

shoulders of so many who were denied access to great public schools in the name of institutionalized segregation. Understanding this, we know that 67 years later the fight to ensure that all people are afforded access to a quality education continues throughout this Nation. Today as we reflect on the Brown v. Board of Education decision, may we be renewed by the tenacity and bravery of Autherine Lucy, Wendall Gunn, and Harold Franklin and the perseverance of Attorney Fred Gray.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three students and Attorney Gray for their contributions to reshaping education in Alabama and across our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE OZARK  
HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC PRO-  
GRAM

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ozark High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AJROTC), for receiving National Championships in four separate disciplines, Raider Competition, Air Rifle Three Position Competition, Armed Drill Competition, and Unarmed Drill Competition. This is the first time in the history of AJROTC that one school has accomplished such a feat.

First created in 1916, AJROTC programs have expanded to over 1,700 schools nationwide. The goal of these programs is to develop Cadets into young men and women of impeccable character. A major part of the program is the development of leadership skills. As the Cadets progress, they are given the opportunity to lead younger Cadets. The teaching of the skills molds these men and women into the leaders of tomorrow.

The AJROTC program would not succeed without the hard work of dedicated instructors. There are currently nearly 4,000 instructors nationwide. They come from a variety of backgrounds and are all retired from either active duty, reserve duty, or the National Guard. Among these dedicated individuals are 3 instructors from Ozark High School. Major Danny Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Allen, and 1st Sergeant William Crawford have more than 60 years of Army and Training experience. They have worked tirelessly to instill in their Cadets the values of citizenship, community and national service, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. It is thanks to their hard work that Ozark High School AJROTC accomplished so much this year.

The Cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC are incredibly hard-working individuals. They begin their practices at 5:00 am, and they frequently sacrifice their Saturdays to the competitions. Their Drill Team also provides Ceremonial Color Guard for a variety of community events. All of this is in addition to their school-work.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that our nation needs more young men and women who demonstrate a strong devotion to their community and country. The cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC live these values every day. I commend Major Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3

Allen, and 1st Sergeant Crawford, and all the Cadets of Ozark High School for their historic achievements this past year and wish them well in their future competitions.

HONORING JACQUE HOWELL AS  
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, I would like to recognize Jacque Howell, director of Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque has led the way in expanding childcare options in her rural community of Red Oak, Iowa.

Childcare is an especially scarce resource in Iowa. In 2018, 41 percent of our cities had children but no known childcare and 48 percent have some childcare but fewer slots than there are children. As you might imagine, this has a significant impact on our workforce and economy as many families struggle to balance parenthood and employment. In Montgomery County where Jacque and her family live, there were 1,183 children under the age of 9 but only 435 available spaces in existing licensed childcare facilities.

In 2019, Jacque attended a meeting with the Iowa Women's Foundation and was faced with many of these same statistics and was blown away by the lack of available quality care in Iowa. That's when she sprang into action and gathered others to start the Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque was hired as director of the center in January 2020 and raised an impressive \$1.2 million in funds to bring this dream to reality.

Red Oak Child Development Center is a special organization as they partner with their local school district to make the care more accessible. They have also opted to offer infant care, a service that isn't provided by other care facilities in their community. The center is currently working on expanding its location to house two additional infant care rooms. Currently, they have 100 children enrolled in their care and they see an average of 70 to 75 of those children daily. They were baffled by how quickly they were able to fill their spots and continue to receive enrollment applications daily. Red Oak Child Development Center aims to provide quality, affordable childcare to their community. They accept childcare assistance with just over a quarter of their children receiving that support. It's clear that they are filling a significant need as some families drive up to 30 minutes one-way just to take their children to care.

Jacque says that educating the next generation of Iowan's is something that has been a lifelong passion of hers. She understands that children are truly our future and she endeavors to provide children with support, love, and encouragement. As the director of the Red Oak Child Development Center, she's been able to help build an organization that believes in quality over quantity, supports the social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children. Jacque also recognizes the importance of her amazing staff members and their ever-supportive community as they work together to continue to build what is already an incredible child development center.

Jacque's dedication to the children in her community is not only vital to the development of the children but also empowers families to reengage in their local economy as they are able to get back to work and rest easy knowing their kids are in good care. Because of that, it is my honor to recognize Jacque Howell as our Iowan of the Week.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1447—COAST  
RESEARCH ACT OF 2021 AND H.R.  
2533—NEAR ACT OF 2021

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats, or COAST, Research Act of 2021. I also rise in support of H.R. 2533, the National Estuaries and Acidification Research, or NEAR, Act of 2021.

These two bipartisan bills supporting ocean acidification research passed the House under suspension last Congress. The oceans have absorbed excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. The resulting rise in ocean acidity levels has been shown to cause harm to marine life. Organisms like oysters, clams, and corals have difficulty building their shells and skeletons in more acidic environments. Higher acidity also alters the behavior of some fish. Ocean acidification threatens the vitality of our coastal economies. We need to get ahead of the problem of ocean acidification before it causes even greater economic harm.

Congresswoman BONAMICI's COAST Research Act reauthorizes and updates the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act. The bill supports the ocean acidification program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. The bill has several updates to improve the text from last Congress, with bipartisan agreement.

This year marks 10 years of ocean acidification research at NOAA. This next decade will be crucial for further understanding the impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. We must pass this crucial legislation to help support federal efforts to inform mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Congressman POSEY's NEAR Act would require a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. This study would examine the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

I thank Congresswoman BONAMICI for her leadership on this issue and Congressman POSEY for his bill. I thank Ranking Member LUCAS and our staffs for working together to prepare these bills for Floor passage. Finally, I thank the numerous experts who helped inform the development of both bills.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly pass these two bipartisan bills through the House. I look forward to working with the Senate to pass strong ocean acidification legislation into law.

I also want to include in the RECORD several letters of support we have received for H.R. 1447 from outside groups.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY,  
Washington, DC, May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: On behalf of Ocean Conservancy, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act of 2021, and to urge your colleagues to vote to pass the legislation when it is considered on the House Floor. Americans depend on a healthy ocean, and ocean acidification threatens millions of jobs and livelihoods, cultures, and ways of life, from the Pacific Northwest's shellfish industry to Florida's coral reef tourism. The COAST Research Act will strengthen our nation's investments in ocean and coastal acidification, and we encourage Members of Congress to stand with coastal communities, businesses, and our marine environment by passing this important legislation.

From coast to coast, ocean acidification is having a broad range of impacts on the health of our ocean and coastal communities. Economically and ecologically important regional species are suffering. Ocean acidification has attributed to dissolving the shells of young Dungeness crab, an economically valuable fishery in the Pacific Northwest, with additional research suggesting that acidification also impacts the crab's ability to navigate their environment. Corals, such as the corals off the coast of Florida, grow more slowly under acidification and are less likely to recover from breakage or loss. However, ocean acidification is not the only stressor facing our ocean, and the combination of impacts can be more detrimental to our marine environment. Ocean acidification, when combined with increased ocean temperatures for example, have shown the ability to impact the reproductive success of Pacific herring, more than either change alone.

Since the first detrimental impacts of ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest in the mid-2000s, when acidification caused widespread larval shellfish death in the region, researchers and coastal industries have faced the reality of an increasingly acidic ocean head-on. Oregon State University researchers studying Netarts Bay, the initial hotspot for documented ocean acidification impacts on the Pacific oyster, have uncovered the complex interactions among local circulation and biological activity, which is now informing local shellfish farmers of when to begin particular activities. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, ocean and coastal acidification has had extensive biological and socioeconomic impacts and research is accelerating to find ways to offset those harms.

In 2009, Congress recognized the urgent need for federal investments in ocean acidification research and monitoring, and subsequently passed the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. FOARAM established the federal government's work on ocean acidification by creating the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and an interagency working group on ocean acidification. Much of our knowledge and understanding of ocean acidification that has emerged in the last decade can be credited to the federal funding authorized by FOARAM. The law's authorization, however, expired in 2012, and there are changes that can be made to further improve our ability to understand acidification in the open ocean as well as in the coastal zone.

As the ocean continues to absorb carbon dioxide and the ocean continues to acidify, we must take action to protect our communities and wildlife from the impacts of acidifi-

cation. The COAST Research Act will help our nation and coastal communities better prepare for the effects from ocean and coastal acidification, strengthen investments in research and monitoring, increase our understanding of the impacts acidification has on our communities and bring together ocean stakeholders to guide research and monitoring. Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to craft solutions for our changing ocean environment.

Sincerely,

REGGIE PAROS,  
Director, Government Relations,  
Ocean Conservancy.

CONSORTIUM FOR OCEAN LEADERSHIP,  
Washington, DC, May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: On behalf of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL), which represents our nation's leading ocean science, research, and technology organizations from academia, industry, and the larger nonprofit sector (to include aquariums, philanthropy, and associations), I am writing to express support for the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act of 2021 (H.R. 1447). COL applauds the COAST Research Act in its mission to strengthen existing ocean acidification initiatives and to introduce new strategies to better understand and manage this environmental stressor.

Ocean acidification, which occurs as the ocean absorbs higher concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide, threatens the health of the entire ocean. As corals, shellfish, and many types of plankton struggle to create and maintain their shells or exoskeletons in more acidic waters, ocean food webs are disrupted. This, in turn, threatens the crucial balance in many ecosystems, as well as our own security and prosperity, jeopardizing the stability of those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean. Like many environmental challenges of our time, vulnerable communities who rely on shellfish and healthy coastal ecosystems for food, employment, and commerce with few alternatives will feel the negative impacts of ocean acidification most acutely. Combatting the causes and mitigating the effects of ocean acidification requires sustained congressional support and interagency collaboration, as well as engagement by stakeholders in the private sector, academia, philanthropy, and beyond. I strongly commend the COAST Research Act's commitment to advancing ocean acidification research and monitoring efforts, as well as promoting cooperation among stakeholder groups.

I offer my sincere thanks to you, Congresswoman Bonamici, for your efforts to help us better understand this urgent threat and to improve overall ocean health by strengthening federal investments in the research and increasing monitoring of changing ocean conditions. Our lives and our future may well depend on it.

Respectfully,

JONATHAN W. WHITE,  
RADM (RET.), USN,  
President and CEO,  
Consortium for  
Ocean Leadership.

EARTHJUSTICE,

May 17, 2021.

Re Earthjustice supports the H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: Thank you for your leadership in addressing one of the greatest threats facing our oceans. Earthjustice strongly supports the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Act of 2021 (H.R. 1447). Ocean acidification is a growing global phenomenon harming our coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies, and this proposed legislation would strengthen our ability to combat this threat with the urgency and resources needed.

Ocean acidification erodes the very foundations of our ocean ecosystems, as acidic waters imperil everything from cod larvae and lobsters to plankton and corals. The ocean absorbs 30% of the carbon dioxide that we release into the atmosphere, and acidification from excess carbon sets off a destructive chain reaction whereby the loss of tiny snails imperils species of all sizes that prey on them, such as killer whales. We have also seen the damage that acidification can wreak on coastal economies, such as our Pacific Northwest shellfish farms. We need immediate action to halt plunging pH levels and promote resilience in the face of changing temperatures.

The COAST Research Act jumpstarts ocean recovery by updating the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (FOARAM) to address the full scope of acidification's effects. Increasing funding for FOARAM and expanding the definition of ocean acidification ensures our efforts are informed by the best available science we have. Incorporating data on the socioeconomic and regional impacts of acidification ensures that our response to the problem is both comprehensive and practical. Establishing an advisory board that represents and coordinates the diverse stakeholders impacted by acidification ensures that interests at every level—industry, recreation, and conservation—are considered in federal actions against ocean acidification.

Bipartisan support for the COAST Research Act speaks to the seriousness of the problem and the efficiency of this bill's proposed solutions. Neither Democrats nor Republicans are willing to watch our blue economy dissolve in increasingly acidic waters. Both parties support action to stabilize and strengthen our ocean ecosystems. This bill provides the funding and the strategy to do just that.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and implore Congress to timely pass it.

Sincerely,

DANNY FOLDS,  
Associate Legislative Counsel, Earthjustice.

WILD SALMON CENTER,  
February 22, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: From coast to coast, ocean acidification is having a broad range of impacts on the health of our ocean and coastal communities. Coastal industries are continuing to face the reality of an increasingly acidic ocean. In 2017, researchers at Oregon State University recorded some of the highest levels of ocean acidification in the world off the coast of the

Pacific Northwest. Additionally, 63% of test sites on the west coast experienced levels of acidification known to cause commercial oyster production failures.

Our Pacific Northwest economies, our recreational and commercial fishing, and shellfish industry as well as our great northwest tourism economy—all depend on a healthy ocean. And because we are already seeing the effects of ocean acidification, we support your efforts and we support H.R. 1237, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

Much of our knowledge and understanding of ocean acidification that has emerged in the last decade can be credited to the federal funding authorized by Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. FOARAM established the federal government's work on ocean acidification by creating the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and an interagency working group on ocean acidification. FOARAM's authorization expired in 2012. The COAST Research Act amends FOARAM to further improve our ability to understand acidification in the open ocean as well as in the coastal zone.

We support the COAST Research Act and believe it will help our coastal communities better prepare for the effects from ocean and coastal acidification. Thank you for your leadership to strengthen the nation's focus and investment in oceans and coastal acidification.

Sincerely,

SARA LABORDE,  
*Executive Vice President, Wild Salmon Center.*

IOOS ASSOCIATION,  
*May 17, 2021.*

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,  
*House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: On behalf of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Association and its national network of eleven coastal observing systems, I write to support the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) links together Federal agencies and eleven Regional Associations (RAs) to design and to operate regional observing systems to provide timely and reliable data and information on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Coastal acidification is becoming an even more pressing concern for many of our stakeholders and users, such as shellfish growers, shellfish harvesters, fishermen, resource managers, and coastal communities.

The impacts of coastal acidification vary, and each system must be tailored to the unique situation of the region. The IOOS RAs work closely with NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program to understand the regional context, to deploy and operate sensors, support the data that can detect and monitor acidification to support and improve warnings and alerts and to provide for the sharing and integration of data.

The COAST Research Act will enhance these and other efforts to understand, monitor and manage the nation's ability to respond and adapt to ocean acidification. The Act does this by expanding the Advisory Board to include representatives of the variety of industries and stakeholder impacted by ocean acidification, expanding the strategic plan for research and monitoring, and expanding the role of the Federal agencies for addressing ocean acidification.

Sincerely,

ELLA (JOSIE) QUINTRELL,  
*Director.*

HONORING COLONEL ALBEN N. HOPKINS, JR., AIR NATIONAL GUARD

### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Colonel Alben N. Hopkins, Jr., Staff Judge Advocate of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Colonel Hopkins hails from Gulfport, Mississippi where he attended St. John High School. His wife Jodie and 12-year-old son, Carter, proudly call Gulfport home.

Colonel Hopkins has served in several positions, but none more fulfilling than serving his country. His military career began in 1990 when he became a legal specialist for the Mississippi Army National Guard. Colonel Hopkins has strong family military ties including his father, retired Major General Alben Norris Hopkins, Sr.

Colonel Hopkins's extensive educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Arts and History from the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Mississippi College School of Law and a Master of Strategic Studies from the prestigious Air War College.

During his service, Colonel Hopkins was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, along with several other awards and decorations.

He is also a member of the Mississippi Bar, where he practices as a civilian lawyer with his private law firm of Hopkins, Barvie, & Hopkins, P.L.L.C. He has a general civil practice specializing in litigation.

Colonel Hopkins retired this month with over three decades of dedication to the state of Mississippi and our great nation. I thank Colonel Hopkins, and his family, for their service and sacrifice and on behalf of the 4th Congressional District, we wish him the best.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF PASTOR E. BAXTER MORRIS

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2021*

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exemplary service of Pastor Edgar Baxter Morris, the beloved senior pastor of the historic First Baptist Church on North Ripley Street in Montgomery, Alabama who passed away on Sunday, May 2, 2021 surrounded by family. Pastor E. Baxter Morris was a devoted community leader and former Montgomery Police Department chaplain. He served for 50 years as the pastor of the iconic First Baptist Church, which was once pastored by Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a key strategist and architect of the Civil Rights Movement and Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Pastor Morris was born the second of two children to Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Ella Bea-

trice Morris in Anniston, Alabama. He studied at Jacksonville State University, Selma University, and Alabama State University. He continued his education at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and Samford University Extension Division. Later, Pastor Morris returned to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the State Congress to serve as both an instructor and lecturer.

Pastor Morris was called to ministry on August 20, 1972. As a faithful public servant to his community, Pastor Morris served as Chaplain for Montgomery Police Department for over 20 years and as a mentor for Montgomery police officers and their families. As the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama for almost 50 years, Pastor Morris worked tirelessly to uphold the legacy of this historic church by promoting social justice and equity. Pastor Morris held numerous leadership positions within religious and community organizations. He is the past moderator of the Montgomery-Antioch of Christian Education, lecturer of the State Congress of Christian Education, missionary for the Alabama Baptist Southeast District State Convention, and lecturer of the Alabama Southeast District State Convention Women's Department.

Known as an active community leader, Pastor Morris dedicated his life to the police officers of Montgomery and to their families. He offered mentorship and support to police officers and emergency first-responders throughout his career. He served on various boards in Montgomery and the surrounding community including the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority. Pastor Morris was also a member of the Fraternal Order and Masonic, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the Inspector General 33° United Supreme Council A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry, S.J., Inc. Prince Hall.

Pastor Morris is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Rebie Morris, four children, twelve grandchildren, one great-grandniece, three nephews, one godson, and a host of other relatives and friends including his First Baptist Church Family, Ministerial Circle, Sigma Brothers, Zeta Sisters, and Masonic Family.

On a personal note, I am eternally grateful for the tremendous community contributions made by Pastor Morris and the dedicated congregation of First Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Pastor Morris, First Baptist Church opens its doors to thousands of travelers from across the world who want to learn more about the role this church played during the Civil Rights Movement. Pastor Morris remained committed to preserving and furthering the legacy of activism at First Baptist Church fostered by his predecessor Rev. Ralph Abernathy. I am especially appreciative of the warm and generous hospitality shown by Pastor Morris and the entire congregation of the First Baptist Church. They have served as the hosts for Members of Congress during the annual Faith and Politics Civil Rights Pilgrimage since 1998. Year after year, the highlight of the pilgrimage for many of my colleagues was the "five-star" Saturday Brunch hosted by Pastor Morris and his congregation. We will surely miss his warm smile, congenial personality, infinite wisdom, compassionate heart, and generous spirit. May we be comforted in knowing that the legacy of service and unwavering faith of Pastor Morris will live on in the hearts and actions of those he impacted.