

Since the creation of the TSA, the technologies utilized at checkpoints and the mechanisms used to acquire them have changed very little.

Given issues from prior Congresses, including the wait time crises and covert testing failures, there are renewed pushes by stakeholders to have TSA continue in a more progressive direction in terms of security policies and technologies and the manner in which these technologies are procured.

The volume of work that the TSA must accomplish is growing each year and so are the threats they must face.

In 2017, over 750 million passengers were screened by the Transportation Security Administration.

In 2017, a record setting 3,957, firearms were discovered in carry-on bags at checkpoints across the country, averaging 76 firearms per week or over 10 per day.

84 percent of those firearms were loaded.

This represents over a 16 percent increase in firearm discoveries from 2016.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport had 142 firearms discovered in 2017.

It is time for us to take action to secure our vital transportation facilities.

H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a working group to promote collaborative engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and public and private sector stakeholders to develop recommendations for enhancing security in public areas of transportation facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to intervene.

The Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018 is a necessary step towards securing our transportation system.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5766, the Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018, to protect the safety of our citizens.

#### HONORING PINI ACE HARDWARE

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of Pini Ace Hardware, which has served the City of Novato and greater Marin County since 1918, enduring through disasters, including a large fire in 1944, and major world events such as World War I, World War II, and the Great Depression.

Founded by Henri Pini, who immigrated from Switzerland in 1906, Pini Hardware started out as a small grocery store, selling dry goods and produce. Over the years, the store relocated and expanded to respond to the changing demands of the growing community, and was sold by the Pini family after Henri passed away. Currently owned by Tom, Russel, and David Young, not only is Pini Hardware celebrating 100 years of business this year, but also 50 years of Young family ownership.

Well-known for outstanding customer service, Pini Ace Hardware is praised by shoppers for its old-fashioned and community-oriented

approach, and for its enduring community service. The store regularly sponsors school sports teams, hosts monthly Kid Club events, and participates in local events such as the Downtown Novato Tree Lighting and Scream on the Green as well as in Novato's Fourth of July parade with the Pini Plunger Brigade. As a member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, Pini Hardware is a shining example of the Chamber's mission of "Building Business, Building Community."

Mr. Speaker, after a century of outstanding customer and community service, Pini Ace Hardware's legacy to Novato and Marin County is immeasurable, and I wish them another 100 years of success. It is therefore appropriate to honor Pini Ace Hardware on this momentous occasion.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF THOMAS BLANCHARD, JR.

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Blanchard whose knowledge and passion for the water led to a career of accomplishments as an urban and waterfront developer, as well as a tireless advocate promoting the limitless opportunities for preservation, recreation and tourism along the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Tom's professional résumé began in the state of Virginia as Economic Development Planner for the City of Norfolk, Model Cities Program in the early 1970's. He would go on to become Executive Director of the City of Portsmouth Community Action Organization and Director of the Department of Development for the City of Norfolk.

As City of Norfolk Director of Development, Tom was directly involved in the acquisition and redevelopment of several key parcels of land, mostly along the waterfront, that led to revitalization and reuse from beach front residential to deep draft channel ship and barge terminals. As Executive Director of the Norfolk Recreational Facilities Authority, he managed the concept development and feasibility for NAUTICUS, The National Maritime Center, a \$52 million waterfront themed attraction which opened in 1994.

After serving as Executive Vice President of the Greater Norfolk Corporation from 1985 to 1989, he was recruited to New York State and my hometown of Buffalo as the executive director of Erie County's Horizons Waterfront Commission. It was said of Tom that his selection represented a quantum leap forward. He moved forward as well when the work of the Commission was merged into Empire State Development Corporation in 1995. His appointment as Director of Research and Planning for the Western New York Region continued his leadership role in planning, presenting and pushing for approvals to construct the Erie Canal Harbor project in downtown Buffalo and various projects in downtown Niagara Falls.

His familiarity with the historical significance of the Erie Canal, an engineering marvel that has been in operation since 1825, made Tom Blanchard an inspired appointment to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commis-

sion. As has been stated, "the federally-appointed Erie Canalway Commission, created by Congress in 2000, is tasked with managing activities of the National Heritage Corridor with financial support and technical assistance through the National Park Service.

This new kind of national park called for a new kind of private-public partnership to bolster and strengthen the implementation of the Corridor's award-winning Preservation and Management Plan. And once again, Tom stepped up in 2010 as the first Chair of the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, a nonprofit that assists in carrying out the work of the Commission by securing additional private and public resources to preserve its historical significance and bolster its \$300 million impact on the region.

Tom's career has been characterized by excellence, as shown through the honors he has received; he is a member of the Omega Delta Epsilon Honorary Economics Society, an Old Dominion University School of Business and Economics Distinguished Alumni, and received the Edward de Luca Lifetime Achievement Award for Professional Excellence in Economic Development in 2001.

His volunteer service on both land and sea extended beyond the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission to include a stint as chair of the National Council for Urban Economic Development, Norfolk Opportunities Industrialization Center and as Past Commodore of the Buffalo Yacht Club. An avid sailor, Tom also holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master Mariner Credential for 50-ton vessels operating in the Great Lakes and U.S. Inland Waters.

Volunteerism extends to his wife Paula as well as they have teamed up with a dedicated committee to bring the largest concentration of tall ships to visit the Queen City in decades. Seven traditional rig sailing vessels are expected to highlight July 4, 2019 celebrations along our vibrant waterfront as "Port of Call: Buffalo" will serve as a visible link to Buffalo's rich maritime past.

For almost fifty years, Tom Blanchard has been a visible link connecting past and present along the water's edge for the benefit of residents and visitors and we thank him for his expertise, unwavering commitment and service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission and Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board of Directors meet at One Canalside in Buffalo on June 27, 2018, let me add my appreciation for their ongoing good work and join with them in acknowledging the significant contributions of Thomas Blanchard, Jr.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 2018 I was not able to participate in the 6:30 pm vote series. If I were present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 289, and "yea" on rollcall No. 290.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on June 25th and 26th of 2018, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 299, YES on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5783, NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 961, NO on H. Res. 961, YES on final passage of H.R. 4294, YES on final passage of H.R. 2083, and YES on final passage of H.R. 5841.

## HONORING DR. DELORES JACOBS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Delores Jacobs for her outstanding career spent dedicated to empowering local San Diego LGBT community members, as well as her inspirational drive to impact public policy. These policies encourage the improvement and preservation of the LGBT community and allies.

Dr. Jacobs launched her momentous career in 1998 when she began serving at The San Diego LGBT Community Center, "The Center," as the Director of Behavioral Health Services. In 2001, she was selected as the Chief Executive Officer of The Center and served this position until June 30, 2018. Thanks to her strong leadership and far-reaching efforts, this facility is now recognized as one of the nation's oldest and largest LGBT Centers, as it now offers over 60,000 services to 25,000 people annually.

Throughout her career of 20 years spent at The Center, Dr. Jacobs' efforts led to the development of progressive, one-of-a-kind programs; Dr. Jacobs assisted in creating the Hillcrest Youth Center, the country's first Latino services department at an LGBT center, as well as the establishment of the 23-unit Sunburst Youth Housing program, which seeks to provide aid for formerly homeless LGBT youth.

Dr. Jacobs' mission did not stop at community involvement, she also sought to impact public policy through the establishment of The Center's Get Out The Vote (GOTV) organization, as well as leading the charge towards the defeat of California's unjust state constitutional amendment, Proposition 8, that banned same-sex marriage.

Dr. Jacobs' proven dedication and leadership has not gone unnoticed, and she remains an inspiration to us all. Delores was chosen as the inaugural recipient of the, "Local Heroes" Award from KPBS and Union Bank, as well as the LEAD San Diego's Visionary Award for Diversity and the Equality Leadership Award from Equality California.

On behalf of California's 51st Congressional District, I would like to formally extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Jacobs on her retirement and career of effecting change for a

marginalized community, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING MATTHEW KORTEN

**HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish Matthew Korten a happy 60th birthday today.

Matt was born in the Bronx on June 26, 1958. At a very young age he always passionate for sports, politics, and helping others. Matt attended SUNY Brockport in 1976 where he studied Psychology while also participating on the Men's Track Team. He then graduated with his Masters in Experimental Psychology at Villanova University in 1982.

Since moving to East Brunswick in the late 1980s with his wife Marci, Matt has been an active and all-around member of the community by volunteering as a Transportation & Commuter Advocate, a Trustee of Temple B'nai Shalom, President of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, co-founder and President of the Fast Break Basketball Association, Inc. and on the community Development Block Grant Citizen's Advisory Committee. Matt's commitment to the East Brunswick has been consistently recognized by his neighbors, who have elected him as Committeeman for East Brunswick's 36th Voting District since the early 1990s; and in 2009, East Brunswick's governing board appointed him to serve the remainder of the year on the Township Council.

Matt has given 30 years working toward improving the quality of life in the community and has proudly represented East Brunswick in all the work he has done—he truly represents the ideals of a great public servant and community leader. Along with his wife, Matt has three sons, Dan, Brad, and Grant.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Matt Korten on his birthday and to thank him for his amazing service to his community and others.

THE RETIREMENT OF MARTIN  
"MARTY" RENDON**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks and to honor Martin "Marty" Rendon on the occasion of his retirement from UNICEF USA, where he worked for 25 years as Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy. In this capacity, Marty worked with me and with my staff to advance a wide range of funding and policy measures that have improved the lives of vulnerable children around the world, focusing particularly on global child health and child survival. Marty has also been an invaluable resource to the work my colleagues and I do through the House Global Health Caucus.

While many of us may know him best from his advocacy work, prior to working at UNICEF, Marty had a 25-year career on Capitol Hill working on child survival and human

rights issues. Marty worked with four Members of Congress, including 14 years of service to former Congressman Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio), where he helped implement the child health revolution in U.S. foreign policy and was on the ground floor of the 1986 bipartisan Congressional initiative for child survival funding. He capped his career on Capitol Hill as Staff Director of the House Select Committee on Hunger.

A well-known leader on a wide range of global health and human rights initiatives, Marty was invited to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in 1996 for his work on East Timor (Timor Leste). Marty's work on the Hill and at UNICEF has literally saved the lives of millions of children.

Members of Congress and the organizations working on global health constitute a close-knit community, of which Marty has been a leading voice and champion for 50 years. We thank him for his service, for the efforts he has made for the least among us, and for his persistent advocacy. We wish him well as he continues with the next chapter of his life.

NAFTA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF  
TRADE TO ALABAMA'S ECONOMY**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2018*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to address the Trump Administration's renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA, which governs trade between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, has a substantial impact Alabama farmers, workers, industry, and consumers.

Over 173,000 Alabama jobs are dependent on NAFTA, with the state exporting over \$7.7 billion in goods and services to Canada and Mexico. Canada is Alabama's largest export market and Mexico is the state's 4th largest. If the Trump administration withdrew from NAFTA, as they have threatened to do, Alabama's economy would suffer. Americans would lose their jobs, supply chains would be disrupted, and we would see a severe economic downturn.

Moreover, I am strongly opposed to the many radical proposals being pushed by the Trump Administration, such as the five-year sunset provision and the auto rules of origin proposal. A five-year sunset clause would deter long-term investment and promote uncertainty, effectively weakening the entire agreement. Also, increasing the auto rules of origin threshold requiring more auto parts to originate in the U.S. would hurt the competitiveness of the largest automotive manufacturers in my district. These facilities, including Mercedes and Hyundai, provide Alabamians with quality, high paying jobs that that my district cannot afford to lose.

What we need is a free and fair modernized NAFTA that includes provisions like a digital trade chapter and updated intellectual property rights protections. It is time this administration focused on negotiating with our Canadian and Mexican allies to improve the agreement for all three countries so that we can expand markets and grow America's economy.

I strongly urge the Trump Administration to stop threatening withdrawal from NAFTA, and