

From teacher, coach, administrator, sports official, husband, father, and grandfather, Ron lived his life serving others with honesty, humility, and integrity. We mourn the passing of Ronald Dwyer, a friend and hero to many across the state of Illinois. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INSURRECTIONIST ATTACK UPON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the National Commission on the Insurrectionist Attack Upon the United States Capitol Act, which would create a national commission to provide a complete account surrounding the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including preparedness and response. The commission would also present recommendations on how to protect our country from future attacks. My bill is modeled on the bipartisan legislation that created a national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

What happened on January 6, 2021, is no less grave, no less revealing than what happened to our country in 2001. In 2001, we realized that we were woefully unprepared for a foreign terrorist attack. The bipartisan national commission created by Congress conducted an unbiased investigation and helped us improve our defenses against international threats.

Now we are faced with another threat, but this one does not come from outside, it comes from within. The people who ransacked and defaced the U.S. Capitol, the people who threatened elected officials trying to fulfill their constitutional duty were not foreigners; they were Americans. In order to tackle this new internal threat to our democracy, we must understand it, and we cannot understand it without investigating how this attack on the U.S. Capitol occurred.

The commission created by my bill would draw upon all available evidence and prior investigations to generate a full and complete accounting of the circumstances of the attack and the country's preparedness for and immediate response to the attack. This commission must be above the fray of politics to give us clear answers on what happened on January 6th. The American people deserve unbiased answers.

What happened is deeply personal for me and for many who live or grew up in the District of Columbia, where the U.S. Capitol is located. We all recognize the U.S. Capitol as a sacred symbol of democracy, but domestic terrorists came into my hometown and wreaked mayhem on our federal governing institutions. The commission would provide definitive answers to help Congress determine policies to ward off such attacks in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADOLPH FLOYD GONELLA

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a distinguished American and a brother-friend, Adolph Floyd Gonella, Ph.D., who was born on November 1, 1933 in San Mateo County, California, and passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 87. Floyd Gonella was the son of Amedeo and Margherita Gonella who were immigrants from Italy. His father was a farmer who raised cabbage and artichokes. Floyd's family lived humbly and he learned from them the value of hard work and service to others. He experienced anti-Italian discrimination during World War II when they were declared enemy aliens and placed under curfew as residents of a coastal county. This contributed to his empathy and passion for helping the disadvantaged among us.

Dr. Gonella earned his degree in education and several teaching certificates from San Francisco State where he was a star football player, and he earned a doctorate in education at the University of California, Berkeley. His distinguished career included service as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University, and as Superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District. He went on to be elected to three 4-year terms as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and was considered 'Mr. Education' by everyone.

Dr. Gonella retired as County Superintendent of Schools in 2003 and stepped up to become Superintendent of East Palo Alto's bankrupt Ravenswood City School District. Working with city, school and community leaders he revitalized the district and brought it to fiscal and educational health. He then went on to the dysfunctional Vallejo City Unified School District where he and Superintendent Rick Damelio were successful in rescuing the district. In addition to assisting poorly performing school districts, Dr. Gonella and his wife, Margaret, created the Daly City Youth Health Center which has been providing services to low-income teens for thirty years.

Dr. Gonella earned many awards, including Coach of the Year in 1962 and the Fred Kiesel Distinguished Service Award. He served on the California Advisory Council on School Restructuring and was named Outstanding Alumnus by the San Francisco State Education Department. For three decades he served as Team Chair of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, frequently traveling to various Asian countries to accredit schools. He also led the Daly City Chamber of Commerce in an extensive membership drive.

Dr. Gonella gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, the Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County AIDS Program Community Advisory Committee, the Junior Statesmen Foundation, the First 5 Commission, and the American Heart Association. In 2003, the County Office of Education honored him by naming its offices the Floyd Gonella Education Center.

Floyd Gonella was a decades-long friend and trusted advisor to me and beloved by my entire family. His compassion and care for

those less privileged were a source of inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know him, and his expertise as an educator was unparalleled. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, worked with him, and called him friend. He leaves his wife, Margaret Taylor; his daughter, Michelle Gonella; his son, Michael Gonella (Chelsea) and grandsons, Nick and Alex; and his son, Stephen.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our condolences to Margaret Taylor and the entire Gonella family. Floyd Gonella lived a purposeful life, transforming the lives of countless students who he had great faith in. He made our community a better place to live in and learn, and he strengthened our country with his countless contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEAN OVERMAN

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary leadership and faith-based work of Pastor Jean Overman, who has been recognized as the 2021 Pastor of the Year for the National Christians in Action.

Pastor Jean Overman has dedicated her entire life's work to serving the people in her community in and around Inkster and Western Wayne County in Michigan's 13th Congressional District. Her drive to serve for the good of our communities has had a profound impact on the lives of many. In addition to her pastoral duties and spiritual work, she serves as Executive Director of Operation Refuge, a local charitable organization that runs a number of programs to assist our most underserved populations. Its Mother's Pantry program affords families emergency food assistance in a grocery store-style setting. And, its Camp Inspire, a summer STEM camp, is a catalyst to instill confidence in young women and inspire them to explore science and technology studies.

In short, Pastor Jean Overman is an advocate for social justice, uplifting issues around poverty, education, racial justice and more. Her work reflects her love of community and her passion for creating a better future for our families. Her commitment to help those in need is unwavering and truly reflective of what it means to live like Christ.

Pastor Jean Overman is a true public servant, and we are truly grateful for her advocacy and her work every day serving the district. Please join me in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROAD USER CHARGE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021. This legislation passed the

House last session in Section 5401 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and builds on the successful Surface Transportation Systems Funding Alternatives (STSFA) program to further enhance national understanding and competencies in collecting a road user charge.

Increased vehicle fuel efficiency and a stagnant federal gas tax have encouraged increased demand on our transportation system without proportionally contributing to necessary maintenance and investment. In just a few years, the United States will no longer be able to finance our transportation system based on gallons of fuel consumed. Surface transportation faces significant funding challenges which have only deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal gas tax, unchanged since 1993, has lost more than 71 percent of its purchasing power due to inflation and fuel efficiency gains. As a result, Congress has transferred more than \$153 billion in general fund revenues to prop up the Highway Trust Fund since 2008. Without new sources of revenue, or increasing existing sources, the total Highway Trust Fund shortfall is projected to reach nearly \$190 billion in the next 10 years.

Two national transportation study commissions, authorized in 2005, named a road usage charge based on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) as the most promising revenue alternative to the gas tax and the “consensus choice” for the future. Since then, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming have operated or are operating pilot projects where drivers are charged for miles traveled as part of the STSFA program.

The Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021 would reauthorize the STSFA program through Fiscal Year 2025, increase the authorization amount to \$35 million, and reduce the state match requirement to incentivize more states to participate. The legislation also includes annual reporting requirements to provide more frequent knowledge-sharing opportunities and provides special consideration for states that are collecting revenues in their pilots.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to advance this legislation as part of a surface transportation reauthorization package and provide communities with longterm funding certainty to meet their infrastructure needs.

IN HONOR OF MR. MARK SHIELDS

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mark Shields, a United States Marine veteran and longtime American political commentator before the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Shields, a fellow alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, has led a fulfilling career that embodies a lifetime of journalistic integrity and service to the American people.

Mr. Shields entered the political world in 1965 when he accepted a position to serve as Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire's legisla-

tive assistant in Washington, DC. From there, Mr. Shields continued on his path in politics, serving on dozens of local, state, and national campaigns throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Shields is perhaps best known for his role as a trusted and engaging political commentator featured on programs, including PBS' “The NewsHour” and CNN's “Capital Gang.” For 33 years, up until stepping back from his regular duties in December 2020, Mark Shields graced the American public with his thoughtful and expert political analysis on the “PBS NewsHour” program, where he reported on the facts and the news with principle and grace.

Mark Shields' career continues to serve as a symbol for Americans nationwide who strive to follow their passions and seek to make a difference. Mr. Shields' regular commentary on “PBS NewsHour” will certainly be missed—but never forgotten. I wish Mr. Shields and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Mark Shields for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

DEPARTING ADDRESS OF  
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as President Donald Trump left office, he presented an address the evening before his departure correctly reviewing his achievements. I have had the opportunity to see his success firsthand.

Last January, I was in a bi-partisan delegation to Poland and Israel. In Krakow citizens were grateful to President Trump placing American troops in Poland deterring Russian aggression. At the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, citizens were so appreciative of President Trump. Previously, I led a House delegation for the historic opening in May 14, 2018, of the American Embassy in Jerusalem with President Trump fulfilling Promises Made Promises Kept.

Last February, I accompanied Senator TIM SCOTT and his mother, Frances Scott, to his hometown of North Charleston on Air Force One with President Trump where he highlighted his heartfelt success for American families of the lowest unemployment seen ever for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.

The Address of January 19, 2021, can be cherished by the 62,984,828 Trump supporters in 2016 carrying 86 percent of the nation's counties, and by the 74,216,722 Trump supporters in 2020 resulting in South Carolina having the largest Republican majorities in 140 years.

“My fellow Americans, four years ago we launched a great national effort to rebuild our country, to renew its spirit, and to restore the allegiance of this government to its citizens. In short, we embarked on a mission to make America great again for all Americans. As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together. We did what we came here

to do, and so much more. This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck, a very important word.

“I'd like to begin by thanking just a few of the amazing people who made our remarkable journey possible. First, let me express my overwhelming gratitude for the love and support of our spectacular First Lady Melania. Let me also share my deepest appreciation to my daughter, Ivanka, my son-in-law Jared, and to Baron, Don, Eric, Tiffany, and Lara. You fill my world with light and with joy. I also want to thank Vice President Mike Pence, his wonderful wife, Karen, and the entire Pence family. Thank you as well to my chief of staff, Mark Meadows, the dedicated members of the White House staff, and the cabinet, and all of the incredible people across our administration who poured out their heart and soul to fight for America.

“I also want to take a moment to thank a truly exceptional group of people, the United States Secret Service. My family and I will forever be in your debt. My profound gratitude as well to everyone in the White House military office, the teams of Marine One and Air Force One, every member of the armed forces, and state and local law enforcement all across our country. Most of all, I want to thank the American people. To serve as your president has been an honor beyond description. Thank you for this extraordinary privilege. And that's what it is, a great privilege and a great honor. We must never forget that while Americans will always have our disagreements, we are a nation of incredible, decent, faithful, and peace-loving citizens who all want our country to thrive and flourish and be very, very successful and good. We are a truly magnificent nation.

“All Americans were horrified by the assault on our capital. Political violence is an attack on everything we cherish as Americans. It can never be tolerated. Now more than ever, we must unify around our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor and forge our common destiny. Four years ago, I came to Washington as the only true outsider ever to win the presidency. I had not spent my career as a politician, but as a builder looking at open skylines and imagining infinite possibilities. I ran for president because I knew there were towering new summits for America just waiting to be scaled. I knew the potential for our nation was boundless as long as we put America first. So I left behind my former life and stepped into a very difficult arena, but an arena, nevertheless, with all sorts of potential if properly done.

“America had given me so much and I wanted to give something back. Together with millions of hardworking Patriots across this land, we built the greatest political movement in the history of our country. We also built the greatest economy in the history of the world. It was about America first because we all wanted to make America great again. We restored the principle that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Our agenda was not about right or left. It wasn't about Republican or Democrat, but about the good of a nation, and that means the whole nation. With the support and prayers of the American people, we achieved more than anyone thought possible. Nobody thought we could even come close. We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history. We slashed more job-killing regulations than any administration had ever done before.

“We fix our broken trade deals, withdrew from the horrible Trans-Pacific Partnership and the impossible Paris Climate Accord, renegotiated the one-sided South Korea deal.