

Tragically, millions of hard working Americans like him now face a grim prospect, a retirement without economic security as their hard-earned pensions is pulled out from under them. Due to no fault of his own, Douglas's pension was cut from \$2,800 per month to \$900 per month. Today, everything is a financial struggle. He can no longer support his family. He can no longer pay his property tax, or his medical insurance. Even purchasing everyday items basic to daily life is a dilemma of true necessity. After 23 years of trucking service, after he put his life on the line for this country in his service in the Army, Douglas should be able to enjoy the golden years of his life, with his friends and family, without daily financial worry. Instead, he now lives in poverty, struggling to make ends meet. A robust member of his community, his distress is felt throughout his community.

I include in the RECORD the full testimony of Douglas Rumsey. Douglas Rumsey is not alone in his plight. This Congress turned its back on more than 40 years of pension promises, rolling back anti-cutback provisions. It turned its back on hundreds of thousands of hard working Americans. Telling these personal experiences is critical to understand why immediate action is required to buoy hope, retirement security, and the livelihoods of millions of American workers.

It is why I introduced the "Keep Our Pension Promises Act," along with Senator BERNIE SANDERS for the last several years, which would establish a legacy fund within the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to ensure solvency for multi-employer pension plans, but really to ensure the solvency of so many hard working American's retirements.

Additionally, it is why I joined my colleagues to introduce the "Butch Lewis Pension Protection Act" in honor of an Ohio Teamster. Without congressional action, nearly 50,000 Ohio retirees in the Central States Pensions Fund and thousands more Ohioans in the nearly 100 other troubled multi-employer plans pensions are in jeopardy. I have led the charge to push for a legislative fix to the multi-employer pension crisis year after year. The multi-employer pension crisis is just the tip of a looming pension crisis. It is time for Congress and this nation to come to terms with this economic threat in our own backyards.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense issue. Congress must act now. That's why I rise in strong support of this measure, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### LETTER TO COMMITTEE

I am a retiree of Teamsters Local 707 Pension Fund. I have lost 70% of my pension to date. I was promised this pension and paid into it by taking pay cuts that were part of my wage package and by giving up pay raises to make sure my pension was secure. I'm asking that the Select Joint Committee for Pension to please select the Butch Lewis Act (S-2147) as the solution for the pension crisis. The 4,500 members of my pension fund have been suffering for two plus years with drastic cuts. In February 2016 my pension was reduced 50% and then in February 2017 it was cut another 20% for a total of 70%. Please get the Butch Lewis Act passed as written. The Butch Lewis Act is not a government bailout; it helps all multi-employer pension funds including the Coal Miners, Iron Workers, and Carpenters.

Many of the retirees from my pension fund are losing their homes and can't afford food and health care insurance. Many of the retir-

ees, including myself, are veterans and many are disabled and are 70 and 80 years of age. Please don't turn your back on the workers and veterans who have helped build this country by working all their lives.

I am going to have to sell my home that I have worked for all my life and I'm not able to support my wife or live my retirement years as a self-supporting member of my community. Without my pension I'm living below poverty. My pension has already been cut from \$2,800 per month to \$900 per month. I cannot afford to pay my property taxes, pay, my medical insurance, and my medications, heat my home and buy food. No one can live on \$900 from PBGC after they had made plans to have their full pensions that were earned and promised. Please include Road Carriers Local 707 in the solution to the pension crisis solution.

I was drafted into the Army and then worked my entire life so that I could retire with dignity and enjoy my retirement. I am now disabled and cannot work to make up the 70% of my pension that I have lost. I cannot enjoy my retirement years and spend time with family and friends because of the pension cuts I have taken. My wife and I have worked and planned all our lives to live near family so that in our retirement years we could enjoy and have family nearby if needed for health issues but this too is threatened with these cuts. The stress caused by these cuts is unbearable to us at a time we should be enjoying the fruits of our long labor.

Above are just some of the things impacting the lives and health of myself and many of the families of Local 707—we are a prime example of how devastating this pension crisis has been to us and will be to others if all our pensions are not saved.

Thank you

DOUGLAS RUMSEY.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHAD IDE

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chad Ide for being the recipient of the 2018 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year Award.

Chad was nominated by the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District and he farms with his wife Francine and his parents, Monty and Diane Ide. The award is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Chad utilizes many farming practices, such as rotational grazing, no-till planting and the use of cover crops to boost the soil's organic matter. He has terracing in place on their land and has put in buffer strips to prevent chemical run off. He has also been active in conservation education through field days, tours, and trainings.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending this great man and his family for protecting the land in Iowa and congratulate them on this award. It is my honor to represent Chad in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING UPVALLEY FAMILY CENTERS OF NAPA COUNTY

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor UpValley Family Centers of Napa County on its fifteenth anniversary for its dedicated service to our many communities of Napa County.

UpValley Family Centers of Napa County (UVFC) was created nearly 20 years ago by dedicated Calistoga residents who aimed to create a local organization to help families access resources safely and conveniently. This goal has become their mission. UpValley Family Centers exists to provide guidance, support and resources for community members so they are able to improve their lives. UpValley Family Centers maintains strong partnerships with local organizations, schools, government agencies and private sector businesses to enable our up-valley communities to create opportunities for themselves.

UpValley Family Centers is committed to providing services that are culturally and linguistically sensitive. Over 80 percent of its staff is bilingual and bicultural and has extensive experience working with diverse communities. UVFC is committed to its prevention-focused, strengths-based approach. Staff members travel to meet clients in convenient locations and provide services that are based on the community's identified needs and interests. UpValley Family Centers aims to encourage and teach clients how to use their personal strengths to build a stronger community.

UpValley Family Centers has offices in Calistoga and St. Helena and is a centralized organization for people seeking information, tools, and services to improve their lives. It provides services to low-income working families and individuals of all ages through a multitude of programs, including early education, immigration assistance, youth mentorship, ESL classes, financial literacy programs, referrals to local health and wellness resources, among others. UVFC is also an emergency assistance and disaster response services provider. UpValley Family Centers is a second responder that was critical after the Valley Fire of 2015 and the Napa Complex Fires of October 2017. In the aftermath of those fires, UVFC worked to ensure that all up-valley households who were impacted by the fires were connected with the services they needed.

Mr. Speaker, UpValley Family Centers aims to ensure people in our community are supported, valued and able to create the future they want for themselves, their families and our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we recognize it for fifteen years of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER L. HOMENDY

#### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer L. Homendy, who recently

left the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure after more than 14 years of service as the Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. I had the privilege of working with Jennifer throughout her entire time with the Committee, but most closely since 2015 when I took over as Ranking Member.

Jennifer was born in New Britain, Connecticut, but later moved with her family to the Washington Metro area. For Jennifer, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was more than just a place to work; it was a second family. Her father, Sante Esposito, served as the Democratic Chief Counsel to the Committee from 1981 to 1998. Through both her father and mother, Jennifer learned the importance of public service at a young age.

As a student at Pennsylvania State University, Jennifer got her first real experience in government interning in Senator Arlen Specter's Harrisburg office. After graduation, she worked for the National Federation of Independent Business and the American Iron and Steel Institute before spending seven years working for transportation labor—first with the Transportation Trades Department and then the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

She left the Teamsters in 2004 to join the Democratic staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she developed unrivaled expertise in issues surrounding the railroad industry and its employees, the safety and security of transporting hazardous materials, and the safety of oil and gas pipelines.

Jennifer is a passionate and tireless advocate for transportation safety, which is why it is extremely fitting that Jennifer left the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to become a Board Member at the National Transportation Safety Board. During her tenure as Staff Director, Jennifer guided major pieces of rail, pipeline, and hazmat safety legislation through the legislative process, including: the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Specials Programs Improvement Act of 2004; the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users; the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006; the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008; the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA); the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011; and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in 2015. Throughout her tenure on the Committee, she was an unwavering defender of the Nation's passenger railroad, Amtrak, and the need for swift implementation of positive train control.

When she is not at work trying to improve the safety of our transportation system, Jennifer spends her time running and training for marathons and triathlons. She is also a devoted mother who spends many weekends traveling with her daughter Alexandra (Lexi) to Irish dance competitions across the country.

I want to thank Jennifer for her many years of service to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. We will miss her, but look forward to working with her in her new role at the NTSB. I wish Jennifer, her husband Mike, and daughter Lexi all the best in the years to come.

## TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND BOB COOPER

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joyce and Bob Cooper, of Creston, Iowa for being selected as Union County's 2018 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Both Joyce and Bob are community minded, recognizing the needs in their county and making time to address the challenges. Both 4-H members themselves, they gave their time as adults to leading clubs in Union County. Bob was a co-leader for the Grant Toppers 4-H club, taking the boys on camping and fishing trips many times. Joyce was a co-leader for the Jolly Jills 4-H club and taught many young ladies how to sew, cook, can, and garden. Their five children also showed dairy cattle and horses. Bob and Joyce served on the Union County Fair Board for 14 years and served on the dairy committee for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Joyce and Bob demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Their efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them, and Iowans like them, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Joyce and Bob Cooper for their award and wish them nothing but continued success.

## HONORABLE CARL J. CHARACTER

### HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation on this 4th day of September 2018:

Whereas, Judge Carl J. Character departed this life August 24, 2018, and was funeralized September 1, 2018 at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, Judge Character was appointed the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in 1987 by former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, was elected to the bench in 1990 and retired in 1997; and

Whereas, Judge Character's distinguished service on the bench was typified by his philosophy that everyone appearing before him deserved his time and full attention while receiving a fair hearing or trial; and

Whereas, Judge Character, prior to serving on the bench, practiced law with former Congressman Louis Stokes and former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes, representing welfare recipients, Fortune 500 companies, criminal defendants and clients who simply needed a will or help with a workers' compensation claim; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a past president of the National Bar Association, member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness, board member of many organizations, including University Hospitals and the

Cleveland Bar Association, and former Vice President of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Korea and Japan during the Korean War; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a product of Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Glenville High School, and received his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and law degree from the University of Michigan; and

Whereas, Judge Character was a member Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

Whereas, Judge Character is survived by his wife, Dee Ann, two daughters, Dea L. Character and Darla Character-Johnson, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and leaves a legacy of legal and judicial excellence, committed community service and the respect of his peers;

*Resolved*, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, we acknowledge, salute and celebrate the life of The Honorable Carl J. Character, his contributions to Northeastern Ohio this 4th Day of September 2018, and in honor of his service to Northeast Ohio and our country.

## HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE L. MURRAY, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Command Sergeant Major George L. Murray, U.S. Army (Retired).

CSM (Ret) George Murray was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Army on April 17, 1939 out of the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Separate Chemical Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii where he was serving on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He returned to Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, in 1942 to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). After graduation he was assigned to Camp Sibert, Alabama. In August 1944, he joined C Company of the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion in France and served with the battalion for the remainder of World War II.

From the end of the War to 1951, he served in various assignments in CONUS, including the Deseret Chemical Center, UT, the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., and the 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. In 1949 he reverted back to the enlisted rank of Master Sergeant. He served as First Sergeant and instructor in the Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) School in Japan from November 1951 to July 1954. Afterwards, he returned to CONUS and served at Fort Dix, N.J., as Committee Chief of the CBR School. He was promoted to Sergeant Major on April 8, 1959 and served as Sergeant Major for the 100th Chemical Group and for the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Training Command from July 1960 to July 1964, he served at Headquarters Chemical Sections in Orleans, France and Heidelberg, Germany. He returned to Fort McClellan, Ala., in August 1964 and again served as Sergeant Major of