

of Webb County along with the entirety of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, Uvalde, and Zavala counties.

Representative King has had a storied history in the Texas State House. Over the course of his fifteen terms, King has served as chairman of the committees on Border and International Affairs, Agriculture and Livestock, and Licensing and Administrative Procedures. He currently serves as the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee.

King has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the First United Methodist Church and is a past president of the Kiwanis Club and the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

I am proud to honor the career of this great public servant. South Texas owes him a great debt for his decades of hard work to improve the lives of all his constituents.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS SHAKURYOR PEOPLES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples, a proud native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, who serves aboard the aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan*. Equipped with a full flight deck and more than 60 aircraft, including attack fighter jets and helicopters, aircraft carriers like the *USS Ronald Reagan* are among the largest warships in the world.

Peoples graduated from Vicksburg High School in 2014 and joined the Navy 10 years ago. Today, he serves as a boatswain's mate. Reflecting on his decision to join the Navy, Peoples stated, "I joined the Navy because I wanted to experience life. It allowed me to improve myself and experience the world." Peoples' service in the Navy is a continuation of the values instilled in him growing up in Vicksburg.

Peoples serves in a Navy that operates forward, around the world, and around the clock, promoting the Nation's prosperity and security. During his service, Peoples has had many opportunities to achieve his personal and professional goals. Serving in the Navy has given him the chance to grow as a person and to aspire for greatness.

Aircraft carriers have been the centerpiece of America's naval forces for more than 100 years, projecting power, sustaining sea control, bolstering deterrence, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maintaining enduring commitments worldwide. Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples embodies the spirit of service, commitment, and leadership that our Navy stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Petty Officer 2nd Class Shakuryor Peoples for his dedicated service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TONY RUSSELL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Tony Russell, the Superintendent of FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama.

As Superintendent, Mr. Russell has provided executive level management and leadership for the CDP, which provides unique, hands-on training to more than 60,000 emergency responders a year from state, local, tribal and territorial agencies. He oversees operations of the CDP's 176-acre campus, which is home to the only training facility in the country where civilian responders can train in a toxic agent environment and the Nation's only hospital training facility dedicated solely to preparing the healthcare, public health and environmental health specialists for mass casualty events related to terrorism or natural disasters.

Mr. Russell previously served as the Superintendent of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. During his tenure at EMI, he was deployed in support of critical agency priorities. In 2012, Mr. Russell assisted with the Superstorm Sandy response and recovery activities in New York. In 2014, he was designated as the Acting Region VIII Administrator, serving as the Senior Executive for all FEMA priorities and requirements in the states of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Utah.

In 2009, Mr. Russell was appointed by the President as the FEMA Region VI Regional Administrator and served in that capacity until 2012. In this role, he was responsible for all FEMA operational decisions within the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana.

During 2003 and 2009, Mr. Russell served as a Federal Coordinating Officer for FEMA's Region VIII. In addition to his FCO duties, in 2009 he assumed the role of Acting Director of the FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office for Hurricane Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, with offices throughout the state. He also managed FEMA operations in many complex disaster response and recovery operations across the country, including potential hurricanes in Texas, the Pandemic Influenza Regional Team, and the agency's support to the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Russell, a former United States Marine Corps Officer, holds an undergraduate degree in political science and management from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He earned two master's degrees from National University in San Diego in the areas of business administration (MBA) and management (MA). He also received a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and completed Executive Leadership Education at Harvard University.

Mr. Russell is an active member of the emergency management community, including the International Association of Emergency Managers, and holds the designation of Certified Emergency Manager.

Mr. Speaker, please Join me in recognizing this milestone for my friend, Tony Russell.

URGING ACTION TO CONFRONT THE STILLBIRTH PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the stillbirth public health crisis, with over 21,000 stillbirths every year—almost 60 babies dying every day. At least one out of every four stillbirths is estimated to be preventable, but there is still too much we don't know. That's why we need real change that will lead to measurable improvements in outcomes for families.

H.R. 5012, the Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act I introduced with my colleague Rep. YOUNG KIM, would improve data collection, invest in research and raise awareness of the causes and risk factors associated with stillbirth.

I would like to include in the RECORD a link to the stories of more than 1,500 families impacted by the stillbirth crisis: <https://castor.house.gov/UploadedFiles/H.R.-5012-SHINE-for-Autumn-Act-Testimonies-1.pdf>. I urge my colleagues to bring the SHINE for Autumn Act to the floor to confront this crisis and improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

LIBERTY IN LAUNDRY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7673, the Liberty in Laundry Act. This bill is the latest Republican attempt to manufacture a crisis and reject commonsense rulemaking from the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, why would we want less efficient washers and dryers? Americans want home appliances that are going to save them money on their energy and water bills. I learned this lesson well when I worked at Sears selling home appliances. The customers who I helped buy a new appliance would ask me about the energy efficiency of the new appliance they were considering and how it compared to the one they had at home. That is why I support the commonsense energy efficiency standards set by the Department of Energy. The Biden administrations' past and planned energy efficiency actions are estimated to save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next thirty years.

This bill would tie the hands of the Department of Energy (DOE) as they finalize and enforce efficiency standards for laundry machines. Contrary to the fearmongering of the Republican House majority, the Biden Administration did not create these rules to take away your home appliances. Congress mandates that DOE sets efficiency standards for appliances. The proposed rules would update twelve years old energy efficiency standard. The new standards were part of a consensus recommendation made by appliance manufacturers and efficiency advocates. H.R. 7673

would prohibit DOE from finalizing these new standards.

With only six legislative days to go until temporary funding expires for the federal government, the House Republican majority has thus far failed to complete a spending package for Fiscal Year 2025. They also failed to act on the Farm Bill, which is now 14 months overdue. Yet, this week, the Republicans are wasting precious time considering a bill to ban energy efficiency standards for laundry machines. This is a disappointing, yet unsurprising, end to what has been a historically unproductive Congress. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7637 should be rejected. I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

HONORING DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE SHIKANY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Chief Mike Shikany for his outstanding 31 years of service to the Bedford Police Department and to recognize his well-earned retirement.

Deputy Chief Shikany devoted his career to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, beginning his journey with the Bedford Police Department in October 1993 as a Police Officer, and through hard work and perseverance, rose through the ranks. From Police Corporal in 2003, to Sergeant in 2008, Lieutenant in 2020, and ultimately to Deputy Chief in 2024, his leadership has been a guiding force for the department.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Shikany has played a pivotal role in shaping the department's success, leading the Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, and mentoring countless officers. His commitment to professional development is reflected in his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, the Master Peace Officer Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, and graduation from the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police.

Deputy Chief Shikany has earned numerous accolades, including Employee of the Quarter in 2014, a Certificate of Merit in 2013, and Patrol Divisional Employee of the Year in 2005. His career is further distinguished by numerous letters of commendation, each underscoring his exceptional dedication to law enforcement and the safety of our community.

Deputy Chief Shikany's remarkable service has left a mark on the Bedford Police Department and improved the lives of the people he has served. I thank him for his tireless commitment in protecting North Texans. On behalf of a grateful community, I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best in this next chapter of his life.

HONORING LEONARD LOWINGER
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Leonard Lowinger on his 90th birthday.

This month Leonard Lowinger—who normally goes by Lenny or Len—turned 90 years old. Born on December 4, 1934, Len was raised in Mount Vernon, New York. Growing up he attended AB Davis High School where he played as a defensive guard and a kicker on the high school's football team. After graduating high school, Len enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a radar operator out of the Wadena Air Force Station in Minnesota during the Korean War. Len left the Air Force with the rank of Airman 2nd Class.

After his time in the service, he met his soulmate, Harriet Robbie, and the two were married on September 21, 1957. They had three wonderful children—Marci, Jeff, and Judy.

Len went into the dairy industry working for Belford Farms for forty years. When Len was not with his family or working, he filled his free time by bowling and playing golf. He also loved being a referee for high school football and basketball.

Today, Len lives in Somerset, New Jersey in my congressional district where he is loved by his three children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, Harriet passed away in 2023 after 65 wonderful years together.

Most recently, Len was just elected the Resident Council President at his assisted living community The Bristol in Somerset—Congratulations.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Len a happy and healthy birthday.

HONORING SGT. GARNETT FRANKLIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired, tenacious, and self-motivated U.S. Army veteran, Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin. Sgt. Franklin enjoyed a long career in serving and teaching.

Garnett T. Franklin was born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He graduated from JFK High School in Mound Bayou in 1969. After high school, he enlisted in the Army, dedicated over two decades to serving in the U.S. Army Active Duty as a construction engineer. His military service offered many opportunities to serve at various Army bases and stations, such as Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Benning, Georgia for Jump School. He also traveled to Japan, Korea, Belvoir, Germany, and participated in the Return of Forces to Europe. He retired at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1993.

After retiring, he relocated back to Mississippi and began teaching JROTC in Jack-

son Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, which included Murrah High and Lanier High School. Later, he returned to Belgium to join his family and worked with the Department of Defense in Washington State for 17 years as a fitness specialist at MWR.

Upon returning home to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, he spends his time volunteering in the community and surrounding areas. He also volunteers with a male group of concerned citizens known as the Development Committee. This group started by cleaning up the grounds of a long-standing local service station, cutting grass, pulling vines, and refurbishing an old neighborhood house. They also maintain the facility building and the Taborian Hospital grounds. Now known as the unofficial "beautification committee," this volunteer group takes pride in completing various projects around the city. As the holiday season approaches, they are preparing by putting up lights and decorations in the Milburn Crow Memorial Park and on the grounds of the Taborian Hospital for the entire city to visit and enjoy.

Volunteering in his hometown allows him to give back to the community and enjoy the pleasures of retired life. Sgt. Franklin firmly believes that the military offers valuable pathways to personal and professional growth. His life's path has shown that the military is a great career starter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Garnett T. Franklin for his passion for leadership, service and volunteerism to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LAREDO
DAYBREAK ROTARY CLUB

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor forty years of the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club. Their civic and community engagement has been a force in south Texas for decades, and I cannot wait to see what they can accomplish in the future.

Founded in 1984, the Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has kept a keen focus on the healthcare of the community. And that focus has produced incredible results.

The club's first major initiative, helping Rotary International eradicate polio, raised more than 100 percent of their chapter goal. They then raised \$125,000 to establish aerobic exercise courts on several school campuses across the district.

Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club also put on annual screenings for glaucoma and assisted with Shots Across Texas. In districts like mine, such work is extremely important in promoting a healthy community. They are also involved in international health projects like building a clinic in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I applaud them for it.

I also want to take note of perhaps one of their greatest accomplishments. The Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club has presented \$100,000 for the endowment of Texas A&M International University and another \$100,000 for Laredo Community College.

These funds, which were raised by an annual raffle originally started to help eradicate