

keeping busy with his hands. They count it as a privilege to have spent their entire married life in Christian ministry sharing the love of Jesus.

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HONORING JUDGE RICHARD C. VARA

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**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 44½ years of service and dedication of Houston's own Judge Richard C. Vara, a trailblazer who was the youngest person to be elected Justice of the Peace at that time.

Judge Vara grew up in the historic east end of Houston, graduating from Austin High School, the University of Houston, and South Texas College of Law.

The Judge got his first encounter with politics by going to LULAC meetings with his parents. This sense of service to the Latino community remained with him throughout his career.

Both in the courtroom and in the community, Judge Vara has exemplified public service and commitment to bettering his community.

He has created and volunteered for countless organizations in Houston, all aimed at improving the lives of those around him.

Please join me in congratulating Judge Richard Vara for his many years of service. Felicidades.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. BURGESS OWENS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 417.

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**HASC HEARING ON EXAMINING IRREGULARITY IN THE STRATEGIC BASING PROCESS FOR U.S. SPACE COMMAND**

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**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America is grateful for the leadership of Chairman MIKE ROGERS of Alabama for his vision and persistence to support the creation of U.S. Space Command along with President Donald Trump. This recognizes the threats of dictators, war criminal Putin and the CCP who have developed capabilities in space to threaten American families—we can achieve peace through strength.

It is sad when political interference controls basing, not first the priority of national security.

In South Carolina, we experienced this as the Charleston Naval Base was re-located to New Hampshire. The obvious advantages of Charleston with a temperate climate of unlim-

ited operations was ignored as the then Senate Majority Leader was from Maine with his constituents commuting to New Hampshire.

Congressman AUSTIN SCOTT is correct. Now Politics determines where the missions go. This is a dangerous game, with national security to suffer.

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HONORING HEALTHLINC CEO BETH WROBEL

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**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Ms. Beth Wrobel and wish her well upon her retirement as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HealthLinc. For her lifelong commitment to providing quality health care to communities throughout the region, she is to be commended.

In 2002, Ms. Wrobel became CEO of HealthLinc. At the time, HealthLinc was a single, free medical clinic serving the local community. Under her direction, HealthLinc expanded its medical services to include pediatrics, women's health, and prenatal care, while also adding service lines including dental, optometry, behavioral health, substance abuse, podiatry, chiropractic, clinical pharmacy, health insurance enrollment, medical legal partnership, and more. The organization continues to grow and is comprised of twelve clinics across Northern Indiana, as well as two school-based telehealth clinics, one mobile medical and dental clinic, and a team of more than 490 employees. As CEO, Ms. Wrobel has worked tirelessly to ensure the accessibility of affordable, quality care to countless individuals and families who are underinsured, uninsured, or unable to pay. For her outstanding dedication to the people of Northern Indiana, especially those most in need, Ms. Wrobel is worthy of the highest praise.

In addition to her noteworthy career, Ms. Wrobel has offered her time and support to numerous foundations and organizations throughout the years. Among her many leadership roles, Ms. Wrobel has served on the board of directors for the National Association of Community Health Centers, and she currently serves as trustee for Ivy Tech Community College's Valparaiso Campus. She is also a member of the board of directors for the Indiana Primary Healthcare Association.

Ms. Wrobel's dedication to serving the residents of Northern Indiana is exceeded only by her love and devotion to her three sons, Chris, Tom, and David, her daughter-in-law, Heather, and her cherished grandson, J.J. I wish her quality time with her family in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Beth Wrobel for her unwavering commitment to improving health care throughout Northern Indiana and beyond and in wishing her well upon her retirement. For her many remarkable contributions, Ms. Wrobel is worthy of our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO REP. DAVID MACK III

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**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a passionate civil rights advocate, trusted community voice, and humble public servant. South Carolina State Representative David James Mack III transitioned from this life on September 20, 2023, in Charleston, South Carolina. He will be well remembered and sorely missed.

David Mack III was born on December 13, 1953, in Charleston, South Carolina to David J. Mack, Jr. and Dorothy Mack. Representative Mack attended Charleston public schools and pursued higher education at Howard University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975. There he joined Omega Psi Phi, my own fraternity, which he credited with having played a pivotal role in shaping his values and his work throughout his life. He embodied the cardinal principles he learned as a proud member of our Omega brotherhood: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

The value of community service was instilled in Representative Mack early in his life. After graduating from Howard, he returned to Charleston and began working at the Committee on Better Racial Assurance (COBRA). At COBRA, he dedicated himself to the organization's mission of bringing about equality in the Charleston community and providing services for individuals and families with Sickle Cell Anemia. Representative Mack served at the organization for 47 years in various capacities, including Part-Time Assistant Director, Coordinator of Sickle Cell Services, and Part-Time Hemoglobinopathy Counselor. He also served on COBRA's Board of Directors until his passing.

In addition to his work at COBRA, Representative Mack served the Charleston community in numerous ways. He worked with the Carolina Youth Development Center and served on the Boards of Directors of the Opportunities Industrialization Center and the South Carolina Substance Abuse Commission. He was also a passionate civil rights advocate and served on the Board of the South Carolina Coalition for Black Voter Participation. He was a member of the North Charleston Branch of the NAACP and Charleston Chapter of Rainbow PUSH.

Representative Mack was a firm believer in the notion that knowledge is power and relished the opportunity to communicate important information to the people of Charleston. He became the host of the WPAL Radio station talk show "Open Rap" in 1979, and "Drive Time Dialogue" in 1986. At Sunrise Communications of Charleston, where Representative Mack served as president, he created the PM Urban Edition talk show. Most recently, David created The David Mack Radio Show where he had conversations with civil leaders, academics, and health professionals in the Charleston community.

Representative Mack was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for District 109 in 1997 and served in the South Carolina General Assembly for 24 years. Deeply respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, he served with distinction on the

Labor, Commerce, and Industry; Judiciary; and Medical, Military, and Municipal Affairs committees. He was also a proud member of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman.

A man of faith, Representative Mack was a longtime member and leader of the historic Old Bethel United Methodist Church in downtown Charleston. He was beloved by his family, and together with his wife Sheryl Ann they had 3 sons—David IV, Brandon, and Daniel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Representative David Mack III. The entire Charleston community and the state of South Carolina is grateful for his lifetime of public service. He leaves a rich legacy that will continue to touch generations of South Carolinians for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 to H.R. 4365—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 is an important and potentially life-saving amendment in an unfortunate and distracting appropriations bill.

Namely, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 seeks to allocate \$10 million to fund Triple Negative Breast Cancer Research (“TNBC”).

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

Breast cancer accounts for 12.5 percent of all new annual cancer cases worldwide, making it the most common cancer in the world.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20-40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

There are few people in this country whose lives have not been touched by breast cancer.

Yet, there are persistent disparities in breast cancer incidence and death rates:

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States for Black and Hispanic women.

Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group.

Experts believe that it's partially because about 1 in 5 Black women is diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, more than any other racial or ethnic group.

Compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are less likely to receive guideline adherent care and have an approximate 2-fold higher mortality incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer (“TNBC”) is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts for about 15–30 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States.

Due to its aggressive behavior, TNBC grows quickly and is more likely to have spread at the time it is found and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer.

TNBC cells do not contain (are “negative for”) three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers; therefore, there are limited treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer.

Patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians.

Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against TNBC.

Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of TNBC on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations about the underlying determinants driving the disparities.

It is necessary to promote TNBC education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle inequities within the health care delivery such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and survival.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

We all know, by the way, that breast cancer can affect both men and women.

The bad news is breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat.

Let me say that sentence again. Breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat.

More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011. And according to that same study, more are suspected. It grows.

The good news is that we have been working on it, and I want to add my appreciation to the military. This amendment, however, will allow for the additional research needed.

As new young women come into the United States military, as women stay longer in the United States military, as women get older in the United States military, as women ascend to leadership roles in the United States military, these dollars provide research.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly

greater risk for contracting breast cancer, says Dr. Richard Clapp, a top cancer expert at Boston University who works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on military breast cancer issues. He says life in the military can mean exposure to a witch's brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

So, my friends, I am asking that we do the right thing.

We are on the right track, we are on the right rail, we are on the right road.

But with the expansion of women in the military, I can assure you, for long life, a vital service that these men and women give, it is extremely important to move forward with this amendment.

Researchers have pointed to a higher use of oral contraception in the military than in the general population, and oral contraception has long been linked to breast cancer among women—an alarming factor that would ensure that this particular amendment would be a positive step forward.

Despite significant advancements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, more progress can and must be made, not only to reduce the fatality rate of breast cancer, but also to research methods of prevention and ways to drastically reduce risk factors.

To this end, I have over the years been successful in winning passage of several Jackson Lee Amendments to the National Defense Appropriations Act in prior years to improve breast cancer research across the United States.

I am here today seeking support for the same amendment to provide increased funding for the Defense Health Program's research and development by \$10 million. These funds would specifically address the issue of breast cancer in the United States military.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as Triple Negative Breast Cancer research funding.

Additionally, I have introduced H.R. 20, the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Education Act of 2013, which focuses on expanding, intensifying, and coordinating programs for the conduct and support of research on triple-negative breast cancer, a type of breast cancer that is difficult to detect but disproportionately impacts African American and Hispanic women.

I am very proud of the work that I and Congress have done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

As a breast cancer survivor myself, I understand the toll which this destructive disease takes on patients and their family members.

Support and encouragement are invaluable resources to those battling