

his 43-year career to public service, spending the last 11 years serving as SMART's intrepid general manager.

Mr. Mansourian was a terrorist officer in the Iranian Imperial Army before he escaped to the United States after the fall of the Shah. After obtaining degrees in civil engineering and political science from Sacramento State University, he settled in Marin County where he began his civil engineering and public service work in 1979. After serving for 32 years, including 9 years as Marin County's Public Works Director, Mr. Mansourian retired leaving behind an impressive legacy of accomplishments for the county. His retirement, however, proved brief, as he was quickly recruited to become SMART's General Manager, a position he accepted in 2011.

As SMART General Manager, Mr. Mansourian was tasked with turning 45 miles of repurposed rail track into a thriving rail line in the aftermath of the 2007 to 2008 financial crisis and the significant budget challenges it created. Applying his vast experience, skills and talents, he worked creatively to solve many engineering, construction, and funding challenges, coordinating with partner transportation agencies, elected officials, government agencies, community groups, and the public to meet project expectations.

Mr. Mansourian's ability to manage difficult circumstances and collaborate with independent and often times competing jurisdictions on a shoestring budget is masterful and a key reason regional passenger rail is a reality for SMART riders today. Under his leadership, SMART successfully operates this regional rail line with 12 stops spanning Northern Sonoma County to San Francisco Bay and serving a peak of 700,000 riders. This success of SMART has also contributed to cleaner air for local residents as its riders have prevented 8.1 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from being released into the environment.

Madam Speaker, Farhad Mansourian exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. His dedication to regional transportation solutions and improving accessibility and sustainability for Marin and Sonoma Counties will benefit generations to come. Therefore, please join us in congratulating him on his decades of inspiring work and in wishing him a fulfilling and relaxing retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF UW-PARKSIDE
FOR HOSTING THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC DISPARITY AND FAIRNESS IN
GROWTH ON CAMPUS FOR A
CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2022

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to thank and honor the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. On April 11, UW-Parkside hosted the Select Committee on the Economy for a hearing on education pathways to opportunity. I am grateful to UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford and the students and faculty who made this hearing possible.

It was truly an honor to host my Congressional colleagues in Southeast Wisconsin to

discuss policies that help workers enter, re-enter and remain in the workforce. As we in Wisconsin all know, UW-Parkside, along with our other state and private trade schools, offer unlimited opportunities. UW-Parkside has worked with community stakeholders, including local businesses, to create innovative professional programs. These programs enable folks in our community to develop new skills and enter the careers of the future.

I am grateful to my colleagues, Chairman HIMES and Congresswoman MOORE, for joining me to learn and visit UW-Parkside to learn about the opportunities this university has to offer our community. Again, I thank UW-Parkside for their role in our very informative hearing.

UKRAINE DEMOCRACY DEFENSE
LEND-LEASE ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3522 the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act which temporarily waives certain requirements related to the President's authority to lend or lease defense articles if the defense articles are intended for Ukraine's government or the governments of other Eastern European countries affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

For FY2022 and FY2023, an agreement to lend or lease defense articles under this bill will not be subject to certain requirements and provisions that typically apply to such lend-lease agreements, including a requirement that generally prohibits a loan or lease period from exceeding five years.

S. 3522 will allow the President to establish expedited procedures to ensure the timely delivery of defense articles loaned or leased to Ukraine under this bill.

There is no question that the Russian Federation, under the direction of Vladimir Putin has been defying the laws of war throughout their unprovoked, unjust, and unlawful full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In the three decades since gaining its independence, Ukraine has sought closer economic, social, and political ties with the free market and democratic nations of the West.

Since 2013, Putin has directed a campaign of political, economic, and military aggression against Ukraine.

In February 2014, the Russian military began the invasion of eastern regions in Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula. Their military equipped and supported separatist insurgents in the Donbass region, where fighting has killed over 14,000 people.

Today the world is witnessing the unprovoked aggression and invasion ordered by Vladimir Putin.

Putin and his accomplices must be held personally liable for the war crimes committed against the people of Ukraine.

Russia claims it is not attacking civilians. But that is a lie, as Russia has killed tens of thousands of Ukrainians, mostly from explosive weapons over a wide impact area, shelling from heavy artillery and multi-launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes.

Families are being separated by war, adults and children are being ruthlessly killed, and a rogue Russia is violently crushing political speech from its own citizens who oppose the war.

Of all the victims of this irrational, immoral invasion, the most severe long-term effects are inflicted on Ukraine's children. Hundreds were killed, and many more children have been severely injured.

Many have been orphaned by Russian bombing of residences and gathering places, in addition to battlefield losses. Thousands have been traumatized by the fear and terror that missiles and bombs bring, with emotional and psychological wounds that are likely to last decades, if not for their entire lives.

Ukrainian children who escaped the carnage are also suffering. According to the United Nations and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, over 5.1 million Ukrainians have left Ukraine, about 40 percent are children, and over 2.9 million refugees from Ukraine have entered Poland since February 24, of whom [over] 90 percent are women and children.

They emphasized that the number of unaccompanied children is "distressingly high," and are largely going uncounted. Children who are orphaned or separated from their families are especially at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse.

It is deplorable that children and their families' lives have been thrown into jeopardy by Putin's war crimes. All children, no matter their country's NATO status, deserve a stable, parented household in a safe community. They should never be victims of war, witnesses to atrocities, nor orphaned by war's toll, being left to navigate the remnants without their families.

Yet, all this is the reality for Ukraine's in-country and refugee children. They are scared and scarred, and a great number of them have no one to help them cope with the heart-breaking detritus of war.

Another tragedy stemming from this war is the vulnerability of women and girls to the deplorable system of human trafficking. Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres said, "For predators and human traffickers, the war in Ukraine is not a tragedy," "It's an opportunity—and women and children are the targets."

This is yet another reason this legislation must pass: to prevent women and girls from being subject to some of humanity's worst individuals.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 3522 the Ukraine Democracy Lend-Lease Act to adequately support the Ukrainian forces against Russia unprovoked vicious attack on democracy.

The western world must continue to support Ukraine during their time of war.

I look forward to the briefing by Mr. Reznikov on his latest defense needs and requests.

HOMETOWN HERO—ROSE BRAZIEL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Texas-24 Hometown

Hero of the week, Rose Braziel, CEO and founder of Hope 4 Kids.

Rose started Hope 4 Kids with the same values she has carried with her, her entire life: love, respect, and kindness. In doing so, she's provided underprivileged children in North Texas with food, clothes, and an important sense of community.

Rose's goal is to not only ensure kids in her community are properly taken care of today, but to inspire them to be leaders tomorrow. By providing an environment for boys and girls to learn leadership skills, teamwork building, and the importance of volunteering, the next generation of Texas-24 is well-equipped to lead us for years to come.

Rose's journey to develop and inspire future leaders was far from easy. After two strokes and various doctors telling her she wouldn't walk or talk again, Rose has displayed unmatched resiliency and defied all odds to continue her incredible efforts.

Her strength and dedication have helped countless students in need of a mentor and a friend. I thank Rose for always putting the next generation before herself and ensuring they are set up for success.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
WORLD WAR II VETERAN, JOHN
DANIEL HARMON, SR.

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2022

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Daniel Harmon, Sr., a 102-year-old World War II veteran from Saluda, South Carolina.

Mr. Harmon was born in 1919 in Saluda County on a small farm. Growing up during the Great Depression, Mr. Harmon learned the value of community, hard work, and being resourceful throughout his life. Mr. Harmon attended Hickory Grove School and was in the first class to graduate from the Hollywood School in 1937.

After finishing school, Mr. Harmon joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked several jobs before joining the U.S. Army during WWII. He served a tour of duty with Company B, 363rd Medical Battalion, 63rd Infantry Division as an ambulance driver. His division was among the first to cross the Siegfried Line. Mr. Harmon still remembers many of the battles he endured during his tour, and he is always willing to share his experiences of the Army.

For his service, he received several recognitions including the American Theater Ribbon, the European and Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Two Battle Stars for Rhineland and Central Europe, the Combat Medical Badge, a Bronze Star, and the French Legion of Honor Medal.

After the war, Mr. Harmon returned to his hometown of Saluda where he eventually retired as a Superintendent with Eagle Construction Company. Mr. Harmon and his wife, Grace Gentry spent seventy years married and saw the growth of their family with five children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren with whom Mr. Harmon has celebrated many birthdays and holidays. He continues to be an active member of his church, Bethany United Methodist Church. Mr. Har-

mon still leads a highly active life, and he has not lost his wit, knowledge, or cheerful outlook. Mr. Harmon recently celebrated his 102nd birthday, making him among the oldest surviving World War II veterans in South Carolina.

The United States is blessed to have the finest troops and veterans in the history of the world, where so many heroes like Mr. Harmon are willing to put on our country's uniform in defense of our freedoms. I am confident that Mr. Harmon's lifetime of service to his country and community will continue to inspire many.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to honor those who have dedicated their lives to protecting America's freedoms.

UKRAINE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 496, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act, which will oppose religious freedom violations in Ukraine by Russia.

H.R. 496 the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act directs the President, when determining whether Russia is a country of particular concern for religious freedom under certain federal laws, to consider incidents occurring in the parts of Ukraine controlled by Russia or Russia-affiliated non-state groups.

Ukraine is a religiously rich country with 74 percent of people identifying as Orthodox, 10 percent Greek Catholic and the remainder identifying as Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant.

Ukraine has accused Russia of targeting historic monuments and cultural heritage sites. Damaging and destroying at least 59 religious sites across the country since its invasion began.

H.R. 496 will direct the president to consider incidents in the Russian controlled parts of Ukraine found by Congress.

Ukrainian groups targeted by Russia include Muslim Crimean Tatars, the Orthodox Church, the Greek Catholic Church, Protestant Christians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Religious freedom violations against these groups consist of abductions, torture, imprisonment, property confiscation, vandalism, and banning of peaceful religious gatherings.

Russia is utilizing religious extremism to silence and arrest Ukrainians, including closing religious institutions that don't conform. Religious freedom violations have been key in Russia dismantling Ukrainian civil society.

Congress' findings state that international humanitarian law requires Russia to protect religious freedom in occupied territories. This includes illegal entities, such as Russia's illegal occupation of the Crimea Region.

In opposing violations of religious freedom, it is imperative that we consider the extreme religious injustices and restrictions Russia placed on the territories they have invaded in Ukraine.

Freedom to practice religion should be a protected right for every person, worldwide.

This bill will ensure the President considers these severe violations in Ukraine by Russia when determining Russia's threat to religious freedom.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 496, the Ukraine Religious Support Act.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HARD
WORK AND INNOVATIVE THINK-
ING OF TEACHERS AND STAFF
AT MARY E. ROBERTS ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and innovative thinking of teachers and staff at Mary E. Roberts Elementary School of Moorestown, New Jersey for taking steps to reduce their food waste.

Every year is the United States wastes more than 100 billion pounds of food, the equivalent of 130 billion meals. In New Jersey alone, one person on average throws away 325 pounds of food each year. Across the country, over \$408 billion dollars' worth of food is being thrown away each year, the need for new and innovative ways to reduce food waste has never been higher.

Knowing that their school had an important role to play in reducing and recycling food waste, teachers and paraprofessionals at Mary E. Roberts Elementary School took action. In 2019, the school received funding through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant to purchase equipment and hire instructors to explain to students how to sort their unopened and untouched food. These resources were instrumental in the launch of the "No Food Left Behind" program where left-over food and produce from the school's garden is collected and donated to local food pantries and animal hospitals.

The action taken by Mary E. Roberts Elementary School has inspired the community to proclaim yesterday, April 28, 2022, as Stop Food Waste Day and encourage others to learn about simple ways to minimize the impact of food waste.

Each of us believes that no one in the United States should go to bed hungry. The unfortunate reality is that, in New Jersey's Third District alone, more than 55,000 people, including 12,000 children, experience hunger. Programs such as "No Food Left Behind" are not only raising awareness playing a key role to raise awareness on food waste. I applaud all the staff, students, and volunteers at Mary E. Roberts Elementary School for showing us how we can all improve our communities, and I look forward to seeing more schools across the country follow their lead.

HOMETOWN HERO—KHEN HOIH

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 29, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Khen Hoihi of Irving, Texas,