

show up to address the ongoing challenges of public safety, mental health support, and other needs for their own staff, for the schools, and for surrounding communities.

I continue to be amazed by the bravery and resilience of Oxford High School students, many of whom have become fierce advocates for gun safety and mental health. And I am in awe of the teachers and staff who define fortitude and service above self every day when, despite their own pain and suffering, they walk back into the building and turn their focus to their students.

In the days and months since the shooting, I have watched leaders emerge from every corner of Oxford, and through them I have seen how grief can walk hand-in-hand with hope, stitched with an indestructible fabric of Wildcat blue and gold. Because above all, Oxford is a place where neighbors reach out to help neighbors.

It has been the honor of my life to represent this community in Congress, and today while one tragic day broke Oxford's heart, it did not and it will not break this community's spirit. Through our collective grief, and through this declaration, may we forever honor the people of Oxford and the memories of Hana, Tate, Madisyn, and Justin.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS JUDICIAL VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Judicial Vacancy Reduction Act. This bill would expedite the appointment of local D.C. judges. The sole purpose of this bill is to protect public safety and promote justice by ending the perpetual judicial vacancy crisis in the local D.C. courts.

The longstanding judicial vacancy crisis in the local D.C. courts, which delays resolution of criminal and civil cases, has existed regardless of which party controls the presidency and Senate because presidents and senators are, understandably, more focused on nominees to the federal courts and the executive branch than to the local D.C. courts.

This bill has nothing to do with D.C. statehood or home rule. Although D.C. will control the local D.C. courts when it becomes a state and Congress could—and should—give D.C. control over the local D.C. courts now, this bill would not give D.C. any new authority over the local D.C. courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, D.C. has no control over the organization or jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts, including the nomination and appointment of judges. A 7-member commission, which is comprised of federal, D.C. and private-sector appointees, submits to the president a list of 3 persons for each vacancy on the local D.C. courts. The president must nominate, and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint 1 person from the list. If the president fails to nominate 1 of the persons from the list within 60 days, the commission must nominate, and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint 1 of the persons from the list.

This bill would not change the role of the president or the commission in the appointment of local D.C. judges. Instead, it would apply the congressional review period for D.C. legislation to the appointment of local D.C. judges. Upon nomination, local D.C. judges would be appointed after the expiration of a 30-day congressional review period, unless a resolution disapproving of the appointment was enacted into law during that period.

Local D.C. judges are non-Article III judges. The Constitution only requires Senate approval of Article III judges—that is, judges on the federal district courts, the federal appeals courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Congress has the discretion to decide how non-Article III judges will be appointed, and has chosen to subject some non-Article III judges to Senate approval, but not others. For example, Congress has not given itself any role in the appointment of bankruptcy or administrative law judges. This bill would strike a middle ground. Congress would retain the authority to block the appointment of local D.C. judges, but it would only have a limited time period to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 77TH BIRTHDAY OF ROSEMARY STOKES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 77th birthday of Rosemary Stokes.

Mrs. Stokes is a retired businesswoman who has accomplished so much in her lifetime. During a time when women didn't have a seat at the table, Rosemary was one of few female leaders for the Rite Aid Corporation. She was promoted from a Store Manager to train all new store managers in the Southeast.

Rosemary went on to open her own business specializing in plus size intimate apparel.

In her 60s, Rosemary returned to school and graduated from college. She is married to Billy Stokes and is blessed with three boys: BaSean, NaVan and Antione. She is passionate about her family.

Rosemary will be celebrated at the Oxford Civic Center on Friday, January 27th with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Rosemary and wishing her a happy 77th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Baytown, located in both Harris and Chambers Counties, Texas.

Present-day Baytown was incorporated on January 24, 1948, combining the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown. Baytown

is situated on the Texas Gulf Coast and is home to several of America's critical waterways: the Galveston Bay system, the Houston Ship Channel, and the Port of Cedar Bayou. It also shares the bay with the San Jacinto State Historic Site and San Jacinto Monument, where Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836. Early settlers of Baytown assisted the Texian Army during the Runaway Scrape.

Pioneers arrived in the area in the early 19th century and became known for rice farming and, later, brickmaking due to the high-quality clay found in the region. Over the course of a century, up to 12 million bricks a year were made at Cedar Bayou and shipped to Galveston.

Baytown, and the surrounding region, are known worldwide as innovators in the petrochemical industry. In 1908, the Goose Creek Oilfield became Texas's first offshore drilling operation and paved the way for significant growth and development. During World War II, the research conducted at the Baytown Refinery contributed to producing essentials like 100-octane fuel used in planes. Today, Exxon's Baytown Refinery is among the largest in the United States. Over the decades, many other leaders in the petrochemical industry have established a significant presence in Baytown and nearby communities. In addition to its industrial history, Baytown has long been committed to preserving the region's natural resources: saltwater and freshwater fishing, native marshland habitats, and waterfowl migration paths.

The following men have served the citizens of Baytown as Mayor: E.D. Cleveland; J.A. Ward; R.H. Pruett; Al Clayton; C.L. Liggett, MD; Seaborn Cravey; C. Glen Walker; Tom Gentry; Emmett O. Hutto; Allen Cannon; Pete C. Alfaro; Calvin Mundinger; Stephen H. DonCarlos; and Brandon Capetillo, who currently serves as Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of Baytown. May God bless this town and its citizens even more richly over the next 75 years.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF ADAM BIEBER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring Shawano County Sheriff Adam Bieber.

After 14 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Bieber began his tenure as Shawano County Sheriff in 2015. Throughout his career, Sheriff Bieber has been committed to serving the people of Shawano County and has worked to expand the Sheriff's Department and their services. I commend Sheriff Bieber for his unwavering dedication and commitment to ensuring the safety of Shawano County and Northeast Wisconsin.

During Sheriff Bieber's career with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department, transparency was one of his top priorities. Sheriff Bieber led and focused on elevating communication with the public by offering CPR/Heimlich Training, Concealed Carry Classes,

and a Citizens Academy. The Sheriffs Department also worked closely with schools throughout Shawano County to provide ALICE training. It is evident through his years of dedicated service that Sheriff Bieber's commitment to his community and Northeast Wisconsin never wavered.

I wish Sheriff Bieber all the best after his decades of service and dedication to the law enforcement community. While a true asset to our community will be missed, I am confident that he will make a difference in whatever his future holds.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Adam Bieber for his extraordinary service to the Shawano community. Sheriff Bieber's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

REMEMBERING VINCENT ASTOR

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vincent Astor, an early “out” gay activist, theatre historian and organist and a true icon of Memphis’ distinct place in American cultural history, who passed last week at the age of 69. A flamboyant drag queen in his signature white wedding dress, Mr. Astor led Memphis gay pride events as “Lady A.” A 1989 founder of OUTMemphis: The LGBTQ+ Community Center of the Mid-South, Mr. Astor was a well-known supporter of events promoting local history, including the screening of vintage movies, lectures and her-

itage events. A native Memphian and a quick wit, he graduated from what is now Rhodes College and was for decades the organist at the keyboards and peddles of the Orpheum Theatre’s 1928 Wurlitzer organ. He often gave tours of the historic theatre on South Main Street famed for its ghost “Mary,” killed by a trolley outside the theatre in the 1920s. Mr. Astor was also a large influence though a quiet voice in efforts to save the Orpheum and have it refurbished to its present glory hosting Broadway plays and musicals, concerts and other major public events. Gifted with a charismatic nostalgia, he literally wrote the book on Memphis’ theatre legacy with *Images of America: Memphis Movie Theatres* (2013). In 2019, after advocacy by Mr. Astor, the Shelby County Historical Commission unveiled a marker outside Midtown’s Evergreen Theatre recognizing the 50th anniversary of public drag pageants held there, and protesting a city ordinance against cross dressing. Mr. Astor will be buried in the historic Elmwood Cemetery under an obelisk he designed identifying him as both Vincent Astor and Lady A. I express my condolences to his many friends, colleagues and collaborators, and to the Mid-South LGBTQ+ community, all mourning their loss.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAYOR JOE C. WISE JR.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Joe C. Wise, Jr. of

Sheridan, Arkansas. Mayor Wise is an institution in the city of Sheridan. He began his service as city Treasurer in 1971 and was first elected Mayor in 1988. For a total of 52 years, Mayor Wise has honorably served the citizens of Sheridan.

Local leaders like Mayor Wise are the backbone of America, as they assess and address the needs of their communities. Mayor Wise has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity Sheridan has experienced. One of Mayor Wise’s top priorities throughout his time in office has been to improve Sheridan’s infrastructure. This work has included expanding the city’s wastewater system and paving all the streets in Sheridan.

Developing recreational opportunities for the people of Sheridan has also been a big priority for Mayor Wise. During his time as mayor, he created a system of walking trails and expanded the city’s fantastic community center. To ensure the longevity and continued development of these investments in the community, Mayor Wise also focused his energy on working closely with Sheridan’s police and fire departments to ensure that public safety was at the core of Sheridan’s growth. This work has helped Sheridan flourish, and the impacts of these projects are being felt daily by local families and businesses. Thanks to all that Mayor Wise has done, future generations of Sheridan residents will have a legacy they can build on and be proud to share.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mayor Wise for his life of service and dedication to the people of Sheridan.