

the Rhine River into Germany. Shortly after entering Germany, he was witness to the shocking tragedies of the Mannheim-Sandhofen concentration camp. He would also support the 45th Infantry Division's liberation efforts at the Dachau concentration camp in April 1945. After the surrender of Nazi Germany, Elmer arrived home in Dallas on August 15, 1945.

Once retired from the U.S. Army, Mr. Davidson worked at A.H. Belo Corporation newspaper company for over 43 years, later becoming its publisher. Mr. Davidson fully retired in 1988 to enjoy life with his beautiful wife Frankie. He also received multiple civic awards including Citizen of the Year from the City of Grand Prairie. Without a doubt, Mr. Davidson lived a life of dedicated service to his community and country.

Madam Speaker, I have shared with the House today only a small portion of this hero's life. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Elmer Lee Davidson, a member of the greatest generation. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the Davidson family for the loss of such an extraordinarily brave and loving man. May God rest the soul of this great American.

HONORING ORLI SHEFFEY AND SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am here to shed light on the unprecedented mental health crisis that is devastating countless families, including many in my own community.

Earlier this year, I attended the funeral of Orli Sheffey, an outstanding young constituent, and the daughter of my dear friend Steve Sheffey. She passed away at the age of 19 as a result of mental illness—an invisible illness that far too many Americans confront. I rise to honor Orli today. In Hebrew, Orli means “my light,” and Orli was a light to so many. She was a daughter, a sister, a classmate, and a friend, and while her time on this Earth was brief, her impact is lasting.

It is clear that we must confront the nationwide mental health crisis. Too many people feel like they are in darkness. Too many people feel alone and ashamed. And too many people cannot find the resources and health care that they need. According to reports, 4 in 10 Americans report suffering from anxiety or depression. It's not hard to see why. Americans have been forced to deal with a devastating pandemic, mass shootings, racial injustice, and increasing hate crimes and intolerance.

Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration recognize this crisis. I am proud that we passed the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, to improve mental health resources for healthcare workers. I am grateful that the 9–8–8 suicide and crisis lifeline is now LIVE. I urge anyone who is struggling with a mental health crisis to call the 9–8–8 lifeline. And we need to make sure that the resources that Congress has already created are known

and easily accessible. In 2016, my bill, the Mental Health on Campus Act was enacted through an appropriations package. It created a grant program to ensure that colleges and universities could provide vital mental health resources for students. We must make sure students can access these resources and do not feel ashamed or stigmatized for doing so. There is much more work to be done.

It is critical at this moment that we honor Orli. Part of what we can do is to work to shine light on this crisis. I will never stop fighting to ensure that the mental health needs of our communities are met.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I missed the below Roll Call Votes due to pending judicial matters.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 364, NAY on Roll Call No. 365 (Previous Question), and NAY on Roll Call No. 366 (Rule).

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 WORLD COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE (WOCOTOMADI) INTERNATIONAL KINGS DAY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in recognition of World Coming Together to Make a Difference (WOCOTOMADI) International Kings Day 2022, I want to highlight the visit of the below dignitaries from Africa and the good work of this organization:

His Majesty Dada Awiyan Kokpon, Benin; Princess NIARE MAYE ASSANATOU and Dr. Boubacar Diakite, Mali; Bishop Kilem KASSI Daniel, His Majesty Tchiffi Zie Jean Gervais, Ivory Coast; His Majesty Nfonrifo Mbombo Njoya Mouhamed Nabil, His Royal Highness Sonkwe Djotsa Adrien, His Majesty Soukoudjou Jean Rameaux, His Majesty Tchoua Kemajou Vincent, His Majesty Tanefo Jean Marie, His Majesty Njitack Ngompe Pelé, His Majesty Tchio Maurice, His Majesty Toto Bekombo Théodore, His Majesty Essoa Etoja Gabriel Sylvain, His Majesty Mbassi Bessala Prosper Parfait, His Majesty Elong Kotto Pierre Patrick, His Majesty Moline Molungu Otto, Her Majesty Mama Jean Marie, His Majesty Tsala Ndjomo Guy, His Majesty WEA TOUTOU Jean Jacques; His Majesty Roger II NKAMADJOU; His Majesty ONDIGUI ONANA Théodore; His Majesty DISSAKE MOUANGUE Alain Camille; His Majesty YONKEU Jean; His Majesty TATABONG Alexander; His Majesty Lamido Yacouba Mohamadou Mourtalla; His Majesty Soumbou Angoula, His Majesty Ndong Tchombe William, His Majesty Djarnou Tchanchouang Annick Julio, His Majesty SIKAM HAPPI V Sylvester, His Majesty Ibrahim El Rachidine, His Majesty Bakari Yerima Bouba Alioum, His Majesty Etundi Atanga Firmin Jean Benoît, His Majesty Effa

René Désiré, His Majesty Fon Jou Wilson, Her Majesty Asaba Fontem, His Majesty Ntsek Serge, Prince Théophile Tatsitsa Gha, Cameroon; S.M. TEINGNI DETIO Jean-From Bamboutos, His Majesty Dean Marie Mama Center Region. Hon Tchagna Jacqueline Reve Angeline, from Bazou, Nde, Cameroon, Hon Toukam Sandjo Tela Angele, from Mifi, Bafoussam, Cameroon, Hon Kan Souhaing Colette, from Koungki, Bandjoun, Cameroon, Hon Ayissi Sings from Monateli, Lekie, Cameroon; Eteme bijou Ursule epse Arroye From Kon Yambeta, Ndjournou epse Bendobal Claire from Nitoukoue, Ngono Essomba Eliane Virginie from Akono, Eric Niat From Nde, Marie Angel Metenga from President of African Mayor Center Region, Zimthern in Bodio Marthe felecite from Bafia, Feuh Mbeugon, and Ngambou Vincent from Douala.

CELEBRATING POSSE LOS ANGELES' 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Posse Los Angeles on their 20th Anniversary. Posse Los Angeles is headquartered in California's 34th Congressional District and is the Pacific Coast branch of the national Posse Foundation. The Posse Foundation was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to identifying and supporting public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes.

The Foundation extends to students the opportunity to pursue personal achievement and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams (“Posses”).

Since 2002, Posse Los Angeles has selected numerous talented and diverse leaders to attend some of the nation's top colleges and universities. Posse Scholars are awarded full-tuition merit scholarships and begin a lifelong relationship with The Posse Foundation that will see them through to graduation and help them become leaders in the workforce.

Today, I am proudly share that the Posse Foundation has identified, recruited, and trained more than 10,000 students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential, and has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive college success and leadership development initiatives in the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Posse Los Angeles on their 20th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success for years to come.

HONORING GRANITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions to the central coast of California's infrastructure and economy by the Granite Construction Company,

which celebrated its centennial on January 4, 2022. Founded 100 years ago, the Granite Construction Company is one of our Nation's largest civil infrastructure contractors and construction materials producers.

Pieces of its legacy came together in 1900 when John T. Porter, his son Warren, and A. R. Wilson partnered to buy the Logan Quarry and form the Granite Rock Company in Watsonville, California.

By 1922, the Granite Construction Company branched out as a wholly owned subsidiary. And since its founding, it has been guided by five core values: safety, integrity, excellence, inclusion, and sustainability. In 1990, Granite Construction Company entered the public market and reached the \$1 billion mark in annual revenues by the end of the decade. Over the past century, the company has expanded its projects across the United States, including the California Aqueduct system, highways for the 1960 and 1996 Olympic Games, transit projects in San Francisco and Oakland, California and Washington, D.C., as well as the remarkable rebuilding of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.

Granite Construction Company and its devoted staff, which includes thousands of Central Coast community members, have created an innovative culture and exceptional team that delivers excellence for clients across the United States. Since 1922, the company has driven the creation of vital infrastructure that millions of people use every day. Granite Construction Company is one of the largest diversified construction and construction materials companies in the country, as well as a full-suite provider in the transportation, water infrastructure, and mineral exploration markets.

Granite Construction Company's headquarters in Watsonville is a source of pride for the Central Coast and has been for the past 100 years. Granite Construction Company contributes to California's 20th Congressional District's social, economic, and environmental success by providing career opportunities, operating ethically and responsibly, and engaging meaningfully for positive social impact.

In addition to being an industry leader in safety and sustainability, Granite Construction is dedicated to diversity from the top down. Its diverse board of directors includes three women, and its Granite Resources and Opportunities for Women initiative is committed to supporting women in a typically male-dominated industry.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate this company that has grown into one of our Nation's largest civil infrastructure contractors and construction materials producers. I extend my appreciation to Granite Construction and its team members, subcontractors, suppliers, and partners for creating an innovative culture and exceptional team that delivers excellence for our national infrastructure.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM J. PEREZ

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William J. Perez

on the occasion of his retirement after more than 47 years in the construction industry. After decades of leadership and supporting Inland Empire labor unions and helping to grow our economy, the Southern California community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Perez for his work.

Mr. Perez's career began in 1975 in an electrician apprenticeship program, and he graduated in 1979 from the program as a Journeyman Electrician. In 1995, Mr. Perez became a Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 440—a position he held for 11 years. His expertise and experience as a foreman, general foreman, estimator, prevailing wage compliance director, and organizer made him an invaluable member of local unions and the construction industry. He also served as the President of the California State Association of Electrical Workers and President of the I.B.E.W.—NECA Statewide Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

Since 2007, Mr. Perez has worked as the Executive Secretary-Business Manager for the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties. Through his role within the Council, Mr. Perez assisted with the representation of over 16,000 skilled craft workers—represented by 31 local construction unions and district councils in the Inland Empire. Mr. Perez's dedication to the working families and workers' rights is reflected in his current position as a board member for the State of California Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL—CIO.

Bill's dedication to his career is also reflected in his commitment to his family and his community. Bill has been married for over 30 years to his wife. They have two children and four grandchildren.

For his remarkable accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize William J. Perez. His decades of supporting the labor union community and the working families of the Inland Empire are worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE CHARLES ROMERO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Jesse Charles Romero who passed away on July 6, 2022. Mr. Romero dedicated his life to advancing minority rights and equal justice under the law. He is survived by his wife, Anna Alicia Romero, and sons Emiliano Sandino, Antonio Cesar, and Victor Aetius Emmanuel.

Jesse Charles Romero was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on November 4, 1960, to Juan Leos Romero and Amelia Ramirez Romero. Mr. Romero was a first-generation college student, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwest Texas State University. During his early career with the Texas State Legislature, he worked to address systemic inequalities facing minority groups, particularly among Hispanic and Latinos. Throughout his life, he held an enduring belief that inequality and injustice can be resolved through legislative solutions and hard work.

Later, as a grassroots organizer, Mr. Romero worked at the Southwest Voter Registra-

tion Education Project, where he grew under the mentorship of voting rights activists including Willie Velasquez, Antonio Gonzalez, and Andy Hernandez. As his career progressed, he served as Director of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and a Policy Analyst for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), where he championed equitable public school funding, college access, and healthcare for all. Some of his most rewarding work was in bilingual and dual language advocacy. Mr. Romero employed the motto, "educate, collaborate and advocate" and fought to improve education for non-English speakers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and legacy of Jesse Charles Romero. I thank Mr. Romero for his many years of public service and advocacy for a more equitable world. He will be missed, but the contributions he made to our community have left a lasting impact.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE W. WALDROP, SR. ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate George W. Waldrop, Sr., World War II veteran of Lancaster County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday and to wish him a joyous birthday celebration.

Mr. Waldrop was born on July 26, 1922, in Greenville, South Carolina to Claude Furman Waldrop and Lola Elizabeth Waldrop. He attended the Greenville city schools and graduated from the high school in 1940. He then began work at the Ottaray Hotel and the Poinset Hotel, both in Greenville, South Carolina.

On February 13, 1943, Mr. Waldrop married Harriet Louise Sistare. Throughout their 73 years of marriage, the pair raised two children, George W. Waldrop, Jr., and Harriett Waldrop Strom, and were blessed with four grandchildren.

On July 15, 1943, Mr. Waldrop was sworn into the United States Army at Fort Jackson where he trained as a combat infantryman. He courageously served the nation during World War II in the European Theatre and participated in combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge.

As a testament to his fearless service, Mr. Waldrop was awarded the World War II Victory Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the EAME Theater Ribbon, and three Bronze Service Stars.

He authored What "Poppy" Did in The War or as I Remember It, recounting his experiences serving in many locations during World War II. Mr. Waldrop is also a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 31 and is the oldest member of that American Legion post.

I am pleased to congratulate George W. Waldrop, Sr. on his life of service and sacrifice, and I wish him a very joyous 100th birthday celebration among his family and friends.