

viewed the world through the eyes of a poor kid from Dorchester. As one of the richest men in America, he could afford the finest wines and any luxury foods he desired. But those who knew him knew that the best time to meet with Sheldon was on Friday over lunch in his office, because that was his favorite day, when his staff would bring him hot dogs and sliders for lunch and he was sure to be in a good mood. He never lost his enjoyment for those kinds of simple things.

More than that, Sheldon never lost touch with people. Most of those who achieve his level of success spend a lot of money on staff to serve as buffers between them and other people. Sheldon didn't do that. At Republican Jewish Coalition events, people would be lined up 20- or 30-deep to say hello and take pictures with him. He obliged them, even in the middle of eating his dinner. He gave out his cell phone number freely and enjoyed being with people, talking to them and listening to them.

Sheldon was a serial entrepreneur who created dozens of companies over the years. He was often called a visionary leader, which is true, but he had more than just vision. Hard work and courageous confidence (or outrageous confidence, to your detractors) are required to achieve great things. Sheldon had a vision of Las Vegas as more than just a gambling town. He knew that bringing in trade shows and business conventions and offering grand resorts with the finest amenities and big, beautiful rooms would make Las Vegas a top destination for millions of people. When he began building The Venetian, he was mocked and called a fool. But he never lost confidence in his vision of what Las Vegas could be, and today everyone is copying his integrated resort model.

The same was true in Asia, where Sheldon saw glittering potential in Macau, then a seedy, prostitution-ridden city. He turned it into Asia's own Las Vegas, on land reclaimed from the sea. People called him crazy, but once again he had the courage of his convictions and he was proven right. His confidence in his own vision and his willingness to take risks to bring that vision to fruition were the keys to his success.

That success made it possible for him and his beloved wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, to engage in substantial and meaningful philanthropy—in the Jewish community and beyond. The Adelsons have been the largest funders of Taglit-Birthright Israel and supported Yad Vashem, United Hatzalah and Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, among other organizations in Israel. They built a \$65 million campus in Las Vegas for the Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy and Adelson School, which serves students from preschool through high school. In addition, their Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation funds collaborative, cutting-edge medical research. Dr. Miriam Adelson has contributed enormously to drug addiction research and therapy, and the Adelsons built two major drug abuse treatment and research centers, in Las Vegas and in Israel.

The Adelsons have also extended tremendous kindness to friends and others in need. Sheldon showed the same compassion to his employees that he showed to everyone else. When COVID-19 hit, he refused to lay off his employees, and he continued to provide them with full pay and benefits throughout the pandemic.

Sheldon did what he thought was right, in business and in every other part of his life. If you wanted to argue with him, you had better know your stuff. Sheldon never got a college degree, but he was one of the smartest people I've ever known. He hated yes-men and respected people who were not intimidated by him or his wealth—people who would give him honest and sound counsel.

I have a very vivid memory of the first time I met Sheldon. I traveled to Las Vegas to tell him about the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) and try to get him involved in the organization. We had a wide-ranging conversation and, at one point, he asked me what I thought about something he'd said. I said I disagreed with him. You could have heard a pin drop in that room. Sheldon cocked his head and asked, "Why?" I answered him honestly, sure that I had lost all chance of getting him interested in the RJC, but he replied, "Yeah, I think you might be right." After that, Sheldon was very involved in the RJC and gave generously not only his money, but more importantly, his time and good counsel. Much of the RJC's innovation and impact over the last few years were made possible by his vision and leadership.

Sheldon was an American patriot, a dedicated defender of Israel and a living example of the American dream. His passing truly leaves an empty place where a vibrant, courageous and caring man once stood. He will be sorely missed.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as the Member of Congress for a congressional district that has experienced the worst of COVID-19 as a public health emergency and economic catastrophe, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 11, 447, which reorders budgetary priorities to provide \$1.9 trillion to allow Congress to take immediate and decisive action to crush the virus and vaccinate our people, build the economy back better, reopen schools, and provide needed support and assistance to state and local governments that have been asked to do too much with too little for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, by an overwhelming margin (79 percent), the public wants and is demanding that we act to provide more economic relief to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe an additional relief package is necessary, while more than nine in ten (92 percent) Democrats and Democratic leaners say more coronavirus aid will be needed.

Even the most conservative Republicans favor more relief by a 56 percent-44 percent margin.

Nearly nine in ten of all adults (88 percent) in lower-income households say an additional package is necessary, while 81 percent of Republicans in lower-income households (81 percent) say additional aid is needed now.

Let me make clear at the outset Mr. Speaker, that nothing in this resolution precludes the reaching of a bipartisan and bicameral agreement to pass and fund the President's America Rescue Plan, which in nearly all material respects mirrors the Heroes Act passed by the House Democratic majority on May 15, 2020, nearly nine months ago, only to languish on

the Republican Senate Majority Leader's desk while hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans succumbed to the virus and millions of others lost their livelihoods and businesses, and everyone faced an uncertain future.

It would send a powerful signal to the American people if our colleagues across the aisle would join us in this effort because nothing would better show them that their elected representatives can set partisanship aside and put America first.

And that bipartisan achievement would portend success for similar initiatives in the area of infrastructure, energy, national and homeland security, and criminal justice and immigration reform, all of which I am ready and willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground.

So, if our Republican colleagues are amenable to reaching an agreement on a legislative response that is commensurate to the challenge facing Americans, nothing in the legislation before us will preclude that from happening.

But have no doubt, if they refuse to be part of the solution, the unified and bicameral Democratic congressional majority, in coordination with the new Democratic Administration, will take the lead and act boldly to address and overcome the present crisis.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor Jim Justice of West Virginia who said colorfully just a few days ago, "At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now."

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan action we took last December was a step in the right direction but only a long-delayed down payment; we cannot afford any more delays, especially since Republican stalling already caused a painful lapse in critical unemployment assistance last year, and additional unemployment assistance is set to expire on March 14, 2021.

That is why this resolution, which creates a failsafe alternative so that the American Rescue Plan can be debated, voted on, and passed, is absolutely crucial and the right thing to do and to do right now.

The American Rescue Plan proposed by President Biden takes a multipronged approach to tackling the public health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

No one is better prepared or more experienced to lead the American rescue than President Biden, who as Vice-President oversaw the implementation of the Recovery Act, which saved millions of jobs and rescued our economy from the Great Recession the Obama Administration and the nation inherited from a previous Republican administration.

And let us not forget that President Obama also placed his confidence in his vice-president to oversee the rescue of the automotive industry, which he did so well that the American car industry fully recovered its status as the world leader.

Mr. Speaker, to crush the virus and safely reopen schools, the American Rescue Plan will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and makes the investments necessary to safely reopen schools.

It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, investing in high-quality treatments, and addressing health care disparities.

The American Rescue Plan delivers immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of the crisis by providing \$1,400 per person in direct cash assistance to households across America, bringing the total (including the \$600 down payment enacted in December) to \$2,000.

Additionally, the plan will also provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families struggling to get by, expand access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, extend and expand unemployment insurance so American workers can pay their bills, and give families with children as well as childless workers a boost through enhanced tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan provides much needed support for communities struggling with the economic fallout, including hard-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination.

Finally, the plan also provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers, and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic, as did the videos of the unjustified killings of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmed Arbery, and so many others, laid bare for the nation to see the stark racial and ethnic inequalities exacerbated by the virus.

In my home state of Texas, as of the end of September 2020, there have been more than 760,000 cases of COVID-19 and 16,000 deaths.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Care Services, 70 percent of the confirmed fatalities were people of color.

In Texas, COVID-19 mortality rates are 30 percent higher for African Americans and 80 percent higher for Hispanics overall.

The differences become much larger when accounting for age; for example, in the 25 to 44-year-old age group, African American mortality rates are more than four times higher than White rates, and the Hispanic rates are more than seven times higher.

One factor in Hispanic and African American populations being more likely to contract COVID-19 is employment in occupations associated with public contact and that cannot be done remotely.

The sad fact is that most workers in these occupations are less able to be absent from their job or to have paid time off.

In Texas, people of color are more than 40 percent of cashiers, retail salespersons, child care workers, licensed practical nurses, more than 50 percent of bus drivers and transit workers, medical and nursing assistants, personal care aides, and home health aides, and more than 60 percent of building cleaners and housekeepers.

In addition, Hispanic and African American populations in Texas are less likely to have health insurance and to have a regular health care provider, so less likely to seek or receive early care for symptoms, especially in the first months of the epidemic.

And African American and Hispanic populations are also more likely to have an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

To respond and mitigate the devastation wrought by COVID-19 on Americans, and especially marginal and vulnerable communities of color, I have introduced H.R. 330, the "Delivering COVID-19 Vaccinations to All Regions and Vulnerable Communities Act" or "COVID-19 Delivery Act," which I invite all Members to join as sponsors.

Under the COVID-19 Delivery Act, FEMA will be authorized and directed to lead the effort for vaccine delivery from the receipt from manufacturing facilities to delivery to designated inoculation sites (hospital, clinic, doctors' offices, school, places of worship, community centers, parks, or neighborhood gathering locations).

The legislation directs FEMA to develop and deploy a fully staffed and resourced 24-7 advanced real-time tracking system that allows FEMA to monitor shipments of vaccine units that can provide end-to-end transparency on the temperature, real-time location, origin, and destination data, anticipated time of arrival, and report on changes and update recipients on the progress of their delivery and report on changes that may impact expected delivery or the viability of the vaccine while in transit.

FEMA will provide an advanced communication system that allows public health departments to communicate their vaccine readiness, capability of receiving vaccines, delivery locations, details of facility capability of storing, securing, personnel authorized to receive deliveries, logistics for delivering vaccines to patients, report on vaccine receipts, condition of vaccines, patient reactions, feedback on how to improve the process.

H.R. 330 authorizes FEMA to secure transportation for delivery or use of vaccines, and, when requested, security for the vaccine delivery sites or inoculation locations to ensure the life and safety of personnel and patients who seek to provide or receive vaccinations are free of interference or threat.

Finally, the COVID-19 Delivery Act directs FEMA to conduct public education and patient engagement through the provision of inoculations of persons in areas and locations where vulnerable populations are under performing in getting vaccinations.

Mr. Speaker, the 2021 budget resolution before us now is not a comprehensive fiscal blueprint for the next 10 years; it is designed solely to provide the option of using reconciliation to deliver critical relief and achieve the goals of the American Rescue Plan.

As such, the total spending and revenue levels in the resolution simply reflect current-law projections adjusted for the estimated costs of the American Rescue Plan.

Once the American Rescue Plan becomes law, Congress will begin its work on a forward-looking, comprehensive budget resolution for 2022 that will provide urgently needed economic support and address longstanding deficits in our communities and underlying inequities in our society, which have been so starkly revealed and exacerbated by COVID-19.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

[Oct. 14, 2020]

HALF OF TEXAS FACE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, SURVEY FINDS

(By Nataly Keomoungkhoun)

According to the Episcopal Health Foundation survey, Black and Hispanic people are much more likely to be concerned about another wave of COVID-19.

Half of Texans are experiencing some kind of financial hardship because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a new survey finds.

The survey, conducted by the Episcopal Health Foundation, highlights how the pandemic affects people across the state with different household incomes and races, with and without health insurance, and other factors. Nearly 1,900 Texans were surveyed.

"From being uninsured to not having internet access for online school, Texans say these nonmedical factors are not only shaping how they're dealing with the pandemic; they also could be seriously affecting their future health in many different ways," said Elena Marks, CEO of the foundation.

Roughly 22% of Texas residents are facing "severe hardship," the survey found, and an additional 28% are facing "moderate hardship."

Those with less than \$50,000 in household income were more likely to experience financial distress than those making more than \$50,000, according to the survey. A third of the people surveyed said someone in their home had lost a job or business or had work hours reduced.

Those deemed essential workers make up about 34% of Texans, the survey found. About 43% of essential workers are Hispanic, 38% are white and 10% are Black. According to the survey, those who hold essential jobs are more likely to receive government assistance such as food aid and Medicaid, and they are less likely to have health insurance.

Medical care has been postponed or skipped altogether by 36% of people since the start of the pandemic, the survey found. Most said their mental health was good, but 46% were worried about the effects of pandemic-related stress on their health.

Texas continues to have the highest rate of people in the nation without health insurance, with 29% saying they lack coverage.

The survey asked whether Texans were bracing for a worsening of the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, less than half said they were very concerned about another wave. But roughly 73% of Black Texans and 55% of Hispanic Texans said they were very concerned about another wave, compared with about 33% of white Texans.

A majority did not think the federal government was very prepared for another wave of COVID-19.

"These stark differences in concerns about the future show that COVID-19 is hitting Black and Hispanic Texans harder than anyone else," Marks said. "These groups are seeing more deaths and serious complications from the virus because they're more likely to already suffer chronic conditions related to where they live that make them more susceptible."

Nearly 75% of surveyed Texans said they received financial assistance from the federal government in the form of unemployment benefits, small-business loans and direct stimulus payments. One-fourth said they also received assistance from programs such as STAR Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Most Texans who receive these benefits are Black or Hispanic, the survey found.

About 18% of people said they had received help from a nonprofit organization, and 13% said they had received food from a local food bank during the pandemic.

"This kind of information is crucial to letting government and other recovery efforts know what Texans need to recover from the pandemic," Marks said. "We hope it helps make good decisions about how to reach those most in need with the help they need the most."

[From the Texas Tribune, Oct. 8, 2020]

"WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE": TEXANS SAY FEDERAL LEADERS' INACTION ON A NEW CORONA VIRUS AID PACKAGE IS ENDANGERING THEIR LIVELIHOODS

(By Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff and Trinady Joslin)

Texas business owners and unemployed residents feel like federal leaders of both parties are playing political games with their financial lives in the middle of a damaging recession.

Jacque Miles is three weeks away from losing everything—her home, her utilities and even the cellphone service she relies on to apply for five to six jobs a day.

The 54-year-old Myra resident was let go from her job at a merchandising agency in April and, like millions of Texans, has been watching Congress to see if it'll pass another federal relief package to help her make ends meet during the pandemic and its parallel economic recession.

But federal lawmakers and President Donald Trump have failed for months during a heated election year to reach a deal on a bill that could provide millions of Texans with a second \$1,200 stimulus check, additional unemployment benefits and more loans for small business owners hanging on by a thread.

"They all get to go home to their nice big house and eat their nice big meal," Miles said of the federal officials and lawmakers who have been working on a deal. "And I'm eating macaroni and cheese for the 10th time this week. How can that be happening?"

It's been a dizzying few days for Texans waiting to see if more assistance will come. Trump deflated hopes that an agreement would be reached soon when he tweeted Tuesday that he'd told his negotiators to halt discussions until after the Nov. 3 election. Later that evening, he seemingly walked back that request, calling for stand-alone bills funding specific programs, which U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi signaled she would not support.

Then on Thursday, according to media reports, Trump said talks had resumed. Pelosi's deputy chief of staff said she and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin discussed the prospects of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive bill. And on Friday, it appeared that the talks for a large relief package were back on.

But it is still not known if or when anything will pass, leaving struggling Texans to continue scraping by with no clear end in sight.

Miles likened the ever-changing developments to an "exhausting" tennis match.

"I'm just so disappointed with the government in general," she said. "Not any particular party, just the government in general. It's just so sad."

As families struggle to keep their water running and business owners pull in heavy losses, Texans are "heartbroken" and angry with the federal government's lack of support.

Workers and business owners said they feel like those in charge are playing games with their livelihoods and are out of touch with the people they represent at the same time that many of them are seeking their votes.

The prospects of a deal after the expiration of the CARES Act at the end of July has

been a political football for months. Democrats have proposed a \$2.2 trillion dollar package, which would bring back an additional \$600 in weekly unemployment payments, according to media reports. The White House has countered with a \$1.6 trillion dollar plan with \$400 in extra weekly unemployment, though it's unclear congressional Republicans would pass such a bill.

Both sides appear to agree on sending out another round of \$1,200 stimulus checks, which were first sent to people making \$75,000 or less this spring.

Further delay of any federal deal could also shutter more businesses, lead to evictions and cause permanent job losses for millions, according to various industry leaders. With reduced indoor capacity, economic hardships hitting their customers and colder weather soon threatening outdoor dining, no additional stimulus deal could be catastrophic for restaurants.

According to Texas Restaurant Association President and CEO Emily Williams Knight, 15% of Texas' 50,000 restaurants have already closed their doors permanently. With no stimulus plan, another 10% could close before the year ends, she said.

She's received countless calls from restaurant owners in tears because, after pouring years into their dream business, they had to shut down everything.

"It felt like a gut punch that the potential relief is officially done," said Knight. "Eight weeks of help for a seven month problem seems incredibly unreasonable."

"NO TIME TO BE PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES"

J.R. Gonzales, a top executive at the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce, said the lack of federal support has hit Hispanic Texans—who have disproportionately contracted and died from the virus—particularly hard.

"The back and forth to me is just political jockeying and a waste of time," he said, adding that he holds elected officials of both parties responsible for this failure, a sentiment held by most Texans who spoke to The Texas Tribune about a potential new relief package.

Gonzales said the Hispanic community he represents has a large number of small business owners, some of whom are struggling to stay open. Many of their customers are out of work or risk their lives to fill essential jobs.

"This is no time to be playing political games," Gonzales said. "Hispanic business owners and workers need these grants to put food on the table."

One such business is Beijing Bistro, which Janette Martinez, 25, took over from her father, Eddie, when he had a stroke in April. With \$250,000 in medical bills—Eddie does not have insurance—on top of the challenges of running the restaurant in Buda, Martinez feels like she's drinking water from a fire hose.

She's never run a business before and paused her plans to return to college and study business management to schedule shifts for cooks, manage the books and keep the family business afloat. The \$80,000 she received from the Paycheck Protection Program loans, which are now dwindling, allowed her to pay all her staff.

Still, Martinez has no idea if she's breaking even or losing money and works every hour the restaurant is open six days a week. On her birthday next week, her biggest wish for a celebration is just to get a day off. And see her dad.

"We're all just trying to survive as best we can out here," she said. "The longer they take choosing whether or not to pass the stimulus, the more dire the situation will become."

She, too, holds both parties responsible for failing to pass a plan.

Washington's inaction has made restaurant owners feel like they don't matter, Knight said.

"It was a lot of theatrics so they could go back to their constituents and demonstrate that they acted and it was someone else's fault," she said.

ECONOMIC ISSUES SPAN INDUSTRIES

Many of the issues restaurants face extend to industries across the state.

Ebele Iloanye, the owner of the retail store MODChic Couture in Sugar Land, has lost 70% in revenue over the last few months of the pandemic. Though she's kept up with her rent for now, largely with the help of her \$11,000 PPP loan, she's cut many of her employees.

A second stimulus package would ensure she could continue to pay her rent—and bring back the workers she's been unable to pay for months. That would mean they could then pay their bills as well.

"Things are bad all around, everybody can see it and we're just trying to survive," Iloanye said. "We're doing our part, and I really hope that they would now do theirs."

Iloanye did not cast blame on Trump specifically—though his tweets were the most recent example of what many consider political posturing—but said that all Washington politicians are to blame for this failure to do the job they were elected to do. Eddie Aldrete, the national affairs committee chair of the Texas Association of Business, agreed.

"Texas businesses are doing their best to weather this pandemic and help our state and nation recover," he said. "We can't do it alone, and we are hopeful that leaders in Washington can finally, for once, find common ground to provide a stimulus and relief package."

Miles said she just wants a reprieve. While she voted for Trump in 2016, she feels like neither party is willing to bend and offer people help. After more than seven months of seeing disaster everywhere she looks, she's struggling to stay optimistic.

Earlier this week, she said if the presidential vote was tomorrow, she would choose Biden. But on Thursday, after even more dizzying developments, she said if the election was tomorrow, she'd just stay home.

"It's hard to find a happy spot," she said. "It gets harder every day."

[From the Texas Tribune, Feb. 1, 2021]

10 MONTHS INTO PANDEMIC, TEXAS' UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STAYS NEAR GREAT RECESSION-LEVEL HIGHS

(By Anna Novak and Mitchell Ferman)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Texas' unemployment rate was 7.2% in December, up from 3.5% in December 2019.

SALES TAX REVENUES

In January, Texas collected \$3.1 billion in sales tax revenues, down 0.3% from January 2020.

Business shutdowns and limits on their operations through the coronavirus pandemic have battered Texas companies, which are now grappling with another devastating surge in infections as intensive care units at dozens of hospitals across the state are full.

Entire industries—bars and restaurants, tourism and travel, oil and gas—continue to struggle.

The unemployment rate in Texas decreased to 7.2% in December, more than double the rate of 3.5% a year earlier. Hungry and homeless Texans have been confused about the prospect of more federal coronavirus relief while the state's outdated and understaffed unemployment insurance office has

left countless Texans struggling to receive unemployment benefits as they navigate the Texas Workforce Commission's confusing processes.

A decline in Texas' sales tax revenues—the largest source of funding for the state budget—has created a shortfall that lawmakers will have to fill in the 2021 legislative session. Economists say weakened global demand for oil, high unemployment and the ongoing public health crisis will continue to weigh down Texas' economic recovery.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED IN
DECEMBER

Texas' unemployment rate in December was 7.2%—a decrease from the 8.1% November jobless rate, according to a Texas Workforce Commission report released Jan. 22. The state's unemployment rate for December is the latest indicator that the economic recovery in Texas will be slow and staggered.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM "RED"
LEWIS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man: William "Red" Lewis. A Green Bay native and successful businessman, Red Lewis personified the entrepreneurial spirit generosity Northeast Wisconsin is known for.

Born in 1942, Red was the youngest of four children. He attended Premontre High School (later to become Notre Dame de la Baie Academy) and graduated in 1960. After multiple jobs in the Green Bay area, Red began his career at the local PDQ car wash, working his way up to manager in 1967. Seeing an avenue to improve PDQ's cleanliness and efficiency, Red bought the business in 1974.

To enhance PDQ's customer experience, Red founded PDQ Manufacturing. His leadership drove PDQ into becoming the world's largest touchless car wash manufacturer with clients in over 30 countries. In recognition of his innovation and contribution to the industry, Red was inducted into the Car Wash Hall of Fame in 2000 by the International Carwash Association.

Beyond his business success, Red was well-known in the community for his kind heart and extensive philanthropy. He was deeply dedicated to giving back to a community that has supported him. He was particularly fond of supporting the Green Bay Boys & Girls Club, the Lac Baie Girl Scout Council, Catholic Charities, Manna for Life Ministries, NEW Zoo and St. Willebroed Parish. He was also generous to his alma mater, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, and local veterans organizations.

Red also had a passion for collecting cars, and in 2016 gifted the Green Bay community with The Automobile Gallery. This nonprofit is a beautiful addition to Green Bay's downtown whose collection of more than 120 automobiles spans 113 years. It boasts a 1912 Maxwell, 1963 Corvette, and 1982 DeLorean DMC-12, among many other restored models. Visitors from across the state come to Green Bay to enjoy the gallery which has quickly become a cherished community treasure.

Madam Speaker, words cannot adequately thank Red for his extraordinary commitment to

the Green Bay community. His passing will be mourned by many across Northeast Wisconsin. My prayers and condolences go out to his family and to all the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CAREN COWAN

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a New Mexican who has been a tireless advocate for our farmers, ranchers, and the families who work every day to provide for America. Caren Cowan is not only a friend of mine, but of the hardworking New Mexicans who she stands up for every day. As the 2020 Cattleman of the Year and for a lifetime of service, Ms. Cowan deserves our appreciation.

After graduating from Arizona University in 1975 with a degree in Agriculture Communications, Caren worked for the Arizona National Livestock Show, the American Red Brangus Association in Texas, and the New Mexico Wool Growers. She has served as the Executive Director for the New Mexico Cattle Growers since 1997 where she fights to protect the rights of livestock producers and ensure their voices are always heard on every issue. She has taken on battles in the courtroom, tackled the often burdensome statutory and regulatory requirements head on, and successfully navigated the bureaucracies' often confusing rules and regulations, something not easily done. For 23 years Caren has been at the forefront of these issues and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the organization's members.

As a leader on the issues facing the farmers and ranchers of New Mexico, Ms. Cowan is training the next generation of advocates to ensure the New Mexico's agricultural families always have a voice. We are forever grateful for her work and dedication to the state we love.

MR. AND MRS. ORESTUS AND
GERALDINE FLOWERS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Orestus and Geraldine Flowers of Burkesville for recently celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers have displayed commitment in all facets of their life. At twenty-two years of age, Mr. Flowers left his then-girlfriend, Geraldine, to serve in the Army for three-and-a-half-years during World War II. Mr. Flowers kept a picture of Geraldine in his wallet during the war, and upon returning, married Geraldine on February 1, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Flowers displayed an exemplary level of commitment to both each other and our nation through his military service.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers raised their family in Cumberland County, Kentucky. They and their three daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren have been a staple in the community of Burkesville. Mr. Flowers

has served in numerous capacities in the local community. In 1952, he brought Houchens Market to Burkesville, where he served as manager for 32 years. After retiring from Houchens, he has continued work at Norris and New Funeral Home, where he is still showing off the picture of his wife that he took to war with him seventy-eight years ago.

Once again, I would like to join everyone in Burkesville and throughout the 1st District of Kentucky in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Flowers on this extraordinary milestone.

HONORING VETERANS DURING
NATIONAL SALUTE WEEK

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to veterans cared for by the Department of Veterans Affairs in northeast Indiana and across the United States.

Each year, the week of February 14 is an opportunity for Americans to express their collective gratitude for the more than 9 million veterans of the United States Armed Services who are cared for in the VA system. This year's National Salute Week is the most important one to date, given the difficult times our nation has faced over the last 12 months with many of America's veterans hardest hit.

This week also serves as an opportunity for Hoosiers and Americans everywhere to learn about the role of the VA medical system, to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers Nationwide, over 61,000 volunteers provide more than 9.2 million volunteer hours serving America's veterans. Volunteers are a priceless asset to our veterans, to the VA and to the country.

As a veteran myself and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in Congress, I am honored to have served in uniform and to serve the people of northeast Indiana in Congress. One of my top priorities has been, and always will be, ensuring those who served the United States receive the honor, care, and opportunity they deserve.

This is a testament to the honor and sacrifice of those heroes who have served our country, and to those who serve them.

HONORING JOE LAROCCO

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Charles LaRocco of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 67. Joe was a longtime coach and educator in Roanoke County who encouraged students and athletes toward excellence.

Joe was born in Schenectady, New York on October 28, 1953. He grew up in Roanoke, graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1972, and graduated from Roanoke College in 1976. As a young man, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout and was a standout track and field and cross country athlete, eventually