

Ms. Clark was honored on October 25 by the Montclair, New Jersey, branch of the NAACP. Few honorees have been more dedicated to serving the public good.

Ms. Clark has spent her entire life helping the underserved and the most vulnerable residents of Essex County. She started in child development at the Newark Day Care Center. She has worked for social services and served as the director of a needs-based youth summer camp.

During her 30 years in the Essex County judicial system, she helped single mothers get child support and worked to keep juveniles from becoming criminals.

She is a respected and beloved resident of my district, as well as a great friend and family member and a loved one, and this honor is well-deserved.

We are very proud of the work that Ms. Anita Clark has done for her community throughout her time in Essex County.

RECOGNIZING HANCOCK DAY SCHOOL ON WINNING THE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hancock Day School for being recognized by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School for 2019. This prestigious award recognized around 350 schools across the country for their commitment to academic excellence and closing the achievement gap among diverse groups of students.

To commemorate this award, Hancock Day School will receive a flag that is a symbol of excellence in teaching and learning. Recognized throughout the Savannah community as a stalwart of quality education, I am proud to see Hancock receive the national recognition it deserves.

The school was founded in 1953 and serves pre-K through eighth grade students. Using the "Hancock Way," teachers are given autonomy to teach free of busywork and red tape while they push their students to succeed and refuse to water down any part of the curriculum.

The school's founder once said that students need to "grow a little new wood each day," and they are certainly succeeding.

To teachers, students, and staff alike at Hancock Day School: Congratulations on your award, and keep up the good work.

SURFSIDE-SUNSET BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT

(Mr. ROUDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of

the Surfside-Sunset Beach Nourishment Project to the residents of Orange County, California.

Due to flood control measures and other shore protection and harbor works made by the Federal Government, the 17-mile-long shoreline between Anaheim Bay and Newport Bay no longer receives a natural supply of sand.

As a result, Congress authorized the Surfside-Sunset project in 1962 to provide for artificial beach nourishment to stabilize affected shoreline. Stage 13 of this project will combat continued coastline erosion and protect coastal property.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government has neglected the Surfside-Sunset project in recent years, which has prevented stage 13 from moving forward. This project has not been funded by the Federal Government for 11 years. Let me repeat—11 years.

As the Surfside-Sunset project is one of many more Army Corps projects for the people of Orange County, I will continue to advocate for its prioritization by the Army Corps and Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated Timber Innovation Day and National Forest Products Week.

The forest products industry plays an important role in many communities around the Nation, including Pennsylvania, which is blessed with some of the finest hardwoods in the world. In 2018, U.S. hardwood exports were valued at \$135 billion and employed roughly 700,000 people, nationwide.

In addition to its significant economic footprint, the industry also provides numerous environmental benefits because managed forests support proactive stewardship.

Unfortunately, times have been difficult for many timber producers in recent years. While the industry continues to diversify and trade negotiations progress, identifying new markets for American forest products remains essential.

The Timber Renovation Act, which was included in the 2018 farm bill, is one initiative I have been proud to support that does just that. It encourages new markets by supporting research for wood products in construction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our producers for the work that they do.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to draw attention to the Habitat for Humanity organization of Salem County in south Jersey.

Habitat for Humanity in Salem County, south Jersey, has been active since its creation in 1982. As one of the oldest branches, they have built over 40 homes, with many more in progress.

In addition, Habitat for Humanity in Salem County has a branch of ReStore, which promotes sustainability in home improvement by selling new and gently used materials and furniture.

I want to acknowledge their dedication to our community and to the welfare of those around them. The Habitat for Humanity nonprofit organization has made great strides in our district by building and renovating homes so that more citizens can have access to affordable housing.

We are all proud of them in south Jersey, proud of what they have done. They are truly stars and truly have made a difference in individuals' lives.

May God bless them.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of Oxi Day.

Seventy-nine years ago today, the Greek Prime Minister, Ioannis Metaxas, replied, "oxi," or "no," to the fascist forces looking to enter Greece initially in their quest for total conquest of the continent. With this historic response, Greece rejected submission to the Axis Powers, proving it would not go easy.

Though the invasion of the Greek homeland ultimately happened, the fascist forces could not contend with the ferocity of the Greek resistance. The delayed invasion marked the first Axis setback in the entire war and actually precipitated a fatal delay in the German invasion of Russia, serving as the turning point for Allied Powers during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the bravery and resistance of Greek warriors, which serves as an example for all freedom-loving people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN CONYERS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the many Members of the United States Congress in honoring John Conyers.

I look forward, over the next couple of weeks, to paying tribute to him on this floor, for he is deserving of the

honor and recognition of the service of 53 years in the United States Congress.

John Conyers, throughout newspapers across America, is called a civil rights icon, a man who won reelection time after time with 80 percent of the vote.

I offer my deepest sympathy to his beautiful wife, Monica, and his sons, John and Carl, but most of all, I say to America: Those who are voiceless, John Conyers was there; but those who were silenced, who tried to be heard, John Conyers was there.

In every important piece of legislation for the last half century, John Conyers was there: voting rights, fair housing, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Yes, he is an icon, but he is a person of this Nation. An honored servant and former military, he is to be honored, and I look forward to saluting him in days to come.

May he rest in peace.

VETERAN SUICIDE CRISIS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Veterans Day, I rise to bring awareness again to the alarming rate of veteran suicide.

This country owes all of our veterans and armed services personnel a limitless debt of gratitude for their sacrifices, so many that they made on our behalf. Our country simply wouldn't be the Nation it is today, of course, were it not for the many ways in which they have valiantly served.

Very sadly, veteran suicide remains an urgent crisis that devastates too many families across our Nation every single day. The statistics are staggering. We know now that we lose up to 6,000 veterans to this unspeakable tragedy every year.

For far too long, our country's brave men and women who fought abroad for our freedoms fall victim to suicide when they return home, and, of course, they leave families without fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

There are few things more heart-breaking than to hear of another brave

soldier taking their own life, and we naturally ask the questions: How could this one have happened? Is there more that we could have done to intervene?

I just want to say this. Here in Congress, we have a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans are given top priority and the resources and quality healthcare they need and truly deserve.

We will continue to work on that priority. We will continue to advocate for all of those who served, and we will continue to draw attention to this terrible crisis in America.

May God bless and watch over all of our troops and all those who have served the call of freedom.

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House approved H.R. 2440, the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act of 2019. Nearly every segment of our Nation's infrastructure is in disrepair due to chronic underfunding, including our Nation's water infrastructure, a true lifeblood of our economy.

This year, as he did last year, President Trump proposed drastic cuts to the Army Corps of Engineers' budget. Unbelievable. But our Appropriations Committee rejected his proposals and those cuts. Today I stand with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to call for greater investment in our water infrastructure.

For our part, the House passed the FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that included \$1.6 billion from the harbor maintenance trust fund, an increase of \$147 million above fiscal year 2019 and \$732 million above President Trump's paltry and unrealistic budget request.

Big, medium, and small ports across our country are efficient economic engines that anchor jobs and progress. They are hubs of production for communities everywhere. And, yes, they rely on leadership from this Congress to fund their maintenance.

I congratulate Representative DEFazio for his hard work in writing H.R.

2440 and hope we continue the momentum to utilize the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Port of Cleveland.

PORT OF CLEVELAND,
October 28, 2019.

Hon. MARCY KAPTUR,
Congresswoman, 9th District of Ohio,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: The Port of Cleveland is pleased to know that an important bill will be considered on the House floor on Monday, October 28. The bill, H.R. 2440, the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, has bipartisan support on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and I urge your support for the measure.

As you know, the Port of Cleveland and others in our state depend on the Corps of Engineers' civil works program. Our port relies on the maintenance dredging work each and every year. Around \$8 million is needed every year to keep the Cuyahoga River Federal shipping channel, the port's breakwater and related infrastructure in a condition that enables the safe navigation of ships and mariners. Major American industry and U.S. exports rely on maintenance dredging that occurs twice each year.

Since 1986, when Congress created the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) and Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), most cargo in American ports is charged an ad valorem tax for the purpose of covering Federal channel maintenance-related costs in U.S. seaports. In the first years, the tax revenue was fully spent on Federal channel maintenance but soon revenues increased and a surplus was allowed to accumulate in the trust fund, even as many shipping channels in the country were not fully maintained to their design depths and widths. Overtime, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund balance has been allowed to grow to over \$9 billion while Congress has continued to under-spend on the infrastructure that is our national navigation system.

In more recent years, the House and Senate became more alert to the inadequately maintained American ports and the existence of the HMT and HMTF. Targets for maintenance spending were approved in WRDA 2014 and appropriations have increased. We ports have appreciated that improvement, but the fact is that the unused HMT revenue continues to accumulate while maintenance dredging in many parts of the country, including on the Great Lakes, is insufficient. The graph below, prepared in 2016, provides a snapshot of spending versus tax revenue. (In the years since, the trend is much the same with a projected HMTF balance (per FY 2020 budget) of as much as \$10.4 billion.

20 YEARS OF THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

[Dollars in millions]

HMTF Cash Flow:		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
BOY Balance		1,106	1,246	1,556	1,621	1,777	1,850	2,001	2,299	2,695	3,234
Receipts & Interest		651	607	767	816	730	737	946	1,102	1,337	1,427
Outlays		-511	-297	-702	-660	-657	-586	-648	-706	-798	-910
EOY Balance		1,246	1,556	1,621	1,777	1,850	2,001	2,299	2,695	3,234	3,751

HMTF Cash Flow:		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Est.	Request
BOY Balance		3,751	4,559	5,003	5,474	6,280	6,958	7,806	8,316	8,684	9,064
Receipts & Interest		1,594	1,253	1,299	1,629	1,587	1,696	1,617	1,517	1,662	1,802
Outlays		-786	-808	-828	-823	-909	-848	-1,107	-1,149	-1,282	-986
EOY Balance		4,559	5,003	5,474	6,280	6,958	7,806	8,316	8,684	9,064	9,980