Edwards, and his many contributions as a health care provider, as a father and grandfather, and as a beloved member of his community.

Ameer was born in Camden, New Jersey on May 4, 1970, where he was the youngest of 4 children born to Cheryl and Malik Chaka.

Shortly after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Ameer's mother Cheryl Amana Burris moved to San Francisco, where she took a job as senior assistant to Willie L. Brown, who was then a California State Legislator and later became Speaker of the California State Assembly during her tenure.

While in San Francisco Ammeter attended various local elementary and secondary schools including Grattan Elementary School and Ecole Notre Dame des Yictoires.

Ameer moved back to the east coast with his mother who needed to assist with her father who was diagnosed with cancer. He attended schools in New Jersey, Philadelphia and North Carolina, where he graduated from Charles E. Jordan High School.

Ameer attended college at Hampton University, North Carolina A&T State University and later graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University. He continued his education by getting a master's degree from North Carolina State University.

Ameer worked for over 20 years at University of No11h Carolina Memorial Hospital as a Health Care Unit Coordinator. He was a hard worker who rarely took time off, and who was highly respected by his coworkers. Ameer received numerous awards for his work. As recently as May 2020, he was chosen as the top employee in his position throughout the entire university.

Ameer was the father of three adult children and two grandchildren, all of whom he loved and with whom he spent as much time as possible. He was devoted to his mother and siblings, and there was nothing he would not do for them to make their lives more enjoyable.

Ameer departed this life on early Monday morning of December 28, 2020, after an extended struggle with cancer. His mother was holding his hand when he quietly passed away.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I recognize Ameer K. Edwards for his contributions to his family and his community, and I extend my sincere condolences to his loved ones.

WELCOMING CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY MACE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 4, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, an article today by Caitlyn Byrd titled, ''Republican Nancy Mace to be sworn in as South Carolina's newest member of Congress'' in The State newspaper of Columbia reports that:

''[Nancy Mace will be] South Carolina's newest member of Congress and the state's only female representative in Washington.'' (She is one of the 15 Congressional seats flipped in 2020 from Democrat to Republican).

''Mace, 43, joins a record-breaking number of Republican women elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mace, a Daniel Island Republican, will be one of 18 freshman GOP women in the 117th Congress.

''Mace's two children, Elli and Miles, were expected to watch their mom become a congresswoman . . .''

As a native of Charleston myself, I am grateful for the success of Congresswoman MACE. I also appreciate my mother, Wray Wilson, who campaigned in Charleston for President Eisenhower in 1952 before there were any elected Republicans in South Carolina, at any level. With the Trump landslide, now there are the largest Republican majorities in the state with more elected Republicans in 140 years.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 4, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by Ranking Member LUCAS in introducing the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act.

As access to COVID–19 vaccines continues to grow, so too does our optimism for emerging from this long national crisis. I look forward to the day when this virus is under control and we can begin the process of recovery. While the full scope of the damage is not yet known, there can be no doubt that this virus has touched every segment of our society. As Chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I am deeply concerned about the severe and long-lasting impacts of this pandemic on our nation's research enterprise.

In order to slow the spread of the virus, universities across the country were forced to cancel in person classes and shut down campus operations as they slowly transitioned to remote learning and hybrid approaches. I commend universities for their dedication to doing their part to slow the spread of the virus and for their commitment to ensuring the safety of their students, faculty, and staff. Universities also stepped up to donate personal protective equipment, reconfigure laboratory space and equipment for COVID–19 research and provide for testing and contact tracing.

These actions, while likely life-saving, came at a cost. The full extent of the financial loss incurred by universities is unknowable at this point. In order to stave off catastrophe, many universities instituted hiring freezes and cancelled new faculty hires.

I am deeply worried about the disappearance of STEM job opportunities and the potential long-term consequences for our STEM pipeline and consequently our innovation ecosystem. For established researchers, the COVID–19 crisis has severely limited their access to their laboratory space. But for early career researchers, these disruptions came at a critical juncture in their research career, threatening to derail their career path.

Even in normal times, postdoctoral research positions provide little job security, with most postdocs employed on two-year contracts. With the academic job market severely contracted, postdocs find themselves in a truly precarious position. Many of them may be forced to abandon their career path altogether in order to support themselves and their families.

I am thrilled that, after months of deliberations, a bipartisan COVID–19 relief package has been enacted. While this package includes funding for universities, it falls far short of meeting the need. We must act now to avoid losing an entire generation of talented scientists and engineers from our research pipeline. These are they very people whom we will need to overcome the next health crisis, to protect our population against the consequences of catastrophic climate change, and to ensure we remain a global leader in science and technology—leadership that is essential to our economic and national security.

The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act establishes a $250 million postdoctoral fellowship pilot program at the National Science Foundation. This program would provide authorization for a much-needed bridge to help early career researchers weather this storm and prevent a permanent loss of STEM talent our nation can ill afford. I look forward to moving this bill quickly.

DECEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH—MITCH REED

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 4, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's December Veteran of the Month, Mitch Reed.

He served in an armored personnel carrier in the United States Army, Mitch Reed honorably served our nation. Mitch continues to serve his fellow veterans through his volunteer work with the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Military History Center in Broken Arrow.

Mitch Reed served in the Vietnam War. He is the recipient of two Purple Hearts among other awards. He continues to serve veterans in our community and advocate for programs to honor them through the Military Order of the Purple Heart. His efforts led to the designation of Broken Arrow as a Purple Heart City and Tulsa County as a Purple Heart County. A designation that shows our community's gratitude to our veterans and those currently serving in our military.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Mitch Reed as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's December Veteran of the Month.

CONGRATULATING RAY HALL ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 4, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ray

Hall on his well-earned retirement after 33 years of service to the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office. Ray began his Congressional career in CBO's Budget Analysis Division in 1987 where he worked as a principal analyst in the Defense, International Affairs and Veterans' Affairs, Cost Estimates Unit.

During his time at CBO, Ray was recognized as a knowledgeable and experienced analyst. As one of the longest tenured members of CBO's Budget Analysis Division, he has accrued extensive knowledge of the programs and accounts in his portfolio.

Ray earned the gratitude of his colleagues at CBO and of his counterparts on the staff of the Committee on Armed Services. He established a solid working relationship with the Armed Services Committees, and for more than three decades was a valued contributor to CBO's work on the proposals for the annual National Defense Authorization Act. His technical feedback on legislative proposals made important contribution to the Armed Services Committees' success in achieving the timely enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act each year.

With his departure, Congressional Budget Office lost a great asset. Over the past 33 years, the Congressional Budget Office—and by extension, the Congress itself—has been fortunate to enjoy the effort Ray brought to his work. I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Ray for his service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 4, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 3.