

HONORING SHELLEY BERKLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor former Congresswoman Shelley Berkley for her outstanding service as the Executive Officer and Senior Provost of Touro University California. The Honorable Ms. Berkley has been engaged in her community for her entire life. As the first person to attend college in her family, Ms. Berkley earned her undergraduate degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and her law degree from the University of San Diego.

Ms. Berkley served on the Nevada Board of Representatives, where she oversaw the rapid expansion of higher education, simultaneously developing new schools and ensuring that tuition stayed low. In 1998, she was elected to Congress, where she went on to serve for 14 years. During her time in the House of Representatives, she served on the Transportation Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee. She worked on 114 pieces of legislation related to healthcare and worked to build the new Veterans Administration medical complex in Southern Nevada. While she was passionate about healthcare, her work did not stop there. She collaborated with members of the European Parliament on issues affecting the entire Transatlantic Alliance.

Since leaving Congress, Ms. Berkley has continued to work hard to give back to her community. In her time at Touro University California she has overseen two of the fastest growing medical schools in the United States. Under her leadership, the university has graduated hundreds of physicians, nurses, therapists and pharmacists each year. In addition to her work at Touro University, she also serves on numerous local and national boards, including: the Anti-Defamation League, Patient Pals, National Osteoporosis Foundation, the Israel Project, and European Leadership Network.

Madam Speaker, former Congresswoman Shelley Berkley has been a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATION OF CHICAGO'S
AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick and Dee Woodtor for their work in Africa International House and to celebrate the 33rd iteration of the African Festival of the Arts. The festival is back this year after taking a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. With the return of the in-person festivities, this year's theme is "Back to Culture. Back to Tradition."

The African Festival of the Arts has been celebrated in Chicago for more than three decades. Each year on Labor Day weekend, the festival attracts a multi-cultural audience,

offering the Black community a chance to reconnect to their roots, while also giving those outside the community the opportunity to learn more about African culture. Through poetry readings, interactive workshops, art exhibits, musical and dance performances, food tasting, arts and crafts classes, and displaying a replica of an African village, the festival illustrates the rich African culture present within the people of Chicago.

The festival also contributes immensely to the City's economy. African International House hires local residents and vendors to participate in the annual event, which generates revenue for the city and local businesses.

Patrick Woodtor founded Africa International House and the festival. Woodtor is originally from Liberia and first came to the United States in 1976 to attend Northwestern University, where he met his wife, Delores "Dee" Parmer. After graduating, the Woodtors briefly lived in Liberia, but soon returned to the States due to the political turmoil unraveling in the country.

A short time after returning to Chicago, the Woodtors' cultural outreach began when Dee opened a store in Hyde Park called "Window to Africa" that specialized in selling African artifacts, which helped the surrounding community better connect and understand their heritage. The store also served as a resource center for African immigrants transitioning into their new lives here in America.

The success and popularity of Dee's store fueled their desire to expand their efforts. Patrick started the festival, and then later Africa International House—a larger umbrella organization that offers exchange programs to Africa and more broadly bridges cultural understanding.

African International House and the Woodtors have received numerous accolades for their contributions to the cultural fabric of Chicago and service to recent immigrants, and I wanted to further cement the depth of their impact by speaking about it in the halls of the U.S. Capitol.

Madam Speaker, Chicago has a rich history of celebrating the heritage and ancestry of its residents. The Woodtors have added to that history by lifting African culture on a large scale, which only further enhances the beauty and diversity of our great city. They deserve to be honored and recognized for this work, which benefits all Chicagoans.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MCGOVERN-DOLE INTER-
NATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAM

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1156—Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to building on 20 years of success of the George McGovern-Robert Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

During the past two decades, McGovern-Dole has provided more than 5 and a half billion school meals benefitting over 31 million school-age children and their communities.

I have seen this program in action—and it is a special sight to see. When I joined the then

Chairman of the Agriculture Committee Mike Conaway several years ago overseas in third world countries where food is scarce and extreme poverty like you cannot believe is plentiful, it is obvious to see how imperative a nutritious meal is to a child's survival. Just as important, the McGovern-Dole program also provides an opportunity to learn, laying the foundation for an improved life and achievement. For many of these children from very poor means, the meal provided through this program at school is their only good meal of the day.

It is also important to recognize the support of American agricultural producers who make this program possible. America's farm families have produced more than 1.3 million metric tons of U.S. commodities for donation, doing their part in reducing hunger and improving primary education in countries around the globe.

Congress must continue to lead by example in tackling hunger and poverty around the world for years to come. These efforts not only help feed those who cannot help themselves, but it builds good-will and provides hope for the future for so many searching for it. Many laws have been passed by this chamber, but none have been more impactful to the lives of so many children who desperately need the help.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to support this resolution expressing Congress' commitment to carrying on the success of this program along with the great legacies of Ambassador McGovern and Senator Bob Dole.

HONORING SHONNA TILLMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable professional, Shonna Tillman.

Shonna Tillman is a native of Grenada, MS. She is the daughter of Tony and Anna Tillman. She has two amazing brothers, Jonathan and Tony Tillman, and one amazing sister, Shae Poe. Shonna is also a member of Open-Door Apostolic Church in Charleston, MS, where her pastor is Bishop James Phillips.

Shonna Tillman is the Founder of Operation #IAM, an organization that is designed to help individuals share their stories anonymously. Shonna founded Operation #IAM after overcoming her battle with anxiety and depression. She had a first-hand understanding of how hard it is to walk a dark path and has vowed to not let others suffer alone.

Shonna is a proud graduate of Mississippi State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology. She is also a graduate of Belhaven University, where she earned her master's degree in Public Administration. Currently, Shonna is attending Mississippi State University, where she is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy and Administration. Her students focus on economic development in the rural community, and her dissertation topic is "The Lack of Black Women Representation in Local Government in The Deep South."

Shonna is a member of Black Girls Rock of MS, a mentor for The Diamond Project, Inc.,

a board member of Fostering Faith, and a community organizer. Her primary mission is to be the change that she wants to see in the world. She has plans of working in the academia field on a tenure track.

Shonna family and church family honors her in her hard work and dedication she put into her community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shonna Tillman for her dedication in serving her community.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIVERBANK

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Riverbank, California's incorporation. Riverbank is a beautiful town located along the Stanislaus River and in the heart of the Central Valley. For a century now, Riverbank has continued to grow and thrive by living up to their motto: "The City of Action."

Riverbank traces its roots back to a small ferry that, before there were roads and bridges in the area, would take people across San Joaquin County and into Stanislaus County. The town truly expanded and began to take shape thanks to the Santa Fe Railroad, which quickly turned Riverbank into a transportation hub.

Today, Riverbank is a diverse, tight-knit community with a vibrant and expansive economy. Like much of the Central Valley, Riverbank has a strong history of farming that remains to this day. The town's trademark warmth is on constant display at events like the annual Riverbank Wine and Cheese Festival, which celebrates the city's diverse population and agricultural roots. Riverbank has also seen economic growth through a variety of industries. The Riverbank industrial complex reflects the broad reach of the town's economy, as it is home to over 40 different businesses that specialize in fields ranging from security systems and recycling to traditional manufacturing.

Riverbank's growth and success are the direct products of the hard work, dedication, and fearless spirit that reverberate throughout the city. Rather than sit and wait idly by, Riverbank has been aggressive and seized every opportunity available. I am immensely proud to represent this extraordinary town and am certain that its best days still lay ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESS LEADS BY EXAMPLE ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Congress Leads by Example Act of 2022, which would subject the legislative branch to many of the laws that protect employees in the private sector and the executive branch. Congress should abide by the laws it imposes on others. In 1995, Congress passed the Con-

gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), which applied 13 existing civil rights, labor and workplace safety and health laws to the legislative branch. In 2018, after reports of sexual harassment in Congress and in light of the #MeToo movement, Congress passed the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act (Reform Act), which changed the name of the Office of Compliance to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR), revised the process to resolve workplace claims and extended CAA protections to unpaid staff, interns and fellows. It also made Members of Congress personally liable for their own violations of workplace harassment and retaliation laws.

The CAA and the Reform Act were important steps in making the legislative branch accountable for its employment practices, but they did not finish the job. As noted, the CAA brought the legislative branch under 13 civil rights, labor and workplace safety and health laws but it omitted important substantive and procedural protections. In its two most recent Section 102(b) biennial reports to Congress, OCWR identified additional federal workplace laws and procedures that should be applicable to the legislative branch. OCWR's recommendations for the 116th Congress included making the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 applicable to the legislative branch. The OCWR's recommendations for this Congress included allowing the OCWR Board of Directors to authorize the OCWR General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief after filing an unfair labor practice charge, amending the confidentiality provisions of the CAA to exclude proceedings under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute and the public access provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and requiring mediation upon the request of the claimant. This bill takes into account OCWR's recommendations, and seeks both to apply the standard of fairness to employees of the legislative branch that Congress requires for other employees and provide a safer work environment for the legislative branch and visitors by bringing the legislative obligations in line with the legal requirements of the private sector and the executive branch.

This bill provides general whistleblower protections and anti-retaliation measures and makes additional Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) retaliation provisions applicable to the legislative branch. This bill also provides subpoena authority to OCWR to conduct inspections and investigations into OSHA violations.

This bill also furthers the CAA's goal of preventing workplace discrimination in the legislative branch by prohibiting the legislative branch from making adverse employment decisions on the basis of an employee's wage garnishment or involvement in bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to the Consumer Credit Protection Act and Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code.

Finally, this bill bolsters the CAA's record-keeping requirements. It applies to the legislative branch the obligation to maintain accurate records of safety information and employee injuries, as otherwise required by OSHA, as well as employee records necessary to administer anti-discrimination laws.

This bill would help restore the public's trust in Congress by redoubling our efforts to exercise leadership by example. I urge support for this important measure.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI VOTES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, Mississippi Votes. This organization has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a strong desire for change.

Mississippi Votes is an organization of intergenerational synergy centering and led by young people invested in the progression of Mississippi. The organization's programming and outreach strategies empower young people, encourages civic engagement, and educates communities on voting rights through place-based grassroots organizing.

Since inception, Mississippi Votes has been a pioneer and leader in voter registration and engagement in Mississippi. In a little over four years, Mississippi Votes has successfully recruited and retained over 400 statewide volunteers as well as registered over 15,000 new voters—many of whom are young people of color on college campuses. Mississippi Votes' Executive Director, Arekia Bennett-Scott, and her team have worked tirelessly to cultivate a culture of civic engagement throughout the State of Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mississippi Votes for their dedication in the fight for civil and human rights in the State of Mississippi.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT LOGAN CATALANOTTO

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we honor Eagle Scout Logan Catalanotto, who achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on July 18, 2022. As a member of Boy Scout Troop 72, Logan has dedicated over ten years of his life to serving in his local troop and making the greater Marion County community a better place to live, work, and play.

To earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, Logan completed 26 merit badges, requiring him to demonstrate knowledge of and expertise in various life skills, served in Troop leadership positions including Senior Patrol Leader and Quartermaster, and planned and executed an Eagle Scout Service Project. For his Project, Logan renovated the State Flag Display area in the Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. The renovation consisted of removing 52 flag poles and existing mulch, regrading the area, pouring a 4,000 sq. ft. concrete slab, where the flag poles were reinstalled. The project has made this area easier to maintain, provided more accessibility, as well as making it ADA accessible, and more visually appealing. With all of the various events and ceremonies that are held throughout the year, the park has become a more valuable asset to Marion County.

Congratulations to Mr. Catalanotto, his family, and his troop on this prestigious honor. We