

Wildfires Act" with Representatives PANETTA (D-CA), SCANLON (D-PA), SCHIFF (D-CA), JACOBS (D-CA), and CARBAJAL (D-CA) as original cosponsors.

As California and other western states face increasingly severe and frequent wildfires due to the climate crisis, we need all the help we can get from our federal government. My comprehensive "Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act" would improve the American military's support for civilian emergency response to wildfires and similar natural disasters. It would also provide permanent Congressional authorization for the California Air National Guard's "FireGuard" program, in partnership with the U.S. Air Force and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) included provisions from my bill (H.R. 5560) last Congress extending the National Guard's Fireguard program until 2029; requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to budget for extreme weather events linked to climate change; directing the National Guard to consult with the National Interagency Fire Center when training for domestic emergency response to wildfires; and requiring an updated interagency review of the U.S. Air Force and National Guard's existing legal authorities to respond to domestic wildfires. The White House Office of Management and Budget last completed such a review in 2004.

The FY2023 NOAA also enacted my bill section authorizing the Department of Defense to transfer excess aircraft to other federal departments for search and rescue or emergency operations related to wildfires. U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) introduced my bill section as the bipartisan "Emergency Aircraft Act of 2022" (S. 4672) last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and other members of the California delegation to advance these remaining reforms included in my "Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act." As ranking member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I plan to make this a top priority for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT FREDERICK LEROY WARNER, JR.

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Frederick LeRoy Warner, Jr., fondly known as Teddy, who was called home to be with his savior in December.

Teddy grew up with his brother in a strong Christian household where he grew his faith with the guidance and nurturing of his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

He was raised in Texas and upon graduation from High School enlisted in the United States Army where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm and was honorably discharged.

After the Army, he earned his degree in Arts in History from the University of Houston but

felt like his duty to his country was not finished.

Ted reenlisted in the Army and joined the 5th Special Forces Group where he fought in three combat deployments in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his valor in Iraq, he earned medals of commendation for his courage and heroism under enemy fire. He returned home safely and finished out his military service in the Texas National Guard where he earned a Master's Degree in Business in Security Management.

Ted was not only a decorated war veteran, but he was also a beloved missionary to everyone in his life. He understood the urgency of coming to know Jesus Christ and dedicated himself to uplifting others through his faith.

America is the land of the free and home of the brave because of Godly men with a heart for service, like Ted. He lived his life in service to others and will be missed dearly.

May his legacy and memory live on in the hearts of those who loved him and served with him, and may we always remember the sacrifices he made for this great Nation.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN MULRENNAN YOUNG

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Ms. Helen Mulrennan Young of Brandon, Florida, who turned 100 years old on February 27, 2023.

Ms. Young is the youngest sibling of the Mulrennan pioneering family, whose roots in Eastern Hillsborough County date back more than 140 years.

Carrying on her family's legacy of service, Ms. Young is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon, and of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she serves her community through crochet.

For more than 23 years, Ms. Young has crocheted blankets and hats for those in need, including newborn babies, the homeless, and hospital patients. In 2022, she received the Spirit of Kiwanis Award for her incredible work.

Her life is a testament to the power of faith, family, and community, and she represents the best of Florida's 15th District. That is why it is a great privilege to wish Ms. Young a very happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING HELICOPTER NOISE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Helicopter Noise in the District of Columbia Act, which would require all helicopters and rotocraft in the District of Columbia to fly at the maximum altitude permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in D.C., with limited exceptions. The ex-

ceptions would include active law enforcement and rescue operations, transporting the president and vice president and safety.

I hear from D.C. residents almost daily about helicopter noise. Helicopter noise can harm health, quality of life and the structural integrity of homes. In 2019, I led members of the National Capital Region (NCR) in requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study helicopter noise in the NCR. Last year, GAO issued its report. GAO found that there had been nearly 90,000 helicopter flights in the NCR from 2017 to 2019. GAO recommended that the FAA develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with operators in the NCR. The FAA has indicated that it is working on such a mechanism.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2023 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

As we end Black History Month, I'd like to focus on the problem of food insecurity and how it disproportionately hurts Black and Brown families.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world's wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to

provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. SUZETTE COWELL'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month this February, I rise today to recognize the lifetime of work of a precious local champion for the African American community in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio, Ms. Suzette Cowell.

Suzette Cowell is the founding member and CEO of Toledo's Urban Federal Community Development Credit Union. This specialized credit union was created with a vision to help generate economic development and new op-

portunity. Suzette introduced fair credit to neighborhoods which had never experienced either before. In this locale, predatory lenders and financial loan sharks suck the lifeblood out of people and neighborhoods.

With decades of experience in the financial arena, Ms. Cowell is a pioneering leader in Toledo—and has led this credit union into the multi-million-dollar community development institution it is today. This credit institution is a model for financial development and community development across our Nation.

Her insight into the unmet needs and systemic issues that precipitated the founding of this successful credit union are essential to understanding America's history, and our Nation must build up to ensure all our residents are uplifted. No place in America should be absent the credit and credit counseling the Federal Urban Credit Union provides.

I thank Suzette for her astounding faith-filled leadership and opportunity she and her board and colleagues brought to our Toledo community.

SUPPORTING CONGRESSWOMAN JUDY CHU

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in fervent defense of a great friend and loyal colleague,

Congresswoman JUDY CHU, in light of recent attacks against her character. I consider Congresswoman CHU to be a fearless advocate for her community, a loyal Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a close personal friend.

The disgraceful remarks made by a fellow Member of Congress towards Congresswoman CHU challenging her "loyalty and competence" exemplify the extremes Republicans will go to discredit the credibility of those they disagree with. To insinuate Congresswoman CHU is disloyal to her country is baseless and a blatantly racist attempt to vilify a faithful public servant. Congresswoman CHU's heritage as a proud Chinese American woman is a strength for this legislative body, rather than a danger. It is a somber reminder of the relentless scrutiny individuals of Chinese descent face on a daily basis. The unfortunate reality is these types of attacks on Chinese Americans are not atypical, as grotesque stereotypes perpetuate that Asian Americans are always foreign.

The Republican Conference must hold all of their members accountable and must condemn all xenophobic attacks of all forms. Words matter—and can bring about significant harm to communities of all types. Our country has lived through the impacts of targeting Americans based solely on their country of origin. We must avoid the mistakes of our past and denounce bigotry and racism as it occurs, not channel it into hatred and baseless attacks against our fellow Americans.