

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 Skernitz 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.

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CELEBRATING HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH

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**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.

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HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK,  
SEPT. 17 THROUGH 23

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**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.

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TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN W.  
MATTHEWS, JR.

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**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.

## CONSTITUTION DAY

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today is the 233rd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by our Founding Fathers in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The seven articles of the Constitution give clarity to our three branches of government: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and explains the separating of duties for each.

As an attorney, a retired member of the United States Armed Forces, a Member of Congress, and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I appreciate the Constitution each day and hold fast to how the Founding Fathers envisioned limited government to provide for expanded freedom. I encourage all Americans to read and discuss the U.S. Constitution today with family, friends, coworkers, and others in honor and celebration of Constitution Day.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

## RECOGNIZING DALE BRIGHT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LABORERS 242

## HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to recognize Dale Bright on his many years of service as a laborer and then as the Political Director of Laborers Local Union 242 and congratulate him on his retirement.

My staff and I were lucky to have the privilege of working with Dale on labor rights for several years. Dale has always been a champion of workers' rights and through his advocacy he has been able to improve the lives of countless workers in Washington. Dale has fought relentlessly to ensure everyone has access to a fair and equal workplace including living wages, good benefits, and more. He was instrumental in implementing Community Workforce Agreements and apprenticeship utilization throughout the region. This work has had a profound impact on historically marginalized communities. These programs have proved to be incredibly successful and helped many people start union careers.

Dale continually demonstrated time and again that he is a community builder and passionate leader. Dale encouraged and helped facilitate civic engagement and voter registration among members of the Laborers Local Union 242. His leadership, knowledge, and personal efforts greatly contributed to one of the strongest labor unions in the country. The thoughtfulness, work ethic, and enthusiasm Dale brought to the Laborers as Political Director will be deeply missed by all.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dale Bright for his dedicated service to the Laborers 242 where he never stopped working to advance the rights of workers, and I wish him a happy retirement.

## HONORING DR. HELEN LEVINE

## HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Helen Levine, the Regional Vice Chancellor for External Affairs at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), for her 14 years of service to the USF system and for being a remarkable and powerful force for good in the Pinellas community.

During a tenure that spanned multiple campus administrations, Dr. Levine used her position to fight for the advancement of higher education. From her work championing the construction of the historic Kate Tiedemann College of Business to her advocacy on behalf of the internationally recognized La Florida Project, which tells the story of Spanish Florida, Dr. Levine has changed many lives for the better. She is someone who has long lived up to the ideals of bipartisanship and civility, working across the aisle with city councils, the state legislature, and Congress to secure funds for research, scholarship, and a more equitable University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Madam Speaker, to speak for just one minute on the full legacy of Dr. Levine is impossible. She is a groundbreaking leader, a champion for education, and a role model for all who seek to improve the lives of others in their community. As she retires from her senior position at USFSP, it is my privilege to wish her the best in all her future endeavors both personally and as a valued member of our community.

## HONORING JUDGE LISA BLOCH RODWIN FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

## HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Erie County Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin as she retires from the bench after over thirty years of public service. Throughout her career as a judge, and previously as a prosecutor, Judge Bloch Rodwin's dedication and ingenuity helped secure the promise of equal justice before the law more fully for victims of domestic violence and others to whom it had previously too often been denied.

As an assistant district attorney, Judge Bloch Rodwin was the founder of one of the first domestic violence bureaus in a prosecutor's office nationally. Her work helped change the culture of the criminal justice system in Western New York; in important ways Judge Bloch Rodwin's efforts led the re-shaping of that system to more comprehensively address the scourge of domestic violence and related crimes with the vigor and the tenacity that justice requires.

After her appointment to the bench in 2007, and subsequent re-elections, Judge Bloch Rodwin continued this important work, developing and expanding programs to aid victims of domestic abuse and other crimes in under-

served communities. She was the founding board chair of the Erie County Family Justice Center, as well as a founder of the Alexa Foundation, which serves child abuse and sexual assault survivors. We in Western New York have not been the only beneficiaries of Judge Bloch Rodwin's good work; she has been generous in providing the benefit of her widely sought-after expertise nation-wide to professionals in the criminal justice system, to national media outlets and to academics. It is appropriate that as a result of her work, Judge Bloch Rodwin has been the recipient of numerous national, regional and local awards and honors.

I ask my honorable colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Bloch Rodwin for her exemplary and courageous efforts, and in recognizing her extraordinary career and accomplishments. In specific, tangible ways, Western New York and the United States have become more just because of the Judge's good work, and we are all in her debt.

## HONORING REVEREND LONNIE AND ELISHA MITCHELL

## HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong service of Reverend Lonnie and Elisha Mitchell. As the Pastor and First Lady of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Reverend Mitchell and his wife Elisha have faithfully and selflessly guided the Spokane community for nearly thirty years.

Reverend Mitchell is retiring to empower a new generation of leaders to continue his work and take the church to its next level. He leaves a remarkable legacy, and I'm grateful for the time we have spent together building unity in Spokane. His wisdom and perspective were always valued and trusted in many courageous conversations we had with diverse voices in our community. I'm glad that even in retirement, Reverend Mitchell will continue to serve in new ways and be a force for unity, security, and grace.

Madam Speaker, Lonnie became a pastor in 1989 following his military service in the United States Army. In 1991, he was assigned to Bethel A.M.E. by Bishop Vinton R Anderson. Under Reverend Mitchell's leadership, Bethel A.M.E. grew from 13 members to more than 200. While Lonnie served from the pulpit, Elisha served from the choir as a gospel singer. She ministered to many through her music and talent. During their time at Bethel A.M.E., Lonnie and Elisha have focused on a mission to love people—a mission as relevant today as it was in 1991.

Reverend Mitchell and his wife Elisha have been long-term leaders in our community, helping found multiple nonprofits. In 1994, Lonnie and Elisha created Unity in the Community, an event to showcase Spokane's diversity and unite our community around respect, trust, and collaboration. In 1995, they founded the AHANA Business and Professional Organization, a nonprofit that supported minority and women-owned businesses in Spokane. Additionally, in the early 2000s, Reverend Mitchell and Elisha were key fundraisers for the Emmanuel Family Life Center, a community center in the Perry District.