

I look forward to supporting this bill on the House floor and seeing it signed into law.

RECOGNIZING A CIVIL RIGHTS AND GRASSROOTS ICON, REVEREND MARIE GALATAS ORTIZ, A PROMINENT MATRIARCH IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz, Louisiana's Matriarch in the Civil Rights Movement locally and across the country. Marie Galatas Ortiz, born in New Orleans in 1939, became increasingly involved in the Civil Rights Movement after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When Ortiz reflected on how she felt following the passing of Dr. King, she said "I just said I'm going to get so active, I'm going to help keep his work going on . . . They can't stop us!"

Ortiz furthered her commitment to the Civil Rights Movement by founding the nonprofit organization Grass Roots Organization for Women (GROW) in 1975. The organization started in New Orleans, located at 1610 Basin Street, and participated in many demonstrations, marches, and boycotts. Ortiz wanted an organization that encouraged women to serve in their communities and further the movement through peaceful protests, rallies, and street marches. GROW challenged the traditional patriarchal social systems that prevented women from participating in leadership roles. Reverend Ortiz took on the challenge of fighting for anti-crime, including rape treatment and prevention, when no one was advocating for these victims and speaking out against these atrocities.

Ortiz was a force in the later years of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1976, she led demonstrations for the family of Stanley Magee who suspiciously passed away while in custody. The protest and subsequent march over Stanley Magee's death began at the 22nd Judicial Courthouse and included many African American residents of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes. It was one of the largest demonstrations ever held in Covington. Ortiz explained that some of the more difficult and passionate Civil Rights cases, especially those involving racially motivated deaths and violence, were passed on to her organization from the NAACP. "It was GROW that did the work," Ortiz said. Ortiz remains politically active today.

Her most recent work was taking down monuments dedicated to Confederate leaders in New Orleans. In December 2015, the City Council of New Orleans voted 6 to 1 to take down three Confederate statues: those of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. In January 2016, a federal judge dismissed an attempt by preservation groups and a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to stop their removal. Reverend Ortiz remained committed, fighting to the end, assuring every statue was removed!

Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz is also the president and pastor of New Creation Christian Church, founded over 35 years ago,

where she continues her spiritual mission of working closely with women and underserved communities. She is also the president of Broadway Rehabilitation and Economic Development & Jobs Skills Academy, Inc., an organization assisting formerly incarcerated people and marginalized groups to develop training to join the workforce.

I am so blessed to have this opportunity to acknowledge a true Matriarch of Civil Rights. My prayer is that she continues her fight assuring a successful and bright future for all men and women. God Bless Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz on her continued path blessing our great community.

SUPPORTING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court and the volunteers who are the heart of this program.

Hillsborough County is proud to be home to Florida's largest population of veterans—nearly 94,000 veterans. Hillsborough is also home to the number one Veterans Treatment Court in the country.

One in five veterans has a diagnosed mental illness or cognitive impairment, and one in six veterans has a substance abuse problem. In some cases, upon returning home, these men and women commit a criminal offense that is directly attributed to a service or combat-related injury.

The Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court, in addition to its Mentor Program run entirely by volunteers, integrates alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health services, and justice system case processing, while focusing on the successful reintegration of veterans back into their communities.

I'd like to not only recognize but extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have had a hand in getting our veterans the care they require and deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IRA SHARP

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Ira Sharp, who passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023. He is survived by his wife Rose Ann Sharp, daughter Elizabeth Sharp, son Andrew Sharp, daughter-in-law Carine Harambillet Sharp, grandson Samuel Sharp as well as his sisters, Jacqueline Schroeder, Barbara Jensen, and Sally Harman, as well as their families.

Mr. Sharp received a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis before earning a J.D. at Columbia Law School. After law school, Mr. Sharp became a practicing attorney before moving to D.C. to take over a

then struggling family business. For the next two and a half decades, Mr. Sharp would use his expertise and perseverance to transform the company into a thriving business, later selling it to a Fortune 1000 company.

As a resident of the California 49th Congressional District, Mr. Sharp was an active member of the community. He was appointed to the San Diego County Civil Service Commission as well as sat on several Del Mar City Council committees and the Del Mar School District Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Additionally, Mr. Sharp contributed to the Del Mar Foundation, the Rancho Santa Fe Democratic Club, and the Chairmen's Round-Table, a group that provides mentorship to businesses in San Diego County.

Mr. Sharp's true passion was advocacy for gun violence prevention. Following the Parkland Shooting in February of 2018 and the birth of his grandchild, Mr. Sharp along with his wife Rose Ann Sharp founded NeverAgainCA. Mr. Sharp then went on to create SafeStorageCA in 2019, where he brought together elected officials and gun violence prevention groups. The impact of Mr. Sharp's work can be seen in the passage of AB 452, which requires California public school districts to send students home with information about the importance of safe firearm storage, as well as the passage of AB 893 and SB 264, which ban the sale of firearms and ammunition at the Del Mar and Orange County Fairgrounds.

More recently, Mr. Sharp spent time as a board member for the Brady Campaign, a national nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that every community is safe from the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Ira Sharp's tireless advocacy is a reminder of the immense impact an individual can have on their community and the importance of collaborating with others to make our community a safer place. It has been an honor to celebrate Ira Sharp's remarkable life and his success which continues to inspire.

RECOGNIZING MIKE FLANNERY FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALISM

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mike Flannery's distinguished career as a political reporter in Illinois and to congratulate him on his well-earned upcoming retirement from Fox 32-Chicago. For decades, Illinois residents have relied on Mr. Flannery's sharp analysis to make sense of top political stories. Through his weekly television program, "Flannery Fired Up," Illinois residents have come to trust Mr. Flannery as a voice of insight, fairness, and integrity.

Mr. Flannery grew up in Washington D.C. in a family that understood the importance of public service and its demands. His father, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, imparted on Mr. Flannery a sense of patriotism and a desire to find a career that benefited others. Despite financial hardships, Mr. Flannery won a scholarship to attend Georgetown University, where he discovered a passion for journalism and became editor of the

university's newspaper. Through his coursework, he became fascinated by the unique political culture of Chicago and Mayor Richard J. Daley's administration.

After graduation, Mr. Flannery moved to Chicago and began his career in journalism covering politics and labor for the Chicago Sun Times. He built a reputation for integrity at a time when political corruption was a powerful force in Chicago politics. When Mr. Flannery transitioned to TV and joined WBBM-Channel 2 as Political Editor in 1980, he brought his unique sensibility into viewer's living rooms.

Over the course of Mr. Flannery's 50-year career, he has covered the administrations of ten Chicago mayors and eight Illinois governors with extraordinary insight and accuracy. Mr. Flannery's TV program has become a central stage for political discussion in Chicago, drawing countless elected officials and experts. His sharp questioning held powerful officials to account and provided context for the week's news for his loyal viewers. Behind the scenes, Mr. Flannery has been just as tireless in his pursuit of the facts, engaging regularly with community leaders and experts, even chasing politicians—sometimes literally—as he did when he jogged after former Illinois Governor Rob Blagojevich in 2010. Both on and off the air, Mr. Flannery has a record of relentlessly pursuing the truth on behalf of greater Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I extend immense gratitude to Mike Flannery for his invaluable contributions to political reporting, and I wish him well in his retirement. His dedication to the public service of informing Illinoisans on the issues facing our state is commendable and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence in journalism.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 503, IMPEACHING JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, impeachment is serious, yet here we are engaged in a baseless political stunt to impeach our current President.

It is not a punishment, sought to be inflicted when one branch of government merely dislikes what a coordinate branch has done.

It is a serious remedy designed to prevent abuses of power and is designed to ensure that ours remains a government of, by, and for the people.

The Constitution governs the order of our nation, and it dictates the work of the Congress.

Article I details the powers of the House and the exercising of these powers as they relate to the coordinate, coequal branches of government, codified in Articles II and Articles III: three equal branches of government coexisting and cohesively working to provide oversight to the respective actions of the Congress, the Executive and Judiciary.

This has worked, with challenges of course, since 1789, yet the outright abuse of our Con-

stitution to use impeachment as a political tool is an abomination of our congressional duties.

This impeachment resolution is centered on accusations that the Biden Administration lacks appropriate security at the Southern U.S. border.

The resolution of impeachment specifically states that President Biden's conduct and dereliction of duty in these matters "warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

This accusation, that the President of the United States has abused his powers and that his conduct is in dereliction of his duties as President is flatly outrageous.

When the Framers of our Constitution designed our government, they bifurcated power between the federal and state governments, and divided among the branches.

They vested in the Congress the capacity to make the laws, and in the Executive the power to faithfully execute those laws.

Because the House enjoyed a natural superiority, as most representative of the passions of the populace, the Framers vested in the House of Representatives the sole power of impeachment and made the Senate the judges.

Entirely unlike the incredulous and now confirmed illegality of President Trump's behavior while in office, the President Biden has certainly not earned the same stain of impeachment from the House of Representatives and whereby his conduct absolutely does not merit conviction and removal from office by the Senate.

When the Founders inserted the Impeachment Clause in Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, they did so to preserve our democracy, protect the American people, and to prevent the abuses and excesses of the Chief Executive.

The Constitution has served our nation well for over two hundred years.

In order to keep faith with the Framers and with our future, we must preserve, protect and defend that Constitution and all its provisions.

This is why this impeachment attempt is not one that is within the national interest but a disgrace to our government and its entrusted duties.

I ask colleagues to vote no on this shameful resolution.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
NASSER ABOUKHALIL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Nasser AbouKhalil.

Throughout his life, Nasser has shown his commitment to supporting patients and providing a space for advocacy and healing in the community. Nasser was born in Tyr, Lebanon and graduated from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. He opened the Alamo Pharmacy in 1987. In 1997, he opened the Oak Grove Pharmacy in Concord, California where it remains a staple in our community.

Through his work, Nasser practices compassionate care and comprehensive support.

He believes in not only ensuring that patients have the appropriate medications, but also offering individualized health care advice and cost-effective alternatives. Nasser also takes pride in mentoring aspiring health care professionals in the pharmacy, providing them real-world experience to prepare them as they enter the medical field and work to serve their communities.

In addition to his professional work, Nasser is also an advocate for the Lebanese community in the Bay Area where he volunteers with the Lebanese American Association.

Please join me in recognizing Nasser AbouKhalil for his leadership and invaluable contributions to our community.

IN MEMORY OF NAVAJO NATION
PRESIDENT BEN SHELLEY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, who passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, leaving his wife Mrs. Martha Shelly, five adult children, 12 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The President and Mrs. Shelly were married for 57 years.

President Shelly's public service spanned numerous decades and positions. During his 16 years on the Navajo Nation Council, he rose to the esteemed position of Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. From 2007 to 2011, he served as Vice President of the Navajo Nation. On January 11, 2011, Shelly became the eighth President of the Navajo Nation, a position he held for four years. In fact, he was the first elected Vice President to ascend to President as well. President Shelly's service extended beyond Navajo Nation as a McKinley County Commissioner.

As President, Shelly was a steadfast supporter of self-determination and self-sufficiency for Indian Country. He and the Navajo Nation worked with Congress to secure approval of the Navajo Nation General Leasing Act to provide the Nation with leasing authority over tribal land. President Shelly also fostered economic development to bring prosperity to Navajo communities. In President Shelly's final testimony to Congress, he advocated for Gallup Indian Medical Center to become a "trauma one" level facility status. This would provide the highest level of care to our many tribal communities.

President Shelly was born on the Arizona-New Mexico border of Tsé'tah Si'ani, Lupton, Arizona. He lived most of his life in Thoreau, New Mexico, in the third congressional district. He never stopped working to support the people of the Navajo Nation. His accomplishments and legacy will live on for generations to come. May we all honor President Ben Shelly's incredible life and his deep commitment to serving the beloved communities of the Navajo Nation.