

Postal Service. When Smoky passed away earlier this month at the age of 94, he was warmly remembered by his daughter Jeanne-Marie and many relatives and friends for his constant kindness, humor and love of nature.

Throughout his life, Smoky demonstrated the importance of service to his family, our community and our nation. As a Letter Carrier for more than 40 years, he rose as a leader in the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 28 in Saint Paul, always a steadfast advocate for his brothers and sisters who deliver the U.S. mail every day. In his role as Legislative Liaison for Branch 28, I was privileged to work with him to ensure that Letter Carriers have a voice in the U.S. Capitol, and receive fair wages and benefits for their hard work.

In retirement, Smoky stayed active well into this year, because he truly understood the importance of unions, and that Americans depend on Letter Carriers for reliable, six-day, door-to-door mail delivery. His endless dedication and mentorship of rising leaders and collaborative skills truly made a difference. He personified the mission of the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that neither snow, rain, heat nor dark of night get in the way of the delivery of our mail.

It was my pleasure to know and work with Smoky and call him a friend. He was a kind and extraordinary person who will be deeply missed.

Madam Speaker, thank you for rising with me to pay tribute to Clarence "Smoky" Smekofski.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, on roll call no. 685, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA. Also, on roll call no. 686, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

HONORING DR. C. ELAINE SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE WOMAN IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. C. Elaine M. Smith on receiving the 2020 Outstanding Woman in the Community Service Award for the Tidewater Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. This award was developed to honor women who are making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions, talents, and dedication. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Dr. Smith's lifetime of service and commitment to the promotion of respect among people of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Smith generously serves the community with civility and justice.

As a second grader, Dr. Smith was one of the first to integrate the Virginia Beach City

Public Schools, then known as Princess Anne County. At the age of 6, her parents supported her on a journey of learning experiences that were both negative and positive yet vital to her development.

Dr. Smith has been an agent for change and an advocate for students with disabilities (SWD) as she sought Specials Education as her vocation. She retired from Norfolk Public Schools after more than 30 years, where she served in numerous leadership capacities. Her professional experiences are vast as she has taught students with emotional disabilities, autism, and learning disabilities. As a Teacher Specialist at the district central office level for secondary students with disabilities and as an Educational Diagnostician, her duties were to assess both general and special education students who experienced academic and behavioral challenges in school. In these positions, she made recommendations to improve academic and behavioral deficits and to keep students in the least restrictive environment based on their individualized needs.

Her service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Alliance for Black School Educators, National Allies for Parents in Special Education, has allowed her to put enormous efforts in strengthening ties to the local community with her civic involvement with various organizations. Dr. Smith's dedication as a leader within our community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Smith's leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia has significantly benefited from her presence.

VETERANS CEMETERY GRANTS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Cemetery Grants Improvement Act, which helps get important operations and maintenance funding to locally-run veterans cemeteries nationwide faster by increasing the amount of grant funds the Department of Veterans Affairs can award for this purpose each year from \$5 million to \$10 million.

Our nation's veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to ensure that our country remains safe and free. While we may never fully repay these men and women for their sacrifices, we must do more to ensure their final resting place, whether in a national cemetery or a locally-run veterans cemetery like the CNMI Veterans Cemetery on Saipan, is operated and maintained with the high standards their families expect and deserve. As more veterans choose to be buried closer to home, more states, territories and tribal governments have applied for funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs to help cover the increasing costs of operating and maintaining their own veterans cemeteries. While the list of pending applications grows, the amount of grants the Department can award each year by law has not.

Under current law, no more than \$5 million in operations and maintenance grants can be awarded per year. The Veterans Cemetery

Grants Improvement Act updates the \$5 million cap to \$10 million so more cemeteries can receive the funding they need to keep up with the rising cost of maintaining them. Increasing the cap to \$10 million is critical as the need for operations and maintenance grant funding grows consistent with the growth of new and expanded cemeteries.

The Veterans Cemetery Grants Improvement Act will help expedite federal support for the over one hundred veteran cemeteries across our country operated by states, tribal nations and territories including my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Act has the endorsement of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

The gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. STEIL, is an original cosponsor of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

HONORING LYLE MARTIN ON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE IN BAKERSFIELD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lyle Martin, Chief of Police for the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD), who is retiring after 31 years of service with the department, the last three as its Chief.

Lyle grew up in southeast Bakersfield, attended South High School, and earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Throughout his career with the BPD, Lyle has served with distinction and been promoted over the years, including serving as a lieutenant in the Gang Unit, Assistant Chief of Police, and finally Chief of Police.

When he is not saving lives, protecting our community, or leading our police force, Lyle can often be found serving many of the important causes in Bakersfield. He is a member of the Bakersfield Downtown Rotary, a member of both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the California Police Officer's Association, and serves as Co-Chairman of the Mendiburu Magic Foundation Board, helping provide local children and their families with support as they battle life-threatening pediatric conditions. As President of the Bakersfield Police Activities League, Lyle has been a key leader in helping develop concrete plans to educate and benefit many of the at-risk youth in some of Bakersfield's most crime-ridden and poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

I want to thank Lyle for all the hard work and long hours he has put in for the City of Bakersfield. I also want to thank his wife, Connie, and their five children, Karl, Warren, Lyle Jr., William, and Lia for their patience over the years as he protected our hometown. I am looking forward to his continued efforts in safeguarding the City of Bakersfield, and now greater Kern County, as he transitions into his new position as the Attorney Investigator for Kern County. I am confident that in his new position, Lyle will continue to work to make Kern County safer and stronger, and that he will continue to serve our community with the highest dignity and respect as demonstrated over his past three decades in law enforcement. On behalf of a grateful community and

the 23rd Congressional District of California, I salute Chief Martin's service and wish him well as he serves the County of Kern.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ROSA PORTO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rosa Porto, who passed away on December 13, 2019, at the age of 89. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and lived a joyous life filled with the love of family and friends. To the people of Southern California, she was also the beloved founder of Porto's Bakery.

Rosa was born in Cuba, and as a young girl, the kitchen was her favorite place to be. Her mother, who came from the Galicia region of Spain, created many sweet treats, and the kitchen was always filled with scents of cinnamon, sugar, and vanilla.

Rosa's life took an unexpected turn when the Portos' attempt to leave Cuba resulted in her being fired from her job, and her husband, Raul Sr., being sent to a labor camp. In 1960, in search of a way to support her family, Rosa turned her passion for baking into an underground business by selling cakes to her friends and neighbors out of her home's small kitchen. Before she knew it, she had built her business into a thriving enterprise with a loyal customer base.

In 1971, Rosa and her family were finally able to emigrate to the United States, and they arrived in California with little more than Rosa's exceptional baking skills, Raul Sr.'s strong work ethic, and their dream to build a better life in America.

Soon afterwards, Rosa began baking and selling cakes to friends and family who had heard about the fabulous cakes she had baked in Cuba. In just a couple of years, Rosa built a new base of devoted customers, and it was common to see buyers lined up outside her little home to pick up their orders.

By 1976, Rosa's home could no longer accommodate the increased demand, and she opened Porto's Bakery, a small 300-square-foot business on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles's Echo Park neighborhood. Raul Sr. would help when he was not working at another local bakery, and after several years, he was able to join Rosa as her business continued to grow.

Rosa's three children, Beatriz, Raul Jr., and Margarita, also helped at the bakery after school and on weekends. The children were greatly inspired by their mother's love of preparing the delicious foods she served, and they took on larger roles in the business after they graduated from college.

As Porto's has grown, it has remained faithful to Rosa's motto that "quality is the number one ingredient in everything we do." From its beginning in Echo Park, Porto's grew to a 2,000-square-foot facility in Glendale, and then one twice the size a few years later. In the 1990s, with the effort of the entire Porto family, their business expanded to a 20,000-square-foot facility, and later added a café.

While Porto's began as a bakery that only sold cakes and Cuban pastries, its menu has

evolved and expanded to feature a broad array of international sweet and savory items, including such signature items as Cheese Rolls, Refugiados (guava and cheese strudels), and the famous Potato Balls.

Today, Porto's serves thousands of customers and employs hundreds of team members at five Southern California locations, including Downey in my 40th District, as well as in Glendale, Burbank, Buena Park, and West Covina.

Rosa Porto will be missed by Angelenos of all ages and from all walks of life, but we know her gracious and gentle spirit will live on, both in the family she loved and in the culinary legacy she leaves behind. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our deepest condolences to Rosa's family, including her husband Raul Sr.; their daughters Beatriz and Margarita; their son Raul Jr.; and their seven grandchildren.

HONORING MARY ANN TRICKEY UPON HER RETIREMENT AS TOWN OF HOPEWELL TOWN CLERK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Mary Ann Trickey as the Town Clerk of the Town of Hopewell after twenty-six years of service.

Many have said that Mary Ann is the glue that keeps the Town of Hopewell in working order. In her thirteen terms as town clerk and tax collector, she has dedicated her time, talents and passion to making sure each resident is provided the services they need and that town administrative services are functioning with impressive precision.

Mary Ann has built up a rapport with residents over the years, getting to know them, their families and even their pets throughout her interactions with them. She regularly attends important events, both public and governmental, in Hopewell as a pillar of the community.

In 2017, Mary Ann was chosen as "The Town Clerk of the Year" for district seven, which covers Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Yates and Steuben counties. She is also a member of the Hopewell Historical Society, the Hopewell Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and has been an honorary Rotary International member for many years. Mary Ann is a member and past president of the Ontario County Municipal Clerks Association and the Ontario County Tax Collectors Association.

The Town of Hopewell will greatly miss Mary Ann and her cheerful demeanor, her dedication and her extraordinary kindness—but her retirement is well deserved. I thank Mary Ann for all of her efforts—they have blessed a great many people in and around Hopewell.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize Mary Ann Trickey and her twenty-six years of invaluable service to the Town of Hopewell as Town Clerk.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the inclusion of S. 2788, a taxpayer bailout of a failing multiemployer pension plan, in the FY 2020 appropriations package.

There is bipartisan consensus that Congress must address the current multiemployer pension crisis, but this particular provision is a fiscally irresponsible and shortsighted approach that sets a dangerous precedent for future attempts to address the dire predicament facing certain multiemployer pension plans.

Unfortunately, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) 1974 Pension Plan has failed the hardworking miners, retirees, and their families who sacrificed pay during their working years with the expectation that they would receive a modest retirement income.

The UMWA Pension Plan covers 96,000 participants, the vast majority of whom, 92,500 to be specific, are retired. That leaves a mere 3,500 active participants paying into the plan. What's more, the pension plan is underfunded by \$6.5 billion as its liabilities far exceed assets. That's \$6.5 billion that the UMWA's Pension Plan trustees, both union and employer officials, promised workers, but will not deliver.

Let me be clear, my opposition to S. 2788 does not diminish my belief that miners and retirees should receive the benefits they were promised and rightfully deserve. Instead, I oppose how these benefits will be paid and administered.

Under current law, when a multiemployer pension plan becomes insolvent, the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) provides financial assistance to the plan to pay benefits up to the guaranteed amount. S. 2788 circumvents that process and allows unprecedented federal funding for one specific plan.

S. 2788 is deceptive in its approach. The bill funnels interest earned on the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund (AML Fund) to the UMWA Pension Plan. If the AML Fund does not sufficiently cover retiree benefits, money from the U.S. Treasury will make up the difference.

Under current law, UMWA retiree health plans already receive funding transfers from interest earned on the AML Fund and Treasury to pay for retiree health benefits. The combined transfers are capped at \$490 million annually. S. 2788 makes these transfers available to the UMWA Pension Plan and raises the cap to \$750 million. In FY 2019, the UMWA health plans received \$54 million from the AML Fund and a whopping \$225 million from Treasury.

The AML Fund is insufficient to pay the UMWA retiree health benefits, which it is already obligated to pay. Any additional funding will come from Treasury. To put it simply Madam Speaker, the American people will foot the bill for this bailout. For the first time ever, taxpayer money will be used to prop up a failing, privately-negotiated retirement plan.

As the Republican Leader of the Education and Labor Committee, I would be remiss if I