

her leadership, Somersworth will be home to the world's first Little Indonesia—a cultural attraction that will expand educational and economic opportunities, and which aims to benefit all in my state. New Hampshire is proud to call Raychel a resident, and we all benefit from her ingenuity and her commitment to her community.

I want to recognize Raychel for not just saying the oath of allegiance to her new country, but for embodying the very meaning of being a citizen. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I welcome Raychel as an American Citizen and celebrate the work she does for the people of the Granite State. I thank her for her many contributions and continued efforts to improving the lives of all in our state.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Renewable Energy Investment Act. Last Congress' version of this legislation passed the House in Section 90404 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would allow taxpayers to elect to take clean energy credits as a direct payment, rather than a credit against tax.

For decades, the Production and Investment Tax Credits (PTCs and ITCs) have together supported substantial expansions in the development of clean energy across the United States. Despite years of temporary federal tax policy, the cost of wind and solar energy generation has come down significantly, leaving it competitive with, and in some cases cheaper than, fossil fuel-generated energy. However, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the sector's long-term success and continues to have visible impacts today.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly constricted tax equity markets that are used to finance renewable energy construction. This constriction makes financing the project more difficult since tax equity investors may not have the tax equity to utilize all the available credits, therefore making investment less attractive. With the potential for more available credits in the coming years, there may not be a robust enough investor base to take full advantage of available incentives without a direct payment option.

The Renewable Energy Investment Act allows taxpayers to receive a payment for renewable energy investments rather than a tax credit. Not only does this provide much-needed relief for tax equity markets, it also allows taxpayers with little or no tax liability to accelerate utilization of these credits and expand the pool of eligible investors to additional deployment of renewable energy across the country.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation as part of a comprehensive infrastructure and clean energy package.

HONORING DALYLAH ALEXIS RYBOLT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dalylah Alexis Rybolt. Dalylah is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 74G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dalylah has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dalylah has been involved with scouting, she has not only earned 36 merit badges, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. Dalylah has also contributed to her community through her Eagle Scout project. Dalylah cleaned up Groves Cemetery by clearing brush piles and dead trees and installed a new telescoping flagpole with top solar lighting.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dalylah Alexis Rybolt for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WEEK

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, last week we commemorated "National Correctional Officers Week" and recognize the men and women who serve as correctional officers across the United States. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first week in May as National Correctional Officers Week thirty-seven years ago "in recognition of the contributions of correctional officers to our Nation." Especially over the past year, we have witnessed the substantial contributions of correctional officers and all law-enforcement officers in our neighborhoods and communities.

As we continue to face challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to recognize the vital work that correctional officers perform on a daily basis, risking their lives in the course of carrying out their duties. "Stay-at-home" orders do not apply to our correctional officers. Public safety demands that these brave men and women come to work every day. Our nation's correctional officers did their best to keep themselves and those under their custody and care safe under these challenging circumstances.

There are currently over two million people incarcerated in jails and prisons throughout the United States. Our nation faces a great challenge to keep both staff and inmates at correctional facilities safe during this pandemic and amid radical proposals to defunct law-enforcement entities. Correctional officers are an integral part of our criminal justice system and

they play a key role in helping maintain public safety. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 400,000 correctional officers in the United States for the difficult and often thankless job that they do day in and day out.

REMEMBERING RHEA K. HALE

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize the late Rhea K. Hale, a constituent of mine, who devoted her career to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.

Ms. Hale's determination enabled her to forge an impressive career doing what she loved. She worked for IBM's Center for Environmentally Conscious Products, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Forest, and Paper Association, and WestRock. She was a respected and well-known voice within the industry, as well as a recognized authority on issues related to public policy and sustainability.

Ms. Hale had a talent for seeing possibilities, and the vision and persistence to bring them to life. She is remembered by her friends and colleagues not only as a passionate and determined advocate for bettering our planet, but also as a kind, thoughtful, caring, and un-failing friend.

One of Ms. Hale's friends noted that "If you walked into a room and Rhea was there, everything was better." Although our Commonwealth has lost a wonderful, intelligent person, we must reflect on her work and honor her legacy. Rhea will be deeply missed by her family, her friends, her colleagues, and all those whom she touched during her life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing my deepest condolences to Ms. Hale's family, and in honoring her life's work.

HONORING DOMINIC ZURELLA

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dominic Zurella, of Canfield, Ohio, to thank him for his service to our country and to wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Zurella was a Technical Sergeant and radio operator during World War II in the U.S. Air Force. During the war, he participated in 26 missions with the 91st Bomb Group, "The Ragged Irregulars," and the 324th Bomb Squadron from November 26, 1943 to March 26, 1944.

Dominic will be 100 years old on May 23, 2021 and I salute him on this tremendous milestone. Madam Speaker, I ask you and all our colleagues to please join me in wishing Mr. Zurella a happy birthday and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMONIA
WHISONANT OF MOUNTAIN BE
REMOVED OUTREACH CENTER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Pastor Samonia Whisonant for achieving the rank of Apostle-Elect. Pastor Whisonant's remarkable work has had an incredible impact on our Harrisburg community via her efforts with the Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center.

Pastor Whisonant is the co-founder and leader of Harrisburg's (formerly Washington, D.C. Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center, founded in October 1998. The Center aims to be the largest distribution center of food, clothing, and household supplies in Harrisburg. Although Pastor Whisonant was not raised in the church, she was well known for her wisdom and sage advice—the same character traits that she embodies as she now leads God's people through her work.

Pastor Whisonant has taught and preached God's Word for over 27 years. She's committed to equipping and training developing prophets and leaders. Her foundation in ministry was birthed through Prison Outreach, serving 15 years by empowering and instructing inmates throughout Maryland. Through her selfless work in Maryland's Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel Counties, she spread the word of God while also teaching inmates valuable life skills to aid in their integration back into society.

Pastor Whisonant has walked in the Office of the Prophet for ten years; her tagline: "Your Prophet Through the Process." She's been called to help the Body of Christ reach their divine destiny safely and without missing the necessary details that form and develop them into becoming mature Apostolic and Prophetic people.

In addition to her work with the Center, she is an entrepreneur, author, speaker, mentor and certified aromatherapist. Pastor Whisonant is the wife of Pastor Carlton Whisonant (co-founder M.B.R.O.C.), and the mother to two beautiful children, Davon Brooks and Elder-Elect Chante Whisonant (vice president, M.B.R.O.C.). Her favorite scripture is John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

I am humbled and privileged to honor Pastor Whisonant as she is recognized as Apostle-Elect. She sets the standard for all to follow. The work of organizations like Mountain Be Removed Outreach Center is significant, and strengthens our communities and those around us. I commend Pastor Samonia Whisonant for her tireless, selfless, and faithful efforts, and wish her continued Godspeed on her journey.

HONORING ELIZABETH KATHYRN
STEPHENSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Kathryn

Stephenson. Elizabeth is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 74G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elizabeth has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elizabeth has been involved with scouting, she has not only earned 37 merit badges, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. Elizabeth has also contributed to her community through her Eagle Scout project. Elizabeth cleaned the Nodaway County Community Building, she also primed and painted newly installed walls, sound boards, ceilings, doors and trim in all rooms at the facility.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elizabeth Kathryn Stephenson for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
KENYON K. BELL

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor a superb leader, General Kenyon Bell. During my short time as a Member of Congress, I have received a warm welcome from many people, but none warmer than from the great men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base. This summer, General Bell will relinquish command of the 82nd Training Wing and Installation Command of Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited for his future.

General Bell was given a great opportunity to lead in challenging times and did so with the highest degree of professionalism, dignity, and skill. As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of our normal day-to-day lives across the nation, General Bell found himself in command of a mission that could not stop, or even slow down, without disastrous and long-term consequences for military readiness. With more than 5,000 students living in close quarters on the base, he acted decisively to implement policies and guidelines to ensure the safe continuation of both the technical and flying training missions at Sheppard. As a result, operational units around the world continued receiving the trained, mission-ready Airmen required to maintain global combat capability.

While we faced civil unrest as a country over the last year, General Bell led by example and worked to build bridges of understanding and unity that transcend politics and will ultimately strengthen the United States military. His ability to speak boldly, frankly, and calmly on the highly charged subject of race is an example we all must follow. He also had a willingness and ability to listen respectfully and honestly to differing perspectives. While I faced the steep learning curve involved with being a Member of Congress, General Bell ensured that I stayed up to date with the situation on the ground at Sheppard,

truly working as a partner. I could not have asked for a better partner to work with as I began my tenure as a Congressman.

General Bell's list of successes is longer than many I have seen from a General Officer. While navigating a variety of unique challenges throughout his tenure, he found a way to accomplish countless traditional command matters. The successful completion of the Sheppard Main Gate renovation project, in all its complexity, marks the realization of more than a decade of effort. More importantly, it represents markedly improved security and force protection for the missions and people of Sheppard Air Force Base. I was honored to be there with General Bell in person for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

Finally, a sure testament to the quality of General Bell's leadership is the fact that through all the challenges of 2020 and 2021, the 82nd Training Wing was rated as Highly Effective by the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General following the 2021 Unit Effectiveness Inspection.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my congratulations to General Bell on completing his command tour at Sheppard Air Force Base. I thank the General for his exceptional leadership and service. I congratulate his wife, Lori, and his kids Amira, Kenyon, and Roman. I look forward to seeing General Bell continue to excel in his career, and I look forward to our future years of friendship. We are a better and stronger nation for his service.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN PAUL
JACOBS

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the remarkable life story of an American hero, Captain Paul Jacobs who passed away this past December. Captain Paul Jacobs served six combat tours in Vietnam, though it was his last tour that forever enshrined him as leading one of the U.S. Navy's greatest humanitarian efforts.

As U.S. Forces were withdrawing from South Vietnam in late April 1975, Captain Jacobs was then commanding the destroyer escort USS *Kirk* off the coast of Vietnam. To escape being captured by Communist North Vietnamese forces, South Vietnam helicopters loaded with refugees swarmed out toward the U.S. fleet. After hearing rumors that any South Vietnamese pilot captured by the North Vietnamese would be tortured, mutilated, and imprisoned, while their families would be made outcasts or worse, they fled desperately trying to escape that fate.

Upon realizing this, Captain Jacobs offered his ship as a safe haven for the South Vietnamese refugees. Helicopters began arriving and all hands aboard the *Kirk*—including Captain Jacobs—pushed unloaded helicopters over the side to make room for incoming ones. In all, 12 helicopters, packed with refugees, had landed on one of the Navy's smallest warships. Captain Jacobs then transformed the *Kirk* into a humanitarian aid station, providing food, comfort, medical care, relief from a blazing sun and hope to the men, women and children they'd rescued. It is no exaggeration to