

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REINTRODUCTION OF PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today on National Peace Corps Day, I reintroduce the "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2023". Sixty-two years ago today, on March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, and this legislation will enable the Peace Corps to continue their legacy. As the co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus and the only returned Peace Corps volunteer serving in Congress, I know that this critical legislation will invigorate the Peace Corps and ensure that its essential work can continue to shape and inspire people around the world for years to come. I thank my colleagues Ranking Member GREGORY MEEKS (NY-05), Congressman GARRET GRAVES (LA-6), and Delegate AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN (R-AS) for being the bill's original cosponsors. I also appreciate Senate Foreign Relations Chairman ROBERT MENENDEZ and Ranking Member JIM RISCH for their leadership on the Senate companion bill in the 117th Congress and look forward to continuing this partnership.

President John F. Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act into law to "permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world peace". He set out three goals: unpack your bag, live with and help meet the needs of your new community; in your new community work to create a better understanding of America by being the real face of America; and bring an understanding of the World back home.

My wife, Patti, and I answered JFK's call to service, beginning our careers in public service when we joined the Peace Corps as young married graduates fresh out of UC Berkeley. Our post was to a remote village in Western Ethiopia. We taught the 7th and 8th grades and engaged in community development.

Over 60 years since the first volunteer arrived in Liberia, more than 240,000 Americans have served in 142 countries. Over the years, volunteers advanced agriculture production, taught, provided medication education and health services, created cooperative road building, and brought every conceivable skill that every nation needed.

My bill, the bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2023", builds upon the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011; making critical reforms to the agency to support current and returned volunteers. It strengthens the protection of volunteers against reprisals or retaliations for reporting wrongdoing and increases the federal workers' compensation rate for all Peace Corps volunteers injured or disabled during their service.

In total, this bill would provide the necessary federal resources to better support international programs, and current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers. JFK gave the call to service, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". It is truly an honor to reintroduce this legislation on National Peace Corps Day.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF MAJOR GENERAL GARY LYNN HARRELL

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Major General Gary Lynn Harrell. The retired two-star Green Beret and legendary Delta Force Leader lost his hard-fought battle with cancer at the age of 71 and was called home to be with his savior.

Gary Harrell was born in Jonesborough, Tennessee to Henry and Louise Harrell. Tennessee mourns the loss of a dedicated patriot, loving father, husband, and friend; a truly inspirational man.

Major General Harrell lived a life that most of us have difficulty imagining. He hunted the Columbian drug lord, Pablo Escobar, led an operation to free American hostages from a prison in Panama, fought our enemies in the Gulf, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, commanded Delta Force operations, and simultaneously raised a family with his wife and high school sweetheart, Jennifer.

Harrell suffered severe injuries in 1993, serving during Operation Gothic, a manhunt for Somali warlords that led to the Battle of Mogadishu. He recovered from these injuries and rededicated himself to another 15 years in uniform, proving his heart for service was stronger than external challenges.

The men who served with Harrell during that operation remember him as a respected commander and a trusted leader, bringing commands together and leading with honor, quiet dignity, and valor.

Even after hanging up his uniform, Harrell continued to do good and give back, joining the board of Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation which aids wounded, ill, and injured operators and their families.

He also served on the board of the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga and stayed active in communities close to home, chairing the Washington County Republican Party.

Gary was described by close friends and family as a "strong, Christian patriot" and a "giant among giants". He will be so dearly missed and fondly remembered.

May the legacy of Major General Gary Lynn Harrell live on in the hearts of those who loved him and served alongside him. May we always remember his courage, sacrifice, and dedication to this great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers, Texas's oldest law enforcement agency.

In 1821, Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," brought 300 families to settle land in modern-day Texas. There was no regular army, so Austin assembled a fighting force to provide protection from Karankawas, Comanches, and eventually Mexican raiders—giving rise to the Texas Rangers.

Texans did what sovereign states have done throughout history: we stepped up and protected our communities. We stood up for the rule of law when there was none.

Much of the action seen by the early Rangers involved bloody conflicts with Comanche tribes and gangs of bandits who threatened the safety of Texans.

In the years following, the Rangers proved indispensable during major events such as the Mexican American War, the pursuit of criminals Bonnie and Clyde in 1934, and Hurricane Harvey rescue and recovery in 2017.

As local law enforcement slowly assumed much of the day-to-day peacekeeping role that the Texas Rangers held before the turn of the 20th century, the Texas Rangers now operate as a key investigative body for the State of Texas.

Rangers are renowned for conducting major criminal investigations, suppression of organized crime, border reconnaissance, SWAT, bomb squad, special rapid response, crisis negotiation, joint intelligence center management, and investigation of unsolved crimes.

The impact of the Texas Rangers on the Lone Star State cannot be understated. My home county, Hays County, is named for John Coffee Hays, a renowned Ranger appointed by Sam Houston. My great-great-grandfather John Vaughan Roy served as a Texas Ranger in Hays, Travis, and Blanco Counties, protecting our future home and holding the line against lawlessness.

To the west, Captain Charles Schreiner of Kerr County served with distinction and went on to donate land for the Schreiner Institute, a military school in my district. Today, I am honored to represent "Ranger Ray" Martinez, a living legend in New Braunfels with a long history of heroism and service. The Ranger spirit is also alive and well today in my friend and longtime Texas Ranger David Maxwell, who solved the over 35-year-old cold case in the unspeakable murder of his own sister.

"They were men who could not be stamped." That's how former DPS director, Homer Garrison, Jr. described them. And they have certainly lived up to that.

As with so many other great figures of our history, some today wish to rewrite the legacy

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the Texas Rangers, focusing only on the harshest of narratives from the comfort of modern-day America while ignoring the sacrifice of these men to settle the west and establish the rule of law.

The scripture reminds us: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." These heroes wake up every morning and put their lives on the line to serve and protect their fellow Texans.

The Texas Rangers are owed a debt of gratitude that cannot be fully repaid. But today, we do thank them, and we congratulate them on 200 years of selfless service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for four important bills that were considered by the House on Monday: H. Res. 132, a resolution responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023; H.R. 538, Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act; H.R. 1059, the SECURE Notarization Act of 2023; and H.R. 1108, To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding.

Regrettably, I was unable to cast my votes for this legislation, but had I been able to, I would have voted to pass all four.

I had the pleasure of voting for the SECURE Notarization Act when this bill passed the House in the 117th Congress, and I would have gladly voted for it in the 118th Congress as well.

I regret having missed the vote on H.R. 1108, to extend the FCC's spectrum auction authority. In the 117th Congress, I introduced legislation to extend the FCC's spectrum auction authority through March of 2024, which passed the House in July 2022. However, only a short-term extension was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, and this bill would push that deadline back to May of 2023. This will give the FCC confidence to host upcoming auctions and to raise revenues for the federal government while Congress debates long-term action.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SISTER JENNIE LOUISE JONES, S.S.F.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a true New Orleans spiritual leader, educator, culture bearer and mentor, Sister Jennie Louise Jones, S.S.F. who passed away at the age of 70 years old. Sister Jennie Louise Jones, S.S.F., the daughter of the late Leonard Earl Jones, Jr, in union with Mrs. Jennie Gourrier Jones, entered eternal life on Sunday, February 26, 2023. She was born on June 15,

1952, Sister Jennie entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1970, and made First Vows on August 15, 1973. Sister had celebrated 52 years as a Sister of the Holy Family.

Raised and deeply rooted in New Orleans culture, Sister Jennie attended Corpus Christi Elementary School and was a 1970 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. In preparation for her ministry in education, Sister Jennie received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of New Orleans. Sister Jennie served as teacher, principal and assistant principal in her ministries. She taught and was assistant principal at St. Raymond Elementary School, assistant principal at St. Paul the Apostle, principal at Corpus Christi Elementary and Marian Central Middle School, all in New Orleans. Sister Jennie also taught at Ecumenical High School in Dangriga, Belize, Central America. After Hurricane Katrina, Sister Jennie taught at Pineville Middle School in Pineville, Louisiana. Sister's longest tenure was as principal of St. Mary's Academy, serving over twenty years, from which she retired in 2022. Sister Jennie kept the school open after Hurricane Katrina, when the City of New Orleans planned to turn the school's campus into a green space. Sister also served as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family Leadership Team.

In 2012, "Sister Jennie Jones, Principal of St. Mary's Academy, was among an elite group of nine Catholics honored as 'Champions of Change in Catholic Education' at a special White House ceremony," honored by then President Barack Obama, as the school was rebuilt and even expanded. During her tenure, their curriculum and program grew to include classes from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade to accommodate students and families displaced by the Hurricane. Now, middle and high school students are able to enjoy a new state of the art building because of her leadership and commitment.

Sister Jennie is preceded in death by her beloved father, Leonard Earl Jones, Jr., and brother, Benjamin "Bennie" Jones, and her paternal and maternal grandparents.

Sister Jennie leaves to cherish her memory: her mother, Mrs. Jennie G. Jones, two brothers, Carl A. Jones and Leonard E. Jones, III (Gwendolyn); niece Mikeall Caesar (Rickey); two nephews, Jeffery Lewis and Jude Lewis, great nephew Stanley Tate, great niece, Jennie Louise Hawkins; and a host of uncles, cousins, faculty, staff, and students of St. Mary's Academy, as well as religious sisters, and friends.

I am humbled to have personally known such a great spiritual leader and fighter for all, who has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across my district. So many people's lives are enriched because of the love and passion she expressed in touching them along the way. New Orleans has lost another one of its greatest champions of culture. Sister Jennie Jones touched tens of thousands of lives in our community, dedicating her entire life to educating young black children, impacting generations of families over five decades of religious life. May we continue to receive her blessings as she continues to watch over us and our entire country in prayer.

RECOGNIZING THE SOJOURNER TRUTH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum for contributing to Sacramento's rich history. Since 1996, the museum has served as an institution dedicated to community education, and the celebration of African American art, history, and culture.

The Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum honors the legacy of Sojourner Truth, not only by dedicating exhibits to her life and work, but also by enriching and empowering community members in the spirit of her activism. The Museum showcases a timeline of African American history, spanning across thousands of years from 14th century African kings to modern day icons. Exhibitions also honor innovators and their contributions to American culture by exploring topics such as Black Cowboys, Black Inventors, the Harlem Renaissance, and Black Millionaires. Sacramento's history is brilliantly displayed and highlights the reconstruction of Dunlap's Dining Room, Sacramento's first African American-owned restaurant and the Dana Maeshia Wall Library and Media Station, commemorating local hero Dana Maeshia, who served her community in life with literacy programs for African American children.

The Museum also hosts a variety of programs and workshops that invite community members to explore artistic interests and engage in skill development. Some of these programs foster youth personal and professional development, such as the After-School Mentorship Program and the Youth Entrepreneurial Development Program. The Youth Docent Program, a recent 2021 addition, hosts seven students in paid positions, offering them the opportunity to foster community outreach and visitor engagement skills.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor the Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum for educating and enriching the Sacramento community, and I thank Founder and Director, Shonna McDaniels, as well as the Museum's partners for making the continued success of this institution possible for the Sacramento region.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESIDENT SANTA J. ONO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Michigan's new President Santa J. Ono. Today, March 7, 2023, President Ono will be officially inaugurated as the 15th President of the University of Michigan.

The proud son of Japanese immigrants, President Ono was born in Canada and raised in Maryland. President Ono is a highly respected vision researcher who was educated