

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

didn't consider S. 2788 in the context of the broader multiemployer pension plan system.

The UMWA Pension Plan is just the tip of the iceberg; it is just one of dozens of ailing multiemployer plans at risk of insolvency and breaking their pension promises. The passage of S. 2788 sets an ill-advised and irreversible precedent for future multiemployer pension plan solutions.

Multiemployer pension plans are currently underfunded by \$638 billion; PBGC's multiemployer insurance program is operating with a \$65 billion deficit and is expected to become insolvent by the end of FY 2025.

The responsibility for these broken promises lies exclusively with the union and employer representatives who negotiated and managed these plans. The UMWA Pension Plan is no exception.

Plans and trustees promised benefits without putting aside the adequate funds to meet these promises, all to the detriment of workers and retirees.

It should not be the role of Congress to address funding shortfalls one pension plan at a

time. That is not responsible legislating. Instead, we should work together to address the faults of the entire multiemployer pension system.

S. 2788 sends the wrong message to other unions and employers who have failed adequately to fund their pension promises. It puts us on a dangerous path that could ultimately result in Congress burdening American taxpayers with billions of dollars in future bailouts, no questions asked.

If Congress is serious about protecting the hard-earned retirement benefits, which are at risk because of failing multiemployer plans, it should address a system that is plagued with chronic underfunding, dependency on rosy economic assumptions and expectations, and passively accepts that plan trustees and actuaries will continue to underestimate pension promises.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.