SUPPORTING INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of the INVEST in America Act, which will create good paying jobs to rebuild and re-imagine America's surface transportation infrastructure by revitalizing our existing roads and bridges and making investments in passenger rail, public transit, cycling and walking infrastructure, and zero-emission options—while creating safer, more connected communities.

After decades of disinvestment and four years of failed 'Infrastructure Weeks,' I believe that now is the time to make desperately needed investments to rebuild our nation.

According to the 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure assessment by the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's infrastructure receives the grade: C-. A continued underinvestment in our infrastructure at current rates will cost $10 trillion in GDP, more than $3 million jobs, and $2.4 trillion in exports over the next 20 years.

We cannot wait. It is time to invest, reimagine, and revitalize a new American economy by building the architecture of our nation's future. We need transformative plans like the INVEST in America Act and the American Jobs Plan, a once-in-a-century capital investment in America that will create millions of good-paying-jobs and rebuild our country's infrastructure, including high-speed rail.

We need to recognize the importance of investing in high-speed rail. And I will continue working for more rail investment and ensure that federal dollars fund high-speed rail projects across this country—including projects in Connecticut, which total almost $10B in CT's new initiative, TIME FOR CT and along the Northeast Corridor which currently has $117B of needed investment through their project titled CONNECT2035 and New Haven's Downtown Crossing, which I was proud to help secure $20 million for New Haven to reconnect its downtown with both the outlying neighborhoods and the train station—helping the local business community flourish.

We can make opportunity real for millions with good-paying jobs. And, we can strengthen our economy. So, let us move boldly. And let us start rebuilding America.

IN HONOR OF RUSS POPPE

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor a true public servant, the Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, Russ Poppe.

Russ is stepping down on July 2, 2021. During his five-year tenure as Executive Director, Russ made a lasting and significant impact to reduce the threat of flooding in Harris County.

Russ's time at the Flood Control District was spent building solid relationships at the local, state, and federal levels. Russ's excellent network of contacts is partly responsible for the Flood Control District bringing in over one billion dollars in federal grants in the past few years. He has earned the trust of various agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Services, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Russ led the Flood Control District through the worst rainfall event in American history, Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In the aftermath of Harvey, Russ helped former County Judge Ed Emmett pass the historic $2.5 billion Harris County Flood Bond in August 2018. After voters approved the bond program, Russ became the head of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, all with the purpose of helping his community in Harris County.

Since that time, under Russ's leadership, the Flood Control District has started over 200 flood damage reduction projects and has increased project delivery volume over ten times.

Russ's leadership and professionalism will be missed at the Flood Control District. Russ always practiced leadership by inspiration, not intimidation. Russ and his staff have spent countless hours working with my staff and me to ensure we understand the tremendous challenges the Harris County area faces when it comes to reducing flooding.

I wish to thank him for his service and wish him all the best. I am certain that he will continue his success at the next stop on his career journey.

RECOGNIZING JOEL GOMEZ AS MY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Encinitas native Joel Gomez for my June Constituent of the Month. Recent graduate of Classical Academy High, Joel Gomez has not only represented California's 49th Congressional District around the country with his impressive athletic ability, but also the United States on the world stage as a medal award-winning Paralympic athlete. A member of the United States Paralympic Track and Field team, Joel has competed with great success in Switzerland, Peru and Dubai, earning two gold medals and one silver medal in the 1500 meters and 400 meters events. On top of that, Joel was named the 2019 Male Junior Para Athlete of the Year by USA Track & Field.

Still just 17 years old, Joel is currently preparing to represent the United States as a member of Team USA once again at the Tokyo Paralympics. Although the COVID–19 pandemic put a hold on much of the athletic communities' plans, Joel remained positive in his training and competition efforts, a perseverance he is no stranger to. With the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics and Olympics, Joel had the opportunity to train, stay motivated, and work harder than ever for what he hopes will soon be the pinnacle of his running career upon successful qualification at the U.S. Paralympic Team Trials.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Joel is an accomplished student, and is set to attend Purdue University this fall, where he intends to study industrial engineering. He also plays 4 instruments and sings, and in 2017, he made it to the finals in the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest County Idol Season 8. I'm honored to represent such an impressive young man, and I'm eager to watch and cheer him on as he races on the behalf of Team USA. Competing at an international level is an incredible feat, especially at such a young age, and I am proud to stand behind this remarkable, well-rounded young man, who I'm pleased to recognize as my June Constituent of the Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MITCHELL

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend and colleague, Representative Paul Mitchell, who retired after proudly serving his constituents from Michigan's 10th Congressional District.

Paul was recently diagnosed with stage IV renal cancer and after great medical treatment is on his way to a continued recovery. While my heart hurts for his family, I am optimistic Paul will pull through. He has shown us time and time again that he is not only a man of principle, but also a fighter.

I first met Paul when we came in the same class after being elected in 2016. We served together on the House Armed Services Committee and we shared the same hallway in the Cannon House Office Building. Serving on the House Armed Services Committee, we had the opportunity to travel and visit troops in Germany and the Middle East, and build our friendship. I continued to work with Paul as we also served together on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Throughout the years, I got to know Paul's humor and his dedication towards service.

While Paul and I did not always agree on policy, I always knew that I could have a candid discussion with my friend. Our conversations were cordial and with a shared goal of improving the lives of the American people and upholding our democracy.

In order to achieve these goals, Paul was not afraid to cross party lines. During his last term, Paul showed incredible courage in standing up for our democracy and supporting the 2020 election results.

It is with this same courage that I know Paul will use to fight this disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking former Representative Paul Mitchell for his leadership and service to our country and his constituents.

As Paul begins his treatment, I want to send him my best. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate Paul's remission.

CBC SUPPORTS INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of infrastructure to my district and the Nation. Right now, we are discussing two monumental transportation and infrastructure improvement proposals: the American Jobs Plan and the INVEST in America Act. Both proposals would repair and replace airports, bridges, buses, seaports, and thousands of miles of American highways.

These proposals would provide direct benefits to my constituents in New Jersey's 10th District. The greatest benefit would be the construction of the $13.4 billion Gateway Program. The program consists of two projects: a new Portal North Bridge and a new Hudson River Tunnel to go with repairs to the current tunnel. The existing bridge and tunnels are more than 110 years old. They have been here longer than the Empire State Building and they are an accident waiting to happen. Each facility carries 200,000 passengers in 450 trains every day to destinations in New Jersey, New York and across the country. A shut down of either facility would cost $100 million in lost economic output every day. Thankfully, officials will begin construction on the new Portal North Bridge this year. But we need funding for the Hudson River Tunnel project immediately.

The Gateway Program is not the only infrastructure project that would receive aid from these bills. A strong investment in our nation's infrastructure will help the City of East Orange improve their transit network and revitalize their downtown area. It will provide more advanced vehicle and pedestrian crossing signals to increase the speed and safety of traffic in Newark. It will replace sidewalks and streetscapes in South Orange. In addition, it will give the residents of Bloomfield a modern train station.

These projects are all critical to the economic health and prosperity of my residents. I know each Member of Congress has a similar list of projects that will bring similar benefits to their constituents. We cannot wait any longer. The longer we wait, the farther behind our national transportation system falls in relation to countries in Europe and Asia. We need to support these bills, repair our bridges, repave our roads, and make life better for all Americans. It is the job we were elected to do. Now, it is time to do it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN DAVID WARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of the late John David Ward, of Vernon, Connecticut, who passed away surrounded by family on March 17, 2021, at the age of 59. As someone who has shared a hometown with John, practiced law in the same courts, and witnessed his public service firsthand, I can attest to his intelligence, compassion and integrity in all his endeavors.

Born to William and Mary Durkin Ward in Holyoke, Massachusetts, John was raised and educated in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts where he graduated high school in 1980. As one who always placed value on education—John went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst before obtaining his J.D. in 1991 from Western New England University's Law School. Equipped with a law degree, John quickly transitioned his Massachusetts-based education to start his career as an assistant clerk at the Rockville Superior Court. After some experience in the courthouse and brief stints with several law firms, John ultimately found a place at Liberty Mutual, where his specialties included labor relations and worker's compensation law. Having gained his full footing in a career that enabled his specialties to excel, John settled here in Vernon and we became neighbors. As I mentioned earlier, I handled cases in the same courts as John, and he was a talented, highly ethical professional who treated clients, fellow lawyers and court officials as consummate gentleman and advocate.

As a resident of Vernon, John developed the roots for his greatest passion: community service. This was exemplified early on when he was first elected to the Board of Education and then to Vernon's Town Council. In 2008, John even decided to leave the insurance business to pursue this passion of community service by working in local government as the Town Administrator for Vernon, serving in this role over the course of three mayoral administrations. During his tenure as Town Administrator, John directed renovations of the old mills and secured a new senior center for our neighboring residents. In 2011, John placed himself on the front lines of emergency service in Vernon when Connecticut was hit with the "Snowtober" nor'easter. Outside working for the town in a more official capacity, he often volunteered as a "pit parent" for the high school marching band. In fact, he coached and help raised Vernon's youngest generation through numerous youth sports including basketball, soccer and football.

It is worth noting that John's love for public service stayed with him into his latest years. In 2017, John made the switch to serve as the Town Manager in Granby, Connecticut where he brought the force of his passion for community service. John also went on to fuse together his enthusiasm for learning and public service, earning a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut in 2019.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as honorable and impactful as John. John's commitment to our town became a part of his life blood, causing him to touch the hearts of many in our community. While we all mourn the early loss of John, we can at least find solace that his story and memory live on in others, including his wife of more than 25 years, Wendy, and children James, Joe, Elizabeth and David. I find it fitting that we, the People's House, honor John's name and character. I ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of John David Ward, never forgetting the importance of serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on roll call vote 186, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2225.

REMEMBERING SPECIALIST JAMESON LINDSKOG

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of United States Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog on the occasion of the dedication of a new Army Reserve training facility in my district, to his life and heroism.

Jameson was born on May 25, 1987 in San Mateo, California to parents Donna and Curtis. He graduated from the Orion Academy in 2006 and the National Holistic Institute before enlisting in the United States Army and became a Certified Emergency Medical Technician for the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

While serving as a Platoon Medic on 29 March 2011, the lead section of his convoy was ambushed from multiple directions and pinned down. Specialist Lindskog was in the trail element and immediately acted to treat multiple casualties. The Army describes Specialist Lindskog's actions in those moments as follows: "Specialist Lindskog at great personal risk to his life showed no hesitation and bounded to the wounded Soldiers through withering enemy fire while brush, trees, and debris were destroyed around him. Once the reinforcements reached the ambushed men, Specialist Lindskog immediately assessed the situation, evaluated casualties, and issued priorities for first aid."

In the moments that Specialist Lindskog was providing life-saving care to his comrades, he himself was shot in the chest. Even while mortally wounded himself, for thirty minutes Specialist Lindskog gave instructions to those around him about how to provide emergency care for the wounded soldiers around him and himself. His heroism in the throes of personal sacrifice saved the lives of two people that day.

Specialist Lindskog was posthumously awarded a Silver Star for his conduct, and in it's description the Army states: "His courage, bravery and leadership in combat set the example for all to follow. Specialist Lindskog's distinctive accomplishments are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 327th Infantry Regiment, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the United States Army."

Today we memorialize Specialist Lindskog's service by naming a new facility at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in his honor. This new facility will house six simulation training rooms containing hospital beds, simulated patients, and a host of bio-medical equipment.