

advocating for additional transit, bicycle and pedestrian options to improve the daily commute of our residents. She has done exceptional work to preserve our natural resources for future generations by fighting to preserve 330 acres in the foothills. Councilmember Finlay and I recently held a first responder event together to improve wildfire and mudslide prevention and response activities in Duarte and our surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Duarte and the many people she has impacted in the Southern California Region, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Councilmember Margaret Finlay for her service as President of the Southern California Association of Governments. I look forward to continuing to work with Councilmember Finlay to improve the lives of residents in Duarte and the San Gabriel Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE OF R.B.
"BOB" TAYLOR

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran, community leader, and dear friend, R.B. "Bob" Taylor who went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2018 at the age of ninety-two.

Bob was born on October 17, 1926, in Oak Town, Indiana. He served in the United States Army 7th Infantry Division from 1944 to 1946 during the Second World War where he deployed to the South Pacific, with stints in both Okinawa and Korea.

On May 15, 1947, he married his wife of seventy-one years, the former Alice Fox. Together Mr. and Mrs. Taylor raised two daughters, Scarlet and Rhonda, and one son, Michael. The Taylor family has called the Texas Gulf Coast home for many years, having lived in the East Harris, Clearlake, and West Chambers County area since 1953. In 2001, Bob was appointed to an open seat on the City Council in Beach City, and was elected to another term in 2002. He also served as an elected Precinct Chairman for the Chambers County Republican Party. Bob Taylor was also a member and/or director of numerous community and civic organizations including: Arabian Shrine Temple, 32nd Degree Mason, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Cedar Bayou Navigation District Task Force, Bay Area Crime Stoppers, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was also a founder of both the Clear Lake Boat Parade and the Clear Lake Hydroplane Boat Races. Bob often reflected on participating in the Coast to Coast Antique Automobile Race with his son in the late 1980's. He later served as a Bayou Bowl Director, a member of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and as a Director for the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Corporation.

A patriot, dedicated public servant, and close friend, Bob will be missed, but his many contributions to his country, state, and community will long live on. Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the family and numerous friends of R.B. "Bob" Taylor.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHEAST
MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERN-
MENTS (SEMCOG)

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as it celebrates its 50th year of serving Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed 50 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

In the continuing pursuit of regional coordination, business, community, and government leaders came together in the mid-1960s to form the Committee of 100. The Committee of 100 reviewed the functions of both the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Commission. In January 1968, on recommendation of the Committee of 100, the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Committee disbanded, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments was formed and began to respond to the need for both planning and other types of intergovernmental and regional programs.

SEMCOG's earliest years set the tone for much of the work they do today and will continue to do in the future. I've had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the growth of SEMCOG, from the days of the Committee of 100 to today.

Today SEMCOG serves 4.7 million people in the seven-county area surrounding Metropolitan Detroit. SEMCOG supports coordinated local planning with technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. The principal purpose of SEMCOG is to help local governments improve and maintain Southeast Michigan's transportation systems, environmental quality, economic interests, and infrastructure.

SEMCOG has been instrumental to our work in Congress, serving as a valuable resource to not only me and my office, but the entire Michigan delegation. A strong, collegial working relationship has been mutually beneficial to developing policy and addressing the needs of Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SEMCOG for their steadfast commitment to their mission of addressing regional challenges and strengthening the abilities of local governments to work together.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
YMCA OF NORTHERN UTAH

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the YMCA of Northern Utah, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, the YMCA opened its doors in Salt Lake City,

Utah. Since then, the YMCA. has been vital in building strong kids, families, and communities. Whether it be homework support or summer camping, the Y's impact on Northern Utah has been invaluable.

The afterschool programs that the YMCA provides are priceless to its communities. The Y provides 28 afterschool programs sites across Utah, which serve over 1,350 youth. These programs help ensure that kids have a safe, instructive, and enjoyable place to go after school. This not only gives parents peace of mind about their children's safety, but also instills core values of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility in the participants of the programs.

The YMCA offers many programs that celebrate the beautiful outdoor landscapes in Utah. Utah is widely known as one of the most beautiful places to live and offers a wide variety of outdoor adventures. However, various factors can prevent our children from experiencing the beauty that our state has to offer. The Y has gone to great lengths to ensure that all children can have the opportunity to appreciate the outdoors through overnight camps, day camps, and even recess camps. In these summer programs spread throughout the state, children can meet new friends, learn new skills, connect with nature, and have fun.

On top of everything else, the YMCA also provides a "wide range of programs for adults. Courses are available for individuals learning to speak English, improve financial literacy and money management, prevent Type 2 Diabetes, and enhance fitness. These classes have been wildly successful, with some even gaining national recognition. The development of these skills has been life-changing and enriching to many across the state.

In conclusion, the services at the YMCA have been integral in making Utah one of the best places to live and raise a family. One hundred and twenty-five years later, Utah is a better place to live, with stronger communities and children, because of the YMCA. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the YMCA of Northern Utah as it celebrates its 125 anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND JIM FOJE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda and Jim Foje of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on February 16, 1968 at Faith Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

Linda and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE MARVIN JOHNSON JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. on his one hundredth birthday.

General Johnson had a long and distinguished military career that started when he first joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 to when he retired in 1975 as a United States Air Force Major General. He selflessly served during World War II in the European Theater of Operations as an operations officer and troop carrier squadron commander, and participated in seven major campaigns. General Johnson has also served as a commander of the Oklahoma City Air Materiel Area, Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and was chief of staff of the Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

General Johnson's military distinctions and awards are many. They include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre. He was also awarded a command pilot rating with over 6,000 flying hours.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I thank General Johnson for his service and congratulate him on celebrating this birthday of one hundred years. He has served our country with distinction and honor, and can be proud of his contributions towards protecting our citizens and strengthening the safety of our country. May his one hundredth year be filled with blessings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. for his service to our great nation and for celebrating his one hundredth birthday.

NO ASSISTANCE FOR ASSAD ACT

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 2011, Bashar Al-Assad purposely and systemically destroyed Syrian communities in order to crush political opponents and retain absolute dictatorial power, with the help of his Russian and Iranian backers. Starting as peaceful protests, the people of Syria demanded basic freedoms from the Syrian government. Of course, this was met with a harsh crackdown, prolonged conflict, and today, a humanitarian crisis. As co-chair of the Friends of a Free, Stable and Democratic Syria Caucus, I believe we in Congress must do all we can to ensure that the welfare of the Syrian people remains the top priority of our involvement in the region, and condition any engagement with the Assad regime as such.

My heart goes out to every Syrian that has to monitor the skies to see what aerial attacks

will be coming that day; to every child that has been robbed of their innocence—forced to leave their home and live in constant fear, denied a basic education—and to every family member left wondering if their relatives will live to see the next day. We've all seen the images in Syria. They're hard to stomach. Yet, the attacks persist. The violence and ruthlessness persist. Assad and his supporters in Russia and Iran are responsible for all of this pain and suffering.

H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act, would ensure that American assistance for reconstruction in Syria should be available in areas controlled by Assad only if the regime stops its indiscriminate use of weapons, ends attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, releases political prisoners, allows human rights organizations access to prisons, and removes senior officials complicit in human-rights abuses. If the Assad regime, Russia, and Iran continue to break Syria, this legislation makes clear they must own the responsibility for rebuilding it. U.S. policy must not allow the regime in Damascus control American dollars that are meant to rebuild the country.

I was proud to introduce this critical legislation with Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman ROYCE, and my fellow caucus co-chair, ADAM KINZINGER. I thank them for their hard work on this legislation and urge passage of this timely, important legislation.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my common sense amendment that will protect consumers by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate at the FAA. More than nine million flights take off and land in the United States every year. In my home state of Oregon, nearly 20 million people passed through the Portland International Airport last year, and that number will continue to grow.

Unfortunately, many passengers have experienced inconveniences such as lost luggage and delayed flights that result in missed connections. Some passengers have experienced much worse, including being forcibly removed from flights when seats are oversold, or sitting on a tarmac for hours.

With more than two and a half million people flying U.S. skies every day, it is critical that they have somewhere to turn if things go wrong. They deserve to be treated with dignity and to have a reliable advocate who is on their side.

My simple amendment would enhance the FAA's existing Aviation Consumer Protection Division by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate.

This will provide travelers a dedicated person at the FAA to help navigate the Aviation Consumer Protection Division and try to resolve problems that arise with airlines.

In addition to helping travelers, the Aviation Consumer Advocate would provide the FAA with recommendations on how best to enforce consumer protection rules and improve the flying experience.

The Aviation Consumer Advocate would also evaluate the FAA's response to complaints, and provide a report to Congress about the volume and frequency of complaints, as well as recommendations on how Congress can take action to bolster consumer protections for fliers.

This is a common sense amendment to protect all our constituents.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in strengthening consumer protections and supporting the millions of Americans who fly every day.

TRIBUTE TO ANNABELL AND LAVERNE BROWN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Annabell and Laverne Brown of Mount Ayr, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 12, 2018.

Annabell and Laverne's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. This bill would shore up long-term funding for critical FAA programs and authorize additional disaster program funding for areas like Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, which are still struggling to bounce back after the 2017 hurricane season.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of a recently adopted amendment, which will help ensure the safety of the national airspace by prohibiting individuals from operating unmanned aircraft systems that are equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon.