

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FLORIDA
A&M UNIVERSITY BRAGG MEMO-
RIAL COVID-19 TESTING SITE

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to highlight the impactful work that is being done at the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Bragg Memorial COVID-19 testing site in Tallahassee, Florida.

Since the start of the start of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the FAMU testing site has been providing free testing for residents of Tallahassee/Leon County, and indeed all of North Florida and South Georgia for nearly 10 months.

The FAMU COVID-19 testing center first opened on April 25, 2020, and has administered more than 234,000 tests. I applaud FAMU for springing into action to address the needs of North Florida residents by serving as a COVID-19 testing site. I am convinced that their efforts have helped to save lives in our community.

Madam Speaker, I would especially like to thank FAMU President Larry Robinson, Tanya Tatum, FAMU Director of Student Health Services, Cynthia Harris, Ph.D., FAMU associate dean for Public Health, and all the others who saw the need and spearheaded this effort, along with the frontline heroes coordinating and administering the tests.

Their efforts are working to keep us safe and save lives. They are putting their health and safety at risk for the safety of our families and to protect our community. I understand the tremendous sacrifices they are making, and I sincerely appreciate their service.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EN-
SURE FAIR ACCESS AND OPPOR-
TUNITY TO FEDERAL JOBS FOR
ALL AMERICANS

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 bill to ensure fair access and opportunity to Federal jobs for all Americans. For close to two decades now, I and many of my colleagues have been fighting to increase diversity in the federal workforce. In particular, I have focused on the international affairs and national security sector where I have called for a diversity plan from the Director of National Intelligence, as well as for the Department of State and USAID. During the 116th Congress, in my capacity as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I held hearings and supported initiatives focused on equity and justice issues in the United States and abroad. And, I have not been alone in my efforts. House and Senate committees responsible for our foreign relations and national security held several hearings focused on diversity in federal agencies. Additionally, Congressionally mandated reports from the Government Accountability Office found that diversity targets set close to a

decade ago were not being met at the State Department and USAID.

My colleagues and I have engaged in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the Federal government not because they are nice or correct, but because they are what is in the best interest for the longevity of our nation. The U.S. workforce is becoming more racially, ethnically, and otherwise diverse, with estimates that, by 2050, over half of the workforce will be made up of Americans from diverse populations. Jobs across our government, whether they are in the military, intelligence, foreign service, health, or education sectors, will require that we not only hire, but also retain a more diverse federal workforce to sustain the needs of our country and remain a stable democracy.

To do so, we must have a plan. My bill calls for a government-wide diversity and inclusion plan that ensures that all branches of government are engaged in multi-year strategic planning that recruits, hires, promotes, retains, and supports leadership from America's diverse talent pool in the federal workforce for the good of our country. It also calls for a review of diversity, equity, and inclusion in government contracting and grantmaking, as both are often also pathways to government employment.

My bill therefore complements and provides an essential tool for executing the recent Executive Orders on racial equity and addressing discrimination and disparities in the workplace released by President Biden over the past two weeks.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are the underpinnings of democratic societies. It is time that we enforce democratic values by ensuring all segments of our society have equal access and opportunity to contribute to a vibrant workforce that is at the heart of our democracy for the future of our nation.

HONORING MR. SAM SPRUELL OF
MOUNT HOPE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sam Spruell from Mount Hope, Alabama who passed away on January 7, 2021 after a life of sixty-three years. He was an upstanding citizen of our state, a respected member of the Mount Hope community, and an outstanding businessman and farmer.

Sam Spruell was an Alabamian through and through, widely known for the kindness and friendship he displayed throughout his entire life. More importantly, Sam was a husband, father, and farmer who cared deeply about his work and the people around him. Never missing an opportunity to lend a helping hand, Sam was always available to those who needed him.

Sam was also a champion for Alabama cotton and the producers throughout the state. He served as President of the Southern Cotton Growers from 2004 through 2005, a testament to his dedication and passion to the industry. He was also a member of the Southeastern Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, the Alabama Cotton Commission, and the Na-

tional Cotton Council. There is no doubt that Sam's countless hours of hard work in these arenas made an indelible impact for the State of Alabama and the nation—one that will continue for years to come.

Sam Spruell was a sincere and true man of God. As a leader of the Community Clothes Closet and Ministry of Hope, Sam played a key role in serving those around him. He went on to donate an entire building to The Caring Place, a charity near and dear to his heart.

Sam Spruell is now survived by his wife Lynn Spruell, and two children, Jonathon Spruell and Liz Rhodes. In addition, he is survived by his five grandchildren, Shelby, Madi, Max, Mia, and Cam.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Sam's family and friends. The Fourth District, the state of Alabama, and the nation have lost a friend and patriot. However, there is no question that his legacy and impact will live on well into the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER
PINE BLUFF MAYOR, CAROLYN
ROBINSON

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 Mayor of Pine Bluff, Carolyn Robinson. Mayor Robinson passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2021, leaving behind a legacy of service to her community.

Elected the first female city council member in 1978, Robinson became the first female Mayor of Pine Bluff, serving two terms from 1984 to 1992. She was described by her colleagues in public service as a trailblazer who broke all the barriers to best serve her city.

Born August 6, 1936, in nearby Cornerstone, Mayor Robinson graduated from Altheimer High School. In 1960, she married Fred Robinson, and together, they raised three children, Renee, Tina, and Robbie. With three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, she was known as a committed family woman.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Mayor Carolyn Robinson. I thank her and her family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALTOONA
POLICE CHIEF JANICE FREEHLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Altoona Police Chief Janice Freehling on her retirement.

Chief Freehling has honorably served the Altoona Police Department for more than 44 years. During her career, she has held the following positions: Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and most recently Chief.

In 2001, she was promoted to Chief of the department and is the first woman to serve in

the position. Under her leadership, the Altoona Police Department has persevered through challenges and experienced much success. Specifically, Chief Freehling has been recognized for her excellent management of the department, as well as her work to modernize the department with 21st century tools and

training. Thanks to Chief Freehling's hard work and dedication, the City of Altoona is a safe community to live, work, and raise a family.

As Chief Freehling retires on March 1—the 20th anniversary of her promotion to Chief—our community celebrates this servant-hearted leader. On behalf of the 13th District of Penn-

sylvania, it is my privilege to thank Chief Freehling and honor her longstanding service to the City of Altoona. As Chief Freehling embarks on a new chapter, I congratulate her on her retirement and wish her every continued happiness.