

blended families met. By 1990, Packer had moved up the ranks at Waterford to become the plant's general manager. His promotion made him the first African American to manage a nuclear power plant. He was responsible for the entire operation of the site, from nuclear safety to profitability. It was a massive job, performed under the shadow of the immense environmental damage that could happen if an accident occurred. Dan believed there was nothing more complicated than being the plant manager of a nuclear power plant. Under Packer, the Waterford plant received some of the highest ratings in the country.

After 27 years in the nuclear industry on the technical side, Packer made the move to the executive offices. In 1996, he became a director of Entergy New Orleans. In that role, his main task was dealing with local government regulators. "He moved into a very political environment when he moved downtown," another Entergy executive told the Times-Picayune. "It was an interesting move. The stereotype of technical people is that they don't mix well in the political area, but he did an excellent job of understanding politics." Packer landed in New Orleans in the middle of a simmering pot of discontent. Since the early 1980s, New Orleans and Entergy had been brewing trouble. Rising energy costs, poor customer service, and over-billing charges plagued the company. In addition, the city of New Orleans and Entergy had engaged in a legal battle that went up to the federal level over the shared costs of building a Gulf Coast nuclear facility. Packer impressed those on both sides of the debate by using an approach that has become a hallmark of his leadership—diplomatically building bridges between opposing parties. "At the beginning, he was a quiet guy. He had been in nuclear before that, but obviously, he was a quick learner," a city council member told the Times-Picayune. "I think he learned early on that the way to get things done was to develop a relationship with the council and consumers, and I think he did a pretty good job of that." Entergy Corporation's CEO Wayne Leonard was also impressed. "[Packer] never came to me once and said: 'This was unfair; I shouldn't have been held accountable,'" Leonard told the Times-Picayune. "The bottom line was that he was an adult. A lot of times, you look around, and you see a lot of talented people, but you don't see a lot of grown-ups." The result was that Packer was appointed president of Entergy New Orleans in 1997. The CEO title was added in 1998. As CEO, Packer is responsible for all aspects of the company: power distribution, customer service, economic development, financial performance, and regulatory and governmental affairs.

As CEO, Packer continued to impress people within and outside the industry. In 2001, gas prices surged, leaving many New Orleanians struggling to meet payments. Packer announced that Entergy would not cut off power for non-payment. "It may sound like it was a natural thing to do, but, from a business standpoint, it was an extraordinary move," an Entergy executive told New Orleans City Business. "Dan's decision was, for some people, the difference between waking up in the dark and being able to turn the lights on. That was a defining moment in my professional relationship with him. In business school, you learn to make sure you can earn

and collect on any amount. What you don't learn in school are the leadership traits it takes to make a tough decision." Packer's most challenging job arrived on August 29, 2005, in the form of Hurricane Katrina. The storm flooded half of the utility's substations and two power plants. Nearly 100 percent of its clients were left without power. In September, Entergy New Orleans filed for bankruptcy protection. By the end of the year, almost 70 percent of Entergy New Orleans's client base was gone, and large swaths of the region were still without power. History has watched to see whether Packer's renowned strategic skills and unflappable attitude could save his company and restore regular services to its clients. He proved successful and retired from Entergy year-end, 2006. Though retirement was never in his plans, Dan continued his skills as President and CEO of Urban Solutions Inc., a multi-faceted firm involved with projects associated with an urban environment.

Key appointments and memberships included the American Association of Blacks in Energy, president emeritus; NFL Stadium Advisory Commission, chairman, 2001; New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce, chairman, 2001; New Orleans Aviation Board, chairman, 2002; Bring New Orleans Back Commission, member; Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Acacia Lodge No. 248 and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Alpha Boule (New Orleans Chapter). Notable awards include YMCA, Black Achievement Award, 1988; Tulane University, Weiss Award, 2001; Boy Scouts of America, Southeast Louisiana Council, Whitney Young Service Award, 2004; and King of the Mobile Mardi Gras.

The Man, the Legacy, will never be forgotten. He touched so many in every facet of his life, fulfilling opportunities and dreams throughout his career. I am honored to say he was my dear friend and mentor. Rest well friend. His legacy will live on forever.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable individual who dedicated his life to shaping our community and advancing our nation's energy sector. Joseph L. Fiordaliso, a true visionary and champion for renewable energy, passed away on September 6, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of innovation and progress that will continue to inspire generations to come. As President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities since 2005, Joseph was a fierce advocate for affordable and reliable utility service. In May 2023, President Fiordaliso was appointed to the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Joseph Fiordaliso's passion for service has never wavered throughout his storied career of public service to the people of New Jersey. Beginning with his role as Student Council President at Newark's East Side High School, Joseph carried an innate passion for education and leadership. He served more than

18 years as an educator for the Bloomfield and Valisburg communities. As a teacher, Joseph enjoyed cultivating the talents of countless students and the thrill of catapulting his students towards true academic achievement.

Shortly thereafter, Fiordaliso began serving his community of Livingston, New Jersey as Councilman for the Township. As a local leader, Joseph advocated for greater resources for seniors and revitalized the Livingston Arts Council. For 12 years as Mayor of Livingston, he formed long-lasting state and federal relationships by hosting Members of Congress, U.S. Senators, Governors, and Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992.

Through his steadfast advocacy for Livingston, Joseph Fiordaliso was able to coordinate and host an official stop of the Olympic Torch of the 1996 Summer Olympic games.

Joseph Fiordaliso held leadership positions as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way, the Board of Directors of the Livingston YMCA, the Board of Directors of the First Occupational Center of New Jersey, and was a proud member of UNICO, the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. Later, Joseph was honored as UNICO's Citizen of the Year in 2003.

Now, as we honor Joseph Fiordaliso's memory as a prominent leader and public servant for New Jersey, we will always appreciate the tremendous progress in the transition to cleaner forms of energy. Joseph's signature windmill lapel pin served as a reminder for his vision of making New Jersey an offshore wind industry hub. His extensive work and legacy earned Fiordaliso due recognition as a national leader on utility and energy issues.

Mr. Speaker, from the bottom of my heart, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Joseph Fiordaliso for his outstanding work. I thank Joseph Fiordaliso. May God bless his soul and may his wife Marilyn, two children Joe and Dana stand proud.

CONGRATULATING DR. TERRENCE CRONIN FOR HIS COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY PRESIDENT

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Dr. Terrence Cronin on his completion of his term as the American Academy of Dermatology President. For eighteen years, Dr. Cronin has been involved with the Academy at a leadership level and helped represent thousands of dermatological physicians and the patients they serve.

As President, Dr. Cronin led the world's largest dermatologic society, representing more than 20,800 physicians. He has also been a staunch advocate for Medicare payment reform to help ensure good quality of care for seniors by fighting cuts to physician reimbursement.

Dr. Cronin earned his medical degree from Wake Forest University in North Carolina and completed his dermatology residency at the University of Miami. At the University of Miami, he also served as the chief resident, where he

oversaw clinical scheduling, managing resident education programs, and served as a liaison between the residents and the facility.

Before his term as President, Dr. Cronin served as a chair of the Academy's Advisory Board, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Cronin on a fantastic job as the American Academy of Dermatology President and wish him well as he continues his work with the Academy and his private practice in Melbourne, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS- ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2024, which would help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill would offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees would be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums and be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a nonwork-related injury or illness or pregnancy. This bill is more important now than ever with the prevalence of so-called Long COVID.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period, such as following surgery. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. This bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as many of their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates, an option unavailable to federal employees. This bill would prohibit participating insurance companies from excluding employees based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill would provide these benefits at a lower rate than is available for employees purchasing as individuals, as many do. Under this bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group coverage available to many workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ROBERT DITTMER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Dittmer. Mr. Dittmer, who passed away at the age of 103, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to his country and the Solano County Community.

Born in Oakland, California in 1920, Mr. Dittmer was a lifelong resident of Northern California. As America entered World War II, Mr. Dittmer's commitment to his country led him to join the United States Army Air Corps. He flew 35 successful combat missions over Germany, ultimately becoming a Second Lieutenant and earning an Air Medal for his service.

As the war ended, Mr. Dittmer's service to others continued. He joined the fire service and became the Assistant Chief of the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base Fire Department. In 1956, Mr. Dittmer was awarded a commendation for entering the burning wreckage of a crashed aircraft and saving the life of the injured crew.

After retiring from the Fire Department, Mr. Dittmer continued to serve his community, advancing efforts to identify and address unmet needs in Solano County. He facilitated local real-estate ventures to bolster the local economy and was a critical leader within the downtown Fairfield business community.

Mr. Dittmer will be remembered not only for his decades of service to his country and the Solano County community but also for his genuine spirit of selflessness and innovation. He impacted the lives of countless members of his community, and his steadfast leadership undeniably enhanced the lives of his fellow Solano County residents.

Mr. Dittmer's enduring spirit will live on in his son, daughter, four grandchildren, and the community he dedicated his life to serving. I want to extend my deepest sympathy to Mr. Dittmer's loved ones. I know they and the people of Solano County join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH- DAY OF MR. HILBERT MARGOL

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to the incredible service and life of Mr. Hilbert "Hibby" Margol of Dunwoody, Georgia. Mr. Margol is a World War II veteran and, this

month, I join his friends and family in celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Hilbert Margol was born on February 22, 1924, just 10 minutes before his identical twin brother, Howard. The two brothers attended the University of Florida and were drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. They were inseparable until they were assigned to different infantry divisions.

In 1942, the military instituted a policy of separating siblings when assigned to military units or ships. Their mother, Mrs. Margol, took matters into her own hands and wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt requesting the U.S. Army make an exception for her sons to be placed together. Her plea was successful, and the brothers were back together again.

The pair were assigned to the U.S. Army 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, 392nd Field Artillery Battalion, as Howitzers gunners. Seven months after D-Day, the Margol brothers arrived in Europe. As their unit moved toward Munich, Germany, they happened upon a fence at the end of a rural two-lane road. They quickly realized they had stumbled upon a massive, almost industrial-looking complex. It was Dachau, the first Nazi Concentration Camp.

As Mr. Margol searched the area, he found dozens of railroad cars loaded with piles of human remains. He documented the horrors of Dachau with a Brownie camera. These photographs are on display at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

After the war, the brothers earned their degrees from the University of Florida in 1948 and married their wives in the same year. Hilbert moved to Atlanta in 1987 with his wife, Betty Ann, and they have lived there ever since.

Mr. Margol is a Jewish American hero and a liberator, and he turns 100 years old on February 22, 2024. May America and the great State of Georgia be forever blessed with patriots like Hilbert Margol. His service to our Nation is a debt we can never truly repay.

HONORING SHERIFF RICHARD BERDNIK

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable public servant who dedicated his life to law enforcement, Sheriff Richard Berdnik. Sheriff Berdnik served twenty-eight years with the Clifton Police Department. After his time with the City of Clifton, he joined the County of Passaic as the Commander of the Juvenile Division and the SWAT Team. On January 1, 2011, Richard was elected to the role of Passaic County Sheriff. A prominent leader among law enforcement, Sheriff Berdnik was also a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, the New Jersey Honor Legion of Decorated Officers, and the International Chiefs of Police Association.

A native of Clifton, New Jersey, Richard Berdnik graduated from Clifton High School, the New Jersey State Police Academy, FBI National Academy, and FBI National Executive Institute. Sheriff Berdnik took criminal justice