

to assist constituents. Her positive attitude and exceptional work ethic are exemplary. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to express my gratitude to Mrs. Debra Hembree for 11 years of dedicated service.

AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6611 to authorize the French Embassy in the United States to establish a commemorative work in Rock Creek Park to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet.

Jean Monnet, a French citizen living in Washington, DC, played an extraordinary role promoting cooperation and peace on both sides of the Atlantic, which has furthered the national interest of the United States and is also of lasting historical significance to the American people.

Specifically, he is credited for his skillful efforts to restore peace between European nations, playing a critical role during both World Wars, and is often referred to as the founder of the European Union. Having sowed the seeds of the European Union, we continue to reap the benefits of Monnet's work today as evidence through the strength of the European Union and the continued coordination of the transatlantic alliance countering authoritarianism wherever it exists.

To provide more color on the importance of establishing this commemorative work, I would like to speak about the great accomplishments of Jean Monnet.

He was a French diplomat and businessman, as well as a dedicated citizen of Europe and a devoted friend of the United States. Monnet was a thoughtful individual who played a critical role in many of the 20th centuries major events. Today, he is most known for his efforts during both World Wars, the rebuilding of Europe, and the founding of European Union.

Specifically, Monnet is recognized for his creative thinking that was essential to the U.S. and Allied victory over Nazi Germany. After seeking refuge in the United States during Nazi-Germany's occupation of France, Monnet served as an adviser to U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and as a special envoy of the United States to the Free French. During that time, he also became a member of the British Purchasing Commission. There, he worked with senior U.S. officials to coordinate Allied resources, galvanize U.S. war production, and unleash the "arsenal of democracy," a phrase coined by Monnet and later made famous by President Roosevelt. In fact, economist John Maynard Keynes once said that Monnet's contributions shortened the global conflict by an entire year and, through his actions, saved tens of thousands of European and American lives.

Following the Allied victory of WWII, Monnet started several initiatives which are known to have been the catalysts for the eventual creation of the European Union. For instance, Monnet proposed the creation of the European

Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), an initiative that pooled the coal and steel resources of 6 countries in Europe, greatly contributing to increased production and resolving a centuries old dispute over these resources. In addition, he established the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, a political organization that united parties across Europe to advocate for further European integration. These 2 actions, the creation of the ECSC and the Action Committee, were both critical steps in the formation of the political union that the European Union represents today.

Monnet's legacy continues today as the transatlantic alliance stands united in the face of Russian aggression and rising autocracy globally. The United States and Europe must continue to face our challenges as he so strongly encouraged: by working together towards a more peaceful future.

With that being said, I want to acknowledge the bi-partisan effort it took to move this legislation forward and I thank my fellow Co-Chairs on the House French Caucus, Representatives LATTA, SCHIFF, and WILSON for their original co-sponsorship and all efforts to advance this legislation. I'd also like to thank Chairs GRIJALVA, NEGUSE, and my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for consideration of this measure and for allowing it to move to the floor so expeditiously.

I also want to thank the leadership of this House for taking on this important issue, and supporting the passing of H.R. 6611. The commemoration to Monnet will stand as a continual reminder of the historic and continuing importance of the transatlantic partnership between the United States, France, and the greater European community. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUSIE MURRAY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susie Murray, the school nurse at Ursuline Academy. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Susie has gone above and beyond to keep the students, faculty, and staff of Ursuline Academy safe.

Susie diligently kept up on the protocols from the city, county, and state. She also carefully kept track of cases to help keep students and faculty as safe and healthy as possible. Susie's efforts allowed Ursuline to avoid additional lockdown periods when they returned to in-person learning. When uncertainty disheartened parents, teachers and students, Susie remained cool-headed and dedicated to the task ahead of her.

The Covid-19 pandemic, however, was not the beginning of Susie's dedication to her community. Even before the pandemic, she played a vital role in the well-being of Ursuline's students and faculty by attending retreats, chaperoning the Students Reach Out service club, and always being ready and willing to support a student or colleague in any way.

On behalf of the North Texas community, I'd like to extend my gratitude to Susie for her dedicated leadership before, during, and after the pandemic.

HONORING BRITT VAN

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Britt Van, a brilliant staffer and someone I am proud to have worked alongside for years.

Britt departs the New Dem Coalition as Policy Director this month after 5 years and 7 months with the organization. I feel especially fortunate she was on the team during the time I served as Chair of the Coalition.

During my tenure as Chair, Britt was a driving force in making the New Dems the strong coalition of policy leaders in Congress that we are known as today. She knows every New Dem policy area like the back of her hand and has skillfully guided Members on issues from housing to trade. She also restructured and revived the Coalition's policy task forces, which continue to do important work in finding the best solutions to pressing problems.

But I am most grateful and proud of Britt's work on behalf of the Coalition on 2 brilliant ideas: automatic stabilizers and the RECOMPETE program.

With automatic stabilizers, Britt took a very complicated, "wonky" idea and made it real and actionable for policymakers across the ideological spectrum. She advanced this idea forward in the months following the COVID-19 outbreak when we discussed how and when to enhance federal benefits during economic downturns, like we saw during the pandemic. While we weren't successful, I am confident policymakers will eventually see the value of automatic stabilizers for federal benefits. When that day comes, we can thank Britt for taking this idea from concept to reality.

With the RECOMPETE program, Britt helped me bring to life something very near and dear to my heart. When I was growing up in Port Angeles, I saw my community suffer from an economic downturn that fundamentally changed the fabric of my life. The timber industry took it on the chin, and many families were never able to recover. Since then, I've spent most of my adult life trying to find a solution and make sure this doesn't continue happening, a solution to ensure we protect workers and communities and make sure no one gets left behind. Frankly, it's why I came to Congress. And that's why I asked Britt to help me create the RECOMPETE program, which provides communities with a flexible, long-term grant to create jobs and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth.

Britt and I worked on this legislation for many long months, and after many iterations, our RECOMPETE Act was finally passed by Congress and signed into law as a part of the historic CHIPS and Science Act.

Britt's work with the RECOMPETE Act is just 1 example of how she embodies the model of what a public servant is and should be. She digs down deep into an issue, pours her life and soul into the work, and truly does it in service of a better tomorrow. She believes in the best of government to help people. She believes in the work we do and goes forward—undeterred and bravely—with that work. You really can't wish for much more in a staffer or a person—and I didn't ever.

Britt has been a wonderful presence at New Dems and on the Hill for the past 5 plus

years. We'll miss her dearly at the New Democrat Coalition, and I wish her only the best.

HONORING MIAMI/BAHAMAS
GOOMBAY FESTIVAL BOARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor Fredrika S. Brown, Leona Cooper, and Herb Hiller who have served on the board of the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival since its inception.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is a celebration of cultural expression embracing the legacy of Miami's Bahamian-rooted community known as Coconut Grove. The three-day celebration strives to provide a historical overview of the American/Bahamian culture by educating and exposing the public to its rich heritage and traditions.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival in Coconut Grove is dedicated to recognizing, promoting and educating the residents of Miami-Dade County and tourists about the rich Bahamian and American Heritage and what makes this such a unique and positive blend.

The board strives to provide a historical overview of the Bahamian Culture, the commemoration of the early Coconut Grove settlers, and to introduce their music, native food specialties, artifacts, and crafts that are indigenously of the island.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is held to bring about unity and bridge a cultural gap by building communities through the understanding of each other's likenesses and differences.

Since 1977, the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival has celebrated the Bahamian culture of Miami-Dade County. The festival would not be possible without the hard work of the board who has stayed the course. I salute this effort and I am thankful to the Goombay Festival committee for keeping the rich culture of our Bahamian ancestors alive in Miami.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DELANO JOHNSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Delano Johnson as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Delano has dedicated his life to serving and empowering the East County community in Contra Costa, California. Delano is the founder of Bay Point Community All-N-One Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2012 that helps connect Bay Point residents with essential resources including housing, food, clothing, and hygiene products. The organization hosts a weekly event that provides critical support and services to up to 200 families each week. Further, thanks to Delano's leadership, the organization recently hosted a very successful Thanksgiving Giveaway, distributing over 1,000 turkeys and chickens to the community.

Delano participates with a number of nonprofits in the area to do more work to better his community, including White Pony Express, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Village Keepers, and Stand Together Contra Costa. Additionally, Delano regularly hosts meetings between local charities, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations, allowing these groups to easily connect and to better provide for the residents of East County. Delano's hard work and dedication are admired by all who know him.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking Delano Johnson for his years of dedicated service as we celebrate his 80th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW
WASHINGTON ON HIS DEPARTURE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Matthew Earl Washington as he departs federal service after a lengthy career in the House of Representatives.

Originally from North Carolina, Matt's distinguished career in the House began in the office of the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis of Georgia as a Legislative Assistant. He later served as Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman John Olver of Massachusetts when the congressman served on the Appropriations Committee. His extensive knowledge of America's security, transportation, and infrastructure earned him the position of Staff Director of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee of the House Committee on Homeland Security where he adeptly served as the lead staffer on all Subcommittee matters for Chairwoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Since then, for the past nearly 15 years, Matt has served the Appropriations Committee with great diligence. The Committee's longest serving African American staffer on the Democratic side, he began his impressive tenure as a Professional Staff Member on the Defense Subcommittee where he oversaw the programs and funding that support active duty and reserve personnel. He later served as a Professional Staff Member for the full committee, ensuring smooth legislative and procedural processes for the Committee and Member offices.

Following these roles, equipped with unparalleled knowledge of the Committee, Matt took on the role of Clerk for the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee in 2011 becoming the first African American staffer to hold the position. He skillfully managed and negotiated all aspects of the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, and his leadership has helped protect our national security, uphold our commitment to servicemembers, veterans, and their families, and rebuild critical military infrastructure. In 2019, Matt began serving as Clerk of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, expertly leading the Subcommittee to enormous legislative triumphs in an attempt at making Congress work better for the American people.

His years of experience and expert knowledge of the Appropriations Committee made him an excellent addition to my Front Office staff when I became Chair of the full committee, where he has since served as Deputy Staff Director for the past two years. He has been at the helm of the investments we have made to help working families and vulnerable people all over our nation. In his unique role, he has been instrumental in the implementation of Community Project Funding, coordinating spending between all 12 subcommittees, and representing the Committee in front of critical partners during negotiations. And personally, he has been a trusted advisor throughout my first term leading this Committee.

While we will miss Matt greatly, we are excited for what the future holds for him. I wish Matt, his wife Chandini, and their children Yara and Zayn all the best, and extend my gratitude to his family for sharing him with us for so many years.

Our Nation is safer and this body is stronger because of Matt's tireless work. I join all Members of the Appropriations Committee who he has worked with in saying we will miss his expertise greatly. The Appropriations Committee is a family—one made up of all the staff and Members who serve and have served this great institution. We are all so lucky that he will forever be part of this distinguished group. Congratulations on a remarkable federal career. His country is endlessly grateful for his leadership, service, and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY
LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL BEN-
JAMIN NICHOLSON

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Admiral Benjamin Nicholson for his outstanding leadership as Commander of Joint Region Marianas. In June of 2021, Admiral Nicholson was sworn in as Commander of Joint Region Marianas tasked with fortifying American freedom and democracy in his work to achieve Indo-Pacific Command objectives while strengthening Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. With unwavering focus on the mission of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Nicholson goes above and beyond the call of duty with his attention to the communities he serves, actively engaging local leadership and stakeholders to ensure the welfare of the general public.

Admiral Nicholson's commitment to our Armed Services began in the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering in 1993. He continued to build his foundation earning his master's degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. His background spans numerous command positions and numerous deployments around the world during his sea-going career.

Admiral Nicholson has further served in combat tours in Helmand, Afghanistan, and