

and our country. After graduating high school, Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was later stationed in Korea and served there for 3 years. After his honorable discharge in 1955, Ken's service was highly honored, as he earned two Bronze Stars, the Korean War Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Beyond his service to our country, Ken went above and beyond in his personal and professional life to care for those around him. While starting a family of his own in Rockwood, Michigan, with his wife, Betty, Ken also started his career as a union representative, before eventually transitioning into a long, accomplished tenure in Human Resources. Eventually stepping up as the Director of Human Resources for Allied Signal, Ken became a strong leader of their department, working on behalf of the people, and traveling across the country before eventually settling in Marlton, New Jersey.

It was in Marlton that Ken became a dedicated member of the St. Joan of Arc parish, our local government, and the town watch. Through his involvement across multiple organizations, he took every opportunity to facilitate projects to make our community a better, safer place. Most recently, he focused his vision on the Evesham Township Veterans Wall of Honor in the Evesham Township Municipal Building. Ken played a vital role in the 'Coffee with a Vet' program as well as the local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter.

No matter the task—big or small—Ken proved every day that he was a deep believer that it was always possible for each person to create positive change in their community. Even beyond Evesham's borders, he dedicated his time as the President of the Boys & Girls Club of Philadelphia, uplifting kids and young adults across the area. I know Ken will have the lasting memory of being a friendly face around town, often riding his lawn mower through the neighborhood with a warm smile and helping hand for whomever may need one.

We were lucky to have Ken as a member of our community. He was a beloved husband, father, and neighbor. My heart goes out to his entire family, his friends, and for anyone who knew him and grieving his loss. Though he will be deeply missed, I am sure his legacy will live on for years to come through his positive impacts on all our lives.

RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
HAM, 20 YEARS WITH T-MOBILE
USA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize Kathleen O'Brien Ham for her forty years of work in wireless telecommunications advocacy, and to congratulate her on her retirement as T-Mobile's Senior Vice President for Government Affairs.

Throughout her nearly 20 years with T-Mobile, Kathleen has been instrumental in leading the company's public policy practice. She was responsible for engaging federal and state governments and agencies to advance a wide range of priorities for T-Mobile, including radio spectrum and consumer safety matters.

Kathleen's fourteen years of prior experience at the Federal Communications Commission equipped her well for the landmark achievements she accomplished during her tenure at T-Mobile. Thanks to her unmatched focus on industry competition and doing more for consumers, T-Mobile became the first telecommunications provider to offer 5G network coverage in all 50 states, expanding wireless access for millions of Americans across the country.

From testifying before Congress to spearheading T-Mobile's efforts to secure additional spectrum, Kathleen laid the groundwork for the company's growth and innovation in recent years. Under her oversight, T-Mobile closed its merger with Sprint after a successful two-year policy and regulatory campaign, positioning T-Mobile as the country's leading 5G wireless provider and strengthening the company's competitiveness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I thank Kathleen O'Brien Ham for her career helping T-Mobile thrive and subsequently doing more for American consumers, and I wish her a happy retirement.

HONORING THE LANSING BOARD
OF WATER AND LIGHT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I pay tribute to the hardworking men and women of the Lansing Board of Water and Light, a municipally-owned public utility in Michigan's 7th Congressional District for their efforts to restore service following storms that moved through Michigan on Thursday, August 24 and Friday, August 25, 2023. In a matter of hours, six tornadoes swept across the state, leaving a trail of devastation from west to east. Five people died, dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of Michiganders were left in the dark due to power outages.

Under these most pressing circumstances, more than 40 percent of LBWL's customers were affected by the storm, including 612 unique power outage locations, 835 downed wires, 47 broken poles, and 187 transformers knocked offline. In the challenging days that followed the storms, LBWL sent an unprecedented number of crews into the field, calling in mutual aid from across Michigan and around the country. In total, 45 tree crews, 57 line crews, and 162 spotters worked around the clock in difficult conditions, restoring power to 98 percent of customers in a matter of days.

That effort was born of experience. After a similarly devastating ice storm hit the region 10 years ago, LBWL implemented all the recommendations from an independent investigation into the storm response, spending millions on proactive tree-trimming, expanding mutual aid agreements, hardening its communication plan, and revamping the entire corporate structure. This organizational soul-searching has paid off, with vastly improved reliability and response time when it matters most.

The work of LBWL crews, and crews from across the country, was difficult and even dangerous, requiring long hours and high skill to

bring the power back for hundreds of customers. That hard work and dedication deserve recognition here.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALVIN BENN, LONGTIME MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER REPORTER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a talented journalist, truth seeker, and man of great integrity, former Montgomery Advertiser reporter Alvin Stanley Benn, who passed away on October 10, 2023, at the age of 83.

Alvin Benn was born on April 25, 1940, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Upon graduating from Manheim Township High School in 1958, Alvin Benn enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Throughout his six years of service, Alvin Benn traveled the world after being stationed in Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Okinawa, Japan. While stationed in Japan, he pursued his passion for journalism, working for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. He continued his education in the United States at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, completing military journalism school.

In 1964, Alvin Benn began what would be a lifechanging career chronicling the history of Alabama. He made his mark on journalism as a minted correspondent for the United Press International, covering the sweeping Civil Rights Movement. Interviewing the leading voices on each side, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, his holistic approach to reporting exposed the true story of the Civil Rights Movement, bringing the reality of the fight for rights and liberties to homes nationwide. For over two years, Alvin Benn led the United Press International's Birmingham Bureau, taking on multiple roles that supported the publication, including bureau chief, writer, editor, photographer, and producer. He contributed to newspapers across the Southeast, including the Decatur Daily in Decatur, Alabama from 1967 through 1974; the Natchez Democrat in Natchez, Mississippi; the Selma Times Journal in Selma, Alabama; and publications in Alexander City, Alabama; and Lafayette, Georgia, before settling in Selma, where he lived for over 40 years.

During his time at the Natchez Democrat, Alvin Benn and the news staff received a nomination for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. In 1980, he joined the Montgomery Advertiser, where he would spend over 20 years. In his 50-plus-year career, Alvin Benn produced over three to four stories per day before retiring in 2003. Retirement did not curb his desire to continue writing, nor did it decrease his readership. "Al Benn's Alabama" continued to be a widely read column in the Montgomery Advertiser and served as the cherry on top of Alvin Benn's storied contributions to journalism. From interviewing United States presidents to writing a book titled "Reporter: Covering the Civil Rights . . . And Wrongs in Dixie," Alvin Benn is an Alabama gem whose

dedication to “journalistic integrity” continued to inspire us all.

Alvin Benn is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Press Association, the Communications Award from the Alabama Farmers Association, and the Distinguished Alabama Community Journalist award from the Auburn University Department of Journalism.

Alvin Benn was a proud member of the Mishkan Israel Congregation in our hometown of Selma, Alabama, and the Temple Beth Or in Montgomery, Alabama.

Alvin Benn is preceded in death by his wife of almost 60 years, Sharon Ann Boumel Benn. He is survived by their two children, Danielle Waters and Eric Benn; four grandchildren, Benjamin Waters, Scott Waters, Alexandria Benn, and Ilan Benn; son-in-law, Curtis Waters and daughter-in-law, Maria Benn; and a host of family and friends.

On a personal note, I grew up right down the street from the Benn family. In fact, his son, Eric, was my siblings’ best friend and my third little brother. Everywhere Andrew and Anthony went, Eric went too. They are best friends and truly brothers. The Sewells are blessed to have grown up with the Benns, and we remain good friends and family for a lifetime.

Mr. Benn was an amazing journalist with a special talent for crafting his words into storytelling. He wrote the first article about my scholarship to Princeton University and subsequently, wrote about every major event in my life’s journey, from joining the rowing crew at Oxford to getting elected Alabama’s First Black Congresswoman. If anything happened in Selma or the Black Belt, Mr. Benn knew about it and reported on it. Spanning a career of decades, Mr. Benn told the history of Alabama’s Black Belt—the events, the characters, and all the happenings. What a gift his writings will leave in the annals of Alabama’s history. His legacy will live on through the mini-stories and all the lives that he touched. Rest in peace and power.

On behalf of Alabama’s 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Alvin Stanley Benn for his contributions to journalism and decades of exemplary service to the State of Alabama.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS THROUGH LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 20, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Reduction of Emissions through Landscaping Equipment Act. This crucial legislation provides businesses with a significant tool as they transition toward a more sustainable and consumer-friendly future.

This essential and forward-thinking piece of legislation provides a 40 percent credit on the purchase of zero-emission equipment, such as mowers, leaf blowers, hedgers, and accessories, up to \$25,000 every year and up to \$100,000 over the course of 10 consecutive years. The tax credit, which applies to any equipment purchased on or after January 1, 2023, also extends to retrofitting equipment that transforms gas-powered devices to zero-emission. These credits cover batteries, generators, retrofitting equipment, and other necessary accessories.

Currently, there are over 300 restrictions on the use of gas-powered lawn equipment across the country, as more localities recognize the need to transition to quieter, less polluting equipment. The bill will assist local businesses as they adapt to local ordinances and consumer demand for better, cleaner, and quieter equipment while reducing their costs over time through lower maintenance expenses and reduced reliance on fossil fuels. Moreover, the bill is compatible with local and state voucher and rebate programs for zero-emission equipment like the programs in my home State of California.

Current gas-powered equipment emits pollutants, including nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon dioxide (CO₂), reactive organic gases (ROG), and particulate matter that negatively impact the climate, air quality, ecosystems, and are potentially harmful to human health, especially for the workers who operate the equipment. These appliances generate significant noise pollution that can damage human hearing, disturb wildlife, and interfere with life and work. Replacing gas-powered equipment with zero-emission equipment would improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, and protect operators of the equipment from hearing loss and other potentially negative health effects.

I am also very proud to share that this legislation has garnered widespread support from

numerous national, state, and regional organizations, including industry, environmental, and health-focused groups. The National Association of Landscape Professionals, American Lung Association, Environmental Defense Fund, Earthjustice, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Sierra Club, American Green Zone Alliance, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Alliance for Golf, California Golf Course Owners Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California, Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and AmericanHort, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Alliance for Golf, California Golf Course Owners Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California, Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California, Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association, Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association, Georgia Urban Ag Council, Georgia Green Industry Association, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association, Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, Maine Landscape and Nursery Association, Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association, Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc., Michigan Green Industry Association, Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, Montana Nursery & Landscape Association, New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association, New York State Nursery and Landscape Association, NorCal Sports Field Management Association, Ohio Green Industry Association, Oregon Association of Nurseries, Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association, Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Washington Association of Landscape Professionals, Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association. These endorsements underscore the importance and benefit of this bill in advancing the transition to sustainable equipment.

This bill isn’t just about supporting the growth of our landscaping businesses; it exemplifies our commitment to a smooth, realistic transition towards more sustainable, consumer-friendly, and environmentally-responsible business practices. This legislation is a win for local businesses, the environment, and our health.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this crucial initiative.