

the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company. Just over 100 years ago, a group of young men saw a need in their community, decided to act, and established this company. Now, a century later, it has grown into what it is today—a critical part of the Selbyville community with a legacy of exceptional service.

In addition to this occasion being a chance for fellowship and comradery between those in uniform, it is also an opportunity for the rest of us, whom the members of the Company serve, to pause and express our gratitude for their selfless and dangerous work.

We in Delaware know the risk each of these firefighters takes when they put on their uniforms and go to work each day. And to take on these risks is as remarkable as it is inspiring. Our state would not enjoy the same peace of mind without people like them answering the call and volunteering their time to protect our communities.

In Delaware, we are incredibly proud to have so many wonderful volunteer firefighters up and down our state. I am proud to be their Congresswoman, and especially as a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to be their champion in the House of Representatives.

Again, to everyone at the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company, congratulations on this historic accomplishment and I thank them for their selfless service. Here's to the next hundred years.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ERIC S. COHAN, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN CIUDAD JUÁREZ

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of Eric S. Cohan, a career member of the Foreign Service currently serving as Consul General of the United States in Ciudad Juárez.

Mr. Cohan has served nearly 30 years to advance United States interests abroad. He previously served in Ciudad Juárez as Deputy Principal Officer for four years and returned in 2020 as Consul General. As Consul General, he leads a team of more than 350 hard-working State Department employees to assist and protect more than 200,000 United States citizens living in the state of Chihuahua and to facilitate trade and goodwill with Mexico.

During Mr. Cohan's tenure as Consul General, he has reunited countless families through lawful immigration, reduced a pandemic-era immigrant visa backlog by 67 percent, and helped keep our economy strong by issuing visas to truckers, agricultural workers, entrepreneurs, students, and others whose entry into the United States is critical to the economic well-being of everyday Americans. He understands how intertwined El Paso and Ciudad Juárez are to each other and that forging strong partnerships are vital for our economy and the everyday movement of both American and Mexican citizens.

Mr. Cohan and his staff do tremendous work to advance the bilateral relationship between the United States and Mexico, and honor the importance of the cultural, eco-

nom. family, and historical ties between our two nations. It is my distinct privilege today to celebrate his public service and wish him well in his next assignment.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA LOMBARD—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Patricia Lombard of the Larchmont Village neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Patricia Lombard has worked as a communications consultant and writer since moving to Los Angeles in 1988. She served as a contributor to the Larchmont Buzz an online newspaper covering news from Hancock Park, Larchmont Village, and the Greater Wilshire areas of Los Angeles, since the inception of the site in 2011. In 2015, Ms. Lombard along with Elizabeth Fuller, acquired the Larchmont Buzz from founders Mary Hawley and Julie Grist, and over the years have produced thousands of local news stories. Patricia is currently the editor and co-publisher of the Larchmont Buzz which has given her the opportunity to highlight the work of neighborhood leaders and city officials regarding important local issues.

Ms. Lombard has been a tireless and dedicated volunteer in local civic affairs. She has served on the Fremont Place Association board of directors for over 15 years, and represented the Association on the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council until she joined the Larchmont Buzz.

Since 2007, Patricia has been an active member of the Hancock Park Garden Club, where she served as president from 2009 to 2011. She is a member of Larchmont Village Business Improvement District, Wilshire Rotary club of Angeles, Larchmont Boulevard Association, and The Ebell of Los Angeles, a women's nonprofit organization established in 1894, where she served as the organization's 64th president from 2020 to 2022.

For nearly 20 years, Patricia was involved with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where she served as a Trustee and was inspired to pursue local history. The Natural History Museum Seaver Center for Western History Research provided a key image of Larchmont that motivated her to research the story of this unique street. Patricia's book, "Larchmont," was published in 2015. Patricia and her husband, William D. Simon, live in Fremont Place, and they have 2 daughters, Emily, and Alexandra. Emily and her husband Dan live in the Larchmont Village area, and Alexandra is currently planning to move to San Francisco, California to pursue a career in social work.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Patricia Lombard.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY SALMON

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Mr. Bobby Salmon for his service to the nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I." Bobby is nearing the end of his term as Chairman of the InsurPac Board of Trustees, a position that he has held since September of 2020. During his time as Chairman, the committee has risen to new heights.

In addition to chairing InsurPac, Bobby has served with distinction on the Big "I" Board of Directors and Government Affairs Committee. He has been an effective and thoughtful advocate for independent insurance agents and small businesses across the country.

Bobby attended Western Carolina University and is currently an independent agent with INSURE in Raleigh, North Carolina. He entered the insurance industry in 1991 and has been positively impacting lives ever since.

In addition to serving the Big "I" national association, Bobby has been one of the most dedicated volunteer leaders for the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina. He has chaired the young agents committee, the bylaws task force, and the board of directors, as well as the governance & leadership committee. Additionally, he has served on the legislative & PAC committees, products & services, advertising, surplus lines, and audit committees.

Importantly for North Carolina, Bobby is also an active leader and philanthropist in his community. He serves in a variety of ways, perhaps most importantly as a volunteer leader for Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Durham.

I would also like to recognize Kim, Bobby's wife of forty years. Together they reside in Hillsborough, North Carolina and have three children Tyler, Jordan and Morgan.

The state of North Carolina is proud of Bobby Salmon and thanks him for his continued leadership of the Big "I", its membership, and the great state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPEDITED FEDERAL PERMITTING FOR CALIFORNIA ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Expedited Federal Permitting for California Act." This new bill would make permanent the U.S. Department of Transportation's program for eliminating duplicative environmental reviews for federally funded infrastructure projects. It would also make federally funded airport and port development projects eligible for this expedited federal environmental review and permitting. Only federally funded highway, public transit, and multimodal projects are eligible under current law.

Established by Congress in 2015 under the leadership of former U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), then-Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public

Works, this federal pilot program allows states like California with more stringent environmental laws than the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to substitute their state environmental reviews in lieu of completing a second, unnecessary federal environmental review at additional taxpayer expense. This cuts the permitting backlog in half for major transportation infrastructure projects statewide, which can proceed immediately to construction on time and budget. As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I helped to develop and pass the 2015 Highway Bill (Public Law 114–94), which established this pilot authority.

Under the leadership of then-Speaker Pelosi and President Biden, Congressional Democrats made a generational investment under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–58) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–169) to modernize our nation's infrastructure and build the clean energy economy of tomorrow. As one of five cosponsors of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and having voted with every other Democratic member of California's Congressional delegation to enact the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, I am committed to getting California our fair of this historic federal investment.

However, I am increasingly concerned that California will miss out on this federal funding only available for the next 3 years to fix our roads and public transit if we remain bogged down in a state and federal permitting morass that is unnecessarily cumbersome and litigious. My bill would simply make permanent the pilot authority established under the 2015 Highway Bill for substituting by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for NEPA reviews for federally funded transportation projects. Under current law, this pilot authority will expire on December 4, 2027.

In January 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation finalized the necessary regulations to finally implement this pilot authority. To date, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has never made use of this federal pilot authority and continues to insist on completing less stringent federal environmental reviews on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration at additional taxpayer expense.

I take a backseat to no one when it comes to upholding California's high environmental standards, of which I am immensely proud. Mr. Speaker, I call on Governor Newsom and all members of California's Congressional delegation to join me in supporting my common-sense bill. We cannot watch the \$1.2 trillion in available federal funding to rebuild our state's roads, public transit, airports, and ports pass us by. It's now or never.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a gun violence epidemic plagues the United States of America. Although the Bipartisan Safer Com-

munities Act advanced important reforms to address gun violence—including enhanced background checks, prohibitions on gun trafficking and straw purchases, funding to support Extreme Risk Protection Orders and community-based violence intervention, and one billion dollars to support mental health—the federal government must take additional action to protect our young people and communities from gun violence.

State and local laws can only do so much to curb gun violence. Illinois and the City of Chicago can implement strict gun regulations, but if states like Indiana and Wisconsin keep weak restrictions in place, then practically anyone can cross those state borders and acquire a gun. We must limit the number of guns that exist in our country. We must ban assault weapons and enact strong background checks with no loopholes. We must repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers so individuals can bring civil actions to hold these companies responsible for their role in the gun violence epidemic. We must pass my bill—the Ammunition Identification Act—that would provide law enforcement with the tools to trace ammunition back to its purchaser.

Also, we must invest in community-based programs that successfully decrease gun violence. UCAN operates one of these innovative community-based programs on the westside of Chicago in areas with high unemployment and poverty rates. The Violence Intervention and Prevention program intervenes with victims and perpetrators after gun violence to help address trauma and limit violent responses, leading to a 30 percent reduction in shootings where this program was implemented. Another program is Chicago CRED, or Create Real Economic Destiny, that believes that those involved in gun violence are not the problem, but the future solution. When participants join CRED, they receive counseling, life coaching, education, and a pathway to employment. A study by Northwestern University found that—although around 85 percent of CRED participants reported a familial history with gangs, many had a criminal record, and some reported being gunshot victims—CRED alumni were less likely to be victims of gun violence because they left vulnerable situations and entered stable lifestyles after receiving the care they needed.

However, we cannot successfully prevent gun violence without revenue. That is why I champion the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act that would create guaranteed, annual funding for gun violence prevention via a 0.5 percent increase in federal gun and ammunition excise taxes. This bill would evenly divide the estimated \$20 to 36 million of annual revenue to fund gun violence research, hate crime data collection and prevention, forensic examiner training to improve gun crime clearance rates, and community-based violence intervention and prevention programs. As Fredrick Douglass once said, “People might not get all they work for in this world, but they certainly must work for all they get.” If we truly want to make progress in preventing gun violence in this country, then we must work for it and invest in it.

We also must remember that preventing gun violence is broader than simply gun-focused programs. People turn to gun violence when they lack economic security, food security, housing security, and educational opportunity. Under the Obama Administration, the

Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education had a goal of reducing gun violence at its source by creating a national tool to examine equity and educational opportunities across the country. This tool demonstrated that inequities from the start of an individual's life deeply affect their outcomes and that the school-to-prison pipeline in high-in-crime areas coincides with the quality of education. If we continue to neglect our citizens and allow disparities in opportunity and security, we will not successfully end gun violence.

As my mother told me, an ounce of prevention is worth so much more than a pound of cure. I cannot stress enough how important it is to enact effective gun legislation on the federal level. Gun violence is a public health crisis. As such, the federal government must act to protect its citizens.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army, and congratulate him on his retirement.

General McConville graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1981 and was commissioned as an Infantry officer shortly thereafter. Throughout his distinguished military career, General McConville served our country in the Iraq War, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and during the war in Afghanistan, he was part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

General McConville earned 2 Distinguished Service Medals, 3 Legions of Merit, 3 Bronze Star Medals, 2 Defense Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, 2 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge. In 2019, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army, following 2 years as Vice Chief of Staff.

As a soldier and member of Congress, I can honestly call General McConville a “Soldier's Soldier.”

General McConville's life work is an example of patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment—qualities that all in the U.S. military strive to emulate. We are grateful for his dedication to this country, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN RAMSAY—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman,