

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS  
OF MANHEIM TOWNSHIP POLICE  
OFFICERS KYLE CARNER AND  
ANTHONY DICLEMENTE

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Manheim Township Police Officers Kyle Carner and Anthony DiClemente, who went above-and-beyond the call of duty, rescuing a woman whose vehicle had become submerged in a pond.

Though water rescue is not part of standard training for many police officers, these heroes acted with competence, speed, and bravery to save the life of another. Despite the cold, they immediately took action upon arriving at the scene, wading through the murky water and rescuing the victim moments before she found herself underwater.

When moments mattered, they thought not of themselves, but of the life of a stranger who was in need.

It is heroes like Officers Carner and DiClemente who help us to understand and appreciate the role of policing in our communities: to serve and protect.

I thank Officers Carner and DiClemente for their services to our community on that December night, and everyday they have worn their uniforms before or since. Their actions exemplify a high degree of character and integrity which we should all strive to emulate.

HONORING JUDGE LARITA  
COOPER-STOKES

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable elected official, Judge LaRita Cooper-Stokes. LaRita Cooper-Stokes is a child of God, and she gives thanks and praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Judge Stokes was serving her third term as County Court Judge for Hinds County. She was sworn in on January 5, 2015. She was blessed to become the first African American woman to serve the citizens of Hinds County on the bench in the County Court. She has served two terms as Senior County Court Judge.

Judge Stokes was formerly elected as City Councilwoman of Ward 3, in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2012. At the same time, her husband was elected to serve as a member of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors.

Judge Stokes has been a licensed attorney for over thirty years. She was a graduate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston; Jackson State University; and Lanier High School. She was reared by loving parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Lucy Cooper, along with four siblings. She was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. She was married to Jackson's City Councilman, Kenneth I. Stokes, and was a mother and grandmother. She was humbled by being elected a public servant, and she

was thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Hinds County.

Judge Stokes gained her eternal wings and went to be with God in the early hours of Monday, May 8, 2023, at a Jackson hospital, due to complications with her respiratory system. She would have celebrated her 65th birthday May 27.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge LaRita Cooper-Stokes for her dedication to politics, her city, and her community.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELLSWORTH ROUTE OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail. The paths of both the main Chisholm Trail and the Ellsworth Route pass through the 4th Congressional District of Kansas. Throughout my district, communities along the trail are gearing up to celebrate this remarkable example of frontier courage and adventure.

During the Civil War, longhorn cattle in Texas roamed free and multiplied while railroads were built across the central plains, with major stops in Kansas. After the war, eager to meet the growing demand for beef nationwide, ranchers and cowboys came west to seize this new opportunity. On horseback, they gathered the wild cattle herds and moved them north. The brave men who took up this challenge formed a cornerstone of the American identity and made history.

In 1865, J.R. Mead and Jesse Chisholm established a trading post near the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers in Kansas, founding what would become modern-day Wichita. From this new settlement, Mr. Chisholm established a trail bringing trade goods from Wichita down to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. When the cattle herds started coming north after the Civil War, the cowboys could easily follow Chisholm's route north toward the rail lines. As the path became world famous for its cattle drives, the nearly 1,300-mile route became known as the Chisholm Trail.

As stockmen and entrepreneurs continually sought better opportunities, another route was surveyed to access new cattle stockyards in Ellsworth, Kansas. When the Ellsworth trail opened in 1873, millions of longhorns traversed both paths on their journey north. Along the way, small towns and outposts sprung up to provide supplies to the cattlemen opening up the vast swaths of the American West.

Today, I want to honor the people of these cattle trail communities and all those who maintain the history of these trails in Kansas and beyond. Our nation can learn from the legacy of grit and determination that these cowboys left behind. Without assistance or interference from the government, they blazed new trails to feed the world, settle the frontier, and grow the American economy. On this

150th anniversary of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail, let's honor this piece of history while encouraging the producers and entrepreneurs of today.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT C.  
FREEMAN, ESQ.

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Robert Freeman on receiving the 30 under 30 award presented by Forbes to individuals who have impactful careers and accomplishments in their industry.

Mr. Freeman started his education at the State University of New York College at Buffalo, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, and continued his education there earning a Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo's School of Law. During his time at the University at Buffalo, Mr. Freeman was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, and a recipient of the Milton Plesur History Honor Award.

Mr. Freeman is a partner at Nesper, Ferber, DiGiacomo, Johnson & Grimm, LLP, where he has been since Oct. 2019. There, he focuses his practice on commercial and residential real estate law. Some of his previous work experience includes internships with the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, and the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

Outside of work, Mr. Freeman is actively involved with Saints Peter and Paul's Chapter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and is an on-ice volunteer with the SABAH program. Also, he is a member of the UB Law Alumni Association and sits on the Town of Amherst's Employee Suggestion Merit Award Board. He is a proud recipient of the Father Nelson Baker Service Award and is an Eagle Scout.

Today, I ask that we recognize and give thanks to leaders in the Western New York Community, such as Robert Freeman for his continued dedication and selfless service to his community.

HONORING ANDREA S. LEE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Andrea S. Lee.

Andrea is a native of Grenada, MS, and is the President and Founder of The Diamond Project, Inc. She attended undergraduate school at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She earned her Master of Business Administration from The University of Maryland. Andrea works on Capitol Hill for the United States Congress as the Director of Operations for the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Andrea is the owner of Showoff Cosmetics, an inspirational beauty brand that encourages individuals to step into their dreams. Within

two months of its launch, Showoff Cosmetics was displayed on a billboard in New York City's Time Square in December 2021.

Andrea is also owner of Talented Touches by Andrea, where she does event planning/design, cake decorating, sweet treats, gift wrapping and baskets. With over 19 years of experience, Talented Touches by Andrea has provided services for numerous clients, including The Recording Academy (Grammys) and Bravo TV's *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Andrea has served as a volunteer at the 57th Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama, worked on the event teams at the 2012 National Democratic Convention and the 2016 Democratic Presidential Debate.

Andrea realized her passion for community service in 2012 after starting an annual holiday tradition of adopting families and/or nursing homes in her hometown of Grenada, along with the women in her family, The LoveLee Ladies. In 2014, she became the co-coordinator of a group of female volunteers on Capitol Hill who planned, prepared, and served monthly dinners at a local women's shelter in Washington, D.C. Andrea is a firm believer that "God blesses us so that we can bless others." Therefore, she uses her leadership skills and creative abilities to give back to the community. Andrea is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Andrea S. Lee for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

## H.R. 2, THE SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reassert my opposition to H.R. 2—the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

I along with my colleagues have attempted to address many of the ills these bills purport by offering common sense amendments that Republicans have continued to refuse any meaningful consideration.

I would like to highlight some of my amendments that were offered in both the Judiciary Committee Markup and the Homeland Security Committee Markup for H.R. 2.

In addressing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, we need the American people to understand that this is an unfortunate patchwork of extreme anti-immigrant proposals that would only add to more chaos at the border.

It includes a variety of illogical measures that would shut down the U.S. asylum system and target families and children for the cruelest forms of treatment.

One measure would make overstaying a visa a crime—for the first time in our history.

I offered amendments to H.R. 2 along with many of my Democratic colleagues both during Homeland Security Committee markup and for consideration by the House Rules Committee for inclusion for consideration during this bill—but all Democratic amendments were rejected by the Republican majority.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and Judiciary, I have a well-established public record for work-

ing to address our nation's most pressing immigration issues through sound government policies.

Immigration is not a criminal matter but categorized as a civil claim because seeking to travel, requesting refugee status, or attempting to make a better life in another country should not result in criminal prosecution.

There are nations who do seek to punish U.S. citizens who are traveling abroad through criminal prosecution with tragic consequences.

I have worked on the issue of unlawfully detained U.S. citizens who are held in other countries for a host of reasons that come down to the politics of a country and not due to a defensible immigration policy.

The conduct of the previous Administration in the forced separation of families I offered what would have added a mens rea requirement such that to be criminally liable, a person must knowingly and willingly overstay their visa.

It is important to remember that an individual can make an honest mistake about when they need to depart the country, be physically incapable of departing the country, or unable to return because of circumstances beyond their control in their home country.

Yet this bill has no exceptions or flexibility when it comes to overstaying a nonimmigrant visa. It is also important to remember that if a person overstays their visa, they are already subject to removal. The addition of a criminal penalty is both cruel and unnecessary.

Our immigration system needs reforms, and we are absolutely interested in bold new ideas to fix it, but this is not one of them.

My first amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide Congress with a plan for implementing—within one year—the use of body-worn cameras by its agents and officers who are engaged in border security or immigration enforcement activities. Any implementation of a plan for body-worn cameras would require additional Congressional Action.

Both CBP and ICE have already begun deploying body-worn cameras to their frontline officers and agents to provide greater transparency into interactions with the public.

In the event there are allegations of excessive force or other misconduct by an officer or agent, footage from body-worn cameras can enhance the agencies' ability to investigate.

Several studies on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras have found that police officers wearing cameras generate significantly fewer complaints and "use of force" reports relative to officers without cameras.

And savings from reduced complaints against officers, and the reduced time required to resolve such complaints, can result in substantial cost savings.

It is troubling that the underlying bill seems to seek cost savings at the expense of ensuring orderly and fair processing of asylum seekers; it would make more sense to save money by investigating complaints more quickly and preventing misconduct in the first place.

My second amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to clarify that the official policy of the United States as implemented by the agencies of the Department of Homeland Security shall be to keep families together and not remove children from parents or responsible adults unless the safety or welfare of the child is at risk.

The official policy of the Trump Administration was to separate children from their par-

ents. No child—no matter where they are born—should be separated from their family, particularly after surviving the harrowing journey to the U.S. border.

My amendment was offered to stand firm in our principles that should bar CBP from separating children from their families unless there is evidence that the child is being trafficked. It further directs the DHS, in coordination with the State Department and HHS and the Attorney General to provide quarterly reports to Congress on the status of efforts to reunify migrant families and prevent future family separations.

Never again should we allow families to be ripped apart.

These are common-sense amendments that have been repeatedly disregarded by my colleagues across the aisle who have instead chosen to put forward legislative attacks on our most vulnerable populations.

It is time we stop the negativity and counterproductive efforts that are ripping apart our country, and to instead focus on coming together to work towards sensible and effective solutions that can work for the betterment and growth of our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this wrong minded legislation.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for hypersonic threats, missile defense, and the protection of the U.S. homeland.

SVC-217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

SD-G50