

connectivity for all individuals, and support community improvements embody the mission of the Long Branch Free Public Library. He has also recognized the value of libraries, and the Long Branch Free Public Library in particular, supporting the New Jersey State Library's IMLS Leadership Grant and nominating the Long Branch Free Public Library twice for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

A Long Branch native currently residing in Neptune, New Jersey, Veronica Buffaloe-Stubbs is an active member of both communities and recognizes the importance of civic engagement. Ms. Buffaloe-Stubbs is the founder and CEO of A.S.T.E.P. (After School Tutorial Educational Program), a tutoring, enrichment and mentoring program for local students and volunteers her time with the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch, the Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, the Girl Scouts of New Jersey, and the Long Branch Elks Lodge No. 742, among others. She is also a 30-year employee of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and has previously worked as a youth counselor for the Monmouth County Juvenile Detention Center, substitute teacher and a certified nurse's assistant/home health aide.

Throughout her library career, Peggy Cadigan demonstrated a remarkable commitment to her profession and the community. Recently retired from the New Jersey State Library after nearly 20 years as Deputy State Librarian for Innovation, Ms. Cadigan previously served as a Reference Librarian and a Junior Library Assistant at the Ocean County Library. Her knowledge and experience were well-regarded in the field. She gave valuable presentations throughout the United States and to remote audiences abroad and served as a consultant for the libraries of Dubai. Her vision, encouragement and support has helped other libraries improve their programs and adapt to societal changes and advancing technologies. Additionally, Ms. Cadigan expanded the Fresh Start re-entry program launched by the Long Branch Free Public Library.

In her positions with the Long Branch Police Department, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy has been engaged in community programs. During her time as a Detective, she was focused on matters involving juveniles and currently serves in the Urban Enterprise Unit as a Community Police Officer in the Patrol Division. Through her role as a Community Police Officer and her work with National Night Out and the Citizens' Police Academy, Sgt. Leavy continues to enhance the relationship between the community and the police force. She has served as a Liaison Officer for many community organizations and has collaborated with the Long Branch School District and the Long Branch Free Public Library, promoting mutual programs and participating in educational presentations.

Monmouth Medical Center continues to provide outstanding health care services to the greater Long Branch community and has been a valuable partner of the Long Branch Free Public Library. Working with Monmouth Medical Center, in particular Eric Carney, CEO and President, Jean McKinney, Regional Director of Community Health, Social Impact and Community Investment, and Sylvia Jacobs, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, the Long Branch Free Public Library has expanded their programs and improved their community outreach.

Public libraries are an integral part of our communities, and it is my honor to join with the Long Branch Free Public Library in recognizing the contributions of Senator CORY BOOKER, Veronica Buffaloe-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RHONDA FERGUSON

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and memory of Rhonda Ferguson, and express my deepest condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

A Northeast Ohio native, Rhonda was an incredibly accomplished woman. She was the first in her family to graduate college, graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. She then earned her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. It came as no surprise to those who knew her that Rhonda went on to have an extremely successful, storied career.

In 2019, Black Enterprise magazine named Rhonda one of the most powerful Black women in corporate America. The following year, she was hired as the Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Secretary of the Allstate Corporation. Her colleagues warmly refer to her as a visionary force and a passionate friend, coach and mentor whose leadership helped ignite Allstate's transformation and create societal impact.

However, Rhonda's legacy as a well-respected mentor and trailblazer in the workplace would be incomplete without her unwavering commitment to her family. Rhonda cared deeply for her husband, Clayton, and their two children, Kristen and Clayton. I have no doubt that her memory will live on through all of them.

Kelly and I offer our prayers and condolences to Rhonda's husband, their children, and her parents, as well as her extended family and friends as they navigate their tragic loss during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and memory of Rhonda Ferguson.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOVER ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2022, or the RECOVER Act, which would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data

breaches. In 2015, OPM reported that the personally identifiable information of as many as 25.7 million current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors was stolen in two data breaches. I appreciate that Representative C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER is co-leading on this bill.

After OPM announced that it would offer identity protection coverage of limited duration and value, Senator BEN CARDIN and I introduced the RECOVER Act in July 2015, which would have provided affected individuals lifetime protection and at least \$5 million in identity theft insurance. Congress subsequently passed a version of our bill as part of an appropriations bill, but limited the duration of the protection. Under current law, OPM is only required to provide identity protection coverage through fiscal year 2026. Under the bill I am introducing today, OPM would be required to provide coverage for the remainder of the lives of affected individuals.

The current coverage is inadequate, particularly considering that there is no limit to when the stolen data may be exploited. Therefore, there should be no limit on the duration of the coverage provided to affected individuals. This bill would give current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors who were affected both some peace of mind and protection. OPM failed to protect these people. It follows that the government must make up for its mistake.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING MR. RALPH WHITE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO)

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I would like to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ralph White, who has dedicated his career to providing bidders for government contracts with an expeditious means to seek accountability, and to maintaining a high rate of effectiveness in the bid protest process. Mr. White will retire on May 29, 2022, after a distinguished, 39-year career in public service, including serving 33 years at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he is currently a Managing Associate General Counsel for the Procurement Law division.

As a Senate staffer during the beginning of his career, Mr. White was instrumental in the drafting of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, which established the authority for GAO's bid protest function, under which hundreds of bid protests are filed each year. Mr. White joined GAO in 1989 as a writing attorney/hearing officer in the Procurement Law division and was promoted in 2010 to lead a team of attorneys as an Assistant General Counsel. Since becoming a Managing Associate General Counsel, responsible for GAO's bid protest decision-making authority, Mr. White has successfully led GAO's Procurement Law division to resolve numerous large

and complicated bid protests with a consistently high effectiveness rate and has been recognized by the government contracting community as a preeminent legal expert and trusted mentor. Mr. White is regularly sought out to speak and provide insights into the bid protest process throughout the government, academia, and industry. Throughout his tenure, Mr. White has managed the resolution of protests related to nearly every aspect of federal procurement spending. His exceptional professionalism, integrity, and dedication have been recognized by numerous awards throughout his GAO career, including GAO's Distinguished Service award in 2013 and the General Counsel's Award in March 2010 for outstanding leadership.

Under Mr. White's leadership, the GAO bid protest process has increased public confidence in the transparency, accountability, and functionality of the U.S. federal acquisition system. We thank him for his commitment and service to the Nation.

HONORING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to commend and honor the extraordinary teachers in California's 44th Congressional District and across the United States.

Teacher Appreciation Week is an annual celebration of educators and the remarkable contributions they make in the lives of our students, parents, schools, and communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Nation's teachers innovated the education system to create new ways to connect and care for their students during times of uncertainty during both remote and in-person learning.

And our teachers have done all of this while they care for themselves and their own families.

Despite these challenges, teachers across the country continue to show up day after day to inspire, empower, and motivate their students.

I'd like to highlight two of my district's extraordinary teachers: Audrey Casas and Youko Amemiya and share a bit more about some of their accomplishments.

Audrey Casas is a passionate, brilliant, and community-focused Teach for America teacher in Los Angeles. During the pandemic she noticed some of her students and their families struggled to secure basic necessities, which led her to start working in the community to gather resources. Her success led to a non-profit that she now runs in addition to her job teaching. She is passionate about student-led practices and integrates many student-led projects into her teaching. Audrey's classroom is a safe space for kids and is often packed at lunchtime with her students including the ones she doesn't teach, to take part in "lunch club." Some days the kids just hangout while they eat their personal lunches, and other days kids and their families will bring food to share. She constantly celebrates her students and fellow staff, from teachers to custodians to administrators, and is a known light on her

campus, in her community, and in Lynwood. She was selected as Teacher of the Month by her students and her efforts were recognized by her school, district, and other regional news publications.

Youko Amemiya is an enthusiastic and accomplished teacher in the City of Carson, who is dedicated to her students, her school, and her community. She has instilled a vision of climate awareness at her school site with the development of her school's Roots and Shoots Club. At the beginning of the year, she wanted to teach her students about caring for the environment by planting 100 trees throughout the community in honor of the school's 100-year anniversary. Her students and community rallied behind her and helped to plant over 200 trees. Mrs. Amemiya is also committed to helping beautify her school. Through her tireless work reaching out to community partners and applying to grants, she was able to secure planters, benches, trees, soil, and various plants to make her school shine. She has been a positive influence on her classroom, her Roots and Shoots Club students, and the larger Carson community.

These are just two of the teachers in my district who make a profound impact on their students.

Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of educators.

It's also a time to call for the policies and practices that will attract exceptional leaders to the teaching profession and support them throughout their career.

We must break down the barriers that prevent individuals from pursuing teaching careers and make concerted efforts to retain talented and effective teachers.

We need to create the conditions which allow teachers to grow, lead, and truly thrive in their profession.

And, in many instances—it means paying them higher salaries. We cannot prioritize our students, without prioritizing our teachers.

So, on this occasion of Teacher Appreciation Week, to the teachers in my district, I thank them for leading with ingenuity, resilience, and passion each and every day in their classrooms, and for their commitment to our students.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF TONY DIMARE

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of my good friend Tony Dimare. Going back to my days as Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Tony has been a pillar of leadership in the agricultural community of South Florida for over thirty years and I am honored to join the Dade County Farm Bureau in recognizing him and all he has done for the agriculture industry.

Tony Dimare began working for his family's business in 1983 and has worked in the produce industry for nearly forty years. His family's business, The Dimare Company, is a 94-year-old family produce company four generations deep with operations in four states—Florida, California, Pennsylvania, and Texas. He has taken his family's business to another

level and has created countless jobs in South Florida and across the country.

Along with bringing countless jobs to South Florida, Mr. Dimare serves on countless boards and does philanthropic work for South Florida. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, one of the organizations he serves on hosted daily food drives to help families experiencing food insecurity in the Miami-Dade County area. Mr. Dimare has always proven to be an integral part of the community.

I am always honored to recognize individuals who spend their lives bringing invaluable services to the South Florida and District 26 communities. Tony and I have worked together throughout the years, and I am certain he will continue to be a strong leader in the agricultural industry and in the community.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SILICON VALLEY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau on the 50th anniversary of its founding. It was 50 years ago that the Space Shuttle program was officially launched. It was fitting that the convention and visitors bureau began at that same time because the hope was to boost hotel occupancy to stratospheric levels, and to entice conventions to the fairgrounds in the City of San Mateo. It worked.

As the local economy transitioned away from agriculture and towards high technology, the fairgrounds became the site of a national semiconductor convention—SEMICON—and since that time has hosted hundreds of business and nonprofit events. Hotel rooms available in San Mateo County have exploded, from 81 hotels and 5,972 rooms in the Convention and Visitors Bureau when it was first formed to 140 hotels and 15,794 rooms today.

The economic impact of our visitor-serving industries is enormous. Pre-pandemic, the sector generated \$4.5 billion in visitor spending and well over \$500 million in local tax revenue. It employed 45,000 people. The bureau doesn't claim credit for all of these jobs or the money spent but given the reach of its promotional efforts it certainly has an impact. For decades, the bureau represented its membership at national shows dedicated to explaining to convention organizers the benefits of coming to San Mateo County. Many conventions came and tens of thousands of tourists annually are typically greeted in their hotels and event locations by further promotional advertisements for local attractions.

The San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau has been an indispensable source of information for me during the pandemic. Under the leadership of its outstanding President and CEO, John Hutar, the organization arranged for owners and managers to explain the steps they were taking to keep their doors open, or to avoid going into foreclosure, during the emergency. I was proud to be able to vote for the Paycheck Protection Program, EIDL loans and restaurant