

last year. Building on the great work Congress achieved with the SECURE Act of 2019, SECURE 2.0 included almost 100 provisions that will help employers offer plans and assist employees in both beginning to save and saving more for retirement. I was especially pleased that my provision to reduce administrative costs for employers by increasing the cash-out limit for the first time in over two decades was included in the final law.

One significant issue we still need to make more progress on is providing greater access to savings and income options that will help make sure retirees do not outlive their retirement savings. Americans collectively face a substantial retirement income gap. This means that the amount of money retirees have saved compared to what they need is \$4 trillion short, with 40 percent of families likely to outlive their retirement savings, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

This gap is concerning, and why guaranteed, or lifetime income has long been a critical issue for me. A few years ago, as the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce's Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee, I was proud to chair a hearing on a range of bipartisan retirement bills. One of the bills we discussed that day was the Increasing Access to a Secure Retirement Act, which I introduced with Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER to remove a regulatory barrier for employers looking to offer lifetime income solutions to their employees. That important provision became law in the SECURE Act, but our efforts to ensure everyone has access to the best lifetime income options remain ongoing.

Earlier this year, I along with Representative DONALD NORCROSS reintroduced the bipartisan Lifetime Income for Employees Act. This legislation would improve plan sponsors' and investors' default lifetime income options and take a crucial step to help American retirees have adequate income in retirement. Increasing the range of savings and income options will help provide workers with the possibility to achieve higher returns on their retirement investments and greater peace of mind that their income will last throughout retirement.

Our bill, and other sensible steps to improve worker access to guaranteed lifetime income, must be a part of future bipartisan retirement saving packages. I am hopeful my colleagues will cosponsor the Lifetime Income for Employees Act and help us to enact it into law.

In addition to expanding access to lifetime income Congress must do more to help all Americans achieve a financially secure retirement. More than 55 million Americans do not have access to an employer sponsored retirement plan, including 78 percent of workers at arms with fewer than 10 employees. Congress should continue to work to help them get access to savings plans as this is the first step to helping them achieve financial security in retirement.

Let's not wait until next year's National Retirement Security Month to advance proposals that will strengthen our nation's private retirement system. Bipartisanship has been and will continue to be the key to advancing the next retirement security package. We can and should act now to help all our constituents get on a clearer path to a more secure retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 556 on October 26, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAVERSE CITY YOUNG MARINES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Traverse City Young Marines. The incredible organization boasts of half a century of dedication to enhancing the lives of America's youth and of a strong commitment to Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

The Young Marines Program was established in 1959 and officially chartered on October 17, 1965. Open to children 8 years old through high school, the Young Marines promote the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our Veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Traverse City chapter has consistently demonstrated excellence through their community centric initiatives. The Young Marines conduct a yearly cleanup of M-37, volunteer countless hours of community service, and contribute to honoring our Michigan Veterans by partnering with local organizations such as the Navy-Marine Relief Society. Throughout their 50 years of service, the Young Marines of Traverse City have earned numerous distinctions. Most recently, they were recognized by Encampment 2021 and achieved a division distinction from Encampment 2018. Nationally, the Young Marines have received 12 Fulcrum Shields, a national award highlighting diligence in drug reduction efforts

These exemplary young men and women owe a great deal of gratitude to the numerous volunteers who filled integral positions in the organization for the past 50 years. These volunteers have served as Unit Commanders, Regiment Commanders, Battalion Commanders, and Paymasters, among many other roles. Without the selfless commitment of these leaders, the Young Marines would not be the esteemed organization it is today.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Traverse City Young Marines for 50 years of service and dedication to the Traverse City youth. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I'd like to congratulate the Young Marines and Volunteers, wishing them the best in all of their future endeavors

CELEBRATING MAYOR JOYCE WHICHARD-BROWN

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I honor a remarkable leader, trailblazer, and advocate for the beloved Town of Williamston. It is my distinct privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to a woman whose dedication and unwavering commitment to our community have left an indelible mark on our hearts and history books. Today, I celebrate Mayor Joyce Whichard-Brown, the first African American and first female mayor of Williamston.

Mayor Whichard-Brown's leadership journey began in Williamston, where she was born and graduated from EJ Hayes High School. She then moved to Virginia and worked in the U.S. Patent Office and various private law practices. In 2005, she returned to her hometown, Williamston, North Carolina, and has served as mayor since 2015.

Her accomplishments extend far beyond Williamston. She served on the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors. She has also taken on the role of vice chair of the Highway 17/64 Commission and initiated the quarterly mayor's meetings, fostering regional partnerships and cooperation. Under her guidance, the Town has seen significant improvements, such as the major upgrade to a fire department building and the transformation of the Stalls Building into a state-of-the-art police department facility. Mayor Whichard-Brown secured approval for the renovation of Gaylord Perry Park, making it more accessible and enjoyable for citizens.

Her tireless efforts also led to a substantial HUD grant of \$750,000, dedicated to housing revitalization and downtown renovation. Moreover, she was pivotal in securing over \$1 million in grants to complete the Roanoke River Boardwalk.

New businesses have thrived under her leadership, raising property tax-assessed values and breathing new life into the Town. Mayor Whichard-Brown has shown unshakable resolve, a willingness to stand her ground, and a remarkable ability to maintain her sense of humor. She led with grace, strength, and an unwavering commitment to her community.

Retiring from the Town, she can spend more time with her two children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Let's not forget Mayor Whichard-Brown's lesser-known talent, her incredible singing voice, which she generously shares at an annual stampede.

I thank her for her service and look forward to the continued positive impacts in the town.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I had to leave for a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553; YEA on rollcall

No. 554, 555, 556; NAY on rollcall No. 557; and YEA on rollcall No. 558.

RECOGNIZING DARLETTA BERRY-JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IVINS OUTREACH CENTER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Darletta Berry-Johnson—the founding and only Executive Director of the Ivins Outreach Center, headquartered in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. In 2023, Ivins is celebrating its twentieth anniversary in operation. The mission of Ivins “strives to improve the quality of life for those within our neighboring communities, providing opportunities for them to be healthy, confident, connected, and secure, regardless of age, income, or background.” Their goal is “to create a community that is stronger, healthier, more involved, more generous, and more accepting of others.”

Darletta has been the driving force and inspiration of Ivins’ far-reaching success in making a significant difference in the lives of tens of thousands of individuals, young and old alike, in, around, and beyond Bucks County—an area I proudly serve and represent. In supervising and leading a small group of dedicated part-time staff members and scores of community volunteers, a sampling of Darletta’s efforts has resulted in:

Services to senior citizens such as Ivins’ Staying Put and Home Share programs that enable folks to remain in their homes despite illness, disabilities, food insecurities, safety concerns, lack of transportation, and a host of other physical and social issues.

Services to an annual enrollment of upwards of 3,000 youth through oversight and administration of 21st Community Learning Center Grants that provide after-school social and academic support, and summer employment and enrichment camps for students in the school districts of Morrisville Borough, Bristol Borough, Bensalem Township, Bucks County Technical High School, and the non-public Holy Trinity, St. Marks, and St. Ephrem elementary schools, and Conwell-Egan High School.

Covid Relief through Darletta’s collaboration with the United Way, Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce, area grocery stores, houses of worship, and local law enforcement agencies in providing meals for families and individuals in addressing grocery shopping, transportation needs, providing holiday experiences for the less fortunate of all ages, and shelter for the young, the homeless, the abused, and senior citizens.

Coordinating efforts to support law enforcement agencies by securing a COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) grant through the United States Department of Justice for the Borough of Morrisville; successful submission of COPS grant applications for Falls Township and Bensalem Township police departments; and a submitted application along with the Bristol Borough Police Department to fund a School Safety Officer.

Leadership roles have included, but not limited to: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Advisory Board, Bucks County Children & Youth Advisory Board, Established Morrisville Education Foundation, Morrisville Collaborative, Lower Bucks Family YMCA Board of Directors, G.A.G.E. Gang Awareness, Communities That Care Consortium, Academic Oversight Committee for Bristol Borough, Bensalem School District Diversity Committee, Conwell-Egan Catholic High School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Finally, given Darletta Berry-Johnson’s record of achievements, she is the recipient of the Women Business Leaders in Bucks County award presented by the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce; and the Women for Women and Women Who Make a Difference awards presented by the Bucks County YWCA.

We are incredibly grateful for the impact Darletta Berry-Johnson has had through her long, distinguished career at the Ivins Outreach Center and wish for her continued success as she continues to serve our community.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PUTNAM COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN MULLINS

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. John Mullins of Ottawa, Ohio, who has been named Putnam County Veteran of the Year. Every year, the Putnam County Veterans Service Commission recognizes a veteran from their county who has been honorably discharged, embodies the spirit of professional excellence, and has significant off-duty community service. After reviewing all the nominees, Mr. Mullins was selected for the honor.

Mr. Mullins first entered the U.S. Armed Forces in 1980 and served in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the Air Force in 1992, Mr. Mullins continued serving his community by joining the Ottawa Police Department. He served the City of Ottawa for twenty-five years as part of the police department, while also spending time as a volunteer firefighter for the Ottawa Fire Department. After leaving the police department, Mr. Mullins went on to become a deputy sheriff for the Putnam County Sheriffs Office where he is currently serving.

Outside of his public service career, Mr. Mullins has been involved in the VFW, AmVets, and many other organizations that help raise awareness and fund veteran programs. He has helped with the POW/MIA programs for Putnam County while also organizing Ottawa Honor Guard for funerals and other events. Wherever it is possible to help a veteran in need, Mr. Mullins has dedicated his time to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. John Mullins of Ottawa, Ohio, on his selection as the Putnam County Veteran of the Year. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I wish John all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for service to Putnam County and our Nation.

HONORING MILTON JONES

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Milton Jones, an East Tennessean who served our country in the U.S. Navy and worked on the Manhattan Project.

Milton grew up with an interest in technology and how it works, which would serve him well throughout his career. After he graduated from Farragut High School in 1941, Jones earned a first class radio license from Madison College in Nashville. He then went on to train the Army Signal Corps until he was called back to Tennessee to help on the Manhattan Project.

After the end of World War II, Milton started at WIVK radio as a chief engineer and proceeded to help set up new stations throughout the South. He retired in 1993, but continued to work as a consultant for different radio stations and helped tune their towers.

Milton raised four children with his wife Anna Ruth Atkins, and turned 101 years old in March of 2023. He has served his country and his family well, and the East Tennessee community is thankful for the impact he has had on those who have been fortunate enough to know him.

HONORING CRAIG McNAMARA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Craig McNamara, of Winters, California, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Farming, Agriculture, and Resource Management for Sustainability (FARMS) Program.

Craig McNamara was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After traveling by motorcycle across Central and South America to learn more about the all of agriculture. Mr. McNamara enrolled at the University of California, Davis where he earned a bachelor’s degree in plant and soil sciences. He then apprenticed under Tom Lum of Dixon for three years and would later rent his first 100 acres of farmland and establish Sierra Orchards.

In 1993, Craig and his wife, Julie, founded the FARMS Program giving high school students access to applied scientific research and careers in agriculture, conservation, and sustainability. The FARMS Program grew to become a model practice for youth education throughout the nation and led to the establishment of the Center for Land-Based Learning in 2001.

Since its founding, the Center for Land-Based Learning has educated more than 25,000 students from 30 different California counties. The Center for Land-Based Learning is the only organization of its kind in the state to offer a closed loop of agriculture-based education, internships, and careers. Because of the program high school students and adults have had the opportunity to discover impactful careers in fields ranging from biological sciences and technology-aided farming to land-use management and robotics.