

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL AND ALL THE AMAZING CONTRIBUTIONS THAT CAROLE KING HAS MADE TO NEW YORK AND OUR COUNTRY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Carole King, arguably the most prodigious singer-songwriter of our century, for the fifth anniversary of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical which is based on her life and career.

Beautiful: the Carole King Musical opened on Broadway on January 12, 2014. After its first season the show won a GRAMMY for Best Musical Theater Album as well as two Tony awards. In 2015, it opened on London's West End, garnering 2 Olivier Awards. The show is now entering its sixth year.

Carole King launched her extraordinary musical career as a hit songwriter at the young age of seventeen with the song "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," co-written with her then-husband Gerry Goffin. With Goffin and others, she went on to write dozens of chart-topping songs throughout the 1960's. King made her breakthrough as a musical artist in her own right when she released her era-defining album Tapestry in 1971, which stayed on the charts for over six consecutive years and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998.

To date, King has composed more than 100 hit singles and amassed numerous prestigious musical awards, including four Grammy Awards. She was the first woman to receive the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, which she was honored with in 2013. She has also been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame as well as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and was a Kennedy Center Honoree in 2015.

In addition to her prolific musical career, King has also dedicated her exceptional abilities towards environmental activism and ensuring the conservation of American wildlife, parks, and wild places. King is a long-time resident of Idaho and began working with the Alliance for the Wild Rockies in 1990, testifying on Capitol Hill against legislation that would harm Idahoan natural spaces. She has also been a stalwart and outspoken advocate of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), a bill I have introduced in every Congress since the 103rd Congress. King testified in favor of NREPA in 2009 before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Carole King, whose environmentalism and musical talents have bettered New York and our nation and inspired a Broadway musical.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MAYOR LARRY PAUL LANGFORD

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Mayor Larry Paul Langford. Mayor Langford was a beloved member of the Birmingham, Fairfield and Jefferson County communities, who had bold dreams for the communities he loved and served. He promoted economic development and made significant investments in the children and schools of Fairfield and Birmingham. Mayor Langford will be remembered as a larger than life personality who broke boundaries as the first black reporter for the region at WBRC; the first black Mayor of Fairfield, AL; the first black President of the Jefferson County Commission; and as a former Mayor of Birmingham. A Vietnam veteran, Mayor Langford served in public office in multiple capacities for nearly 23 years and will be greatly missed.

On March 17, 1946, Larry Langford was born to John Langford and Lillian Nance Langford, as the oldest of six children. He grew up understanding the importance of a good education and having a strong foundation of faith to guide him. His mother often stressed that a quality education was the key to improving one's lot in life and encouraged all of her children to strive for academic success. A proud graduate of A. H. Parker High School in Birmingham, Langford took his mother's advice to heart, but placed his dreams of attaining a college degree on hold when he chose to enlist into the United States Air Force shortly after finishing high school.

After serving for five years in the Air Force during the Vietnam Era, Langford returned home with a renewed sense of service to his community and quickly completed his college education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Langford attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences and began working for a local news station. Langford became the first African American male to become a news reporter for WBRC 6 News in its region. The importance of this role was never lost on Langford. He knew that after the tumultuous decade before, to have an African American man reporting the news in this area was just one of several signs that the City of Birmingham was changing. Langford did well as a reporter, using his charisma and outgoing personality, he was able to speak with the people of Birmingham every day and record their stories.

After several years working as a reporter, Langford decided to run for his first political office. He was elected to the Birmingham City Council in 1977 where he quickly became known as the "liveliest and most outspoken" of the council members, as well as the most media-savvy. He would frequently brief reporters before meetings and would then provide the most memorable or controversial quotes packaged in sound bites for television coverage. During his time on the Birmingham Council, he also worked as a radio news director and contributed to the Birmingham Times. After an unsuccessful run for Mayor of the City of Birmingham against fellow council-

man Richard Arrington, Jr. in 1979, Langford temporarily retreated from public service.

By 1982, Langford had moved to Fairfield, AL and married the love of his life, Melva Ferguson. A few years later, Langford decided to return to public service and help the City of Fairfield respond to the complaints of the community. Langford ran for Mayor and won handily, defeating a crowded field of several candidates. Langford became the first African American Mayor of the City of Fairfield in 1988, another first for the charismatic public servant. After his election, he began an aggressive campaign to revitalize the city that included a massive project that would fix the streets and sidewalks of Fairfield. After a successful lobbying attempt to the Alabama State Legislature, Langford was granted more power in his role as Mayor over the Fairfield City Council, that allowed him to increase the city's sales tax to save Fairfield City Schools which were facing bankruptcy and the possible threat of having to close all of the public schools in the City. It was there that Langford became an outspoken advocate for students and began to find ways to make sure students who attended Fairfield City Schools would be ready for the technological advancements they would be facing in the near future.

While the Mayor of Fairfield, Langford also distinguished himself by pushing for regional cooperation in economic development and he became the driving force behind an agreement of 11 Jefferson County municipalities to join forces in 1998 to finance the construction of Visionland Amusement Park in Bessemer, a \$90 million project.

During his fourth term as Fairfield Mayor, Langford set his eye on the Jefferson County Commission where he hoped his connections in Jefferson County would allow for stronger regional partnership amongst the cities of Jefferson County. Langford was elected to the Jefferson County Commission in 2002, defeating incumbent Jeff Germany. After being elected to the Commission, he was then elected President of the Jefferson County Commission; becoming the first African American to do so. A strong believer in helping students succeed, he proposed a 1 percent sales tax that helped build 30 new schools and generated over \$1 billion in revenue. These new resources were immediately put to use by the nearly 36,000 students who were a part of the Jefferson County School System at that time. This was one of Langford's most successful projects and the effects of these schools are still felt throughout the county today.

In 2006, Langford attempted a second run for Mayor of Birmingham. This time, he was successful and won enough votes to avoid a run-off election. Mayor Langford was sworn in on November 13, 2007. Just like he had done in Fairfield and on the Jefferson County Commission, as Birmingham Mayor, he put students first. Langford wanted to make sure that these students were getting every opportunity possible. Mayor Langford struck an agreement with a foundation that provided computers to children from developing countries, and got them to expand their reach to Birmingham City School. Nearly 17,000 elementary and middle school students received laptops that year.

While Mayor Langford's 23-year political career resulted in many successful public projects, his service was not without its controversy. Mayor Langford's tenure as Birmingham mayor was cut short when a jury

found him guilty of public corruption on October 28, 2009 and was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison. After serving eight and half years, on December 28, 2018, due to his failing health, Mayor Langford's sentence was commuted by a federal judge giving compassion release. The next day, Mayor Langford was transferred from a federal prison hospital in Lexington, Kentucky to Birmingham by ambulance where he was admitted to a Birmingham hospital and remained until his death on January 8, 2019.

Mayor Langford was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield, AL and frequently held bible studies to help promote the Word of God. He wanted to help the young men and women in his community to be guided by the strength and lessons of the Bible and to help heal the community through faith. Mayor Langford is survived by his beloved wife, Melva; son, Ronald Strothers; brother, Oliver Nance; niece, Lena Powe McDonald; sister-in-law, Casi Ferguson; two grandchildren, Ronald and Jared Strothers; and a host of other nieces, nephews, friends and supporters.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the kindness shown to me by Mayor and Mrs. Langford when I first moved to Birmingham. Mayor Langford was a man of big vision and a huge heart that has left our community better because of his many initiatives. It was out of respect for his many good deeds that I was honored to play a part in getting Mayor Langford's compassionate release due to his failing health so that he could spend his final days in Birmingham. Mayor Langford died as he lived—with dignity, distinction and as a free man with his family, friends and community who loved him deeply.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Mayor Larry Paul Langford. May we celebrate the totality of his life today and honor his great works during his 23 years of service to Fairfield, Birmingham, and Jefferson County, Alabama.

RECOGNIZING JDRF ADVOCATE
MAX SELMSER

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Max Selmsler, a constituent in my district living with type 1 diabetes. Now 13 years old, Max has lived with type 1 diabetes for over seven years and has become an advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Max's efforts have engaged his family, friends, and community in finding a cure for type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes presents significant obstacles for those struggling with the illness. Afflicted individuals must constantly manage the disease through insulin shots to stabilize their blood sugar and are at long-term risk for various severe complications. However, the millions of people living with type 1 diabetes have bonded together to form a strong community working to discover a cure in the near future. Max is a perfect example of a member of this community.

Max participates in various awareness and fundraising events for type 1 diabetes. He has

long served as a JDRF Youth Ambassador and Youth Advocacy leader since his diagnosis. In these roles, he informs his community about type 1 diabetes, how he lives with the illness, and offers his advice to newly diagnosed children. Additionally, he is active in the nationally popular JDRF One Walk and raised \$35,000 to research a cure with his walk team.

For the 2019 JDRF Children's Congress, Max aspires to be a delegate from New York State in order to bring his advocacy efforts to Washington. He will have the opportunity to meet with lawmakers to discuss the funding needs of the Special Diabetes Program if selected. Max is an inspiring individual and is an excellent role model for children living through type 1 diabetes. He has my full support as he continues the application process.

We have a responsibility to invest in cures and assist researchers in their efforts to cure the diseases plaguing millions of Americans, and costing our nation billions of dollars. Type 1 diabetes is no exception and Congress must invest in the medical specialists searching for a solution to this ailment. Congress has taken positive steps forward with the 21st Century Cures Act, but these efforts must continue.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Max Selmsler. Living through any disease is no easy task but Max doesn't let his disease prevent him from reaching his full potential. I thank Max, as well as advocates across the country, for their efforts to find a cure for type 1 diabetes. I am optimistic one day soon a solution to this illness will be discovered thanks to the commitment of organizations such as the JDRF.

SUPPORTING H.R. 206, THE ENCOURAGING SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATORS ACT AND H.R. 246, THE STIMULATING INNOVATION THROUGH PROCUREMENT ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to state my support for H.R. 206, the Encouraging Small Business Innovators Act and H.R. 246, the Stimulating Innovation through Procurement Act of 2019. I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Congressman ROUDA, Congresswoman FINKENAUER and other colleagues on both committees for their work to advance these bills to the House Floor.

Through competitive research and development grants and contracts, the SBIR and STTR programs provide opportunities for innovative small businesses to participate in the federal research and development enterprise. The Federal R&D enterprise supports innovation by funding the best and brightest at our great research institutions, our national labs, and small businesses across all sectors of our economy. The SBIR and STTR programs have proven to be an important part of that investment. Over the years, the Science Committee has supported strong funding as well as improvements in policy and oversight for the SBIR and STTR programs. Last Congress, several important pilot programs were ex-

tended and other updates were made in law that help make the programs more effective and efficient. These include supporting more early-state funding for small business innovators, providing funding for important agency outreach and program administration, and streamlining reporting requirements.

The Science Committee considered several of the provisions in H.R. 246 in the 115th Congress. As these two bills advance, the Committee looks forward to working with our colleagues on the Small Business Committee to review and adopt policy changes in the SBIR and STTR programs that continue to strengthen the partnership between innovative small business and our federal research agencies. Further, I hope we will continue working together to ensure that the agencies prioritize outreach and other activities to increase the participation of women and minority-owned innovative small businesses in the SBIR and STTR programs.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 206 and H.R. 246.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on January 14, 2019, I regret I was unable to vote due to an important conflict in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 30, H.R. 116, the Investing in Main Street Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HERB KELLEHER, CEO OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 14, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the representative of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Herb Kelleher, CEO of Southwest Airlines.

Herb Kelleher was one of a kind. He embodied the colorful spirit and joyful nature of the airline he cofounded. He exuded this bright personality whether he was on television, in a room full of people, or speaking to just one individual. Beyond instilling the value of fun in his company, he revolutionized air travel by making the low-cost, low-fare airline accessible for many Americans.

Born in New Jersey, he studied English and philosophy at Wesleyan University and then law at New York University. It was his wife, Joan, whom he met on a blind date, who persuaded him to set up a law firm in Texas. Southwest Airlines was born not on the back of a cocktail napkin as he later liked to boast, but when one of his legal clients, Rollin King, owner of a small commuter airline, and his banker, John Parker, came to his office. Both men found travelling between the cities of Houston, Dallas and San Antonio inconvenient and expensive and thought they could do it better. With Herb Kelleher's help, they succeeded.