

Agency Task Force. In this role, he identified best practices for pain management and issued recommendations for addressing the opioid epidemic. These findings are now used by Congress to advance legislation on this issue.

I am honored to call Dr. McGraw my friend, and I know I speak for many in East Tennessee when I say congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SWEAT, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Alton Sweat, Jr., a journalist, longtime civil rights and good government advocate and a friend, who died Friday at the age of 83.

I knew Joe as a lobbyist for and executive director of the Tennessee Municipal League, which he represented when I was in the state Senate. He was highly respected as a lobbyist and was always well-informed and he wrote a regular column on politics and legislation for the municipal league newspaper that members of the General Assembly always appreciated. Before that, he had been a respected reporter for The Associated Press, covering Elvis Presley's return to Memphis in uniform; the plane crash that killed country music star Patsy Cline in 1963; and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. Joe also created the news bureau at Vanderbilt University and edited The Vanderbilt Hustler and later was the first lay editor of The Catholic Register.

As a representative of the Tennessee Municipal League, he twice served on the board of directors of the National League of Cities. Later, representing the National Democratic Institute, he was sent to Bulgaria and Ukraine as the former Soviet satellites transitioned to democracies. After retiring in 1998, Joe joined his good friend Hedy Weinberg in lobbying for the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and became a board member of both the Tennessee and national ACLU.

Joe and I shared a love of Memphis State University and Memphis politics as well as a devotion to justice. I want to express my sincere condolences to his wife Marilyn; his sons Joseph, Stephen and Michael and daughter Cynthia and their extended families; and his many friends and colleagues. His was a life well-lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 556; YEA on Roll Call No. 558; YEA on Roll Call No. 559; YEA on Roll Call No. 560; YEA on Roll Call No. 573; YEA on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 615; YEA on Roll Call No. 616; YEA on Roll Call No. 617; NAY on Roll Call No. 618; YEA on Roll Call No. 619; NAY on Roll Call No. 620; YEA on Roll Call No. 621; YEA on Roll Call No. 622;

NAY on Roll Call No. 623; and NAY on Roll Call No. 624.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Monday, November 18, 2019 and missed three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 625, YEA on Roll Call No. 626, and YEA on Roll Call No. 627.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. FRANCIS BORGIA VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 CLASS III STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Francis Borgia Knights volleyball team for winning the 2019 Missouri Class III State Volleyball Championship.

This is St. Francis Borgia's eleventh state championship win in the history of their volleyball program. This team and Coach CJ Steiger should be commended for their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the St. Francis Borgia Knights volleyball team for a job well done.

REMEMBERING ROBERT LAVENTURE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of Robert LaVenture, a committed organizer and unyielding advocate for workers, who devoted over 49 years of his life to fighting for the American worker in the labor movement.

Robert first became involved in labor organizing after graduating high school when he began work at an International Harvester foundry in Waukesha. During his time in Waukesha, Robert's stalwart advocacy allowed him to proudly serve as trustee, local union steward, vice president and of Local 3740. His dedication was recognized by his peers and led him to be elected president of the union. As president, Robert helped to create the state of Wisconsin's first employee education center and later developed other centers throughout the state when he served as Wisconsin's AFL-CIO Coordinator.

Robert embodied the greatest traits of a union organizer by devoting himself to building the labor movement and improving the lives of workers across the country. After serving as

state coordinator for the AFL-CIO, Robert served as a United Steel Workers International Staff Representative in the San Francisco Bay Area and then in Oklahoma. In 2009, recognizing Robert's tireless and effective work on behalf of United Steel Workers, he was made district director of District 12, coordinating USW work in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington. While serving as director, Robert used his decades of committed work to successfully negotiate countless contracts on behalf of steel workers across the western U.S.

Robert's legacy is that of a tireless union organizer, devoting countless hours to fighting on behalf of American industry and workers in the U.S. and abroad. Robert's work will continue to help the lives of countless people and his spirit will be missed. Please join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

RECOGNIZING FIRST LADY OF ANDREWS, SC, MAJOR DANISHA L. MCCLARY ESQ.

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Danisha L. McClary, a United States Army veteran and First Lady of Andrews, South Carolina.

Major McClary has served our nation with honor and distinction. As a Judge Advocate General, she served as the Chief of Administrative Law for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, Trial Counsel for the 1st Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood, Texas, Chief of Foreign Claims for the Multi-National Division in Iraq, and as the Chief of Military Justice at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Additionally, Major McClary served as the Program Manager for the U.S. Army Sexual Assault Prevention Program at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. She earned high awards and accolades including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal.

Major McClary officially retired from the Army in the summer of 2016 and immediately opened her law practice. Since then, she has served her community as chair of the Andrews Economic & Community Development Committee and as a member of the Georgetown County Accommodations Tax Committee.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Andrews in recognizing Major Danisha L. McClary for being chosen as the Grand Marshal of the 2019 Veterans Day Parade in Andrews, South Carolina. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the nation.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANDERSON AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, this Veterans Day, it is my honor to announce

that Mr. Charles Anderson, a relentless fighter for veterans throughout North County, is my Constituent of the Month. Mr. Anderson has dedicated his life to supporting veterans and their families, serving as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Tri-Cities Chapter 95, and belonging to the Oceanside Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10577 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 493.

As Commander of the local Disabled American Veterans chapter, Mr. Anderson has made sure that veterans in our community receive rides to medical appointments and helped veterans receive the Veterans Affairs benefits they've earned. He's helped veterans find gainful employment and financial security, and he's worked to ensure that veterans do not become homeless.

Mr. Anderson's service with local veterans groups is commendable, but there are also several cases where he went above and beyond to help a local veteran and their family in a desperate time of need. When my office heard that a Marine Gulf War veteran was struggling to make ends meet due to a service-connected terminal illness, it was Mr. Anderson who immediately made arrangements to support the veteran's family financially until the Veterans Benefits Administration could deliver benefits. When I heard from a caregiver of a Marine veteran who was at risk of becoming homeless, Mr. Anderson stepped up to cover the veteran's rent until we could work out aid from the VA.

On this Veterans Day, we must do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We need to fight for the support and resources that veterans have earned and deserve, and that's exactly what Mr. Anderson does every single day. As long as I have the privilege to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will look to Mr. Anderson as a shining example of what it means to serve our veterans with reverence and resolve. I am deeply grateful for Mr. Anderson's service to our veterans, and I am proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SAINT MARIA GORETTI SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. I am delighted to congratulate Saint Maria Goretti School in Westfield, Indiana, for the second time since I've been in Congress, in celebration of this special occasion.

Started by President Reagan in 1982, the United States Department of Education awards the National Blue Ribbon designation to both public and private schools across our great nation. The award celebrates great American schools like Saint Maria Goretti that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. Throughout the country this award is given to

recognize the upper echelon of educational institutions, that through the dedication and passion of their amazing educators, students, and parents have strived to ensure that every student reaches their full potential and maximizes their academic success.

Having previously received this prestigious award in 2013, the Fighting Angels of Saint Maria Goretti School have shown just how deep the commitment to excellence is ingrained in their staff, faculty, parents and student body. This honor is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing its students with an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 362 schools were designated as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Of the 362 schools, Saint Maria Goretti School was one of 12 Indiana schools to receive recognition, making this achievement all the more impressive. Under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Lafayette and the leadership of Principal Vince Barnes, Saint Maria Goretti School has become a beacon of educational excellence.

Saint Maria Goretti School is committed to providing a nurturing environment for the intellectual, physical, and social development of each child. As a Catholic institution the clergy and staff work diligently with students to provide an excellent education, focusing on the spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical well-being of each child. This commitment to the well-being and development of the student body is led by a dynamic staff of teachers, working to shape the future by the lives they are positively influencing in their classrooms daily. The dedicated staff at Saint Maria Goretti School engages students in meaningful educational tasks that promote thinking and reasoning and it is because of their hard work that Saint Maria Goretti School has been deservedly honored with this Blue Ribbon Award.

As an advocate for education and youth, I have great respect and admiration for our nation's educators and their mission to provide the students of this great nation with the strong academic foundation critical to future success. Schools like Saint Maria Goretti School are an example of how we accomplish this vital mission. The outstanding educational techniques developed at Saint Maria Goretti School should stand as a model for school districts throughout the nation. The commitment to excellence from the students, parents and educators at Saint Maria Goretti School has transformed the school into a beacon of educational achievement. Once again, congratulations to Saint Maria Goretti School. I am very proud of them.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON H.R. 3055

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted against H.R. 3055, a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 20, 2019.

Let me be clear: I strongly support the majority of the funding extensions and protections in this CR. This includes the well-deserved 3.1 percent pay raise to our men and women in uniform, of which I also voted in favor earlier

this year in separate legislation. The compensation for our men and women in uniform should never be compromised by Congress's inability to pass annual funding legislation.

I am also pleased that this CR includes a provision that would protect federal highway funding and generate new jobs. Using my position as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I worked to ensure that the CR included a provision that would repeal Section 1438 of the FAST Act of 2015. Section 1438, which was included at the insistence of Republican leaders in 2015, will rescind \$7.6 billion of federal highway funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 if it is not repealed.

I strongly support repeal of Section 1438, which is long overdue. Transportation agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are counting on Congress to prevent this massive, multi-billion dollar cut from going into effect. Although I unfortunately had to vote against the CR for unrelated reasons, I applaud my colleagues for taking this issue seriously and including the rescission repeal in this must-pass bill. I'm pleased we are taking a positive step to finally give states the certainty they need to carry out long-term projects that create jobs and help their communities.

Furthermore, I strongly support the extensions in the CR to protect funding for Community Health Centers, which provide a vital lifeline for health care services to thousands of Oregonians and millions of Americans across the country. I am also pleased that this legislation extends funding for the National Health Service Corps and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program, two health care workforce programs that provide resources to support the training of health providers in rural and underserved areas.

In addition, I am pleased that this legislation protects funding for important health care programs including Medicare and Medicaid programs, disproportionate share hospitals, the Community Mental Health Services Demonstration Program, the Special Diabetes Program, and funds to respond to the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

I also strongly support the funding extensions provided to ensure the Census Bureau has the funding it needs to continue carrying out the 2020 Decennial Census.

Moreover, I support the CR's funding extension for the critical Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to match state child care expenditures and make scheduled contingency fund payments. The legislation also ensures that the current caseload in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which serves low-income seniors, is maintained.

However, I opposed the CR because it includes absurd provisions to extend mass surveillance programs under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This includes Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which has allowed for mass surveillance of Americans' call records, as well as roving wire tap provisions and so-called "lone wolf" authority.

I am strongly opposed to these data collection and mass surveillance programs, which I believe are unconstitutional. I voted against the original PATRIOT Act in 2001, and I have continued to oppose reauthorization of this and related mass surveillance programs unless and until significant reforms are made to protect the constitutional privacy rights of U.S. citizens.