

2016-2018. By the end of 2018, 465 tin, tantalum and tungsten and 106 gold mines have been validated green, which means that no signs of interference of armed groups or the Congolese army and no child labor have been found. These mines employ over 27,000 miners. As of September 29, 2020, 73 percent of smelters and refiners worldwide (236 out of 323 total) for the four conflict minerals have passed independent, third-party audits by the Responsible Minerals Assurance Process. This contrasts to an operating environment before the passage of Section 1502 when no certification mechanism existed for distinguishing mines conflict controlled by armed groups or the Congolese army from conflict-free mines.

That is why Congolese civil society groups have been outspoken in their support. In 2017, over 100 Congolese civil society organizations signed letters in support of Section 1502. Recently, Isaac Wikirevollo Mumbere, Human Rights officer at the Network for the Conservation and the Rehabilitation of Forest Ecosystems, commented: "Dodd-Frank [1502] is a law worth its weight in gold because it has helped pull Congolese army commanders and militias out of the mines. Likewise, it has prevented Congolese officials who had taken the artisanal mining sector as their own property from continuing to do so."

Several companies, including Tiffany & Co., Apple, Richline, and Intel, have publicly emphasized the importance of supply chain due diligence. In 2017, 129 Investors, representing over \$4.8 trillion in assets stated in a letter to the SEC, that the due diligence disclosures required by Section 1502 provide valuable information about how companies manage supply chain risks. The U.S. conflict mineral law was the first of its kind and has spurred international action. Many other countries have since then passed similar laws holding companies responsible for the impact for supply chains.

Opponents of the conflict minerals rule continue to use outdated information including statistics from before or right after the rule's implementation. Now, ten years after the passage of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and eight years after the implementation of the conflict minerals rule, we can make more accurate determinations about its success. Compliance costs were far lower than feared, and while challenges remain, data demonstrates a substantial reduction in the presence of armed groups in the mines.

We hope you will use an accurate portrait of the impact of Dodd Frank 1502 as you consider other legislative approaches that draw on this framework.

Sincerely,

IAN SCHWAB,
Director of Regional Policy
and Advocacy, The Sentry.
PAUL DONOWITZ,
Team Leader, Global Witness.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR SANDY SMITH OF MONROEVILLE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks and appreciation to Mayor Sandy Smith for her years of service to the people of Monroeville and Monroe County. All the area's residents owe her a debt for her unwavering dedications over many years.

As the longtime Executive Director of the Monroeville/Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Sandy was tireless in pursuing jobs and economic development opportunities for all the county's citizens.

Once elevated to mayor, Sandy's advocacy for Monroeville continued with the same professionalism, positivity, kindness, and inclusiveness everyone who knows Sandy would expect.

Throughout the years, Sandy has been instrumental in promoting Monroeville as the home of its native daughter, the beloved author Harper Lee, and making Monroeville the tourism center it is today. Truly, her heart is with Monroeville.

I wish Sandy, Rayford, their children, and their growing family all the best. I know God will continue to bless them all.

IN MEMORY OF EMILIO GUGLIEMELLI, JR.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Emilio Guglielmelli, Jr. A valiant World War II veteran who was a deeply treasured member of the Walla Walla, Washington community.

Emilio was born and raised in Walla Walla, where he learned the values of hard work and the American dream on his family farm. After graduating from St. Vincent's Academy, he took the brave call to serve our country during one of the world's darkest times. After just 10 weeks of basic training in the United States Army infantry, Emilio was sent to the Philippine Islands. After the liberation, Emilio continued his service in Japan until 1946 when he was welcomed home to the family farm.

For the 50th Anniversary of the liberation, Emilio traveled back to the Philippines. He valued this trip to be one of the highlights of his life. Emilio was proud to be a WWII veteran. Like so many of his brothers and sisters of the Greatest Generation, he would have never called himself a hero but he was. Emilio lived a full life of courage, honor, and love of country.

Emilio and his wife Pauline S. Andreas raised a family full of several children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Emilio was a well-known and active community member, serving on several community leadership boards and clubs. His Walla Walla sweet onions became a token best seller around town. Emilio was a talented drum player. He shared his love for music wherever he went.

Emilio's faith guided him in all that he did. His dedication to the Catholic Church was constant. Emilio frequently served as a lecture and volunteer for many St. Patrick Catholic Church masses and events. Because he shared his time and talents, he made the world around him a better place.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the United States House of Representatives, I rise to remember Emilio and his remarkable legacy of service to our nation. I pray for comfort and peace to all who mourn his passing. May we honor Emilio's legacy of service and sacrifice by continuing to honor him and all the members of the Greatest Generation. We must

never forget their sacrifices for keeping our freedom and the Promise of America alive.

EMPOWERING OLYMPIC, PARALYMPIC, AND AMATEUR ATHLETES ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that today the House is considering S. 2330, the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act, the Senate companion to legislation I introduced in the House along with Representatives JOHN CURTIS, DIANA DEGETTE, and SUSAN BROOKS. I am incredibly thankful for the courageous survivors who stepped forward and whose advocacy made this legislation possible, and to Senators JERRY MORAN and RICHARD BLUMENTHAL who authored this legislation.

In 2016, I was shocked and angered when more than 300 brave gymnasts, including some from my congressional district, began to come forward with claims of sexual abuse against Larry Nassar, who had been the USA Gymnastics team doctor and a Michigan State University faculty member.

I was similarly upset when only two years later, the Daily Breeze, a newspaper in my district, released the results of its investigation into USA Swimming. That investigation revealed, "a culture within American swimming where the sexual abuse of underage swimmers by their coaches and others in positions of power within the sport was commonplace and even accepted by top officials and coaches."

The widespread and longstanding nature of the abuse as well as the knowledge that many allegations of abuse were brushed under the table have laid bare the deep systemic failures of the organizations charged with protecting athletes. The exposure of these abuses has necessitated immediate and aggressive reform of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the National Governing Bodies.

That is why I was proud to introduce H.R. 7881, the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act. This bipartisan legislation helped build broad support for the reforms in S. 2330 and ultimately usher them through the House of Representatives and onto the President's desk to become law.

Our legislation seeks to protect amateur athletes from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse in numerous ways. To strengthen accountability, it imposes legal liability for the USOPC and the NGBs when coaches or employees sexually abuse athletes. In addition, it establishes mechanisms to allow Congress to dissolve the entities if necessary. To empower athletes, the bill requires the establishment of clear procedures and reporting requirements, imposes clear responsibilities to protect athletes, and bolsters the Office of the Ombuds to give athletes an independent resource if they have been abused or assaulted. Finally, the bill strengthens and provides a steady funding stream for the U.S. Center for SafeSport, which provides abuse prevention education and training and investigates allegations of sexual abuse.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those survivors who bravely spoke up about the horrific abuses that they endured and then turned their grief into advocacy. It is my hope that their work and this legislation will bring lasting, positive change to the sports world.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON BIGGS

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of George Washington Biggs, who passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at the age of 95. A native son of Arizona, George was a legend among us and the last remaining Tuskegee Airman in our state who valiantly served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. For his selfless service and sacrifice, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest civilian recognition given by Congress. George was a hero with unwavering patriotism who fought tirelessly to uphold and preserve American values, and our country's indebtedness to him will forever stand the test of time.

Born in Nogales, Arizona, to a family with a history of military service, George answered the call to duty early in his life. At age 18, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen—the first Black military aviators to fly in combat during World War II. George and his fellow airmen overcame racism and discrimination and played a significant role in the eventual integration of the United States armed forces.

George returned to civilian life in 1946, but his heart remained on the frontlines, and he reenlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he would go on to fight in the Korean War as a Second Lieutenant. Following the ceasefire in Korea, George returned to the states and was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona, where he trained and mentored Black airmen. In 1970, George retired from the military after flying his final mission during the Vietnam War.

His life was forever intertwined with those he served alongside—never forgetting the sacrifices our brave men and women make to preserve the American way of life. Each Memorial Day, George would visit the Nogales City Cemetery where his father was buried to plant flags over the graves of veterans to honor them.

As a nation, we join his wife, Olga, their 10 children, 22 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and loved ones in honoring George. A man of unshakeable conviction, courage, and dedication, George's legacy will remain synonymous of a true American patriot. Thank you for your service, George and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF LEWIS W. BUTLER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Lewis W. Butler.

Lewis was born in San Francisco, California, on March 27, 1957, the son of Lewis H. and Sheana Butler, and died on September 17, 2020 at the age of 63 at his home in San Francisco.

Lewis grew up in San Francisco with the exception of the two years spent in Malaysia while his father served as the Director of the Peace Corps there, and time in Washington, D.C. while his father served in what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Lewis earned his undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Stanford and a Master's in architecture from Harvard University. After their Harvard graduations in 1985, he and his wife Catherine Armsden formed Butler Armsden, a successful architecture firm in San Francisco.

Lewis is described as an inventive modernist residential architect with a prominent clientele. He is also described as a teacher, a mentor, and a confident man with a can-do attitude. He possessed a great sense of humor and a humble demeanor.

He was a true gentleman, a winner of countless merit awards who took no particular pride in showing them off. He was a surfer and a vintage British motorcycle aficionado and he built sand castles as part of a non-profit fundraiser. He was devoted to his community and served on the boards of the Hamlin School, University High School and the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Lewis W. Butler leaves his wife of 37 years, Catherine Armsden, his son, Tobias, his daughter Elena, his father Lewis H. Butler, and his sisters Serra and Lucy. He also leaves four nephews and three nieces.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of this good and great man. He has left an indelible imprint on the architecture of the San Francisco Peninsula and beyond, and his friendship has left an imprint on the lives of so many who had the good fortune to know him. Lew Butler was a national treasure. He strengthened our community, bettered our nation, and was a true blessing in every way imaginable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1154, condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes. Although my vote was not recorded, I strongly support this resolution. I spoke on the floor on Thursday to commend Representatives MALINOWSKI and RIGGLEMAN for their leadership on this issue. I was pleased to vote yes on the Rule. I have been targeted by QAnon on social media and have seen per-

sonally the absurdity and danger of their beliefs to our political system and to our countries historical beliefs in truth and in reality.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, food security is quickly becoming a national crisis that we must address. In my district alone, 1 in 5 people live in a food desert where grocery stores are unfortunately closing down, taking away healthy options and prices are skyrocketing for smaller stores. Too many families already lack a car or reliable public transportation to get to the nearest alternative, often located over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast food and convenience stores. These options are neither healthy nor affordable. These problems have only been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close their doors during the recent economic downturn. Others lost access years ago and are now facing the serious long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition and other diet related ailments. Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the wealthiest country on Earth, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA funding for state operated revolving funds that will issue low interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit and municipal entities, will provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our own experiences, we need to remember that millions of our constituents are struggling every day to feed their families. With this market driven approach, I hope to complement existing federal programs and efforts around the country by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Food Deserts Act.