

When we passed the Telework Enhancement Act in 2009, federal telework participation was below 14 percent. By 2016, that number grew by more than 50 percent to 22 percent. During that intervening period, agencies created hoteling options, reevaluated office space needs, and even identified telework savings associated with reduced real estate requirements.

So again, this is not new territory for the federal government. What is new is the mindless and punitive approach Republicans have started to take towards agency decisions about workplace environments.

During the pandemic, Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, voted to require 100 percent of federal employees back into the office for full-time in-person work—a standard that did not exist even before the pandemic and one that envisions a 19th century workplace complete with hole-punched timecards.

Concurrently, they opposed my legislation, the Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act, to implement common sense workplace public health standards to protect federal employees during COVID and any future public health emergencies.

Their opposition is, as I said, mindless and punitive.

With this bill, House Republicans are at it again. This bill would establish an arbitrary requirement for agencies to dispose of property and leases.

It makes no accommodations for the workplace flexibility our federal agencies need, not just to compete for talent, but also to accommodate those with disabilities or military spouses whose employment would not be possible without hybrid or remote work.

This bill demagogues the issue of hybrid work at a time when we should be taking meaningful action to help the federal workplace remain competitive and productive.

I welcome the Administration's efforts to end pandemic era remote work postures while strengthening robust telework options for federal employees, which we helped create with the Telework Enhancement Act.

There is a way forward that helps agencies adjust to post-pandemic workforce needs, but this bill is not the solution and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

CELEBRATING THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF MARTIN COUNTY

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a milestone that marks the passage of time and the rich tapestry of history and community woven into the fabric of Martin County. As the county's residents commemorate its Semiquincentennial, let us reflect upon 250 years of resilience, progress, and unity that have shaped the county.

The county's history begins with the Tuscarora, who first inhabited the region that became Martin County. They referred to the area as "Squhawky." The Tuscarora lived off the lush forest of present-day Martin County and used the Roanoke River as an important trade

route with other tribes in the coastal plain region. The Tuscarora migrated to other North Carolina and Virginia sites when the first English settlers began inhabiting the area in the early 1770s.

In the anxious year of 1774, Martin County emerged from annexes of Halifax and Tyrrell Counties, born from the tireless efforts of residents who sought a closer seat of county government. The county was named for the last Royal Governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin. The county's name would later be used to honor Alexander Martin, a prominent Federalist of the Old North State. Incorporated in 1779, Williamston, the cherished county seat, earned the moniker of "Tar Landing," a testament to its pivotal role along the Roanoke River.

Throughout history, the county and Williamston have served as transportation centers for naval stores such as tar, pitch, turpentine, and other resources. The railroads of the 1800s and the highways of the 1900s continued to allow trade in the region to flourish.

The Roanoke River, a lifeline coursing through the county, has witnessed triumphs and tribulations, from its days as the "Moratuck" to the modern era where it beckons adventurers and anglers alike. Let us remember the floods of 1940, a catalyst for change that birthed the Roanoke River Basin Association and paved the way for progress in flood mitigation and environmental stewardship.

From the bustling heart of Williamston to the tranquil hamlets of Oak City, Hamilton, and beyond, our communities and municipalities stand as testaments to the resilience and ingenuity of generations past and present.

At Martin County's 250th anniversary, let us celebrate our past achievements and recommit ourselves to the ideals of unity, resilience, and progress that have defined the county. Together, let us continue to write the next chapter of the county's story, guided by the enduring spirit of those who came before us.

I wish a happy Semiquincentennial to Martin County. Here's to another 250 years of heritage, community, and boundless possibility.

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023.

Once again, the Republican House Majority has brought forth a bill that would accomplish the exact opposite of its claims. This bill would create massive inefficiency by forcing the early termination of government facility contracts to meet an arbitrary and inflexible standard of occupancy. These contract cancellations would incur additional costs, result in massive staff relocations that are not paid for by this legislation, and severely disrupt the work of federal employees who are serving the American public. The end result would be a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, this legislation would override the work that agencies themselves are already doing to evaluate and update their federal space requirements. Instead, H.R. 6276 sets up a biased method of data collection that inaccurately assesses the needs of our federal workforce. It fails to count field workers—including Border Patrol agents, park rangers, and food safety inspectors—as full-time federal employees. It would ignore the significant challenges, and costs, involved in modernizing and reconfiguring historic buildings to increase occupancy levels.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to work with the federal agencies to collect accurate information and to fully understand the individual facility needs of each agency. Where opportunities to reduce space or improve its utilization exist, the General Services Administration already has the authority to act. As agencies adjust to the increased use of alternative and hybrid work schedules, they are examining opportunities for consolidation and other ways to efficiently and effectively achieve their missions. This thoughtful and necessary work would be swept aside by a clunky and misguided mandate in the USE IT Act.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6276.

WENDY MOTTA, A REMARKABLE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant, Wendy Motta, who has dedicated her career to serving the constituents of the 24th Congressional District with unwavering commitment and tireless effort. As we bid farewell to Wendy, we reflect on her distinguished service and the indelible mark she leaves on our community.

Wendy Motta's journey in public service spans decades, including previously serving in the office of my predecessor, Congresswoman Lois Capps. Throughout her tenure as Senior District Representative, Wendy demonstrated an exceptional ability to address the diverse needs of our constituents, tackling crucial issues ranging from agriculture and veterans' affairs to infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Her tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of those she helped.

One of Wendy's most remarkable contributions was her dedicated work in responding to natural disasters and emergencies. Her leadership during those challenging times provided solace and support to our community, showcasing her resilience and dedication to the well-being of the people she served. Wendy's proactive approach and swift response in times of crisis set a standard of excellence for public service in our district.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Wendy Motta is the epitome of a devoted family person. Married to Silvio Motta, she has been a loving partner and a source of strength for her family. Wendy and Silvio have been blessed with two wonderful children, Caio and Carina, who undoubtedly have been inspired

by their mother's commitment to public service.

Prior to her service with Congress, Wendy Motta served the California State Legislature in the 18th Senatorial District office. Her experience and expertise from the state level were instrumental in navigating the complexities of multi-jurisdictional issues and implementing effective policies for the benefit of our shared constituents on the Central Coast of California.

As we express our gratitude for Wendy's years of service, we also extend our best wishes for a fulfilling and joyous retirement. The 24th Congressional District has been fortunate to have such a dedicated advocate, and Wendy's legacy will undoubtedly endure as an inspiration for future generations of public servants.

In closing, I ask you to join me in acknowledging Wendy Motta's selfless contributions to the well-being of our community and express our deepest appreciation for her years of dedicated service. May her retirement be filled with the same warmth and kindness she has bestowed upon us throughout her illustrious career.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA ALLEN AND THE BLACK ANGELS

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation recognizing Virginia Allen and the Black Angels.

Whereas: Virginia Allen arrived to Staten Island, New York at the age of 16 to work as a nurse at Staten Island Sea View Hospital in 1947.

Whereas: Staten Island Sea View Hospital opened in 1913 specifically to treat patients with Tuberculosis and, at its peak, Sea View Hospital saw nearly 2,000 patients and was one of only four municipal hospitals in New York City that did not discriminate against Black nurses.

Whereas: Virginia Allen received her training at Staten Island Seaview Hospital and courageously stepped up on the frontlines to be one of the 300 'Black Angels' to treat tuberculosis patients.

Whereas: the Black Angels were courageous, dedicated, and bold in answering the call to come to Sea View and risk their lives caring for the grievously sick and "indigent consumptives" of New York City, who had been banished to this woefully understaffed sanatorium.

Whereas: Virginia Allen served for 10 years at Staten Island's Sea View Hospital, working in the pediatric ward. The Black Angels' years of expertise played a significant role in the first ever human trials of isoniazid, the first drug to cure tuberculosis. Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved.

Whereas: The Black Angels were activists and active members of the NAACP, neighborhood churches, and community groups, and became founding members of the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Urban League Guild, and the Women's Civic and Po-

litical Union. They were fierce advocates for the integration of Black nurses into the U.S. military and American Nurses Association, and in New York City they worked toward desegregating the hospital system.

Whereas: Virginia Allen continued to serve her community as President of the North Shore Staten Island section of the National Council of Negro Women.

Whereas: The people of Staten Island are grateful for the years of service by Virginia Allen and all the Black Angels who selflessly served on the front lines at Sea View Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT CRAIGHEAD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" Anderson Craighead, who passed away on February 9, 2024. He was 97 years old.

Mr. Craighead was born on December 18, 1926, in Hyattsville, Maryland, to William M. and Jean C. Craighead. He graduated from Andrew Lewis High School at age 16 and then began a 44-year career in railroads, as a messenger in the N&W's Blacksmith Shop.

Not long after, Mr. Craighead's railroad career was put on hold when he volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, serving as a rifleman with the Fourth Marine Division and earning a Purple Heart after being wounded in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He also tried to volunteer for the Korean War when the war broke out, but because of his injuries, was turned down.

After returning from World War II, he completed a four-year apprenticeship, and moved to the Industrial Development Department in 1954, retiring in 1987 as Regional Manager.

During his life he served as the President of the Salem/Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Salem Industrial Development Authority, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, and he was a member of the Regional Partnership of the Roanoke Valley. He also served as director and Vice President of the Salem Educational Foundation and Alumni Association, establishing the Craighead Family Endowment, awarding scholarships to graduates of Salem High School.

When I was a boy, growing up in a mother-led single parent household, Mr. Craighead was very kind in making sure that I was included in activities with his boys.

Following his retirement in 1987, Mr. Craighead wrote and published a book titled, "Jackson's Legacy."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Terry Akers Craighead, his parents, and his two brothers, William M. Craighead, Jr. and James L. Craighead.

He is survived by his five children and their significant others, Russell Craighead and Cynthia Miller, Anne Craighead, Steve and Beth Craighead, Nancy Craighead and Janet

Ardam, Tim and Debra Craighead; adoptive daughter, Amanda Allen; nine grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren. I wish them my sincerest condolences during this difficult time.

I want to thank Mr. Craighead for his service to our country and note that he was a valued member of the Salem community throughout his life.

RECOGNIZING PLYMOUTH ROTARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Plymouth, the oldest and largest service organization in Plymouth, Michigan. Rotary Club of Plymouth's 100-year commitment to serving the local community is admirable and worthy of recognition.

Founded in 1924 as a chapter of Rotary International, the club is a non-profit organization funded solely by fundraising events in the Plymouth area and charitable contributions from members of the club and those who support its mission of advancing local education, community, and worldwide efforts. The Plymouth chapter strives to help its members in their own journeys to advance community through understanding, goodwill, and peace through healthcare improvements, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. In 1957, the Rotary Club of Plymouth established the Plymouth Rotary Foundation to invest its donations in service projects, and since its inception the foundation has invested more than \$1.9 million in local education scholarships and community projects.

Today, Rotary Club of Plymouth continues to hold annual events including barbeques, golf outings, and art fairs to raise the funds it needs to positively impact the local community. They raise over \$100,000 every year to support local park projects, scholarships, food bank fulfillment, clean drinking water programs, and COVID vaccination check-ins. Additionally, the group sponsors an annual bingo competition with local shops and restaurants to encourage residents to shop and dine at small businesses as a way of growing the local community. Recent fundraising is expected to result in over \$50,000 in educational scholarships to be distributed this Spring to local high schoolers who overcame significant challenges to graduate high school to help them pursue higher education. Their commitment to public service only continues to grow by teaching students to become the next generation of community leaders.

Rotary Club of Plymouth's work to build the local community, help small businesses grow, and instill a commitment to public service over the past 100 years is inspiring. They are a true example of community over self and dedication to the common good. I know that more success is to come, and I cannot wait to see all that they accomplish in the future.