

subsequent years, he has been elected to serve as Chairman by his fellow commissioners. Through his friendship and professional relationships with judges, clerk magistrates and clerks of court throughout Norfolk County, Fran helped institute physical changes and improvements to Norfolk County court houses.

On February 16, 2017, Fran lost the love of his life, Nancy, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease and the onset of Alzheimer's. Tragically, 19 months later, he lost his beloved daughter, Marlene, suddenly on September 15, 2018, after her longtime fight with multiple infectious diseases.

As Fran reaches the proud age of 90 years old, he remains living independently in Dedham, with his son, daughters and grandchildren close by his side for support. Not surprisingly, you'll find him still helping people, still caring for the town he loves, and still devoted and loyal to his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, Francis W. O'Brien epitomizes the definition of a truly dedicated public servant. His life-long vocation of service to his community is on constant display as he continues to honorably serve the Town of Dedham. I urge my colleagues, and all who know Fran, to wish him the best on his 90th birthday.

EDUCATING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND OPTIMIZING WORKFORCE EFFICIENCY AND READINESS FOR HEALTH ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to Representatives GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, STEVE STIVERS, KENNY MARCHANT, WILLIAM KEATING, ZOE LOFGREN, and LAUREN UNDERWOOD for their support of H.R. 2781, the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness (EMPOWER) for Health Act. They wanted to cosponsor this bill but were unable to be added in time.

When H.R. 2781 passes the Senate and is signed into law, we will increase the diversity of our health care workforce, improve geriatrics education and training to address gaps in caregiving and health care for older adults, and grow the critical pediatric health care workforce. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue our efforts to make sure health care is more equitable and accessible for our constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 due to a business call I was unable to vote on H.R. 2181,

the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 597.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG HISTORY OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN AMERICA

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first ever college football game played between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869. Just twenty-one years later, the Big Ten university in my district, the University of Illinois, would field its first football game in 1890.

Since those days, college football has become one of our nation's most beloved pastimes. Today, it's enjoyed by millions of Americans and the sport has grown immensely with nearly 80,000 student-athletes taking to the field every fall.

In many ways, it is a game that embodies the spirit of what makes us great as a country. As Americans, we have a determination to succeed; we believe in teamwork; we embrace our individual roles as we work together toward a common goal bigger than ourselves. Over the last 150 years, we've seen college football players become U.S. Presidents, Rhodes Scholars, actors, activists, CEOs, successful entrepreneurs, academics, and yes—even elected officials.

So today we recognize the strong history of college football in our nation: the games, the teams, the rivalries, and the memories. My family and I are longtime fans of college football, and I am proud to celebrate 150 years of its history today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 593; yea on Roll Call No. 594; yea on Roll Call No. 595; yea on Roll Call No. 596; nay on Roll Call No. 597; yea on Roll Call No. 598; yea on Roll Call No. 599; yea on Roll Call No. 600; yea on Roll Call No. 601; and nay on Roll Call No. 602.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DR. VIVIANNE CISNEROS WERSEL

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel.

Dr. Wersel has a long and storied career caring for our nation's veterans, and she knows what it means to pay the ultimate sacrifice. She is the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Wersel, Jr. of the United States Marine Corps. Lieutenant Colonel Wersel served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and unfortunately died just one week after returning home from Iraq. Dr. Wersel grew from this tragedy and not only continued to help veterans through her role at Walter Reed Medical Center, but also as an advocate for Gold Star Families.

Dr. Wersel holds a Doctorate of Audiology from the School of Audiology-Salus University. She is also a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Monterey, CA and holds a language certificate in Spanish. She earned a Masters and a Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Disorders (Audiology) from San Diego State University.

Dr. Wersel currently works full time as an audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and is designated as a prestigious Master Clinician. In addition to caring for the active-duty military, retirees, and their families, she provides hearing health care for members of Congress, including myself.

Over the past 30 years as an audiologist she provided hearing care support to service members, retirees and their families at Camp Pendleton, CA; Twentynine Palms, CA, Nellis Air Force Base, Fort Bragg NC, Camp Lejeune NC, Fort Dietrick MD, Fort Belvoir VA, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda. But her service to our nation's veterans goes beyond her role as an audiologist.

Shortly after her husband's passing in 2005, Dr. Wersel discovered she was not eligible for the newly enhanced survivor benefits. She subsequently became instrumental in changing the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Death Gratuity so that all active duty widows are now eligible for enhanced benefits. Today, she is considered a subject matter expert on Military Survivor Benefits and has testified before this body twenty times on the subject.

In addition to her work on survivor benefits, she is a member of the Gold Star Wives of America (GSW) Public Relations; past chair of the GSW Government Relations Committee, President and founder of Arlington Gold Star Wives; military survivor advisor for the "Got Your Back Network"; is an active participant in the VA/DoD Survivor Forum, and founder of, and advisor to the Surviving Spouses Support Group II MEF, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. She was a local representative for the National Military Family Association and was a volunteer for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Military Officers Association of America.

Dr. Wersel has devoted her career and her life to caring for our nation's veterans and advocating for Gold Star Families. In recognition of her work and her much-deserved retirement, I will be flying a flag over the United States Capitol in her honor. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the rest of this chamber join me in congratulating Dr. Wersel on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT  
CARL COATS ON HIS RETIRE-  
MENT FROM THE POLICE DE-  
PARTMENT OF GRAPEVINE,  
TEXAS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Carl Coats on his well-earned retirement from the Grapevine Police Department. After twenty-five years of dedicated service, Carl has distinguished himself as a respected member of the Grapevine police force.

Beginning his career with the United States Marine Corps, Carl attained the rank of Sergeant and served as a Marine Security Guard at the American Embassies in Prague, Czechoslovakia and Quito, Ecuador. Transitioning to law enforcement in 1990, Carl served four years as a correctional officer with the Cooke County Sheriffs Department in Gainesville, Texas. In addition to that experience, he graduated from the police academy and subsequently became Deputy Sheriff.

In 1994, Carl joined the Grapevine Police Department where he has devotedly served as Patrol Officer, Detective, CID Sergeant and Patrol Sergeant. As evidence of his dedication to professional development, Carl is a graduate of the School of Police Supervision through the Institute for Law Enforcement. Through rigorous instruction, Carl has also obtained his Master Peace Officer's License—the highest level of its kind.

Carl's colleagues, supervisors and community members have expressed their deepest appreciation for his accomplished service. Specializing in child protection and physical abuse investigation, Carl has earned twenty-four commendations to date. In 1999, Carl received the Life Saving Award for his rescue of a five-year-old autistic child from a swimming pool. The following year, he developed a multidisciplinary team approach to investigate shaken baby syndrome. Carl also received the 2002 Advocate of the Year Award from the Tarrant County Crime Prevention Resource Center, honoring his efforts in promoting safety for women and children in the community.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the excellence of Carl's work which has repeatedly been commended as an invaluable asset to both the City and the Grapevine Police Department. His legacy will leave a lasting mark. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Carl Coats for his numerous years of service.

**THE GOLDEN LIONS CLUB**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Golden Lions Club for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Lions Club has been serving the Golden community since 1942. Standing behind the International Lions Club motto of

“We Serve”, the Lions Club offers their services to anyone that needs help with a project. With over 8,000 hours of volunteer service in 2019, the Golden Lions continue to make a positive impact within the community. From constructing public bathrooms and pavilions to providing eyeglasses and scholarships to school children; where there's a need, there's a Lion. Through funding efforts, engaging volunteers in community projects, and supporting local schools and students, the Lions Club has committed to making the City of Golden a better place to live, work, and play.

I congratulate the Golden Lions Club for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

COMMENDING PRIME MINISTER  
NARENDRA MODI AND THE IN-  
DIAN PARLIAMENT FOR PRO-  
MOTING STABILITY IN JAMMU  
AND KASHMIR

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 31, 2019*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

As we all have seen, the Indian parliament passed legislation last month changing the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. They modified provisions that were an obstacle to economic development and promoted a sense of separatism.

Up until recently, Kashmir had been governed by Article 370, which was an outdated provision of law that the Indian constitution recognized as “temporary.”

Article 370 might have worked well for those with political connections, but it denied economic opportunities for the people.

I also created a polarizing environment that was exploited politically. During the past decades, thousands of people lost their lives due to terrorist attacks. Several groups based in Pakistan were able to conduct cross-border terrorism that wreaked havoc on individuals and families, and led to a morbid economy.

The Modi government had to make a decision on whether to continue with the old policy or to pursue progress by changing the region's legal status.

Madam Speaker, the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better and Prime Minister Modi was right to take bold steps to address this situation. Changes to the status of Jammu and Kashmir passed Parliament by a two-thirds majority, which highlights the consensus on the need for this reform.

Even with these changes, those seeking to cause disruption have continued to promote violence.

Pakistan-based terror groups have recently floated posters warning common citizens against venturing out, going to work, and visiting public places. The groups have continued to engage in cross-border terrorism and have attacked civilians and children. These militant groups have also attacked migrant workers and those who are involved in the apple business, which is the chief crop of Kashmir.

Madam Speaker, in order for Jammu and Kashmir to flourish, there must be peace and

stability. Individuals and families need to feel safe when they leave their homes and go to work.

The steps that Prime Minister Modi and the Parliament have taken are needed, they're good for the long-term stability of the region, and they should be applauded.

FULL UTILIZATION OF THE HARBOR  
MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 28, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2440 the “The Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act.”

In 1986, Congress enacted the Harbor Maintenance Tax to recover the operation and maintenance dredging costs for federally-authorized ports from maritime shippers.

This is a direct levy on importers and domestic shippers using coastal or inland ports and is typically passed along to U.S. taxpayers on the purchase of imported goods.

These revenues are deposited in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund within the Treasury Department, from which Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for harbor maintenance dredging.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers, navigation channels at our nation's 59 busiest ports are available less than 35 percent of the time.

The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our nation's ports and harbors will need additional investment of \$15.8 billion between now and 2020 just to meet the demands of larger and heavier ships that will use the Panama Canal.

H.R. 2440 ensures that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is used for its intended purpose—the maintenance of federally-authorized harbors.

This will enable the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge all federal harbors to ensure that they are to their constructed widths and depths.

The act also provides critical federal funding—\$34 billion—for infrastructure investment for our coastal and inland harbors over the next decade.

The bill achieves this task without raising taxes.

This bill also authorizes the expenditure of the expected \$25.5 billion in new revenue over the next decade, for our critical port harbor needs.

And, the bill authorizes the appropriation of additional funds for harbor maintenance needs.

As is clear, the need to ensure that this port, and similar such ports, stay open and operating as much as practical is vital.

The failure to do so can impact employment, the economy, and the livelihoods of countless individuals and businesses.

Ports are uniquely vulnerable to any number of disturbances, including those produced by weather, abuses by those who utilize the ports, and naturally-occurring wear-and-tear to the ports.

One such example of this naturally-occurring phenomena which requires remedial efforts is dredging.