

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act, which would remove the plaque and inscriptions on a fountain bearing Francis G. Newlands' name from Chevy Chase Circle, a federal park located both in the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am pleased Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland joins me in introducing this bill. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

Newlands was a U.S. senator from Nevada, a conservationist and the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, which developed the Chevy Chase neighborhood that touches D.C. and Maryland. Newlands was also a segregationist. He built Connecticut Avenue and ran a streetcar up the road to the newly built Chevy Chase Lake. However, homes on Connecticut Avenue were purposely priced to keep working families out, and covenants were later added to many of the property deeds in Chevy Chase explicitly prohibiting the land from ever being owned by African Americans or Jews. These covenants have since been declared void.

Newlands went further to keep Black and white Americans separate. In the late 1800s, he and Senator William Stewart secured 2,000 acres of land for Rock Creek Park. Establishing this park not only increased property values for landowners like Newlands and Stewart, but also kept white communities distinct from emerging Black communities on what they called the "wrong side of the park." Newlands' racist views went even further. In 1912, he called for the repeal of the 15th amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote.

The fountain in Chevy Chase Circle was established in 1932 by Congress. In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company added a plaque with Newlands' name next to the fountain. A resolution to remove Newlands' name from the fountain was first introduced by the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission in 2014. On July 27, 2020, the commission voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service to remove the plaque bearing Newlands' name and to begin discussion on a new name for the fountain. On September 14, 2020, the Maryland Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers adopted a resolution calling on NPS and Congress to strip any mention of Newlands from the fountain. And on April 19, 2022, Montgomery County Council introduced a resolution affirming the county's support for this bill.

I believe NPS has the administrative authority to remove Newlands' name from the fountain, given that the memorial's authorizing statute does not name Senator Newlands nor dedicate the memorial to him. Last Congress, I wrote a letter with Representative JAMIE RASKIN and Senators CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and BEN CARDIN urging NPS to use their existing authority to remove or conceal Newlands'

name, and they have not done so. This bill would remove Newlands' name from the fountain and remove the plaque entirely.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING MR. PHILIP EVOLA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip Evola as he celebrates his 100 birthday on February 16, 2023.

Mr. Evola is a first generation American who was born into an Italian immigrant family on February 16, 1923, in Flushing, New York. He has dedicated his life to working hard, and being a dutiful husband, father and neighbor. He and his late wife, Norma, moved to Western North Carolina more than 30 years ago, where he still enjoys the beautiful scenery and his loving community. Mr. Evola is the epitome of the American Dream, and it is my honor to recognize him today.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSEPH ESKENAZI

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mr. Joseph Eskenazi, a decorated United States Army veteran living in California's 36th Congressional District who was honored at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans for his service. As the Nation's oldest living U.S. Pearl Harbor survivor, Joseph celebrated his 105th birthday on January 30, 2023.

Joseph Eskenazi was born on January 30, 1918, in New York. At the age of 7, Joseph and his family moved to Puebla, Mexico. Though he spent many of his formative years in Puebla, Mr. Eskenazi returned to New York in 1936 and he enlisted in the Army in 1938. In 1941, Private First Class Eskenazi was stationed at the Schofield Barracks as a member of Company C of the 804th Engineers. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Joseph witnessed the bombing on Pearl Harbor and lost a friend as a Japanese plane strafed their barracks. When his captain in the 804th Engineers Battalion sought volunteers to help clear debris, Joseph raised his hand without hesitation and drove a bulldozer, while avoiding gun fire, to clear the railroad tracks to allow other soldiers to move equipment and repair damage to the Hickam Airfield.

After the war, Joseph traveled back to Mexico, where he met his wife, Victoria Faradji. They moved to Redondo Beach, California, and Joseph worked at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Joseph assisted with the design of the runways at LAX. Throughout this time and after retirement, Joseph and Victoria followed their passion for travel, sharing

many trips abroad together. They were happily married for 74 years.

At the age of 95, Joseph's military history was recognized, and he was invited to participate in local Veterans and Memorial Day events. With the assistance of the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor Program, Joseph made the train ride from Los Angeles to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Surrounded by family and local residents, Joseph and eight other veterans were celebrated and honored in a ceremony for their service in World War II. Joseph's oral history of his service was added to the National World War II Museum's archives.

I want to thank and recognize Joseph for his years in the service to our Nation, and to communities in Southern California. His heroic actions during World War II and the life of service he has lived is an inspiration to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO TAX SUBSIDIES FOR STADIUMS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the No Tax Subsidies for Stadiums Act. This commonsense legislation will close the tax loophole that allows a tax-exemption on municipal bonds used to finance professional sports stadiums.

For more than a century, the federal government has supported state and local infrastructure projects by excluding the interest on municipal bonds from federal income taxes. Qualified projects eligible for a tax-exemption include roads, sewers and water systems, hospitals, schools, governmental buildings, and other projects for the public good. However, a loophole in the tax code allows professional sports franchises to use public money to construct stadiums using taxexempt municipal bonds.

Since 2000, dozens of professional sports stadiums have been constructed or rehabilitated under financing provided by federal tax-exempt municipal bonds, costing taxpayers nearly \$4 billion. While professional sports teams promise state and local governments that their stadiums will produce local economic development and job creation, there is no quantifiable evidence that they provide these benefits. Providing a federal subsidy for a professional sports stadium requires residents of a state without a professional team to subsidize a stadium in another part of the country, where they receive no benefit whatsoever. Public financing creates a race to the bottom where teams worth hundreds of millions, or billions, of dollars have all the leverage to exploit city budgets for their own gain.

By disallowing a federal tax-exemption, hundreds of millions of dollars a year will be returned to American taxpayers or can be put toward making our communities more safe, healthy, and economically secure. I thank my friends Senators LANKFORD and BOOKER in their support for this legislation in the Senate and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this critical legislation.

HONORING ROOSEVELT BURRELL,
JR. LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Roosevelt Burrell, Jr. of Fort Worth. Roosevelt was born on April 18, 1927, and used his life to become a pillar of his family and our community. He was the patriarch of a family of six brothers and one sister, and in 1948 he and his beloved wife, Pearlie, moved to Fort Worth's "Northside" and then shortly thereafter grounded their family in the Lake Como Community.

Roosevelt was passionate about his family, church, and our community. He was a self-made business legend and leader in the Lake Como community. As a businessman, he ran successful ventures from Roosevelt Burrell Jr. and Son Construction Company Inc., building homes for HUD to statewide highway construction projects and Metroplexwide mechanized power washing contracts through Cowtown Traffic Control, Inc. Roosevelt's entrepreneurial spirit helped contribute to the growth and development of the state of Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. His business ventures evoked a sense of pride in the Black community when everyone would admire the success he had achieved when they saw his company employees operate their vehicles in downtown and other key areas in Fort Worth. Even with his massive successes, Roosevelt stayed grounded and respected on Helmick Ave in the venerable Lake Como neighborhood. His business ventures evoked a sense of pride in the Black community when everyone would admire the success he had achieved when they saw his company employees operate their vehicles in downtown and other key areas in Fort Worth. Even with his massive successes, Roosevelt stayed grounded and respected on Helmick Ave in the venerable Lake Como neighborhood.

Roosevelt also bravely served our country as a WWII Navy Veteran and was a man of faith, serving as a deacon and finance manager at his church for over 50 years. My condolences are with the 1 sibling, his 3 children, 5 grandkids, and 14 greatgrandchildren that he is survived by.

RECOGNIZING FIRE ENGINEER
MIGUEL CERVANTES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Cervantes and his decades of public service ensuring the safety of his fellow community members and his many years of dedication to the City of Rancho Cucamonga as a Fire Engineer. Together we mourn the loss of a community hero.

Miguel started his over 20-year career serving the Inland Empire as a Volunteer Firefighter with Riverside County Fire Department. He became an Apprentice Firefighter with Norco Fire Department in 2000 where he later promoted to Firefighter. In 2006, Miguel trans-

ferred to the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District as a Firefighter and was promoted to Fire Engineer 5 years later. Throughout his many years of service with the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, Miguel was a member of the Honor Guard, Technical Rescue Team, Regional FEMA USAR Team. Additionally, he served as the Executive Board Vice President of the Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters' Association. As an experienced Firefighter, Miguel served his community as a Fire Academy Instructor, Peer Support Member, and Paramedic.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Wednesday, February 8th, Miguel tragically passed away due to work-related non-Hodgkin's Follicular Lymphoma (NHL), a cancer of the lymphatic system. He is survived by his wife, their 3 children, and his family. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Firefighter and Fire Engineer Miguel Cervantes. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Rancho Cucamonga are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JANET ABELSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize the life and service of former Mayor of El Cerrito, Janet Abelson.

Throughout her life, Janet was a fierce advocate for marginalized communities. Janet was a resident of El Cerrito beginning in 1970 and was first elected to the El Cerrito City Council in 1999. She served as mayor in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2017, a record five times, during her tenure with the city. Driven by a genuine passion for service, Janet spearheaded many efforts to advance transportation equity, disability rights, and to improve the lives of seniors within the city. She was a strong supporter of El Cerrito's Student Bus Pass Program, advocating for improved accessibility for all. Janet was also instrumental in modernizing El Cerrito's infrastructure and advocating for the interests of her fellow community members. Among her many achievements, Janet was especially proud of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, a plan she authored which would establish a clear vision for San Pablo Avenue and provide greater opportunities for work and community life in the city.

Janet was also a key member of a variety of regional groups, constantly seeking ways to serve Contra Costa families. She worked closely with the League of Women Voters, PTA of Harding and El Cerrito High School, Soroptimist International of El Cerrito, and served as chair of the West Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the East Bay Division, League of California Cities. Her leadership has been critical in helping to improve quality of life for residents throughout the Bay Area.

Sadly, Janet passed away on January 26, 2023 at the age of 76. Janet leaves behind an indelible legacy and her work will continue to

have a lasting impact on the West County Community. She will be remembered for her determination, compassion, and for her many contributions to our community. Please join me and Congressman GARAMENDI in honoring Janet Abelson for her outstanding 23 years of public service to the City of El Cerrito and the Bay Area.

CONGRATULATING RAY DAVILA
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Reginaldo "Ray" Davila a very happy retirement after 73 years in the shoe repair business in Port Lavaca, Texas. Ray and his beloved wife, Tina, came to this Nation as a young couple in 1954 with \$20 to their name and three children to support. After eventually settling in Port Lavaca, Ray opened a cobbler shop—a trade he learned from his father in Mexico as a teenager.

Though initially a small operation, the Davilas eventually saved up enough to purchase neighboring real estate on the block as an investment. This extra revenue allowed the shop to continue to operate as other cobblers went out of business. As time went on, Ray's cobbler shop evolved into a place for locals to stop by and get to know one another, becoming a hallmark of Port Lavaca.

After passing day-to-day operations along to his son, Ray is now fully retiring at the age of 96. I join the community of Port Lavaca in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and wishing him a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOMETOWN HERO
BOB HARRIS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bob Harris, Co-founder of Level Pathways. Level Pathways is a nonprofit group in Irving that encourages homeless youth by facilitating employment, medical, food, clothing, and educational resources.

Level Pathways was founded to give homeless youth in high school a chance to live a new life, graduate, and develop into productive citizens. Bob works with multiple organizations and nonprofits to provide fundamental resources to curb homelessness. On top of being CEO of Level Pathways, Bob also has more than 12 years of experience operating Wilderness Trek Christian Camp and Texoma Youth Camp. He has been working for nonprofit organizations in North Texas for more than 30 years. Bob is an active member of our community working to end homelessness and allocate structural resources for underprivileged youth to excel.

I thank Bob for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.