

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COVID-19 DEBT RELIEF EXTENSION ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, the small business loan debt relief provision, as passed in the CARES Act, has expired with money still left in the fund. As we all know, small businesses have greatly suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a recent Washington Post article, one in five small businesses have closed this year, with many more expected. For the small businesses that remain open, the SBA loan debt forgiveness has proven to be a lifeline. The SBA has paid 6 months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current 7(a), 504, and Microloans, as well as new 7(a), 504, and Microloans.

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting extraordinary strain on our smallest businesses—the very businesses who are the backbone of our economy. Small businesses have taken the biggest hits and need continued direct relief during this unprecedented time. That's why I have been fighting to provide relief through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and the SBA debt relief program. These programs have proven to be effective to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, however, small businesses continue to need our support and we must not turn our backs on them.

Local economies are re-opening, but an expected second COVID-19 wave means small business owners will face additional uncertainties and burdens in the coming months. That is why I am introducing the Small Business Debt Relief Extension Act to offer small business owners up to a 6-month extension on the debt relief they are receiving on their 7(a), 504, and Microloans. Additionally, my bill ensures that the entirety of the \$17,000,000,000 appropriated to this program in the CARES Act be used for its intended purpose. The bill accomplishes this in two ways:

Businesses who are currently receiving or have (over the past 6 months) received the subsidy be granted a 6-month extension for a total of 12 months of debt relief; and Businesses who do not currently have a SBA loan and that apply up to March 30, 2021, receive a 6 month subsidy.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Small Business Debt Relief Extension Act.

# CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRYAN, TEXAS

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100 year anniversary of The Rotary Club of Bryan, Texas.

Originally chartered in 1921, with only twenty-five founders; today, the club has grown to include a membership of approximately 150

people from all areas of Brazos County. The Bryan Rotary Club is passionately dedicated to its mission to "provide service to others; promote integrity; and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

From the beginning, the Bryan Rotary Club has had a broad membership from the twin cities of Bryan and College Station, bringing together a service-oriented mix of business and local professionals, as well as faculty and administrators from Texas A&M University.

Some notable events hosted by the club include its annual golf tournament, an annual beans and rice dinner, and the annual Newman 10 awards, which recognize the significant community contributions of Brazos Valley businesses.

In addition to celebrating local businesses, the Club is committed to supporting cultural activities, such as the Opera and Performing Arts Society Series, funding of the Bryan Heritage Society and Stage Center, as well as the club's very own "Singing Club."

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club of Bryan has had a significant and positive impact on the Brazos Valley during its 100-year history. Throughout this time, the club has grown considerably, and it has never forgotten its strong commitment to community service.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this significant milestone and their contributions to our community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect our security and liberties, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

# HONORING C.T. WRIGHT

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. C.T. Wright, who passed away in October 2020. A longtime resident of Arizona, Dr. Wright was a community leader, pastor, and criminal justice advocate. He was the embodiment of the American Dream and devoted his life to preaching unity and making Arizona a better place for all. From his work as chairman of the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency to his civic and religious pursuits, Dr. Wright was a force for good and his enduring legacy is his love for Arizona.

Born in Social Circle, Georgia, Dr. Wright lived many lives as a day laborer in the Georgia cotton fields, scholar, elementary school teacher, college professor, university president, and leader in criminal justice reform. Through all of this, he learned firsthand the value of persistence, open-mindedness and hard work—and how crucial they are in building better communities. These lessons refined his character and took him around the world.

After working in Africa, Dr. Wright decided to bring his message of unity and civility to Arizona, a place he called "the greatest state on the planet." His voice would often echo through the chamber and halls of the Arizona State Senate, in rooms of state GOP meetings

and into the stands at campaign rallies when he delivered passionate prayers to members of a nation he saw as greatly divided—but not beyond repair. Throughout his years here, Dr. Wright quickly became a landmark member and advocate for Arizona's African-American community and earned his place as a delegate in political conventions, a member of the Arizona Electoral College, the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board, chairman of the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency and many other honors.

After being appointed to the Board of Executive Clemency in May 2014, Dr. Wright helped give a second chance to inmates and their families through compassionate early releases. It was one of many positions Dr. Wright used to bridge the gap between faith and politics and help everyday Arizonans and political leaders make environments that encourage inclusivity, understanding and progress. Dr. Wright wasn't afraid to be outspoken but was reluctant of recognition. He wanted his work to speak for itself, and it has. His impact on his community was commemorated with the Congressional Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

As he leaves us, we should remember that he leaves us with lessons to act on and words to live by, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is together, together in unity." I thank Dr. Wright for his life's work, and Godspeed.

# HONORING COMMANDER THOMAS KOEPE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Thomas Koepe for his exemplary dedication to his community, and to mark his retirement from the Hercules Police Department after more than 27 years of committed service.

Originally from El Cerrito, California, Commander Koepe began his service as a police officer for the city of Hercules in 1993. Since joining the force, Commander Koepe has risen through the ranks of the Hercules Police Department, serving as a Training Officer, Special Response Officer, and Police Sergeant before becoming a Police Commander in 2012. In 2018, he also briefly served as Acting Police Chief, leading the department during a time of transition.

Commander Koepe has consistently earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the public, and has been recognized countless times for his service to his community. In 1995, he was awarded the Medal of Valor for arresting a dangerous individual after a long and dangerous car chase. He also led his department in driving under the influence (DUI) arrests and was honored by both the department and Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts to curtail the dangers of drunk driving. His dedication to the city is non-stop, as evident by the fact that he has received the Iron 96 award, given to those who do not use any sick leave, for 20 consecutive years.

Commander Koepe is not only an esteemed member of the police department, but he also plays an active role in his community.

On top of his professional role, he is a member of Rotary Club International, the City Liaison for Special Olympics Northern California, and co-founder of the Hercules Swim Club. Commander Koepp is a prime example of a community-focused officer who is committed to building vital ties with the community members whom he is protecting.

Madam Speaker, Commander Thomas Koepp is an outstanding law enforcement officer and model citizen who has served with honor throughout his nearly three decades of duty. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him today.

#### REMEMBERING MYRA STILES

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember my friend and a local and national Democratic Party stalwart, Myra Stiles, who passed on Friday at the age of 84. Mrs. Stiles was active in Democratic Party politics, joining the Volunteer Women's Roundtable shortly after arriving in Memphis with her husband, Robert, months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. She went on to become an officer, president, and treasurer of the Democratic Women of Shelby County, and served in positions with the Shelby County Democratic Executive Committee, as well as President of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women. She always had the Democratic women's annual Christmas Party at her home—a wonderful gathering of friends in the holiday season. Mrs. Stiles was also a longtime member and chair of the Shelby County Election Commission, first elected in 1987. No one in the last 30 years has done more guaranteeing access to the ballot and free and fair elections in Shelby County than Myra Stiles. She was also special assistant to William Farris when he served as chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party (1978–1981). Mrs. Stiles was active in the political campaigns of Harold Ford, Sr.; Harold Ford, Jr.; Beverly Marrero; Mary Wilder; and many others on the national, state, and local levels. She was instrumental in my campaigns going back to 1976, when I was a candidate for the state Constitutional Convention from the Midtown district. She was an enthusiastic supporter in all my subsequent races for the state Senate and later for Congress with her prominent and well-recognized yard signs on McLean. Mrs. Stiles attended four Democratic National Conventions and two presidential inaugurations. Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland proclaimed February 20, 2016 “Myra Stiles Day” for her dedicated service to the city and its citizens. Since 2003, Mrs. Stiles had been an active member of Mothers of the NILE, an organization which works to reduce the number of children entering the juvenile justice system. Mrs. Stiles loved politics, the democratic process and Democratic principles and her community will long remember her dedicated service. I extend my profound condolences to her children Allison, Sarah and Robert, and their families, and to her many friends and colleagues. She did important work and will be missed.

#### CELEBRATING CAIRO GEORGIA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Cairo, Georgia, located in Grady County, in my Congressional district, as they celebrate and commemorate their 150th Anniversary. The city was founded in 1835 and incorporated as a town in 1870 and a city in 1905. In 1906, it was designated as the county seat for the newly formed Grady County. It is an honor and a privilege to have represented the City of Cairo since my election to Congress in 1992.

There was a commemoration event held on Monday, October 26, 2020, at 6 PM during the Cairo City Council Meeting. The city has served as the catalyst to improve the quality of life for thousands of citizens.

The City of Cairo is a city that is steeped in a rich history and accomplishments that reflect the absolute best that our nation has to offer. Cairo, Georgia, was first settled in the early 1800s by William Hawthorne, a Baptist Preacher. Hawthorne cut a forty-mile trail through the area. Another early settler was Henry Miller, who moved to what was then Thomas County. He had a stagecoach stop. By 1860, The Atlantic and Gulf Railroad had bought land from residents Nancy and Malachi Collins, as well as from Phoebe and Washington Baggett. In 1866, H.H. Tooke and James H. Hayes sold land so that the town could be founded.

In 1862, Seaborn Anderson Roddenberry bought land from Mr. Miller and began his medical practice in a horse-drawn buggy by selling his open-kettle sugar cane syrup. By 1867, Roddenberry had a medical office and opened a general store and people from near and far bought syrup from large barrels and filled their own jars with his molasses. The nickname of the local Cairo High School is the Syrupmakers and Syrupmaids because of the importance of this industry in the formation and vitalization of this community. The Cairo plant of the Roddenberry Company was closed in 1993, and now serves as a regional community center.

The town council began meeting in 1871, and its first mayor was Wiley Pearce. Many dedicated men and women have served in elective office since the beginning of this historic town. The city is now led by Mayor Howard Thrower, III, and a five-member city council.

The city has not strayed from the foundation that was set by its early leaders with an attentiveness to the needs of the people above all else. Dr. George Washington Carver once said that “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life, you will have been all of these.”

The City of Cairo, Georgia, has overcome storms and difficult situations, but has stood the test of time. Through dedicated community servants, they have sought to meet the needs of their community and to move it forward for the betterment of all of its citizens. This city holds dear to the values that make this com-

munity and our country great—God, country, and family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent this community in Congress and I look forward to seeing their growth and progression in the years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating the City of Cairo for 150 years of dedicated service to God, the citizens of Cairo, and humankind.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMED FORCES DEFERRED TAX RELIEF ACT

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Armed Forces Deferred Tax Relief Act, legislation that will require the Department of Defense (DoD) to cover any additional taxes incurred by our brave servicemembers as a result of President Trump's reckless Presidential Memorandum issued on August 8, 2020.

President Trump's Memorandum instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to use his authority to defer Social Security payroll taxes between September 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The resulting Internal Revenue Service Notice postpones the collection of these taxes until the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ends on April 30, 2021. This will result in our servicemembers paying double the tax, or 12.4 percent, each month of the first quarter of 2021.

Many private businesses have opted out of the deferral, but the DoD has forced our servicemembers to participate, sticking them with a large tax bill coming due in the new year. My legislation will require the DoD to reimburse our servicemembers for any additional taxes withheld as a result of this Administration's willful ignorance.

#### REVEREND SH'KUR FRANCIS

#### HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2020*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Sh'Kur Francis of the New Hope United Methodist Church. This church was founded 136 years ago, and Rev. Francis represents a new optimism for the New Hope Church.

With an upbringing from Charleston and Gullah-Geechee roots, Reverend Francis represents the Lowcountry well in upstate South Carolina. He will celebrate his sixth year of ministry there on November 15, 2020. Reverend Francis has been able to help the congregation grow and challenge previously held thoughts, to great success. Since his tenure as minister, the church attendance rate has nearly tripled.

Reverend Francis has been an activist his whole life and uses his ministry to talk about important social justice issues. His devotion calls to mind Isaiah 1:17, where we are told, “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause.”