

women with disabilities are employed compared to 70 percent of nondisabled women; only 31 percent of employed women with disabilities are economically secure; and American Indian/Alaska Native and Black women with disabilities are the least likely to be employed. These gaps reveal unacceptable disparities in employment opportunities. Furthermore, Americans with disabilities face barriers to receiving quality health care, such as service providers with inadequate training on how to properly treat patients with disabilities and medical facilities that have yet to make appropriate accommodations. Affordable housing, businesses, airplanes, bathrooms, and playgrounds still are not uniformly accessible. This restricted access reduces quality of life and presents obstacles that none of us should tolerate.

I am proud that I helped improve health care for those with disabilities during my tenure in Congress, including provisions in the Affordable Care Act that I championed to encourage community-based services for individuals with disabilities. We must continue to work to make choice for receiving care in one's community mandatory, not just optional. People should have the freedom to choose where they live and receive care. I am proud that I also have helped strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and ACA marketplace health insurance to improve healthcare for Americans, including people with disabilities. For example, a recent study by researchers at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Creedon, Zuvekas, Hill, Ali, McClellan, & Day, December 2022, Health Services Review, Volume 57, Issue S2) found that adults with disabilities who were newly-eligible for Medicaid experienced significant increases in health coverage, receipt of primary care services, and lower out-of-pocket costs from the federal expansion of Medicaid via the Affordable Care Act. Further, the Inflation Reduction Act expanded premium tax credits and reduced drug prices to further lower healthcare costs.

I am proud that so many organizations and advocates in Illinois actively fight to protect Americans with disabilities. For example, Access Living is a Chicago-based, advocacy nonprofit that has worked for over 4 decades to increase accessibility to transportation, housing, and education. The Legal Council for Health Justice uses legal services to dismantle barriers to healthcare and to help individuals access services and benefits. Equip for Equality serves as a federally-mandated legal advocate and watchdog. The Arc of Illinois advocates for people with disabilities to so that Illinoisans can fully participate in their communities, providing education and advocacy services. Chicago ADAPT promotes disability and civil rights, be in through housing accessibility, workforce accessibility and equity, or promoting community-based care. And, the City of Chicago's HomeMod program removes barriers to housing by working with home remodeling companies to provide home accessibility modifications.

Every American deserves equal opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act stands as testament to the determination and unrelenting will of thousands of activists, advocates, and policymakers. As we celebrate its anniversary, I renew my commitment to fight to realize the fundamental right of every American to an accessible America.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF FORMER
MARYLAND STATE SENATOR
NORMAN R. STONE, JR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend former Maryland State Senator Norman R. Stone, Jr., who sadly passed away last month at the age of 87. I join many Marylanders and Americans in mourning his loss and in giving thanks for his life of service.

Elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1962 and later to the State Senate in 1966, Norman served in the Maryland General Assembly for 52 years. We became good friends and close colleagues during our time in the State Senate together. He had become the longest-serving member of the Maryland General Assembly by the time of his retirement in 2015. Not only was the length of Norman's tenure admirable, so too was his character.

Norman was 1 of the most steadfast, trustworthy, and honest people I've known. Although I did not agree with him on every issue, he never judged me or anyone else for a difference in opinion. He was humble and forthright—never 1 to resort to showmanship and politicking. You always knew where he stood on an issue. And you always knew that Norman would do what he thought was right for his constituents. He was truly an exemplary legislator.

Norman showed devotion not only to public service but also to his family. My prayers are with his wife of 38 years Joanne; his children Norman, David, Jerry, and Lori; his stepson Lennie Lehner, Jr.; his 7 grandchildren; and the rest of his family. I like so many others throughout our community and state, grieve with them.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Norman, who lived a life worthy of emulation—a life of service, character, and conviction.

RECOGNIZING THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDRING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan, it is my honor to recognize the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. For nearly a century, Türkiye and the Turkish people have served as a beacon of cooperation, democratic ideals, and good citizenship.

Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to travel to Turkey, meet with Turkish leaders, and get to know the Turkish-American community in Michigan Turkish Republic Day is an annual milestone and has been celebrated with great pride and joy since the republic's founding on October 29th, 1923, by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. By replacing an aging empire with a vibrant democratic republic, Türkiye facilitated its own modernization

and established itself on the National stage, including by being an important member of NATO for 70 years. Today, Türkiye remains a vital ally—from our work together against terrorist organizations, to countering international adversaries like Russia.

In Michigan, the Turkish diaspora community and those of Turkish descent have had a lasting impact on our state's culture, economic development, and education system, and have personified Michigan's ideal citizen. This especially includes the Turkish-American Cultural Association of Michigan, which has worked to promote Turkish culture and support programs benefitting the welfare of citizens throughout the state. The impact of their work on the people and communities of Michigan cannot be understated.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Turkish Republic Day and the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. I join with my constituents in celebration with the Turkish people, and wish them the best as they venture into the future.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP BRUNELLE'S
80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Philip Brunelle, world-renowned conductor, organist, and choral scholar, in celebration of his 80th birthday.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Brunelle has promoted the choral arts in all its forms. At age 19, he became the youngest member of the Minnesota Orchestra, and by age 25, he was appointed choirmaster of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, MN, a position that he still holds today. In 1969 Mr. Brunelle founded VocalEssence, 1 of the largest and most prestigious choral organizations in the country. Under his leadership, VocalEssence has commissioned more than 300 works to date, promoting rarely heard works from the past in addition to remarkable new music. VocalEssence has brought great distinction to the Twin Cities arts community, earning numerous recognition and awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, as well as the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence, an outstanding achievement and an unparalleled honor in the choral music community.

Mr. Brunelle is an institution within the choral music community, and a brilliant artist in his own right. Mr. Brunelle has conducted symphonies across the country, including the New York Philharmonic, the Seattle Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra, and directed choral festivals and operas around the globe. For more than 40 years, Mr. Brunelle served as a guest conductor and pianist on American Public Radio's A Prairie Home Companion, appearing on its first and final broadcasts. In 2002, Mr. Brunelle brought choirs from around the world to Minnesota for the International Choral Music Symposium, and in 2020, he was awarded The American Prize in Choral Conducting and was presented with the Honorary Member award by the Society for American Music.

Mr. Brunelle has left an indelible mark on the world of choral music globally and at home in Minnesota. He has spent his life working enthusiastically to foster new talent and to expose new audiences to choral and orchestral music of every genre and style. We are so fortunate to benefit from his boundless talent, and happily, he shows no signs of stopping.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to honor Mr. Brunelle today and celebrate him on his 80th birthday.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF DEUTSCHE BANK IN JACKSONVILLE

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of Deutsche Bank in Jacksonville, Florida. Over the past 15 years, Deutsche Bank has played an integral role in supporting our region's thriving financial sector and community.

While Deutsche Bank's roots in America go back to 1872, their Jacksonville office began as a small operation in 2008 consisting of approximately 100 employees. Since then, the Jacksonville office has grown to become Deutsche Bank's second largest location in the Americas, employing approximately 2,400 talented individuals and generating significant local economic activity.

The Deutsche Bank Jacksonville office is a multi-functional site that generates new business and provides client and bank-wide support services with a significant presence and expertise in sales and trading, anti-financial crime, compliance, technology, cyber security services, client onboarding and operational support. In the last 15 years, the office has created thousands of jobs, financed local businesses, and supported many community causes such as public education, the arts, combating hunger, work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and congratulate Deutsche Bank for 15 years of operation in Jacksonville. On behalf of Florida's 5th Congressional District, I wish Deutsche Bank Jacksonville and its staff continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, 2023, I was absent from the House floor and missed Roll Call vote No. 369. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 369, H.R. 4366 (Amendment No. 1).

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL HARRY SEXTON

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Harry Edman Sexton, a U.S. Marine Corp Colonel who graduated from my alma mater, Anaheim High School, in 1950.

Born in Anaheim, Colonel Sexton passed away Feb. 15, 2023, after living 90 years of a full life that included a distinguished military career.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps 2 years after graduating from Anaheim High and served for 26 years.

A Navy Cross awardee, our country's second-highest award for bravery, Colonel Sexton flew more than 400 combat missions during two tours of Vietnam. During his first tour, he commanded the only Marine F-8 Crusader Fighter Squadron to deploy from Navy Carrier USS *Oriskany*.

On his second tour, he commanded a squadron of HMLA-367 "Scarface" Cobra Helicopters, providing air support, day or night, under all weather conditions, to Marine ground combat units.

He received the Navy Cross for heroism during Operation Tailwind as he and his fellow "Scarface" Cobra Gunships engaged the enemy to provide cover for the extraction of a nearly overwhelmed force of U.S. Army Special Operators out of Laos.

He was also awarded two Legion of Merits with Combat "V", a Distinguished Flying Cross, 44 Air Medals/Strike Flight Awards, and was inducted into the Golden Eagles for his distinguished career as an aviator.

His wife of 65 years, Ann, son Harry Jr., and daughter Stacie will remember him as a husband and father who lived for others, giving freely of his time, skill, and love to all who were fortunate enough to have known him. He

is also survived by 4 grandchildren; and a great grandson.

I thank the Colonel for his service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD W. DUNCAN

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Gerald W. Duncan, who passed away on July 10, 2023, after a valiant three-plus year fight against Alzheimer's Disease.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and a master's in business administration from Radford University, Mr. Duncan began his career in 1967 as a software developer with the Research, Development, & Acquisition Information Systems Agency, Department of the Army, where he was honored with many awards during his 35 years of service.

He then pivoted careers, being elected as Treasurer of Giles County in 2000. His success as Treasurer led him to being voted Treasurer of the Year for the State of Virginia. Mr. Duncan loved serving the people of Giles County and had an open-door policy during his time as Treasurer.

When not working, Mr. Duncan loved to hunt deer, bears, and turkey throughout the country. He was elected president of the Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for 3 consecutive terms, championing conservation of the wild turkey.

But most importantly, Mr. Duncan's proudest achievement was being a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Duncan is survived by his wife, Ruth Duncan of Blacksburg; oldest son, Troy Duncan and wife, Heather, of New Castle; youngest son, Mark Duncan and wife, Eva, of Catawba; daughter, Margee Sisson and husband, Dougie, of Shawsville; grandchildren, Haley Chandler of Clearfield, Utah, Hagan Chandler and wife, Kierston, of Riner, Tanner Duncan of Richmond, Andrew Duncan of New Castle, Elijah Duncan of Catawba, and Summer Norwood of Shawsville; great-grandson, Myles Chandler of Riner; and great-granddaughter, Everly Chandler of Riner. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Mr. Duncan was known by his friends and family as being extremely kind and having unwavering determination throughout his life, always offering a helping hand to those in need. I know he will be greatly missed.