

Mr. Monnet spent his time in the United States appreciating the natural beauty of our country. He notably took daily walks through Rock Creek Park which he fondly referred to as “my park” in his memoirs. His personal connection to the park makes it a fitting location for a commemorative work in Washington. I join my colleagues in extending support for the legislation creating this new capital memorial.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLOSE AGENCY LOOPHOLES TO THE JONES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the “Close Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act,” which would close early 50 years of anti-Jones Act decisions, known as “letter rulings”, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and having served as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018, I am committed to rebuilding the U.S.-flagged fleet including international and Jones Act vessels. For nearly 50 years, Congress has stood idly by while federal regulators made bad decision after bad decision chipping away at the Jones Act, allowing foreign vessels paying poverty wages to take jobs from Americans working in our maritime industry. That stops today.

In December 2020, Congress enacted my amendment to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act as section 9503 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) affirming that the application of the Constitution, laws, and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States to the Outer Continental Shelf also applies to non-mineral energy resources and exploring for, developing, producing, transporting, or transmitting such resources. As I stated in my remarks on September 24, 2020 (Congressional Record, Vol. 166, No. 166), Congress always intended U.S. law to apply to any form of exploration, development, production, transportation, and transmission of energy resources under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953.

On January 25, 2021, President Biden’s first executive order (no.14005) after assuming office directed federal agencies to maximize the use of American mariners, American-built ships, and U.S.-flagged vessels under the Jones Act. In response to my amendment enacted in the FY12 NDAA, Customs and Border Protection issued a headquarters ruling letter “HQ H309186” on January 27, 2021, correctly holding that the transportation of “scour protection” materials from the Port of Providence, Rhode Island to a wind project on the Outer Continental Shelf off the southeast shore of Martha’s Vineyard is a coastwise activity under the Jones Act.

On March 17, 2021, the national trade association for the offshore wind industry sent a letter to the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection requesting that the agency withdraw HQ H309186. In this letter, the off-

shore wind industry mischaracterized my September 2020, remarks from the Congressional Record as somehow supporting its request that Customs and Border Protection withdraw the January 27, 2021, letter ruling. On March 25, 2021, Customs and Border Protection issued a revised headquarters ruling letter (HQ H317289) contradicting its January 2021 letter ruling and the President’s policy to allow foreign vessels to construct energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf.

To be clear, my September 2020 remarks in the Congressional Record state that my amendment to Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act simply clarified that all forms of offshore energy development are indeed subject to the same U.S. laws that apply to the offshore oil and gas industry. That does not mean that I accept the validity of the many administrative loopholes to the Jones Act created by decades of bad letter rulings and poor enforcement by Customs and Border Protection. Rather, I have long held that many of the activities regulators have incorrectly allowed the offshore oil and gas industry to engage in using foreign-flagged vessels are clear violations of the plain text of the Jones Act and original Congressional intent.

It is now clear to me that the regulators at Customs and Border Protection are unwilling to fully implement the Jones Act, as directed by President Biden’s Executive Order 14005. My ‘Closing Agency Loopholes to the Jones Act’ would finally force federal regulators to enforce the law as Congress intended in 1920, maximizing job opportunities for American mariners, U.S.-flagged vessels, and domestic shipyard workers. In effect, my legislation would also compel Customs and Border Protection to implement the President’s stated policy by fully enforcing the Jones Act.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the House to cosponsor this critical and long overdue legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEVERLY LANE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the service of Beverly Lane as she retires from the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board of Directors.

Beverly has been a strong advocate for Contra Costa residents and has worked tirelessly to help this community thrive. As former Mayor of Danville, she was committed to preserving open spaces and bolstering the town’s transportation system. Additionally, she spearheaded efforts to protect local sites of cultural and historical significance and to educate others about the Bay Area’s rich history through her work with a variety of organizations including the League of Women Voters (California), Central Contra Costa Transportation Authority, California League of Cities, the Oakland Museum of California History, the Contra Costa County Historical Society, and more. She is the author of four books on local history and led efforts to establish the Calaveras Ridge trail as well as an agricultural park in Danville.

Beverly has received extensive recognition for her outstanding public service, receiving the Association of Bay Area Governments Growing Smarter Together Award for Distinguished Leadership, Save Mount Diablo’s Mountain Star Award, Tri-Valley Hero and Woman of the Year, and many more.

Beverly joined the East Bay Regional Park District Board in 1994 representing Ward 6. During her time with EBRPD, she has worked to extend the Iron Horse Trail, establish the Sycamore Valley Open Space Park, and promoted a range of other projects to support our regional parks. Recently, Beverly has played a key role in the creation of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park—Home of the Port Chicago 50. Throughout her tenure with EBRPD, Beverly has continually advocated for improved access to parks and trails and shown her commitment to safeguarding Contra Costa’s environment and open spaces. Her dedication and service have helped to connect Contra Costa residents to nature within their own communities, encouraging a healthy lifestyle for all community members.

Please join me, Congressman MCNERNEY, and Congressman THOMPSON in congratulating Beverly on her well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades of service to Contra Costa County.

HONORING THE TSA EMPLOYEES AT LOUISVILLE MUHAMMAD ALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the TSA workers at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, and please understand, this is not a token acknowledgment.

I am about to wrap up a 16 year Congressional career in which I’ve flown from my home in Louisville to the Capitol and back around 40 weeks or so in a non-pandemic year. That’s about 1,120 flights, give or take.

I see these folks more than I see most of my colleagues. And it’s great. They’re friendly, they’re funny, they’re kind. If they obstruct, it’s with good reason.

Seriously, they’ve made these encounters a truly enjoyable part of my job. Yes, I’m talking about going through airport security. No easy task.

Of course, being nice for me to talk to is hardly the most important part of their jobs. They’re keeping us safe, our families, our community. Every single person who passes through Muhammad Ali International Airport is their responsibility, both to protect and to ensure is not a threat.

One week a year, 30,000 people pass through in just a few days for the Kentucky Derby, and each one requires attention from our TSA workers.

And people think airport security is stressful for them.

But if they get stressed, you’d never know it. You’ll get a friendly smile, a kind word, and maybe even a joke.

When I ran for Congress, I’ll be honest, I never thought about how much time I’d spend with the men and women of Louisville’s TSA. But now, it’s time I’ll never forget.

They are true public servants who've kept us safe and secure, and I thank them. I don't know where I'll be going in retirement, but I look forward to seeing them on the way there.

HONORING VENANCIO CHAVEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional advocacy and service of community leader Venancio Chavez.

Born on May 18, 1962, in Hidalgo, Mexico, Mr. Chavez immigrated to Santa Ana, California, in 1986, where he soon became a community leader and advocate for educational equity in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Mr. Chavez advocacy work was conducted through his membership with several Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). As president of Garfield Elementary's PTA from 1995 to 1998, he worked for better safety and quality of life for the students and parents. He helped plant hedges that served a safety barrier and he also established a community garden.

His leadership continued as a member of the Villa Fundamental Junior High School PTA from 2001 to 2004. During this time, he advocated for equal opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled students. His advocacy led to the creation of the lottery system for incoming students for all fundamental high schools in the City of Santa Ana.

As PTA President at Century High School from 2004 to 2008, he increased parent attendance at PTA meetings by inspiring them to become more involved on campus. Additionally, he spearheaded efforts to create community yard sales to fundraise for the PTA. These efforts afforded the school a lighted marquee to provide seamless communication with parents.

One of his most lasting legacies is the founding of El Sol Science and Arts Academy, which opened in Santa Ana in 2001 with 1,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. El Sol Academy is a leading dual-immersion public charter school that offers an intensive academic instructional program that prepares students for high school and beyond. His goal of providing greater access to high education for Santa Ana's low-income families has been realized as El Sol students have gone on to attend the top colleges and universities throughout our nation.

Mr. Chavez continued his advocacy work with Orange Coast College as President of the school's Extended Opportunity and Services Program. In this position, Mr. Chavez endeavored to bring inclusivity within higher education by fostering community ties through campus engagement and provide students with equitable resources. Student and family engagement increased due to his efforts.

In 2012, Venancio Chavez graduated from Orange Coast College with his Associates degree, with a certificate in Special Education, and he later earned his certificate to become a veterinarian assistant. Mr. Chavez is a volunteer food distributor with Saddleback Church. He also supports the Ebelle Club of Santa Ana and has dedicated more than 25 years of service to the French Park Plaza Homeowners' Association Board of Directors.

Venancio Chavez is a dedicated man who strives to assist anyone who may need help. Through his advocacy and dedication to public service, Mr. Chavez has uplifted his local community and helped improve equity and access to higher education for school children in the City of Santa Ana.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the exceptional advocacy and service of community leader Venancio Chavez.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SHARI BUSH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Shari Bush and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

Shari is retiring after 21 years at Cypress Bay High School in Weston.

As the BRACE Advisor, Shari was instrumental in helping hundreds of students get accepted to some of the top schools in the country.

She was an invaluable source of higher education guidance for my own children.

Cypress Bay High School has 4,800 students, and 98 percent of them are on track for college.

Shari plays a huge role in that.

Shari is an expert in advising students to apply for scholarships, financial aid, and coach them through all of the stages of college application process, including what schools to apply to, filling out applications, writing essays, testing, and making those critical final decisions.

She traveled to universities throughout the U.S. and abroad and has been hosted at more than 50 college campuses.

Currently, Shari is a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Miami and Florida State University and is a member of the FBI Citizens Academy.

I wish Shari all the best as she moves into the next chapter of her life.

TRUTH CAN PREVAIL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful today to attend a presentation by Alex Epstein on Energy Opportunity where he fulfilled the introduction of being an "energy expert and philosopher, specializing in how to persuade people to see the truth about energy."

His message was a courageous clarion call of sanity in the midst of energy policy insanity.

Alex is author of two of the best-selling energy books of the last decade: *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels* and *Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal, and Natural Gas—Not Less*.

The presentation was highlighted by common sense, real world, easily understood, thoughtful talking points such as "if Europe's

level of dependence on Russia for natural gas scares you, know this America is even more dependent on China" for components replacing fossil fuels.

His explanation of the lessons on energy policies not only revealed the fallacies of failed policies, but he offers positive solutions confirming being environmentally conscious.

Alex Epstein is a vital resource for Americans who understand the need for energy independence for jobs, national security, and fiscal sanity for American families.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KATHY MOFFAT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exemplary life of Kathy Moffat. Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, Kathy Moffat has lived her life leading with knowledge, experience, and community connection while serving the City of Orange, California, as an Orange Unified School District (OUSD) Trustee.

In her early years, she attended the University of Nebraska where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. After completing her higher education, she went on to pursue teaching education to the younger generation. She taught upper elementary grades for eight years in the states of Nebraska, Maryland, and Kansas before moving to California.

Kathy and her husband, Duncan, are parents of three grown children, who were all educated in OUSD K–12th grades, and grandparents of seven amazing grandchildren.

Devoted to education and to parent involvement, Kathy has served as a PTA member and leader on the local, state, and national levels for more than 35 years.

Kathy was first elected to the OUSD Board in 2001 in a recall election and then elected to a full term in 2002. She continued to serve on the board for nearly 22 years and has notably been re-elected 5 times.

Moffat's backing of strong academics has resulted in more student access and participation in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes. Under Kathy's leadership, the district also started providing SAT testing to all interested high school students to decrease the financial burden on families in the City of Orange.

Kathy's community leadership roles include President of the Orange YMCA, Director on the Orange County School Boards Association, Director of the Leadership Orange Program of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, the Orange County Committee on School District Organization, and as an active member of her church.

Recent educational challenges have required dedicated leadership and strong guidance. Due to her impressive background and track record, Kathy Moffat has certainly met those challenges.

A champion of education, she has been a tireless advocate for the students and frequently visits school sites to support those in need. She is said to be one of the best friends' public educations has ever had.