

local community, and, has resulted in the Chapter being selected as the 2020–2021 Small Chapter of the Year by the 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

The 100 Black Men of Grenada also established a partnership with the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center to refer, mentor and assist enrollees with clothing, college books, scholarships, and other needs. They also organized the first 100 Black Men of America Collegiate affiliate in Mississippi at Rust College.

Moreover, they have operated a successful Summer Educational Enrichment and Mentoring (SEEM) Program in partnership with the 100 Black Men of Jackson, Inc., the Mississippi Department of Human Services, and key local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100 Black Men of Grenada, Inc., for their resilience and the hard work they do for their community.

CELEBRATING THE COMMITTED  
SERVICE OF COMMAND SER-  
GEANT MAJOR MICHAEL P.  
GEDEON

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the committed service of Command Sergeant Major Michael Gedeon.

CMS Gedeon has been a fearless leader and public servant since he joined the Army on November 24, 1982. Serving 39 years of Active and Reserve Army service, he has shown tremendous courage and dedication to this country.

Following Basic Training and Advanced Initial Training, he was allocated to the 1st Signal Battalion in Kaiserslautern West Germany from 1983 to 1985, and afterward served in the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

CSM Gedeon was deployed from 2004 to 2005 and 2009 to 2010 to Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Returning to American soil, he entered the US Army Reserve in the HHC second Psychological Operations Group and settled in Parma Ohio.

As a life-long learner, CSM Gedeon started his military education with the Combat Lifesaver Course and ultimately ending with the Battalion Pre-Command Course in 2015.

Since 1987, he has served in various second POG—non combat—units and rose through the ranks to ultimately become a Command Sergeant Major in February of 2013. The rank of CMS is the most senior enlisted member of a color-bearing Army unit, and serves as a spokesman to address all the issues of soldiers to the unit commander. He also began working as the Director of Instruction in the twelfth/100th CA/MISO Training Battalion.

In the latter half of his military career, CSM Gedeon accepted his first Command Sergeant Major assignment for the 16th Psychological Operations Battalion in Fort Sheridan, Illinois in January of 2014. His second assignment was the 11th Psychological Operations Battalion in White Plains, Maryland in April of

2016 to July of 2019 and his final assignment was in February of 2019, as the 2nd Psychological Operations Group Command Sergeant Major.

With over 3 decades of experience, the Army has honored CSM Gedeon with multiple awards signifying his dedication and service to this country. His many decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and many others.

After a lifetime of service at home and abroad, CSM Gedeon is now retired from duty and currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio where he works at a law firm and parents two young daughters, Paige and Molly.

A huge congratulations to Hon. CSM Michael P. Gedeon. We thank him for his service.

CONGRATULATING ENTERPRISE  
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022*

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor an outstanding group of young men from my hometown who represented both their school and state this season.

Enterprise Native, Head Coach, and friend, Coach Rhett Harrelson, led his team to their first-ever Wildcat 7A championship win. This team showed dedication and determination this season as they rallied around one another for the final game. To the players, Keion Dunlap, Jordan Hines, Elijah Terry, Tomar Hobdy, Kenneth Mitchell, Jr., Tre Kemmerlin, Mykel Johnson, Eric Winters, Dylan Baldwin, Tristan Agard, Quentin Hayes, Matther Reed, Nick Roberts, Talmadge Sessions, and Reese Dowling, cherish this win and continue to represent the wildcats with the same attitude you showed throughout the season and through long hours of practice. You knew as a team what it meant to get to this point in your basketball career and how to accomplish the goals you set for your team and yourself. Celebrate this win and remember the legacy you are creating as the first team in Enterprise history to win the championship.

To assistant coaches and staff Clark Quisenberry, John Wadsworth, and Keith Sesions, I thank them for molding these students into the young men that we see today. I thank them for their dedication to their student-athletes as they worked long hours to teach them not only how to play the game well, but also how to love the sport. I know they will cherish this win and will continue to mentor students for years to come.

To the fans, we thank them for always going the extra mile to be at games and always making sure their team was represented throughout the season.

As a fellow wildcat, I want to honor this amazing team for all that they have accomplished, and I can't wait to see their legacy continue. May this commemoration forever be preserved.

AFFORDABLE INSULIN NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 31, 2022*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Pharma Bro Martin Shkreli should have dozens of jailbird colleagues for the unethical practices of many in the pharmaceutical industry. There is no question that the price of insulin, EpiPens, asthma inhalers and hundreds of other drugs are multiple times what they should be and that needs to change. While I support the goal of H.R. 6833, as written the bill does nothing to actually lower the price of insulin—and zero for other drugs. The bill simply mandates that the out-of-pocket cost not exceed \$35 for insulin. If you think insurance companies are just going to eat this extra cost then I've got a bridge to sell. Insurance companies will simply increase premiums to cover the extra cost. This means everyone pays more. It's a shell game. Obamacare has been a mess and that law doesn't need any help in further raising insurance premiums. For that reason, I will vote 'NAY' for the bill. The solution here is to actually lower the cost of the prescriptions. This can be done by stopping patent abuse by pharmaceutical companies, allowing importation of drugs from countries with appropriate quality control, and incentivizing generic manufacturers. H.R. 19 is a bill that takes steps in the right direction. I would vote for that, but I am working with another bipartisan group on a better solution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 108 on April 4, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 108.

HONORING ROY SEKINE FOR HIS  
SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF  
KERN, CALIFORNIA

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy Sekine on his retirement from the County of Kern in California after 31 years of service to our community.

A friend and public servant, Roy attended college at California State University, Bakersfield, graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. While still a college senior, Roy began working at the Kern County Library—which currently serves over 850,000 county residents—as a systems coordinator. Maintaining his employment with the organization upon graduation, Roy spent the next six years transforming the library system. Roy's tireless efforts led to the installation of the first public internet terminal at Beale Library, the

implementation of Netscape browsers throughout the 30 County Library Branches, and a swift transition to the electronic book checkout system for Kern County residents.

One year after transferring to the Bakersfield Municipal Court in 1997, Roy was recruited to the Kern County Department of Child Support Services (KCDCSS). Named the Local Area Network Systems Administrator for KDCSS, Roy led critical improvements to the Department's technology systems for over 20 years, enabling the organization to better assist parents and youth in our community. With a savviness in computer networking and operations management, Roy helped start the KIDZ Child Support Program and implement the State of California's CASES Child Support Program locally. Additionally, when the coronavirus pandemic forced KDCSS operations online, Roy helped County staff work through technological issues so they could continue to serve Kern County residents in a seamless fashion.

Roy's service to Kern County is undeniable. In 2020, he was recognized with the KDCSS Values Award for Teamwork for his patience, work ethic, and respect for all. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of California, I want to thank my good friend Roy for his unwavering commitment to bettering our community and Kern County government that serves many of my constituents. Judy and I wish him the best as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HONORING DR. BRIANNA  
THOMPSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and innovative woman, Dr. Brianna Thompson. Dr. Thompson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Dr. Brianna Thompson has been awarded top honors with the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA), which recognizes African-American scientists and engineers around the country. The winners chosen are leaders shaping the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM pipeline. She was recognized at this year's BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference, which was held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 17 through 19.

Dr. Thompson began her career at ERDC in ITL three years ago as a mathematician and was chosen for the BEYA Modern-Day Technology Leader Award. Her research in hypersonic systems evaluation and design and the coupling of fluid, thermal and structure models for computational simulation of hypersonic systems is making a difference and advancing the capabilities of the Army and the DOD in developing state-of-the-art solutions to challenging problems. Dr. Thompson earned her doctorate degree in computational science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Brianna Thompson for

her passion and dedication to the field of Engineering.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INSPECTOR GENERAL TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5633. This bill requires the OIG to submit to Congress any report that substantiates a violation of specified provisions regarding prohibited personnel practices, protected communications, or retaliatory personnel actions.

The bill also requires the OIG to submit to Congress any report about a violation of Presidential Personnel Directive-19 (protecting whistleblowers with access to classified information); or an allegation of misconduct, waste, fraud, abuse, or a violation of policy within DHS involving a senior DHS official.

The OIG must make each report publicly available on its website, with some exceptions.

The bill requires the OIG's semiannual reports to include specified information regarding ongoing audits, inspections, and evaluations.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of this bill cannot be understated. Inspectors General are incredibly important in the justice process, and especially so when Homeland Security is under review.

The Department of Homeland Security has one of the hardest jobs of all federal agencies: protecting the homeland from terror.

As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am fervently committed to overseeing and improving the Department of Homeland Security and keeping America safe from terrorism.

One way we do that is through enforcing accountability in all the Department's functions, which is the purpose of this bill.

To underscore its importance, I want to remind this body of critical reports from the Office of Inspector General in the Department of Homeland Security in 2018 and 2019. They brought to light the cruel humanitarian situation migrants were suffering through under the previous administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies.

In 2018, the Office of Inspector General released a scathing report detailing the previous administration's child separation policy.

The details of the report were damning. Specifically, it stated that: Department of Homeland Security was not prepared to deal with the staggering repercussions of separating children from their parents and there was no computer or automated system to facilitate the reunification of parents after they have been separated.

The OIG determined that, despite a 72-hour limit on the time a child may be separated from their parents, many children were separated for five days, and some as long as a dozen days.

The report concluded that the government failed to adequately notify parents of the child separation policy, and the process to initiate reunification.

The OIG found that government officials gave inconsistent information to parents arriv-

ing at the border, which had the effect of instilling confusion at these ports of entry.

The report made special note of how the former Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristjen Nielsen signed off on the actions which led to the child separation policy, which is in stark contrast to Secretary Nielsen's May 15, 2018, testimony to the United States Senate.

In another report published in 2019, the Office of Inspector General discussed the pitiful conditions for those being held in detention facilities along the border.

During the Inspector General's visits to five Border Patrol facilities and two ports of entry in the Rio Grande Valley, they reviewed compliance with CBP's Transport, Escort, Detention and Search (TEDS) standards, which govern CBP's interaction with detained individuals, and observed serious overcrowding and prolonged detention of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), families, and single adults that require immediate attention.

Specifically, Border Patrol was holding about 8,000 detainees in custody at the time of our visit, with 3,400 held longer than the 72 hours generally permitted under the TEDS standards. Of those 3,400 detainees, Border Patrol held 1,500 for more than 10 days.

In addition to the overcrowding they observed, Border Patrol's custody data indicates that 826 (31 percent) of the 2,669 children at these facilities had been held longer than the 72 hours generally permitted under the TEDS standards and the Flores Agreement.

For example, of the 1,031 UACs held at the Centralized Processing Center in McAllen, TX, 806 had already been processed and were awaiting transfer to HHS custody. Of the 806 that were already processed, 165 had been in custody longer than a week.

Additionally, there were more than 50 UACs younger than 7 years old, and some of them had been in custody over two weeks while awaiting transfer.

In addition to holding roughly 30 percent of minor detainees for longer than 72 hours, several Rio Grande Valley facilities struggled to meet other TEDS standards for UACs and families.

For example, children at three of the five Border Patrol facilities the Inspector General visited had no access to showers, despite the TEDS standards requiring that "reasonable efforts" be made to provide showers to children approaching 48 hours in detention.

At these facilities, children had limited access to a change of clothes; Border Patrol had few spare clothes for the children and no laundry facilities. While all facilities had infant formula, diapers, baby wipes, and juice and snacks for children, the Inspector General observed that two facilities had not provided children access to hot meals—as is required by the TEDS standards—until the week the Inspector General arrived.

Instead, the children were fed sandwiches and snacks for their meals. Additionally, while Border Patrol tried to provide the least restrictive setting available for children (e.g., by leaving holding room doors open), the limited space for medical isolation resulted in some UACs and families being held in closed cells.

These investigations and reports provide just a snapshot of the work the Office of Inspector General under the Department of Homeland Security does. Time and time again, they have shone a much-needed light on affairs that are all of public interest.