

degree from North Texas State University, where he met his wife, Carol. After graduation, he served in the Marine Corps from 1962 to 1968 as a long-range artillery specialist. For 42 years, Hugh was a devoted and respected member of Athens Methodist Church.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Hugh's family and friends. His memory will not be soon forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERNDON-RESTON FISH AND THE 2024 STARFISH HONOREES

##### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 55th Anniversary of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. and the 2024 "StarFISH" Honorees.

Since 1969, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. has provided Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need in Reston and Herndon. FISH meets immediate critical needs for rental assistance, furniture, utilities, medical care, and other emergencies. FISH also manages a thrift shop, operates an information and referral service, and offers financial workshops to provide clients with the tools necessary to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

During fiscal year 2023, FISH helped with rent, utilities, prescription costs, and more for 1,906 families, or almost 7,000 people, which totaled \$446,448 monthly. During the winter holiday season, FISH provided gift cards totaling almost \$11,000 to 218 families, made up of 894 individuals, of which 57 percent were children 18 and younger. In addition to the gift cards, they provided 510 holiday gifts to children in Herndon and Reston. FISH was also able to purchase \$42,500 in grocery gift cards with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help with their food assistance programs.

At its annual gala, FISH recognizes individuals and companies who have made extraordinary contributions over the past year. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the 2024 "StarFISH" honorees.

Elliot Wicks is President of the Herndon-Reston FISH Board and their webmaster. He enjoys the comradery with the Board, staff, volunteers, and others. Elliot is impressed and inspired by their dedication and skill and is passionate about FISH's mission of helping people in need.

Renee Boyle, a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer and FISH Fling Auction Co-Chair, became interested in FISH five years ago. Renee hopes to honor her mother's work as a social worker through volunteer efforts with FISH. Renee continues to be an advocate for FISH because the need for their services continues to grow in our communities.

Sheila Grooms is a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer. When her daughter was two years old, Sheila became a single parent and received help from a church to get herself on her feet. Sheila has been paying this assistance forward in her community and has been with HRFISH since 2022. She is motivated by random acts of kindness to her community and is passionate about teaching her grandsons to help their neighbors.

Paulette Makar was introduced to The Bargain Loft when she was looking for places

that sold recycled things. It wasn't long before she became a volunteer and has been with The Bargain Loft since 2011. Paulette has continued to add to her responsibilities over the years and is an integral part of the team working at the shop. She likes to live by the saying, "Don't count the days or years but make them count."

Rosemary Leonard became a volunteer at The Bargain Loft 11 years ago when she moved to Reston. Rosemary has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to antique and vintage items, so she is a great researcher and pricer at the shop. Rosemary enjoys that FISH brings together a great bunch of people who serve for one purpose: to help people in need—the epitome of volunteerism.

Kurt Rose and Aspen Jewelry Designs is the Corporate StarFISH of the year. Kurt has generously given his time and expertise in helping The Bargain Loft. Over the years, Kurt has graciously evaluated many of the jewelry donations pro bono and has given The Bargain Loft checks for broken jewelry that would not otherwise generate revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Herndon-Reston FISH for 55 years of service. I also extend my personal congratulations to this year's honorees and express my sincere appreciation to these individuals for contributing their time and energy to helping the most vulnerable in our community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OCEAN LAKES BASEBALL TEAM

##### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Ocean Lakes Dolphins were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. Ocean Lakes baseball coach, Pete Zell, led his students to an eight to six victory to take home the regional championship, concluding an amazing season.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on their Class 5 Region A Championship win.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD SLEMP

##### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harold Slemp, who passed away on April 20th, at the age of 89.

Mr. Slemp was born in Sugar Grove, Virginia on October 10, 1934. He mostly grew up in Marion, Virginia.

In 1957, Mr. Slemp graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech.

The insurance industry welcomed Mr. Slemp's hard work and dedication. He began a business career with Allstate Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia before returning to Marion, where he started as an insurance agent and later became president of Giles and Miles Insurance company. His run as president and a leading insurance voice would last forty years.

As a successful insurance agent, his customers and colleagues appreciated his work and recognized him. The Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia offered Mr. Slemp to serve one term as chairman of their association. He was awarded the "Golden Eagle" for his outstanding contributions to the insurance industry, and named agent of the year.

The well-being of others was of particular interest to Mr. Slemp. He served a term on Smyth County's Board of Supervisors, served as president of the Marion Lions Club, chairman of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce. Also, Governor George Allen appointed Mr. Slemp to the Charitable Gaming Commission, which included a two-year stint as chairman. His charity and service to his community were well-documented.

Mr. Slemp cared much for serving his country. While at Virginia Tech, he served in the university's Corps of Cadets program. In 2007, he was inducted into the "Old Guard" of the Corps of Cadets.

He is survived by his sons, Christopher Slemp (Heidi) of Marion, VA, David Robinson-Slemp of Washington D.C.; daughter, Amy Slemp (Toby) of Gothenburg, Sweden; his "little sister," Mavis Williams (Roger) of Marion, VA; brother, Scottie Slemp (Robin) of Cartersville, GA; sister, Patty Slemp Mauney of Decatur, GA; sisters-in-law, Thelma Mathena (Don) and Nancy Robinson; grandchildren, Thomas, Jacob, Noah, Emma, Austin, Autumn, Alex and Ashlynn; several accomplished nieces, nephews and cousins; godchildren, Andrea Boone and Jenny Boone; and numerous friends.

Smyth County has produced some of the finest human beings I have ever met, Mr. Slemp being one of them. He had profound impacts on his loved ones as a husband, father and family member, and his community as an insurance agent, public official and friend.

I had the honor of knowing Mr. Slemp for many years. When I was younger, Mr. Slemp and his wife would take my mother, sister and me out to lunch at Bailey's cafeteria. This treat was a gesture I remember fondly. He was very good to my family when there was nothing to gain, except the knowledge that he was doing something nice.

As a student at Emory & Henry College, he offered to assist me in any way. He was a leading Republican figure for years and served as Chairman of the Smyth County Republican Committee. He was a big supporter of mine in politics and a good friend. He will be missed by many.

## RECOGNIZING JUDY MARTZ

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the former governor of Montana, Judy Martz. Governor Martz is having her statue unveiled at the Montana State capitol this month. I want to highlight the incredible legacy that Governor Martz has left on our state.

Judy Martz was born on July 28, 1943, in Big Timber, Montana, left an indelible mark on her state's history. Raised by ranching parents, she embodied the spirit of the American West. Her journey from speed skating champion to Montana's first female governor is a testament to her resilience and leadership.

Judy attended Butte High School, graduating in 1961. Her athletic prowess was evident early on, earning her a spot on the 1963 U.S. World Speed Skating Team and later representing the nation at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Beyond the ice rink, her ranch upbringing also led her to claim the title of Miss Rodeo Montana in 1962.

In 1965, Judy married Harry Martz, and together they operated a garbage disposal business in Butte. They raised two children, Stacy and Justin. Judy's commitment to her community was unwavering. She served as vice-chair of the St. James Hospital Board of Directors and as President of the Butte Chamber of Commerce.

From 1989 to 1995, Judy worked as a Field Representative for U.S. Senator Conrad Burns. In 1996, Governor Marc Racicot appointed her as Lieutenant Governor, making her the first woman to hold that office in Montana. In 2000, she ran for Governor, partnering with the Honorable Karl Ohs. Despite being outspent by her opponent, Judy took the oath of office on January 2, 2001, becoming Montana's first, and only, female governor.

During her term, Judy focused on education, economic development, and healthcare. Her impact extended beyond politics. She served on the boards of Maternal Life International, University of Montana Western, and the Big Sky State Games. Sadly, in 2014, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and on October 17, 2017, Montana lost a trailblazer and a dedicated public servant.

Judy Martz's legacy lives on—woman who broke barriers, served her state, and inspired generations.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing the great legacy of the late Judy Martz.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8772—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

As with all the additional appropriation bills up for consideration on the House Floor, I

strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following.

First, although this bill provides for a 3.5 percent increase over FY24 levels, sadly the underlying text contains many of the same harmful partisan policy riders as last year.

In particular, this bill fails to confront the climate crisis by removing a longstanding provision to eliminate or reduce plastic waste across the Legislative Branch and the requirement for Members to lease low-emission vehicles;

contains the repeated misguided and harmful clause prohibiting discrimination against any person with a "sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman," opening the door for discrimination against LGBTQI+ Members and staff; and

bars funding for any diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation, a clear prohibition on the return of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODI) that was eliminated last year.

Indeed, it is truly unfortunate that this bill, like several others that the House Appropriations Committee recently reported, continues the Republican's obsession with cutting federal funds and eliminating programs that help to grow and diversify our country.

Yes, it is certainly a sad day in our nation's government that where we are at a place in time that backtracks and rolls back critical advances in diversity and inclusion.

It is bad enough that last year's bill eliminated dedicated funding for the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion, an office put in place to diversify and expand access to the House of Representatives.

To continue efforts to prohibit any funding for programs and training aimed at supporting diversity, equity and inclusion is simply an untenable legislative policy within our nation's government.

This House should make every effort to be reflective of the ENTIRE Nation we serve, and the districts Members represent.

Which is why I also put forth the following amendment that was shamefully excluded during the Appropriations Committee markup.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 if adopted would have stricken from the bill Sec. 212, which seeks to prohibit funding to be used for purposes of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion "DEI".

The Legislative Branch bill should never be a place for divisive politics.

Rather, it should be used to ensure Congress has the tools it needs to legislate and support the constituents we serve.

In my home state of Texas, I proudly represent TX-18, a district that embodies the diverse melting pot of America.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the nation, with no ethnic majority and where nearly one-in-four residents are foreign-born.

Specifically, according to census data, Houston's population is 46.8 percent White, 44.5 percent Hispanic or Latino, 22.6 percent Black, 10.8 percent two or more races, and 6.8 percent Asian.

Additionally, as one of the fastest growing cities in the nation with increasingly important industries, Houston has the opportunity to set the standard for DEI practices in the workforce and society.

Despite dangerous attempts by the Governor of Texas to roll back and strip out DEI across educational and state-wide agencies, we must continue to push back and fight for what is right for our country and for the future generations of our Nation.

I look forward to contributing to diversity efforts around the nation and in my community in Houston.

Yes, it is important to embrace diversity—and it is good for the economy, too.

Not only have waves of immigration changed the face of the nation, but they have also brought in fresh perspectives, skills, and technologies to help the U.S. develop a strong adaptability to change.

It is no secret that economies generally fare better when they openly embrace and capitalize on new ideas.

Cultural diversity is also a mighty economic engine that powers our city, state, and national economy.

Diversity is important in all industries, as it allows businesses to work with a variety of perspectives, which can lead to best results for more communities.

I am a strong proponent of diversity in all of its forms as a means of advancing opportunity, inclusiveness and quality of life for everyone.

As a society, we have collectively directed a critical eye on the injustices that many Americans unfortunately face due to the color of their skin, gender, sexual orientation, migration status, socioeconomic standing.

We cannot let words like diversity, equity and inclusion become tarnished by extremists talking points.

No, DEI is not anathema to a free society, as it has been so disingenuously portrayed.

This pernicious emergence of a counter-narrative to DEI has spread false and dangerous misnomers that diversity and cultural inclusion is the promotion of racism and discrimination and that acknowledging and aiming to redress disparate impact is somehow inherently racist.

As we all know, "equity" literally means "fairness and justice".

How this term has somehow become a dirty word is symbolic of the dangerous territory we are now entering and must remain vigilant in claiming and reclaiming not only the words, but the meanings and actual and true implementation and realization of what we all know (and should know) words like "justice" "fairness", "equality" and "equity" mean and look like.

For these reasons, it is disappointing that this Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 did not receive the full and fair consideration it deserves.

I respectfully request that my colleagues vote in opposition to H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

HONORING THE AWARDEES OF  
THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT  
CENTER'S 2024 RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the English Empowerment Center