

hope that it will continue to inspire future businesses to conduct work with the highest quality and care attended to safety and health.

OSHA has informed me that the entire workforce at Derstine's Foodservice Distributor made a considerable effort to be considered eligible for this achievement. We commend Brendan Triplett, the Vice President, and his team's hard work in ensuring that Derstine's Foodservice has not only met but exceeded OSHA standards.

We are all incredibly proud of the positive impact Derstine's Foodservice Distributor has had on our community, and we wish the company's hardworking team all the best for the future of their business.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
WILLIAM STEPHENS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Judge William Stephens, who passed away at the age of 88 on May 17, 2023. Judge Stephens was a beloved member of the community and dedicated public servant.

Born in New Orleans in 1935, Judge Stephens moved to Sacramento during World War II. After graduating high school at age 16, he attended San Jose State University, becoming the first in his family to attend college. He worked for the California Water Board for eight years before enrolling in Hastings Law School. After graduating in 1967, Judge Stephens joined the National Labor Relations Board and later became a public defender for Contra Costa County.

In 1969, Judge Stephens moved to Mill Valley and joined Bagley & Bianchi law firm. After three years, he established his own private practice in Sausalito. As an attorney, he served numerous organizations, including as Director of the Marin County Bar Association, President of the Marin County Legal Aid Society, and Chairman of the Marin County Human Rights Commission. Dedicated to supporting disadvantaged groups, Judge Stephens lent his legal counsel to low-income Spanish-speakers, small business owners and entrepreneurs, and the Marin City Community Services District.

For more than 30 years, Judge Stephens also mentored youth enrolled in Marin City's Performing Stars' enrichment program. Beyond Marin County, he volunteered with Village Baptist Church's Better Africa Foundation, supporting educational, medical, and cultural initiatives in Nigeria and the Republic of Benin.

Judge Stephens developed a reputation for his commitment to fairness and restoring public trust in the legal system. Judge Stephens's journey to public office began with his campaign for the Marin County Municipal Court, narrowly losing the election in 1976. He was then appointed to the Court by Governor Jerry Brown in 1979, becoming the Court's first Black judge. After nine years on the Marin Municipal Court, he was easily elected to Marin County Superior Court where he served another eleven years until his retirement.

Judge Stephens leaves behind his sons Stuart, Patrick, and Haynes Stephens, and his

granddaughters Sabrina, Britainy, and Madison Stephens.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Judge Stephens's family and friends, and in expressing deep appreciation for his decades of public service in his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFGHAN
ADJUSTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Afghan Adjustment Act. This legislation would establish a pathway to permanent legal status for newly arrived Afghans displaced at the end of the 20-year U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

Without this legislation, the tens of thousands of Afghans who were admitted to the United States under temporary humanitarian parole, including those who supported the U.S. mission in Afghanistan during the past 20 years, face tremendous legal uncertainty. These Afghans can only pursue permanent legal status in the United States through the asylum system or, for those who are eligible, the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. Both paths have substantial backlogs, long processing times, and logistical obstacles for these individuals.

I became involved in the cause of Afghan allies nearly 15 years ago after being contacted by a social studies class from Portland's Lincoln High School working with the American Legion to help bring an Afghan interpreter to safety in the United States. Those discussions prompted me to work with former Senators John McCain and Ted Kennedy to create the Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) programs. Ever since, I have continued to work to strengthen these critical programs and provide a permanent, safe outcome for the brave men and women who risked their lives to help the United States. The personal connections to our Afghan allies have created a powerful coalition working to keep our Nation's promises.

Congress must fulfill our commitment to provide safe, legal refuge to the those who willingly put their lives on the line to support U.S. mission in Afghanistan. Following previous wartime evacuations and humanitarian crises, including the Vietnam War and the rise of Castro in Cuba, Congress provided a legal adjustment process for those evacuated to the United States and should do so once again, without delay.

I look forward to working with Representative MILLER-MEEKS in the House and Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR, LINDSEY GRAHAM, CHRIS COONS, ROGER WICKER, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, JERRY MORAN, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and LISA MURKOWSKI in the Senate to enact this legislation and finally establish a path forward for Afghans admitted to the United States on humanitarian status.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CALEB CONLEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. Caleb Conley. Mr. Conley served as a Sheriff's Deputy in Scott County, Kentucky. On Monday, May 22, 2023, Conley was shot and killed in the line of duty during a traffic stop. He was 35 years of age.

Deputy Conley served our nation in the United States Army for 8 years. He served in the 478th Engineer Battalion. He served in Iraq and was among a group that executed more than 1,600 combat missions and was credited with locating 164 improvised explosive devices. Following his time in the military, Conley began a career in law enforcement. He won multiple awards for his law enforcement service and was especially known for his enforcement of impaired driving. In 2022, Conley was named Scott County Deputy of the Year. The award has since been renamed in his honor.

Deputy Conley loved serving others and he loved being a law enforcement officer. He was a dedicated family man and a true friend to many. Conley was a dedicated volunteer in many community activities. He is survived by his wife Rachel, their 2 children Riley and Olivia, and his parents William and Jolene Conley.

Caleb Conley was a man of strong character and a true patriot who loved his country. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep his community safe. He deserves our unending respect and gratitude. May we always remember the life of Caleb Conley. I am humbled to honor him before the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on July 12, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 292, NAY on Roll Call No. 293, and NAY on Roll Call No. 294.

HONORING MR. FRANCIS ALBERT
SMITH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL WALTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Mr. Francis Albert Smith of Palm Coast, Florida, who, on July 18, 2023, will celebrate his 100th birthday.

Throughout his life, Mr. Smith has been unwavering and relentless in his service to the United States. Serving in the Pacific during WWII, taking part in the Invasion of Ie Shima during the Okinawa Campaign, and in his role

as a Staff Sergeant in the Armed Forces from 1942 to 1946, Mr. Smith's service falls nothing short of true servant leadership.

Mr. Smith was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1923. Throughout his life, he has taken on many roles, including that of husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. In 1944, he married Ms. Dorothy Murtha, and became the father of 4 wonderful children, Barbara, Diane, Douglas, and David. Over the years, his family has continued to grow, and now includes 11 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. In 2006, Mr. Smith married Gretta Woodward, a fellow veteran of WWII.

Mr. Smith's service was, and remains, essential to maintaining the freedoms we as Americans are so fortunate to enjoy. Again, I thank him for his dedication and commitment to the United States of America.

Every American owes a debt of gratitude to him. His dedication and courage in uniform helped to ensure the safety and prosperity of this Nation and all the people in it.

Happy Birthday to Mr. Francis Albert Smith. Here is to many more.

CELEBRATING HEROES' ALLIANCE
SOLAR CAR TEAM

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the achievement the historic accomplishment of the Heroes' Alliance Vehicle Technology Team, a group of high school students from our district that won the 2022 national Solar Car Challenge within their division.

Heroes' Alliance was founded in 2009 by the late Pastor Reginald M. Lane, who established the organization in response to the educational and residential climates existing in the city of Detroit at that time. The Heroes' Alliance is a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) program that challenges students to develop innovative technology focusing on renewable energy and automotive engineering. Today the project serves as a capstone for students who participate in the Heroes' Alliance Cooperative Learning Center, which utilizes vehicle technology for the basis of bringing together education, innovation, and industry as students work together to design and engineer a solar vehicle.

This summer, their journey will culminate in the Solar Car Challenge, a cross-country race from Fort Worth, Texas to Palmdale, California. The students will face rigorous tests and evaluations to demonstrate the capabilities of their solar-powered vehicle. I am so proud of this hard-working and talented group of young people from various schools in Metro Detroit and want to congratulate them on their achievements.

Please join me in recognizing Michigan's Heroes' Alliance Vehicle Technology Team, as we cheer them on to victory.

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION
CENTENNIAL 1923–2023

HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my fellow Members of the 118th Congress to join the proud Members of the Alaska Delegation in congratulating and thanking the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) for 100 years of service to our State and to our Nation. The "Railroad," as we call it back home, and the builders, operators, and leaders that are its lifeblood, have been the backbone of the Last Frontier's evolution. For the last century, the Railroad has been catalyzing economic development, supporting war efforts, transporting passengers between Alaska's largest cities, helping build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, investing in real estate, and facilitating tourism and commerce across miles of remote and beautifully wild landscapes.

Like Alaska itself, the Alaska Railroad story is full of peaks and valleys. The Alaska Central Railway (later renamed "The Alaska Railroad") laid the first track in Alaska in 1903. It started in Seward and extended 50 miles north. The Alaska Central Railway reorganized in 1910 as the Alaska Northern Railway Co., later extending the railroad to Kern Creek—71 miles from Seward. In 1914, the U.S. Congress, noting it's essential national importance, funded construction and operation of a railroad from Seward to Fairbanks at an estimated construction cost of \$35 million.

On July 15, 1923, President Warren G. Harding drove a golden spike in the ground at Nenana thereby connecting the track and marking the completion of the Alaska Railroad. From 1940–43, World War II brought large profits from hauling military and civilian supplies and materials. In 1962, the Alaska Railroad established its first car-barge service in Whittier, followed by train-ship service in June 1964, revolutionizing Alaska by enabling rail cars from the Lower 48 to be shipped to any point along the Alaska Railroad. In the early to mid-1970s, the railroad supported construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline, shipping and storing pipeline between Valdez, Seward, and Fairbanks, from which it was then trucked to the North Slope. In 1981, the Railroad entered into agreements with Fairbanks and Anchorage school district career centers for a tour guide program that trained high school students to serve as hosts onboard summer passenger trains.

President Ronald Reagan penned into law the authorization of the transfer of the Alaska Railroad to the state in 1983. Officially, in 1985, it became the property of the state, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation was born. By 1996, ARRC showed a profit of \$8.0 million and passenger ridership had grown to 512,000. Former Governor Bill Sheffield became CEO in 1997. In the early 2000s, the ARRC's real estate operations exceeded \$11 million in profits for the first time and a web-based passenger reservation system was implemented. Simultaneously, the Railroad initiated a program to reduce diesel emissions and noise. And 2003 was the railroad's most profitable and safe year in its history up until that point. In 2013, the Railroad's own Bill O'Leary was named CEO, becoming the first

lifelong Alaskan to lead the Railroad. Today, the ARRC operates a regularly scheduled public transportation service extending from Seward north through the traditional lands of the Alutiiq and the lands of the Athabascan groups: the Dena'ina, Ahtna, and Lower Tanana people. Passengers gain access to remote regions and areas off the road system and to the state's public land treasures including the Chugach National Forest and Denali National Park, which are visited by hundreds of thousands of people annually. During the last 100 years, ARRC has proudly nurtured and promoted a relationship with the Alaska Native community. The ARRC team includes Native members throughout its history; from laborers during initial railroad construction between 1914 and 1923, to track maintenance during World War II, through to top leadership guiding corporate policy on the ARRC Board of Directors after state ownership.

The Executive Team is comprised of President and CEO William G. O'Leary, CFO Michelle Maddox, COO Clark Hopp, Chief Counsel Andy Behrend, Vice President of Real Estate & Facilities James W. Kubitz, Vice President of Marketing and Customer Service Dale Wade, Vice President Chief Engineer Brian Lindamood, and Chief HR Officer Jennifer Mergens.

The Board of Directors are Ryan Anderson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; John Binkley, Chairman, Godspeed, Incorporated; T.J. Dinsmore, Conductor/Engineer, ARRC; ARRC Board Vice Chair: Judy Petry, President & General Manager, Farmrail System; John Reeves, Owner, Fairbanks Gold Co., LLC; Julie Sande, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development; ARRC Board Chair: John Shively, Chair, Pebble Mines Corporation.

Throughout the Railroad's storied history, the corporation's team, as much as the iron and steel of the locomotives, has served as the foundational infrastructure driving economic development in my great state of Alaska. By carrying freight and passengers across wide expanses of wild plains, rivers, and mountains, and by harnessing human ingenuity and creativity, the Railroad has played an irreplaceable role in turning Alaska into a destination for tourists and new residents alike.

HONORING SISTER RICHELLE
FRIEDMAN FOR HER OUT-
STANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks to Sister Richelle Friedman, PBVM, as the Coalition on Human Needs honors her as their 2023 Human Needs Hero, for her years of extraordinary advocacy, analysis, coalition building, and leadership on a wide range of issues at the federal level.

Since arriving in Washington, DC in 1980, Sister Richelle has been a passionate champion and a tireless advocate for all Americans most in need. For more than 30 years Sister Richelle has focused her energies and commitment to expanding opportunities for people