

Mr. Huseyin Bayram. His contributions to our community distinguish him as a prominent figure, serving as the proud owner of Toro's Restaurant and the New Corral. Today I join the City of Paterson as they honor his contributions by awarding him with the Key to the City. Huseyin is an outstanding community leader, philanthropist, and entrepreneur who continuously demonstrates an unwavering commitment to make a positive impact extending beyond the State of New Jersey.

For over three decades, Huseyin Bayram has been active in the City of Paterson. His entrepreneurial spirit is embodied in the success of the New Corral in Clifton and the Toro's Restaurants, located in Paterson, Clifton, and Montclair. The Toro's Restaurant of Paterson is an iconic dining establishment that opened its doors in 1972.

Mr. Bayram's compassionate philanthropy created numerous local initiatives, including his donation of over 10,000 meals to community members during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Huseyin wanted to show his appreciation for frontline healthcare workers by providing free meals to doctors and nurses at three hospitals in New York. Huseyin played a critical role in spearheading and organizing relief efforts for the earthquake of Turkey in 2023. Huseyin's efforts have not only enhanced our community's well-being but also fostered a spirit of unity and cooperation among its members.

Mr. Bayram led 150,000 members as the President of the Turkish American Giresun Organization, representing the largest Turkish population in the United States. In 2017, the City of Paterson appointed Huseyin as Deputy Mayor under Mayor Jane Williams-Warren establishing his role in local governance. Furthermore, he holds the position of Vice-President with the Turkish-American Federation of New York and the Paterson Mevlana Mosque, showcasing how the Turkish community places their trust in his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of the City of Paterson in recognizing Mr. Bayram. I take this opportunity to honor the great work Huseyin Bayram has accomplished. May his work continue to be a guiding light in our community and inspire others to strive for excellence in service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAYOR IRMA ANDERSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, to honor the life and legacy of Mayor Irma Anderson, a trailblazing leader within Contra Costa County and devout public servant. Mayor Anderson, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy as a mayor, nurse, and community advocate.

Born and raised in Boston, Mayor Anderson's passion for public service began at a young age. After serving as Student Body President and Valedictorian of her high school, she became one of the first Black students to

attend and graduate from Cornell School of Nursing. In 1959, Mayor Anderson moved to Richmond, California with her husband, Reverend Booker T. Anderson, Jr., beginning a lifelong residency in the Contra Costa County community.

Fueled by her passion for service and sincere belief in caring for those around her, Mayor Anderson worked diligently for the Contra Costa County Health Department for 20 years. She eventually became the first Black Assistant Director and Director of Public Health Nursing in Contra Costa County, and her unwavering leadership undeniably improved her community.

Following her extensive career in public health, Mayor Anderson's commitment to service led her to run for Richmond City Council. In 1993, she became the first Black woman to serve as a Richmond City Council Member. After two successful terms on the Richmond City Council, Mayor Anderson made history yet again in 2001, when she became the first Black woman to be elected mayor of a major California city.

Mayor Anderson's career in public service was characterized by her spirit for advocacy and commitment to giving a voice to the unrepresented. She developed a historic partnership with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, founding Kids! First, which cultivates and expands after-school programs throughout Richmond. In addition, she held the "Richmond Rises Above Violence Conference," which galvanized Richmond's public health approach to violence prevention. Subsequently, Richmond created an Office of Violence Prevention, later the Office of Neighborhood Safety, a nationally recognized violence intervention strategy.

Mayor Anderson's spirit of innovation was expressed both through her critical leadership and vital work as Metropolitan Transportation Committee Commissioner. She spearheaded efforts to advance multiple bridge rehabilitation and expansion projects, helping ensure Contra Costa County's roads were safe and secure. During her tenure as Mayor and Commissioner, Mayor Anderson presided over the transformation of downtown Richmond into a model of transit-oriented development.

Mayor Anderson will be remembered for her decades of service to Contra Costa County and her genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. She impacted the lives of countless community members and her steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship brought comfort to all who knew her. Mayor Anderson's enduring spirit will live on in her son and the community she dedicated her life to serving. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mayor Anderson's loved ones. We know they and the people of Contra Costa County will join us in celebrating her life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN KING

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Karen King for her dedicated service to the California public transit industry and to congratulate her on her well-earned re-

tirement from the Golden Empire Transit District. Ms. King's career in public transit began in 1976 at the Utah Transit Authority. Ten years later, Ms. King joined Long Beach Transit as a Grants Administrator. She quickly moved up the leadership ranks, and in 1995 was named Executive Director of Transportation. In 1998, Ms. King worked for the North San Diego County Transit Development as the Director of Development and Communications Services and was selected as the agency's Executive Director in 2001. In 2008, Ms. King moved to Bakersfield where she became the Chief Executive Officer of the Golden Empire Transit District. During her tenure as CEO, Ms. King has been steadfast in her commitment to meeting the transportation needs of all Bakersfield residents. She helped develop and implement the On-Demand Microtransit service program, which was first piloted in southwest Bakersfield and has since expanded across the city. The program increases transportation access for all residents by offering low-cost transportation to residents traveling to popular destinations in the city. Ms. King has directed other initiatives including a partnership with Kern Health Systems to provide rides to appointments for the more than 300,000 members of Kern Family Health Care. Ms. King is also coordinating the Long Range Operational Service Analysis, which aims to improve local transportation and return ridership to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. King has been recognized at the local, state, and national levels for her leadership in the public transit industry. She is the Vice Chair of the California Transit Association (CTA) and in 2021, was selected for a two-year term as Chair.

Ms. King has also served as Chair of the CTA's COVID-19 Relief Task Force, where she has helped California's public transit industry recover from the pandemic. In 2018, Ms. King received a Distinguished Service Award from the CTA, to celebrate her distinguished career and outstanding contributions. This year, Ms. King is receiving the CTA's award for Innovation and Resiliency, to celebrate her commitment to the innovation of the industry and well-being of all Bakersfield commuters. Ms. King's many accomplishments are a true testament to her character and leadership. I'm confident that her service to the Golden Empire Transit District and her passion for improving public transit for all residents of our community will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ms. King for her more than 40 years of dedicated service to the public transit industry and wishing her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

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 Equal Federal Funding for the District of Columbia Act, which would amend title 1 of the United States Code to deem the District of Columbia as both a state and political

subdivision of a state (such as a city or county) for the purpose of eligibility for federal funding, unless otherwise provided in a statute. D.C. operates as the functional equivalent of a state, city and county, and D.C. residents pay all federal taxes. Therefore, D.C. deserves to be eligible for federal funding available for each level of government.

While federal statutes generally expressly treat D.C. as a state for federal funding—and most federal grants go to states—federal statutes that provide federal funding directly to political subdivisions are often silent on whether D.C. is to be treated as a political subdivision. In the absence of clear language in a statute, federal agencies are inconsistent in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

By amending title 1 of the U.S. Code to deem D.C. as both a state and political subdivision for federal funding, this bill would automatically correct imprecise treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding in existing and future statutes and remove discretion from federal agencies in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIGHTHOUSE
COMMUNITY HOSPICE AND
FOUNDER, JOCELYN CAMPBELL**

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to The Lighthouse Community Hospice, and its founder Jocelyn Campbell as they host their Annual "Covered in Love" Gala.

Ms. Campbell has devoted over 20 years to end-of-life care, working as an advocate for the preservation of dignity and compassion for those approaching the end of their lives. In her role as the Chief Executive Officer of The Lighthouse Community Hospice, Ms. Campbell serves as a pioneer in advocating for quality end-of-life care. She oversees a dedicated and hardworking group of healthcare professionals and takes part in strategic partnership and planning in order to ensure that their programs reach their maximum potential. In 2023, the Lighthouse Community Hospice served as a signature community resource at the 52nd Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Caucus in our nation's capital. In addition to her role as CEO of the Lighthouse Community Hospice, Campbell simultaneously serves as the CEO of Health Comply AI. Through her work at Health Comply AI, she is able to balance her expertise in cutting-edge artificial intelligence technologies with her passion for high standard health care delivery, in developing AI-driven solutions for administering healthcare services and organizations.

The Lighthouse Community Hospice helps to alleviate the difficult, emotional experience that is caring for a loved one who is near death. They adopt a dedicated and compas-

sionate approach to the work that they do, helping each family to develop a plan that centers around preserving the dignity and wishes of the individual approaching eternal rest.

I am humbled to acknowledge The Lighthouse Community Hospice and Ms. Jocelyn Campbell in their global caregiver advocacy movement for end-of-life initiatives. The tireless, dedicated, and consistent work that they do continue to profoundly impact the ways in which end-of-life care is approached and administered both within our community and beyond.

**RECOGNIZING DR. JEFFREY
BEAUVAIS, PH.D.**

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Dr. Jeffrey Beauvais, Ph.D. upon his completion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. Dr. Beauvais served as a Knauss fellow in my Washington, D.C. office from February 2023 until February 2024.

As an integral member of my legislative staff, Dr. Beauvais assisted my work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, particularly my work on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. Over the past twelve months, he worked closely with the Committee and the rest of my personal office staff in developing several pieces of critical legislation.

Dr. Beauvais overhauled my "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act" from the 116th Congress to include new, novel reforms to federal programs for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. He also developed new legislation, the "Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 2024," in response to a blue-ribbon report by the Pacific States' Oil Spill Task Force published on January 14, 2020. Among other key reforms, this new legislation would unlock more than \$1.5 billion annually in dedicated federal funding under the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove abandoned and derelict vessels from federally regulated waterways. I expect to introduce both bills in the coming months, thanks in no small part to his work.

Dr. Beauvais received his doctorate in integrative conservation and ecology from the University of Georgia, Athens in 2022, and graduated with honors from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2015. I expect Dr. Beauvais' fellowship in my office will inspire and inform his future endeavors with his passion for his native coastal Georgia a recurring theme throughout his career and life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's eighth Congressional district, I ex-

tend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Beauvais for his dedicated service as a Knauss fellow. He will always remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi.

**HONORING 100 YEARS OF THE
CULPEPER COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT, COMPANY 1**

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1 for their 100 years of dedicated service toward their mission to aid in the preservation and protection of life and property from and during fires, and their commitment to the Culpeper community.

The Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department was born from a desire to help neighbors in need. Chartered in January 1924, the department was first led by Chief J. William Swan and was comprised of 19 volunteers ready to answer the call. In their early days, they relied on their 1923 American LaFrance Brockway "Torpedo" Engine, which they housed on the ground floor of the Municipal Building. Volunteer firefighters used canvas coats with leather gloves bought at local hardware stores, and some donned World War I metal helmets or construction helmets to fight fires. It was not until the early 1950s that Culpeper volunteer firefighters got their first official fireproof gear. Soon after, they relocated to West Davis Street where they are still located today.

The Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department is a unique and treasured organization. Made up completely of volunteers from all walks of life, these brave individuals respond to emergencies in their community in their spare time. Through their service, they provide fire protection and life-saving aid to more than 54,000 Culpeper County residents and cover 383 square miles.

What began as a dream to help their neighbors has grown into a strong organization that continues to uphold the founding mission set 100 years ago—"to provide emergency services to the citizens of our entire community . . . achieved through our principles of commitment, education, recognized standards, and professionalism." Today they boast a membership of 65 volunteer firefighters. In 2023, they answered 913 calls with a fleet composed of an engine, a pumper, a rescue engine, and more, all purchased with the help of their community through fundraising and donations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the work and commitment to services that Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1 has carried out over the last 100 years. Their service to the community is invaluable, and I wish them the best as they continue their work to help our neighbors when they most need it.