

I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to provide the resources needed to rebuild and recover.

CELEBRATING THE 248TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALIFAX RESOLVES

**HON. DONALD G. DAVIS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize history and a momentous occasion that shaped the very fabric of our Nation. Two hundred and forty-eight years ago, on April 12, 1776, in the politically eminent town of Halifax, North Carolina, a gathering of visionary leaders took an audacious step toward freedom and self-determination.

Imagine the scene: 83 delegates assembled, their hearts filled with determination and their minds resolute in purpose. These courageous men, representing the people of North Carolina, dared to challenge the oppressive grip of tyranny imposed by the King of England. In bold defiance, they authorized their delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence. But it was more than just a vote; it was an affirmation of our unyielding resolve to break free from the chains of colonial subjugation.

The Halifax Resolves were not merely a symbolic gesture but a beacon of hope for all who yearned for liberty and justice. The words echoed the sentiments of a nation yearning to breathe free. They laid bare the injustices inflicted upon a young country by a distant monarch and enumerated the usurpations and acts of violence perpetrated against the people and land.

However, the significance of the Halifax Resolves extends far beyond the borders of North Carolina. It catalyzed the cause of independence, igniting a flame of rebellion that spread like wildfire throughout the colonies. Inspired by the courage and determination of our forebears, other colonies followed suit, echoing the call for freedom and self-governance.

The Halifax Resolves were not crafted in isolation. They culminated a year of vigorous discussions and deliberations at the grassroots level, reflecting the will of the people who had long suffered under British oppression. The legacy of the Halifax Resolves endures to this day, a testament to the indomitable spirit of the American people. It reminds us that sometimes freedom is earned through sacrifice, perseverance, and unwavering dedication to the principles of liberty and justice for all.

As the community commemorates the 248th anniversary of this historic event, let us not only celebrate the bravery and foresight of those who came before us but also reaffirm our commitment to upholding the ideals enshrined in the Halifax Resolves. May we always cherish the precious gift of freedom and never forget the sacrifices made by those who dared to defy tyranny.

In the words of the Resolves, let us remember one of the first calls for American freedom: "Resolved that the delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independency . . ."

I look forward to the next two years of events and preparations for what I know will be the magnificent Semiquincentennial in 2026. Happy anniversary to the Halifax Resolves.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDFLOWER LUNCHEON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Frisco Garden Club's Wildflower Luncheon in Frisco, Texas.

In 2002, the City of Frisco established a memorial composed of wildflowers in honor of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks on our Nation. In the following year, Frisco Garden Club member Edna Willits proposed the addition of a native plant garden and monument at the memorial. Through her passionate advocacy and dedication, the Freedom Meadow memorial was constructed. In benefit of Freedom Meadow, the Club held its first "Wildflower Tea and Silent Auction" on April 29, 2004. This successful luncheon yielded the Club over \$4,500 and allowed Freedom Meadow to expand into the beautiful and moving monument it is today.

Since then, the Club has hosted the Wildflower Luncheon every year to raise funds in support of gardens throughout Frisco and conservation initiatives for Texas bluebirds. Additionally, the Club has annually awarded two high school seniors with scholarships thanks to funds raised from this event. I am proud to recognize the Frisco Garden Club's incredible efforts to support and uplift our community. Their important work represents American strength, hope, and resolve against those who would harm us.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of this historic occasion. I wish the Frisco Garden Club and the Wildflower Luncheon continued success for many more years to come.

ADDRESSING THE CRIMES OF CHILD RAPE

**HON. ANNA PAULINA LUNA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the horrific crimes of child rape.

A fundamental principle of justice: the punishment of those who commit the most egregious crimes against the innocence of our children. It is a matter that strikes at the very core of our values and demands our unwavering attention and action.

There will be those who argue that the death penalty is unconstitutional. But let me be unequivocal: when it comes to protecting our children from the horrors of child rape, the death penalty is not only constitutional, it is a moral imperative.

Our Constitution stands as a beacon of freedom and justice, crafted to safeguard the

rights and liberties of every American. Yet, what greater violation of those rights could there be than the brutal and unforgivable abuse of our most vulnerable—our children? The federal minimum for child rape must be upgraded to the death penalty, and a minimum of life behind bars. For it is not merely a matter of punishment, but of deterrence and justice.

We must send a resounding message to those who would prey upon our children: such heinous crimes will not be tolerated in our society, and those who commit them will face the most severe consequences, a life for a life. Protecting our children is not just a duty, it is our sacred obligation as a Nation. We cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocent victims or allow such predators to roam freely among us. We must hold these monsters accountable.

It is our responsibility to ensure that our children are safe from harm, and that those who would seek to harm them are swiftly and decisively punished. Upgrading the federal minimum for child rape to the death penalty is not about vengeance—it is about justice. It is about standing up for the most vulnerable members of our society and sending a clear message that their safety and well-being are paramount.

The time has come to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our children from harm. Let us stand together, united in our resolve, and demand that those who commit such heinous acts face the full force of the law.

RECOGNIZING STAN LYFORD'S 50 YEARS WITH PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL'S TRACK PROGRAM

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Stan Lyford's more than fifty years of outstanding contributions to the Portsmouth High School Track Program. Since 1975, Stan has been a committed coach and mentor for the Portsmouth High School girls track and cross-country teams where he works to motivate his athletes to succeed not just on the track, but also in their academic and personal lives. With a lifelong passion for giving back to his community and ensuring that every student can succeed, Stan embodies the value of service above self and has had an immeasurable effect on strengthening the Portsmouth community.

In addition to his profound impact on the Portsmouth High School Track Program, Stan was also a math teacher at Portsmouth High School where he worked to engage with students and equip them to reach their highest academic potential. Although he retired from teaching in 2007, his continued role as head coach showcases his lifelong commitment to his students.

On behalf of New Hampshire's First District, I commend Stan for reaching this remarkable fifty-year milestone in his continued service to his community. The amount of trust placed in Stan for over half a century is a testament to his efficacy and compassion as a teacher, coach, and leader. I look forward to seeing what he will continue to achieve as he carries

on his commitment to the Portsmouth Track Program.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. GREG CASAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church's celebration of its 100th anniversary this year.

In 1924, 28 African American members founded the Church out of a former blacksmith's shop in Austin, Texas. David Chapel would move twice, landing in its current site at MLK and Chestnut in 1958. Its membership continued to expand, and the need for larger accommodations became clear. At the height of racial segregation in the American South, White-owned banks refused to provide the loans necessary for the building of a new space of worship.

Undeterred, David Chapel pursued the funds, development, and construction they needed for the structure, becoming a truly community-driven project. Additionally, the building was designed by John Chase, the first Black graduate of the University of Texas at Austin's School of Architecture. Through the commitment and dedication of many, the construction of the current David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church building was finished only a year after it started.

Since 1992, David Chapel has been led by its Senior Pastor, Rev. Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Esq., D. Min. Under Rev. Parker's leadership, David Chapel has increased its community involvement by developing and implementing the Chestnut Neighborhood Plan, and co-founding the Texas Congregations United for Empowerment (TCUE), an organization of Black churches in Central Texas working to increase their economic and community empowerment.

As the Congressman representing the 35th District of Texas, I am honored to congratulate Rev. Packer and David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary of providing spiritual guidance and serving the needs of our community in East Austin and beyond.

PROTECTING OUR WILD HORSES

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement from Josselyn Wolf, a young woman from Rhode Island, who appears with me in the documentary film "Wild Beauty: Mustang Spirit of the West" about the plight of America's wild horses. She is an advocate for H.R. 3656, the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act, of which I am an original cosponsor, and has some insightful thoughts to share about how the Wild Horse and Burro Program is being run by the Bureau of Land Management. This is her statement:

"We need the tonic of wildness." This powerful sentiment, articulated by Henry David Thoreau in his reflective piece *Walden*, was embodied when millions of children sent letters to Congress—more letters than any non-war-related movement has generated in American history—begging for the protection of one of our nation's most treasured species: the wild horse.

Harnessing the power of our democratic republic, these voices inspired the unanimous passage of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The Act reserved roughly 47 million acres of Western rangelands for the unbridled existence of wild horses and burros and promised the dwindling numbers of mustangs—then at extinction level—protection from "capture, branding, harassment, or death."

Over fifty years since the passage of that vital legislation, half of designated herd management areas have been eliminated and the protections promised by the Act continue to be grossly and sometimes violently violated under a system that misleads and misinforms Congress, the media, and the American people.

Each year, Congress allocates over one hundred million dollars to the Bureau of Land Management to support the Wild Horse and Burro Program: a system that endangers, kills, incarcerates, and separates close-knit equine families through the use of traumatic helicopter-induced stampedes and dismal holding facilities, a system overseen by land managers who claim to restore the land while destroying it, a system that has sent thousands of wild horses—wild horses: the icons of freedom and grit that define our great nation—to the slaughter pipeline.

Why? To support millions of livestock who produce less than two percent of American beef, much of which is shipped overseas to China. Livestock who, by the Bureau of Land Management's own statistics, graze nearly six times more public land than wild horses, vastly outnumbering them on their own designated territories. Not only does public grazing of cattle and sheep degrade biodiversity, it also subsidizes billion-dollar cattle corporations at the expense of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars: a stark contrast to small ranchers who are forced to pay rising grazing fees.

As human beings, we wield unprecedented power to disrupt the thriving natural ecological balance of our planet and therefore unprecedented responsibility to sustain it. As the National Academy of Sciences along with a multitude of independent scientists and researchers have attested, our land's ecological harmony is, in its current state, fundamentally broken. As law scholars have passionately voiced, our legal compliance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act is fundamentally broken. As Indigenous representatives have testified, our relationship with the land is fundamentally broken.

You, Members of Congress, wield the power to defend this untamed wildness that is the history and heart of America before it reaches extinction level. Each of you, Members of Congress, are in a unique position to rectify this dysfunctional system that is compromising our environment, our economy, and the natural wonders and gifts we are collectively responsible for, to pass down to our children untarnished and undestroyed.

Therefore, I am not asking for a radical, partisan rewrite: I am asking for a conversation. It is up to you to reevaluate the priorities of our nation . . . before it's too late. As a sixteen-year-old constituent, it is of imperative importance to me that the planet of my future is managed sustainably, and that carelessness does not forever eliminate the tonic of wildness that makes our Earth a home.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR  
MARIELAINE MAMMON FOR EX-  
CEPTIONAL SERVICE TO OUR  
STATE AND ACADEMIC COMMU-  
NITY

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Marielaine Mammon as she is honored as a recipient of the 2024 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award. This national award recognizes exemplary faculty members from America's community colleges. Through her decades of service to the County College of Morris (CCM) in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District, Professor Mammon continues to inspire classes of students.

Professor Mammon dedicated her education and career to the performing arts. Of her 51 years of teaching experience, she dedicated 47 years to CCM and has made a lasting impact on our community. Professor Mammon is a tremendous mentor and she inspires her students to see their full potential while honing the skills needed to reach their goals. Through her extraordinary career in the performing arts, including performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Professor Mammon leads her students by example.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Mammon is deeply involved on campus, whether she is chairing Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, leading choir performances at local senior living facilities, or creating interdisciplinary opportunities for students. She has served on numerous committees, including the Pandemic Response Team, Academic Standards Committee, and Curriculum Committee. Through these extra-curricular efforts, Professor Mammon hears directly from both students and faculty on their needs on campus and she brings this understanding to her work.

I am honored to recognize Professor Mammon for her exemplary career and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING QUIRINA OROZCO

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Join the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the 2023 Al Geiger Memorial Award Honoree, West Sacramento City Council Member Quirina Orozco, for her ongoing exemplary public service to the Sacramento region. Council Member Orozco is an excellent leader in our community who demonstrates that the Sacramento region's approach to everything from economic development, innovation, community outreach, and advocacy can and should be a model for the rest of the country. Council Member Orozco's commitment to public service illustrates the very reason why I love my congressional district. Our leaders have always sought to innovate, to push the envelope, and—most importantly—to deliver for our constituents.