

House Armed Services Committee, my mentor, my former boss, the late Congressman Ron Dellums. Congressman Dellums broke barriers as the first Black chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. He was also an avid champion of diversity at all levels.

In the 1970s, he hired me to work on his staff as one of the only women of color in a senior role on Capitol Hill. He was a pioneer and a visionary who understood the need for elevating women of color in every field.

That is why my bill, which has the support of organizations like the Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone is so important. It will help honor Ron's legacy, build greater diversity in national security, and create much more STEAM opportunities for women of color.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring my bill, the Ronald Dellums Memorial Fellowship for Women of Color in STEAM and National Security Act.

HONORING CENTRACARE HEALTH DIRECTOR DAVID BORGERT

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CentraCare Health's Director of Community and Government Relations, David Borgert. His approaching retirement will mark the end of his 21-year career with CentraCare Health.

As a testament to David's hard work, CentraCare has thrived under his leadership. Whether it was securing grants and donations; educating his community on the intricacies of State, Federal, and community issues; or finding new ways to provide quality care, David has set the standard in the State of Minnesota.

This is why the Minnesota Hospital Association took notice and awarded David with the Spirit of Advocacy Award for his tireless efforts to inform the central Minnesota community about healthcare reform.

Under David's strong leadership, CentraCare Health has consistently been recognized for its outstanding work. David Borgert is a beloved and cherished member of our community because of his dedication to providing quality healthcare.

His service to our community will be missed and we thank him for his years of commitment. We look forward to seeing him in his well-deserved retirement.

STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran have taken to the streets and continue to protest against the il-

legitimate regime of the Ayatollah and the mullahs. These protests have taken place in numerous cities now for 1 year.

The people protest the war-mongering dictatorship, the tyranny of the Iranian Government and its terrorist activities. The people want freedom. However, the mullahs are reacting with crackdowns on the people.

Arrests, beatings, and jailing continues to occur. It is interesting that the majority of these protests are led by women and the young. Even truck drivers have gone on strike in the protest.

Groups such as the MEK have spoken out against the corrupt Iranian Government and oppression of the people. Further, the Government of Iran has sworn to destroy the United States. The United States should stand with the Iranian people in their quest for freedom from the tyrants of Iran.

As President Kennedy once said: "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

And that is just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF B.J. BARNES

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the service of Guilford County's longest-serving sheriff in history, B.J. Barnes.

Sheriff Barnes is retiring after more than two decades of service to the people and to the community of central North Carolina. Beginning in 1970, Sheriff Barnes felt the call to serve and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at only 19 years old.

After beginning a career in law enforcement, he was elected sheriff in 1994. His reforms to the Guilford County justice system over the years have not gone unnoticed, from updating ramshackle jails to bringing our county necessary forensic technology, Sheriff Barnes always fought, and succeeded, in keeping Guilford County safe.

His service forever changed our community, and, we, along with his peers throughout the State and the country, will always remember his relentless dedication, his integrity, and his compassion.

Twenty-four years and six terms later, Sheriff Barnes retires with an outstanding record and will continue to be a source of influence for Guilford County.

Heroes like Sheriff Barnes are the fabric of our community, and I am blessed to call him a friend and mentor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT BENTON BERTRAM

(Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, every morning our heroes in law enforcement wake up and they kiss their loved ones good-bye, knowing that there is always a chance they may not return that night.

Last night, in Charlestown, in Clark County, in the Hoosier State, one of those heroes, Sergeant Ben Bertram of the Charlestown Police Department did not return home. Sergeant Bertram was killed in pursuit of a suspect into an adjoining county, doing his duty, doing what he loved, and protecting Hoosiers all the way across the State.

It is with deep sorrow our community back home mourns his loss, and celebrates his sacrifice to the Hoosier State.

We thank Sergeant Bertram. Rest easy.

COMMENDING SONNY PERDUE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank and commend Secretary Sonny Perdue of the USDA for a recent decision to help northern California with its water situation. They are offering a \$449 million loan to help the Sites area project, an intertie that will help the Tehama-Colusa Canal and the Glenn-Colusa Canal intertie to each other, and, therefore, be part of the infrastructure that will help the Sites Reservoir be successful when it is finally built.

It is much needed for northern California's water interconnectivity, flexibility, and overall goals of more water storage in our State, especially upon the heels of the California State Water Resources Control Board's shift of what could be up to 700,000 more acre feet away from human use towards dubious environmental use.

Mr. Speaker, we need help with water storage, water capacity. I thank Secretary Perdue and Secretary Zinke for their attention to northern California for these water needs, and thank the Trump administration for it as well.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my humblest gratitude for the opportunity to serve my community, my country, and the U.S. House of Representatives for the last 8 years.

Anybody who has lived the life of public service knows that you have to surround yourself with good people,

meaning you have got to have a great team, both in the district, as well as here in the U.S. Capitol; from the legislative side of things, as well as making sure that your constituency has the best customer service there is.

We have had an amazing team. To be able to help people in our community with all of the different challenges they have faced with Social Security, or VA benefits, or visas, we have had an amazing team there to help out. To help our veterans receive the benefits that they deserve and have earned, we have had a great team to help out.

We have passed a number of pieces of legislation because we have had a team here in Washington, D.C. that is focused on delivering for our community, for our State, and for our country.

And for that, I need to thank our entire team, from my chief of staff: Jim Kjol in the State Senate; to Jason Larrabee here, starting from my first days; to now, Bret Manley, my current chief of staff. We have had teams that have been managed by great individuals.

On the personal front, you can't do this job without having a spouse that is there with you through all of the challenges of campaigns, schedules, and traveling. I have had the best partner, friend, and companion. Sonia has put up with a lot, and she has also enjoyed the ride that we have had together.

It has been an amazing journey that my kids have taken part in, to have my son and daughter not only face the challenges of kids growing up in a political family, but also having the great accomplishments side by side with their father.

Mr. Speaker, I will address the rest of my remarks in the coming minutes.

□ 1230

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, continuing with my family, Sonia, from our earliest days of dating and putting up with the travels of my commitment to serve my country in the Air Force, to my kids facing the challenges of traveling in this job, I thank them.

I also want to thank those who have elected me and who put their faith and trust in me to allow me to work hard for them. It has been a tremendous journey, one that I have been privileged to have had, both from my family and from our community.

I have made great friendships here, from the wolf pack to my legislators who have come here with me, some amazing relationships, and it has been a great honor to serve with them, to work with them, and to enjoy our time together.

Lastly, to my parents, my mom, who has been so proud of me: Mom, I just say to please stay off Facebook. Thank you to my father, who has passed, for giving me the strength and the confidence to do anything that I wanted to do in life, and to my grandfather, who encouraged me to get into public service. It has been their support as well as my brother, sister, and business partner who have allowed me to spend my time serving my community and serving my country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great ride, and I thank them all.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM ACT

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3749) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3749

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act”.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged violations.

Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.

Sec. 103. Preliminary review of claims by hearing officer.

Sec. 104. Availability of mediation during process.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards in cases of acts by Members.

Sec. 112. Automatic referral to Congressional Ethics Committees of disposition of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress and senior staff.

Sec. 113. Availability of remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.

Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.

Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of payments of certain awards and settlements.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Reports on awards and settlements.

Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.

Sec. 203. Record retention.

Sec. 204. Confidential advisors.

Sec. 205. GAO study of management practices.

Sec. 206. GAO audit of cybersecurity.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

Sec. 301. Application of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

Sec. 302. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.

Sec. 303. Clarification of treatment of Library of Congress visitors.

Sec. 304. Notices.

Sec. 305. Clarification of coverage of employees of Helsinki and China Commissions.

Sec. 306. Training and education programs of other employing offices.

Sec. 307. Support for out-of-area covered employees.

Sec. 308. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 401. Effective date.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

“(a) FILING AND REVIEW OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

“(1) the filing of a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402;

“(2) the preliminary review of the claim, to be conducted by a hearing officer as provided in section 403;

“(3) mediation as provided in section 404, if requested and agreed to by the parties under that section; and

“(4) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406 and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407.

“(b) RIGHT OF EMPLOYEE TO FILE CIVIL ACTION.—

“(1) CIVIL ACTION.—Only a covered employee who has filed a claim timely as provided in section 402 and who has not submitted a request for a hearing on the claim pursuant to section 405(a) may, during the