

time to hold a hearing on this bill, they would have discovered that the bill merely requires the President to “prepare and consider” the inflationary impact—not publish it. This is yet another misleading political stunt from the new Republican majority.

For two years, House Republicans blamed President Biden and Congressional Democrats for inflation and promised they would fix it. Yet, they passed on the opportunity to work with Democrats to fight inflation by passing the Inflation Reduction Act to rebuild American manufacturing and lower the costs of prescription drugs, health care, energy, and other goods and services.

Since 2020, inflation has risen worldwide, exacerbated by supply chain delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the outbreak of the pandemic, Democrats worked swiftly to pass relief packages, helping American families and businesses survive while preventing economic collapse. Recent figures have shown that these programs worked: inflation is lower in the U.S. than in the U.K., Canada, and 20 European Union member states. Today, while Republicans offer this thoughtless bill, 432,000 Minnesotans and millions of other Americans who have benefited from the emergency SNAP funding are seeing their extra benefits run out. This bill does nothing to reduce everyday costs for these and other Americans.

Madam Chair, H.R. 347 is yet more proof that Republicans would rather blame President Biden and Democrats for inflation than take steps to address it.

It should be rejected.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF JOSEFINA ORTEGA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Josefina Ortega.

Josefina was born February 10, 1923, in Contla, Jalisco, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1961, starting a new life in the City of Pomona. For 18 years she worked as a seamstress at Betty Oden Dresses in Walnut, California—famous for their vintage ruffle lace tulle and church dresses. In 2015, she became a proud naturalized citizen of the United States.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Josefina on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like her. I am grateful for her 62 years of residency in my district. I was honored to join her and hear her sing at her 100th Birthday celebration. I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. MARTIN HARMON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of

Mr. Martin Harmon, president and founder of the Western Care Construction Company. Mr. Harmon leaves behind an indelible legacy of over 50 years of service in the senior care and construction industries.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Harmon demonstrated his persevering and industrious spirit from a young age, working from the age of nine to support his family during the difficult times of World War II. As an adolescent, Mr. Harmon went on to open his own market and meat-packing company, beginning what would become a long career of entrepreneurial ventures.

At the age of 27, inspired by his mother's selfless service in caring for the elderly, Mr. Harmon purchased his first nursing home in Auburn, California, discovering his passion for supporting his community through construction projects. Driven by his spirit of service, Mr. Harmon became a licensed general contractor, enabling him to create new senior living facilities and other community structures from the ground up.

Mr. Harmon's innovation and diligence left a lasting impact on the senior care and construction industries. After obtaining his Nursing Home Administrator's license, he founded Western Care Construction Company, dedicated to developing senior living and care residencies that prioritize dignity and quality of life. Under Mr. Harmon's patient leadership, Western Care has established itself as a company that does not merely create facilities, but also communities that enrich residents' lives and provide spaces to promote connections between residents.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Harmon founded multiple companies, including Horizon West Healthcare and Platinum Living Services, which spearheaded community development projects around California. His involvement in multiple industries—from construction to real estate development to senior care—allowed him to develop long-term, collaborative relationships with a wide array of individuals, extending the reach of his community influence. Mr. Harmon's critical leadership, strong work ethic, and creativity permanently changed the landscape of the senior care industry, ensuring future generations of aging Americans will be treated with dignity and compassion.

Mr. Harmon will be remembered not only for his decades of service to California seniors, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many and his steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship have left a lasting legacy on communities across California.

Mr. Harmon's enduring spirit will live on in the communities he impacted. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Harmon's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of California, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING ERC; COUNSELORS
AND CONSULTANTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of ERC:

Counselors and Consultants. Founded in 1992, this thriving Employee Assistance Program based in Green Bay partners with organizations throughout Wisconsin and the Nation with the goal of enhancing the mental health of employees, improving business performance, and strengthening communities. While ERC remains focused on the Midwest, the company has a national footprint through their network of counselors.

Steve and Allyson Baue purchased ERC in 2014. Their strong leadership and passion for helping others led ERC to experience record growth in 2022 as companies sought better benefits for their employees. Today, ERC has more than 100,000 employees covered by their Employee Assistance Program, and they have more than 400 partnerships with customers throughout Wisconsin and the United States. ERC has an outstanding reputation for helping lift the mental health burdens that hold employees back. I commend Steve and Allyson for the hard work and dedication they have displayed towards helping companies improve employee mental health.

ERC is positively changing the workplace by embodying Northeast Wisconsin values in all that they do. It is exciting to hear of ERC's plans to continue promoting quality mental health benefits while expanding their footprint in underserved areas. They are a true benefit to the Green Bay area and all of Northeast Wisconsin. I am grateful to Steve and Allyson, ERC's counselors, and the entire ERC team for their continued support and dedication to helping individuals address mental health challenges with easy access to quality counseling services.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate ERC: Counselors and Consultants on its 30th year in advancing the mental health of employees. I wish this company many more years of continued growth and success.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF AMBASSADOR
JAMES A. JOSEPH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Ambassador James A. Joseph, who passed away on February 17, 2023, at the age of 87. Although originally from Louisiana, Ambassador Joseph had ties to Tuscaloosa, where he helped lead local civil rights efforts in the 1960s.

Ambassador Joseph served with distinction in under several Presidents, including as Under Secretary of Interior under President Carter and as our Ambassador to South Africa for three years during the Clinton Administration. The only U.S. Ambassador to present his credentials to President Nelson Mandela, he was awarded the Order of Good Hope by the Republic of South Africa in 1999, the highest honor bestowed on a citizen of another country.

Under President Clinton, Ambassador Joseph also served as the founding chair of the Commission on National and Community Service that established AmeriCorps. Reflecting the high regard in which he was held, Ambassador Joseph served under President Ronald Reagan on the Advisory Committee for the

Agency for International Development and on the Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and as an Incorporating Director of the Points of Lights Foundation under President George H.W. Bush. In 2010, he was honored by the United States Peace Corps for his life-long contributions to voluntarism and civil society.

From 1982 to 1995, Joseph was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Foundations, an international organization of more than 2,000 foundations and corporate giving programs, which changed communities and lives on five continents. He served as a Vice President of Cummins Engine Company, the world's largest producer of heavy-duty diesel engines, and President of the Cummins Foundation from 1971 to 1977, where he was a pioneer in corporate social responsibility and helped fund a broad array of civil rights and civil society organizations.

Ambassador Joseph's journey was historic, having started life on a family farm in Southwest Louisiana, spending his early years in segregated Opelousas, Louisiana—the state headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan—and rising to the heights of achievement and contributions in academia, public service, civil society, and the private sector. My House colleagues may be interested to learn that in high school, he won the state oratory competition and placed second in the national competition to one of my predecessors and role models, the future Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D-TX), the first Southern African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Ambassador Joseph was a leader in the fight for civil rights. After graduating from Southern University in 1956 and obtaining a master's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1963, he taught at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, the national headquarters of the KKK. While at Stillman, Joseph cofounded the local civil rights movement, leading marches, sit-ins, and other protests against segregation, garnering death threats from the KKK. He befriended and worked alongside renown civil rights leaders including The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, former Congressman John Lewis and William Gray, former National Urban League President Vernon Jordan, and others.

After his government service, Ambassador Joseph continued to find ways to contribute to American society, including serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Louisiana after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina decimated New Orleans and communities across the southern part of the state.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Ambassador Joseph's family, including his son and my college classmate, Jeff Joseph, his wife, the former Mary Braxton of Sarasota, Florida, daughter Denise, daughter-in-law Lisa Merman, and granddaughters Jordan and Julia Joseph.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN FRED UPTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman Fred Upton and his contributions to philanthropies throughout Michigan and across the country as he receives a well-deserved honor from the Council on Michigan Foundations this evening. Congressman Upton served his community for 36 years in the House of Representatives, and his significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Congressman Upton was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, and is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He first ran for office in 1986, and never once wavered in his commitment to the people he served. Known simply as Fred to everyone who has ever met him, he has always brought people together, and he has been one of my best friends for longer than either of us care to remember. To him, 'bipartisan' and 'compromise' are not forbidden words. Fred knows well that if we are going to deliver real solutions for the American people, we need to come together and listen to all perspectives, no matter how complicated the issue may be. It is because of that thinking, that he was able to get so much done in Congress.

Raised by a family with deep roots in their community, Fred spends day and night thinking of ways to support his neighbors. His family helped launch the Berrien Community Foundation as well as the Frederick S. Upton Foundation a few years later and has contributed tens of millions to charitable causes. These efforts include the creation of the Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Endowment, which provides grants of at least \$50,000 every year to local non-profit organizations supporting needs in their community. Though we lost Stephen last year, his impact will carry on through his loving wife of 71 years, Elizabeth, and his children, who like Fred, are always seeking opportunities to do the most good in his memory.

That family commitment to community always guided Fred's work in Congress. He introduced the Strength and Partnership Act of 2022 to strengthen the relationship between nonprofits and the federal government. He would spend hours on the phone or in his neighborhood talking to his constituents about how he could help them. Fred was never too busy to lend an ear or a shoulder to a neighbor in need. And even as he has retired from Congress, he will still be out in his community finding ways to serve anyone and everyone who needs a little help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring former Congressman Fred Upton. We are grateful for his time spent serving the citizens of Southwest Michigan. I join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him for the future.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY AND BUILDING REDEDICATION OF BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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 pay tribute to an Orleans Parish Public School named in honor of an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to several presidents of the United States including Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite,

In 1881, the New Orleans School Board barred the city's black students from attending public school beyond the sixth grade. However, in 1917, due to pressure from the black community, the school board relented and converted the McDonogh No. 13 campus, then located at 655 South Rampart Street, from a white boy's elementary school to a public high school for black students and renamed the facility McDonogh No. 35. Through decades of sustained activism from Black leaders and a bailout from the federal government. Lacking political power, Black leaders worked through civic, religious and educational organizations to press their concerns before the school board, beginning first with the total lack of public education beyond the fifth grade, as mandated by school board policy in 1900. The sixth was restored in 1909, the seventh in 1913, and the eighth in 1914. With these milestones under their belts, Black leaders began the campaign for a high school. The much sought after school opened in 1917 as McDonogh 35 in a recycled former school for whites. The next item on the activist agenda was a sorely needed vocational school. But where to find the money? The Rosenwald Fund had expressed an interest but only if the school board shared the cost.

During much of the 1920s and early 1930s, the Orleans Public School Board was further pressed into initiating discussions to consider the construction of a new high school for New Orleans' black children as McDonogh 35's campus had proved woefully inadequate to accommodate the city's growing black community.

Census records indicated that 8,709 high school age black children resided in Orleans Parish in 1930. Of these children, 2,580 were enrolled in McDonogh No. 35, the city's black high school age population, it significantly taxed the McDonogh No. 35's physical plant and led to overcrowded conditions.

In 1930 the school board sold bonds for school construction and allocated \$275,000 toward construction of a Black trade school. The Rosenwald Fund pledged \$125,000. In response to concerns that a Black trade school might threaten white jobs, a public statement was issued, assuring everyone "that the trades to be taught at the school would be exclusively those which are largely occupied by colored labor at this time." But it would still be another dozen years before Booker T. Washington High School became a reality.

After purchasing a parcel of land for the purpose, the school board announced that it did