

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-

trol 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

initiatives that have aided specific and vulnerable populations, such as the Office of Global Women's Issues, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism—now an Ambassadorship, and special initiatives and funds focused on disability, LGBTQ+ and other communities.

I am greatly encouraged by recent Executive Orders from President Biden focused on equity and justice in this country and see the adoption of the African Descent Affairs Act as complementary to these domestic actions. Implemented together, these actions could facilitate the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world. I urge you to join me in supporting this bill.

IN MEMORY OF HUEY CLIFTON
MCLEAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Huey Clifton McLean.

HUEY CLIFTON MCLEAN

Huey Clifton McLean, 69, of Lexington passed away Wednesday, November 4, 2020. He was born to the late Pete Monroe and Glennie Mae McLean.

Huey proudly served in the United States Army during Vietnam. He retired his military career with the South Carolina National Guard.

Surviving are his wife, Rebekah McLean; son, Michael (Jennifer) McLean; daughter, Kelly (Keith) Veidt; and grandchildren, Ryan (Emma) Veidt, Reilly Veidt, Kenlee McLean and Adam McLean. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia McLean Parrish and predeceased in death by his brother, Wallace Monroe McLean.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF AUTO-
MOTIVE COLOR & SUPPLY CORP.

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate northeast Indiana-based automotive and industrial paint supplier and distributor Automotive Color & Supply Corporation for 70 years of business.

Richard Byers, Sr., acquired part ownership of the company and began to operate the business shortly after its founding in 1951. Richard attained full ownership of the company in 1970, and the Byers family has owned and operated Automotive Color as a family business since.

Automotive Color has established itself as one of the leading automotive and industrial paint and supply distributors not just in the Midwest but throughout the United States. Paint from Automotive Color is used on race cars, commercial and private aircraft, spacecraft, ocean vessels, movies and TV show sets, and more.

At a time when American industry is in convalescence from the coronavirus pandemic, this historic milestone is even more extraordinary.

Hoosiers are thankful for and proud of Automotive Colors' contributions to northeast Indiana and the country. This record is testament to the exceptional service and quality they have provided, and will continue to provide, for generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY
BULLET

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Anthony Bullet on his appointment to Huntingdon Borough's newly-formed human relations commission.

The goal of the commission is to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and other public services to all people, regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, and other protected categories. Local governments have a responsibility to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of their citizens are observed, and I know that leaders like Mr. Bullet in Huntingdon take that responsibility seriously.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Bullet for his leadership and service to Huntingdon Borough and congratulate him on being appointed to this commission.

JOE "VAL" VALENTIN VIGIL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe "Val" Valentin Vigil of Thornton, Colorado who passed away on February 5, 2021.

Val, as he was known, was born on July 9, 1947 in Taos, New Mexico to Manuel Vigil and Felicia Vallejos. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and secondary education from Adams State University in 1971. Val went on to start his own financial consulting business, Vigil & Company, which he continued operating until his passing.

Val served in local and state government in Colorado for many years. I had the pleasure of working with him when he was a State Representative for House District 32 and during his tenure as a Thornton City Councilmember for eight years—two of which he was Mayor Pro Tem. Beginning in the 1970's, Val became active in the Democratic party for many years where he advocated for the Latino community and issues such as education. During his term in the Colorado State Legislature from 1999 to 2006, he became known for his legacy of promoting higher educational opportunities for students across Colorado. One of Val's lasting impacts on Colorado was his work to pass the ASSET Bill (Senate Bill 13-033), which grants in-state tuition to undocumented students.

In addition to his service in state and local government, Val served on the Board of Trustees for Adams State University from 2011 through 2019. He was an active member of the Adams State Denver Alumni Chapter, and volunteered many hours at local schools as a

guest speaker. He was in high demand to speak on immigration issues and was considered an expert on the topic, as he was the first legislator in Colorado to introduce the in-state tuition legislation in 2000.

Val was known and admired for his passion for community service and his dedication to expanding educational opportunities and advocating for issues important to Colorado's Latino community. Val was a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather. He loved camping, fishing, gardening, and spending time with his family. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Celina Annabelle Vigil, children Nadine (Sammy) Cordova and Valerie Vigil, and grandchildren Brandon, Jared (Brianna), and Amanda (Jorge) and one great grandchild, Hazel. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

HONORING THE LIVES OF AL AND
DORA PADILLA

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Al Padilla, who passed away on October 4, 2020, at the age of 90, and his wife, Dora Padilla, who passed away on January 8, 2021, at the age of 86 from COVID-19. Al and Dora touched the lives of countless students in the San Gabriel Valley and were larger than life figures in their communities.

Hector Albert "Al" Padilla was born on March 22, 1930 in Tucson, Arizona, and moved to Los Angeles in 1939. Following high school, Al joined the United States Army and then enrolled in junior college. He transferred to Occidental College and was an all-conference guard on the Occidental football team. After years of playing sports at a young age, Al knew that coaching and mentoring young athletes was his calling. Al coached football at his alma mater, Roosevelt High School, before moving to rival Garfield High School. He went on to be the head football coach at East L.A. College, where he coached the Huskies to a state title in 1974 and was voted the California "Coach of the Year." But it wasn't just wins and losses that made Al a legend in the East L.A. community, it was his impact on the lives of generations of players. Al demanded good grades and sportsmanship from all of his players, and taught them the importance of caring for their loved ones, teammates, and community. And long after his players would graduate, he would stay in touch with them, because he believed that his role as a mentor didn't end when he left the football field.

Al's wife, Dora Padilla, was born on October 4, 1934 to Mexican immigrants. Dora began her long career in education by helping in her children's kindergarten classroom and by leading fundraisers as her children grew up in the Alhambra Unified School District. As she became more involved in school functions, she personally saw what students needed and was determined to bring change at the district level. She ran for the Alhambra Unified School District Board of Education on the slogan "Querer al niño es educarlo," or "To love a child is to educate a child," and won her seat