilots every year. Its economic impact on the surrounding community is also significant, as it provides roughly \$110 million dollars to the local area. This economic impact is matched by the installation's community outreach program, which includes school mentorship assistance and community self-help program assistance.

NAS-Kingsville has a long history of supporting both the local community and the country, and will continue to do so for years to come. I rise today to congratulate them on 75 successful years.

HONORING THE CHRISTIAN
RECORDER

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 165th Anniversary of The Christian Recorder. As the oldest periodical continually published by African-Americans in the United States, The Christian Recorder is the heart of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Originally founded in 1848 as The Christian Herald, the publication has been a leading voice for African-Americans ever since. It relocated to Nashville in 1852 with a new name, The Christian Recorder. Twenty-one editors have led The Christian Recorder including John Thomas III, the current leader and the first layperson to serve in this prestigious role.

The Christian Recorder is a reputable news service for religious news. It serves as the voice of two million members of the AME Church in thirty-nine countries around the world.

Its reach extends far beyond the Sunday School Union in Nashville where it is headquartered. From offering guidance to slaves during the Civil War to the battle for voting rights and fighting segregation, The Christian Recorder has been a pioneer for Civil Rights and equality for African-Americans.

I am proud to salute The Christian Recorder for its courageous efforts and its more than 165 years of service to the community.

HONORING NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nashville Public Library as the 2017 Library of the Year. This national honor, awarded by Library Journal and Gale Cengage Learning, recognizes public libraries for their

commitment to excellence, innovative programs and services, and dedication to the community.

Nashville Public Library is awesome, and unlike any other in America. It is also the location of my district office, perhaps the only congressional office in America located in a public library.

The Library partnered with Metro Nashville Public Schools to create the Limitless Libraries initiative, which allows students and teachers to order and borrow books, movies, laptops, iPads, and more. The Limitless Libraries program is a national model for getting library materials into students' hands every day, and this partnership has also helped turn several school libraries into exciting, interactive hubs for students.

Nashville Public Library reaches students outside the classroom, too.

Teenagers can work with professional mentors to create art or new inventions, work with robotics, and produce music and podcasts through the Library's unique Studio NPL program. The Library also engages children through its Bringing Books to Life! program, putting on productions at the Library's Children's Theater, and its well-known Puppet Truck. Puppeteers perform 20 shows a week at the theater, but also use the Puppet Truck to reach children and adults throughout Davidson County.

Most importantly is Nashville Public Library's Civil Rights Room. This chronicles Nashville's place in the Civil Rights movement, telling the stories of the heroes who fought against segregation and for equal rights. Last year the Library and the Nashville Public Library Foundation named our friend and colleague JOHN LEWIS their Literary Award Honoree. Congressman LEWIS' book, *March*, was also this year's selection in Nashville Reads, the Library's city-wide reading campaign, where everyone is invited to read a book and discuss it at libraries in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the writer and poet Jorge Luis Borges said, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." I agree.

Nashville Public Library is more than books inside a beautiful building. It is even more than Paradise. It is the heart of our community.

RECOGNIZING BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, Monday, July 31, 2017 marks Black Women's Equal Pay Day, which observes the amount of time it takes the average Black woman to earn the same pay that the average White man earns in one calendar year. In other words, Black women have to work all of 2016 and up to July 31, 2017 to earn what their white male counterparts made in 2016. This is shameful, and it is time for Congress to act to eradicate pay inequities once and for all.

Black women earn 60 percent of what their white male counterparts do, which is why it takes approximately eight additional months for them to reach pay parity with white men. The unfortunate reality of this wage gap is that this reality sets up Black women to fail. The

40 cents they fail to earn accumulates and limits them from fully participating in the U.S. economy. This money could be used to help pay down student loan debt, buy their first home, or purchase a car. It could help them pay for quality child care, start a business, or help care for elderly family members.

But earning 40 percent less does not just affect Black women's current economic situation, it also affects their ability to plan for their future. Being underpaid for equal work contributes to a wealth gap, retirement gap, and inheritance gap, which hinders upward mobility for future generations. According to the Pew Research Center, 54 percent of Black children live with a single parent, and Black families have 13 times less wealth than white families. A lack of wealth and savings means Black families have less to pass down to their children.

If Congress fails to act to ensure wage equality, then all women will lag behind in pay equity until 2059. This is unacceptable. Years of progress has resulted in Black women working across all fields and reaching high levels of academic achievement and it is time for these advancements to result in equal pay for equal work. I call on Republican Leadership to bring to the House floor, the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1869, and the Raise the Wage Act, H.R. 15. As a proud cosponsor of both of these two pieces of legislation, I urge immediate consideration of these bills so that pay equity can be achieved once and for all.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHERINE B. WHITMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Ms. Katherine B. Whitman for her dedicated service as a detailee to the House Armed Services Committee over the past six months. Katie is completing her Capitol Hill detail next month, and it is my hope that she has benefited as much from this experience as have we from her service on the subcommittee staff. Katie joined the committee during a year when the Department of Defense is struggling to recover from years of readiness account shortfalls. Katie's experience as a former surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy along with her expertise as a budget analyst within the Office of Management and Budget proved critical in our successful effort to markup and adopt one of the broadest reaching National Defense Authorization Acts in recent memory. Her analytical prowess and tenacious appetite for data enabled an historic increase in fiscal year 2018 NDAA authorization of additional resourcing for the Department's facility readiness accounts by over 2 billion dollars.

I am grateful to Katie for enduring many late nights at work. Her "can-do" attitude and tireless work ethic have been infectious. Her willingness to tackle new issues, and to embrace the goals I have set for the staff, were truly commendable. I have no doubt that as Katie continues her career she will achieve great things for the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, and her country. I appreciate her dedicated staff work

and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine America's affordable housing crisis, focusing on challenges and solutions.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lance Allen Robertson, of Oklahoma, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Brett Giroir, of Texas, and Robert P. Kadlec, of New York, both to be a Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Elinore F. McCance-Katz, of Rhode Island, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Jerome M. Adams, of Indiana, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

SD-430

AUGUST 2

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 154, to amend the Small Business Act to ensure small businesses affected by the onset of transmissible diseases are eligible for disaster relief, S. 650, to amend the Small Business Act to expand tax credit education and training