

after being unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate and served three years as Attorney General. He was steadfast in his pursuit against white-collar crime as the Department of Justice obtained a record number of convictions of savings and loan crisis and other securities officials, defense contractors and corrupt public officials. Dick also established strong relations with law enforcement agencies around the world to help combat drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and international white-collar crime.

As an accomplished public leader Dick Thornburgh also worked at the international level, serving as a consultant to the United Nations, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to combat against corruption and fraud. He penned the book "Puerto Rico's Future: A Time to Decide" in 2007, where he argued for a change in the island's territorial/commonwealth status, and concluded it was a relic of colonialism. Throughout his career, Dick traveled widely, visiting over 40 countries and meeting with leaders from Africa, Australia, Canada, China, Cambodia, Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Ukraine, Taiwan, New Zealand and Central and South America. He was a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

As evidenced by his historic career Dick Thornburgh, dedicated his life to advocating and improving the lives of others. He was a model public servant. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Dick Thornburgh for his dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mourns with his family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to a family death. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 18.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD'S WORK TO IMPLEMENT POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for their work, which spans five decades, to implement positive train control, also known as PTC.

December 31, 2020, was a significant day for railroad safety as all 41 freight and passenger railroads required to meet the deadline set by Congress to implement PTC met the mandate. This life-saving technology will prevent train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, incursions into established work zones, and the movement of a train through a switch left in the wrong position.

The path to full implementation of PTC was long and challenging, and had it not been for

the NTSB's persistence and partnership with Congress, in particular the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, PTC may never have happened.

The NTSB's work on PTC began on August 20, 1969, when two Penn Central commuter trains collided head-on near Darien, Connecticut, killing three crewmembers and a passenger and injuring roughly 43 others. After conducting an extensive investigation, the NTSB issued its first PTC-related recommendation.

Over the next five decades, the NTSB investigated 154 more PTC-preventable accidents that tragically took the lives of 305 people and injured 6,885 others. Several of those tragedies gained the public's attention and changed the conversation around PTC, including collisions in Chase, Maryland, in 1987, Boston, Massachusetts, in 1990, Silver Spring, Maryland, in 1996, Placentia, California, in 2002, Macdona, Texas, in 2005, Graniteville, South Carolina, in 2005, and Chatsworth, California, in 2008.

In 2007 and 2008, the House and Senate were negotiating legislation that would require PTC implementation, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). The tragedy in Chatsworth pushed Congress to act and brought about final passage of RSIA. But as railroads worked to implement PTC after the mandate, the NTSB continued to investigate accidents that could have been prevented had the technology been in place. These include the derailment of Amtrak 188 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2015, which killed 8 passengers and injured 185 others, and the overspeed derailment in DuPont, Washington, in 2017, which killed 3 passengers and injured 57 passengers and crewmembers.

Throughout these tragedies, the NTSB pressed on for PTC. The agency believed PTC was so important that it included the issue on its very first Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements in 1990, and it has remained a key focus in their advocacy efforts.

On December 18, 2020—12 years after PTC was mandated—the last railroad required to implement PTC, New Jersey Transit, announced that it had fully implemented the safety technology, which meant that all 41 railroads had fully implemented PTC two weeks short of the deadline: a tremendous accomplishment.

Without the tireless advocacy of the NTSB over the last 50 years, we may not have seen the day PTC was fully implemented. I commend all those from the NTSB who fought tirelessly to finally achieve fully implemented positive train control. Their work will save lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GODFREY FONDINKA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Godfrey Fondinka. A beloved member of our community, Dr. Fondinka's life was marked by an unwavering commitment to medicine and service to others.

Dr. Fondinka was born in Cameroon, Africa where he began a life of distinction. After com-

pleting his medical education in Cameroon, he studied hospital management at Technion—Israel Institute of Technology. Dr. Fondinka then moved to the United States, where he received a Master of Public Health from Tulane University before completing a residency in family medicine at LSU Shreveport in 2003.

Dr. Fondinka worked tirelessly on behalf of his patients and our community. He served as an emergency room physician at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center until 2010, when he founded an urgent care practice in Fayetteville, North Carolina. On the frontlines of our community's battle against COVID-19, Dr. Fondinka saved countless lives and, to him, our nation owes an immeasurable debt.

Dr. Fondinka passed away on December 18, 2020, and my thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Florence; his children, Tuma, Ghinna, Babilla, and Khamali; and all who knew and loved him. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Godfrey Fondinka.

REMEMBERING COACH JERRY JOHNSON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Jerry C. Johnson, the basketball coach and athletic director at the historically Black Lemoyne-Owen College, who coached the Magicians to Memphis' only NCAA Championship title in 1975 and died Sunday at the age of 102. Coach Johnson won 821 games over 46 seasons at LeMoyne-Owen, where he also coached swimming and track and field, and taught health and physical education courses. Many of the students he coached and mentored went on to illustrious national recognition, including eight who became NBA players. Coach Johnson, who came to the college in 1958, was the first Black basketball coach to win a Division III national title and LeMoyne-Owen was the first Historically Black College and University to win that recognition. The LeMoyne-Owen Magicians remain the only men's college basketball program in Tennessee, and the only sports program in the city of Memphis, to win an NCAA championship. In my own interactions with Coach Johnson, I was always impressed with his quiet demeanor and self-effacing attitude, even though he was as much a star in the Memphis basketball world as anyone. Off the court, he was just a good man, caring about people in a quiet and compassionate manner, reaching out to help players, former players, and students without regard to their athletic ability or gender. He offered a helping hand and his heart reached so many. Known as strict but fair, Coach Johnson, an Oklahoma native, had an unusual connection to the game of basketball: he learned it from Hall of Famer John McClendon, the former Cleveland State coach who served as the first Black coach of a professional sports team, and McClendon learned the game from James Naismith, the inventor of the modern game of basketball. Coach Johnson was the focus of a

newly released independent documentary, “1st Forgotten Champions,” which was directed by Memphian Morreco Coleman and covered the 1975 Division III NCAA championship. The documentary recently premiered in California, Nashville and Memphis. Johnson was a member of the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Fayetteville State University Athletics Hall of Fame and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. I extend my profound condolences to his son, Jerry Jr.; his daughter, Wandra Haywood and her husband, Samuel, of Gainesville, Florida; his six grandchildren; and his seven great-grandchildren. Coach Johnson will be remembered as a gentle giant and a gentleman. He led an exemplary life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MS.
LISBETH (LIZ) McBRIDE-CHAMBERS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Ms. Lisbeth (Liz) McBride-Chambers for thirty years of dedicated and compassionate service as a member of the Office of Employee Assistance (OEA) at the United States House of Representatives.

In an institution where Members are Constitutionally bound to serve terms in two-year increments, it is remarkable to note that Liz is only the second individual to serve as the OEA Director in the organization’s thirty-year history.

Liz joined the OEA team in May 1991 when the office was in the early stages of development. She was one of the first OEA employees hired by the beloved first Director, Bern Seidel. Through love, passion, and commitment to their profession, Bern and Liz skillfully developed the OEA into a preeminent employee assistance program.

After Bern’s passing in February 2017, Liz was promoted to serve as the Director of our OEA team. Through her skillful guidance and direction, Liz’s office delivers comprehensive confidential services covering an array of personal and work-related issues to positively impact employee performance, productivity, and well-being.

The OEA team also facilitates staff retreats for Member offices and conducts seminars on a variety of topics, including employee well-being, understanding stress and trauma, enhancing communication skills, and managing career transitions.

In 2018, the OEA’s scope expanded when Liz was entrusted to launch the House Wellness Center. Through her tireless efforts and close partnership with key stakeholders, the House community now has a comprehensive wellness program that provides assistance, information, and training on all aspects of well-being.

While each of the OEA’s program areas are important to the office’s overall success, none can surpass the impact that Liz and her team have had in response to critical incidents involving the House community. Whether it was the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the trag-

ic Congressional baseball shooting on June 14, 2017, the horrific siege on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, or any other critical incident, Liz’s commitment and care provided comfort to those experiencing profound grief and distress. In addition to her outstanding contributions to the House community, Liz’s impact has inspired countless waves of professionals in the field of employee assistance. As a member of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) for well over thirty years, Liz regularly attends and contributes to the organization’s world conference, which includes serving as a chair and member of the annual conference program planning committee.

Liz also served as Commissioner and Chair of the Employee Assistance Certification Commission. In this role, she established, maintained, and oversaw the development and stewardship of the Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP) examination and credentialing processes.

After completing her tenure in these vital roles, Liz continued serving as a volunteer trainer for EAPA’s CEAP Exam Preparation Course. While it would be impossible to count all the lives Liz influenced and touched during this process, it goes without saying that her impact stretches beyond the counselors she helped through these endeavors.

Every counselor who passed the rigorous credentialing and examination process with Liz’s guidance and tutelage was granted the greatest gift of all; her knowledge and insights, which they in turn could pass along to the employees, organizations, and communities they serve across the globe.

Based on these outstanding contributions, it should come as no surprise that Liz has been recognized by her peers both inside and outside of the House community. In 2007, Liz was the recipient of the CAO’s Achieving Excellence Award. She was recognized as the EAPA Member of the Year in 2015. One year later, Liz received the Employee Excellence Award from the House Officers and Inspector General. Finally, in 2020, Liz had the high honor of receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Congressional Management Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to join those who have recognized Liz for her outstanding contributions and overall impact to the House of Representatives and to the greater employee assistance community. I also want to acknowledge Liz’s entire team: Tiara Anderson, Breanna Becker, Daniel Coleman, Briana Cragwell, Georgeanna Goldstein, Margot Hawkins-Green, Rhonda Kaalund, Malia Klee, Jon Murphy, Paul Tewksbury, Emily Swartz, and Brian Weiss. This is a very special group of employees and they are all commended for their commitment, dedication, and professionalism.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and thank Liz McBride for her unparalleled service to this great institution.

IN HONOR OF DR. JILL JENSEN

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep gratitude to a de-

parting member of my staff, Jill Jensen. Dr. Jill, as she is known in our office, came to Capitol Hill as a Brookings Legislative fellow from the Department of Defense. We were all excited to have someone with her deep expertise and experience as a part of our team, and we were looking forward to her contributions to my work on the Armed Services Committee.

As with so many things this year, the pandemic upended our plans. In late February and early March, as COVID-19 picked up speed and congressional offices started to respond, Dr. Jill quickly became an indispensable member of our team. Not only is she an expert in defense policy, but Dr. Jill has a doctorate in public health. She quickly stepped up to the plate to lead our office’s response to the pandemic, coordinating weekly calls with local health care providers and public health experts, spearheading the Regional Recovery Task Force, and providing invaluable insight and advice to me and the other members of my team.

While leading our response efforts during the COVID-19 crisis, Dr. Jill still managed to be a critical member of our defense team. Her ideas and hard work led to several provisions’ successful inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act, and now, even as her fellowship in our office winds up, she is still coming up with creative ideas for new and important legislation.

Beyond her expertise, excitement to learn about the Hill, and creativity, Dr. Jill is simply a joy to work with. She is always positive, attacking new challenges with a smile on her face. She is always willing to put her shoulder to any task, whether it is drafting new legislation that will impact the lives of thousands of service members or organizing our office suite after a move. Her optimism and insight kept many of us on track in those first days of the pandemic, and her excitement about arcane congressional processes was always a breath of fresh air.

Our office’s loss is the Defense Department’s gain, and as she ends her fellowship and returns to the Department, I wish her the very best of luck. I am confident we will be saying “I knew her when . . .” very soon.

NATIONAL OFFICE OF NEW
AMERICANS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, immigrants make up the fabric of our nation. America has always been stronger when we embrace and assist immigrants in their transition as they contribute to our communities, economy, and culture.

In order to ensure a welcoming and inclusive system for new Americans, I am introducing the National Office of New Americans Act. This bill would create an office within the Executive Office of the President to assist and support new immigrants and refugees in employment attainment, language access, and civic engagement. Furthermore, it would also oversee the coordination of efforts by federal, state, and local governments to support integration efforts, such as helping to attain citizenship.