

HONORING JOHN FISHER FOR HIS
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude that I rise today to extend my thanks and best wishes to John Fisher, the former Executive Director of New Haven's Shubert Theater. For more than two decades, John led this theatrical landmark with a unique dedication and commitment. Tonight, friends, colleagues and community leaders have gathered to thank him for that leadership and celebrate his contributions to the New Haven arts community.

John's professional career has been dedicated to the arts. Prior to coming to New Haven, he spent six years as the general manager of the Big Apple Circus before spending two years in Atlanta as Director of Satellite Olympic Villages for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. He arrived in New Haven in 1997 where he began his career with the Shubert as its general manager. When the Shubert's ownership was transferred from the City of New Haven to the Connecticut Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), a decade-long process through which John guided and nurtured the historic theater, he became the Executive Director. He would hold this position until his retirement at the end of 2020.

Prior to John's arrival, New Haven's Shubert Theater had been experiencing extreme financial pressures and was in need of serious capital improvements. While it was beloved by the community, the City, which owned it at the time, was not in the position to support the kind of financial investment that was needed. It was John who saw the benefits of transitioning ownership to CAPA and it was his leadership that saw it through.

Over the course of his twenty-four years with the Shubert, John built a strong foundation for the theater, not only by bringing season after season of engaging and exciting performances, but also by building strong partnerships that not only strengthened the Shubert but New Haven's vibrant arts community as a whole. He expanded the theater's community footprint through collaborations with the Board of Education, Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School, the New Haven Free Public Library, as well as arts institutions like the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, the New Haven Ballet, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and Yale Opera.

John's contributions to New Haven's arts community extend far beyond his professional career at the Shubert. He is a former commissioner and Chairman of the Coliseum Authority for New Haven and has been a board member of the New Haven Ballet, the Workforce Alliance, the Connecticut Arts Alliance, and the Arts Council of New Haven. Through all of these efforts, his good work has gone a long way in broadening community access to the arts, ensuring that its magic, artistry, and creativity is shared with new generations.

For his innumerable and invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to John Fisher. I wish John and his wife, Liz, as well as their family all the best as they enjoy their retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Tuesday, June 4th or Wednesday, June 5th.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 242, and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

**COURAGEOUS BENJAMIN
NETANYAHU**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to courageous Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the successful rescue of four hostages from Iranian puppets.

Despite biased, fake news, Netanyahu knows the Hamas Covenant of August 18, 1988, Article 7 which states, "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him."

A Netanyahu victory is essential, as we are in a war we did not choose of Dictators With Rule of Gun invading Democracies With Rule of Law, exemplified by war criminal Putin invading Ukraine on February 24, 2022 with mass murder.

I was grateful to be invited by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to attend the D-Day 80th Anniversary in Normandy, France, to be reminded of President Reagan's historic speech of 1984, "... isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with an expansionist intent."

Every day we are reminded of corrupt, unethical Judge Merchan and his unintended achievement of re-electing Donald Trump with the judge earning my invitation for the Trump Inauguration. The unfairness of a Democrat prosecutor, Soros financed; a Democrat judge Biden contributor; and a Democrat jury in an old Democrat jurisdiction which should require a change of venue.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

**NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS**

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an

update to my constituents to bring awareness to issues surrounding the federal spending process, standing with Israel, and supporting our men and women in blue.

DEAR FRIEND: Washington is broken. If we're going to change what Washington does, we must fix how it works. That's my goal as your representative.

As a member of the House Appropriations and Budget committees, I am now in the thick of the federal spending process, which provides opportunities to reinforce our support for veterans and those currently serving to defend our freedoms.

In setting the spending allocations for each of the 12 subcommittees for the coming fiscal year, the House Appropriations Committee adhered to the caps established under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. These caps are projected by the Congressional Budget Office to reduce discretionary spending by \$246 billion for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

This is proof that we can exercise fiscal restraint while still advancing critical priorities, as funding for our national security will increase by nearly \$9 billion, and veterans' medical care and benefits will be fully funded.

Non-defense programs will be reduced by six percent, with cuts distributed in a measured and thoughtful way. Years of overspending have led us to this point, but I am helping to flip the script on how the federal government spends hard-earned tax dollars.

Under the previous House majority, you would most often see the annual appropriations process end with an omnibus spending package, rushed through usually right before Christmas and with little time for Members to know what they were voting on.

Here again, House conservatives are flipping the script. We avoided an omnibus last year, and I am optimistic that the Appropriations Committee, which is returning the House to "regular order" by marking up each subcommittee's bill and passing them individually on the House floor, will be able to do the same for FY25.

**PRIORITIZING AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND
SAFETY**

The House took up the first in a series of appropriations bills, the FY25 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

The bill reflects and is a product of the committee's commitment to our service members both during active duty and as they become veterans, and addresses critical national security challenges in the Pacific.

This legislation would honor our commitment to veterans, bolster our national security, focus the executive branch on its core responsibilities, and support American values and principles. Some of the specifics of the bill, including conservative wins, are:

Fully funding veterans' health care programs, veterans' benefits, and VA programs.

Blocking the administration from using funds to promote or advance critical race theory.

Prohibiting the implementation, administration or enforcement of the administration's executive orders on diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, initiatives.

Banning taxpayer dollars from being used for abortion.

To no one's surprise, the president already issued a Statement of Administration Policy on the funding bill, threatening to veto this legislation that would fully fund the health care and benefits of our veterans that they have earned.

This sends a terrible message by prioritizing radical and woke policies over the safety and well-being of the men and

women in uniform—past and present—who have served our country.

The president's priorities are changing the focus of our military, weakening our readiness and failing to keep promises made to our veterans, and we must reverse course before it is too late.

The House Appropriations Committee's military construction and veterans affairs bill would deliver on our commitment to America by prioritizing our nation's strength and safety, and keeping the promises made to our veterans. I urge the White House to reconsider its hasty and misguided decision.

STOPPING THE ICC'S ILLEGITIMATE CASES AGAINST OUR ALLY ISRAEL

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to file applications for arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, while ignoring the atrocities committed by Iran and the Hamas terrorists, is unacceptable.

The United States does not recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC, and from the very beginning refused to join a body that could, and has, conducted politically motivated prosecutions against U.S. citizens and allies.

The House passed H.R. 8282 with my support to impose sanctions on the ICC to protect our nation and allies by deterring the ICC from pursuing these illegitimate cases where they have no jurisdiction.

Make no mistake: If the ICC pursues the arrest of Israeli officials, it would set a dangerous precedent that is a risk to the U.S., given the ICC's ongoing investigation regarding Afghanistan.

BRING DOWN INFLATION TO LOWER THE COST OF LIVING

Since the president took office, inflation has risen newly 20%.

With high rates of inflation, American families—especially those on federal food assistance—are struggling to maintain their standard of living.

Hard-working Americans should not have to bear the brunt of Washington's reckless spending and regulation, and from my seats on the House Appropriations and Budget committees, I'm continuing to push to fix how Washington works by reining in out-of-control spending and driving down costs for all Americans.

INVESTIGATING THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Last week, history was made.

Should anyone be surprised that Donald Trump would not get a fair and unbiased trial in New York, where prosecutors and their families were contributing to leftist candidates?

The Manhattan court's verdict showed the world just how politicized our judicial system has become, with the left weaponizing our Justice system.

I do not believe the verdict will hold up to a fair and truly impartial appeal.

Meanwhile, U.S. House committees continue to investigate examples of weaponization of government against our people.

SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

Backing the blue is essential at all levels of government to keep our citizens safe, and I applaud the City of Asheville for putting forth a proclamation in support of the Asheville Police Department.

The proclamation provided opportunities for folks across the city to commemorate National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day by showing our gratitude for the men and women in blue who risk their own lives to protect our communities.

On the federal level, I'm doing my part to support the Asheville Police Department by

requesting funding needed to implement a Real-Time Intelligence Center in the City of Asheville. This capability would provide data in a centralized location, which would help Asheville police officers more efficiently gather, analyze, and investigate intelligence to enhance emergency response tactics and services.

REMINDER "CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS: UNPLUGGED" TOWN HALL SERIES

If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 20, to join my next in-person town hall in Graham County. The town hall will take place from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Graham County Courthouse, 12 N. Main St., Robbinsville, NC.

I'm looking forward to sharing an update about legislative priorities in Congress and answering questions about the issues that matter to you.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF WILLIE MIMS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize the life and service of Willie Mims.

Throughout his life, Willie demonstrated his passion for his community, working tirelessly to empower and serve East County residents. He grew up in what is now Bay Point, California and graduated from Pacific High School in 1963. Willie first became interested in politics in 1964, advocating for the Rumsford Fair Housing Act which aimed to combat racial discrimination in housing. Willie was committed to educating and uplifting our county's youth and advancing equity throughout Contra Costa. He earned his Associate Arts Degree from Diablo Valley College and his Bachelor of Arts and M.A. in English & Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Willie obtained his teaching credentials in 1978 and went on to have a long career in teaching with the Vallejo City Unified School District. Willie worked as a teacher at John Finney High School, formerly known as Peoples High School, for over 25 years. After retiring in 2009, Willie continued to attend school board meetings to advocate on behalf of Contra Costa parents and students.

Additionally, Willie was a former mentor of Safe in My Brother's Arms (S.I.M.B.A.), a youth program for boys 8-16; former board member of the East County Boy's and Girl's Club; an original member of Pittsburg's Black Political Association; and was part of the Executive Committee of the East County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), serving as its Education Chair. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Antioch School District's African American Male Initiative, which sought to address racial disparities between Black students and their peers. In addition, Willie also volunteered with Greater Faith Food Pantry, helping to feed underserved Pittsburg residents, and served as a volunteer historian for the Parents Connected Organization. Willie was recognized for his efforts to promote ra-

cial justice and equity, receiving the Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Fighter Award in 2008, being named Contra Costa County's 2024 Humanitarian of the Year, and being given the key to the city of Antioch in February 2024. Willie was a devoted civil rights activist and community leader who always spoke truth to power.

Sadly, Willie passed away on May 22, 2024. He is survived by his children, Dana and Marcus (Cassandra) Mims, his sisters Hilda Murdoch, Nancy Mims-Burt, Ruth Mims-Jemerson, and Melodye Montgomery, his brother-in-law Larry Harold, six grandchildren, and other family members. Willie will be remembered for his indelible impact on our community and his steadfast dedication to promoting justice and equality. Please join me and Representative GARAMENDI in recognizing Willie for his many years of devoted service.

HONORING THE 2023 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF IN- VENTORS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 162 inventors who will be inducted as the 2023 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). An induction ceremony will take place this June 18th in Raleigh, North Carolina to celebrate these inventors and their incredible accomplishments. The ceremony will be presided over by Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Derrick Brent, and President of the National Academy of Inventors, Dr. Paul R. Sanberg. To be named as a Fellow, these individuals were nominated by their peers and underwent a review process by the NAI Selection Committee, which ultimately deemed their innovations as making a significant impact on the quality of life, economic development and the welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida and the United States.

Collectively, this year's NAI Fellows hold over 4,500 patents. This remarkable group includes individuals from 118 research universities and non-profit research institutions from across the United States and the world. Today, the NAI maintains a strong membership of 1,898 Fellows; it is comprised of more than 170 senior leaders of research universities and nonprofit research institutes, over 700 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, 59 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 69 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and U.S. National Medal of Science, 53 Nobel Laureates, 533 AAAS Fellows, 395 IEEE Fellows and 232 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, among other awards and distinctions.

Founded by Dr. Paul R. Sanberg at the University of South Florida in 2010, the NAI's mission is to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property,