

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN COLORADO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado (RMHCSC) for 35 years of providing a safe, comfortable, and caring place for families of critically ill children from around the nation receiving treatment in Southern Colorado.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado has a unique history, from when it was first conceptualized, funded, built, and opened to serve families in need. A local pediatrician, Dr. Don Genrich, believed that families in the Pikes Peak region would greatly benefit from a Ronald McDonald House (RMH), so he recruited a small start-up team to help him make the dream a reality. Nancy Parker Brummett, a local business executive, and Steve Bigari, a U.S. Army soldier stationed at Fort Carson, joined forces with Dr. Genrich and began their work. The team was highly motivated to lead this effort and intimately familiar with the grace-filled mission and the warm welcome a Ronald McDonald House offers to families in need. The Bigari's infant daughter Sara had already endured several life-saving surgeries at Children's Hospital in Denver, and another RMH had lovingly hosted the family.

The trio began sharing the vision and raising funds. By the grace of God and the generosity of community philanthropists, the first Ronald McDonald House of Southern Colorado opened at 311 N. Logan Street in Colorado Springs. Significant donors included McDonald's restaurants, the Junior League, Memorial Hospital, and countless other generous families and businesses.

On February 14, 1987, they opened the "House that Love Built." Their mission was simple: keep families and their critically ill children close to each other and provide the support and resources they most need. Significantly, Steve's then three-year-old daughter, Sara, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. It was a joyous occasion for the entire Pikes Peak region.

Since then, Ronald McDonald Charities of Southern Colorado has provided Christ-like hope, grace, hospitality, and comfort to every family member who has walked through its doors. RMHCSC has been a home for more than 11,500 families in the first 35 years of its existence.

In 2008, RMHCSC opened the first Ronald McDonald Family Room with UCHealth at Memorial Hospital Central. Then, St. Francis Medical Center opened a second Family Room location in their facility. Soon after, Children's Hospital opened up a third Family Room, which provides a caring space within each hospital for parents, just footsteps away from their child. The charity's cornerstone programs are vital in meeting the needs of critically ill children and their families.

On August 19, 2019, RMHCSC opened the doors to their new location at 4223 Royal Pine Drive, within walking distance from the new Children's Hospital in Colorado Springs. The 20-bedroom facility was made possible by corporate donations, grants, and thoughtful gifts from private donors. The new facility nearly doubles the number of rooms available for families. Under the direction of Executive Director Beth Alessio, who has led the charity for the last 20 years, RMHCSC has positioned itself to serve families in need for decades to come.

Current President of the Board, Sara (Bigari) Cornell—a source of heart and compassion behind it all—is living, breathing proof that an organization like RMHCSC truly makes a difference. Throughout her 38 years, Sara has endured over 40 lifesaving surgeries. Ronald McDonald House was there for her family so that they could focus their love and attention on their child when it was most critical.

The doors to the Ronald McDonald House of Southern Colorado have been open to those in need for 35 years. I commend the effort of Dr. Genrich, Nancy Parker Brummett, Steve Bigari, Sara (Bigari) Cornell, Beth Alessio, and all of the past and current leaders, board members, staff members, donors, and volunteers. Their work has made the "House that Love Built" a massive success.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado for their tireless, godly work making Southern Colorado a better place for children and families to live.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARMERS MARKET AND FOOD BANK LOCAL REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2022

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, access to affordable, nutritious food is essential to leading a long and healthy life. Every day, more and more Americans are visiting their local farmers' markets and food stands for their daily needs.

As food prices have risen, families and seniors have shouldered a heavier burden when shopping at the grocery store. That is why the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and the Women, Infant, and Children Farmers' Market Program (FMNP) are so critical. For more than 20 years, these tried and true programs have connected families and seniors with food produced by their neighboring farmers benefiting both in a remarkable partnership.

As we kick off National Farmers Market Week, I am excited to introduce the Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act to enhance these programs for the American people. My bill maintains and continues current funding for SFMNP, while authorizing up to an additional \$100 million annually through 2028. Furthermore, my bill significantly increases the minimum and maximum individual benefit amounts for both SFMNP and FMNP.

Recognizing the vital role farmers' markets and food stands play in big cities and small towns all across the country, the Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act strengthens our support for the programs that bring together local farmers and the communities they feed.

By empowering the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide new infrastructure loans and grants, my bill also invests to expand existing farmers' markets and food stands and provide opportunities for new ones to grow.

Finally, my bill establishes a pilot program for food banks to contract with local farmers—allowing those most in need to receive fresh produce and meals.

The Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act is a win-win for all—lifting up farmers who make and grow and feed families and seniors right in their neighborhoods.

IN RECOGNITION OF KOREY BUTLER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Korey Butler, a long-time member of the Garden City, Michigan Fire Department, on the occasion of his appointment as lieutenant.

Lieutenant Korey Butler has served the Garden City community since 2013. Prior to joining the Department, he worked for the City of Inkster Fire Department and for Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services in Gwinnett County, Georgia. He is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Lieutenant Butler has represented Garden City Fire Department as a Hazardous Materials Technician with the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team for the past six years. He also founded the Southeastern Michigan Firefighters PEER Support Network where he continues to help promote mental health among emergency responders. Lieutenant Butler was recently appointed to the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Behavioral Health Committee, where he is working to develop and implement training, response guidelines, and designations for PEER support teams across the state.

Lieutenant Butler is currently enrolled at the Columbia Southern University where he is projected to graduate with a bachelor's degree in fire service administration this winter. He has taken an active role in training new fire fighters and never passes up an opportunity to share his knowledge and expertise among his team.

Please join me in congratulating Lieutenant Korey Butler for going above and beyond in service to the people of Garden City in Michigan's 13th District Strong.

HONORING MR. MANUEL WELCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor history in Copiah County. Mr. Manuel Welch is an example, very hard-working and a committed leader who has set a trail for many to follow.

Mr. Manuel Welch was elected Copiah County's Supervisor November 14, 1985. He

made history as Copiah County's first elected African American supervisor since Reconstruction and retired on December 31, 2007. In addition to being supervisor, Mr. Welch served on the Mississippi Association of Supervisors board and was elected to represent seven counties on the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District legislative committee. Since retiring, Supervisor Welch spends most of his time outdoors, hunting and fishing. Though his joy is participating in outdoor activities, he is known for always willing to be a wise counsel and lend a helping hand.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Manuel Welch for his outstanding service in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call vote No. 418, Roll Call vote No. 419, and Roll Call vote No. 420 on Friday, August 12, 2022. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Hoosiers of the 6th Congressional District of Indiana. Unfortunately, the out-of-control spending bill being rammed through Congress is wrong for Hoosiers and wrong for America. Our Nation does not need more taxes, does not need more spending, and certainly does not need more liberal pet-projects being forced upon us by the radical left.

I am wholeheartedly opposed to H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022—this tax and spending spree will push our country further into a recession, fuel our rampant inflation, and slow economic growth to a halt. Democrats in Washington are intent on crushing the American dream with out-of-control wasteful government spending. Instead, we should be focusing our efforts on reining in inflation for hardworking families, lowering the costs of energy through domestic energy production, and incentivizing common sense free market solutions to spur economic prosperity in our communities.

Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 1316 (Roll Call No. 418), Nay on Adoption of H. Res. 1316 (Roll Call No. 419), and Nay on Final Passage of H.R. 5376 (Roll Call No. 420).

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL MORRISON

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Morrison. Michael was a contributor to the common good in a myriad of ways. He served his country in the Army and the Navy. He continued his career in law enforcement at the Monterey County Sheriff's Department and returned overseas to work in the securing of U.S. Embassies in Afri-

ca. After seven years in Africa, he founded a very successful security company in Arizona that still exists to this day—Lionheart Security Services.

I got to know Michael at numerous roundtables and town halls throughout the years. He was a very sharp guy, who even helped me draft legislation shoring up security at U.S. Embassies. From my first interactions with him, I understood that nothing would stop this man from accomplishing the thing he sets his mind out to do. I am not at all surprised by the enormous success that Lionheart Security Services enjoys.

I do not think that I have ever witnessed a resume that screamed patriot more than Michael—veteran, protector of U.S. government officials abroad, dabbler in legislation. When I imagine a modern-day pioneer, I think of Michael. To his family and friends, I offer my sincerest condolences and prayers. This America we love is what it is thanks to generous servants like Michael.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CORLETTA VAUGHN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the exemplary leadership and faith-based work of Dr. Corletta J. Vaughn as Senior Pastor of Holy Ghost Cathedral in Michigan's 13th District Strong for thirty-six years.

Dr. Vaughn is a trailblazer among women in the ministry through her notable accomplishments. She began her journey in 1974, was named bishop in 1995 in Nigeria, and was elected to the Office of Presiding Bishop over International Outreach Go Tell It Ministry Worldwide Network and Churches in 1999. Throughout this time, she has ministered in more than twenty-eight countries.

Beyond serving the spiritual needs of her congregation, Dr. Vaughn has dedicated herself to serving the community by organizing food drives, clothing drives, sponsoring community day events, and has even opened her doors of the church as a COVID vaccination site. She has showcased a drive to uplift the community through her proactive efforts to strengthen leadership among members. She is the president of the International Institute of Expansion; Women who Soar and the founder and chancellor of Kingdom and Faith Bible College in Detroit, which trains school ministers to become leaders.

In short, Dr. Corletta Vaughn has become a pillar in the community and internationally. Her work has demonstrated her passion for teaching, preaching, and leadership development which strives to create a better future for our communities. Please join me in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

HONORING EARL "SKIP" COOPER II

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl "Skip" Cooper II for his outstanding service over many decades to the African American business community in the United States.

On August 20, 2022, fifty years to the day after Mr. Cooper moved to Los Angeles from Oakland, CA, he will be honored by the Black Business Association (BBA) in a celebration of his 50 years of activism and service.

Mr. Cooper and I have known each other and worked together on numerous projects for more than 45 years. We first met when I was the Chief of Staff for Los Angeles City Councilman David Cunningham, and we developed an excellent working relationship. Mr. Cooper continued to be a trusted advisor when I was elected to the California State Assembly and then to the United States Congress.

Before joining the BBA, Mr. Cooper served his country in the Vietnam War, was an instructor at California State University Los Angeles and earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California (USC), with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. Mr. Cooper's primary focus all these years, has been assisting Black businesses survive and grow.

Founded in 1970, the Black Business Association, headquartered in Los Angeles, is the oldest active ethnic business support organization in the state of California. Originally named the Black Businessmen's Association of Los Angeles, the BBA was one of the first business groups of any ethnicity to recognize and honor the contributions of female entrepreneurs. Mr. Cooper joined the BBA in 1974, became its President/CEO in 1976 and was named Executive Director in 1992.

Always an innovator, Mr. Cooper has continued to be an effective advocate for the advancement of minority business enterprise on a local, state, and national level. He led the first "trade mission" of African Americans to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus and the White House in the 1970s. He has been a close ally and advisor to African American leaders, from Mayor Tom Bradley to Congresswoman Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke, from California Speaker Willie Brown to Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. He is the publisher/editor of the award-winning Black Business News magazine and is quick to assist policy makers in crafting legislation that makes it easier for minority businesses to succeed. A 100 percent Disabled Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Cooper is known to most community leaders for his sense of humor, his cultural pride, and his unabashed devotion to God. He is a savvy and intelligent observer of culture, politics, economics, and business. His positive, selfless, and inspiring energy has contributed much to California's Black community for more than half a century.

I salute Earl "Skip" Cooper II upon BBA's celebration of his 50th anniversary in Los Angeles and look forward to more opportunities to work together in his role as President Emeritus and Chairman of BBA's Board of Directors.