

the work of the Health Foundation from its start. As a result, she has been a catalyst for systemic and policy changes in everything from community development and affordable housing to food insecurity and nutrition.

Madam Speaker, the impact of Dr. Yost's advocacy in the field of public health cannot be understated. She has helped the foundation fund grants supporting everything from re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated people to initiatives to address childhood trauma—Dr. Yost has been relentless in her pursuit to help others.

Dr. Yost is driven by a genuine desire to do good. She has beautifully blended the work of philanthropy, government, and the nonprofit sector in a way that alters the trajectory of people's lives and serves as a model for public health across the country.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and all the people in whose lives Dr. Yost has made positive and immeasurable differences, it is my great privilege to thank and recognize Dr. Janice B. Yost for her service to the people of Massachusetts and her tireless efforts to create a more just and equitable world.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA'S LOCAL  
TRAILBLAZER, ROBERT SCOTT,  
JR., IN HONOR OF BLACK HIS-  
TORY MONTH

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, this Black History Month, I am proud to celebrate local trailblazers who have lifted up our community and those who dedicate their time and talent to preserve local African American heritage. I rise today in immense gratitude of Robert Scott, Jr., a lifetime public servant. Mr. Scott was born in 1954 and it was during an impressionable age when he witnessed segregation, brutality, marches, resisting through nonviolence and the numerous assassinations of national civil rights activists and prominent figures, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, as well as Robert F. and John F. Kennedy. But he also witnessed the change and improvements that emanated. His parents were Robert, an insurance agent and Doris Scott, a school principal. He graduated from Chamberlain High School and then from Bethune Cookman University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He also graduated from the University of South Florida Institute of Government Executive Fellows Program.

Mr. Scott started with the City of Tampa as a personnel analyst and retired after 30 years as Division Manager of its Solid Waste Department in 2010. During his decades of service, he witnessed improvements in leadership and was proud to be part of diversifying leadership within city government. For decades, City of Tampa and Hillsborough County employees supported an annual local MLK tribute through a scholarship fund and downtown march, and Mr. Scott was part of that effort during his tenure at the City of Tampa. He also served on the City of Tampa Black History Committee. He is now the owner of Scott Travel Agency, which specializes in group and

cruise travel to all regions of the world. He understands that learning about other cultures provides a better perspective of how to treat people. Mr. Scott was one of the founders that established the MLK Foundation to build a family-friendly parade that started in 2015, fund scholarships for deserving students and honor community heroes that uphold the legacy of Dr. King. Today, the MLK Foundation hosts one of the largest MLK parades in the southeastern United States and engages with businesses, community organizations and entertainment—over the past few years, numerous bands from Historically Black Colleges & Universities have participated in the annual parade. In fact, 2022 was the first time ever that the largest HBCU bands in the country, Florida's own Bethune Cookman University and Florida A&M University, marched together. He hopes Tampa's MLK parade inspires all cities throughout the state to host their own in an effort to unify entire communities.

Mr. Scott has been a member of First Union Missionary Baptist Church for 48 years. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a 32nd degree Mason. He has served on other boards and committees such as the National Safety Council Executive Board, American Cancer Society, Gasparilla Parade, Super Bowl committee, and is a Certified Manager of the Solid Waste Association of North America. He is married to his beautiful wife, Barbara, and has four children, Michael, Pavonne, Robert III and Jason.

Mr. Scott understands fully how remembering our history, no matter how dark, can be used towards a better future. He also knows that preserving our own heritage is just as important as learning about other heritages from all over the world. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize the service and leadership of Robert Scott, Jr.

OBSERVING THE 30TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAG-  
EDY

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, our friends in Azerbaijan paused last week to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy and it is right that we join our allies in this remembrance.

Since the beginning of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the late 1980s, it is reported that the Khojaly tragedy, which happened on February 25 and 26, 1992, was the deadliest in this conflict, resulting in hundreds of lives lost, families devastated, and the town destroyed.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, the conflict is ongoing and flares periodically, most recently in 2020. It remains my hope and prayer that the barriers to peace that have persisted for the last three decades can be resolved.

2022 also marks the 30th anniversary of the U.S. and Azerbaijan establishing diplomatic relations. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a key partner in the War on Terror, and the two nations share a Trade Relations Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

The anniversary of this tragedy is an appropriate time to remember the lives of all the men, women, and children who were killed, and to recommit to working together to prevent such atrocities from occurring again. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation are in the best interests of the entire region of the South Caucasus and the world.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ROBENA  
GAINES FLAKES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a phenomenal woman of God, dedicated early childhood educator, and beloved role model, Mrs. Robena Gaines Flakes. Sadly, Mrs. Flakes departed to her eternal reward on Saturday, February 5, 2022. A homegoing service celebrating the life of this exceptional woman was held on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 11:00 AM at Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church located at 5230 Lee Road 235 in Phenix City, Alabama.

Mrs. Robena Gaines Flakes was born in Phenix City, Alabama in 1935. After graduating from South Girard High School, she went on to study Early Childhood Education at Morris Brown College and Columbus State University. She also attended American Baptist Theology College at the Friendship Baptist Church campus in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Flakes was a loving mother to her children and was a supportive wife to her late husband, Rev. Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, Jr. She was the compassionate first lady to his congregations at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama. Together they used their deep and abiding faith in the Lord to make a tremendous impact on their community, state, and nation. Their son, Rev. Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, III now pastors Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and, in addition, previously pastored Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church as did his father before him.

Mrs. Flakes was also the Founding Director of the Fourth Street Daycare Center (now the Robena Gaines Flakes Daycare) which was established in 1993. During her tenure as Director, the center expanded its roster from 56 children to over 150 children. She also expanded the facility as well as its programs and services to include an after-school program for elementary school students. It was also the first daycare to receive the "Center of Distinction Award" from the state of Georgia. She served in this capacity for 12 years until she retired as Director in 2005 and went on to serve as a Consultant.

Mrs. Flakes received several accolades and awards for her work with the youth. These awards include the Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award from the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Gracious Ladies of Georgia Award. She also served as President of The East Alabama Women's Association.

Mrs. Flakes accomplished many things in her life but none of these would have been

possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, their children, Rev. Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, III, Merle J. Flakes, and Sencira Flakes; along with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." "Mama Flakes", as she was affectionately known, gave her life to God and dedicated herself to the service of others. On a personal note, when I came to Columbus, Georgia in 1972, she nurtured me as if I were one of her children. And, for that, I will be forever grateful. Furthermore, during my two decades as a member of the congregation and choir at Fourth Street and throughout my career, she and her husband shared advice, counsel, and wisdom with me and were always supportive of my career in public service. I can say without reservation that she was one of the most passionate and warmhearted individuals I have ever met. I am proud to consider Mama Flakes and the Flakes family as part of my extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, and people all across the nation, in paying tribute to Mrs. Robena Gaines Flakes, for her selfless service to youth, the Church, and to humankind. We extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who mourn her loss. We pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

ARVADA ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) for receiving the 2021 Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Behind the Scenes Award.

The Chamber's Behind the Scenes Award is given to an organization or individual who is an unsung hero in our community and is truly focused on ensuring the Arvada community and businesses are thriving.

The Arvada Economic Development Association team has exhibited leadership and collaboration through their willingness to partner and support the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and the local businesses they serve. The staff and board members of AEDA offered their time and talent to ensure the appropriate resources were allocated throughout Arvada in order to have an optimal impact on the business community as a whole. Through this investment, they have supported the economic recovery of the local business community during the COVID-19 pandemic, critical shifts to the local workforce system, and helped advance business education programs. These are a few of the countless examples of how AEDA has shown their commitment to their partners, local businesses and our community all while continuing to make Arvada one of the best places to do business.

Congratulations to Arvada Economic Development Association for this honor, and I thank them for their contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING SALIM BAMOUE,  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY  
CONTEST WINNER

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of Salim Bamoue, an 8th grade student at Vernon Johns Middle School in Petersburg, Virginia, and the middle school winner of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. Mr. Bamoue wrote a powerful essay on the legacy of my former colleague John Lewis and why his lifelong work on voting rights is still important today. I am inspired by Mr. Bamoue's words, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Salim Bamoue's exceptional work in celebration of Black History Month.

VA04 HIGH SCHOOL BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
ESSAY CONTEST

(By Salim Bamoue)

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by human beings for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison people because they are different from others.—Martin Luther King Jr. Many people consider voting to be the most prominent voice us citizens have in office. While this is true, people of color do not have equal opportunity to voice their opinions. John Lewis fought for most of his life to preserve the voting rights of his African American brothers and sisters. John Lewis's impact on voting rights can not be taken away. He has influenced changes that have been made and changes to be made in American society for years to come. The struggle for voting rights has always been long and arduous, and John Lewis despite all the adversity, fought through it so that minorities in America had equal opportunity to vote in the United States of America.

John Lewis was born on February 21, 1940 in a heavily segregated Alabama. He was born into terrible circumstances as he would grow up to be a victim of prejudice. When Jim Crow laws were in full effect and white superiority was preached everywhere and blacks were brutally persecuted due to the forceful stereotypes and rhetoric spread by white supremacists. Most people of color were gaslighted into believing they were actually inferior to whites. This genuinely applied to most things a normal American citizen would do. Voting especially was a huge issue. The issue of voting disproportionately benefited whites in a way which might have seemed minute. John Lewis saw this and decided his activism to the issue of voting rights. One of John Lewis' most prominent and notable moments in his life was Bloody Sunday. On March 7th, 1965, John Lewis and other activists were brutally beaten for protesting their voting rights. Voting rights have always been complicated. This did not deter John Lewis though as he's been fighting for this up until his passing.

John Lewis' legacy is still integral in our fight for voting rights. A bill is being worked on in his name to secure the votes of African American citizens. While for the most part

the disparity between whites and blacks isn't as notable, we are still currently struggling to attain our voting rights in a way in which we feel secured and just as considered as our white counterparts. John Lewis has fought for many years to attain voting rights for his people, even becoming a U.S. Representative so that people may look up to him and strive for what he strived for. The future looks promising as this new bill that may be passed in his name may directly affect black voters in such a way that more and more black voters are accounted for.

Throughout history, people of color have notably been on the short end of the stick and we still struggle to attain even our voting rights. But late John Lewis has dedicated his life to the cost in order to give black people an equal voice as to who we should place in our offices. The current state of the bill working on to be passed in John Lewis's name doesn't look so good as it has failed the senate vote twice and is exempt from filibuster, but that doesn't mean we sit down and act as if we cannot find a compromise or some sort of way to finally secure our voting rights as we as black Americans should always strive to secure the rights given to us and the fruits of our liberty. So I call upon black Americans to keep on fighting the persecution even through the face of adversity. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

IN RECOGNITION OF RARE  
DISEASE DAY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 28, 2022*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rare Disease Day and to recognize the extraordinary challenges faced by Americans with rare diseases.

A disease is considered rare when it affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States. Rare diseases are far more common than they sound. Over 7,000 different rare diseases have been identified to date. Unfortunately, only 10 percent of rare diseases have FDA-approved treatments.

To combat rare disease, we must not only make significant investments in research and treatments but address the racial disparities that exist within the rare disease community. While 25 to 30 million Americans have a rare disease, there are significant racial differences and people of color are particularly vulnerable to some rare conditions like sickle cell disease. From diagnosis to treatment, people of color face significant barriers to care. For example, on average it takes a rare disease patient 6 years to achieve a correct diagnosis, but for patients of color it can take even longer. Additionally, despite making up more than 38 percent of the U.S. population, people of color comprise only 16 percent of research study participants. Underrepresentation in research studies leads to a lack of understanding of effective treatments.

Health equity should factor into every aspect of the rare disease landscape, from diagnosis to research and treatment. I commend the work of organizations such as the Rare Disease Diversity Coalition (RDDC), comprised of rare disease experts, health and diversity advocates, and industry leaders dedicated to accelerating and advancing health equity for rare disease patients of color. Last November, the