

democracy at work. Hollywood and other commercial filmmakers should not have to go to other or fake capitol buildings for movies and films about the U.S. Capitol. The current policy permitting filming near the United States Botanic Garden shows that the Capitol police can handle filmmaking on Capitol grounds, especially when Congress is not in session. However, filming from that vantage point captures the least familiar view of the Capitol. At a time when the reputation of Congress is particularly low, filming of the Capitol, a building that represents American democracy, could bolster its image. Keeping filmmakers from standing in front of the Capitol is neither business-friendly nor true to the nation's democratic traditions. Encouraging commercial filming and photography at the Capitol would help spread the story of our national legislature around the world. The time is overdue to allow commercial filming and photography of the exterior of the historic 19th century Capitol building.

There is no good reason why commercial filming and photography should be confined to Union Square. Specifically, my bill gives the Capitol Police the discretion, depending on the circumstances in and around the Capitol, to issue a permit authorizing commercial filming and photography under the same conditions as those in Union Square. Such areas might include, for example, Independence Avenue on the House side and Constitution Avenue on the Senate side. No policy or security reason exists to justify limiting commercial filming and photography of the Capitol complex to only one location, Union Square, particularly considering that permits are necessary. People are regularly seen on East Capitol Street (east of 2nd Street) taking pictures, where they get a full view of the Capitol building, demonstrating how arbitrary it is to limit commercial filming and photography to Union Square.

Capitol Police would also have authority to charge a fee to cover any costs incurred by the Architect of the Capitol as a result of the issuance of the permit, to be deposited into the Capitol Trust Account. The Capitol Trust Account was established to accept proceeds from any fees collected for commercial filming and photography permits for Union Square. Amounts in the Capitol Trust Account would be available without fiscal year limitation for such maintenance, improvements, and projects with respect to the Capitol grounds as the Architect of the Capitol considers appropriate, subject to the approval of the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate.

Views of the U.S. Capitol are among America's most iconic. Limiting commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, an important vehicle for telling the nation's story, does not serve the American people. Indeed, most of the world knows our country and reveres our system of government largely through commercial films and photos of the Capitol, which symbolizes our democracy at work. Commercial films and photographs of the Capitol, the seat of our democracy, are perhaps the best modern vehicles for telling the nation's story and showcasing its democratic system of government. Republicans and Democrats alike revere the image as a symbol of patriotism. My bill would enable appropriate, permitted commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, and would create economic benefits for the nation, the city, and private business.

# PROCLAMATION FOR DR. CEDRIC ALEXANDER

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Dr. Cedric Alexander:

Whereas, Dr. Cedric Alexander is celebrating forty (40) years in law enforcement this year, and has provided stellar leadership as a Police Chief and Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety to DeKalb County and beyond; and

Whereas, Dr. Alexander, has served passionately as a servant leader while pioneering and sustaining community policing, using his talents and skills as a vessel to ensure that justice and liberty finds its way to citizens from all walks of life; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man has been recognized by his colleagues in law enforcement, he is president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, as well as, a national advocate for better policing; and

Whereas, Dr. Alexander is an accomplished author who has published "The New Guardians: Policing in America's Communities for the 21st Century," which outlines the roles of police officers as guardians of public trust while providing the partnership needed to build communities; and

Whereas, he retires today from his post as Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety, we are thankful that Dr. Alexander has utilized his leadership, education and talents to make a difference in the lives of countless people across our nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Dr. Cedric Alexander, as he celebrates his retirement after 40 years in law enforcement, and wish him well as he embarks upon his new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 15, 2017 as Dr. Cedric Alexander Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of March, 2017.

## HONORING CHRISTOPHER KUI

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding leadership and achievements of Mr. Christopher Kui, Executive Director of Asian American for Equality (AAFE) on the occasion of his retirement after 31 years of public service. AAFE is a non-profit organization dedicated to social justice and community development. It was founded in 1974 in New York City's Chinatown community in response to a local developer's refusal to hire Asian-American workers for the federally financed towering apartment complex known today as Confucius Plaza.

Chris immigrated to New York from Hong Kong at the young age of 10. As a newcomer, he witnessed early in life the injustice and dis-

crimination faced by the Asian immigrant community in the areas of housing, education, employment practices and more. This experience helped shaped his life and career path. In 1986, he joined AAFE where he helped strengthen the organization's approach to advocacy and community development. In 1991, he assumed the position of Executive Director where he has served for the last twenty-five years. His vision, leadership and comprehensive approach to community planning has been extraordinary and has served as a model for other organizations. In this capacity, Chris successfully raised more than \$100 million to build more than 800 housing units for low-income and homeless families and individuals. In his efforts to promote homeownership opportunities, he secured \$378 million in mortgage financing.

In addition to his leadership role at AAFE, Chris is also the founder and board chair of Renaissance Economic Development Corporation (REDC). REDC is an AAFE-affiliate that provides counseling to small businesses and has loaned more than \$44 million to over one-thousand businesses during the past ten years. During Hurricane Sandy, it assisted 200 small businesses and awarded a citywide total of \$3.5 million dollars in loans and grants.

There is no doubt that Chris has been responsible for AAFE's growth and success. His breadth of knowledge, understanding of social policy, small business and housing have greatly contributed to the public and private partnerships that have fueled job creation and community development in Manhattan's Chinatown community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Christopher Kui for his 31 years of exemplary service and dedication to the Asian-American and diverse immigrant communities of New York City. My district is enriched by his vision and lasting legacy. I wish him a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

## HONORING CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important member of South Jersey's religious community, Congregation Beth Tikvah led by Rabbi Nathan Weiner, and to denounce the hate speech that was inflicted upon the congregation.

Recently, Congregation Beth Tikvah's synagogue was defamed by vandals who wrote out homophobic and racial slurs on the roof. This type of hate has no place in South Jersey's community or any community across our country. Anti-Semitism—and all types of hate speech—is un-American and a direct betrayal of the values on which this nation was founded.

We must call out prejudice, intolerance and violence wherever it exists and whoever perpetrates it. And we must all have the courage to protect the persecuted and speak out against bigotry and hatred.

Congregation Beth Tikvah is a welcoming place that teaches the values of joy, community building, and peace. Under Rabbi Nathan Weiner's dynamic leadership, this community

and their members have spread these values throughout South Jersey and I'm proud to represent them in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, places of worship, like Congregation Beth Tikvah, are vital to our communities. They provide people comfort in times of need, care for those less fortunate, and enable people to come together and express their faith. I'm grateful for the impact Congregation Beth Tikvah has made on South Jersey. And I know many of my constituents feel the same way.

PROCLAMATION FOR MS.  
BRIDGETTE DIXON THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has answered that call by giving of herself as an Assistant Principal at Dunaire Elementary, and as a beloved daughter, mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as the 2017 Administrator of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a graduate of the DeKalb County Schools, a mother of children in the DeKalb County Schools, a former teacher in the DeKalb County Schools, and for the past 25 years continues to make a difference in the lives of children as an Administrator in the DeKalb County Schools System; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our teachers and administrators have the tools, support and resources needed to promote and produce an educational product that the community will find desirable; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2017 Administrator of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 22, 2017 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of May, 2017.

THE RETIREMENT OF JIM RUANE,  
MAYOR OF SAN BRUNO, FROM  
PUBLIC OFFICE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary public service of

Jim Ruane, the Mayor of San Bruno, California, who is leaving office after 22 years of unparalleled leadership, eight of them as Mayor. His wisdom, eloquence, and devotion to civic leadership will be sorely missed by the 43,000 residents of his beloved community by the bay.

Jim was first elected to the city council in 1995 after previously serving on the planning commission. Since he joined the council, and under his leadership and that of colleagues, San Bruno has undergone a transformation. A deactivated Navy base was transformed into a vibrant, mixed use community. Tanforan Shopping Mall has been revitalized and San Bruno's downtown core is poised for revitalization. Jim's service also includes the contentious period leading to the establishment of BART service to the San Francisco Peninsula, through San Bruno.

The creation of an elevated right of way for Caltrain above San Bruno Avenue was decades in the making. Today, traffic in San Bruno moves smoothly and without interruption from the 92 daily commuter trains that serve the Peninsula. Personally, I love trains, but it would take a true romantic to love being stuck on San Bruno Avenue in a long line of traffic as the trains go by on a hot summer day.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most solemn duty that any of us undertake as elected representatives is to defend our community's interests after a fatal assault. On September 9, 2010, San Bruno was fatally assaulted by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company when a 30 inch high pressure natural gas pipeline ruptured, killing eight innocent people, destroying 38 homes, and damaging dozens more. The fire was so enormous that fire equipment from throughout the Bay Area and beyond responded.

From the beginning, and for years afterwards, Jim Ruane was, without question, one of the finest public servants I have ever witnessed. Literally in the heat of the moment, he offered accurate and comforting information to his community and also to the world. In the days and months after the explosion, Mayor Ruane led his community in endless meetings, forcing PG&E to answer tough questions about its role in the explosion and deaths. Throughout that time, I joined him and witnessed his steady hand in both quieting traumatized crowds and reassuring tearful neighbors that justice would be done and answers delivered.

Mr. Speaker, San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by suing PG&E, but it did. San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by exposing corruption at a state agency known as the California Public Utilities Commission, but it did. San Bruno did not have to issue subpoenas and release documents to the world exposing the cozy relationship of PG&E and its regulators, but the city did because doing so was part of the process of justice needed to demonstrate that no entity—including PG&E—is above the law. The utility was subsequently found guilty in federal court of multiple felonies. It was fined \$3 million by the court, after earlier being penalized \$1.6 billion by a reconstituted California Public Utilities Commission.

I am firmly convinced that the leadership of San Bruno—and importantly all of its councilmembers during these years—did our nation a public service by independently seek-

ing justice in this case. Notably, Jim Ruane was the ever-present face of conviction. He remained absolutely convinced that America's legal system would allow a mouse to roar. And roar it did. We as a Congress have failed to learn the lessons of San Bruno, and have repeatedly failed to cure the defects in federal statutes that contributed to the San Bruno catastrophe. However, the actions of the City of San Bruno have made America safer by forcing management to consider safety in pipeline operations.

Jim Ruane is the loving father of Jim Jr. and Stephanie, and the proud grandfather to Gavin, Patrick, Brendan and Ryan. He is also the devoted husband of Noreen, his partner in life and fellow resident of San Bruno for over 40 years. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War era.

Today, I rise to celebrate Mayor Jim Ruane, a man like few others. He is quiet and wise in normal times, but imbued with a natural command presence during times of exigency. In my book, he is one of our local heroes. With his departure, we thank him for bringing justice to us all, crafted like the best plaster ornamentation his company creates in its daily work, an enduring beauty for every citizen to behold.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING  
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies in today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to keep the economy growing. Although the overall unemployment rate has fallen to approximately four percent, Americans who have remained unemployed for longer than 27 weeks have not enjoyed a similar recovery. In October 2017, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 1.6 million, which accounted for 24.8 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the long-term unemployed now face employment discrimination as employers show reluctance to hire these job-seekers because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive to hire the long-term unemployed—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. This tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase the hiring and wages of those who have been unjustifiably left behind, while ensuring that the economy benefits from their participation. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer, including nonprofits, pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly, rather than annual, basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment" through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first