

That debt remains to be paid, which is why African Americans have always peacefully petitioned the government for the redress of its grievances.

Madam Speaker, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

In 1852, Frederick Douglass famously asked: "What to the slave is the 4th of July?"

In 2021, we can reply that it is the beginning of the American Promise that would be fulfilled and made real for all Americans, including the descendants of slaves, on June 19, 1865, 'Juneteenth Day.'

The Bible teaches that "To every thing there is a season," and to every generation there comes a day of reckoning for the original sin of American slavery.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 40, which establishes a national commission to examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

Among other requirements, the commission shall identify (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery; (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants; and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

"Official slavery ended with the Civil War and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. But unofficial slavery was continued with the new institution of share-crop farming, a criminal justice system that would press convicts into work once done by slaves, and labor policies that dictated income for work done based upon skin color.

And, of course, all of this was reinforced by the systematic disenfranchisement of black Americans, the "discrete and insular minority" excluded from "those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect" them, to quote Chief Justice Hughes' famous Footnote 4 in *United States v. Carolene Products*, 304 U.S. 144 (1938).

The history of the United States is intertwined with the history of enslaved Africans in the Americas.

There is blood and there are tears, but there is also redemption and reconciliation.

But to get there, we must have the complete truth and lay our history bare.

It is the light that sheds the way to the more perfect union all Americans want.

Thurgood Marshall would want us to pass H.R. 40 and create the Commission it empowers as a necessary first step in that effort to get to truth and reconciliation about the 'Original Sin of American Slavery' that is necessary to light the way to the beloved community we all seek.

Madam Speaker, I also support H.R. 3005 because it puts Congress squarely on record behind the principle that no individual who served voluntarily at any time as a member of the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America or of the military of a State while the State was in open rebellion against the United States, and no individual who served as an official of the Government of the Con-

federate States of America or as an official of a State while the State was in open rebellion against the United States, is deserving of a place of honor in the Capitol of the United States.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3005, which replaces the bust of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, a symbol of the dark days of the nation's past, with a bust of Thurgood Marshall, the personification of our nation's belief in a bright and shining future.

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HONORING WALTER RADCLIFFE'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Radcliffe's 100th birthday.

Mr. Radcliffe embodies the resilience, fortitude, and can-do-spirit of the "Greatest Generation." In a time of crisis, he courageously volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II, despite having a civilian job exemption. Mr. Radcliffe fought in the Pacific Theatre aboard the U.S.S. *Isherwood*. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his combat record in the Battles of Leyte Gulf and serving at Subic Bay, as well as for the valor he demonstrated during the Invasion of Lingayen Gulf and the Battle of Okinawa.

Mr. Radcliffe is beloved by his family, including his wife Dorothy of more than 38 years, his children, and grandchildren, and by his community where he's still an active member of VFW Post 10092. It is clear to everyone who knows Mr. Radcliffe that he has made the most of each of his one-hundred years.

I wish him the best on achieving this milestone and hope he enjoys a wonderful celebration.

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IG INDEPENDENCE AND  
EMPOWERMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 29, 2021*

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2662, the IG Independence and Empowerment Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

The work of our Inspectors General throughout government in providing an independent, objective and professional review and assessment of legal compliance and waste, fraud and abuse is critical to the overall functioning of government and to ensuring public trust and confidence in government. Equally, efforts to weaken, politicize, influence and cow our Inspectors Generals are direct threats to smooth government functioning, efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars and the public trust and cannot be tolerated.

Chair MALONEY's bill takes some of the best recommendations from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to ensure Inspectors General independence, increase transparency and improve the effec-

tiveness of one of our government's major checks mechanisms. This much-needed bill will improve the work of our Inspectors General community, which is even more critical now as we expend literally trillions of dollars in emergency COVID-19 relief.

I especially appreciate that this bill includes elements of Congressman COOPER's Inspectors General Independence Act, which I also cosponsored and which was endorsed by my Blue Dog Coalition last Congress because of its focus on issues related to fiscal responsibility, good governance and national security.

I also appreciate the Committee's support of the amendment submitted by Congresswoman BOURDEAUX, Chair of the Blue Dogs Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility and Government Reform, which ensures that Inspectors General and their staffs receive sufficient training on the remedies available to them, specifically suspension or debarment, to fully address identified private sector government contracting waste, fraud or abuse.

This is a solid and much-needed improvement for one of our federal government's most valuable communities, and I urge its passage.

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HONORING THE CAREER OF DAVID  
POMAVILLE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, David Pomaville, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Director of Public Health for Fresno County. David has been a staple across the county and will be greatly missed.

David is a 1986 public health alumnus of Fresno State. When David received his bachelor's degree in Health Science with an emphasis in Environmental Health 36 years ago, he did not imagine where his profession would take him. He ended up leading the way for our county during these unprecedented times. He led a team of 380 employees in seven divisions including emergency medical services, public health nursing, children's services, health and wellness, environmental health, community health, and planning and communication.

Along with his committed career, David has found time to give back to his community; especially to current Fresno State students. Many have interned at the Department of Public Health and go on to have distinguished careers in the field. Some of the current health education interns have stayed on to work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. His work has contributed to giving students an understanding of how to care for people and the extra needed attention during the pandemic.

His ties to Fresno State have remained strong. His wife, Dr. Fran Pomaville, is a professor of speech language pathology at Fresno State. David and Fran have a strong influence on their son, Matt, who also graduated from the University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in the health sciences field.

David's passion to help others in public health is evident and I greatly appreciate his endless hard work, our conversations pertaining to the well-being of Fresno County, and his selfless compassion that has helped many.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating David Pomaville on his career. I ask that you join me in wishing David and his family continued success, health and happiness in this new chapter of his life.

#### JUNE VETERAN OF THE MONTH

### HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's June Veteran of the Month, Joshua Starks.

Joshua Starks faithfully served our country in the United States Army and the Oklahoma National Guard. He was a Combat Outpost Commander in Afghanistan and an Infantry Officer in both the Army and National Guard. Mr. Starks has continued to help others in his community and assist his fellow veterans. His commitment and passion for service speaks volumes about his character.

Mr. Stark's dedication to service is evident through his work in our community. He is the former Post Commander and current Sr. Vice Commander of VFW Post 577. Mr. Starks is also the Tulsa Veteran's Day Parade Chairman. He represents his fellow veterans as a member of the Tulsa Human Rights Commission. Joshua is also involved with the Tulsa Area United Way. In 2019, he was recognized as the 2019 Emerging Leaders Society Volunteer of the Year Award.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Joshua Starks as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's June Veteran of the Month.

#### CONGRATULATING ELAINA KOENIG ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elaina Koenig, from Ethel, Washington for being awarded the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Every year, the Congressional Award Foundation honors a select number of young Americans with Congress' highest honor—the Congressional Award Gold Medal. The award encourages our youth to set ambitious goals and put in the work and dedication to achieve them.

Elaina completed 800 hours to hone her skills in four areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration activities. Her commitment and dedication to her goals are exactly why Elaina is being recognized for this prestigious award.

Once again, I want to congratulate Elaina on receiving this honor and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 189, NAY on Roll Call No. 190, YEA on Roll Call No. 191, and YEA on Roll Call No. 192.

#### PIPELINE SAFETY STUDY ACT

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Pipeline Safety Study Act" to direct a National Academy of Sciences study and report to Congress on the vulnerabilities in our oil and natural gas pipeline infrastructure. This bill is based on legislation I cosponsored last Congress with former Congressman Harley Rouda (D-CA-48). I also want to thank the National Society of Professional Surveyors, Subsurface Utility Engineering Association, and U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization for endorsing my bill.

Specifically, the legislation I introduce today would direct the National Academy of Sciences to review current federal regulations for pipeline safety and identify risks to pipelines from earthquakes and climate change-related weather events, whether by their design or their location. The federal guidelines for earthquake-resistant construction of gas and liquid fuel pipelines have not been meaningfully updated since 1992.

Since then, the proliferation of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas has been linked to increasingly frequent earthquakes in states with virtually no prior history of naturally occurring earthquakes. Because California is riddled with active fault lines and has experienced increasingly regular and severe forest fires due to climate change, my home state's energy infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to these threats.

In 2010, eight people died in San Bruno, California when a defective pipeline exploded, but this tragedy was eminently avoidable. Residents had reported smelling a gas leak days ahead of the explosion, and investigators later found evidence of shoddy welds that had rendered the pipeline vulnerable to any number of potential disruptions. While this event was not directly linked to an earthquake and instead caused by shoddy maintenance and failure to replace an antiquated line, the federal government can and must do better to improve pipeline safety.

Madam Speaker, Congress cannot begin to strengthen the safety and resiliency requirements for federally regulated pipelines before we understand the gaps in the government's own outdated regulations and industry practices. The National Academy of Sciences study authorized in my bill would do just that, so that Congress can understand the scope of the problem and begin to legislate the solution.

I thank Chairman DEFAZIO (D-OR) for including my bill in the hazmat title of the "In-

vesting in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act" (H.R. 3684).

#### REMEMBERING JOHN KLEIN

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Klein, who passed on June 20, 2021 in Columbus, Ohio at the age of 72.

John was a passionate family man who treasured his time coaching his two boys in basketball. He was the assistant basketball coach for Belpre High School from 1996 through 2002. Throughout, he also coached all kinds of teams from junior high school to AAU. John would readily admit that his sons' trips to the Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball state tournament were the highlights of his coaching career.

Mr. Klein is a graduate of Aurora High School and Indiana State University. He retired from AEP in 2019 having worked at Zimmer Power Plant, Muskingum River Power Plant, Pickaway Power Plant and the Darby Gas Plant.

John was one of the most caring men you could ever meet with a quirky sense of humor that would have people in stitches. He loved going to the track and playing poker at the casinos. There wasn't a Hallmark movie that John didn't like. He was the ultimate Cincinnati Reds and Bengals fan. Always anticipating the upcoming season.

He was predeceased by his parents, Gene and Lucille Klein, and his sister, Emily Klein.

John is survived by his wife, Theresa, sons, Zach (Jennie) and Patrick (Whitney); grandchildren, Stella and Rocco; and brothers, Dave (Marcia) and Mike (Jill). John also had a myriad of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

John's love and dedication for his family and for life was something special. Not only did John serve as a devoted coach of basketball, but as a role model for all those he knew, touching many lives along the way. My deepest condolences go out to his dear family and friends.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WANGYEE VANG

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 30, 2021*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel Wangyee Vang. Wangyee passed away on January 18, 2021 after many years of service as a Hmong-Lao and American community leader. Wangyee was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a friend.

Wangyee was born on November 8, 1947 in Ban Phousabot, Tasseng Phousabot, Muangkham, Province of Xiengkhouang, Laos. In December of 1960, Wangyee was summoned in the army and sent to Hua Hin, Thailand for training as a field radio operator and