

James-Brown is a national leader in efforts to protect children and strengthen families, and she has led CWLA through historic accomplishments and challenging times.

Ms. James-Brown led CWLA's advocacy efforts to help enact critical child welfare laws, including the Fostering Connections to Success and Promoting Adoptions Act of 2008 and the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Her leadership continued CWLA's policy work in areas including kinship care, adoption and foster care services, prevention services, and residential care.

Under Ms. James-Brown's leadership, CWLA worked with members and experts across the country during 2012 and 2013 to develop the CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare that presents a vision for the future of child welfare where all children grow up safely in loving families and supportive communities.

Her service includes her work as a member of the Congressionally-mandated National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine panel with the mission of making recommendations to reduce child poverty in half over ten years. I and other policymakers used those recommendations and the science behind them to champion legislation that helped reduce child poverty during the global pandemic.

During her tenure, Ms. James-Brown helped CWLA continue its leadership and engagement of its network of public and private agencies and partners to advance policies, best practices, and collaborative strategies that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families. She led the organization through 16 national conferences, including a celebration of 90 years in 2010 and a virtual conference during the pandemic on the organization's 100th anniversary.

I join with members of the Child Welfare League of America and the child welfare community to thank Ms. Christine James-Brown for her exceptional service to the children and families of our nation and to wish her health and happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

**INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
"CONDEMNING THE INACTION BY  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
IN ADDRESSING THE POISONING  
OF IRANIAN SCHOOL GIRLS, THE  
DAUGHTERS OF THE IRANIAN  
REVOLUTION" AND THE FORMA-  
TION OF THE IRANIAN WOMEN  
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution Condemning the Inaction by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Addressing the Poisoning of Iranian School Girls, the daughters of the Iranian Revolution, and to announce the creation of the Iranian Women Congressional Caucus.

This resolution recognizes the bravery and resilience of women who have faced tremendous challenges in their fight for equality and human rights.

We have all witnessed the courage of women and youth leading the 2022 protests in Iran, calling for social freedom and political change.

As stated in the resolution, these protests stem from more than four decades of organized resistance against the Iranian dictatorship, led by women who have endured torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and death.

The uprising last year in Iran started with the murder of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by morality police in Tehran on September 13, 2022, for allegedly violating Iran's strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf.

Since the protests started in September, after the murder of Mahsa Amini's, women and men have taken to the streets, risking their lives for a free and democratic Iran.

Over 500 people have been killed, over 15,000 arrested.

Iranian courts have issued numerous death sentences linked to the protests, convicting people of being "enemies against God" and "spreading corruption on Earth."

As a long-time advocate and fighter for justice and equality, I am inspired by the ongoing revolution led by Iranian women, despite the tortures their people face daily imposed their government.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), has been, for decades, the leading voice against the regime's abuses.

Her Ten-Point Plan for the future of Iran, which she presented to the European Parliament in 2006, provides a roadmap for a secular, democratic, non-nuclear republic where the rule of law is upheld.

Mrs. Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan stresses "Complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural, and economic rights, and equal participation of women in political leadership. Abolishment of any form of discrimination; the right to choose one's own clothing freely; the right to freely marry and divorce; and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext."

As co-chair of the Iranian Women Caucus, and on behalf of all its members, I support Mrs. Rajavi's vision of a society where both men and women reject compulsory religion, compulsory hijab, and compulsory government.

The current regime's human rights abuses have their roots in past dictatorships, characterized by widespread human rights violations, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and political suppression by SAVAK, the notorious secret police.

It is essential that we acknowledge this history and address the root causes of the current human rights crisis in Iran.

I strongly condemn the deliberate gas attacks on schoolgirls in Iran and the violent suppression of students, men, and women participating in demonstrations. I call for transparent accountability for all killings of protesters by Iranian security forces.

I strongly encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the Iranian Women Caucus and this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 188 and YEA on Roll Call No. 189.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF JENNIFER WICKRE

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, from congressional intern with Congressman Jerry Lewis, to senior staff member with Congressman Lamar Smith on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and now Deputy Staff Director of the Science Committee, Ms. Jennifer Wickre has led an impressive career on Capitol Hill. Even though she mistakenly tried to sneak away to the private sector for a brief lapse in judgement, Jennifer quickly realized that nothing could be as fulfilling as working at the United States Capitol. This career choice to come back to the Hill is a clear indication of the superior nature of her character: she is a true public servant who leads with a servant's heart.

The Capitol Hill community was shocked to learn of Jennifer's cancer diagnosis. When we speak of the staffers who have metaphorically "given their life to the job," it becomes a sobering moment to witness a woman who has quite literally laid down her life in the service of others. She has been an inspiration to our staff, a dear friend and mentor to Ms. Sarah Jorgenson, and a shining example of what it means to give of oneself. Let us all pray for a much-deserved miracle so that Ms. Jennifer Wickre's time here can last a bit longer. If a miracle is not in the works, let us all admire the miracle that has already occurred: Congress was honored by Ms. Jennifer Wickre's presence in the first place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 19, 2023 due to a family medical situation. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 188 and YEA on Roll Call No. 189.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LAUREN BOEBERT**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I had to fly back home to be there for the birth of my first grandchild. Had I been present, I would have

voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188 and YEA on Roll Call No. 189.

HONORING DENVER'S SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL'S HISTORY

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an institution that has shaped countless lives in my community, Denver's South High School.

First established before the turn of the century, this renowned institution has been educating students living in the south side of Denver for more than 130 years, including two generations of my family.

South's traditions date back to the city's earliest days, and its storied history has recently earned it a coveted spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

What started as a two-room schoolhouse now enrolls more than 1,700 students a year, each and every one of them helping to shape the school's rich history and continuing to build upon its tremendous legacy of success.

As a proud second-generation alumna of South High School, I can tell you that what makes it so special is not just the ornate brick and mortar building you see from the outside, or the gargoyle that stands watch over its entrance, it's the people.

It's the faculty and staff who have dedicated their lives to giving every student who walks through the door an opportunity to be the very best version of themselves.

It's the students who are driven not only to achieve their own success, but to help their classmates and peers succeed as well.

Some of my fondest memories are from my time at South High School—including as the captain of the debate team, where I found my passion for the law and developed a drive that led me down the path to serve my community as a member of this distinguished body.

Alumni of South High School have gone on to achieve amazing success—from Olympians to professional athletes, from actors to filmmakers, from world-renowned scientists to Nobel laureates. That type of remarkable success doesn't come by accident, or by chance. It's the product of tireless dedication by count-

less people who have made South High School what it is today.

The friendships I formed at South remain strong to this day. And I frequently make new South alumni friends from all walks of life who are making a difference in our community.

So, I want to congratulate everyone at Denver's South High School for their continued success and becoming one of the newest additions to the Nation's prestigious National Register of Historic Places. Go Ravens.

HONORING PACE HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Mr. Gaetz. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Pace High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps with the following proclamation.

Whereas: Pace High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (Pace NJROTC) was established in 1993 at Pace High School, Pace, Florida.

Whereas: Pace NJROTC has previously distinguished itself as NJROTC Nationals Academic, Athletic & Drill Champions in competition in both 2021 and 2022.

Whereas: The NJROTC Nationals Academic, Athletic & Drill Championships remain the most comprehensive test of overall JROTC training and performance in existence today, hosting the top-25 out of over 600 NJROTC Units in the Nation.

Whereas: Under the supervision of Commander Patrick Vegeler (USN, Retired) and First Sergeant John Baker (USMC, Retired) and leadership of Cadet Commander Sadie Resmondo and her Battalion Staff, Pace NJROTC returned to the NJROTC National Academic, Athletic & Drill Championships for the seventh consecutive year.

Whereas: On Friday, March 31, 2023, and Saturday, April 1, 2023, Pace High School competed representing Area 8 in the 2023 NJROTC National Academic, Athletic & Drill Championships at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, Florida.

Whereas: Pace NJROTC placed 1st in Personnel Inspection; 1st in Unarmed Basic Drill;

2nd in Academics; 3rd in Color Guard Drill; 4th in Unarmed Exhibition Drill; 4th in Curl-ups Team Overall; 5th in Push-ups Team Overall; and 1st in Unit Overall.

Whereas: In the face of stiff competition, Pace NJROTC came away victorious and successfully defended their title for the third consecutive National Championship.

Now, therefore, be it resolved: That Pace High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has brought pride to Northwest Florida, and we applaud their dedication, determination, and patriotism while distinguishing themselves as exemplary students, remarkable athletes, and inspiring citizens upon the occasion of their third consecutive victory at the NJROTC National Championship. Their achievements have brought great pride and recognition to all of Florida's First District, the State of Florida, and the United States of America. Go Patriots.

IN MEMORY OF OLAVON FARMER-GRIFFIN

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 20, 2023*

Ms. Tlaib. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Olavon Farmer-Griffin, a long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong, as we mourn her recent passing.

Born in 1939 in Oklahoma City, Olavon Farmer-Griffin knew from an early age that she wanted to pursue a career in music. She got her start singing gospel music in Oklahoma City with an all-girls gospel group called The Holy Juniores. As a gifted singer known as Lady Olavon, she traveled from coast to coast and everywhere between, performing in clubs and venues such as the renowned Apollo Theatre. She worked with artists such as Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Etta James, and the Whispers. Lady Olavon's example inspired others to fulfill their artistic dreams. Above all, Olavon loved her family dearly. She was proud of her four sons James, Ardie, Clyde, and Ra. We thank Lady Olavon for her musical legacy and the impact she has had on our cultural history and district.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Olavon Farmer-Griffin's numerous contributions to our community as we honor her memory.