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**INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND THE SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0
ACT**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would make the District of Columbia and the territories expressly eligible for the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. These grants, respectively, fund the construction of improvements to reduce and remove plastic waste and post-consumer materials from wastewater, and support projects to reduce the quantity of solid waste in bodies of water.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Act makes local governments expressly eligible for these two grants, but it does not make D.C. and the territories expressly eligible for them, even though D.C. and the territories, like local governments, conduct the activities contemplated by these grants.

In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held that D.C. was not a local government for purposes of the post-consumer materials management infrastructure grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas Act 2.0. I am concerned that the EPA will hold that D.C. and the territories are not local governments for purposes of the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants established by section 302 of the Save Our Seas Act 2.0. This bill would ensure that D.C. and the territories are expressly eligible for the wastewater infrastructure and trash-free water grants.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING FALLEN OFFICER
JEREMY LABONTE**

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to express my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Roswell Police Officer, Jeremy Labonte, who was senselessly killed in the line of duty in a heinous act of violence.

Officer Labonte was a member of the Roswell Police Department since November of 2021, where he served as a night-shift patrol officer. As a member of D-Squad, he was beloved and respected by his fellow officers and peers.

On Friday, February 7, 2025, while responding to a call, Officer Labonte was killed, leaving his family, fellow officers and the entire community devastated. This tragedy is the first of its kind in the community since the 1980's.

Officer Jeremy Labonte was a hero. He was someone who had dedicated his entire life to public service and has long stood for the values which all Georgians hold dear. Serving the community was just what he did, and he did so with honor.

Today, I honor the life of this brave young man. He is a shining example of excellence, sacrifice and honor. I will continue to pray for his family and friends during this tragic time. I also pray for the protection and safety of all the brave men and women who wear the uniform and protect our communities every day.

**HONORING THE LEGACY OF
COMMISSIONER ROY BROOKS**

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, whose decades of service have positively impacted not only his home county but also the State of Texas and the entire Nation. Commissioner Brooks has spent over 30 years working tirelessly for the people he serves, whether as a community volunteer, an elected official, or as a steadfast advocate for the most vulnerable among us.

Tarrant County, one of the fastest-growing urban counties in the United States, has seen incredible progress and innovation under Commissioner Brooks' leadership. With a population nearing 2 million, it is no small feat to address the diverse needs of such a large and growing community. But Commissioner Brooks has risen to the challenge, always putting the welfare of his constituents first.

Since taking office in 2004, Commissioner Brooks has been at the forefront of tackling healthcare disparities, working diligently to bring healthcare to those who need it most. He has advocated for the expansion of access through the Affordable Care Act, fought for healthcare for the homeless, and worked tirelessly on issues like infant mortality, obesity, and health disparities. His dedication to healthcare is not just a matter of policy—it's personal. It's about ensuring that everyone in his community has the opportunity to live a healthy, thriving life.

On the national stage, Commissioner Brooks has shown his leadership as well. As the 2017 President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), he led with a vision of serving the underserved, focusing on breaking the cycles of poverty and addressing the long-lasting impacts of childhood trauma. His initiative, "Serving the Underserved," has inspired countless others to fight for policies that protect and uplift our Nation's most vulnerable communities.

Moreover, Commissioner Brooks has driven transformative programs in Tarrant County. He spearheaded the Tarrant County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program, which provides crucial support to those re-entering society after incarceration. He launched the Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based program supporting first-time mothers, and has been a vocal advocate for the health and wellbeing of the homeless through the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare for the Homeless.

In all of his work, Commissioner Brooks exemplifies the qualities of integrity, compassion, and innovation. He has been a pillar of his community, not just in his role as a public servant, but as a father, husband, and leader. He is married to Dr. Jennifer Giddings Brooks,

an accomplished educational consultant, and together they have raised two outstanding children—Royce, a Harvard-trained attorney and Executive Director of Annie's List, and Marion, an entertainment lawyer based in Los Angeles.

Roy's legacy is one of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those around him. His efforts have made Tarrant County a better place, and he leaves behind a legacy of positive change that will continue to impact the county, state, and Nation for years to come.

I want to personally thank Roy for his dedication, his tireless work, and his incredible service to the people of Tarrant County and beyond. His leadership has been a beacon of hope, and he has left an indelible mark on this country. On behalf of the people of Texas and the United States, I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his extraordinary career. May his next chapter be just as rewarding as the one he has just completed.

God bless, and I thank Roy Charles Brooks.

**APPRECIATING KAROLINE
LEAVITT**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just recently, Karoline Leavitt gave her welcomed first press conference as White House Press Secretary serving with President Donald Trump.

As a 2019 graduate from Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, Karoline is the youngest person to hold this critical position as the public voice of the President.

Initially working as an intern in the first Trump administration, she later rose to assistant press secretary, followed by communications director for the greatly talented Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK, soon to be the American Ambassador to the United Nations.

Karoline most recently was the National Press Secretary on the Trump re-election campaign, gaining the trust of the President, where he stated, "Karoline is smart, tough, and . . . a highly effective communicator. I have the utmost confidence she will . . . help deliver our message to the American people as we Make America Great Again."

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with Peace Through Strength.

I am grateful to have hosted legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili of the nation of Georgia for the Trump Inauguration as she protests the rigged election of president in that country.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF BLACK AVIATION

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, it's only right that I rise today to honor the rich history of 125 years of Black Aviation. I specifically would like to recognize the lives and contributions of two individuals who had the determination to fly in the face of discrimination and adversity.

Mr. John Frederick Pickering of Gonaïves, Haiti, applied for an aviation patent in 1899. The patent, granted in 1900, included an electric motor and directional controls, which later became known as the "blimp."

Mr. Charles Frederick Page of Pineville, Louisiana, was born into slavery, yet, taught himself to read and write. In 1903, Mr. Page applied for an aviation patent, which was awarded in April of 1906, just one month before the Wright Brothers' patent was approved. Mr. Page's patent advanced airship technology through his innovative design which improved stability, propulsion, and control of the airship.

Both pioneering Black men made their valuable contributions to the exciting world of aviation during a time of intense prejudice. It is incumbent upon us to know, recognize, and celebrate their works, talents, and great efforts. Today's aviation industry would not be what it is today without Mr. Page and Pickering's bravery and intelligence.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY HENDERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary public servant, a trailblazing political activist, a cherished matriarch of her community, and a personal friend. Betty Henderson departed this life on February 8, 2025, leaving behind an indelible mark on Orangeburg County, the state of South Carolina, and beyond.

Betty Henderson was born on January 1, 1947, in Branchville, South Carolina, to the late Nuncie and Salte Williams. From an early age, she displayed a deep sense of determination and a passion for service. Educated in the public schools of Orangeburg County and New York City, she pursued further studies at The Citadel and the University of South Carolina, completing IAOO coursework. She also studied business at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. Betty became a licensed real estate appraiser and spent over 15 years as a legal assistant at the Davis Law Firm in Orangeburg.

It was in public service where Betty Henderson's impact was most profoundly felt. For 28 years, she served as the Orangeburg County Tax Assessor, making history as the first African American female assessor in South Carolina. Her tenure was marked by an unwavering commitment to fairness and excellence, and she became the only African American ever inducted into the South Carolina Association of Assessing Officials Hall of Fame.

Betty's dedication to democracy and civic engagement extended far beyond her professional career. For over two decades, she served as Chair of the Orangeburg County Democratic Party, working tirelessly to increase voter participation and strengthen grassroots organizing. Under her leadership, the party secured opportunities for South Carolinians to meet then-Senator Barack Obama, a presidential candidate at the time, at Claflin University. She played a pivotal role in bringing the 2008 presidential debate to South Carolina State University. Betty also founded the party's cook-off fundraiser, which later became the Betty Henderson Elected Official Cook-Off, a testament to her enduring legacy.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership, she was named Chairperson Emeritus of the Orangeburg County Democratic Party after her retirement and was honored as the State County Democratic Chairperson of the Year at a South Carolina State Democratic Convention. Because of her tireless efforts, all county elected officials in Orangeburg today are Democrats.

Betty Henderson was also a pioneer in local government. She was the first African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the Branchville Town Council, where she served for twelve years, including ten years as Mayor Pro Tempore. She was deeply committed to the well-being of her community, serving on numerous boards, including the Orangeburg Family Health Center, the Orangeburg-Calhoun-Allendale-Bamberg (OCAB) Community Action Agency Board, the Orangeburg County Department of Social Services Board, the Regional Medical Center Board, and the CASA Family Systems Board. She was a proud and active member of the NAACP, White Rose Chapter No. 1, Queen of the National Order of the Eastern Star, and La Charm Club. A skilled organizer and strategist, Betty also managed many local, state, and national political campaigns, playing a vital role in shaping the political landscape of South Carolina.

Her lifelong commitment to service was recognized with numerous accolades, including Who's Who Among Women, the African American Women in Leadership Award, the NAACP Appreciation Award for Community Service, the American Business Women's Association Business Associate Award, the Kappa Alpha Psi Women of the Year Award, the South Carolina State University First Lady Scholarship Award, and the Unsung Hero in Politics Award.

Beyond her public service, Betty was a woman of deep faith. She was a devoted member of Canaan Baptist Church in Branchville, where she served as Budget Chair, Hospital Chair, and Program Committee Chair. Known by her family and friends as a beacon of compassion and generosity, she was always willing to extend a helping hand to those in need. Her life embodied the words she lived by:

If I can help someone as I pass along this way, then my living will not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Betty Henderson. Her tireless dedication to public service, political activism, and steadfast commitment to her community have left a lasting legacy. May we carry forward her spirit of service, and may she rest in peace.

HONORING THE FLEMINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Flemington Jewish Community Center (FJCC), which is marking the celebration of its 100th anniversary as a cherished spiritual and cultural home in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Since its founding, the FJCC has exemplified the spirit of community, service, and faith: principles that have guided it to its position as a flourishing center of Jewish life and learning.

The history of the FJCC stretches back to the early decades of the twentieth century, when a wave of Jewish farmers, inspired by the promise of opportunity and liberty from oppression, found their way to Hunterdon County. 1922 marks the founding of the Hebrew Citizens Congregation of Hunterdon County, the brief precursor to today's Flemington Jewish Community Center.

The FJCC's earliest permanent home was a small house on Park Avenue in Flemington, which was remodeled to suit the religious and cultural needs of its growing membership. During these formative years, the congregation's devotion to community and Jewish life was evident not only in weekly services and holiday observances, but also in robust cultural activities. Furthermore, as the world plunged into the Second World War, the Center turned its attention outward, raising funds for defense bonds and organizing to support displaced Jewish populations worldwide. The congregation's compassion, resourcefulness, and generosity established the Center as a moral beacon in Flemington and beyond.

In the post-war period, the FJCC renewed efforts to build a larger and more modern facility—a vision realized through a new synagogue on East Main Street, which was dedicated in 1948. Under the steady guidance of religious leaders like Rabbi Maurice Idell, and later Rabbi Evan Jaffe, the FJCC's mission expanded even further. Hebrew classes, a Ladies' Auxiliary, youth activities, and vibrant cultural programs created a profound strength of community.

As the congregation continued to thrive, it outgrew its Main Street home and, in 2006, celebrated the completion of a new 23,000-square-foot facility in Raritan Township. Under the guidance of Rabbi Eric Cohen, dedicated officers, staff, and volunteers, the congregation has embraced this modern space. From its Nursery and Hebrew Schools to adult education and dedicated interfaith outreach and charitable engagements, the FJCC stands today at the heart of Jewish life in Hunterdon County, and reaches members from Trenton to Princeton, and from Annandale to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

As the earliest members hoped a century ago, the FJCC today is far more than a synagogue—it is a true community center. It provides a welcoming atmosphere for families on Friday evenings, Torah discussion on Saturdays, and learning opportunities for youth and adults alike. It brings together individuals of all backgrounds, reflecting the pluralism and mutual respect that are hallmarks of both American democracy and Jewish tradition. May it