

damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

Local authorities closed major freeways, airports, and schools.

In the first three days of the storm, more than 49,000 homes that had suffered flood damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

More than 30,000 persons were forced out of their homes due to the storm.

Presently, Houston experiences about five days each year over 100° Fahrenheit and by 2100, the city could expect some 70 days over 100° Fahrenheit.

The major weather and climate disasters that Texas experienced each produced at least a billion dollars in losses.

As the climate continues to warm, more multi-year droughts are expected with devastating impacts to the state's agriculture sector and drinking water.

As climate change affects food security and the availability of water and land, affected people will become more vulnerable not only to negative climate impacts but also to recruitment by terrorist groups offering alternative livelihoods and economic incentives.

Climate change will directly affect America's homeland and the security of its citizens.

I ask all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 4737, the "Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act."

#### STANDING IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE

##### HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Social Security and Medicare, programs that literally save the lives of millions of Americans every day and serve nearly 200,000 veterans, children, seniors, and persons with disabilities in my district, and over 69 million across the country. I was deeply disappointed this week to see that the President's budget included steep cuts to these life-sustaining programs. Cutting \$35 billion from Social Security and \$500 billion from Medicare, not only puts Pinellas families and their loved ones at risk of losing their healthcare and benefits but also places a huge undue burden on some of the most vulnerable in our communities. We should be lending a helping hand to those in need, not turning them away. These cuts and broken promises will hurt people. And we cannot stand idly by. Let's protect Social Security and Medicare, now and always.

#### HONORING JUDGE ROMONDA D. BELCHER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

##### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Judge Romonda D. Belcher, a District Associate Judge at the Polk County Justice Center in Des Moines, Iowa as the

Iowan of the Week. Judge Belcher is the first African American female judge to serve in the state of Iowa. She was appointed to the bench on August 20, 2010 and serves our community with distinction.

Like many young girls across this country, she set her goals high at a young age. She grew up in North Carolina and moved to Iowa to attempt Drake Law School. Before she was selected to be a judge, she worked in the Polk County Attorney's Office for 15 years, serving in multiple different capacities including important work in juvenile justice. She's been a mentor to women and attorneys across Iowa—including mentoring those who move here from out of state about how to handle our winter.

As District Associate Judge, she continues to exemplify justice and equality by treating those who come before her fairly, with compassion and respect. The late Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady believed it was these qualities in Judge Belcher that makes her so valuable to our community. He said that Judge Belcher's "presence and her approach and the kindness she displays is very needed" by the those who come before her courtroom.

I have great respect and admiration for folks who stand up for people who can't always stand up for themselves. Judge Belcher has made it her mission to help and had a dedicated life of public service, and Iowans are better because of it. It is an honor to commemorate the outstanding achievements of Judge Belcher and celebrate her as our Iowan of the Week.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN C. DORTCH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

##### HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has held many titles throughout his life: scholar athlete, Howard University graduate, U.S. Army officer, decorated Vietnam veteran, professor, attorney, pastor, and—for fifteen years—inmate.

John C. Dortch was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, the son of a Baptist minister. He was a gifted musician at a young age, an impressive student athlete, and a distinguished Military Graduate from Howard University who volunteered to serve in Vietnam at the age of 22.

After returning home from war, a series of bad decisions led John to participate in a bank robbery where a police officer was killed. John took full responsibility of his past, enrolling in law school after he was released from prison and leading programs for first-time juvenile offenders and anti-violence initiatives.

John turned his biggest regret into a mission of servitude, founding the Circle of Hope Ministries for the homeless in the Lowcountry. Every day he asks himself, "Did I help someone today?" John's life of service is a testament to the truth that every person is more than the worst thing they have done. It is an honor to know him.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLY DOBSON AS SHE IS NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Dobson as she is named Woman of the Year by the United Way of Washtenaw County's Women United group. Dobson's lifetime of community service and philanthropy is worthy of commendation, and we are proud to recognize her achievements today.

Molly Dobson is a pillar of Washtenaw County. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1944, Dobson enlisted in the U.S. Navy where she worked in communications throughout World War II. After returning home to Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dobson embarked on a new era defined by giving, philanthropy, and community service. In the 1960s, Dobson began working with United Way and has been completely dedicated to furthering its community-building mission ever since. Throughout the years, Dobson has assisted the organization in several capacities, serving as a fundraiser, a member of the Budget Priorities Committee, and later sitting on the Board. Alongside numerous other achievements, Dobson will particularly be remembered for her efforts to develop the D-SIP internship program with the University of Michigan. Thanks to her work and generosity, 313 undergraduate students have completed the program since its inception.

Today, we celebrate Molly Dobson for her lifetime of service to her community, her state, and her country. Her years of philanthropy have impacted the lives of many, and her continued dedication provides a lasting example for what we should all endeavor to accomplish—to effect change, be compassionate community members, and do all we can to make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Molly Dobson. Her decades of selfless service make her a deserving recipient of the Woman of the Year award. I am grateful for her lasting impact and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANTONIO R. RODRIGUEZ

##### HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Antonio R. Rodriguez, who gave his life on February 8, 2020 while serving our nation in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant First Class Rodriguez of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group out of Eglin Air Force Base in Florida is a true American hero, one that honorably served the United States for over a decade as an elite Army Ranger. Sergeant First Class Rodriguez deployed ten times to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

During his tenure in the Army, Sergeant First Class Rodriguez received several awards and commendations. In addition to his Ranger tab, Combat Infantry badge, and Parachutist badge, Sergeant First Class Rodriguez earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and NATO Medal.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sergeant First Class Antonio R. Rodriguez and in offering our condolences and prayers to his wife, Sergeant Ronaleen H. Omega, and to the many family, friends, and comrades as they mourn the loss of this brave hero.

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CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 13, 2020*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th

birthday of the League of Women Voters. For the past century, this non-partisan, women-led civic organization has worked diligently to promote citizens' active participation in our democracy by educating and informing the public about their government.

I am proud to recount that on February 14, 1920, shortly before the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women their long sought-after right to vote, the National League of Women Voters was organized at the national convention held in Chicago, Illinois. The League merged the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Woman Suffrage Association, establishing one umbrella organization to encourage and assist women to exercise their newly-established right to vote. The organization considers Carrie Chapman Catt its founder, and Maud Wood Park served as the League's first President.

While the League's mission was initially focused upon engaging with and promoting the participation of women in our republic, the organization's scope has dramatically expanded over the years. Today, the League is hard at work expanding civic participation and promoting good government. The organization is heavily involved in voter registration efforts and sponsors candidate debates and forums across the country each election cycle, pro-

viding communities the opportunity to hear from candidates before they head to the ballot box.

While the League is non-partisan, the organization is not apolitical. The League of Women Voters has a long history of taking a stand on important issues. The League supported the creation of the United Nations, the passage of the National Voter Registration Act, and regularly stands up for what is fair and just. The organization supports efforts addressing climate change, counteracting gun violence in our communities, establishing humane immigration policies, and ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable health care, among other important issues.

In 1973 the League modified its charter and allowed men into its ranks. Today, men and women alike make up its over 500,000 members and supporters at over 700 state and local leagues. The organization is represented in all 50 states as well as Washington, DC, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I wish a happy 100th birthday to the League of Women Voters. We are grateful for their service to the nation, and I hope the League will continue its efforts for the next century and beyond as they work to educate and promote civic participation.