

great success in his future. I look forward to sharing the Journey with him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
SERGEANT JESSE CLAY, JR.

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Texan, Sergeant Jesse Clay, Jr., who recently passed away. Born on September 16, 1929, in Kirbyville, Texas, Jesse exemplified dedication and bravery. Mr. Clay was a devout and dedicated member of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Dickinson. He was baptized there and served throughout his life as an usher and member of the male chorus.

In 1952, he enlisted in the United States Army, and on June 14, 1953, during the Korean War, he was wounded under intense artillery fire. For his bravery, Jesse was awarded the prestigious Purple Heart Medal.

Despite his injury, Jesse's commitment to our Nation didn't end there. He reenlisted, serving another two years with distinction before being honorably discharged again in 1955. His dedication to duty and country is a shining example of the American spirit.

After his military service, Jesse continued to contribute to his community. He worked at Gay Pontiac, McRee Ford, and retired from NASA Clay Holt and Dickinson I.S.D. after 30 years of service. His meticulous care for the Dickinson High School football field was well-known around town, and his efforts ensured that the field was always in pristine condition.

Jesse's legacy is one of service, dedication, and community. His story is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans and the enduring impact of their service.

Sergeant Jesse Clay, Jr.'s life and service to our country will never be forgotten.

HONORING GARY GREEN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gary Green, a long-time constituent of Palm Beach County, for being inducted into California's Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Mr. Green, known as the "Outlaw Folksinger" created music with an important message.

Mr. Green's artistry in lyrics served as a rallying cry for social change and inspired a generation of writers to utilize music as a tool for organizing and activism. Mr. Green's albums are a part of the Smithsonian Institution's Folkways Collection. His musical significance and impact as a musician were recognized when the late Pete Seeger said, "There should be a ballad of Gary Green." In turmoil times, where speaking out on social issues was frowned upon, Mr. Green continued to press forward. He is a true trailblazer, performing music of inclusive and transformative lyrics, at civil rights, labor, anti-war, and LGBTQ+ movements.

I am honored to congratulate Mr. Green for his successful contributions to both the art and

social movements. I am confident that he will continue his life path of exceptional work.

HONORING DENTON COUNTY
CHAMBERS WASHINGTON, D.C.
FLY IN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the Denton County leadership delegation who are visiting Washington, D.C. this week. The Denton County Chambers come to visit every two years, and I am once again honored to host them this year.

I value these trips as they give our local leaders an insight and first-hand experience of what's happening here on the Hill. Legislation that we work on highly affects our communities back home. I am pleased to offer this opportunity and welcome the members of the Denton County Chambers to our Nation's Capitol.

I would like to thank them for their continued collaboration with my office in ensuring the economic prosperity of Denton County, making Texas the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

I would like to include in the RECORD the following names of the Denton County delegation:

Lisa Carignan, Doug Carignan, Erin Carter, Lori Fickling, Nina Hernandez, Kelly Heslep, Cindi Howard, Jon Kixmiller, William Meredith, Jim Moll, Kelly Murray, Scott Murray, Claire Powell, Sally Quezada, Ingrid Rex, Ryan Schroer, Kristi Tucker, Elliott Tucker, Ben Utley, Lori Walker, Neal Walker, and Charlotte Wilcox.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE RICKE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bernie Ricke, former president of UAW Local 600, based in Dearborn, Michigan, for his hard work on behalf of workers across Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Ricke joined UAW Local 600 as a member in 1973 when he was hired at Ford Motor Company's Detroit Parts Distribution Center. He rose through the ranks of the union's leadership, serving in many roles including Financial Secretary, Bargaining Committee-person, and Vice President before holding the role of President from 2009 until 2023. Mr. Ricke played a key role in negotiating national labor contracts for Ford laborers over the past twenty years, amassing gains for workers and keeping jobs from being eliminated. He drew experience from his start as an hourly worker while keeping an eye towards the future to lead with compassion and advocate for the workers' best interests.

Please join me in recognizing the numerous and remarkable contributions of Mr. Bernie Ricke to Southeast Michigan, and Michigan's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING DR. SAM HILL AND
MRS. LILLIAN HILL

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sam Hill and Mrs. Lillian Hill for their lifetime of service to their community.

Throughout their lives, Dr. and Mrs. Hill have dedicated their time and energy to serving their community. Throughout their career in the field of education—Dr. Hill as the provost of Northern Virginia Community College and Mrs. Hill teaching students who are deaf and hard of hearing—they continuously provided students with guidance and instruction that prepared them for their next steps. Along the way, they have also volunteered with countless local organizations, donated their expertise and time as board members of various organizations, and have been involved with the Hylton Performing Arts Center since its inception. Their commitment to service is clear and worthy of recognition.

Their devotion to the betterment of their community, and the selfless mentality they bring to their volunteer work, serves as a shining example that we all can strive to follow. To pay tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Hill for their years of dedicated service, the Hylton Performing Arts Center honored them both at their 14th Anniversary Gala. It is my pleasure to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Hill on this well-deserved recognition of their legacy of public service and commitment to education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating and thanking Dr. Sam Hill and Mrs. Lillian Hill. Their contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia will continue to uplift our neighbors for generations to come and I look forward to celebrating their continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO
MAVERICKS

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's NCAA Division Two Men's and Women's Basketball Champions: the Minnesota State University Mankato Mavericks.

Both Mankato's men's team and women's team took home this year's championship trophy—making the Mavericks the first school in forty years to win a double national championship. In fact, it's only the third time in history that any school won both the men's and women's championships in the same season.

Under the leadership of Coach Matt Mergenthaler, Mankato's men's team earned their first national title by defeating Nova Southeastern 88 to 85, finishing with a 35 and 2 record, while Coach Emilee Thiesse's women's team defeated Texas Woman's University 89 to 73, securing their second-ever national title and ending the season with a record of 32 to 5.

Thanks to the tireless leadership and encouragement from the teams' coaches, staff, families, classmates, and community—these talented young men and women earned a state championship title and all of us across southern Minnesota are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to the Mavericks on an unbelievable season.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LORAIN COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Lorain County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Lorain County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

In 1822, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating Lorain County; however, the county became judicially independent in 1824. The original proposed name for the county was "Colerain", but the final name "Lorain" was chosen by Heman Ely, who had previously founded and named the City of Elyria. The county's name is based on the former German and now French province of Lorraine and encompasses roughly 923 square miles. The county is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufacturing and agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 200th Anniversary of Lorain County, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their county through the principles on which it was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Lorain County on this significant milestone.

HONORING PRESTON SHARP

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special young man, Preston Sharp, for his passion, commitment, and accomplishments in honoring our nation's veterans.

Preston is a resident of Shasta County, a loving son, and grandson with a heart of gold. His hard work and devotion to honor veterans in our community and our country will be felt for generations.

On Veterans Day in 2015, when Preston was just 10 years old, he visited the grave of his grandfather, a Navy veteran, at a local Redding cemetery. He placed a flag and flowers on his grandfather's headstone to thank him for his sacrifice. As he looked around, he was troubled by the lack of flags and flowers at the gravesites of all the other veterans. With encouragement from his loving mother and grandmother, Preston used that compas-

sion to make a positive change in the world. He set a goal, and in just 5 months, by doing odd jobs and chores, he had earned enough to purchase flags and carnations to honor all 500 veterans in that cemetery in Redding, California. This gratifying success prompted him to set another goal, to honor veterans in all the Redding cemeteries. He began speaking at local groups and organizations who enthusiastically donated to his worthy objective, seeing in this young boy with a passion to honor and appreciate those who served. Soon, Preston was honoring veterans in cemeteries all around our North State, throughout California, and beyond.

Preston has organized the placement of more than one million flags and red carnations on veterans' headstones throughout the homeland. His crusades have inspired citizens in communities across the United States to participate in similar acts of patriotism and respect for veterans by coming out to clean headstones, replace weathered flags and flowers, and say "Thank You" to those that have served our country.

Preston does not just honor our fallen veterans. He often visits veterans at the local veteran's home or takes them out to lunch and enjoys listening to their stories. His goal is clearly to honor and help all veterans in any way possible, as evidenced by his current initiative, to help prevent and spread awareness of veteran suicides, which has become a top priority.

Preston's contagious ambition has spurred him to start other movements like the Flag and Flower Challenge to encourage everyone in the United States, especially youth, to honor veterans in their own hometowns. He also established Veterans Flags and Flowers, a non-profit organization with a vision to "honor veterans across the country" and a mission to "honor veterans every day, not just the holiday". As a teen member of the Sons of the American Legion, Preston helped inspire the Flying Flags for Heroes program and became their national spokesperson.

Preston was invited to the White House and was honored with a seat beside the First Lady during President Trump's inspirational State of the Union Address in 2018. President Trump commended 12-year-old Preston Sharp for "a job well-done" and praised young patriots like Preston who teach all of us about our civic duties as Americans.

Preston has been recognized and is supported by nearly every local club, organization, school, and business in northern California. He has been an honored guest, speaker and advocate at countless events, services, and fundraisers. He has been featured on the History Channel and highlighted social studies curriculum such as Inspire My Kids. He continues to collect accolades around the country for his work such as being awarded the title of Legacy Keeper by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and is allied with the Wreaths Across America program.

Preston's goal was to honor veterans in all 50 States which sent him travelling across the country, meeting veterans, visiting cemeteries, inspiring communities, and sharing the experience of planting flags and flowers along the way. Despite setbacks during the COVID-19 shutdowns, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, Preston Sharp officially met his goal by presenting flags and flowers in honor of veterans in all 50 of our U.S. states. Quite a celebrated accomplishment.

Preston is now planning on taking his cause overseas to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. He will be placing 17,000 American flags and red carnation flowers at every gravestone, saying each veteran's name out loud, and thanking them for their service.

This young man reminds us that we all have a sacred duty to honor and remember those who served and sacrificed for our nation, no matter how old we are.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPPING CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act. This bill would give the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) more authority to protect consumers from fraud in the interstate transportation of household goods. Specifically, this bill would give FMCSA the authority to assess civil penalties against unregistered shippers and against entities that hold consumers' personal goods hostage, give FMCSA the express authority to reimburse states for enforcing federal consumer protection laws related to the transportation of household goods and establish requirements to ensure that motor carriers, brokers and freight forwarders that seek registration are operating legitimate businesses. Representative MIKE EZELL is co-leading this bill with me.

FMCSA receives thousands of complaints every year from Americans who are the victims of fraud in the shipment of household goods. Fraudsters have launched moving companies with fake 5-star online reviews to draw in customers, intending to overcharge customers or to hold their personal goods hostage until an additional fee is paid. After receiving negative reviews, fraudsters open a new moving company under a new name and a new FMCSA license. FMCSA lacks the authority to prevent and punish these types of fraud.

In 2019, a Department of Transportation Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruled that FMCSA lacks authority to assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations and registration requirements, including unauthorized brokerage and for failure to return household goods to consumers. Under current law, as interpreted by the ALJ's decision and final agency order, FMCSA may not assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations. Instead, the Department of Justice must initiate an action in federal court. This bill would reverse the ALJ's decision and provide explicit authority for FMCSA to adjudicate and assess civil penalties for unfair business practices and consumer protection violations, as well as give FMCSA authority to enforce roadway safety regulations against fraudsters.

This bill would also provide explicit authority to FMCSA to withhold registration from any applicant that fails to provide a valid principal place of business or disclose common ownership with any other registered entities at the time of registration. Household goods carriers, brokers and freight forwarders have registered