

Utilities Commission where he addressed the Endangered Species Act, Hetch Hetchy water and power, Bay-Delta issues, and Tuolumne and San Joaquin River water supply issues. Donn later took part in founding the Sierra Foothill Conservancy which acquires, protects, and preserves historical rangeland for educational and recreational use.

Donn's love of life was not confined to his commendable service. He was an avid reader, writer, poet, musician, gardener, loyal friend, naturalist, and traveler. Wherever there were trails to explore, Donn hiked them with his family and friends.

In Donn's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, challenged the status quo, and left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family: his wife of 38 years, Cynthia, son Nicholas, brother Douglas, sister Debora, and nieces Kate and Nicole and mother Patricia. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. May we draw inspiration from Donn Furman's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Donn Furman, a catalyst of change and beloved friend to the Central Valley.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA ACT
OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2228 the Building Chips in America Act.

It is really unfortunate that this bill was added to the schedule at the last minute, with no consultation with the committees of jurisdiction, at least on the Minority side. Republicans promised us the most open House in history, but instead now officially preside over the most closed House in our Nation's history.

I say this, because this bill is the poster child of something that needs further review. I'll note here that this bill hasn't received a single hearing in the House of Representatives.

And this is a bad bill. This bill would eliminate NEPA environmental reviews from semiconductor projects funded under the Chips and Science Act.

This issue is personal to me. My home county, Santa Clara County, is the heart of Silicon Valley. It is also the largest collection of superfund sites in the nation. Most of those sites were tied to semiconductor or microelectronics manufacturing. While most of these toxic sites have since been remediated, the legacy of this pollution remains in the contaminated groundwater in many places in Silicon Valley.

Moreover, there was a human toll from the use of toxic chemicals in chips manufacturing. Some workers at factories developed health problems. Stillborn babies, infant deformities, and disease were also tied to exposure.

In California, we learned lessons from the past semiconductor manufacturing in Silicon Valley. We should be learning from this legacy

and ensuring we don't repeat it. NEPA reviews are a vitally important tool in this regard.

When Congress passed the Chips and Science Act, we rightly decided that the trade imbalance in semiconductor manufacturing was an issue of economic and national security. As a result, we gave companies in this sector unprecedented amounts of taxpayer money. That money comes from regular people, like nurses, firefighters, custodians, and the like. We should require, at a minimum, that when we take these people's money and give it to corporations, the government will review the environmental impacts of these activities.

Furthermore, NEPA reviews provide an avenue for public participation in this process. I think we owe it to the hardworking taxpayers of America to provide them with this process.

The last thing I'll say about this is that it is unnecessary. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo herself said as much at a hearing this summer when she stated: "[w]e are on track to complete the environmental review for all these companies before we issue the award." The NEPA process is not slowing down the Chips awards.

So, I am deeply disappointed we are here today considering this ill-advised and unnecessary legislation. There really is no good reason anyone should support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against S. 2228.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW
OVER THE DEATH OF ALEX-
ANDER MICHEL ODEH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander Odeh and his legacy, as well as remember the tragedy that shocked Orange County and claimed Mr. Odeh's life.

A Palestinian-American and the Southern California Regional Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Mr. Odeh spent much of his life working to support Arab-American civil liberties. Mr. Odeh was a published poet and lecturer at Coastline College and California State University, Fullerton. He was known to impart knowledge, compassion, and guidance to his many students.

On October 11, 1985, Mr. Odeh was the victim of a domestic terror attack as he entered the ADC office in Santa Ana. A scholar, activist, husband, and father of three daughters was taken far too soon by an egregious act of domestic violence.

To this day, almost 39 years after the bombing that claimed Mr. Odeh's life, those responsible have yet to face justice. He worked tirelessly to unite Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Southern California. Despite hatred and threat of harm, Mr. Odeh was not deterred and remained steadfast in his efforts to build bridges. He is survived by his wife, Norma Odeh, and his three daughters, Helena, Samya, and Susan.

Mr. Odeh lived a life of strength, perseverance, and dedication. Today, I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge Mr. Odeh's tragic passing and celebrate his impact on our Orange County community. I urge my colleagues

to honor Alexander Odeh's memory and legacy by supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANDREA
RAMIREZ

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Andrea Ramirez, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Andrea Ramirez MBA, PhD builds bridges between cultural worlds creating ethnic harmony. Her career has spanned across public service, executive search and the non-profit sector. Her expertise in conflict resolution and cultural intelligence served her well in the White House as a policy advisor, director of Hispanic Outreach, and special assistant to the President. Dr. Ramirez led White House initiatives based at the U.S. Department of Education, including the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative and the White House Initiative for Hispanics in Educational Excellence.

Prior to her government service, Dr. Ramirez served as executive director of the Faith and Education Coalition of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC). She currently serves as a trustee for Dallas Baptist University, sits on the NHCLC's Executive Committee and is an Open Education Resources Advisory board member for Texas Education Agency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH-
DAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT
JIMMY CARTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Navy veteran, prolific author, and life-long servant leader—the 39th President of the United States and Georgia peanut farmer, Mr. Jimmy Carter. President Carter's 100th birthday falls on October 1, 2024, and a celebration of his storied life and service will take place that evening in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.

In 1945, President Carter and the love of his life, Rosalynn, began dating and they married on July 7, 1946, at a ceremony in Plains. Following the death of his father, James Earl Carter, Sr. in 1953, the Carters and their three sons returned to Plains from the U.S. Naval Academy as Jimmy was then tasked with running the family peanut farm. Soon after, he was elected to the Sumter County School Board, eventually becoming its chairman. In 1962, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate where he continued to support racial integration and voting rights for African Americans. Senator Carter began his successful campaign for Georgia Governor in 1970, serving as Governor from 1971 to 1975.

Prior to moving back to Plains from the Governor's residence, Governor Carter had already announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1976 election. In November of 1976, Jimmy Carter became President-elect of the United States and the first Georgian to win the highest office in the land. As President, Jimmy Carter showed great success in international affairs, delivering the Camp David Accords, Panama Canal treaties, SALT II treaty, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He also delivered on his domestic agenda, signing legislation to establish the U.S. Department of Education, expanding the Head Start program, successfully making America less dependent on foreign energy, and protecting millions of acres of public lands for future generations.

Following President Carter's loss in the 1980 Presidential Election, the Carter family returned to home to Plains where they continued to make a positive impact on both their local community and the world. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter continued their ministry of service after their time in the White House with the same vigor and urgency, becoming heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity. The Carters' work with Habitat drew national attention through the annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, which helped the upstart non-profit organization grow and construct thousands of new homes for low and middle-income families. In 1982, Jimmy and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization, which has since become famous for its work to eradicate disease, strengthen democracies, and alleviate human suffering all around the world.

In 1999, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were jointly awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton. And in 2002, President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.

Together, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter rose to great heights, supporting and cherishing one another along the way as they served the world around them. From the Plains Peanut Festival to the Governor's Mansion, to the White House, and to communities around the globe, they always remained grounded, and Plains remained home in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in celebrating the amazing accomplishments of Jimmy Carter and commemorating his 100th year on this earth.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ROBERT NOLEN ROCHELL, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell, of Woodway, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commenda-

tion. His unwavering commitment to his fellow man in some of the darkest days of human history make him inexplicably worthy of our respect, admiration, and thanks.

Born in Marlin, Texas, Robert "Bob" N. Rochell made the courageous decision to leave high school at the age of 17 to enlist in the United States Army during World War II. Stationed at Dachau, Germany—site of profound historical significance as a former Nazi concentration camp—he served with distinction as a World War II veteran.

Bob's commitment to service extended beyond World War II. As the Vietnam War loomed and the need for Field Artillery Officers grew, he applied to and was accepted into the United States Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, graduating 13th out of 125 in Class 8-65. He further demonstrated his dedication by attending Airborne School and serving a brief assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Six months later, he began his first tour in Vietnam as a forward observer and air observer in the Central Highlands. Near the end of this tour, he served as Executive Officer of the 155mm howitzer battery airlifted into combat—Battery A, 1st Battalion, 20th Field Artillery—which became the second most decorated Artillery Battalion of the Vietnam War. After returning from his first tour, Bob was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as an instructor at the Officer Candidate School. He was subsequently called back for a second tour in Vietnam, where he served as Commanding Officer of Service, Headquarters, and Alpha Batteries. Captain Rochell retired from active duty on September 1, 1975.

His distinguished military career is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Good Conduct Medal with Clasp (Bronze, four loops), the Army Occupation Medal (Germany), the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

Captain Rochell's dedication to service continued long after his military career. He served as the national president of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division and as president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of The Retired Officers Association (TROA), a predecessor of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He is a life member of the 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Association (Hard Chargers), where he served on the board as First Vice President. Additionally, he is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fifth Division Association, the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Robert was married to the late Elizabeth Leggett for over 40 years, sharing a life grounded in mutual support and community service. Today, he remains an active member of his community and continues to contribute to the Heart of Texas Military Officers Association of America.

It is my honor to award retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong commitment to his country and community exemplifies the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN AARON CUMMINGS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Aaron Cummings, for his outstanding performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Originally from Muskegon, Aaron represented West Michigan on the world stage as an athlete on the U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team. Aaron has dedicated his time and energy to becoming one of the foremost rugby players in our country.

Growing up in West Michigan, Aaron began his rugby career at Grand Haven High School. He then attended Davenport University in Kent County, Michigan, and helped the Davenport Panthers finish fourth in the 2016 and 2017 USA College Sevens National Championship. Kicking off his professional rugby career, Aaron won the 2021 Club Sevens National Championship with the Chicago Lions and joined the USA Men's Sevens Residency in Chula Vista. In early 2022, he entered the world stage at the HSB World Rugby Sevens Debut in Malaga, Spain, and was later named to the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 squad in Cape Town, South Africa.

This year, Aaron joined the 2024 U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team at the Paris Olympics, where he and his teammates finished eighth.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Aaron Cummings for his commitment to sportsmanship, his tenacity, and his athleticism. I congratulate Mr. Cummings and thank him for being such a wonderful representative of West Michigan.

REMEMBERING SUSAN ASHNER

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Susan Ashner, who recently passed away. As the founder and board chair of Beit Ruth, Susan worked tirelessly to create a safe haven for at-risk girls in Israel and break the cycle of generational violence. Susan's compassion and unwavering dedication touched so many lives and had an immeasurable positive impact on each girl she worked with. Her unparalleled legacy of kindness and leadership lives on through her husband, Michael, their children Samuel, Jessica, Julia, and Leo, and their loving family. I am honored to have counted such an extraordinary person as a friend.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM A. BLONIGAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor William A. Blonigan, who will