

PFC Cooper's regiment was one of the first surface-borne Allied units to hit the beaches at Normandy, providing much-needed relief to the 82nd Airborne Division. The division's advancements took the Cotentin peninsula and resulted in the capture of Cherbourg. They also slowed the German Seventh Army's march toward Avranches, ultimately leading to the liberation of the Paris.

The 4th Division later crossed into Belgium and broke through the Siegfried Line, slowly progressing through the heart of Germany. On November 6, 1944, a severe, month-long battle broke out at the fortified Hurtgen Forrest, resulting in PFC Cooper being mortally wounded by enemy fire. He died of his wounds on November 19, 1944, at the age of 27.

PFC Cooper will forever be memorialized as an American hero. We remember him for his exemplary service and courageous spirit as he modelled for servicemembers everywhere what it means to sacrifice. As a monument of gratitude to his service, Wayne County in Tennessee has chosen to dedicate a bridge in his honor. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to pay tribute to this American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in our nation's hour of need.

#### RECOGNIZING USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

#### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Usher syndrome and, in particular, to recognize the Usher Syndrome Coalition, a nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts that is building and connecting the global Usher syndrome community to help speed the search for a cure. This Saturday, September 19, 2020, is Usher Syndrome Awareness Day.

Usher syndrome is a rare genetic disease that affects at least 25,000 people in the United States. It causes deafness or hearing loss from birth, and retinal disease that slowly and progressively leads to blindness. Currently, there are no treatments or cure for Usher syndrome—but that can change with awareness and support. Finding a cure has never been more urgent or more achievable.

Some of the world's most innovative researchers are leading efforts to develop treatments for Usher syndrome at institutions across the country including in my home state of Massachusetts. Scientists at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital are pursuing promising paths to treatment, including a stem cell therapy trial and gene therapy strategies to treat the vision loss and hearing loss caused by Usher syndrome.

As a nation, we need to do more to find a cure. Usher syndrome not only impacts our families but our communities, our health care system, our educational system, and our economy. For the past six years, federal spending on Usher syndrome has remained flat. This must change if there is to be any real progress toward finding a cure.

Targeted research supported by sufficient funding and serious agency attention are crit-

ical components to finding a cure. The COVID-19 pandemic and the daily challenges facing the Usher syndrome community could not be more pressing and finding a cure more paramount.

I am proud to recognize the work of the Usher Syndrome Coalition, and the commitment to finding a cure for Usher syndrome. I stand with those who suffer from Usher syndrome and hope with the dedicated efforts of the Usher Syndrome Coalition, there will soon be a cure.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH SEASON OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL)

#### HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my fellow Representative Tim Ryan (OH-13) to wish the National Football League a happy 100th birthday. One hundred years ago today, 15 people met in an automobile showroom in Canton, Ohio to form what would become the National Football League. From these humble beginnings, the NFL has grown into a preeminent American sports league, comprised of 32 teams from 22 states across the country.

Over its first 100 years, the NFL has become a fixture in American life. The league is an American institution that brings together individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds through a common enthusiasm for and appreciation for the game of football. Through good times and bad, the NFL has consistently reflected the spirit of the American people, displaying resilience, optimism, and resolve through periods of war, economic distress, natural disasters, and the current pandemic. Last season, the NFL concluded the celebration of its 100th season with a thrilling Super Bowl championship that was viewed by over 100 million Americans.

Although the league celebrated its 100th season in 2019, the League's 100th birthday is a historic day as well. Today, in an effort to commemorate this momentous occasion, the Cleveland Browns will host the Cincinnati Bengals in a classic rivalry game, known as the "Battle of Ohio". The game will highlight the formation of the league and its humble roots in Canton, honor the more than 25,000 players who have played in the league, and showcase the work the NFL is doing to ensure its second century is just as successful as the first.

We, therefore, recognize the National Football League on its 100th birthday, and wish the league all the best as it embarks into its second century as the foremost steward of "America's Game."

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SOUTHERN CRESCENT WOMEN IN BUSINESS INC.

#### HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ariel Shaw and Southern Crescent Women In Business Inc.

Southern Crescent Women In Business Inc. is a conglomerate of women-owned businesses and women in business who are working to change the economic landscape in the Southern Crescent. This organization seeks to level the economic playing field in assisting women-owned businesses, using its platform to help strengthen and build key relationships.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the fastest growing market of entrepreneurs are women, and women have contributed more than \$40 billion dollars in revenue over the last ten years. With this increase, Southern Crescent Women In Business Inc. work to provide the foundational support that is needed for women-owned businesses and women in business in the Southern Crescent area and beyond and will help build upon important relationships with the key stakeholders, and community and business leaders to provide access of information and funding to women-owned businesses.

Understanding the challenges that women entrepreneurs face, Southern Crescent Women In Business Inc. has developed key partnerships with the banking and finance industry to help open access to capital. This organization continues to bring influential leaders in economic development, finance, and entrepreneurship in order to strengthen communities, reach economic advancement and open opportunities for other dynamic women.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ariel Shaw and Southern Crescent Women In Business Inc. for their outstanding service in the Southern Crescent.

#### HONORING THE FALLEN CLEVELAND CITY POLICE OFFICERS

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with terrible sadness and grief that I rise today, for in my district the Cleveland community is laying to rest two Cleveland City Police Officers, whose fates were met far too early.

Detective James Skernivitz, 53, was working an undercover drug operation when he and his informant, Scott Dingess, 50, were ambushed and killed, a tragic incident marking Detective Skernivitz as the first on-duty officer to be fatally shot in Cleveland in more than a decade. Officer Skernivitz was a devoted husband to his wife Kristen, and father to Matthew, Bayleigh and Peyton. Officer Skernivitz was a brother, a son, and a friend to many.

We are also mourning the terrible loss of Cleveland Police Officer Nick Sabo, 39, who was found dead as a result of a tragic and sudden suicide. Officer Sabo will be remembered as a devoted husband to his wife

Brienne, beloved father to his four children Isaiah, Elijah, Camryn, and Kinsley, and treasured son, brother, friend and fellow officer.

The sudden deaths of Detective Skernivitz and Officer Sabo serve as a constant reminder of the dangers and stresses put on public safety officers every single day. Both men lived and died as heroes and the Cleveland community will never forget their service and sacrifices.

My sincerest condolences and prayers are with their families, the Cleveland Police Department, and the entire Cleveland community during this difficult time.

In their memory, I will request that American flags be hoisted over the U.S. Capitol in their memory and be presented to their families as a token of our everlasting gratitude for their ultimate sacrifices to Protect and Serve.

### CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Observed from September 15th to October 15th, Hispanic Heritage Month honors those of Hispanic heritage, praises the extraordinary contributions that they have made to our society, and reaffirms our commitment to protecting their culture.

Hispanic Americans are among the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States. For evidence, simply turn to my home state of Texas. In the 30th District alone, Hispanic Americans account for nearly 40 percent of my constituents. The inclusion of their voices and values in the community make my district, and the United States, stronger as whole.

Sadly, as a result of systemic inequalities, Hispanic Americans face a higher risk of contracting and dying from the coronavirus. Additionally, many have been forced to choose between returning to work in unsafe environments or losing their jobs—quite literally a choice of life or death.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us be mindful of the pain this community has felt these past few months, and continue to push for the passage of bills—such as the HEROES Act, the DREAM and Promise Act, and Raise the Wage Act—all of which would greatly improve the lives of our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

### HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK, SEPT. 17 THROUGH 23

#### HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constitution Week, which is observed during the week of September 17 through 23. This week is intended to commemorate the adoption of the United States

Constitution, a document that has embraced freedom and been a shining light of democracy since its adoption in 1787.

In 1787, at a time when it was unheard of, the founding fathers set out to establish a bold, new way of life that warded against governmental tyranny and instead embraced freedom and democracy. The founders sought to replace the flawed and insufficient Articles of Confederation with a new document that better encapsulated a balance between sovereignty and cohesion to guide the fledgling country. The framing process itself was grueling, entailing several hour-long debates inside of a hot room in Philadelphia, during which the framers clashed over ideas of sovereignty, distribution of power, and individual liberties. Out of this grueling process eventually arose the United States Constitution, which establishes the United States government and outlines its relationship to the people, along with other rules and inalienable rights guaranteed to its citizens.

The Constitution serves as an example of American tenacity and embodies our commitment to freedom, democracy, and honor. Since its adoption in 1787, dozens of other countries have followed suit and have adopted measures to enhance freedom and democracy in their own lands. During this celebratory week, we take a moment to pay respect to this document, which has had such positive benefits for human civilization, both domestically and abroad.

I ask that all Members join me in recognizing Constitution Week.

### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR.

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a true public servant. Senator John Wesley Matthews, Jr. is retiring after 46 years of service in the South Carolina State Legislature. He is renowned for his commitment to education and job creation especially in Berkeley, Calhoun, Colleton, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties, which he proudly serves. His leadership and tireless dedication will truly be missed.

John, a son of South Carolina, was born to Reverend John Wesley, Sr. and Victoria Williams Matthews. He is a graduate of South Carolina State College (now University), Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and Lincoln Electrical Institute.

John began his career as a public-school teacher and rose to become a school principal. He was also a small business owner. These experiences led him to seek elective office and he ran for the South Carolina State House. He served as a State Representative from 1975 to 1984, when he ran for the State Senate. He has held the Senate District No. 39 seat since 1985.

While in the Senate, John served as a member of the Senate Education, Finance, Banking & Insurance Committee, the Agri-

culture & Natural Resources Committee, and the Ethics and Interstate Cooperation Committee. He currently serves as the Assistant Minority Leader in the State Senate and as Chairman of the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation. He has previously served as Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and as a member of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Education Oversight Committee, a member of the 2016 Democratic National Platform Committee and a member of the Governor's Middle Grades Task Force.

In 2004, I was proud to be on hand, when the Orangeburg County Council named a 500-acre site at the intersections of U.S. Highways 301 and 176 the John W. Matthews Industrial Park. Our alma mater, South Carolina State also honored John in 2006 with the naming of the John W. Matthews, Jr. 1890 Extension Building. Last year, the South Carolina Senate unveiled a portrait of their colleague, currently the longest serving South Carolina State legislator. The portrait hangs in the Chamber. These honors are richly deserved and represent the impact that John has had on his native state.

In addition to his service in the General Assembly, John has served his community in many other capacities. He has served as a member of the South Carolina Education Association, the Orangeburg County Education Association, the Clemson University Board of Visitors, the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, the Winthrop Board of Visitors, the Human Affairs Commission Board of Trustees, the Voorhees College Board of Trustees, and the Claflin University Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

John has received numerous awards over the years including induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and being named Minority Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration and South Carolina Primary Health Care Legislator of the Year. He is also a recipient of the South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities Legislative Champion Award, the Wilkins Legislative Leadership Award, the Ernest Finney Chairmen's Award, the Orangeburg Chapter NAACP Exceptional Legislative Service Award, the Congressman Clyburn and Congressman John Spratt Public Service Award, the SC Alliance for Mobile Infrastructure Elected Official of the Year Award and the National Trends and Services Award of the Orangeburg Chapter of the Links, Inc.

He has received honorary doctorates from South Carolina State University, the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina.

John was married to the late Geraldine Hillard Matthews, and the couple had five children. He attends Pineville United Methodist Church and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the tremendous service John W. Matthews has provided to the State of South Carolina. He embodies the true definition of a servant leader, and his longevity in the South Carolina General Assembly has left a lasting mark on the State and its citizens. We are all better for his service, and I know he will continue to serve his community for years to come.