

on VA's process for developing its funding request, among other subjects.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020, Congress has provided over \$36 billion dollars in supplemental funding—that is, funds that are in addition to VA's annual budget—to fund various pandemic-related operations and programs at VA.

Specifically, Congress provided to VA:

\$60 million in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act in March 2020 to support medical services and medical community care;

\$19.5695 billion in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act in March 2020 to support medical services, community care, medical facilities, informational technology systems, general administration, and other purposes; and \$16.694 billion in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in January 2021 to support medical care and health needs, supply chain modernization, the VA Office of Inspector General, a COVID-19 veteran rapid retraining assistance program, and other purposes.

With these significant investments in VA operations and programs, legislation is needed to ensure that VA efficiently and effectively obligates and spends these funds to achieve Department goals. The legislation provides ongoing oversight opportunities for relevant Congressional committees until all funds have been expended and provides for the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office to provide intermittent reviews of VA's spending and allocation process, similar to prior reporting.

H.R. 2911 adds to the existing oversight on VA's spending. It will enable greater transparency for Congress and the public to ensure that these funds are spent wisely to support critical VA programs and services as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES FRALEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a special Kentuckian, Mr. James Fraley, from Bath County, Kentucky.

Mr. Fraley was born May 7, 1928 in Midland, Kentucky to World War I veteran Burns Fraley and Austa Fraley. He graduated from Salt Lick High School in 1948. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served in Korea, Japan, and stateside for 4 years. He was honorably discharged in October of 1954.

Following his military service, Mr. Fraley worked as one of the early Texas Eastern Transmission Pipeline employees in Wyoming for 35 years. After retiring, he drove a bus for Bath County Schools for 20 years, worked at Keeneland, was a 30-year member of the University of Kentucky's 101 Club, and served on the Owingsville City Council. He was a 71-year member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Kentucky, where he served in several leadership roles. Mr. Fraley was also a member of the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, Oleika Shrine Temple, and the Royal Order of Scotland. In 2018, Mr. Fraley received the Bath County Community Service Award in recognition for all the help and support he provided to

an untold number of children in need of medical assistance through the Shriners Hospital. Mr. Fraley was a servant leader who believed in helping others, particularly children.

Mr. Fraley was married to his late wife Becky for 65 years and they had four children. Through his service to his country and to his local community, Mr. Fraley certainly left a positive mark on this world. Mr. Fraley, a great American, passed away on March 19, 2021. I am humbled to honor the memory of Mr. James Fraley before the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND E. BAXTER MORRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Reverend E. Baxter Morris, the ninth and longest-serving pastor of the iconic First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Rev. Morris was a graduate of Selma University with a Bachelor of Theology Degree. He studied at Alabama State University, Samford University Extension Division, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. When he was still in school at Selma University, Rev. Morris was selected as First Baptist Church's newest pastor in 1972.

The First Baptist Church was founded by 700 newly freed Black citizens after the Emancipation Proclamation was recognized in Montgomery in 1866. Church members completed the first church in 1867 on Columbus Street. The Columbus Street Church was destroyed by a fire, but was painstakingly rebuilt brick by brick using any bricks the parishioners could find. Completed in 1915, it became affectionately known as the "Brick A Day" Church.

The First Baptist Church played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Under the pastorate of Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, it became a meeting place for historic civil rights leaders. In 1961, it served as refuge for Freedom Riders who were subjected to mob violence at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station and was the target of a Klu Klux Klan attack when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights icons were worshipping inside.

For almost 50 years, Rev. Morris led the Brick A Day congregation and made it his mission to acknowledge and preserve its rich history, while also continuing the church's legacy of progress and social change. In addition to shepherding his own congregation, Rev. Morris served in various roles at several other religious organizations, including the Montgomery-Antioch District Association of Baptist Churches and Missionary for the Alabama Baptist South East District State Convention. He also dedicated more than 20 years of service to the Montgomery Police Department as chaplain.

Rev. Morris was a pillar in his community and the true epitome of a servant leader. Buoyed by the strength and example of his predecessors, Rev. Morris lived his life to give, to support, and to uplift his fellow man.

Every year, I bring young people from the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center in Oakland, CA on the Faith and Politics Congress-

sional Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Rev. Morris always greeted them with enthusiasm, kindness, and appreciation. Upon learning of his passing, they were heartbroken because he taught them so much and had earned their respect and admiration.

Along with my youth leaders, I send our heartfelt condolences and love to Rev. Morris' family, the First Baptist Church family, loved ones, friends, and community.

Please join me in honoring Rev. E. Baxter Morris and his many contributions to First Baptist Church, and the community of Montgomery, AL.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER
CHRISTOPHER ALBRIGHT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Christopher Albright for his 5 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Albright has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

HONORING ROBERT J. FINE, JR.,
OF ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding contributions of Robert J. "Bob" Fine, Jr., Headmaster of Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Mr. Fine is retiring from Admiral Farragut Academy after more than 30 years of service as an educator, administrator, coach, and leader in our local community. He first joined the school as a math teacher in 1989 and has served as Headmaster for more than two decades, beginning in 1998.

Mr. Fine is admired and beloved by hundreds of Farragut families and leaves an extraordinary legacy in the K-12 school's history. Under his exceptional leadership, the unique naval preparatory mission of Admiral Farragut Academy has endured since 1933, inspiring

young leaders in military and civilian service. Under his tenure, the school also became co-educational and expanded to create a lower school for young children.

Mr. Fine is a pillar in the 13th Congressional District of Florida, having served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the St. Petersburg

College Board of Trustees (where he served as Vice Chairman and Chairman), St. Petersburg College Foundation Board of Directors, Bayfront Medical Center Board of Directors, Florida Council of Independent Schools, Florida High School Athletic Association, and the

Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the exemplary accomplishments in education and community service by Mr. Bob Fine before the U.S. House of Representatives.