

a goodbye gift, I would love to get all our bills done by the end of the year.

To the other members leaving Congress at the end of this term—my fellow New Yorker and dear friend Jose Serrano, Pete Visclosky, Tom Graves, Martha Roby, and Will Hurd—thank you for your service, and I wish you all the very best.

To my subcommittee chairs—Marcy, Pete, José, Rosa, David, Lucille, Sanford, Betty, Tim, Debbie, and Mike—you have made your mark not just on your bills and on this Committee. Thank you for your steady, effective leadership and friendship.

Kay, I could not ask for a better Ranking Member. We took turns as Chair and Ranking Member on State and Foreign Operations and have shown time and again that women get things done. I will deeply miss our partnership and you personally.

I would be remiss not to mention former Committee Chairs Natcher, Livingston, Young, Lewis, Obey, Rogers, and Frelinghuysen who showed me what it takes to do this job well.

None of us could fulfill our mandate without the support of excellent staff. All of the successes I've recounted today and more are also the achievements of many others.

To the staff in both the Committee and my Congressional office: For a year and a half as Chairwoman, six years as Ranking Member—and for some, a whole lot longer—I have benefitted immeasurably from your wisdom, counsel, tireless commitment, and, on more than a few occasions, from your technological prowess.

One of the benefits of being chair is having the largest and most experienced staff on the Hill. From all of our subcommittee staff led by clerks Martha Foley, Bob Bonner, Becky Leggieri, Jaime Shimek, Matt Smith, Darek Newby, Rita Culp, Stephen Steigleder, Robin Juliano, Matt Washington, Lisa Molyneux, Steve Marchese, and Joe Carlile to Adam Berg, Jason Gray, Adam Wilson, Tom Tucker, Anna Hansen, Mike Burns, Gloria Nlewedim, and Malachi White in the front office, I am grateful for everything you do to make this the best committee in Congress.

My Congressional office staff in Washington, including Fae Rabin, Wendy Coursen, Liz Gauthier, Jane Richter, Matt Pastore, Steve Brenner, and Justin Barnes, have been invaluable during my final appropriations markups, as always.

I especially note my gratitude for the extraordinary work of several staffers with whom I work most closely: Staff Director and Clerk Shalanda Young, Deputy Staff Director Chris Bigelow—an alum of my personal office, Communications Director Evan Hollander, Legislative Director Dana Acton, Deputy Chief of Staff Kelly Healton, and my Chief of Staff for the last 15 years, Elizabeth Stanley.

I appreciate the great contributions of former staff, including chiefs of staff—Scott Fleming, Howard Wolfson, Matthew Traub and Clare Coleman—and legislative teams led by Jim Townsend, Mark Isaac, Jenny Luray, Heather Howard, Beth Tritter, and Jean Doyle. At the committee, I valued the expertise of former Staff Director David Pomerantz, Deputy Staff Director Lesley Turner, and Communications Director Matt Dennis who also served in my personal office.

I have enjoyed seeing so many current and former staffers grow in your careers, get married, have children, and even some of you retire before me. You will always be a part of the Lowey family.

It has been the honor of my life to serve as Chairwoman of this committee. While I'll be sad to hand over the gavel, I know that all of us—members and staff—will live by the underlying principle that has guided our work together: do the best we can to make life better for the most people we can.

Thank you.

### HONORING JUDGE OLA M. LEWIS

#### HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and life of a trailblazing judge from Brunswick County, North Carolina, who was passionate and fearless in her commitment to justice and the law while also showing great compassion for those who needed help to get their lives back on track. Sadly, Judge Ola M. Lewis passed away late last year. This past Saturday, July 11th, would have been her 55th birthday.

The daughter of a paratrooper of the 82nd Airborne Division and two public school principals, Judge Lewis learned early in life the value of education, hard work, and service to one's community. She grew up in Spring Lake, North Carolina, and soon moved with her family to Brunswick County. Like her father, she graduated from Fayetteville State University and then in 1990 earned a law degree from North Carolina Central Law School. After a stint in private practice she returned home to Brunswick County to serve in the District Attorney's Office.

Just two years later, in 1993, Judge Lewis was appointed district court judge becoming the youngest serving district court judge in North Carolina. She spent seven years as a district court judge before being appointed to serve as a "special Superior Court judge", traveling around 21 North Carolina counties. Her motto: "have gavel, will travel".

She made history as both the first woman and the first African-American judge in North Carolina's Fourteenth Judicial District. She is the longest serving female judge in the history of North Carolina.

Judge Lewis has left a real impact in our community that will continue to be felt. She fostered the creation of specialized drug treatment and mental health courts, which have helped countless those that need it the help necessary to put themselves back on the right track. Her drug court program became a national template that has been replicated to help others struggling with addiction and mental health challenges nationwide.

She was one of the first to see and respond to the scourge of the opioid addiction that has ravaged the nation, co-founding in 2017 the Brunswick County Opioid Addiction Task Force. She encouraged Governor Roy Cooper to declare the growing opioid addiction crisis a statewide public health emergency.

In recognition of her contributions and dedication to our local communities and to our state, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Cooper, the Old North State Award by Governor Beverly Purdue, and the Dogwood Award by Attorney General Josh Stein.

Madam Speaker, Judge Ola Lewis leaves a legacy for which her wonderful family, colleagues and friends can be proud. Hers was a great life of service to the benefit of every citizen, our communities, and our state.

HONORING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY MEMORIAL POST 8788 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

#### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars for their incredible 50-year record of serving our veterans and the community of McAllen, Texas.

The Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrated their 50th anniversary in March of this year, but I am here to recognize Post 8788's Honor Guard, which was established in the late 1970's.

Honor Guards volunteer to give proper ceremonial funerals to veterans who die. The term "Honor guard" is used because the veterans feel it is a great honor to provide their fellow veterans with military funeral services and pay their final respects. They feel they have been blessed to survive the horrors of war and this is their way of giving back to their fellow brothers and sisters.

Although I do not have the records for all of the services conducted since the post's inception, Post 8788 has conducted 367 services since 2018. Altogether, these services are the compilation of 7,418 volunteer hours and 6,035 miles traveled to perform the military funerals. You can imagine these numbers are much larger given the fact that this represents only 2.5 years out of a 40-year history.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the decades' long achievements of the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars. Each member of the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars is an incredible leader in our community, and their legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations.

### SUPPORTING THE DBE PROGRAM

#### HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise to say a few words in support of the DBE program. This program helps firms owned by women and minorities are included as partners in helping build and maintain our nation's transportation infrastructure. The chairman and many of my colleagues have presented the devastating statistics that demonstrate how far we must go before we abolish business discrimination based on race and gender. I would like to highlight some of the voices behind those statistics. In a recent study in my home state of Maryland, the authors conducted in depth interviews with business owners from across the state on this very issue. When asked about the persistence of discrimination, one business owner said: "My business card had my picture on it, and so someone said to me, 'Oh, whatever you do, don't put your picture on your card.' And I said, 'Why?' . . . They said, 'Because you'll

never get hired because you're Black.'" Likewise, a woman business owner explained: I have gone on interviews where I am in . . . the running, three people, final cut. And I have spoken to this person about the job and they were questioning me about my skill, my everything, why I bid the job. I'm looking at this person as, 'What do you mean why, I bid this job? . . . I'm in the business of making money' . . . and he said to me, 'Well, you know, women just simply shouldn't be here.'" Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Disparity Study, Volumes 1–3, Prepared for the State of Maryland, NERA Economic Consulting, June 25, 2018, at 276–277. This is what women and minority entrepreneurs are up against. We must do better. We can do better. And the DBE program is one of the most important tools in our arsenal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAD  
ABATEMENT FOR FAMILIES ACT

**HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Lead Abatement for Families Act along with my colleague, AYANNA PRESSLEY.

It is a national scandal that more than ten million homes in the United States still get their water from lead pipes. I am introducing this bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to identify lead pipes in our country's public and federally subsidized housing and provide grants to replace them.

A 2015 study determined that by the third grade, children in Chicago with even small amounts of lead in their blood were more than 32% more likely to fail standardized tests. One fifth of U.S. children with lead poisoning are participants in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, so HUD's role in removing lead pipes are crucially important. It is vitally important that Congress address this injustice by giving HUD the mandate and the funds to quickly eliminate this public health hazard.

Let us be clear—this is a racial justice issue. Black and brown communities like mine are disproportionately affected by lead pipes, and our neighborhoods suffer the consequences.

I urge this body to advance this legislation that helps ensure safe drinking water for all by getting lead pipes out of public and federally assisted housing.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND  
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER  
RICHARDSON, JR.

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a beloved Alabamian, Reverend George Washington Carver Richardson, Jr. Dr. Richardson passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020. Dr. Richardson was deeply devoted to the Lord, a loving husband and father, and a strong voice for the community. He will be dearly missed by all.

Dr. Richardson was born in Geiger, Alabama, to George and Louise Richardson. At the early age of four years old, Dr. Richardson began preaching. He spent his early years preparing to enter Ministry, and he went on to earn his BA Degree, Bachelor of Theology, Masters of Divinity, Masters in Religious Education, Doctor of Divinity, Doctor of Humane Letters, Existential Degree, and L.C.U. Degree all from various institutes.

Dr. Richardson's faithfulness to spreading the Gospel never wavered as he traveled across the United States, preaching to crowds, conducting workshops, and leading seminars. He served as Pastor to several churches, but he led the Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church for almost forty years.

Not only was Dr. Richardson devoted to the Church, but also to the community. He worked towards the betterment of mankind his entire life through his involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Richardson served on several Civic Boards and Committees, such as the SCLC, NAACP, and Montgomery Improvement Association. He also helped spearhead the Selma Movement from beginning to end, participating in marches and demonstrations in the area, including Bloody Sunday.

In 1967, Dr. Richardson moved to Bessemer, Alabama and became the first African American to campaign for a major political office, running for the Office of Mayor. His campaign paved the way for future African American leaders to take leadership positions in the city of Bessemer.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Reverend George Washington Carver Richardson, Jr. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered, and his remarkable legacy will be remembered for years to come.

HONORING TAMMY SHEPHERD'S  
RETIREMENT

**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Tammy Shepherd, who is retiring from the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, a thriving organization serving a notable community in the Tenth Congressional District, which I have the honor of representing.

Twelve years ago, Tammy Shepherd joined the organization as the Director of Programs and soon after received a promotion to Vice President of Business Development. In 2010, she earned the position of President and CEO, and over the past decade, she has established the Chamber as a leading business organization representing companies of all sizes throughout the region. Under her faithful watch, the Chamber has grown to nearly 1,000 members, has twice earned the highest distinction of 5-Star Accreditation through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has formed the Columbia County Chamber Foundation, as well as a holding company and a Political Action Committee, and most recently, has opened a second location in the heart of Columbia County's growth.

Madam Speaker, in addition to all this, Tammy has served on the Board of Directors

for the SRS Community Reuse Organization, Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Alliance for Fort Gordon, and Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tammy Shepherd for her outstanding leadership in a community that continues to experience tremendous growth and to wish her and her husband, Stan, joy and continued success in the years to come.

JULY VETERAN OF THE MONTH

**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's July Veteran of the Month, Major Ralph Wilson.

A pilot in the United States Air Force, Major Ralph Wilson honorably served our nation for twenty years. Upon returning home from service, Ralph continued to serve at the Tinker Air Force Base for twenty years.

Major Ralph Wilson served in both World War II and the Korean War. He flew sixty-nine missions in World War II and fifty in the Korean War. Major Wilson flew unarmed reconnaissance missions in Korea. He is the recipient of numerous awards and is a decorated airman. When asked about his service by the Tulsa World, he explained, "I never considered myself a hero, I just did my part." Major Ralph Wilson served his country selflessly, and he now carries himself with dignity and humility in his community. He is certainly part of the "Greatest Generation."

In addition to working at the Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Wilson developed a hobby of woodworking and volunteered with local schools helping children build projects. He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Major Ralph Wilson as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's July Veteran of the Month.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 1045

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday marked the 25th anniversary of the genocide that took place at Srebrenica. In 1992, following Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia, Bosnian Serb forces, also called the Army of Republika Srpska, attacked Eastern Bosnia in order to unify and secure Serb territory. During this struggle for control, those Bosnian Serb forces committed crimes of ethnic cleansing and the systematic murder of the non-Serb population. Over 8,000 Bosnian men and boys were systematically executed at Srebrenica in July 1995.

The House of Representatives rightfully classified the atrocities that happened in Srebrenica and other policies of aggression