

Coach Wacker's survivors include his children Bruce, Kristen, and Louis, and his grandchildren Anna Whitehead, Adele Kraus, and Robin Kraus. I offer my condolences to them on their loss.

SITES RESERVOIR PROJECT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Sites Reservoir Project Act," which would provide federal support for the 1.8 million acre-feet Sites Reservoir and related water infrastructure in Colusa and Glenn Counties.

Specifically, the "Sites Reservoir Project Act" would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the feasibility study for the project and, if deemed feasible, authorize federal funding and technical support for its construction. The reservoir would be owned and operated by the Sites Joint Powers Authority, a regional consortium of local water agencies and counties formed in 2010.

Our state must make forward-looking investments to capture and store water during wet years for use during drought. The Sites Reservoir is one such critical infrastructure project needed to meet California's future water needs, given climate change. The project is essential to integrated water management in the Sacramento Valley and would maximize storage of excess Sacramento River flows during winter storms for use later in the year. The Sites Reservoir Project would increase storage capacity north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, improving resiliency in our statewide water system, and helping to advance California's renewable energy goals with the pumped-storage component planned for phase II of the project.

To date, more than \$1.2 billion in public funding has been committed to the Sites Reservoir Project, including \$816 million from California's State Water Bond (2014 Proposition 1) and federal funding from the Bureau of Reclamation for the feasibility study and related work. In November 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture committed \$449 million in low-interest financing from the Rural Development Program, recognizing the project's importance to California's farming communities.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and northern California neighbor Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA) for his support as the bill's original cosponsor and for sponsoring similar legislation in previous Congresses.

I look forward to working with all members of the California delegation to advance this bipartisan bill and see this critical reservoir project completed.

JEREMIAH G. HAMILTON

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today to commemorate the life of Jeremiah G. Hamilton,

the first black millionaire in the United States, whose story has been absent from the history books. I have the honor of representing the district in which Mr. Hamilton lived and worked.

Born in the West Indies in 1807, Mr. Hamilton made his way to New York in 1828 and began amassing his fortune by selling stocks to both black and white entrepreneurs. He was touted as being astute in successfully predicting the markets and became a prominent financier and businessman on Wall Street in the pre-Civil War era.

Mr. Hamilton defied many conventions of his time as he rose to the top of the business world. He owned stock of railroad companies on whose trains he was not legally allowed to ride. He married a white woman named Eliza Morris and had a close relationship with his friend Benjamin Day, who was the publisher of the Sun Newspaper. He took on titans of industry, including battling Cornelius Vanderbilt over control of the Accessory Transit Company until he got a settlement. In fact, in Vanderbilt's obituary it is stated, "There was only one man who ever fought the Commodore to the end, and that was Jeremiah Hamilton . . . the Commodore respected him."

However, Mr. Hamilton faced the horrors of the rampant racism and violence against African-Americans in the mid-19th century. In the 1830s, insurance companies blackballed him and refused to underwrite his business ventures. During the draft riots in 1863, white men unsuccessfully sought to lynch Mr. Hamilton in his own home.

Jeremiah G. Hamilton died in 1875, leaving behind an estate of \$2 million, which would be around \$45 million today.

It is vital that the history of America reflects the lives of all Americans, and I am proud to help share some of the lost history from the 10th Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing not only the life of Jeremiah G. Hamilton but the dedicated work of both the Committee to Commemorate Jeremiah G. Hamilton and historian Shane White to create a permanent place in history for the first African-American millionaire.

The Committee to Commemorate Jeremiah G. Hamilton was established in February 2018 by community activists, including Dr. Sam D. Albert, Hon. Louise Dankberg, Hon. Alan J. Gerson, Gail Green, Barbara Guinan, Greg Lambert, Esq., Christine Merritt, Hon. Daisy Paez, Mark P. Thompson, Leona Zeplin and the Committee's Co-Chairs Dolores Leito and Hon. Michelle D. Winfield.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
BETTIE MAE FIKES

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ms. Bettie Mae Fikes, the "Voice of Selma."

At the age of 16, Ms. Fikes was one of the singers of the Civil Rights Movement and a member of the Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which was the only national civil rights organization led by young

people during the Movement. Ms. Fikes bravely led marches with songs, registered voters, boycotted buses, sat in at lunch-counters and led walkouts at R.B. Hudson High School to support the desegregation of the school.

From an early age, Ms. Fikes began singing with her parents, both of whom were from families of gospel singers and preachers. Ms. Fikes was exposed to classic hymns and songs and was encouraged to use her voice to sing with her parents. At the tender age of four, Ms. Fikes had her first big performance: her first church solo. With that success, she began to travel throughout the country with her parents' groups, the SB Gospel Singers and the Pilgrim Four. However, when Ms. Fikes's mother passed away when she was 10 years old, she moved around from Michigan, California, and finally to Selma, Alabama.

Ms. Fikes continued to be involved in singing in the church when she moved to Selma. She used every opportunity she could to let her voice be heard. It is no surprise, given her background that she proved to be an emerging music leader when she joined SNCC at age 16. The more she became involved with SNCC, the more it became apparent that she would go to jail.

The foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement prepared themselves for the eventuality that they would be arrested. If an officer announced that they were under arrest, they knew to fall to their knees and to force the officers to carry them to the bus. However, when the time came, Ms. Fikes and her friend Evelyn Manns realized the police were using cattle prods on the young men and women. Hoping to avoid this pain, both women stood up and loaded the bus to go to jail.

Ms. Fikes bounced between the county and city jail, Camp Selma and Camp Camden. She was brought before Judge Reynolds where she was repeatedly asked who organized the march. Judge Reynolds and others hoped that the students would implicate Martin Luther King, Jr. in hopes of building a case against Dr. King for contributing to the delinquency of minors. Instead, Ms. Fikes loudly declared: "Jesus lead me, and my mama feed me." This frustrated the judge and led to Ms. Fikes being jailed for nearly three weeks.

Instead of being defeated, Ms. Fikes used this time to organize other young people who were also sent to jail.

"I had been there so long I felt like a trustee there," she once said. With this new Trustee status and the assistance of Reverend F.D. Reese of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Selma, Ms. Fikes was able to help others.

Ms. Fikes also bore witness to Bloody Sunday. That morning Ms. Fikes was a messenger, carrying messages from Brown Chapel AME to the head of the line at the base of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. She described the experience later, saying, "You know how it feels just before a storm—there was nobody walking on the streets . . . it was such a stillness that you can't explain."

As tensions rose, Ms. Fikes continued delivering messages back and forth, when, finally, a half block from the church, she heard the rumbling of Bloody Sunday: "Out of this stillness, this earthquake [sound], the ground it just shifted . . . and when I looked up . . . people were running everywhere." Despite the hate and the violence, Ms. Fikes saw the true spirit of the foot soldiers of Selma.

After her time in Selma, Ms. Fikes went on to become a very successful singer who has

graced the stages of Carnegie Hall and the Library of Congress, as well as the 2004 Democratic National Convention where she was introduced by Maya Angelou. She has had the opportunity to perform with Joe Turner, Lightnin' Hopkins, Albert King, James Brown, Bob Dylan, and Mavis Staples, among others. She continues to travel throughout the United States and Canada to speak about diversity and civil rights, because although we have come a long way, there is always work to be done to advance justice and equality.

On a personal note, I grew up in Selma hearing the voice of Bettie Mae Fikes. Her beautiful voice was the soundtrack of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. I am so grateful that she faithfully returns on the pilgrimage to Selma each year with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and the Faith and Politics Institute to commemorate Bloody Sunday. Her beautiful music continues to move us all as we rededicate ourselves to the ideals of equality and justice for all. I know that I would not be Alabama's first black Congresswoman today had it not been for the bravery and sacrifice of freedom fighters like Bettie Mae Fikes.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the activism and lasting contributions of Ms. Bettie Mae Fikes. Through song, her melodious voice was an inspiration for the Civil Rights Movement that changed a nation. Her work as an educator, her incredible voice and her story will be remembered in Alabama for many years to come.

TERMINATION OF NATIONAL
EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE
PRESIDENT ON FEBRUARY 15,
2019

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise this House for its swift passage of H.J. Res 46, a bipartisan bill to terminate President Trump's declaration of a Fake National Emergency.

The President's declaration is not only an unconstitutional attempt to circumvent Congress and the will of the people. It also shows an unprecedented disregard for precedent, as well as the values and institutions enshrined in our Constitution.

To pay for his wall, President Trump will not get the funds from Mexico as he promised but from our troops, robbing \$3.5 billion from the Department of Defense, funds which were passed to improve military family housing, training facilities, security of overseas bases, and much more.

Just in Ohio, over \$90 million in military construction investment is being placed at risk, including \$61,000,000 for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Intelligence Production Complex and \$7,400,000 for Camp Ravenna's Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range.

Mr. Speaker, this declaration was not founded in the security of our nation, but in delivering on an ill-advised campaign promise. We cannot allow the President to ask those who have sacrificed already to sacrifice even

more—especially for an expensive border wall few think will even work. Now, it's on the Senate to take up and pass this resolution without delay.

RECOGNIZING MRS. INEZ DOROTHY
YOUNG GIBSON ON THE CELE-
BRATION OF HER 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am excited to recognize Inez Dorothy Young Gibson, a revered member of the Dallas, Texas, community, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on this upcoming March 26th.

Mrs. Gibson was raised in Rockwall, Texas, home of the Caddo Indians. Heavy racial and residential segregation in the area prompted a move to Dallas, Texas in 1936, for Mrs. Gibson and her family. She attended Burnett High School, an all-African-American school in Terrell, Texas, and graduated with honors.

Mrs. Gibson later became a Vocational Nurse at the Methodist Hospital of Dallas, where she served for an impressive 23 years. She has also been heavily involved in community engagement and social activism throughout her life, specifically work to improve the South Dallas/Fair Park area. Mrs. Gibson has donated countless hours of her time to volunteer with the Warren Avenue Christian Church and Dallas ISD's Reading is Fundamental Program, among others.

Mrs. Gibson married T.D. Gibson, Sr. on August 19, 1943, and had four children: Marilyn, T.D. Jr., Michael, and Charmin. She is now the affectionate matriarch of 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I wish to commend Mrs. Inez Dorothy Young Gibson for a life dedicated to her family, friends and the Dallas community, and want to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. Congratulations are in order as she celebrates this extraordinary milestone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURING
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY FIREARMS ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, regrettably, there have been too many instances in which Department of Homeland Security officers have misplaced or lost their Department-issued firearms due to a failure to properly secure such sensitive assets.

In October 2017, the DHS Office of Inspector General found that 2,142 sensitive assets—including 228 firearms and 1,889 badges—were misplaced between fiscal years 2014 and 2016. Most of these losses were due to DHS personnel who did not properly safeguard such sensitive assets. The Office of Inspector General identified the lack of a Department-wide firearm policy as a major reason why sensitive assets were not secured.

Therefore, I am introducing the Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms

Act, which improves the accountability of DHS-issued firearms and other sensitive assets. Specifically, the bill directs DHS to develop and distribute a Department-wide directive for achieving adequate security over firearms and other sensitive assets. That directive must include reporting and recordkeeping requirements for lost assets. Additionally, the bill requires that DHS provide officers with training and guidance on how to follow safeguarding requirements and how to properly report the loss or theft of a firearm.

Due to its mission, DHS has a variety of highly sensitive equipment. Failure to safeguard those assets can have grave consequences for public safety and homeland security. This measure will foster greater accountability and security within DHS.

HONORING LIEUTENANT ERIC JI-
MENEZ, U.S. NAVY, ON EIGHT
YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY SERV-
ICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Lieutenant Eric Jimenez, a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on eight years of dedicated active duty service to our Country in the United States Navy.

Lt. Jimenez currently serves as an Operations Research Analyst in the Naval Service Warfare Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He entered the USN in 2011, and served in numerous assignments and deployments throughout his distinguished career.

Lt. Jimenez has shown not only outstanding leadership, but uncommon technical skill. As a Reactor Control Officer on the USS *Santa Fe*, he managed a team of nine nuclear trained electronics technicians charged with maintaining nuclear reactor protection systems. He further trained an underperforming division by implementing a rigorous training and monitoring program resulting in a two-letter grade improvement in all categories of the Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). As an Electrical Division Officer, Lt. Jimenez maintained a 100 percent electrical safety training performance and executed the ship's electrical safety program using the most up-to-date instructions and notices. As Assistant Weapons Officer, Lt. Jimenez led his team through several weapons exercises, earning the 2015 Commanders Submarines Squadron SEVEN Battle Efficiency and the Submarine Squadron Seven Weapons Excellence White "W" award.

Since November of 2016, Lt. Jimenez has led four studies, valued at \$3 million dollars, in the development, analysis, and interpretation of results of Defense Planning Scenarios designed to inform and influence Navy senior executive leadership. He further served as a co-chair on Technical Evaluation Boards, overseeing contract proposals worth an estimated \$1.5 million.

On behalf of Oklahoma's First Congressional District, I commend and congratulate my constituent, Lieutenant Eric Jimenez, on his devoted service to the United States of