

who I am honored to call a friend. Ray has often hosted me at project sites, where I could see firsthand the impact of federal investments, particularly in transportation. Over the years, we have developed a friendship based on respect and a shared commitment to community. Ray is skillfully leading O&G Industries into a second century of success, and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate him and his team on this remarkable milestone. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify that it was my intent to be recorded as YEA on Rollcall No. 572, on Amendment No. 66 to the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior and related agencies appropriations bill offered by Rep. HARSHBARGER of Tennessee on Thursday, November 2, 2023. I believed that my vote was recorded as YEA at that time, but I apparently did not complete execution of my vote. I wish to make it clear that I intended to vote for the amendment. The amendment would have provided that: "None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Board on Geographic Names."

HONORING A TRAILBLAZER IN
OUR COMMUNITY, REV. DR.
FREDERICK D. HAYNES III

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who I not only call a constituent but my pastor and a dear friend—Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III.

Pastor Haynes, born in Dallas, TX, has committed his life to not only serving within the walls of his Church—Friendship-West Baptist Church—but has made it his mission to stand up for those without a voice. Specifically, his advocacy and commitment to advancing our community can be seen through his strong continued fight for fair lending practices, advocating for just food policies, seeking much-needed criminal justice reform, and much more.

One initiative born from the vision of Dr. Haynes is the successful THRIVE Intern and Leadership Program. During the first year, the Program employed nearly 100 young black males between the ages of 16 through 19. Since its inception, the program has expanded and now employs both young men and women across North Texas. The young people intern with local businesses across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex as well as Friendship-West and are paid at a rate above minimum wage while receiving intentional mentoring and engaging in community service. This program became so successful that Dr. Haynes received recognition from President Barack Obama for the creation and success of the program.

Celebrating his 40th Pastoral Anniversary earlier this year, Pastor Haynes has remained

a dynamic and powerful teacher of God's word who has been a source of hope and encouragement for many. Through his leadership, Friendship. West has grown its ministry and membership from less than 100 members in 1983 to over 13,000.

While there is much to celebrate and commend Pastor Haynes for, I'd be remiss if I didn't extend congratulations and recognition on his recent appointment as the new leader of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, one of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations. Founded in 1971 by Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition has been on the frontlines of working to make the American Dream a reality for all while advocating for peace and justice around the world. Under his leadership, I know that the organization will only grow and reach new heights in its impact on underserved communities.

It is safe to say that Pastor Haynes is a coalition builder, social activist, eloquent orator, and someone who has never forgotten about the people. He continues to challenge the status quo and redefine what it means to be a Pastor. The Bible reminds us in 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV that "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, Neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love him". I'm convinced that the best is truly yet to come for Pastor Haynes, and I look forward to our continued partnership on the issues pressing our neighbors.

HONORING GARY WALL, FORMER
PRESIDENT OF THE CON-
NECTICUT ROAD BUILDERS AS-
SOCIATION AND TILCON CON-
NECTICUT, INC.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Road Builders Association as they not only celebrate their 90th Annual Meeting but also pay tribute to their past president, and my dear friend, Gary Wall.

With its membership including contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, consulting engineers, and professional service providers operating in the heavy and highway construction industries, the Connecticut Road Builders Association represent hundreds of local businesses of all sizes. For the last nine decades, the CRBA has been a vocal advocate on policies and regulations at all levels of government as well as a critical voice in building strong relationships between its members and the labor unions they work with on projects across the state. As its past president, and president of one of its largest members, Gary Wall played an instrumental role in guiding the organization, advocating for its membership, and strengthening these partnerships.

I have had the good fortune to know and work with Gary for many years. I am honored to call him my friend and am so grateful for the friendship and support he has shown me over the years. Having grown-up in North Branford, Connecticut, it may not be such a surprise when after his graduation from Quinnipiac University with a degree in Busi-

ness Administration, Gary followed in the footsteps of three generations of his family, joining Tilcon Connecticut and taking a position working in maintenance at the North Branford Quarry. Since 1923, Tilcon Connecticut has been the primary supplier of asphalt, stone, ready-mix concrete, paving, and construction services throughout the region. Throughout his career, Gary worked in each line of the business—the shop, equipment, asphalt, and aggregates. His lifetime career with the company eventually led to his role as President, a position he held for nine years before his retirement earlier this year.

Gary has long been known, not only at Tilcon but across the industry, as someone who cares deeply about the people he works with and is committed to ensuring that they have every opportunity to grow in the industry just as he did. He has demonstrated that same dedication to the communities he has called home over the years. From North Branford to Plainville, New Britain to Durham and Wallingford, and the community of Guilford that he calls home today, Gary has given back, supporting events, fairs and programs throughout them all. His time with Tilcon Connecticut has allowed him to be even more involved. Whether through a donation of money, material, or time, Gary has always ensured the Tilcon team is always there to help. Among his many accolades, Gary may be most proud to have been honored by his hometown with the North Branford Shining Star Award which he received in 2017 for his involvement and commitment to youth programs.

Having retired earlier this year, Gary is enjoying time with his wife of 41 years, Colleen, as well as his four children and four grandchildren; traveling; tending to his garden and, of course, tinkering with his antique tractors. Tonight, as the Connecticut Road Builders Association recognizes him for his many years of service to the organization, I am honored to stand to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks to Gary Wall for his good work and invaluable contributions—both to the industry to which he dedicated his professional life as well as the many communities he has helped to enrich.

HONORING U.S. ARMY PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS, FRANK J. GAFFNEY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Niagara County and the Western New York Community in commending the family of WWI hero and Medal of Honor Recipient, U.S. Army Private First Class, Frank J. Gaffney for preserving his extraordinary military service and achievements during World War I.

On November 10, 2023, the Family of Frank Gaffney presented Niagara County with his medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor for permanent display in the rotunda of Niagara County Courthouse. The display of these medals will not only maintain the legacy of Frank Gaffney, but it will provide a reminder that Niagara County is home to some of the bravest service members who have ever lived.

I am proud of all who supported the development of this project, including the Niagara

County Legislature and the Niagara County Historian's Office. This one-of-a-kind display now stands as a symbol and reminder to Niagara County and all of Western New York of the heroic actions that Frank Gaffney took to preserve our freedoms.

On September 29, 1918, near Ronssoy, France, while serving with Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 27th Division, Frank Gaffney, an automatic rifleman, pushed forward alone, after all the other members of his squad had been killed, he discovered several Germans placing a heavy machine gun in position. He took swift action and eliminated the crew, captured the gun, bombed several dugouts, and, after killing four more of the enemy with his pistol, held the position until reinforcements arrived. Gaffney independently breached a portion of Germany's Hindenburg line helping capture 80 prisoners in the process. Due to his incredible actions, six different countries recognized and honored him including the United States. In 1919 Mr. Gaffney was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 2022 a biographical book was published detailing Mr. Gaffney's life titled *He Charged Alone* by author John Strasburg. According to Strasburg, after WWI, Mr. Gaffney returned to Niagara County, New York, due to a combat injury during his service. Mr. Gaffney had to have his left arm amputated. Despite challenges he faced after the war, he raised a family and continued to advocate for several veteran organizations. He died in 1948 at the age of 62.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. I thank the family of Frank Gaffney and Niagara County, because of their contributions, one of our greatest heroes, Private First Class Frank J. Gaffney will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent the community that Mr. Gaffney called home along with the members of our community who crafted this historic display.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FIRST-EVER U.S.-CENTRAL ASIA LEADER'S SUMMIT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the successful outcome of the first-ever U.S.-Central Asia Leader's Summit. On September 21, 2023, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, President Joseph R. Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan for the inaugural C5+1 Presidential Summit.

Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has increased U.S.-Central Asia dialogue and cooperation to advance an independent, prosperous, and secure Central Asia that addresses common concerns in partnership with the United States. The United States and the C5 stand united and committed to activities in the region that enhance security, improve economic resilience, support sustainable develop-

ment, combat climate change, and promote peace.

Key aspects of the security arrangement discussed at the summit included cooperation on law enforcement through expanded information sharing, cooperation on border security and safe migration, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, and the sharing of best practices on countering terrorism and preventing radicalization. The Parties also agreed to promote the rule of law and improve democratic governance.

To that end, the U.S. and Central Asia are determined to accelerate regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route (or the "Middle Corridor"), advancing efforts to create a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia, and working toward establishing permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).

The Parties remain dedicated to integrating regional energy systems to diversify and expand new energy export routes and reliably supply global markets, integrating energy systems, increasing clean energy production, and developing and securing critical minerals supply chains. The Parties are committed to redoubling efforts to increase clean energy production, mitigate methane emissions, develop sustainable hydropower capacity, and increase energy efficiency, particularly by mobilizing public and private financing for a green energy transition.

Through ongoing dialogue and collaborative efforts, the C5+1 can realize its vision for a more resilient, secure, and prosperous Central Asia, and foster closer people-to-people connections between the region and the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DORIS "DEB" BIESTERFELD TOWNSHEND

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, family, friends, and community leaders will gather to remember one of the City of New Haven's greatest treasures, Doris "Deb" Biesterfeld Townshend, who we lost in September of 2020. At the age of 98, she had lived a full life and passed peacefully at her cherished, historic Victorian home, known as Raynham, on Townsend Avenue.

The Townshend's family line in New Haven stretches back to 1739, when Jeremiah Townshend of Boston, first settled there. Deb met her husband, Henry "Harry" Townshend, while still a student at Mount Holyoke College. In fact, they met on the train—an inspiring meet cute, especially for train lovers like me. Harry and Deb married in 1942 and became the fifth generation of the Townshend family to live in New Haven. Deb loved to tell the story of their homestead, Raynham, which had been in the family since 1798 which it was first established as a farm. The home was used as a summer home by the Townshend family until Deb and Harry made it their year-round, permanent residence. It was there that they raised their five

children and celebrated seventy wonderful years together before Harry passed away in 2012.

Deb loved the Elm City and dedicated a lifetime to ensuring its history was both preserved and celebrated. She was not only a member of one of New Haven's longest tenured families, but she was also a historian, and it was her love of history and her strong belief in community that inspired her to work on a litany of local restoration projects and her service as a member of a myriad of boards, committees, and service organizations. She was a Past President of Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects and the East Haven Historical Society; a Past Vice President and Honorary Member of the New Haven Preservation Trust, as well as the Chair of New Haven's Historic District Commission for fifteen years and the Historian of the First Church of Christ for twenty-two years—just to name a few. Deb also volunteered her time at the New Haven Historical Society and served as a docent at the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Deb was a force of nature, much like my own mother, Luisa DeLauro. They may have come from different sides of the political aisle, but they understood the importance of protecting the community and its New Haven's history. Deb played a critical role in my parent's effort to designate Wooster Square as New Haven's first historic district and she went on to play a key role in supporting historic sites across the City—including Fort Nathan Hale, the Federal Period King's Block in Fair Haven and ensuring the Townshend's ancestral home was placed on the National Historic Registry.

In her obituary, her children recounted a story from Deb's childhood. When she was young girl, Deb was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up and her reply was just one word: "Kind." It was a goal well met. Deb was not just kind; she was a reflection of the very best of us.

She loved her family fiercely and cared deeply for the communities she called home—both New Haven and the Madison Valley of Montana. She was an extraordinary woman who leaves a legacy of service to which we should all strive.

I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to stand today to pay tribute to Doris "Deb" Biesterfeld Townshend. While I extend my deepest sympathies to her five children, Sharon, Cynthia, Hervey, Nancy, and Timothy and their spouses, as well as her ten grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren; I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Townshend family for so graciously sharing Deb with us all. Like for so many others, her energy, enthusiasm and dedication were an inspiration for me, and her memory will continue to inspire for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4821, Interior, Environment,