

for major Bay Area transit expansion projects. During his tenure, MTC has developed a well-earned reputation for being one of the nation's most creative and effective transportation organizations.

Tom's career achievements reflect not only his deep knowledge of transportation policy but also his genuine respect and affection for the people of both parties who put policy into action. Congratulations, Tom, on an outstanding career. Please accept our deepest appreciation to you for dedicating your intellect, your energy, and your gregarious good humor to keeping our nation on the move.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PREVENTING UNWARRANTED COMMUNICATIONS SHUTDOWNS ACT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 23, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to introduce the Preventing Unwarranted Communications Shutdowns Act, a bipartisan bill to limit presidential powers to control or shut down communications networks, including the internet.

The American people rely on the internet for nearly every aspect of their personal and professional lives and this dependence has only increased during the pandemic. As such, internet shutdowns are an extraordinary infringement of individual rights. Sadly, authoritarians in many countries have used internet shutdowns as a tool to squash rights. The public interest group Access Now reports that in 2019, the internet was shutdown at least 213 times.

Section 706 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. 606) currently authorizes the President to take control of communications facilities or equipment in certain circumstances. While the internet is, by design, decentralized and cannot be 'shut down,' this provision leaves open the possibility for a presidential order that leads to Americans not being able to access the internet.

While this provision is codified as part of the Communications Act of 1934, and it was amended in 1942 and 1951, the provision directly traces back to Section 2 of the Radio Act of 1912. President Woodrow Wilson used the authorities granted by the Radio Act during World War I in 1914 and 1918 with respect to telephone systems, radio stations, and marine cables. Earlier still, in February 1862, Congress gave President Abraham Lincoln the authority to take over telegraph lines during the Civil War.

While historians can debate about whether these actions were warranted, they serve as an important basis for my rationale that the appropriate public policy measure to reform Section 706 is not to cut the power completely, but to add strict checks to it.

The Preventing Unwarranted Communications Shutdowns Act limits the President's authorities and adds checks to any actions taken under section 706. In particular, my legislation limits the reasons the President may take action under Section 706 to ones necessary to protect against an imminent and specific threat to human life or national security, if such action is narrowly tailored and is the least restric-

tive means for the purpose; requires that the President notify congressional leaders (i.e., Speaker, House Minority Leader, and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders), senior executive branch officials (i.e., Vice President, department heads, intelligence community heads, Joint Chiefs of Staff), and the FCC before or not later than 12 hours after taking any action authorized under Section 706; nullifies Section 706 orders 12 hours after issuance of the order if the President does not provide notification in the specified time and form; nullifies Section 706 orders 48 hours after the President provides notice unless three-fifths of each of the House and the Senate vote to pass an approval resolution, with an affirmative vote of at least one-quarter of the minority party in each chamber; requires a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) after every Section 706 order, and requires a one-time GAO report estimating the impact of a communication shutdown; and requires that the U.S. government compensate providers and customers of providers for any communications shutdown under Section 706.

Unchecked executive powers and the emergency authorities of the President under Section 7-6 of the Communications Act need to be revisited. May there never be in a situation where these authorities are needed, but if there is, the representatives of the people should decide the scope and extent of any shutdown, not any single individual.

I thank my colleague Congressman MORGAN GRIFFITH for partnering with me to introduce this important, bipartisan legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

#### UNITED STATES AND REPUBLIC OF INDIA RELATIONS

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 23, 2020*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the robust friendship and solidarity between the United States of America and the Republic of India.

Our two nations share a long history of partnership in response to the most ardent of global challenges. In 2007, Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, along with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister John Howard, created the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. This framework led to the creation of the Malabar naval exercise. This agreement has proven to be prescient given the Chinese Communist Party's recent malign actions in the South China Sea. In recognition of China's threatening posture, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Trump, along with their Japanese and Australian counterparts have invested in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a commitment to a more free and open Indo-Pacific. I urge our G-7 partners to consider inviting the Republic of India into the G-7 to further our multilateral cooperation.

During a previous meeting with the Consul General of India in Atlanta Dr. Swati Kulkarni, I learned of the recent conflict at the Line of Actual Control and the Galwan River. While India records countless times where China

has crossed this border, this increase in tensions resulted in the deaths of Indian soldiers. I appreciate Prime Minister Modi's interest in reducing tensions and agree with the recent statements from United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo regarding the conflict. I applaud joint efforts by the United States and the Republic of India to combat terrorism and urge both countries to find additional areas of cooperation.

Our two nations have grown closer and increased collaboration as a result of COVID-19. This global pandemic has shown the world that it must do more to secure pharmaceutical supply chains and insulate them from harmful actors. It is my firm belief that increasing trade partnerships between the United States and the Republic of India will result in greater prosperity for our people.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Consul General for her time and for her sincere desire to build a better relationship between the United States and the Republic of India.

#### INDEPENDENCE FOR ARTSAKH

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 23, 2020*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the United States government to formally recognize the independence of the Republic of Artsakh.

For too long, we have failed as a country to state unequivocally that the people of Artsakh, a historical part of Armenia populated by Armenians to this day, have a right to self-determination as an independent republic and it has opened the door to violence.

For weeks, Artsakh has suffered a brutal assault by Azerbaijan and Turkey in the form of merciless rocket attacks and bombings. This is, in part, the consequence of our past failures to exert leadership in this region of the world.

We must make clear that we will stand against the aggression of Azerbaijan and their allies in Turkey when they would wage war against a people for seeking self-rule and independence, a people for whom the specter of genocide still lingers.

It is time for the United States to correct course and make it clear that we stand behind the protection of life and preservation of human dignity by standing behind the Republic of Artsakh. As the world's oldest modern democracy, it is our heritage and duty to do so.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF MS. RAFAELA "LALI" GARCIA'S 93RD BIRTHDAY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 23, 2020*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with abundant joy and immense pride to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Ms. Rafaela Garcia, known to friends, family, and community members as "Lali." A cornerstone of the Hispanic community in Kansas City, her work as a private citizen, as an activist, and as an

office holder has improved thousands of lives in the Kansas City area across multiple generations.

Lali's ambition throughout her career has been clear: "To make a better life for the Hispanic community through [her] involvement in various organizations." Over the last eighty years, Lali has accomplished that goal with conviction and grace. She began her activism at the young age of 13, when she first started going to the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City. At the time, the Center dedicated most of its resources to administering a school and clinic for underprivileged immigrants who had settled in Kansas City. Even at 13, Lali had a vibrant vision for what the Center could become: an integral part, a pillar, in the Kansas City Hispanic community. Serving for forty-six years on the Center's Board of Directors, including three terms as the Board President, she oversaw a massive expansion of the Center, among many critical victories. Today, the Center has grown to provide many essential services for Latinos, including healthcare, education, financial assistance, childcare, workforce development, and much more. Today, the Guadalupe Center, in no small part because of Lali's contribution, provides opportunities for newly-arrived immigrants to achieve their American Dream while also promoting pride in their culture and heritage.

But Lali, ever the visionary, was not satisfied transforming just the Guadalupe Center. She knew that change would not come for the Kansas City Hispanic community until they organized and voted for elected officials who would advocate for them at every level of government. Recognizing this, Lali founded La Raza Political Club in 1989. Under her leadership, La Raza worked endlessly to register new voters for each election, ensuring for the first time a seat at the table for the small but vibrant Hispanic community in Kansas City. Most Novembers, you could find Lali at her polling place, trying to convince everyone in her community to vote for a more equal, more just, and more promising America. Even this year, amidst a global pandemic, she has worked with her team to register hundreds of young Latino voters in what could be the most important election of their lifetime.

These actions alone would have been enough to satisfy most of us. But Lali has served Kansas City and the Hispanic community in a variety of roles throughout her career, and she is always finding new ways to effect change. She is a member the Union Cultural Mexicana Ladies Auxiliary, a full-time volunteer at the Casa Felix Senior Center, and a Board member for the Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission. She was also appointed to the Guadalajara Sister City Commission, as well as the Port Authority Board of Commissioners, and has served on the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee since 1987. I list these accomplishments not to account for everything Lali has achieved—an impossible task for such a short time. Rather, I highlight her work because it teaches all of us a lesson about what it means to participate in our community. The framers of our Constitution knew they were drafting a document to govern an imperfect nation, plagued by animus and inequality. In the preamble of this document, which serves as the foundation for our entire system of government, they instructed each subsequent generation to use its articles and amendments

to form a more perfect union. The system relies on passionate, courageous, free-thinking Americans like Lali, pushing it towards a more just, tranquil, and equitable way of life. The arc of the moral universe bends towards justice, but it doesn't do it alone.

Lali recognized early on that if she could uplift voices and register voters, she could change her neighborhood for the better. If she could change her neighborhood, Lali knew she could change her city; if she could change her city, she could change her state; if she could change her state, she could change our nation. Lali represents all that is great about America, Madame speaker; she represents the audacious notion that one person in one city can change the lives of millions who have struggled to realize the full rights and protections of our government. I am eternally grateful that fate brought Lali to Kansas City and that I have been able to witness her action, advocacy, and affection for others during my time in public office. Lali has done more than her fair share to make our union more perfect.

One of the many unfortunate consequences of the ongoing public health crisis is the missed opportunities to celebrate and enjoy one another's company, whether it is graduations, bar mitzvahs, naturalization ceremonies, or the birthday party of a local hero turning 93 years young. It is imperative that we take time to celebrate life's milestones. Madame Speaker, please join me and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District as we forever enshrine our gratefulness for the work of Lali Garcia in the Congressional Record and as we wish her the happiest of birthdays. It is my fervent hope that we will be celebrating her 94th birthday in person, with a celebration fit for a local legend.

#### CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF JIM BERT AND LYDIA LAUDERDALE

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madame Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Jim Bert and Lydia Lauderdale of Shannon, Mississippi.

Jim and Lydia attended different high schools, with Jim graduating from Shannon High School and Lydia graduating from Okolona High School. Jim went on to become a Mississippi State Bulldog, and Lydia attended Northeast Mississippi Community College where she earned a degree in Nursing. Jim and Lydia were married on Wednesday, October 23, 1970 in Starkville, Mississippi, but later made Shannon, Mississippi their home.

Five years after their marriage, Jim started his family business, Shannon Steel Service, while also helping his father's business, Tom Lauderdale Paper Company. At the same time, Lydia was working in hospitals and nursing homes all throughout North Mississippi before retiring as a school nurse for Lee County Schools.

Jim and Lydia are the proud parents of their two sons, Bert and Stewart Lauderdale, who work alongside Jim and Jim's brother, Tommy, in the family business. They are members of Shannon First United Methodist Church, and are also proud grandparents of six.

Their commitment to each other and the community is inspiring, and we wish them many more years of happiness.

#### RECOGNIZING MAJOR MICHAEL VINACCO

#### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Air Force Major Michael Vinacco on the completion of his Legislative Fellowship with my personal office. Major Vinacco has been assigned to my staff since January 2020 and has done a superb job as a trusted advisor for national security, foreign operations, and veteran policy issues.

Major Vinacco was raised in a military family and earned his commission from Virginia Military Institute in 2008. Prior to being selected for his prestigious Defense Legislative Fellowship, he served as a Program Manager for a multibillion-dollar Air Force program. Additionally, he has over a decade of experience in engineering and aircraft maintenance, to include a combat deployment to Afghanistan in 2012.

During his Fellowship, Major Vinacco was instrumental in helping my staff and I develop the fiscal year 2021 House defense appropriations bill. His direct contributions will help provide our nation's uniformed men and women with the resources needed to defend our nation. Additionally, Major Vinacco coordinated dozens of engagements with senior departmental officials to include a tour of the Southwest Border with Deputy Secretary of Defense Norquist and a tour of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. In addition to departmental engagements, Major Vinacco served as my connection to the defense industrial partners that make Fort Worth and North Texas our nation's defense aviation production hub.

Airmen like Major Michael Vinacco are the reason our nation's Air Force is the best in the world. On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Michael, his wife Lisa, and children Luca, John, and Zachary, as they continue their military journey in service to our great nation.

#### HONORING EDWARD J. TRACEY

#### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madame Speaker, in this the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, I rise to pay tribute to Edward J. Tracey. Like so many of our courageous WWII veterans, Ed is gone but will not be forgotten. Madame Speaker, I am confident that the following highlights of the contributions Ed Tracey made to the War effort will reveal a legacy, not just for the 13th District of Ohio, but for the broader impact Capt. Tracey had on the victory against tyranny.

Ed, along with his two brothers and two sisters, grew up at RFD No. 3, a farm located in Cortland, Ohio.