

Along with other residents of Maryland's Sixth District, I am grateful for the generosity of Turkish Americans and their gracious support to our fellow Marylanders. These PPE deliveries complement shipments made by the Turkish Republic, which sent two military cargo plane loads of PPE to the United States, including surgical masks, surgical suits, disinfectant, goggles, N-95 masks, and face shields. Our frontline healthcare workforce has been heroic throughout this pandemic, and I am heartened to see contributions like those made by the Turkish American community.

As TASC says, "Be Negative on COVID, Stay Positive on Life."

HONORING MICHAEL LEAVITT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the professional achievements and service of Michael Leavitt, City Manager for the City of Highland Village, Texas. Mr. Leavitt is retiring following more than thirty-three years of exemplary service to the public.

Upon graduation from Truman University in Kirksville, Missouri with a B.S. in Industrial Science, Mr. Leavitt worked for the cities of Kirksville, Missouri and Denton, Texas. In 2000, Leavitt moved to the City of Highland Village, first serving as the public works director followed by his appointment as City Manager in 2003.

A true advocate for public safety and fiscal responsibility, Leavitt spearheaded the transformation from a volunteer fire department to a full-time professional department. Under his leadership as City Manager, the ad valorem tax rate was reduced, and tax exemptions increased by fifty per-cent for those with a disability and those over the age of 65. Through his capable direction, sales tax revenue has grown from just over \$400,000 in 2003 to \$4 million in 2020, accomplishing a goal set by the City Council to increase funding available for city improvement. This tremendous growth was spurred by the construction and development of premier dining and shopping districts: The Marketplace at Highland Village and The Shops at Highland Village.

The quality of life for Highland Village residents has been raised during his tenure as City Manager. Leavitt has overseen extensive improvements to the City's recreation infrastructure with the addition and growth of the City's biking and walking trails and the purchase and development of the City's principal park, Doubletree Ranch Park. While local in nature, many of these projects also involved federal interests where I was honored to work with Mr. Leavitt and the City. Among these included the continuation and expansion of FM 2499 and the widening of I-35 East, a priority project I worked with Mr. Leavitt, local leaders and Deputy Secretary of Transportation Thomas Barrett to highlight during a media day from Highland Village's Copperas Branch Park. A couple of years later in 2010, I worked with Mr. Leavitt and the Highland Village Police Department to secure 707 Highland Village Road. Ultimately deeded to the City as an outcome of an IRS seizure involving federal

charges of racketeering, obscenity, fraud and income tax evasion, it allowed City Manager Leavitt the opportunity to replace a home that had attracted criminal activity to this beautiful lakeside community with its first lakeside park. Only a couple of years later, the Double Tree Ranch, another city park improved in large part through Mr. Leavitt's coordinated efforts with myself and local officials, was the appropriate site in 2017 to finally celebrate the Phase 1 completion of the I-35E project.

Michael Leavitt has been an outstanding public servant to the residents and businesses of Highland Village. His professional leadership, innovative vision, and passion for excellent customer service will be missed throughout his community and all of North Texas. On behalf of the 26th District, I wish him the best in his next stage of life.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
JOHN E. "JACK" HARDMAN

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of John E. "Jack" Hardman of Glynn County.

Jack was a loyal friend and leader who served others with selfless devotion. He attended college in France and New Mexico, where he served as class president. After he received his degree from The Hiram Scott College in Nebraska, he moved to Brunswick, Georgia and was employed in the radio broadcasting business for the Wiggins family. When he worked in radio, he was known as Jack Pride, and managed three different radio stations in Georgia and Florida.

Jack worked for Nationwide Insurance starting in 1984, and he retired in 2018 after 34 years. He took his leadership skills to new heights when he served on the Glynn County Board of Commissioners for two terms, and he was appointed as Chairman in 1995.

Jack was a founding shareholder of the Atlantic National Bank and served on the Board for the Georgia Underwriting Association for many years.

He was also an accomplished fisherman and a Licensed Master Captain.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and everyone who knew him during this most difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO BIZ STEINBERG—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Biz Steinberg, of San Luis Obispo, California.

Biz Steinberg has been contributing to this community and county since the early 1970's.

She currently serves as CEO of Community Action Partnership (CAPSLO), a position she has held since 1984. Biz has been involved with many boards throughout the years including the National Head Start Association, National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association, Workforce Development Board of San Luis Obispo, Housing Authority San Luis Obispo, The Children's Services Network, the Mission Community Services Corporation, and the Child Development Policy Institute Education Board. In her quest to better the community, Biz helped develop the Adult Day Centers, Health Services, Homeless Services, and Energy Conservation branches of CAPSLO.

Biz has been recognized by multiple organizations for her incredible work, including the Commission on the Status of Women, SLO County Children's Services Network, and the National Heads Start Association. Biz Steinberg is an outstanding activist who is working to establish sustainable community centers with a special focus on youth and women. Biz's work to support the population of San Luis Obispo has been a tremendous asset to members of our community in need.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Biz Steinberg, for her incredible service to her community.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARK
PETERS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Mark Peters for his excellent service as Director at Idaho National Laboratory. After nearly five years of capable leadership, Dr. Peters has accepted a position as Executive Vice President for Laboratory Operations for the Battelle Memorial Institute. I wish him well in this new endeavor and take comfort that he will continue to have a role in oversight, not just at INL, but each of the national laboratories managed by Battelle.

Dr. Peters spent considerable time on Capitol Hill and many of you have gotten to know him and rely upon his expertise.

One of the benefits of representing a Department of Energy national laboratory is you get to meet and work with some of our nation's best and brightest. Intelligent and driven people come to these crown jewels of science and innovation and contribute so much to our economic prosperity and national security.

Mark's service at INL is an example of operational excellence, energy innovation, and national security impact.

Under Dr. Peters' leadership, INL has delivered on the grand challenges we ask of our national labs. Since Mark arrived at INL on Oct. 1, 2015, the laboratory has helped push forward development and demonstration of advanced nuclear technologies and deployed new capabilities to secure our nation's critical infrastructure from cyberattack.

Mark's vision and ability to bring people together allowed INL's clean energy program to expand and contribute to new and exciting areas. I'm talking integrated energy systems, advanced manufacturing, biomass upgrades, and so much more.

Under Mark's leadership, the laboratory assembled the power source for the Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover, continues to meet the Army's needs for tank armor, is helping DoD explore the use of microreactors, and is producing new nuclear fuels and materials.

A personal priority of mine has been revitalizing the lab's infrastructure and putting INL's talented workforce into world-class facilities. Mark has been a great ally in this process, an innovator and collaborator.

He brought the Department of Energy and lab together with the State of Idaho to build two new facilities on INL's in-town campus. One of those facilities is dedicated to protecting our nation from cyberattack. The other is dedicated to collaborations in high-performance computing.

Dr. Peters has worked hard to introduce the lab to all corners of our state and region, demonstrating to the people of Idaho that our national laboratories are places of innovation and intellectual curiosity rather than secretive outposts often rumored about, but rarely understood.

Mark has been dedicated to partnerships, building relationships with universities, industry, governments, and schools. He showed our state and region that so much can be accomplished when we work together and in pursuit of lofty, even idealistic, goals.

Finally, Dr. Peters has a decency and optimism about him—an intangible quality that makes everyone around him more positive and excited to work together for a brighter future.

Mark is a thoughtful person who cares deeply for the people he works with, his community, and our state.

Mark has implemented policies to support employee safety, work/life balance, inclusive recruiting and retention, a shared sense of responsibility, and duty to give back.

My wife, Kathy, and I have developed a close relationship with Mark and his wife, Ann Marie, who has distinguished herself through her work with the College of Eastern Idaho and various eastern Idaho charities.

Mark and Ann Marie are an incredible asset to Idaho and Kathy and I are grateful for their passion for our community and friendship.

Mark and Anne Marie will be missed, but I look forward to working with Mark in his new role.

HONORING DOUG KEEGAN

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing D. Douglas (Doug) Keegan's more than 3 decades of service to the central coast of California.

Doug is a graduate of Holy Cross College and Boston College Law School and was licensed by the California State Bar to begin practicing attorney in 1977. His career on the Central Coast began at California Rural Legal Assistance and then moved to the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB).

At CAB, Doug has been a tireless advocate for the organization's mission to partner with

the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services, envisioning a thriving, equitable and diverse community free from poverty and injustice informed by the values of equity, dignity and diversity, service, inclusion and community action. Specifically, Doug has served as the Program Director of CAB's Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP, promoting the wellbeing of the immigrant community by helping immigrants acquire legal status, reuniting immigrant families, and making U.S. Citizenship more accessible.

For more than 20 years, Doug's leadership at SCCIP has provided professional legal services, tenure. He has mentored hundreds of staff and volunteers, motivating and acting as a role model for future community leaders and attorneys who will continue to fight for human rights, the immigrant community and overall support of underrepresented groups.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Doug Keegan's commitment to service with honesty, humility, intelligence, compassion, and integrity as he has advocated tirelessly for immigration justice on a local, statewide, and national level. It is no surprise that Doug's reputation as a trusted source of solid, unbiased, and plain-spoken answer to complex immigration questions has made him a trusted expert and advisor to countless elected officials, journalists, educators, service providers, and, most importantly, immigrant families. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Doug Keegan's lifetime of service.

DELIVERING FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 22, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8015, legislation that is sorely needed to help protect the integrity of our Postal Service.

Our communities depend on a reliable Postal Service. The hardworking men and women of the Postal Service every day help ensure that critical mail reaches every part of this country, even in the middle of a pandemic. These essential workers make sure that this essential public service is carried out.

Despite the challenges of moving mail in a country as large as ours and longstanding fiscal challenges, it is no wonder the Postal Service continues to score high in public opinion polls. It is after all, the public service that touches most Americans almost every day.

The Postal Service is not a business. Nor is degrading its level of service a viable business plan. Doing so would only hurt the Postal Service, its workers, and the American public, including those in rural areas. Yet, that is unfortunately the direction that the Postal Service's leadership.

I have heard from so many of my constituents who are concerned about the damaging recent changes to Postal Service operations under the leadership of the new Postmaster General, changes which are already being felt in our communities through reports of delays in getting critical mail.

While the recent announcement that these changes would be suspended for a short time is a step forward, that is not enough.

Additionally, besides the changes being made by new Postmaster General, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has befuddled this Administration also poses a clear threat to the short-term and long-term fiscal health of the Postal Service. I am pleased that the bill before us today includes needed funding to address mail volume declines to support the Postal Service and its workers through these trying times.

We need to protect and maintain a strong Postal Service which is what this bill does. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

INSULAR AREA LIQUIDITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Insular Area Liquidity Act, which requires any department or agency of the federal government, awarding a grant to any of the four smaller insular areas, to provide at least 50 percent of the award amount up front in an advance payment as defined in 2 CFR 200.3. My bill will also require the awarding department or agency to provide enhanced grant management assistance and technical assistance to the recipients to assure the advanced funds are properly used.

Unlike most states, the insular areas have limited cash flow. Our districts generally rely heavily on a single economy, tourism, that is highly sensitive to natural disasters and the economic fallout that follows. When that happens, and even in the best of times, insular government have little or no fiscal cushion.

Of course, I am very grateful for the many grants the Marianas receives to shore up the limited resources of our islands and, of course, especially now to help respond to the coronavirus crisis. But many grants awarded require that the awardee spend their own capital up front to be reimbursed later.

One result is that federal funds are slow to be spent and the projects and programs those funds are intended to support wait to be implemented. The legislation I am introducing today addresses this problem by providing an advanced payment of at least 50 percent of any grant awarded. Projects and programs would be less subject to delay.

This advance award is not a new concept. Some federal grant programs already provide for an advance payment to recipients. The FEMA Public Assistance Grant program, to name one, under section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Act, P.L. 93-288 provides a 100 percent advance on project cost estimates, thereby removing the burden of capital availability from the awardee.

In the Marianas, we are still recovering from the devastation caused by 2018 Super Typhoon Yutu. And now we have the coronavirus pandemic, which has ground our tourism reliant economy to a halt and left our government short of funds. But capital limitations are not unique to the Marianas—it is a challenge shared by all of the insular areas. That is why I introduce this bill today, alongside my colleagues Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN. I urge all my