

sincerely appreciate his service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SHAWN TEAMANN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shawn Teamann of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Shawn has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in the Texoma area, Shawn graduated from Anna High School in 2000. He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University while playing football, on an academic and athletic scholarship. As a high school student, Shawn started a residential/commercial landscaping business. He took this business into college, until he acquired ownership in Nautilus Family Fitness, a local fitness center. Since that time, Shawn has expanded regionally, opening 7 locations all across North Texas. His political career was launched in 2016 when he was elected to the City Council in Sherman, Texas, where he served for 8 years. Today, he continues to serve the public as the Deputy Mayor of Sherman. His decorative career in public service features being awarded Community Leader of the Year in 2018, and the Ambassador of the Month award in March 2019 and February 2022 by the Sherman Chamber of Commerce. He was also named to the Herald Democrat's Texoma 40 under 40.

Shawn's dedication to public service includes serving as the secretary and treasurer of the Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team, a board member of the Sherman Kiwanis Club, an ex-officio board member of the Sherman Economic Development Corporations, a board member of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, and a board member of the Lamar County Coalition of Business and Industry. Shawn is a proud member of Western Heights Church of Christ, where he serves on the Christians in Action team. I commend Shawn for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Shawn with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION FOR THE TOWN OF HOBSON CITY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Hobson City's 125th Founders' Day Celebration.

The Town of Hobson City was first known as Mooree Quarters, a Black settlement dating back to 1868 in a section of Oxford, Alabama.

In 1890, a Black man ran for Justice of the Peace in Oxford and the white mayoral candidate vowed if the Black man won, he would go to the State Capitol and have the boundary lines redrawn excluding Mooree Quarters. The Black man won the election, and in 1896 Mooree Quarters Settlement was removed from the Oxford Town limits.

According to the 1899 Alabama Constitution, to be eligible to vote, a resident had to have lived in the county of his residence for 12 months, be a male at least 21 years old, able to read and understand the Constitution, have a steady job for 12 months, own at least 40 acres of land and pay taxes among other requirements. Some Black property owners were allowed to vote in city and county elections. Twenty men responsible for the incorporation of the town qualified to vote under those terms.

For almost three years, Mooree Quarters settlement sat alone in the county. Taking matters into their own hands, a committee of citizens took their concerns to attorney Ross Black in Anniston, Alabama. Black attorneys were not allowed to practice law in Alabama during this time. The attorney advised them to incorporate the territory into their own municipality. On July 20, 1899, approximately 125 Blacks living in Mooree Quarters filed a petition with Calhoun County Probate Judge E.F. Cook to become a separate and distinct municipality. After proper legal proceedings, the town became incorporated on August 16, 1899, making it the first city in Alabama established exclusively for and by Black people. S.L. Davis was elected the first Mayor of Hobson City. Hobson City was named for Richard P. Hobson, a white Naval hero in the Spanish American War and a representative of the Alabama Legislature. Today Hobson City is under the leadership of Mayor Alberta McCrory.

This year's honorees include Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States and Alabama State Representative, Dr. Barbara Bigsby Boyd.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Hobson City's 125th Founder's Day Celebration.

HONORING PETER CARNES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Peter Carnes.

With a passion for public service from a young age, Peter first began his extensive career in law enforcement in 1973 as a patrolman with the Wenham Police Department after receiving his associate's degree in law enforcement. Over the next two decades, Peter rose through the ranks, being promoted to sergeant in 1981 and Chief of Police in 1984. Peter continued to serve his home community as Wenham Police Chief for the next 11 years.

In 1995, Peter took on the role of Chief of Police of the Yarmouth Police Department. Throughout his 13-year tenure as Yarmouth Police Chief, Peter helped to implement greater community policing initiatives and grow the department into a technologically advanced public safety organization. After retiring from

the Yarmouth Police Department in 2008, Peter continued his career as Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College.

Seeing the challenges that many police departments on Cape Cod faced when having to send recruits to distant academies, Peter took the steps to petition the Municipal Police Training Committee to establish a police academy on the Cape and was appointed Director of the Cape Cod Regional Municipal Police Academy at Joint Base Cape Cod in 2019. The academy was a great success and was eventually replaced by a state-funded police training academy in Falmouth, MA, which Peter played a key role in developing to meet the region's need for law enforcement training.

With a commitment to expanding his knowledge on law enforcement and public safety, Peter continuously sought opportunities to further his education. Peter received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and master's degree from Anna Maria College in law enforcement. Additionally, Peter completed programs at Babson College's Command Training Institute, Boston University's Law Enforcement Trainers Institute, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Program.

Throughout his career, Peter was a mentor to many and a leader in the law enforcement community. Over the years, he served as President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, Municipal Police Institute, Essex County Chiefs of Police Association, Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, and Cape Cod Chiefs Council. Further, Peter was active in the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Rotary Club International, as well as the Service Academy Nomination Committee for Southeastern Massachusetts.

Sadly, we lost Peter too soon on September 4, 2024, at the age of 71. Above all, Peter was a devoted husband to his wife, Karen, and father to his son, Brendan. From his decades of service in law enforcement to his unwavering dedication to supporting and advocating for the safety and well-being of his fellow officers, Peter's efforts to better the lives of those around him serves as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Peter Carnes and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his lifelong commitment to public safety and serving his community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT RAY HUFFINES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Samuel "Ray" Huffines of Plano, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ray has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Ray was born and raised in Texas, graduating from the Schreiner Institute in 1970. He earned a Business Management degree from Texas A&M in 1974 and was a member of the National Champion Freshman Military Drill

Team. Upon graduation, he worked at his family's car dealership until 1979. Ray felt a calling for public service and launched his political career as a fieldman for Ronald Reagan's Presidential Campaign from 1979 to 1980. After helping President Reagan win his election, Ray served as a personal assistant for Governor Bill Clements for four years, before going back to his family's Chevrolet dealership in 1984. He is proud to have played a part in expanding Huffines Auto Dealerships to ten dealerships across North Texas today.

Ray's exceptional work was recognized when he was awarded Business Executive of the Year in 2008 and Corporate Citizen of the Year in 2013 by the Plano Chamber of Commerce and was awarded Texas A&M University's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2019.

Ray's commitment to service continued through his roles with the Plano Rotary Club, Chamber and Economic Development Board. Additionally, his involvement includes board membership at Dallas Baptist University, Trinity Christian Academy, and the 12th Man Foundation for Texas A&M, to name a few. Ray is a man of faith and attends Bent Tree Bible Fellowship Church. I commend Ray for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Ray with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of our Nation and the people of North Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK
ON ARTSAKH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the one-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's military assault on the Republic of Artsakh, which began on September 19, 2023, following its long-term blockade of the Lachin Corridor. Their unjustified use of military force resulted in the surrender of the Artsakh government and the unprecedented expulsion of over 100,000 residents from their ancestral homes.

Despite promises and assurances that there would be no such attack, Azerbaijan used the language of "anti-terrorist operations" to justify its military assault on the peaceful inhabitants of Artsakh. Yet, Azerbaijan's blockade of the region since December 12, 2022 provided a clear warning of what was to come. When Azerbaijan's military forces closed the Lachin Corridor, the narrow strip of traversable land between Artsakh and Armenia, the United Nations and U.S. officials called on the Azerbaijani government to lift the blockade, which had caused a massive region-wide humanitarian crisis. Azerbaijan refused and the blockade remained in place until September 2023 when Azerbaijan's military commenced its assault. By then, the blockade had already crippled Artsakh due to the lack of essential goods and services, including food and fuel. The blockade was so devastating in its isolation of Artsakh that its inhabitants suffered from severe malnutrition, including a fourfold increase in the number of recorded miscarriages compared to the previous year. The

blockade created such a humanitarian crisis that the International Association of Genocide Scholars warned of the risk of genocide against the Armenian population in the region.

Then came the military assault. After more than nine months of the blockade, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive on September 19, 2023. The following day, the government of Artsakh was forced to surrender to the invading force. Azerbaijan took many of the senior political leadership of the government of Artsakh as prisoners and continues to hold eight high-ranking officials of the former Republic of Artsakh, as well as several other officials and civilians. In November 2023, I introduced House Resolution 861, which calls on Azerbaijan to immediately comply with international commitments regarding the release and treatment of prisoners of war, hostages, and other detained persons. Yet, one year after its military assault, Azerbaijan continues to illegally hold the officials and civilians from Artsakh.

Additionally, since Azerbaijan's occupation of Artsakh, the risk of the intentional destruction of Armenian cultural heritage has only grown. There are nearly 500 Armenian cultural heritage sites in Artsakh and the surrounding region that have significant value to not only the global Armenian community, but also to the entire world. Yet, Azerbaijan has now embarked on a campaign to destroy these sites and erase Armenian heritage. To prevent the further destruction of these Armenian cultural heritage sites, I wrote a letter, co-signed by a bipartisan group of 47 fellow Members of the House of Representatives, to urge Secretary of State Antony Blinken to prioritize this issue in bilateral meetings with officials from the government of Azerbaijan.

However, the inescapable tragedy in this sad story is one of human suffering. The tragedy of Azerbaijan's actions one year ago can be measured in the lives that were inexplicably disrupted—over 100,000 residents who were forcibly displaced from their homes only to become refugees in neighboring Armenia. These displaced persons had homes, jobs, farms, businesses—full lives—in Artsakh. They had the ability to generate a revenue and to live with dignity in their ancestral homeland. Through no fault of their own, the Azerbaijani attack disrupted their lives, forcing them to flee to Armenia and seek shelter as refugees.

The government of Armenia has compassionately and courageously provided assistance to the refugees from Artsakh from a sense of moral duty and obligation to international norms. However, the responsibility to shoulder the costs incurred from the displacement of nearly every resident of Artsakh should fall on the government of Azerbaijan. This liability must include payments for the lost revenue that the residents of Artsakh would have generated had the attack and the subsequent displacement not occurred. To address this tragic situation, I introduced the Artsakh Revenue Recovery Act, a bill that not only places the liability for lost revenue on the government of Azerbaijan, but also establishes a mechanism by which those who lost the ability to generate revenue could receive compensation, even if the government of Azerbaijan refuses to do so. This mechanism involves the seizure of Azerbaijan's sovereign assets in the United States, and then transferring those assets to the Artsakh Revenue Recovery Fund.

The Fund will compensate the lost revenue of those who were displaced from Artsakh until Azerbaijan decides to accept the responsibility for paying compensation to these victims. The compensation is for the lost revenue from jobs and property in Artsakh and does not impact the ownership status of any property. The original property owners will continue to have the right to return to their property.

Azerbaijan must accept responsibility for the enormous humanitarian crisis that its blockade and military assault on Artsakh created. It must release the hostages and prisoners and commit to the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage. It must assure those who have property in Artsakh the ability to return to their ancestral home and to rebuild their lives and ease the suffering of refugees now. Azerbaijan must accept the responsibility to compensate lost revenue of those who left Artsakh. This compensation cannot fully address the disruption to lives. But, it is an important start to address the current suffering of those who lost so much.

On the one-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's assault on Artsakh, we remember the broken promises, the human suffering, and the continued tragedy that has fallen on those who were displaced from Artsakh. We stand with those who were forcibly displaced from Artsakh. We stand for justice.

RECOGNIZING VANCE LELLI

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vance Lelli, who retired earlier this month from his positions as a committed longshoreman and as head of the Pierce County Central Labor Council. He also served over two decades on the Washington State Labor Council Central Committee.

The Lelli family are known for their instrumental role in attracting new businesses and economic opportunities to the Port of Tacoma and transitioning it into one of the principal ports of entry on the Pacific Coast. Vance Lelli has built upon this legacy in his own way, profoundly impacting our local longshoremen and women and the broader labor community in Washington State.

Throughout his career, Vance has been a tireless advocate for working people, championing their rights and welfare with dedication. His efforts have strengthened working conditions and are supporting working families and retirees across the state. On behalf of the thousands of union households in the South Sound, I thank Vance for his decades of service and leadership. His contributions have made a lasting difference. I wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

Congratulations to Vance.

RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENTIAL
SERVICE BADGE FOUNDATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of the Presidential Service Badge