

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

roles, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola showcases his commitment by organizing MOAA's monthly membership meetings, special events, and the pivotal annual fundraiser. This fundraiser, under his guidance, has provided over \$140,000 in educational scholarships and supported Reserve Officer's Training Corps students in both high schools and universities throughout Waco.

For his enduring dedication to his nation, both in military service and beyond, and his embodiment of the MOAA's motto of "Never Stop Serving," it is with great admiration and respect that I present the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation to retired United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Vincent J. Tobola, Jr.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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 Solano Irrigation District on their 75th anniversary of serving our community.

Seventy-five years ago, the Solano Irrigation District (SID) sought to secure irrigation water from the Solano Water Project. This marked the beginning of a journey filled with challenges, achievements, and the steadfast pursuit of excellence. Since then, the district has played a pivotal role in providing vital resources to our community.

Today, the Solano Irrigation District stands as a cornerstone of our region's prosperity, delivering 141,000 acre-feet of irrigation water to over 59,000 acres of irrigable land. Not only does it supply bulk untreated water to a population of more than 300,000, including the cities of Benicia, Vacaville, Fairfield, and Vallejo, but it also treats and delivers drinking water to Suisun City, ensuring the well-being of our residents.

Unlike many other districts, SID does not need to import any water for its customers, thanks to its foresight in securing valuable water rights and access through 'The Solano Project.' This forward-thinking approach has made our district financially stable and well-managed, providing cost-efficient services while maintaining stable water rates.

Furthermore, the innovative spirit of the Solano Irrigation District is exemplified by the hydroelectric power plant at the base of Monticello Dam, a pioneering project that has set a remarkable precedent for local agencies across the United States.

The Solano Irrigation District has not only been a guardian of water resources but also a catalyst for progress and growth in our community. Its tireless efforts have made SID into a beacon of excellence, ensuring a prosperous future for Solano County.

Mr. Speaker, the Solano Irrigation District has been serving our residential and agricultural communities faithfully for 75 years.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE MARIE MCCOY, PASTOR EMERITUS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay my deepest respect in tribute to a wonderful woman of God, Dr. Rose Marie McCoy, who passed from this earthly realm to her heavenly home on September 13, 2023.

A wife, mother, grandmother, pastor, caregiver, community role model, missionary and counselor, Dr. Rose Marie was born on September 24, 1951, in Robbins, Illinois to parents Samuel Sr. and Jennie Eliza Merle Evans. Having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in the Spring of 1976, Rose Marie dedicated her life in service and selfless devotion to others throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Rose Marie met and married the love of her life Dr. William McCoy, over 57 years ago. Together they shared a love that withstood the test of time and created a strong family that will carry on their unique legacy. Rose Marie was steadfast in her commitment to the Lord, living each day as a living sacrifice that I am certain was holy and acceptable unto God, as her reasonable service.

You may be asking how I know Dr. Rose Marie McCoy so well and in response, I'd say that I've known her and her husband Chief Apostle Dr. William McCoy for decades upon decades. I have worked alongside Drs. Rose and William McCoy throughout Chicago's southside in an effort to improve the lives of our neighbors, friends, children, and other vulnerable populations in our community.

Dr. Rose Marie McCoy's enthusiasm for life and her dedication to others also showed in her work on behalf of the Brothers Keeper Outreach Church, which she co-founded with her husband. Additionally, Rose Marie was instrumental in development of the Brothers Keeper Community Resource Center and the International Pentecostal Assembly Ecumenical Faith and Community Action Network.

Collectively, Rose Marie's efforts and dedication to faith-based community social services has helped change the lives of countless individuals for the better. In fact, I would posit that perhaps all of our lives have been made better off simply by our interaction and association with pastor, Dr. Rose Marie McCoy along life's journey. To know Rose Marie, was to know genuine love, faith and service. May this beautiful soul rest with the Lord in peace.

To her family, including her husband Chief Apostle Dr. William McCoy and her children Victoria McCoy-Salter, Vanessa McCoy-Pulphus, Debracia McCoy Jones, Major Lee McCoy, and Otis McCoy, all of whom she leaves to carry on her works and love, I extend my sincerest condolences on your loved one's transition. I am truly grateful to Dr. Rose Marie McCoy, Pastor Emeritus for her tremendous contributions to so many in Chicago, Illinois, and our Nation. May God bless her, her family, and all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE IMPENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of the impending government shutdown on communities in my district that are experiencing the worst flash flooding since Hurricane Ida, which killed more than 40 people across the state. As we are in the middle of House Republican infighting that is jeopardizing the ability to keep the government open, our federal government's ability to serve the American people is threatened. Essential services from government agencies and employees pay will be affected as many face furlough and uncertainty about retroactive pay. In New York State, the Governor and Mayor have declared a state of emergency, but they cannot look to the federal government at a time when funding is uncertain.

Right now, in New York City, highways are closed, vehicles are stranded, subway trains have stalled, utility infrastructure is flooded and damaged, and many New Yorkers on the way to work and school have had their daily routines severely impacted. At a time like this we look to the federal government for resources, but Congress has not passed legislation to replenish the FEMA disaster relief fund, which is the primary pot of money the agency uses to respond to storms. Republicans refusing to work with Democrats and pass a clean Continuing Resolution are failing to support communities recovering from disasters during hurricane season. The Continuing Resolution Republicans have proposed hurts FEMA's readiness by neglecting the pressing need for additional disaster relief funds to address existing shortfalls and prepare for unforeseen future disasters. Due to climate change, storms have intensified and become more frequent across the country resulting in a record number of billion-dollar disasters to date. The importance of the FEMA disaster relief fund cannot be understated and the ability to deploy resources and funds by keeping the federal government open is even more critical.

Constituents in my district in Brooklyn and Queens living in single family homes and public housing complexes will be dealing with the impact of intense flash flooding for days after the storm passes. My constituents deserve a functioning government, not a shutdown. As communities vulnerable to flooding continue to bear the brunt of climate change, a government shutdown will leave New Yorkers and state and local government without critical assistance. Republican's refusal to fund the government will wreak havoc on New York's ability to recover from these floods in the days and months to come.