

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 Ottarway 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.

HONORING INDIANA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE TOM SAUNDERS

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor State Representative Tom Saunders. Representative Saunders is retiring after nearly three decades of public service, and I am proud to join Hoosiers in celebrating a friend who has had an immeasurable impact on our beloved Indiana.

During his time of service, he had the honor of being recognized as Legislature of the Year by the Indiana Conservation Alliance. He also received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Indiana Department of the American Legion.

Representative Tom Saunders has long served as a distinguished voice on behalf of the people of Henry County and our entire state. He worked hard to bring greater economic opportunity to Hoosiers and was a strong advocate for the improvement of local schools.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor State Representative Tom Saunders, wish him an enjoyable retirement, and to thank him for his many years of public service.

HONORING JAMES RUFUS REED OF
JASPER, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor the life of James Rufus Reed of Jasper, AL after his passing on June 4, 2022. Rufus Reed's dedication to his work, community, family, and especially his faith, serves as an example to us all of the love we should share for each other and those we hold dear to our hearts.

James Rufus Reed was born on August 21, 1940 in Cordova, Alabama. He attended Cordova High School, and upon his graduation in 1959, he went on to attend Walker College. Mr. Reed began working for the Alabama Power Company as an electrician, and retired as a Safety Specialist after 29 long years.

Alongside his career serving the customers of Alabama Power, Mr. Reed served as a trustee for his alma mater, Cordova High School, where he dedicated his time to improving the lives of young people.

He also served on the Walker County Civil Service Board where he was committed to bettering the community that he called home. We will always humbly remember Mr. Reed's service to Walker County and Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

Most importantly, Mr. Reed was also a devoted servant of the Lord. He served as a deacon at Cordova First Baptist Church, and later as deacon at Jasper's First Baptist Church. In his efforts to teach the Word, he faithfully led Sunday School and served as a devout leader in the church throughout the years.

Mr. Reed was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Alma Reed and Marion

and Susannah Wylie; and his parents, Leighton and Mendie Reed.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patsy Collier Reed, who was his constant companion.; Rufus had two wonderful children, Alabama State Senator Greg Reed, who married, Mitsy; and Angie Reed Lum, who married George. His great legacy will also be cherished by his grandchildren, Andrew Reed; James Reed; John Michael Reed and his wife, Kalei Woodley Reed; Reed Lum; and his siblings, Doris Vines, Wilson Reed, Kay Williams, and Darlene Bell.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the life of James Rufus Reed and the love he shared for his community, his state, his family, and especially for his faith.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF FERNANDO
GRAY OF AURORA FIRE RESCUE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Fire Chief Fernando Gray of Aurora Fire Rescue, and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement from the City of Aurora.

During his five exemplary years with Aurora Fire Rescue, Chief Gray remained dedicated to serving our community. He has surpassed expectations—striving to meet any and all challenges with innovative approaches and best practices, while emphasizing personnel safety.

As Aurora Fire Rescue's first Black fire chief, Gray was instrumental in recruiting more minority firefighters to the department, reflecting the diverse community it serves. Faced with an unprecedented pandemic, fire departments across the country were forced to restructure their operations almost instantaneously—a feat Chief Gray tackled seamlessly. He worked with the Colorado Attorney General's office to implement a consent decree agreement to restore public confidence in Aurora's public safety personnel after Elijah McClain was killed.

Chief Gray is a life-long public servant committed to making our community a better and safer place through his work in the fire service. Prior to his appointment as Fire Chief for the City of Aurora, Chief Gray worked for the City of Dallas for over 20 years—serving in nearly every capacity within the organization except Fire Chief. Further, city leadership affirms that Chief Gray's commitment to professionalism in the fire service is unmatched, and I have no doubt the City of Aurora has benefited greatly from his exemplary leadership.

Chief Gray's contributions to our community, Aurora Fire Rescue, and those around him have been enormous. I thank Chief Gray for his service to this community, and wish him the best on his next journey serving the Las Vegas community.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION
ACT, 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 8294, legislation that would authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023 for a number of federal agencies and programs, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD.

I want to thank Chairwoman DELAUNO and Chairman PRICE, among others, for their support and leadership in putting together this strong package. While there are many good provisions in this package, I want to take a moment to highlight one of the key victories for our communities.

Americans nationwide have faced difficulties finding affordable housing long before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic has exacerbated an existing crisis. As rent increases and wages stay stagnant, many members of our communities are facing the threat of homelessness.

Without stable housing, children face challenges in school, adults struggle to maintain employment, and those battling physical and mental health disorders, as well as substance abuse, lack the support they need to adequately address and treat these issues.

According to the Housing and Urban Development 2021 Annual Assessment Report, the number of sheltered individuals that identified as chronically homeless increased by 20 percent between 2020 and 2021. The report also identified that more than 326,000 people are still experiencing sheltered homelessness in the United States on any given night. Homeless Assistance Grants, like the Continuum of Care and the Emergency Solutions grants, help people who are at risk of or are currently experiencing homelessness through non-profits, community organizations, government agencies, or other providers. These programs are successfully used by state and local governments, as well as an extensive network of providers of shelter and housing services in hundreds of communities, to reduce homelessness.

I am delighted that the package that passed the House would provide \$3.6 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program. Earlier this year, I led a letter, signed by 140 of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, urging the inclusion of that amount.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, like the Continuum of Care grant, have a profound impact on our communities, including my own city of Milwaukee. According to the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Continuum of Care was able to track a 77 percent decrease in people experiencing chronic homelessness over the last 10 years. This decrease was made possible through robust federal funding of supportive housing programs to end homelessness, including the Homeless Assistance Grants program.

Given the lack of affordable housing across the Nation and the ongoing effects of the