

destroyed the records of veterans that served from 1912 to 1964. Almost 18 million records went up in flames. Up to 80 percent of veterans who discharged during this time had their records destroyed.

We learned from that conflagration, and since 1973, we have become increasingly reliant on technology, although that, too, creates exposure to potential vulnerabilities.

If cybersecurity is not protected appropriately, then millions of records could be at risk just like they were in 1973.

Strengthening information systems at Veterans Affairs will protect against cybersecurity threats, ransomware, insider threats, threats from foreign actors, phishing, and any other attacks that seek to cause harm.

Congress must require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems at the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that this fragile information is protected.

This bill should be extremely important to all of us because it is personal. Many of our colleagues in Congress are veterans. Many of our neighbors are veterans or have family and friends who are veterans. They are our constituents, our community leaders, and often, our heroes and heroines.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical bill that will safeguard the information of millions of veterans and their families.

HONORING WORLD TURKISH COFFEE DAY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of World Turkish Coffee Day, recognizing a living world heritage of humanity listed on UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Admitted to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list on December 5, 2013, Turkish coffee culture has a universal value that must be conserved and passed onto future generations. Symbolizing hospitality and peace for centuries, Turkish coffee is the world's first coffee brewing method. The coffee culture was introduced to Europe by Turks in the 17th century and later was spread to the Americas.

Led by the Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation (TCLF), Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and American Turkish Association of Washington DC (ATA-DC), Turkish Americans throughout Virginia and across the country will recognize December 5th as the World Turkish Coffee Culture Day on December 5, 2022. From Alexandria to New York City, from Michigan to Cleveland, from Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles, Turkish Americans contributing culturally, socially, and economically to their local communities will foster friendships between societies through cultural and social activities.

Please join me in thanking Turkish Americans for their community service and gastro diplomacy mission of bridging cultures through civic engagement in the U.S.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS.
CAROL SARGANIS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today, I honor the life and memory of Ms. Carol Sarganis, a teacher, a role model for people with Muscular Dystrophy, and a champion for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace.

When she was diagnosed with Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy as a young child, Carol's doctors told her parents that she would never accomplish anything in her life. However, her parents disagreed, and they instead encouraged her—and fought for her right—to receive a solid public-school education.

Carol was a successful student, and she defied the expectations of her counselors who thought she wouldn't be able to handle a rigorous academic environment. After graduating from East Providence High School, Carol attended Salve Regina University in Newport, RI to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher.

By the time she earned her Bachelor's Degree in elementary education, the progressive nature of the disease had made her almost entirely dependent on a manual wheelchair. This came long before the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed into law, so she had to rely on others, such as her brother or nursing students, to carry her up multiple flights of stairs just to attend class.

In 1968, she graduated from Salve Regina and joined the Newport Public School System as a remedial reading specialist, where she taught until her retirement in 1996. Always seeking to redefine any limit, she went on to earn a Master's Degree from the University of Rhode Island while teaching fulltime. During her tenure as a teacher, she was recognized as Teacher of the Year. Eventually, Carol learned to drive using an adaptive vehicle to accommodate her disabilities. After retiring from teaching, Carol worked as an employment specialist and job coach with Project: Return to Work, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of providing employment services and placement opportunities for Americans with disabilities, including veterans.

Carol was a role model, not just through her personal experience with overcoming barriers in the workplace, but through her relentlessly positive attitude. She believed life was a gift and refused to be defined by either her physical limitations or the biased perceptions of others. Instead of growing bitter about increasing limitations presented by the disease, she chose instead to be grateful for all of the blessings that she had. Near the end of her life, when she was almost entirely paralyzed, she was grateful for the staff of the nursing home who brought her outside to feel the sun on her face and helped her by writing cards she dictated for friends and loved ones. Always one to share her blessings, Carol would decorate the rooms of other residents with cards she had received to brighten up their living arrangements.

On October 25, 2022, Carol passed away at Rhode Island Hospital. Carol left behind her brother George Sarganis and his wife Claire McWilliams, her beloved niece Zoe Sarganis of Central Falls, and her beloved cousins

Elaine and Dick Bianco of Barrington, Rhode Island.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TODD
HAUGEN

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Todd Haugen's retirement after his 42-year long broadcasting career in Bemidji, Minnesota. Todd's last show will be November 18, 2022.

Todd has been a member of the Bemidji community since he attended Bemidji State University, where he later went on to be honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

For nearly the entirety of his 42-year career in Bemidji, Todd was on air with KBUN/KB101.

As the long-time host of the popular daily public affairs show Chatabout, Todd helped his station, KB 101, earn a record number of six National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Awards, a Crystal Heritage Award, and two NABEF Service to America Awards. He also a two-time National Association of Broadcasters Marconi award finalist for Small Market Personality of the Year.

During his time as a broadcaster, Todd did so much more than hosting shows and entertaining and informing his community. He hosted hundreds of community events, fundraisers, and participated as a host for Hubbard Bemidji's annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse that raised over \$1 million since it began in 1988.

After a successful career in broadcasting and serving his community, I wish Todd nothing but happiness in this new stage of life. I Hope he enjoys retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAF-
FIC VICTIMS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

Every third Sunday in November, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is a chance to remember the millions of lives lost or injured due to road crashes. On this day we also pay tribute to emergency responders and medical professionals who deal with the trauma of road death and injury daily.

According to the Association for Safe International Road Travel an estimated 1.35 million people around the world die in road crashes each year. This is a public health crisis that continues day in and day out in all countries of the world. Affecting primarily our most vulnerable communities and our young. Therefore, during the new Decade of Action 2021–2030 the World Day will have the important role of helping to achieve the 50 percent road casualty reduction target.

Madam Speaker, please join me today as we remember the victims of road traffic collisions and their families. Ultimately, we should

do everything in our power to protect the lives of all road users, and I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR
CHARLES CRAWFORD ON 60
YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great professor, historian and my friend, Charles W. Crawford, who was recently recognized by the University of Memphis for teaching 60 years in its History Department. Professor Crawford, whose Tennessee Land, History and Government (1984) and its 1990 update, Dynamic Tennessee, served as high school textbooks for most students across our state for decades, also has the distinction of having taught Tennessee history to future Tennessee Congressman, Senator and Vice President Al Gore in the summer before Gore's senior year at Harvard. Professor Crawford's first of 20 published books was an illustrated history of his adopted city, Yesterday's Memphis (1976) and he wrote the history of the local National Bank of Commerce on its 120th anniversary. Professor Crawford was a favorite interview for many journalists and authors and he served as a consultant on many media projects, including the 1984 documentary film "The Old Forest" and commentary on the local public television station, WQED. A native of rural north-central Arkansas, where he still has a home, Professor Crawford, 91, received a bachelor's degree from then-Harding College (now University) in Searcy, Arkansas, a master's from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi, all in history. He started teaching as a graduate assistant at Ole Miss and began as an assistant professor at then-Memphis State (now the University of Memphis) in 1962. In 1967, the university's president, Cecil C. Humphreys, asked him to start its Oral History Project, and he has subsequently conducted or overseen more than 2000 interviews, including with military veterans, experts on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Mississippi River flood of 1937, and a lot of politicians, and served as president of the national Oral History Association. As a professor, he has directed students in completing 38 doctoral dissertations and 68 students in the completion of M.A. theses. Among those who have benefitted from his work are local groups such as the Memphis Arts Council, Leadership Memphis, the Shelby County Historical Commission, the West Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Tennessee Humanities Council. At the national level, besides the Oral History Association, he has been involved with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Organization of American Historians. He has put in many hours as an editor or reader for university presses in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, and Georgia. He also served as a consultant to the American Red Cross when it undertook an oral history of its

beginnings. I have known Professor Crawford since the beginning of my political career and have been the beneficiary of his wisdom and friendship. I congratulate him on his long, distinguished and continuing career as an historian and wish him all the best when and if he ever retires.

HONORING K. DONALD
NICEWONDER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor K. Donald Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, who passed away on November 12, 2022, at the age of 84. Mr. Nicewonder was a businessman whose success in the coal business provided the resources for his philanthropy.

Mr. Nicewonder was born to John and Lena Nicewonder on November 13, 1937. He attended Emory and Henry College for two weeks before going to work at a surface coal mine owned by his older brother, J.D. After two years at his brother's companies, he began two of his own companies in Kentucky. He later sold these to McCulloch Oil Corporation and in 1974 purchased land in Buchanan County, Virginia, and McDowell County, West Virginia, with a small group of partners. In the 1980s, he sought new coal reserves and started four new surface mining companies in West Virginia with his sons, operations that produced approximately four million tons of marketable coal per year at their peak. In 2005, Mr. Nicewonder and his family sold their mining operations to Alpha Natural Resources.

His interest in coal extended to reclaiming old mining properties and reusing them for different purposes, including an airport, a portion of the King Coal Highway, and the Twisted Gun Golf Course of Wharcliff, West Virginia. He told the Golf Channel, "Being in West Virginia in mining for ten years, I thought it would be a great gesture to give the people in southern West Virginia a nice place to come play golf and let people see what can be done with some of this abandoned mine land."

Coal constituted just one part of Mr. Nicewonder's business legacy. The Nicewonder Group he launched with family and other partners controls multiple businesses. The Virginian is a golf course built near his home in 1992, later accompanied by a vineyard and a resort. The group is involved in shopping centers, office buildings, and condos in Virginia and Florida and owns clay deposits in Virginia and Vermont.

Mr. Nicewonder's business success empowered him to give generously to causes in his home region. He supported educational institutions such as Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Sullins Academy, and the Morrison School. Mr. Nicewonder and his brother J.D. have also supported health care providers in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee, contributing to the well-being of the region's people.

Mr. Nicewonder is survived by his wife of 65 years, Etta Nicewonder; two sons, Kenny Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, and Kevin Nicewonder and his wife, Kim Grace Nicewonder of Abingdon, Virginia; one daughter,

Kim Nicewonder Johnson of Bristol, Virginia; seven grandchildren, Reid Nicewonder of Los Angeles; California, Paulena Johnson of the Netherlands, Ross Nicewonder of Denver, Colorado, Nick Nicewonder of Asheville, North Carolina, Carly Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, Lexi Johnson of Alexandria, Virginia, and Steven Johnson of Bristol, Virginia; and brother, J.D. Nicewonder and his wife Loraine Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia. I offer them my condolences on the loss of a great Bristol businessman and philanthropist.

VA INFRASTRUCTURE POWERS EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5721 the "VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021" or "VIPER Act."

As a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I care deeply about our veterans.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 in the 18th Congressional District of Texas that I proudly represent.

In Congress, I have sponsored many legislative proposals and co-sponsored well over 50 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families.

Of all veterans, 50 percent use at least one VA benefit or service. Majority of those using health care benefits.

H.R. 5721 addresses the misguided legal reinterpretation that eliminated a 75-year long allowance of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to accept grant money through private universities.

Over the past 75 years, the VA has developed the most sophisticated and powerful research enterprises in the United States.

It is extremely important that we pass this bill because it would give critical resources and tools to better serve our nation's veterans by further improving its groundbreaking research program.

The VIPER Act would:

Ensure program continuity by authorizing the VA's Office of Research and Development; Eliminate burdensome paperwork requirements for VA scientists and administrators;

Allow VA to recruit and retain data scientists and researchers on loan from other federal agencies more efficiently;

Create opportunities for researcher at smaller universities to expand the STEM pipeline serving veterans;

Grant VA transactional authority in line with 11 other federal agencies; and

Mandate a Government Accountability Office study on the retention of VA clinician-scientists and the productivity of their research.

H.R. 5721 would benefit our veterans and the global community as VA-funded research has led to medical breakthroughs such as the first pacemaker, the first successful liver transplant, effective treatments for PTSD, and prosthetics that enhance mobility for amputees.