

needed \$3 billion investment in maternal health. The President's proposal provides an opportunity to make considerable investments in federal funding to address this crisis, including policies included in the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act of 2021 and a permanent expansion of yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage. By advancing these two priorities in the recent recovery package, we comprehensively addressed every driver of our nation's maternal health crisis.

The Omnibus includes investments that will be needed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, including investments in community-based organizations, policies to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, expanded access to maternal mental health care treatments and support, measures to address the impacts of climate change on maternal and infant health outcomes, and provisions to protect pregnant people during this pandemic and any future public health emergency.

My bill, the Maternal Vaccination Act or H.R. 951, directly addresses the health of both moms and babies. This bill is critically important because although we know that maternal vaccinations are important for the health of moms and babies, only half of pregnant people get their flu vaccines and less than half get Tdap vaccinations to protect against pertussis.

With pertussis on the rise and outbreaks occurring across the United States, we need to invest in initiatives to promote maternal immunizations and address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal vaccination rates. Even though, white adults have higher vaccination coverage than Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American adults, there is more that can be done to close this gap.

I was proud to author the Maternal Vaccination Act because it provides funding for programs to increase maternal vaccination rates, protecting both new moms and their babies.

Specifically, the Maternal Vaccination Act will provide funding for a public and provider awareness campaign to promote maternal and child vaccinations. This includes initiatives to increase awareness about the safety, importance, and effectiveness of vaccines for pregnant and postpartum people and their children; provide targeted, evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate resources about vaccines to pregnant and postpartum people, particularly in communities with historically low vaccination rates; and provide evidence-based information and resources on the safety and importance of maternal and child vaccinations to public health departments, maternal health care providers, and perinatal health workers.

This bill, like the Build Back Better Act legislation, will provide historic investments from the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act to save moms' lives, end racial and ethnic maternal health disparities, and advance birth equity across the United States.

ALBERT ZONA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Albert Zona of Pleasantville, South Jersey. At the age of 18, Albert was drafted into the Army during World War II and

was stationed in Japan. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Sergeant in 1947. After he was discharged, Albert worked several full-time jobs as an auto mechanic until he was able to start his own business. He then opened his first service station at Edgewater Avenue and Main Street and was one of the eight original founding members of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Company, Station 2. Around 1952, Al moved his service station to Absecon and transferred from Pleasantville to Absecon Volunteer Fire Department. He then sold that service station in 1998, ending his career as a volunteer firefighter. Al should be proud of his accomplishments and service to the South Jersey community and to America. I thank Al for his service. God Bless Al and God Bless America.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JOAQUIN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Joaquin Memorial High School on its 75th anniversary. On October 1, 2021, this phenomenal educational institution will have been serving the youth of the San Joaquin Valley for 75 years.

San Joaquin Memorial was founded in 1945 by the late Most Reverend Philip G. Scher and was the first Diocesan Catholic High School with junior high students in the Monterey-Fresno Diocese. San Joaquin Memorial was named by individuals from the San Joaquin Valley who gave their lives in World War II.

That same year of 1945, classes commenced after the construction was completed on the first three buildings. Shortly thereafter, the fourth and fifth buildings were constructed and ready to be filled with students. The first mass was held on October 3rd; the first rally was on November 9th and the first football game on November 19th. The first yearbook was released in May of 1946. The school has continuously expanded and more programs were added. Since then, the high school has become a premiere educational institution in the Valley.

During the 1970s, Brother Phillip and Sister Ann Veronica became the first Vice-Principals of the high school. In 1981, Mary Alice Diener Library was built, and the science building was dedicated to the memory of Br. S. Albert FSC and Sr. Paola Harbeke CSC. Both individuals were the founding principals for San Joaquin Memorial.

The school is home to state-of-the-art technology, strong community service involvement, and several programs outside of standard scholarly activity for their students to take advantage of. They won the 1991 Valley Football Championship over Garces in the Super Holy Bowl and continuing into the 2000s, they dominated in athletics with many talented young student athletes and a talented coaching staff. Because of these advancements, many athletes enjoyed new equipment and renovations by generous individuals who had a passion for the school.

Over the years, San Joaquin Memorial has emphasized their commitment to faith, service,

and community within a rigorous college-preparatory learning environment that effectively prepares their students for their university education and the work force.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my Alma Mater, San Joaquin Memorial High School on its 75th anniversary. Its service and contributions to the State of California and the San Joaquin Valley will always be celebrated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Government Accountability Office Home Rule Act. This bill would repeal the authority of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) over the District of Columbia.

GAO, a federal agency that conducts investigations and audits for Congress, has the same authority over D.C. that it has over federal agencies. GAO's authorizing statute defines D.C. as a federal agency. In addition, GAO's authorizing statute and the D.C. Home Rule Act require GAO to engage in specific types of oversight of D.C.

D.C. is not a federal agency, and it should never be treated as such. The District already has a locally appointed auditor and inspector general, so GAO's authority over D.C. is both redundant and offensive. GAO does not have general authority over states and cities, and therefore should not have such authority over D.C.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District and does not require statehood. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MADAME JOSEPHINE BAKER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a very historic occasion for the international community as we celebrate the life of American-born singer, dancer, World War II hero and civil rights icon Josephine Baker.

On November 30th, Madame Baker will be reinterred in a ceremony at the Pantheon monument in Paris, France. This will make her the first American, the first Black woman, and the first entertainer to receive the country's highest honor. Madame Baker's induction into the Paris Pantheon will put her among the company of the highest French achievers in Arts, Letters, and Science.

Though born an American citizen, Madame Baker lived most of her life in France and became a French citizen in the 1930s. Growing up homeless and in poverty, she became an internationally recognized entertainer and actress. However, her contributions did not stop

in the arts. She was also a key member of the French Resistance movement during World War II, acting as a spy, as she gathered intelligence and smuggled messages for resistance forces.

After the war, Madame Baker was awarded with one of France's top military honors, the Croix de Guerre, for her role in resisting occupation under the Nazis.

Even as France became her home, Madame Baker never turned her back on the United States and the social injustice happening here. She used her celebrity to push against Jim Crow segregation and leveraged her platform to support the Civil Rights Movement happening at the time. On numerous occasions, she returned to the United States to perform. However, she refused to play in segregated establishments and championed racial equality—including right here in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the 1950's Madame Baker appeared with Paul Robeson supporting better pay for Oakland dock workers and longshoreman, she took part in Berkeley protests demanding Black people be hired as transit workers on the Key Line, and she warned that she would not perform at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre unless Black patrons could buy tickets to her concerts.

For her civil rights activities in challenging racial segregation, Madame Baker was labeled "a communist troublemaker" and put on the FBI watchlist. She lost her U.S. citizenship rights for over a decade.

It was not until the intervention of then U.S. Attorney General, Robert Kennedy, that she was finally allowed to return to the U.S. in 1963 to speak at the March on Washington.

Wearing her French Resistance military uniform, Madame Baker was one of the few women speakers to address the crowd that day as a quarter million people gathered before the Lincoln monument.

"You know I have always taken the rocky path," she told the crowd. "I never took the easy one, but as I get older, and as I knew I had the power and the strength, I took that rocky path and I tried to smooth it out a little. I wanted to make it easier for you. I want you to have a chance at what I had."

This is the legacy of Madame Josephine Baker that we celebrate and uplift on the global stage. From the Pantheon in Paris to the halls of the U.S. Congress, we honor her contributions, courage, and conviction to make this world a better place for us all.

On behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I commend Madame Josephine Baker for her service and dedication.

SEA ISLE CITY BEACH PATROL

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, in October, I had the opportunity to attend the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol Annual Hall of Fame Induction. The Sea Isle Beach Patrol was officially formed in 1919 to protect beachgoers who vacationed in the popular resort town. It started as just two lifeguards and three volunteers and has now grown into a large group. At the induction I attended, Robert Herzog, Bill

Feaster, Jr., Jim Guntle, Jordy Troyan, Danny Rodgers, and Pat Scannapieco were inducted into the Beach Patrol Hall of Fame. These individuals should be proud of their accomplishments and service to South Jersey, and it was my honor to watch the ceremony. God Bless the Sea Isle Beach Patrol, and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MONDAIRE JONES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to record my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 386.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHRYN BONNIE HASSETT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kathryn Bonnie Hassett. Kathryn passed away in her Merced home on August 26, 2021 after a seven-year battle with cancer. Kathryn was a mother, daughter, grandmother, and friend.

Kathryn was the daughter of Ken and Midge Riggs. She went to school in Merced, California at Merced High School and later went on to study at California State University, Fresno where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences. After graduating from Fresno State, Kathryn attended the University of San Francisco where she graduated with her Master of Arts Degree in Educational Psychology, with an emphasis on Marriage and Family.

She was reunited with Frank "Flip" Hassett while attending Fresno State, as they had first met when they were much younger at the Skimmers swim meets. During their time in college, they dated until they were married in 1975, after Kathy began her career in Social Services with Merced County while Flip coached swimming and water polo. They had two children together in 1977 and 1979.

In her free time, Kathy always enjoyed trying new things while spending time outdoors and traveling. She and her husband Flip especially loved rafting in Class 5 rivers all over the West and even in the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. In addition to rafting, Kathy was skilled at snow and water skiing in Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, China Peak, and various other locations.

Once she retired after 35 years with Merced County, Kathy continued her love for travel and exploration by partaking in several sea and river cruises all over the world, including a Disney Cruise in 2018 to Cabo San Lucas, when she was able to bring all of their children and grandchildren along for the trip.

Kathy was an active member of various community organizations in Merced including the League of Women Voters, Leadership Merced—Class 14, United Way, the Hospital

Assistance League, MCMC Foundation, Federal Emergency Management Team, Continuity of Care Committee, Specialized Management Area Response Team, Adult Services Committee, and CalWorks Advisory Committee. In addition to her commitment to Merced County, Kathy also worked in associations at the state level, including Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and Human Services Directors.

Her dedication to her community demonstrated her immense faith in humanity. Her warm spirit and loving charm was something she never failed to share with her children, family, and the community of the Central Valley and California as a whole.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband Frank "Flip" Hassett; her children Heather Shepherd (Kelcey) and Frank Hassett (Amber); and siblings Karen Davey (Erwin), Curtis Riggs (Gaye), and Kraig Riggs (Robin).

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Kathryn Bonnie Hassett. Her service and contributions to the Central Valley and the State of California will be long remembered. I join her family and friends in celebrating Kathryn's life.

HONORING DAVID N. SHAFER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor David N. Shafer, a constituent who lives in Whittier, California, as he retires after 31 years of work providing affordable housing for American families.

David has dedicated his life to increasing access to affordable housing for Californians. During his tenure at WNC, a leading affordable housing fund, David served as Chief Legal Officer and oversaw all legal affairs. In this role, he was instrumental in the underwriting, negotiation, and acquisition of more than 1,400 affordable housing communities representing over 93,000 apartment units for low-income families, senior citizens, and veterans.

David contributed his extensive insight and knowledge of affordable housing to his industry by serving as president and long-time member of the board of directors of the California Council for Affordable Housing and as director for the Council of Affordable and Rural Housing. Guided by an unwavering commitment to "do the right thing," David has been a respected mentor to a countless number of colleagues in his career.

David has been married for 34 years to his wife Monica. David and Monica are blessed with three children and seven grandchildren. David's children describe him as the rock and foundation of their family. They praise him for his kindness, compassion, attentiveness, and love.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing David Shafer a happy retirement and thanking him for years of service in the affordable housing space. His work has improved the lives of many individuals and will continue to do so for years to come.