

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

the 100th Chemical Group. In January 1969 he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps School, which made him one of the first Sergeants Major to be promoted to the new rank of CSM.

CSM (Ret) Murray is a veteran of both the Pacific and European Theaters of Operations during World II. He is a veteran of Pearl Harbor and the campaigns of Northern France, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland and Germany. His awards include the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC).

After his retirement in 1969, CSM Murray accepted a position as Safety Supervisor, with the FMC Corporation in Anniston, Alabama. He continues to be active supporting the Chemical Corps Museum and the Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA). He served as the first Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment and is a member of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps Hall of Fame. He currently lives in Anniston with his wife, Theddie, but will soon be moving to Texas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking George for his service to our country.

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HONORING MARIE FORD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Marie Ford.

Mrs. Ford is the daughter of the late Mrs. Clay D. Moore. She is married to Mr. Charles Ford and the mother of two daughters, Luetrina and Catrina. She has two grandsons and three siblings.

Mrs. Ford is a retired educator but continues to work on a part-time basis in education. She received her education in the Greenville Public School District. She attended Lucy L. Webb Elementary School and graduated from Coleman High School in 1964. She furthered her education at Mississippi Valley State University, graduating with degrees in Biology and Chemistry in 1969. She later received a Masters Degree from Delta State University in Biology in 1975.

Her teaching career has spanned some 40 plus years. She began teaching at Coleman High School, then Leland Middle School, and eventually Leland High School, where she officially retired in 2009.

Mrs. Ford is a member of the Greater St. Peter M.B. Church, pastored by Dr. Jesse King. She serves as the church's secretary and Superintendent of the Sunday school. She also serves as the Dean of the Washington County General Baptist Association, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Marie Ford for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

TRIBUTE TO VIC NOER

**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 Vic Noer, of Bedford, Iowa for being awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Bedford Area Chamber.

Vic has lived in Bedford for 52 years where he has worked as a house painter and ran a movie theatre. He has welcomed local kids to play basketball on his "green court" while teaching them skills and helping them learn about the game. He served on the Bibbins Park Board for 30 years while also being active on the library, museum, and Hospice of Central Iowa boards. He spent many years as the camp director for the Western Iowa Chapter for Muscular Dystrophy and is still very active with the Bedford Iowa Lions Club.

Mr. Speaker, the examples set by Vic demonstrate the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and constituents like him, in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Vic Noer for his achievement and wish him nothing but continued success.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
PESHTIGO FIRE

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire. The Great Peshtigo Fire claimed more lives than any other fire in our nation's history, but it is an often-overlooked tragedy. Few of us can imagine a blaze large enough to consume millions of acres across Northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. Yet the destructive force of the fire is a powerful testament to the resilience of the Wisconsinites who emerged from the tragedy and rebuilt from the ashes.

The year 1871 was a defining moment for the survivors who, with no exceptions, lost family members, neighbors, friends, homes, and businesses. The village of Peshtigo lost more than half its residents to the fire on the night of October 8, 1871. The exact number of deaths is uncertain because many loggers traveled in and out of the city each day, however, most estimates indicate that more than 700 people died in Peshtigo as fire consumed the city. Hundreds more perished in the smaller communities spread across the 1.5 million acres destroyed by the blaze.

Although the village of Peshtigo was built on both sides of the Peshtigo River, the fire spread too quickly for many to escape. Eyewitnesses described the firestorm as a roaring tornado that fell from the sky with searing heat. By the following morning, the village was reduced to a blackened wasteland in which almost nothing recognizable remained. As survivors emerged from the river, they discovered

that the blaze had melted even metal coins and casks of nails.

The Great Peshtigo Fire occurred during an often-forgotten chapter in American history that witnessed three of the worst fires on record break out across the Midwest. Although the Great Peshtigo Fire is sometimes overshadowed by the Great Chicago fire that occurred at the same time, the fire in Wisconsin was far deadlier and remains the worst in U.S. history. Indeed, news of the destruction in Peshtigo may have been slow to spread because the fire had consumed telegraph wires as it burned.

Despite this unprecedented destruction, the residents of Peshtigo gradually rebuilt their city and worked hard to make it a thriving community once more. In offering this proclamation today, it is my hope that this tragic episode will remain in the public memory. I invite this body to recognize the victims of the Great Peshtigo Fire—a blaze that stands as our country's worst in both its size and lethality. I also want to commemorate the extraordinary resilience of the survivors who, though they lost everything, set out to rebuild their lives and their town. It is a testimony to their efforts that Peshtigo recovered and became a vibrant community again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in recognizing the 147th anniversary of the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE MIGRATORY  
BIRD TREATY ACT'S CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 4, 2018*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This Act has saved millions of migratory birds, protecting over one thousand species important to Americans and our natural world.

Since being signed into law in 1918, the MBTA has played a pivotal role in animal welfare. Within my own state of Michigan and in the 12th district, birds contribute greatly to the environment of our region. Southeast Michigan even includes designated Important Bird Areas like the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie Basin, which are used extensively for migration by waterfowl such as Canvasbacks, Tundra Swans, and more. What's more, their presence also provides substantial economic benefits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that there are more than 2 million birders in Michigan, and throughout our nation there are over 45 million birders who collectively spend around \$41 billion on bird-watching each year. And birds remain in serious need of protection. According to the 2016 State of the Birds Report, from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, more than one third of North American bird species are in need of urgent conservation action. Most of the U.S. species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so this foundational law remains key to their conservation.

100 years after its implementation, it is critical that we ensure the MBTA's continued success. We owe our children and our grandchildren the joy of experiencing the rich bird