

AWARDING GUNNERY SERGEANT
RICHARD HALL A CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Gunnery Sergeant Richard Hall, United States Marine Corps with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Marine Corps exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Gunnery Sergeant Hall is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

During his years of military service in the Marine Corps, Gunnery Sergeant Hall has served in a plethora of incredibly important positions such as a Marine rifle, infantry leader, communications, recruiting duty, a combat leader in Vietnam where he spent 23 continuous days in battle, as well as the Two Tours of Combat Duty. Not only is his dedication to his country shown through 23 straight days of warfare, but to serve one's Nation for twenty-one straight years is very admirable. Gunnery Sergeant Hall has also shown his adaptability by serving in many locations around the world such as San Diego Naval base, Camp Pendleton, Japan, Dallas, Vietnam, Texas Recruiting Center, and Pacific Command Hawaii with Weapons protection command. After serving for twenty-one years, Gunnery Sergeant Hall retired in 1975 with many awards including the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" device; and was awarded two Purple Hearts for battle wounds.

I am beyond honored to have Gunnery Sergeant Hall in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

HONORING PASTOR LANCE BAILEY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize Pastor Lance Bailey for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, the date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Pastor Lance Bailey's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Pastor Lance Bailey for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

S. 3969, PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS PROGRAM INCLUSION ACT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I must say that I am perplexed by the Chairwoman's statements on the COCOA Act. Her interpretation of the COCOA Act is misleading and inaccurate. There have been instances in past election cycles where election officials were not aware of Congress' role and responsibility in having its own observers on site to watch the election administration process and, as a result, were denied access. As I stated earlier, this bill fixes a bi-partisan problem by providing a citation of convenience for existing law that gives the House authority to deploy official observers to watch the conduct of congressional elections in the States and territories. This way, there is no question regarding Congress' authority to have observers present.

To my surprise, the Chairwoman identifies two late breaking concerns she has with the bill. First, she states that while the bill provides broad authority to Congress, it fails to provide election officials with the ability to protect personally identifiable information. This concern appears to be a novel one, particularly in light of the long history of the Congressional observer program. We certainly would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss it further in our multiple efforts to work with majority staff on this topic.

Second, the Chairwoman expresses concern over an election official's inability to remove congressional observers that are disruptive to the process. Contrary to the Chairwoman's statement, the bill outlines the role of congressional observers and specifically prohibits these individuals from handling ballots, elections equipment, advocating for a position or candidate, taking any action to reduce ballot secrecy, or otherwise interfering with the elections administration process. The bill also permits state and local authorities to remove any observer who misbehaves. As such, state and local election officials across the country would have appropriate protections in place and should not be distressed by the presence of congressional observers.

Over the course of the past two years, my staff made a concerted effort to engage majority staff on the COCOA Act as we view this as a bi-partisan measure. We provided draft language to them for review. They did not reference either of the aforementioned concerns or flag any language that they believed to be problematic in the few conversations we had with them. My staff repeatedly offered to confer on any issue that majority staff may have with the bill and received nothing but radio silence.

It is important to note that we had an initial agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act together with the PAVA Act. However, at the eleventh hour, the majority reneged on our agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act forward. Again, here on the House Floor is the first time we are learning of any issues with the bill.

This bill benefits both sides of the aisle and serves as an additional layer of transparency

and integrity in the elections process. I am concerned that, without the COCOA Act in place this fall, the majority and minority's ability to execute this House's constitutional responsibility will continue to face serious challenges.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THERESE McMILLAN

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Therese McMillan as she retires from her role as Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Throughout her career, Therese has dedicated herself to ensuring healthy and equitable transportation systems and corridors in communities across the San Francisco Bay. She began her work with MTC in 1984 and has served in nearly every position within the agency up until 2009. She then had the opportunity to work under the Obama Administration, serving as the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), then went on to become the Acting Administrator from 2014 to 2016. After her federal work, Therese worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as their Chief Planning Officer until 2019, then returned to MTC as its new Executive Director.

Therese has played a pivotal role in uplifting the voices of women in the transportation sector across the country, including through her participation in WTS International and as their Woman of the Year in 2016. She has also provided a real-world perspective to the landscape of transportation, teaching transportation finance at the San Jose State University Norman Y. Mineta Transportation Institute during her MTC tenure.

Also during her time at the MTC, Therese has spearheaded several initiatives that have helped strengthen the San Francisco Bay Area's transportation systems to be more equitable and inclusive for all Bay Area residents. Under her leadership, MTC established an Equity Platform where the Commission strives to advance policies and make investments that will ensure all Bay Area residents, including historically underserved and marginalized groups, are considered when discussing our region's transit needs. Therese also demonstrated strong leadership guiding MTC through the COVID-19, overseeing the formation of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force which aims to improve the transit rider experience. She was also highly involved with the Resolution 3434 Regional Transportation Expansion Program, helping to establish minimum housing density targets near transit stations and prioritizing transit capital investments throughout the Bay Area.

I am grateful for Therese's dedication and compassion in striving to provide exceptional transportation services to Bay Area residents. Please join me in congratulating Therese on her retirement and her nearly three decades of service to our community.

AWARDING PETTY OFFICER HAROLD "RAY" SCOTT A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Petty Officer Harold Scott with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Navy exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Petty Officer Scott is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Petty Officer Scott is a true American patriot whose sacrifices truly bettered the United States of America. As a volunteer, Petty Officer Scott was willing to risk his life to protect the freedoms he takes pride in.

Petty Officer Scott held multiple positions as a versatile serviceman. As a Fireman in the engine room, he maintained order and created an environment of order to ensure nothing would happen to the ship. During a time when the United States of America needed strong young men to step up, Petty Officer Scott certainly delivered during his time in the Korean War. Serving across various ports on the east coast, west coast, and along the Mediterranean sea, Petty Officer Scott sacrificed all he could with no complaint.

I am beyond honored to have Petty Officer Scott in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

HONORING LEONA COOPER-BAKER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize Leona Cooper-Baker for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, the date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Leona Cooper-Baker's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Leona Cooper-Baker for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

HONORING DR. JENNIFER BLACK AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to name Dr. Jennifer Black as Iowan of the week. Through her work with All Care Health Center in Council Bluffs, Jennifer has committed to providing quality dental services to underserved communities.

Jennifer is a lifelong Iowan, who was born and raised in Council Bluffs. She attended Lewis Central High School, and then graduated from the University of Iowa's College of Dentistry. Following her graduation, Jennifer practiced dentistry in Red Oak where she served rural Iowans who often face challenges accessing care.

Jennifer then moved with her husband back to her hometown of Council Bluffs, joining the staff at All Care Health Center where she has been for the past 4 years. All Care is a community health center that has been serving the Council Bluffs area for over 25 years, and they particularly focus on removing barriers to quality care for those with the greatest need. One of the elements that stands out about All Care's dental program led by Jennifer is that All Care is one of the few providers in the area that accept Iowa Medicaid, which many vulnerable Iowans are enrolled in.

While joining the All Care team as a staff dentist, she became the organization's dental director following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic providing leadership at a tenuous time. Jennifer ensured her team had PPE and put other protocols into effect to reduce the spread of the virus, while maintaining the availability of services for those in need. Jennifer's team at All Care provided critical time-sensitive dental care to patients, who otherwise may have had very limited options to receive their care. While Jennifer is now the Dental Director, she continues to also see and care for All Care patients directly.

All Care Health Center in Council Bluffs has helped ensure vulnerable populations receive the attention and care they need. As part of the All Care team, Jennifer has demonstrated her clear commitment to doing the most for those in need. I am proud to honor Dr. Jennifer Black from All Care as Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF ATARAH MCCOY AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise along with Henry C. Johnson, Chair of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, to thank Atarah McCoy for her service to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Atarah received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and began her career in public policy and advocacy at the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab. Atarah first joined the Judiciary

Committee as a Staff Assistant in July 2021, and in January 2022 was named Legislative Aide and Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

As Staff Assistant, Atarah supported the full committee's senior staff and myself directly. A core part of my administrative team, Atarah acted as assistant clerk for over 16 hearings and 6 markups. Atarah also oversaw the committee's internship program. She is remembered for being a dedicated mentor and advocate for interns, ensuring that they professionally developed in an inclusive, welcoming environment—an especially difficult task during the COVID-19 pandemic when the office was primarily remote.

Recognized for her service, Atarah was promoted to Legislative Aide and Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. In this role, Atarah served as clerk for all Subcommittee business, and her work was essential to the success of much of the subcommittee's activities. She managed key parts of Subcommittee hearings, including working with witnesses, drafting speeches, remarks, and draft questions, and completing subcommittee hearing reports. Atarah was also instrumental in setting up a series of meetings with patent stakeholders to facilitate a ten-year review of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Throughout all of her work, Atarah brought her commitment to public service, positive nature, and dedicated work ethic. She proved to be an excellent staffer who worked very hard on many critical but often unseen tasks with conscientiousness, professionalism, and grace. Our committee, Congress, and the American people greatly benefited from her service.

While we are sad to see Atarah go and she will certainly be missed, we are happy that she will continue to serve the public interest in her new role at a nonprofit legal organization pursuing racial justice.

We thank Atarah McCoy for her service to the committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

AWARDING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ROBERT "BOB" DUNN A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Chief Petty Officer Robert "Bob" Dunn with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Navy exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Chief Petty Officer Dunn is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Chief Petty Officer Dunn spent many years supporting the Navy with his decorated engineering knowledge and skill set. He was first ported in Hawaii on *USS Tunny SSN-682* as a reactor operator and electronic technician. He relayed his experience to new servicemen through teaching at the Electronics Technician