College in Newport, Rhode Island and holds master's degrees in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

While Okon's previous commands include locations such as Osaka, Japan, and Monterey, California, his tenure at CNMOC will be fondly remembered for successes such as procuring funding for a new oceanographic survey ship (T–AGS 67) built at VT Halter Marine Pascagoula, Mississippi, launching the Unmanned Systems Operations Center in the Naval Oceanographic Office, and endorsing a Memorandum of Understanding with NOAA to execute language in the Commercial Engagement for Ocean Technology (CENOTE) Act. He was also instrumental in overseeing several Naval Technology Exercises along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Port of Gulfport

Rear Adm. Okon has played an influential role in fostering community engagement by educating organizations on the critical contributions the Navy makes to our National Security. His collection of personal awards includes the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, in addition to various campaign and service awards.

As the Congressman for the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi, it is an honor and privilege to recognize Rear Admiral John Okon today for his selfless duty and commitment to the Navy and to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF SPC HOLLY McGEOGH MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedication of the SPC Holly McGeogh Memorial Highway in Taylor, Michigan. By dedicating this highway in the name of SPC McGeogh, an American hero who paid the ultimate sacrifice, we are ensuring that generations of Michiganders and Americans will remember her name and story of selfless courage. This ceremony held today is an important reminder to us all of her dedication and love of this country. It is important that we never forget the first female soldier from Michigan to lose her life in the war in Iraq.

As a daughter of Dearborn and Taylor, SPC McGeogh wanted nothing more than to serve her country and fight for our freedom. A lifelong Michigander and a dedicated member of our military from the very beginning, she served for four years as a Cadet in the Junior ROTC program at Truman High School in Taylor, Michigan.

From Truman High in 2002, McGeogh fulfilled her dream of joining the U.S. Army and hoped to continue her education and begin a career in Army intelligence or psychology. Upon joining the Army, SPC McGeogh was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, and stationed at Fort Hood in Texas. She was sent to Iraq at age 19 where she served as a light truck mechanic. On January 4, 2004, while deployed in combat for Operation Iraqi Freedom, SPC Holly McGeogh and two of her fellow soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb outside of Kirkuk.

During her time overseas, she was known to eagerly volunteer for every mission and patrol and taught games like duck-duck-goose to Iraqi children. In one of her final phone calls to her parents, she reminded them that ''if she should die, we should remember that she died for a reason.'' Her family said it best, ''Holly is another reminder that our freedom truly is not free.''

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of SPC Holly McGeogh and her unwavering bravery and desire to serve our country. The dedication of the SPC Holly McGeogh Memorial Highway will ensure that all who pass through will recognize her service and honor the ultimate sacrifice that SPC McGeogh has made.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DALE FORTENBERRY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Dale Fortenberry as alderman and mayor of Farmington.

Dale was elected Alderman on July 1, 2001 and served until his Election as mayor on July 1, 2005. Dale diligently served the city of Farmington for 16 years as mayor. During his time as mayor, he worked diligently to acquire $1.2 million in grants for the City of Farmington to provide wastewater collection, city hall renovation, and to build a city park. His persistence for Heritage Community Park showed when the City of Farmington received a 1st Place award for Community Development at the Mississippi Municipal League Conference in June 2019. He also served 3 terms as Chairman of the North Mississippi Mayor's Association and was a member of the Executive Board of Directors for the State of Mississippi Municipal League and Legislative Committee.

Prior to his career as mayor, Dale supported local Corinth businesses by working at Tyrone Hydraulics for 35 years and Little Brothers Construction for 10 years.

Dale Fortenberry is the youngest son of Buford and Clara Fortenberry. Dale is originally from Leake County. He has been married to Shirley Fortenberry since 1972 and has two children, Sammy and Nancy. He is passionate about the history of the Confederacy, his family, and the citizens of Farmington.

I join many Mississippians in commemorating the life of Mr. Dale Fortenberry. He was a loyal businessman, alderman, and mayor.

INTRODUCING BILL TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISTS AND STRENGTHEN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS ON TRANSNATIONAL WHITE SUPREMACIST THREATS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that will address intelligence gaps and sharpen our focus on transnational white supremacist extremist threats. Specifically, this bill will improve our federal intelligence agencies and prioritize the white supremacist extremist threat, including its ties to international groups. This bill builds on previous work done by a number of congressional committees, including the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's Intelligence Authorizations (IAA) over the past few years.

As the Chairman of the Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence, and Counterproliferation (C3) Subcommittee on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am proud to strengthen our earlier provisions in the IAA and introduce this new bill. I am also extremely grateful for the collaborative efforts and support of Chairman ADAM SCHIFF—who joins me as an original cosponsor of this bill, and whose work was invaluable in developing this legislation for introduction today.

This bill mandates that the National Counterterrorism Center—alongside the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security—explore and analyze more completely the ideology and objectives driving white supremacist groups with transnational connections, including their leadership and operational structure. Currently, the United States government too often and too heavily relies on outside research organizations for detailed analysis of white supremacist extremists. It is imperative that United States government's intelligence agencies and subordinate organizations perform the high-level analysis needed to best utilize existing data, add additional data that may be missing, and ensure this is done on a national level. The new assessments required by this bill will allow lawmakers and the public to more completely understand the full scope of the transnational threat and will help foster a sustained examination of its international impact well into the future.

As a former law enforcement professional, I have warned my colleagues for a number of years that the threat of white supremacist extremist organizations has been growing worse. Today, this problem is the top terror threat to American lives, and the United States Government needs to take actions that reflect this heightened priority, especially since the January 6th insurrection and home-grown attack on the U.S. Capitol. While there has been improvement under the Biden Administration, plus increased Congressional efforts, the Intelligence Community continues to place a priority on the international terror groups and their offenses, while ignoring the domestic terror threats. While some were taken by surprise by domestic terrorists that blew up the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, we should never again be caught by surprise—especially when we have the ability and the duty

to prevent future attacks with stronger intelligence assessments.

I strongly believe this bill will complement and enhance the recently announced Department of Justice strategy to combat the domestic terror and domestic violent extremism threats, so I urge all my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on June 15, 2022, I voted against bills En Bloc. Had H.R. 610, H.R. 293, H.R. 587, H.R. 1144, H.R. 1921, H.R. 2008, H.R. 2332, H.R. 2545, and H.R. 3642 each received a standalone vote, I would have voted in support of each bill. I opposed the En Bloc because I oppose H.R. 1703.

RETIREMENT OF JORDAN BARAB FROM THE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Jordan Barab who served as the senior health and safety advisor to the Education & Labor Committee after serving in senior positions in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in two different Administrations. When Jordan announced his retirement from the Committee, Members of the Committee expressed deep appreciation for the expertise he imparted to the U.S. House of Representatives, especially when we were confronted with the spread of COVID–19.

Jordan's experience working to enhance protections for healthcare workers during the H1N1 flu epidemic—when he led the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health during the Obama Administration—informed his counsel to the Committee and Congress to have OSHA develop an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers during the COVID–19 pandemic. That expertise was also helpful to the Commonwealth of Virginia which became the first state to develop its own emergency temporary standard to protect workers from COVID–19. As a result, other states had a model with which to follow suit.

Jordan also worked with Representative JOE COURTNEY (CT) to advance legislation requiring health care and social service employers to implement plans to prevent workplace violence in the House-passed bipartisan Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195). He made sure that public employees in states without OSHA protections received workplace violence protections through Medicare. He also worked with Representative JUDY CHU (CA) on legislation to provide OSHA protections for workers from heat stress.

Over the decades, Jordan has been at the forefront of our nation's efforts to make sure workers come home safely from their job every day. He was a key leader in efforts to seek stronger worker protections regarding bloodborne pathogens, tuberculosis, and ergonomic hazards. Jordan also worked for five years to develop safety recommendations to prevent catastrophic chemical accidents at the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board (CSB), as well as nearly two decades as Assistant Director of Research for Health and Safety with the American Federation of State Municipal and County Employees (AFSCME).

In his earlier work with the Committee, under the leadership of Chairman George Miller (CA), Jordan focused on legislation to prevent combustible dust fires and explosions—an issue brought into sharp focus following the 2008 dust explosion which killed 14 and left over 40 injured at a sugar refinery in Port Wentworth, Georgia. Jordan was the lead staffer into the investigations and legislation to prevent the obliteration of workers' lungs from the inhalation of a flavoring chemical used in popcorn called diacetyl. Jordan also examined the underreporting of injuries and illnesses, a practice that undermines effective workplace safety.

Jordan's dedication to the safety of workers has spanned across the Committee, OSHA, CSB, AFSCME and the labor movement. There is no question that there are many workers who avoided injury or illness because of workplace safety improvements that came about because of Jordan's work. He remains a trusted advisor—and may not easily escape our inquiries when we have questions.

On behalf of workers, their families, and the people of the country, I thank Jordan Barab for his service to the public and lasting contribution to workplace safety.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF HENRY RANDLE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Henry Randle who recently lost his battle with cancer. He was a brave and selfless community servant and I join countless Mississippians in mourning his loss.

Henry Randle was a graduate of Aberdeen High School class of 1989. He attended Mary Holmes College, Mississippi State University, and the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy. In 2001, he joined the Mississippi National Guard.

Mr. Randle began his military career as an Army Motor Transport Operator. In 2009, he earned a second occupation as a Petroleum Supply Specialist and has served in a variety of leadership positions in Engineer and a Maneuver Unit. Over the course of his career, he has served in the Mississippi National Guard's 223rd Engineering Battalion, served in the Middle East—most recently in 2018 as an E6 staff sergeant. He aided in hurricane Katrina recovery.

Among Mr. Randle's awards include a Armed Forces Reserves Medal with M Device, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Overseas TRG Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal. He joined the Aberdeen Police Department in 1997 and served as a school resource officer. In April of 2008, Mr. Randle was elected as Aberdeen Police Chief.

It was an honor to work with Henry in the Mississippi Guard as well as in law enforcement. Henry Randle was an outstanding community leader who served his state and country well. I am grateful for his life of service to the Aberdeen community and offer my deepest condolences and most sincere prayers for all who know and love him.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the importance of celebrating Juneteenth as a national holiday.

For a century after the last slaves were freed, Black Americans were denied the rights considered ''unalienable'' by the Constitution. Even after July 4, 1776, millions of enslaved people and their descendants would not experience independence for decades. Over the last 50 years, systemic racism has continued to hinder many who strive to live out the American Dream.

Despite the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Black people would remain enslaved in parts of the Confederacy for nearly two and a half years. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, delivering news of the end of the Civil War and of slavery.

The message he conveyed that day was simple. General Order Number 3 declared that ''. . . all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves . . .''

The following year, the newly liberated people of Texas began celebrating Juneteenth as a celebration of answered prayers and new opportunities.

This tradition slowly spread throughout the country, eventually becoming a holiday or day of observance in 49 states and the District of Columbia. My home state of Rhode Island has observed Juneteenth since 2012.

While Juneteenth has been widely celebrated among African American communities since the end of the Civil War, the prominence of the holiday has grown significantly in recent years.

I am proud to have supported the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act when it passed in Congress and was signed into law last week. It is my hope that June 19th will serve as a day of reflection and an annual call to recommit ourselves to the American ideals of freedom and equality.

For far too long, our society has denied the promise of these ideals to many Americans.