

special events including weekly meals. He is a Veterans of Foreign Wars Lifetime Member and Officer and Vietnam Veterans Association of America Lifetime Member. John was honored as the State of Texas 2020 Appointment of the Year for Continued Service to Veterans of Vietnam War and All Wars.

John is very active in Meadowbrook Baptist Church where among other things, John and his wife Carol plan and supervise Wednesday night family night meals for one-hundred and fifty members from August to May of each year.

For an American who lives by "Never Stop Serving", I proudly award retired United States Air Force Major John R. Knue the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Childhood cancers force the most vulnerable among us to be the most courageous and call upon loved ones to overcome the unimaginable. Luckily, the federal government, universities, hospitals, and nonprofits are driving the research needed to treat and ultimately, cure these diseases.

I'm proud to say that one such non-profit is located in my district: Cannonball Kids Cancer Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of Cannonball Kids' staff, volunteers, and donors, the organization has awarded millions of dollars in research grants to top universities and clinics across the country that are striving to find a cure. Because of their important work, children and their loved ones will one day never have to experience the devastating news of a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WOODY KAPLAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JAMIE RASKIN, to honor the memory of Woody Kaplan, a civil rights champion, freethinker, and philanthropist who passed away at the age of 80 on August 3, 2023.

Woody was a prince of a human and a trusted friend. It is impossible to fully capture how much he contributed to our Nation and to furthering the secular movement.

Woody's fierce advocacy for freedom of expression, church-state separation, reproductive freedom, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and other causes spanned decades.

A lifelong atheist who fought for every person's freedom of conscience, Woody co-founded the Secular Coalition for America, the largest coalition of national atheist, humanist, and secular organizations in the United States.

Under Woody's leadership, the Secular Coalition for America went from representing four

disparate national organizations to uniting 21 organizations in a formidable political movement. The Secular Coalition for America also established the first full-time lobbyist in Washington, D.C. representing atheist, humanist, and secular Americans.

Woody also served admirably in leadership and advisory roles at organizations including the Defending Dissent Foundation, American Atheists, American Humanist Association, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), and the Secular Student Alliance. As a former member of the ACLU's National Board of Directors, he helped establish the organization's endowment fund. As a young man, Woody traveled to Mississippi to work on voter registration drives.

Woody is survived by his wife Wendy Kaminer, an author and lawyer who shares Woody's passions and beliefs; his daughters Abigail and Emily; 11 grandchildren; his sister Nancy Fischman and her husband Steve; and many other family members, friends and admirers who he touched with his formidable life.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join my colleagues and me in extending condolences to Woody's family and friends, and in expressing our collective appreciation for his decades of work for the public good.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4367, the Republican FY24 Department of Homeland Security Act.

This bill is another example of House Republican leadership appeasing the most extreme members of their caucus and is another funding bill that has no path to become law. With the passage of the rule on Tuesday, Republicans decided to hold this bill hostage. For H.R. 4367 to even be sent to the Senate, Republicans are demanding that the Senate pass and the president sign their extreme immigration bill, the Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2). When it passed the House in May, President Biden had already stated he would not sign it.

This week, Republicans continued to add to the chaos when the House Rules Committee met late at night Wednesday and sent another rule to the floor with self-executing provisions that cater to the most extreme Republicans. Members like Representatives GAETZ and BOEBERT demanded significantly reduced H-2B visas that help fill workforce shortages and Republican leadership caved to their demands in order to pass the bill. By continuing to only negotiate with the farthest right members of their conference, House Republican leaders are not serious about preventing a government shutdown.

H.R. 4367 contains misguided investments that double down on failed border policy by redirecting \$2.1 billion to border wall construction while divesting from proven, modern detection technology. The bill also contains more extreme rightwing policy riders targeting the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's ability to defend Americans against

disinformation campaigns from foreign adversaries and domestic extremists.

As we continue to feel the effects of a changing climate, Republicans have also cut all climate resiliency funding from the Homeland Security bill—over \$748 million in investments to ensure that as the global climate changes, America is prepared for the effects of stronger storms, higher temperatures, and increased migration. The Department of Defense has declared climate change a national security threat, as regions become uninhabitable, and people are forced to move from their homes. By passing this Homeland Security bill, Republicans continue to ignore the fact that climate change is a real and imminent threat to American lives and communities.

I cannot support a partisan Homeland Security bill that does not focus on real solutions to the issues our country faces.

HONORING DR. CAPTANE "CAP" PETER THOMSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Captane "Cap" Peter Thomson. Dr. Thomson grew up in Berkeley, California and lived in Davis, California. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, friend, mentor, public servant, and leader in the field of mental health.

Dr. Thomson was the second generation of his family to attend the University of California (UC), Berkeley and box for their Varsity team. After receiving his M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), interning at Denver General Hospital, and serving four years in the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Thomson completed a residency in psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Thomson then earned an M.S. in Community Mental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and spent the next year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

After completing his education, Dr. Thomson settled in Davis and became the director and program chief of Yolo County Mental Health Services. He held this post for almost three decades, crafting ground-breaking programs to treat the severely mentally ill and help reintegrate people back into our communities. Dr. Thomson also served as a clinical professor of psychiatry at UC Davis and UCSF, joyfully passing along his wisdom to the next generation of psychiatrists. Always going where he was needed, Dr. Thomson gained his Board Certification in Forensic Psychiatry and served as an expert witness at trials and parole hearings of mentally ill persons caught up in the criminal justice system.

A lifelong adventurer, Dr. Thomson treated the indigenous peoples of Alaska as a U.S. Public Health Service Officer on the Bering Sea Patrol, sailed between Hawaii and Japan on a Coast Guard weather ship, and evaluated aspiring American citizens at the U.S. Consulate in Palermo, Italy. He severed as a doctor at the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Games and returned as a member of the Doctor's Ski Patrol at Sugar Bowl for 50 years.

Beyond his work, Dr. Thomson loved traveling with his family, going on adventures

around the world, visiting National Parks, and taking his family hiking all over his beloved Sierra Nevada mountains, where as a college student he worked in Yosemite as a fireguard. A lifelong runner and member of the Davis Aquatic Masters, he swam with a team across Lake Tahoe and completed numerous endurance swims, triathlons, and eight marathons, including the Boston Marathon. Dr. Thomson was also the banjo player and back-up vocalist for the popular folk and bluegrass music band, The Putah Creek Crawdads, treasurer of the Yolo County Credit Union, and avid walker of several generations of Cairn Terriers.

Dr. Thomson's unfailingly cheerful spirit, humble demeanor, sage guidance, and unflinching willingness always to stand up and fight for what is right and just, will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen, his children Morag, Iain, and Mungo, their spouses Kirsten and Kerry, his grandchildren Darian, Eno, Tamsin, and Emit, his brothers Pate and Duncan, and many more loving family members.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Captane "Cap" Thomson was a dedicated public servant and leader in our community.

HONORING ROSALINE COHEN'S
SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a valued member of my staff, Rosaline Cohen, who is retiring after more than two decades of exceptional service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many of you know Rosaline as the chief counsel for the Committee on Homeland Security, a position she has held since 2007. In that capacity, she has earned a reputation as a trusted and dedicated civil servant and an enviable track record for reaching bipartisan agreements. At the same time, she understands, on a deep level, what it takes to be effective as "the loyal opposition"—as some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would occasionally lament.

Rosaline has been at my side since I was first named ranking member in 2005 and has been a steadfast and strategic partner during some of the most tumultuous days for this institution and the country.

Rosaline will tell you that her congressional career actually began in the fall of 1990, as an intern in the office of the late Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts. She secured the internship—only days into her freshman year at George Washington University—after walking the halls of the House buildings with her first resume in hand, hoping to get an on-the-spot interview with an intern coordinator for a Member from her home State, Massachusetts.

Her next chapter with the House started in February 2000, when—as a newly-minted attorney—Rosaline began working for former Congressman Ken Bentsen, whose district included her law school alma mater, the University of Houston Law Center. About a year and

a half later, Rosaline was evacuated from the Capitol during the September 11th terrorist attacks, sheltering most of her office in her basement apartment.

Her next employer, the late Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, provided her with an opportunity to get to know the newly created Department of Homeland Security, as a personal office staffer to the then-Select Committee on Homeland Security. In 2005, when the committee was made permanent and I took on the job of serving as the Democratic ranking member, Rosaline was one of my first hires. She started by handling transportation security, appropriations, and management matters.

In 2007, in her first year as chief counsel on the committee, Rosaline spearheaded complex House-Senate conference negotiations over H.R. 1, legislation I introduced on behalf of the new Democratic majority to fully implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. In the years that followed, she has led our legislative efforts on everything from information sharing and emergency management to cyber and border security.

As chief counsel, Rosaline has shepherded 438 bills through the House and 165 measures into law, leaving her mark on nearly every section of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and other historic legislation. This is an extraordinary record, but more, it is a testament to Rosaline's dedication to our great Nation. Her contributions have undoubtedly made America a better and safer country for us all.

And while serving as my principal legislative advisor—supervising and developing a staff of more than 30 subcommittee directors, professional staff, and executive branch detailees and fellows—Rosaline always made time to mentor the next generation of public servants. You could often find her explaining to interns current proceedings on the House floor and calling staff into her office to stand over her shoulder to draft bills and develop legislative strategies together.

Members of Congress over the years and across the aisle, and staff, both senior and new, have depended on Rosaline's wisdom and capabilities.

Rosaline's contributions to the House of Representatives and our Nation are a source of pride for her husband, Yanev, son, Zachary, and mother, Cindy. Her work for Congress was also a point of pride for her late father, Ohaliav, a naturalized citizen.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Committee on Homeland Security—past and present—and the entire CHS staff, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating and congratulating Rosaline on her retirement. I wish her all the best as she explores new ways of sharing her talents.

RECOGNIZING NOAH COUGHLAN'S
FOURTH RUN ACROSS AMERICA

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I commend Noah Coughlan as he passes through Nashville today on his run across America.

Noah began his 167 day run to honor American soldiers and veterans on Memorial Day in

Blaine, Washington and plans to finish on Veterans Day in Miami, Florida. Carrying an American flag that was flown by the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Noah has made a point of stopping along the way to meet with veteran's organizations, county sheriffs, police officers, and others who have chosen to serve our country. Having previously run across the country in 2011, 2013, 2015 to raise awareness of various diseases, this will be Noah's fourth, and perhaps final, run across America. When he arrives in Miami, Noah will become the 5th person cross the United States on foot four times.

Noah views this as a way to bring unity to the country. Calling veterans the glue that holds the Nation together, Noah praised them for not only the service they do while members of the Armed Forces, but also the continuing service to the country as first responders, law makers, and other essential roles.

I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Noah the best of luck on the rest of his run to Miami.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
VINCENT J. TOBOLA, JR.
USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor retired Lieutenant Colonel Vincent J. Tobola, Jr., United States Air Force, of Waco, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

A proud graduate of Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola embarked on a distinguished 24-year career in the United States Air Force, during which he showcased exceptional leadership and commitment. His postings spanned from Kincheloe Air Force Base in Michigan, Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, to Griffis Air Force Base in New York, among others. In roles such as Chief of the Contracts Support Division, Director of Base Engineering, and Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, he managed assets worth billions and supervised contracts in the hundreds of millions. His exceptional service earned him numerous accolades, including five Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals, and various others marking his outstanding dedication to duty.

After retiring from the Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola continued his devotion to public service with the City of Waco, TX. Contributing significantly as the Waco Facilities Program Administrator and subsequently as the Facilities Manager. His leadership played a pivotal role in advancing major upgrades across various city facilities.

His spirit of service didn't end there. Following his retirement from the City of Waco in 2018, he remained deeply involved in the Heart of Texas Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Not only did he serve as the chapter's president for two years, but he is also the active Treasurer both at the chapter and state levels. Beyond his administrative