

Although Ms. Lacar is not a veteran herself, she has dedicated her career to assisting veterans in her community. Ms. Lacar has portrayed the highest degree of compassion and care for veterans and their families. She ensured that the Imperial County Veterans Office was able to maintain uninterrupted service for veterans.

It is with great appreciation that I recognize Ms. Lorena L. Lacar.

HONORING ELEANOR (ELLIE)
BLOCH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Eleanor (Ellie) Bloch, who passed away on January 15, 2020, at the age of 83 after a lifetime of public service to her community.

Born in 1936 in Brookline, Massachusetts, to Hymen Stutman and Nellie Wiener Stutman, Ellie graduated from Brookline High School in 1954 and then attended Boston University as a music major. She later graduated from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. After meeting and marrying her first husband, Harry Salesky, who passed away in 1983, they moved to New York and then Tiburon, where she remained for the next 48 years. In 1985, Ellie married Don Spater, who died 1996. She met her third husband, John Bloch, through mutual friends, and they married in 1999.

Ellie was elected to represent Marin County in the California Senior Legislature in 2004, and she served in this role tirelessly up until her passing. Among her many efforts, she worked hard to help pass a state emergency plan that included best practices for local governments and municipalities to evacuate seniors and people with disabilities. She served as one the vice chairs of the Joint Rules Committee from 2013–2015, and was a member of the Housing and Transportation committee, spending days at a time in Sacramento advocating for seniors and people with disabilities. In 2017, Ellie was awarded the Moira Jackson award for distinguished service to the California Senior Legislature.

In addition to her work with the California State Legislature, Ellie was a member of the legislative committee for the California Commission on Aging, served as president of the Tiburon Sunset Rotary Club, and from 2010–2018, she was an advisory board member for San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies. She also served as a board member for Family Service Agency of Marin for 20 years, and she was a board member and secretary for the Marin City Community Development Corporation and Marin City Land Corporation for 15 years.

Beyond her incredible community service, Ellie was also the co-founder, coordinator, and mediator for Marin Mediation Services where she worked for 40 years. In this capacity, she was known for her ability to treat everyone who came before her fairly, toiling to reach resolutions that would benefit all parties involved. In her free time, Ellie could be found enjoying art, music, spending time with friends

and family, participating in yoga classes, and at the Corinthian Yacht Club.

Ellie is survived by her husband, John Bloch, and three sons, William Salesky, Joseph Salesky and Andrew Salesky, and stepchildren Julie Middlebrook, Jenni Hamilton, Andrew Bloch, Deborah Spater-Melnick, Cheryl Spater and Lori Munoz, as well as seven grandchildren, one step-grandson, four great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren. While she will be greatly missed, Ellie's legacy will live on through the indelible and positive impact she had on her family, friends and extended community. Madam Speaker, please join me in sending her loved ones our sincere condolences and warm regards.

INTRODUCTION OF TSA CHILD
CARE ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, over 44,000 Transportation Security Officers serve as our first line of defense at airports across the country. Due to the nature of their job, these hardworking men and women, many of whom are parents, work abnormal hours, yet are not provided with the benefits, such as childcare, that many other federal employees receive.

We need to ensure that Transportation Security Officers' children are taken care of when their parents are working, especially during split shifts. Moreover, we need to provide our Transportation Security Officers that are expecting adequate breaks and provide designated lactation facilities for mothers.

For that reason, I am introducing the TSA Child CARE Act. This bipartisan, pragmatic legislation requires the Transportation Security Administration to assess childcare options and barriers to such services for TSA personnel who are parents or guardians of children. The bill requires TSA to report back to Congress on how it will respond to any findings, including a timeline for implementation for any recommendations. We must ensure that we have policies and procedures set in place to ensure that our hard-working.

RECOGNITION OF MR. TRACY "T-
DOG" RASCOE, AS CALIFORNIA
56TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT'S 2019
VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Tracy "T-Dog" Rascoe, who was recently recognized by California State Assembly Member, Eduardo Garcia, as California 56th Assembly District Veteran of the Year for 2019.

Tracy served as a Surface Sonar Technician in the U.S. Navy for 10 years before joining the U.S. Navy Reserves. There, he served for two years before transferring to the U.S. Army Reserves. In the Army reserves, he served as a Human Resource and Training

noncommissioned officer (NCO) with the 104th and 95th Infantry Training Division where he helped train drill sergeants.

After Tracy's U.S. Navy active duty service, he joined the renewable energy industry in wind power. There, he utilized his training and managerial background and became a Technical Trainer and Training Manager for major leading organizations within the industry. Recognizing the potential for the industry's future growth in the U.S. and the job opportunities it could provide veterans and others, Tracy became a director of wind energy technology for both a community college and a for-profit school. During his term as a director, he volunteered to lead the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Education Work Group. Here he worked diligently for two years with middle and senior members of the industry, colleges, technical schools, the Department of Energy and the Department of Labor to create skill sets for Wind Energy Technicians in the U.S. The skill sets were approved in 2010 and have resulted in the creation of official U.S. job codes for Wind Technicians. Currently, he serves on the AWEA Veterans Employment Committee, which focuses on attracting additional veterans to the wind industry.

In 2012, Tracy left the Pattern Energy Operations Headquarters in Houston Texas, to become an Operations Manager of their wind farm in Ocotillo, CA. As a veteran, Tracy and his wife (Dawn), were determined to be of service to others alike and transferred their American Legion memberships to the Boyce Aten Post located in El Centro. There, they quickly identified the need to revitalize the Post for the good of its members and the local community.

While serving two consecutive years as the Post Commander, Tracy rose through the elected ranks in the 30th District (Imperial County) as 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander and then Commander. As the 30th District Commander, his successful leadership and hands on approach helped revitalize the district posts. One of the posts under his leadership was severely struggling and on the verge of closure. As a result of his leadership, the post was not only able to remain open, but it successfully achieved 135 percent increase in membership and has remained stellar in various performances to date. His leadership helped the 30th District achieve 3rd place in membership in the entire state of 30 districts. As a result, the district received great respect and admiration within the American Legion Department of California 5th Area, which comprised of 107 American Legion Posts with over 25,000 members in Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Riverside counties.

This past year, he was elected and served honorably as the American Legion Department of California (DOC) Vice Commander-Area 5. During his one-year term, he again earned great respect and admiration from leaders within the DOC.

As a mentor, Tracy continues to strive to improve. Last year he and Dawn completed the California American Legion College. They supported one another as she serves as an Auxiliary Unit 25 President and was recently elected as the Auxiliary 30th District President.

Tracy presently serves as Jr. Past Vice Commander-Area 5, 30th District Judge Advocate and as an Executive Board Member for the Boyce Aten American Legion Post 25 and

Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) No. 9305, in El Centro, CA. In addition, he was selected to be one of only seven members of the newly formed American Legion Department of California Training Committee. There he drafted the approved Annual Training Budget and is leading the development of Post Finance Officer training to assist the 442 American Legion DOC Posts.

Tracy continues to demonstrate his dedication to our community, veterans and patriotism. This can be easily seen by his roles and active participations: Co-Founder and President of the Imperial Valley Patriotic Planning Committee, member of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Committee, member of the Vietnam Moving Wall 2020 Ceremonies Committee, Advocate and active participant for the Imperial County Veterans Advisory Council and Veterans Employment Committee, member and Secretary of the Imperial County Continuum of Care Council and Point-In-Time Count Committee.

Tracy is a Cold War and Gulf War Veteran. In the past year, he alone raised several hundreds of dollars to help support California Veterans through the American Legion's CALVAR Helmets for Heroes program. He has also provided multiple patriotic ceremonies to the community and served as the Master of Ceremony for the Boyce Aten Post 25's 100th Anniversary.

Tracy is known and highly respected by many of the elected leaders within my district and Imperial County. I thank Tracy for his service and congratulate him for being selected as California 56th Assembly District's 2019 Veteran of the Year.

LOCAL-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the need to ensure that we protect the most vulnerable of Americans, our elderly, disabled and disadvantaged citizens, from the risk of living in poverty. Social Security was established 85 years ago, to provide a structure to maintain a collective sense of security amidst the expansion and development of our great Nation.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), about 63 million Americans received \$1 trillion in benefits in 2018. SSA estimates that about one-third of beneficiaries depend on Social Security benefits for more than 90 percent of their retirement income. Furthermore, the number of Americans 65-and-older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060; their total population will rise from 16 percent to 23 percent. Unfortunately, due to inflation and wide economic disparities by region, Social Security provides an uneven distribution of benefits across the country. As you know, New York City is one of the most expensive places to live in the nation, and many, especially seniors, battle with paying for even the most basic of necessities, including food and rent.

That is why I am introducing the "Locality-based Social Security Benefits Act", which would adjust the amount of monthly old-age,

survivors, and disability insurance payments under Title II of the Social Security Act based on locality-based comparability payment rates.

Madam Speaker, Social Security is an important safety net that many Americans have come to rely upon as their main source of income. We must ensure that the quality of life is not dependent upon where our senior and disadvantaged citizens live in America. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNUAL SALUTE OF THE BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON D.C. AREA, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 40th Annual Salute of the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc.

The Black Nurses Association (BNA) of Greater Washington, D.C. Area (GWDCA), Inc., chartered in 1975, endeavors to support the mission of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) and provide services to residents in the D.C. area.

BNA of GWDCA acts as a vehicle for cohesion and solidarity among Black nurses to ensure the continuity of common heritage. The BNA of GWDCA hosted its first Annual Salute to a Black Nurse on February 14, 1981 at St. Elizabeths Hospital to recognize the contributions of nurses in the community and to celebrate Black History Month. "The Salute" has become a signature community program, where one practicing nurse is awarded "Nurse of the Year" and one nursing student is awarded a scholarship.

BNA of GWDCA has a distinguished legacy of community service with a focus on addressing specific health problems of the Black consumer and health care disparities. Past programs have included participation in the National Black Nurses National Hypertension Project, National Depression Project and partnerships with the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. The association's signature community service project provides community-based health assessments and teaching through church-based and collaborative health fairs and partnerships with the D.C. Department of Health, Office of Immunizations and the Washington Hospital Center.

Importantly, we are grateful that in response to the critical shortage of nurses in all areas of practice, the BNA of GWDCA's "Choose Nursing Project" provides career information and mentoring in the field for students in D.C. area middle and high schools. As a chapter, BNA of GWDCA continues to carry the mission of "Empowering the community through Education, Service and Caring" and support the NBNA's theme, "The Art and Science of Nursing."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. area for 45 years of working to improve the lives of D.C. residents and the profession of nursing.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for its leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More than 840 drugs and biologics have been approached by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of rare diseases. However, Congress must do more to combat rare diseases. That's why in September of 2019, Rep. HUDSON and I introduced the Rare Disease Advancement, surveillance Research, and Education (RARE) Act of 2019 (H.R. 4228). Our legislation, cosponsored by 57 bipartisan Members of Congress, expands the ability of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) to study rare diseases by improving