

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

treatment, research, and diagnostics of rare diseases through new and existing programs.

More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are introducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

In 2019, more than 100 countries observed Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

**SAN DIEGO VOICE & VIEWPOINT'S
60TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper in recognition of their 60th anniversary.

The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint is the oldest and largest African American newspaper in San Diego. Its publisher, Dr. John Warren, and his late wife and co-publisher, Gerri Warren (emeritus) took over the Voice & Viewpoint in 1987. The couple worked diligently in the community to make the publication a nationally award-winning publication.

From small church gatherings to major political campaigns, for six decades, the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint has faithfully reported the news for African American communities in San Diego County. As San Diego's largest African American publication, their news features have highlighted people and events in a more comprehensive manner, while commentators have argued from different points of view in the lively op-ed pages. The Voice & Viewpoint has grown over the last decade to over 350 newsstands and outlets in convenience stores. The publication can be found in all 89 zip codes of San Diego and has readership of over 60,000.

I would like to honor San Diego Voice & Viewpoint for its dedication and lifelong commitment to the African American community within California's 51st Congressional District.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2020 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSO-
CIATION AWARDS**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the recipients of

the 2020 Dale City Civic Association awards. With the core values of compassion and a true sense of community, Dale City Civic Association honors community members who are making a positive impact in their city.

The Dale City Civic Association stages this annual banquet to honor those in their community who have gone above and beyond the call in their service to our community. This banquet and the awards serve a strong purpose by helping strengthen the community's foundation and welcoming neighborhoods in Dale City. Improving the quality of life in Dale City for their residents is the goal of the Dale City Civic Association and these award recipients have made that goal much more achievable. From teachers to public safety officials, to those who volunteer in their free time, these civil servants show why it is imperative to have individuals like them who selflessly dedicate their time and efforts to make sure their community is prepared for the challenges of the day while laying the groundwork for a better tomorrow. Their great work should be a model to us all, and it is my honor to enter into the RECORD the following honorees of the 2020 Dale City Civic Association Award:

High School Teacher of the Year: Jason Brown

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Kristen Morris

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Toni Brown

DCFVD Firefighter of the Year: Technician Peter Langone

DCFVD Cadet of the Year: Cadet Majd Mansour

DCFVD Officer of the Year: Sergeant Andrew Kelly

DCFVD EMS Provider of the Year: Sergeant Joseph Krimmer

Kathleen Seefeldt Community Service Award: Sharon Stone

Business of the Year: One Stop Awards & Apparel

David G. Brickley Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Michele Aguilar-Flores

Deloris C. Hampton Future Teacher Memorial Scholarship: Daniela Avelar

Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Nieves "Gladys" Russell

Police Officer of the Year: Officer Tyler Reza

Kathie Feeney Nurse of the Year: Matthew Blackington

PWC Department of Fire and Rescue—Firefight Provider of the Year: Technician I Damian Lyles

PWC Department of Fire and Rescue—EMT Provider of the Year: Technician II Yasmin Ahmady

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award: Marilyn Avery

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Marilyn Sykes

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year Award: Camy Diaz.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me once again in congratulating these recipients of the 2020 Dale City Civic Association awards. I thank them for their immense contributions to our community and wish them continued success.

**RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLO-
NEL DAVID KELLEY'S RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE ARMY RE-
SERVE**

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize LTC David Kelley from the Army Reserve for 24 years of service and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement from the military.

A decorated Officer, LTC Kelley has exemplified the true meaning of dedicated service. He's established himself as a leader both in the Army Reserve and our Ohio law enforcement. In addition to his role in the Reserves, LTC Kelly serves as a local prosecutor.

As a fellow Reservist, I appreciate and recognize the outstanding military career LTC Kelley has had. I also thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Southern Ohio, most recently as the elected Prosecuting Attorney in Adams County.

I wish LTC Kelley the best of luck moving forward.

A grateful nation salutes LTC Kelley.
Hoohah.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed votes on Thursday, February 6, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 38, "yes" on vote 39, "yes" on vote 40, "yes" on vote 41, "no" on vote 42, "no" on vote 43, "yes" on vote 44, "no" on vote 45, "no" on vote 46, "yes" on vote 47, "yes" on vote 48, "no" on vote 49, "yes" on vote 50, and "yes" on vote 51.

**DECORUM AND MAINTAINING
CIVILITY IN THE HOUSE**

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to respond to the assertion of the Majority Leader that the act of destroying the copy of President Trump's State of the Union address that the President—as required by the Constitution—presented to Speaker PELOSI was speech protected under the 1st Amendment. The Majority Leader should be reminded that not all speech that is protected under the 1st Amendment is allowable in the House chamber under the Rules of the House.

Moreover, the act of destroying the official House copy of President Trump's State of the Union address in of itself is a violation of what is and should be expected for the conduct of every member of the House. The premeditated and wanton disregard of the rules governing decorum that we all commit to abide by diminishes the civility and undermines the