

As a member of the AANA for 20 years, Ms. Velocci has contributed greatly to the healthcare community in the Key West area and nationwide. Ms. Velocci has long been active in nurse anesthesia as both a CRNA and as a clinical and didactic instructor for nurse anesthetists. She supplied anesthesia services for office-based practices and free-standing surgery centers. She is also an innovator and entrepreneur and assisted in building and marketing an interactive web-based learning resource for CRNAs. Throughout her career in nurse anesthesia, Ms. Velocci served on committees, advisory panels, and boards of directors at the state and national levels. She is a former president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Velocci on a job well done. Her service to her patients and to our community represents the best of our district. I am always proud to recognize constituents that go above and beyond for our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Velocci's notable career and outstanding achievements.

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I came to Congress with a mission to make the federal government a better partner to local communities to make them more livable, healthy, and economically secure.

Last week, Congress made unprecedented progress on fulfilling the fundamental premise of this mission. The House and Senate both passed the Inflation Reduction Act, a historic investment in our nation's health, climate, and economy, including several provisions I authored to combat the climate crisis. President Biden is expected to sign the legislation into law this afternoon.

The Inflation Reduction Act will save Americans \$288 billion on health care over the next ten years. Critically, it will allow Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, starting with the ten most expensive prescriptions. These negotiations will bring down costs for patients and taxpayers alike. When combined with new provisions capping Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 a year, the legislation will make an extraordinary difference in peoples' lives.

This package is the single largest investment in climate action in our nation's history. It will deliver \$385 billion in energy and climate investments, including for electric vehicles, solar and wind energy, pollution reduction, and support for the vulnerable communities most impacted by environmental degradation. Long term extensions to the production and investment tax credits, including direct pay and transferability provisions, are critical components in ending our dependence on fossil fuels. I am also pleased that the investment tax credit was expanded to include energy storage projects, a key piece of the puzzle in delivering renewable energy to households at any time of day.

Combatting the climate crisis also means investing in infrastructure that is sustainable and

efficient. Clean transportation incentives like an expanded electric vehicle credit for new and used vehicles, an expanded credit to charge e-bikes and e-scooters, and incentives to electrify commercial fleets will help accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions and fossil fuels in our day-to-day activities. Likewise, any construction projects in the 21st century must be made to meet the needs and goals of our communities. That's why I advocated for provisions in this package that make commercial buildings more energy efficient and sustainable.

While working families in our community and across the nation are struggling to pay for basic goods like gas, groceries, and rent, ultra-wealthy corporations are raking in record profits. Inflation is hitting Americans hard while many corporations aren't paying their fair share. This legislation will enact a corporate minimum tax of 15 percent. Currently, hundreds of the largest corporations in America pay substantially less, or nothing, in taxes. This provision ensures that large corporations will pay a minimum of 15 percent in taxes. The legislation also makes polluters pay by including my legislation reinstating the Superfund tax on crude oil.

It is no secret that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is outmatched. Decades of chronic underfunding have left the IRS understaffed and overburdened, allowing hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes owed to go uncollected. This legislation provides \$3.2 billion for taxpayer services and \$45.6 billion for enforcement, which the Congressional Budget Office estimates will raise more than \$200 billion in additional revenue for the federal government. By investing in the IRS, we can finally close the "tax gap" between what people owe and what they end up paying.

The Inflation Reduction Act represents more than the sum of these individual provisions, it is proof that our system works and that the United States has the capacity to solve our most pressing challenges in the years ahead.

HONORING GLORIA TRIPLETT-JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educator and recent retiree, Mrs. Gloria Triplett-Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson began her educational journey in the '70s as a basketball player and graduate from Greenville High School, where she became the high school first female to play in the Mississippi High School All Star game.

Mrs. Jackson went on to further her education at Alcorn State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She began her career teaching and coaching at Jonesboro High School in Louisiana, while in graduate school at Grambling State University.

Nine Years later, Mrs. Jackson returned to Greenville and finished her second master's degree at Delta State University. Mrs. Jackson spent more than 22 years in the Leland School District, serving in a number of positions, such as a teacher, coach, assistant prin-

icipal, principal, curriculum specialist, and eventually superintendent until 2015. Under Mrs. Jackson's leadership, Leland School District improved, moving from an "F" failing rating to a "C" successful rating.

After a short stint of running her own educational consulting firm, Mrs. Jackson returned to public school as the principal at Riverside Elementary in the Western Line School District. Once again, she propelled her school to excellence by becoming one of the few schools in the Mississippi Delta to receive an "A" rating, which the school has maintained to date. She has also served as the Deputy Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer for Western Line for the past four years.

Mrs. Jackson has received numerous accolades over the years from Western Line School District, Washington County, DAAIS, MHSAA, and from the state of Mississippi for her accomplishments as a public school leader.

After a successful career in public education, of more than 40 years, Mrs. Jackson has decided to embrace retirement and any new challenges ahead.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gloria Triplett-Jackson for her passion and dedication to serving and educating her community.

CONGRESSIONAL BANGLADESH CAUCUS INAUGURATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join with my colleagues, Congressmen GERRY CONNOLLY, DWIGHT EVANS, and STEVE CHABOT as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus.

We look forward to strengthening the United States-Bangladesh Relationship on the basis of our shared democratic values to address major issues, including climate change, human rights, and humanitarian challenges. The People of Bangladesh are well represented by the Bangladeshi Ambassador M Shahidul Islam.

The Caucus was established, in part, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bangladesh, which began in 1972, soon after Bangladesh secured its independence from Pakistan. The United States has been a long-standing partner in Bangladesh's journey to economic development and democratic institution building since that time.

During the last 50 years, Bangladesh has made significant socio-economic progress, including increased food production, disaster management capacity building, poverty alleviation, improved health and education, and women's empowerment. For more than a decade, Bangladesh has remained one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and its economic growth is not only benefiting its own people, but is also contributing to the peace, progress, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific Region.

Significantly, no other country in the world commits more forces to United Nations Peacekeeping.

Bangladesh has a population of over 170 million, with a per capita income higher than

its neighbors in South Asia. The United States is one of Bangladesh's most important trading partners, with approximately 19–20 percent of its exports destined for the United States. Also, bilateral trade between the United States and Bangladesh was over \$10 billion (U.S.) in 2021.

According to the United States Census Bureau, there are over 200,000 people of Bangladeshi Origin living in America. Promoting educational exchanges between Bangladesh and the United States benefits both nations, and with approximately 10,000 students from Bangladesh studying in the United States, the country places eighth in the World in this category.

The Congressional Bangladesh Caucus will promote continued good relations between the United States and Bangladesh. Caucus Members will receive periodic updates on our bilateral relationship, joint efforts to combat terrorism and promote human rights, as well as opportunities for high-level visits between the two countries, including with Ambassador M Shahidul Islam as we work to strengthen our relationship.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR MIGRANTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a fiscal year 2022 supplemental appropriations bill to provide \$50 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) for humanitarian assistance for migrants. The funding would remain available until expended.

Since mid-April, the governors of Texas and Arizona have exploited and harmed approximately 4,500 vulnerable people fleeing desperate and dangerous situations in their home countries for political gain by busing them to the District of Columbia and New York.

In fiscal year 2022, Congress provided \$150 million to the EFSP for humanitarian assistance for migrants. As of July 21, 2022, approximately \$85 million of this funding remained available. However, the busing of migrants to D.C. and New York has increased funding requests and the EFSP may exhaust its funding.

Supplemental funding would ensure that the EFSP can continue to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING COLONEL MELANIE R. BELL-CARTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an impeccable

and self-motivated leader, Colonel Melanie Bell-Carter. Colonel Bell-Carter currently serves as the Director, Human Resources Directorate, White House Military Office, Washington, DC. She has been a champion and a leader of service and dedication to our great nation.

Colonel Melanie Bell-Carter is a native of Shaw, Mississippi, and she graduated from Shaw High School in 1990. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992 and graduated from recruit training Marine Corps recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon graduation, she attended the Aviation Ordnance Course at Naval Air Station (NAS), in Millington, TN. In November 1992, she attended the AV-8B Armament Organizational Systems Maintenance Course at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, NC. She was selected to the Meritorious Commissioning Program during this assignment. From October 1998 until December 1998, she attended Officer Candidate School. Colonel Bell-Carter possesses a BS in Human Resource Management, Master's in Organizational Development and Management, Master's in Management, a Master of Military Operational Art and Science Degree, graduated from the Air War College and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Organizational Development.

Colonel Bell-Carter has 2 children—Erik and Kennedy. Her personal awards include Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, 2 Navy and Marines Corps Commendation Medals, 3 Navy and Marines Corps Achievement Medals, 2 Good Conduct Medals and a host of Meritorious Medals, Certificate of Commendations and Letters of Appreciation.

Colonel Bell-Carter serves as a leader in the Marine Corps; she is an advocate for community service. In both endeavors, she does not seek praise for her actions, but will ensure others are praised for their accomplishments. Colonel Bell-Carter has proven herself throughout her career and earned a reputation of impeccable character, unquestionable integrity, unparalleled professional achievement, and superior leadership. She lives by her motto, "Learning is essential to being a good leader."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Colonel Melanie Bell-Carter for her leadership, service, and dedication to the United States Marine Corps.

CONGRATULATING CADENCE RAINE NICKEY ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE 2022–2023 CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Cadence Raine Nickey on being recognized as the 2022–2023 Choctaw Indian Princess. She has earned this distinction through her hard work and dedication to her family, her community, and her tribe. As her Congressman, I was happy to meet Cadence at the Neshoba County Fair recently, and I am proud of that she is representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in this special role.

Cadence is the daughter of Eric Nickey and Georgianna McMillan and is a graduate of Choctaw Central High School. Cadence will attend Mississippi State University in the fall, where she plans to major in forensic science.

I am thankful for the leadership of young people in our state like Cadence and know she will continue to make her tribe and her state proud.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARIA EUGENIA OSUNA, NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI), SAN DIEGO REGION

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Maria Eugenia Osuna of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), San Diego Region. Mrs. Osuna served as the Outreach Coordinator for this organization for ten years. She is currently retired and is a resident of the Castle Park community in the City of Chula Vista, CA.

Mrs. Osuna has been recognized for her long years of service with NAMI, during which she founded and organized various support group programs throughout San Diego County to help minority parents who have children with mental illness.

Before for her professional career with NAMI, Mrs. Osuna served as a volunteer for the organization, because her son was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia at the age of 17. Both her father and brother were diagnosed with mental illnesses, and both committed suicide. Mrs. Osuna did not want her son to suffer the same fate.

After realizing that resources for minority families with mental illness were limited, Mrs. Osuna took NAMI's 12-week program to learn more about her son's illness, and she began to assist other minority families with similar situations. Through her time and commitment, Mrs. Osuna was formally offered a position with NAMI.

Mrs. Osuna created and organized support groups for Latinx parents who have children with a mental illness. Her support group programs were the first in San Diego County to be held in Spanish. Mrs. Osuna's goal has always been to provide education, support, and advocacy to minority families, as well as to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes on mental illness.

Mrs. Osuna is to be honored as the 51st District Constituent of the Month, particularly during National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, for her outstanding commitment to supporting minority families with education and advocacy on mental health awareness, as well as all her service and efforts that have helped those in need build a brighter future.

HONORING LONNIE SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mr. Lonnie Smith.