

to assist his father in tending to the needs of the family farm, he remained passionate about learning. Consequently, as an adult, he continued to learn and prepare for his future employment opportunities, such as the United States Civil Service, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, and the Muscogee County School District.

On April 27, 1939, at the age of 19, Robert married the love of his life, Flossie McCray. They were faithfully married for 56 years until Flossie's passing in 1995. Over the years, they were blessed with eight children: Zelma (deceased), Robert, Jr., William, Carolyn Ann, Shirley, Doris, Dorothy, and Rosalyn; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. As doting parents, Robert and Flossie always created a nurturing environment of unselfish love, encouragement, and values to carry their children, grandchildren, and a host of other family members through life.

In addition to being a committed family man, Mr. Kelley is also a proud Veteran who served his country during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1944. His service was a true testament of his devotion to his country, as African-American soldiers during this time were in a segregated Army and fought in a war with limited chances of receiving a promotion or even an acknowledgment.

After his distinguished military career ended, Mr. Kelley continued to contribute to his community. On September 29, 1944, he became a member of the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and served over many years in several leadership capacities including Chairman of the Deacon Board, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, Boy Scout Leader, and Tribe Leader. He continues to serve to this day.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 says "The race of life is not given to the swift nor to the strong, but to those who endure until the end." Robert F. Kelley, Sr. has run the race of his life with zeal and dignity. As patriarch of his family, the legacy of the exemplary life he has led stands as a guiding light for the Kelley family and generations yet to come. God has blessed him for over 100 years and for that, and the lives he has touched, we can only say "To God be the glory!"

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the almost 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring an outstanding citizen, family man, and man of God, Mr. Robert F. Kelley, Sr., for a lifetime of dedicated service to his family, his community, and his Nation. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE VISION
FORWARD ASSOCIATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Vision Forward Association which serves Southeastern Wisconsin, as they mark their centennial in 2019. For more than 100 years, Vision Forward has provided services to a diverse community of individuals who are

blind or visually impaired as well as their families.

What began as an advocacy group for the blind has transformed itself into a consortium, which provides comprehensive services to individuals experiencing all stages of vision loss. From birth through adulthood, this organization provides critical resources to those who have been impacted by vision loss, helping them achieve important developmental milestones, as well as, educational, personal and professional goals.

As an organization, Vision Forward chooses to focus on enhancing every client's ability not their disability; they know what people can achieve is far more impactful than what they can't achieve. Vision Forward clients are talented and spirited citizens who want the same things as all of us: a good education, a loving family and community, and a fulfilling career with success. They are a part of all of our lives in Southeastern Wisconsin; they are our family members, coworkers, friends and neighbors.

The success stories of individuals who came through the doors of Vision Forward on Hawley Road are countless. All their stories touched my heart because they demonstrated the resilience of people under extreme adversity. At Vision Forward, they give every client hope and show them the amazing things they can achieve.

The work of Vision Forward has helped create a reality in which all individuals with vision loss can reach their full potential to lead active and independent lives. The empowerment, education, and enhancement Vision Forward has provided over the years serves as a national model to the adage: "it doesn't matter who you are, every person has the potential to do great things." Madam Speaker, for these reasons I am pleased to honor the Vision Forward Association, because they make the 4th Congressional District a better place to work, live and play.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of The American Legion, which was founded in Paris, France on March 15, 1919 by delegates from combat and service units of the American Expeditionary Force. For those who do not know this history, the United States Congress granted a national charter to the delegates on September 16, 1919.

While initially The Legion was composed only of those who served during World War I, it later admitted veterans of World War II (1942), the Korean War (1950), the Vietnam War (1966), the Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama hostilities (1990), Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1991), and the wars in Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2001).

To this very day, the focus of The American Legion is on the care of disabled and sick veterans. The American Legion has been instrumental in establishing hospitals and other support services for veterans. The hard work of those involved with The American Legion was

influential in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Administration in 1930 and the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. These two policies have helped more than 10,500,000 veterans afford college or vocational training programs and assisted more than 5,600,000 veterans in their efforts to purchase homes.

The American Legion does not just help the veterans who are members. It is an organization dedicated to charity and community. Posts across the country donate more than 3.7 million hours of volunteer service. Posts have also helped collect more than 80,000 pints of blood every year for donation. This makes The American Legion the single largest blood donor. And The Legion and its members are focused on future generations by awarding more than 8,000 medals to Junior ROTC students and sponsoring more than 2,500 Scout units that serve over 64,000 young people. Finally, they have awarded more than \$4 million in awards to support individuals to go to college.

In New Jersey, The American Legion is currently led by Department Commander Robert B. Newell. It does an extraordinary job advocating on behalf of veterans and their families. With a membership of over 4,000, American Legion Posts in Bergen County, New Jersey are celebrating 100 years of service with a celebration in Lodi, New Jersey on September 29. I am pleased to recognize the positive contributions and role The American Legion serves in our community. The Legion's myriad of contributions to the good and welfare of veterans, service members and the community at large cannot possibly be measured. But it is important that they continue to receive our full support.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEVERLY
ELIAS MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement, I rise to honor Beverly Elias Miller, an exceptional woman, an exemplary community leader and an extraordinary human being. In her 29 years on the coast of San Mateo county, Bev touched the lives of just about every coastsider and her contributions are ingrained in the fabric of this wonderful community. I feel very fortunate to count her as a close friend. We first met in 1992 at a Soroptimists award event that she, of course, choreographed.

Originally from Marinette, Wisconsin, Bev launched her career in the banking industry in Spokane, Washington in 1967. Starting out as a trainee in the key punch department she learned almost all aspects of banking over the following 32 years. She came to the coast in 1991 and served as the branch manager of First National Bank before being promoted to vice president and regional manager. When the Bank of America shut down its earliest branch, located in the tiny rural town of Pescadero, Bev and local farmers and businesses came together to open a branch of her bank so that loans and banking services remained available. In an era before the term "unbanked" was popularized, Bev ensured that farm workers could cash their paychecks

to pay the rent. Today, the successor to First National maintains that branch and the relationship with the community, so wise was Bev's investment of time and energy in the economic development of this little town.

Grass never grew under her feet and, to prove the point, in 2000 she accepted the position as chief financial officer at San Francisco Brannan Street Wholesale Florist Incorporated. This is a very large wholesale operation in San Francisco, and a perfect work environment given Bev's love for flowers, particularly roses. Bev is an avid gardener and the roses in her garden look like award winners. It was also a natural transition from working with the coastside's farmers, many of whom sold their product at this facility. However, Bev never severed her relationship with coastside businesses and charities.

Whether it's Farm Day, the Pumpkin Festival, Dream Machine, the Harbor Lights Boat Lighting Contest or any other signature event on the coast, Bev was present and most likely running the show. Several of these events served as fundraisers for charities, and Bev was always serving food, pouring drinks, or raising money. She also used the bully pulpit of the Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism so that her customers and our residents could thrive during good times and survive as recessions came and went.

Throughout her time on the coast, and although she worked full time, she found time to volunteer long hours. She served on the board of directors of the San Mateo Event Center. For 12 years, she served on the board of directors of the Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce. Since 1992 she has been the chair for Mel Mello Farm Day, a delightful annual luncheon that has brought together farmers, small business owners and community leaders for 50 years. It is one of my favorite events of the year and I always cherish spending that day with Bev. She is the main engine behind this elaborate luncheon, complete with local recipes for artichokes and Brussels sprouts. So ubiquitous is Bev's presence that the Chamber created an award to be given to a community leader. It's named the Bev Miller Community Service Award. A true civic volunteer, she also served on the board of her homeowner's association and keeps her home as immaculate as her garden. She is known for constantly redecorating her house. Bev simply can't sit still and is always in motion.

One of the most difficult but important jobs in any community is serving on the board of a nonprofit for disabled seniors. Bev served on the board of the Coastside Adult Day Health Center, a remarkable institution that has provided loving care for the elderly for decades. She was a judge for the Harbor Lights Boat Lighting Contest, served on the Dream Machine Committee, and always was the first volunteer to arrive at the Pumpkin Festival and the last to leave. Hundreds of thousands visit the festival each year. If you run a non-profit organization, you clearly want Bev on your board.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to celebrate the joy of life (*goie de vivre*) of Bev Miller. She's leaving the coastside and will be dearly missed. She is returning to Spokane unleashing an immediate rise in energy and optimism once she enters its community hall or local government center. She will stay en-

gaged in any town that she calls home. Service to others is in her DNA and I wish her all the best in the next chapter in her life. I, along with countless coastiders, will deeply miss her.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE BY CROWDER INDUSTRIES

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50 years of service by Crowder Industries of Newton County, Missouri.

In August of 1969, Crowder Industries opened its doors in Newton County. Its mission was simple: provide meaningful employment to disabled citizens. Since then, hundreds of people have come through its doors and received the opportunity to work in and serve their community.

Today, Crowder Industries works in areas such as assembly, packaging services and cardboard production for its community partners, providing not only employment for those with disabilities, but also serving the community, and helping other local businesses. Crowder Industries currently employs 110 people, most of whom have some disability. These hard-working employees work alongside people who provide vital support for the process and keep the company functioning smoothly.

The success of Crowder Industries is in large part due to the support of the Newton County community, and local businesses. They provide Crowder Industries with the resources it needs to fulfill its mission.

Madam Speaker, Crowder Industries has spent the last 50 years striving towards a goal. It was formed with the idea that everyone should be able to have meaningful employment. Its motto is, "Our People Make the Difference." Crowder Industries has fulfilled its mission and its motto. Its work has bettered the citizens of Newton County, and all southwest Missouri, and I can think of no greater honor than to recognize Crowder Industries achievements here.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RARE DISEASE ADVANCEMENT, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION (RARE) ACT, H.R. 4228

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the Rare Disease Advancement, Research, and Education (RARE) Act. This important, bipartisan legislation will address many of the issues facing rare disease patients and families. I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by 139 patient groups and cosponsored by a number of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. But most importantly, this legislation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those struggling with rare diseases by using increased research to

help provide more accurate diagnoses and increased treatment options.

During my time in Congress, I have been honored to represent and meet with many brave Hoosier families that are struggling with rare diseases. I have been moved by their courage. Their strength in the midst of trying conditions is not only inspiring, but also instructive. They have educated me and my colleagues about the necessity of increased research and rare disease surveillance in order to provide more treatment options and better diagnoses.

One family in Indiana, the Meggenhofens, exemplify the challenges of accurately diagnosing and treating rare diseases. Jocelyn Meggenhofen was born with Leukodystrophy, an extremely rare brain disease that causes delays in cognitive development and poor motor skills. After years of seizures, misdiagnoses of a brain tumor, and denials from residential facilities, Jocelyn was finally able to receive the correct treatment. Her struggles were not over: the Meggenhofen's health insurance would not cover room and board for an inpatient stay at a facility in New Jersey and her school in Hancock County would not approve Jocelyn's education at the facility. However, despite being told by doctors that she wouldn't live past her fifth birthday, Jocelyn, now 15, has received treatment at Riley Children's Health hospital in Indianapolis and continues to fight her disease.

In another example, Derrian Baker in Merrillville, Indiana suffered from Prader Willi Syndrome, a very rare genetic disorder. During his short life, Derrian and his family struggled to receive the necessary treatment after being denied an inpatient stay for treatment at the Children's Institute in Pittsburgh. Derrian passed away at the age of 26, underscoring the severity and high morbidity of many rare diseases if they cannot be treated.

Unfortunately, the plights of people like Jocelyn and Derrian are not uncommon: Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. These largely inherited diseases—defined as affecting 200,000 or fewer people—often lack substantive research investments and treatment options. In particular, African-Americans are especially vulnerable to certain rare diseases, including Sickle cell disease and beta-thalassemia. Specifically, the blood disorder Sickle cell disease affects 73 out of every 1,000 African American babies versus only three out of every 1,000 Caucasian babies.

While rare diseases cross the medical spectrum, individuals with rare diseases face some common challenges. Largely due to their limited patient population size, these individuals may have difficulty obtaining an accurate diagnosis, finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their disease, and ultimately finding appropriate treatment options and cures. Moreover, it can be difficult to find patients for treatment studies, underscored by the example of Maria Isabel Bueso, who came to the U.S. from Guatemala in order to participate in a clinical trial. Thanks to her participation, a treatment for her rare disease, Mucopolysaccharidosis VI, was approved. Maria now faces the possibility of deportation because the current administration eliminated a program that allows immigrants like Maria to stay in the country while receiving lifesaving medical treatment. Frighteningly, roughly 90 percent of rare diseases still lack a treatment