

where he perfected his milkshake recipe. He began his career in road construction at Boyer, Johnson and Kimes. He eventually became a partner and then sole owner of the company. He served until his death as president and board member of the Mississippi Road Builders Association.

Earl went on to marry his class president, Elaine. The two spent 59 years together and had three children. The family were members of Friendship Baptist Church where Earl served as Church Clerk, Assistant Moderator, choir member and served on many committees. He was committed to the revitalization of downtown Baldwin and was very connected to his family.

Earl Stone was an outstanding Mississippian and a man dedicated to his family and faith. He will be deeply missed.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EMANCIPATION STATUE REMOVAL ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Emancipation Statue Removal Act, the first in a series of statue and memorial removal bills I will introduce during Black History Month. The bill would remove the Emancipation Statue from Lincoln Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or a similar entity.

The Emancipation Statue was dedicated on April 14, 1876, the 11th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Although formerly enslaved Americans paid for this statue, it was designed and sculpted without their input, and it shows. The paternalistic statue depicting a Black man on his knees in front of President Lincoln fails to recognize African Americans' agency in pressing for their own emancipation.

Understandably, recently liberated African Americans during the Reconstruction era were grateful for any recognition of their freedom in a country where they still experienced virtually total exclusion from American life. However, even at the time of its unveiling, prominent Black Americans expressed their displeasure with the statue's design, including Frederick Douglass. During his keynote address at the statue's unveiling, Frederick Douglass pointedly did not praise the statue. Rather, in a letter to the editor of the National Republican a few days after the unveiling, Douglass expressed his dismay at the statue: "The negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and nude. What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."

At the end of last year, Boston removed its replica of the statue and plans to place it in a publicly accessible location where it can be better contextualized. It is time for Congress to place the original statue in a museum, too.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.  
CHRISTINE OLDHAM

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Christine Oldham, Superintendent of the Ligonier Valley School District, on her retirement.

Dr. Oldham began her educational career as an elementary school teacher in 1988 in Camden, Delaware. She then served as an assistant principal at Westside Elementary School in the Greater Johnstown School District and as a principal in the Conemaugh Township School District. Before joining the Ligonier Valley School District, she served as the Superintendent of the Ferndale Area School District for five years.

At the Ligonier Valley School District, Dr. Oldham has been recognized for her leadership on key initiatives and projects. In accordance with recent educational research, she introduced a new, customized learning approach that allows students to proceed at their own pace while being supported by a teacher or learning coach. In 2008, she also oversaw the successful merger with the Laurel Valley Middle/High School.

Dr. Oldham earned a bachelor's degree from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree from Delaware State University, and a doctorate degree from Wilmington College. As she retires on June 30, 2021, Dr. Oldham will mark 13 years of service to Ligonier Valley students, teachers, staff, and families. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I thank Dr. Oldham for her steadfast service to our community. As Dr. Oldham embarks on the next chapter of her life, I wish her every continued happiness.

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#### INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2021

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the cultural and historical significance of International Mother Language Day. Established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999, International Mother Language Day raises awareness of linguistic diversity and multilingualism. Every year since I have been a Member of Congress, I have introduced legislation to recognize the significance of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day is celebrated around the world on February 21st and holds special importance for the Bangladeshi American community. On February 21, 1952 Bangladeshi students died while demonstrating for recognition of Bengali as a national language of Pakistan. International Mother Language Day is an important day to commemorate those who have fought for the right for their language to be recognized.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a diverse and rich linguistic and cultural heritage. The Census Bureau reports there are

over 300 spoken languages in the United States, 169 of these are native languages. According to UNESCO, 145 languages in the United States are classified as "endangered."

Preserving existing languages is an essential component of preserving our rich and diverse heritage.

Madam Speaker, I believe we must continue to promote linguistic diversity and linguistic education in our country. We cannot allow the 145 endangered languages in our nation to become extinct. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

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#### CONGRATULATING HERMAN AND BOBBIE GOLDBERGER FOR THEIR STEWARDSHIP OF THE HEBREW WATCHMAN

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Herman and Bobbie Goldberger on their retirement. Their family-owned labor of love, The Hebrew Watchman, has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Memphis for 95 years. Founded in 1925 as The Memphis Watchman by Leo I. Goldberger, Herman's father, it has chronicled Memphis Jewish life with grace and devotion for generations. I am very pleased to see that Jewish Living of the South Inc., and Jewish Scene Magazine editor and publisher Susan C. Nieman, have acquired this important and beloved cultural institution and have pledged to keep it going for another 95 years. I want to thank Herman and Bobbie Goldberger for their stewardship of The Hebrew Watchman and wish them well in retirement.

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#### IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE JAMES KERSTEN'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO 33RD DISTRICT COURT

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge James Kersten on the occasion of his retirement after serving nearly 25 years as the 33rd District Judge in Woodhaven, Michigan. His contributions to the community are worthy of commendation.

Judge Kersten grew up in Trenton, graduating from Trenton High School. In 1977, Judge Kersten graduated from Michigan State University and in 1980 he earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Kersten started his career as an attorney in Flat Rock where he represented local families and businesses. Later, he served as a Wayne County mediator and arbitrator for 10 years and eventually, Judge Kersten was elected to serve as the 33rd District judge following in the footsteps of his father, Judge Kurt Kersten.

During his time as a Judge, he encouraged people in trouble to use that experience and make a positive change in their lives and was known for his skillful mediation of long standing civil disputes.

Beyond his work in the judiciary, he is an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

the Elks Club of Flat Rock, Flat Rock Rotary, and Downriver youth sports. He has demonstrated his commitment to the entire Michigan community, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize his distinguished work today.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable James Kersten for an exemplary career in public service. He has effectively served Woodhaven and the state of Michigan in his role as the 33rd District Judge through his selflessness and dedication to the community. I join with Judge James' family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF PATRICK DRAGON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of dedicated and heroic public servant, Patrick Dragon, of Brooklyn, Connecticut. Mr. Dragon passed, at only age 50, on January 2, 2021, after a courageous battle with coronavirus.

A lifelong resident of Brooklyn, Connecticut, Patrick was drawn to serve his community through public safety. Entering public service at early age, he began as an Emergency Medical Technician and then joined the 107th Training Troop of the Connecticut State Police. Upon graduation in January 1998, Patrick returned to his local community serving as a Patrol Trooper at Troop D in nearby Danielson, then as the Resident State Trooper in Sterling, and a Major Crime Unit Detective. Always wanting to do more, he also became a certified Fire Investigator/Fire Marshal with the State Police's Fire & Explosion Unit. It was through this assignment that Patrick acted as first responder to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

That horrific day transformed the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Dragon's. In the years following the tragedy, he found healing through service to a new community—his peers in law enforcement through the Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program (VALEAP). This unique peer-led program brought together law enforcement professionals who have experienced unbelievable traumas while on duty. Patrick sincerely committed himself to this program, serving as a peer leader and mentor, working with over 250 emotionally and physically traumatized law enforcement professionals from around the country. VALEAP administrators commended Mr. Dragon for his service and have noted that his passing will leave an "immeasurable void" within the program.

Although he had overcome immeasurable challenges—Patrick's motivation for service to his community never wavered. Upon retirement from the State Police in 2018 he transitioned into a new role as an emergency dispatcher with the Foster Police Department in the neighboring State of Rhode Island. Amazingly, during that entire 34 years of police work he was also a dedicated member of the East Brooklyn Fire Department, serving most recently as deputy chief.

Mr. Dragon's loss leaves a deep void from Eastern Connecticut all the way to Virginia

and beyond. His dedication to both local community and fellow officer has made the State of Connecticut more safe and his workforce more whole.

Madam Speaker, knowing of Patrick Dragon's selfless service and how he has responded to unimaginable tragedy, it is objective to state his work represents the best of law enforcement. I hope the chamber will join me in expressing the deepest condolences on behalf of the House of Representatives to the Dragon family—his parents Robert and Ann Marie; older sister Michele Hearn and younger brother Jason Dragon. I hope this testament to Patrick's life serves as an acknowledgement of the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed to him by the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEDFORD  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALAN  
FREDERICK

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate new Bedford County Commissioner Alan Frederick of Rainsburg, Pennsylvania on his appointment for this role, in which he is slated to serve through 2023.

Commissioner Frederick has been a resident of Bedford County since 1952. He has worked on his family farm for his entire life as a dairy and grain farmer. Commissioner Frederick also has served on the boards of several economic and community organizations. Prior to his selection as Commissioner, he had served as a board member of the Bedford County Development Association for 11 years, including one year as chairman. He also has served as a board member for the Bedford Farm Bureau Co-Op for 10 years, including four years as president. Additionally, he served as a board member for the Pennsylvania Beef Council for six years, including one year as chairman. In recognition of this service, he received the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2008.

As Commissioner Frederick begins his tenure on the Bedford County Board of Commissioners, I thank him for his willingness to serve our region and wish him the best in this endeavor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER  
JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF,  
"BOE" FONTAINE

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Former Jefferson County Sheriff Edward Lewis "Boe" Fontaine. Sheriff Fontaine passed away on Sunday, January 17 following a battle with COVID-19, leaving behind a county and Fourth District which mourns the loss of a friend, a helper, and a true servant leader.

Beginning his law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff assigned to the Uniformed Pa-

rol Division in 1980, he was later elected as the 30th Jefferson County Sheriff, serving two terms from 1999 to 2006. Appointed by then Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee in 2001, Sheriff Fontaine served as a Commissioner on the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST). Prior to his service at home, Sheriff Fontaine served 21 years in the United States Marine Corps, retiring as a gunnery sergeant. For his heroism in action, he became one of the most decorated Arkansas service members in history. Most notable of those awards include four Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star with a combat "V."

In addition to his life of leadership in the military and in local law enforcement, Sheriff Fontaine was known as a family man and valuable member of the community, along with his wife of 60 years, Maye Winston Fontaine. Together, they raised a daughter, Kim, and worshipped as members of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Sheriff "Boe" Fontaine. I thank him and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFRICAN  
DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 18, 2021*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my colleagues, Representatives GREGORY MEEKS, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, GWEN MOORE, and BOBBY RUSH to introduce the African Descent Affairs Act. As we celebrate Black History Month and continue to highlight the International Decade for People of African Descent, we have seen a sharp increase in racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and other forms of prejudice and discrimination across the globe. Global racial justice movements in response to the tragic death of George Floyd have not only drawn attention to the problem, but also to opportunities to join international efforts to develop and implement global and national solutions.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing, within the United States State Department, a Global Office of African Descent Affairs. In addition to developing global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent, the bill would also create a "Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; require Annual State Department Human Rights Reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent; and create similar initiatives at the United States Agency for International Development that would work in partnership with the State Department.

U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe. The State Department has already launched many successful