

seamounts on the ocean floor, can be highly destructive. In fact, these practices bear many similarities to terrestrial strip mining and can result in the loss of species, the creation of toxic sediment plumes and contamination of marine food chains. Additionally, mining can disrupt the natural processes that help sequester carbon, thus accelerating climate change rather than alleviating it.

Given that the environmental risks of deep-sea mining are largely unknown, and the science surrounding its impacts is still in its infancy, it is critical that we pause and take the time to assess these consequences properly. That is why the American Seabed Protection Act would place a moratorium on all deep-sea mining activities in U.S. waters, as well as any mining activities conducted by American companies on the high seas. This legislation also directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive environmental and social impact study to evaluate the risks of seabed mining on ocean species, carbon storage and coastal communities.

At the international level, the International Seabed Protection Act would require the United States to oppose any international seabed mining efforts until the President certifies that the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has established a comprehensive and effective regulatory framework to safeguard these vital ecosystems. The ISA is currently under pressure to finalize mining regulations, but this process is complicated by ongoing scientific uncertainty and environmental concerns. As such, the U.S. must take a leadership role in ensuring that these regulations are not rushed and that the long-term health of our oceans is prioritized.

The reintroduction of these bills comes at a critical juncture as the ISA prepares to consider regulations that could open vast ocean areas to industrial mining. While proponents of seabed mining argue that it will provide essential minerals for renewable energy technologies, that is an assumption that should not go unchallenged, nor, contrary to some of their arguments, have we maximized the sourcing of critical minerals elsewhere. In either event, we should not and cannot simply fling ourselves headlong into a practice that, wholly unknown and improperly regulated, would certainly cause irreversible damage to our oceans and the communities that rely on them, damage that would far outweigh any arguable short-term benefit.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring these bills and defending our marine environment.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT
JONATHAN PRESLEY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Jonathan Presley of the Frankfort Police Department for being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

During a high-risk pursuit with an armed suspect who had barricaded himself in a vehi-

cle following a multi-jurisdictional pursuit, Sergeant Presley demonstrated excellent courage and tactical precision through his coordinated response with Lieutenant Smither to de-escalate a potentially lethal situation successfully.

Throughout this critical situation, Sergeant Presley successfully disarmed the subject. His actions and exceptional teamwork skills allowed a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Sergeant Presley voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Sergeant Presley will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRED
MOSES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr Fred Moses of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on January 24, 2025.

Fred was born in Coward, South Carolina, on June 6, 1949, to Otis and Elveta Moses. He grew up from humble beginnings in a large sharecropping family with nine siblings. Fred's experiences showed him the importance of working hard, obtaining an education, and safeguarding his family's hard-earned possessions—in this case, land. This inspired him to establish an enduring legacy for his family and future generations. Fred graduated from the University of Bridgeport and later worked as an Operations Manager at General Electric Supply Company for eleven years. In 1985, he left General Electric and used his savings to establish Telecom Electric Supply LLC along with his wife Mizzie.

For over four decades, Fred's company has continued to successfully deliver exceptional supply chain services, electrical equipment, and telecommunications products to North Texas. He also served as a minister at Shiloh Baptist Church and was a generous benefactor for various charitable organizations to help provide scholarships to students in need. For his contributions to our community, Fred received the Community Leader Award from Collin County's Meals on Wheels and was selected to be recognized as a Dallas Living Legend by Verna's HELP Foundation. I was also honored to present him with the prestigious Congressional Patriot Award last year for his outstanding leadership and distinguished community service.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Fred's incredible life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING THE PEBBLE HILLS
HIGH SCHOOL SPARTAN MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Pebble Hills High School Spartan Marching Band. Under the leadership of Director Maximo Sierra and the unwavering support of the Socorro Independent School District, the Spartan Marching Band has made history as the first band from El Paso to perform in the prestigious Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the dedication, discipline, and talent of the more than 300 student musicians, dancers, and color guard members who have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone. Their invitation to participate in the 136th Rose Parade is not only a testament to their musical excellence, but their commitment to representing the spirit and pride of El Paso's heritage on a national stage.

I commend the students, parents, educators, and community members who have supported the Spartan Marching Band on this journey. Their achievement is a source of immense pride for El Paso and an inspiration for young musicians across the country.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS SIRIANNI AS
A COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN PA-16

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the work and dedication of Mr. Chris Sirianni, founder of Brewerie. In 2006, The Brewerie established itself as Erie's only brew pub and restaurant. With a deep passion for beer, they took it upon themselves to create brews that they loved, serve food that we relished, and provide a space that was unique.

Throughout their journey of operating a brewpub and restaurant, they have consistently shown their dedication to supporting local individuals, non-profits, and businesses in the area. Since they started, their goal has been to make a positive impact on the revitalization of downtown Erie and the historic Union Station. By reviving these significant locations, they have helped create a strong community connection.

Their values are centered around three principles that shape everything they do. First, they focus on crafting superior products, ensuring that every beer brewed, and every dish served exceeds expectations. The second principle is a deep commitment to caring for their staff and patrons by creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and part of the family. Finally, they place a strong emphasis on being community-oriented and driven, believing that their success is linked to the success of the people and businesses around them.

Years later, these principles still drive their operations, impacting not just the excellence

of their products but also their consistent commitment to enhance the Erie community. Their beliefs have not only upheld their business but have also contributed to a more unified downtown Erie.

Because of this, and as Co-Chair of the House Small Brewers Caucus, I am honored to highlight Mr. Chris Sirianni, as the PA-16 community champion. THE BREWERIE at Union Station, "Erie's Original Brewpub & Restaurant."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 20, No. 21, No. 22, and No. 23. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 20; NAY on Roll Call No. 21; YEA on Roll Call No. 22; and YEA on Roll Call No. 23.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER LOGAN SUTTON

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Logan Sutton of the Frankfort Police Department on being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

Without regard for his own safety, Officer Sutton played a crucial role in successfully resolving a life-threatening situation. Through his actions and support in the face of clear and obvious peril, Officer Sutton exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement professionalism and demonstrated extraordinary commitment to preserving human life.

His teamwork and decisive intervention reflected greatly upon himself and upheld the finest traditions of the Frankfort Police Department. Officer Sutton has earned the respect and support of Franklin County. Officer Sutton voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Officer Sutton will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL REGINALD L. BASSA, SR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the service and accomplishments completed by Colonel Reginald L. Bassa, Sr. Colonel Bassa dedicated his life to

service on behalf of the United States, with an extensive career of thirty years. Today, I invite us all to celebrate and reflect on the contributions of Colonel Bassa to our community.

Born in Hastings, Florida on March 4, 1933, Colonel Bassa attended Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954. Upon graduating, Colonel Bassa was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. To further his knowledge and skills in preparation for his career as a Colonel, he attended flight training in Malden, Missouri and then Greenville AFB, Mississippi. Additionally, he completed Squadron Officer School and Basic/Graduate Supply Officer's Course.

Throughout his service, Bassa held various positions including the 305th Bomb Wing, McDill AFB, Florida supporting B-47's involving operations to Ben Greer AFB, North Africa; then assigned to the 72nd Bomb Wing, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico involving hazardous refueling missions with B-52's and KC 135 Aircraft to Neu Assal AFB North Africa. Although he was able to come back to the continental United States in 1960, Colonel Bassa was then assigned to Albrook AFB, Panama during troubling times in the Canal Zone two years later due to his specialty qualifications (AFSC).

After a year abroad, Colonel Bassa was re-assigned to the continental United States where he remained for the rest of his career. Once back in the States, his assignments included the 840th Combat Support Group, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, transitioning to the Airforce Reserves supporting the Tactical Airlift Command, Strategic Airlift Command and Air Defense Command, the 934th Tactical Airlift Group, Minnesota, and then the 440th Tactical Airlift Command, Wisconsin.

During his assignment at Richards Gebaur AFB, Belton, Missouri, he was promoted to Colonel where he served as Deputy Wing Commander Logistics in the 442nd Tactical Airlift Wing. In 1979, Colonel Bassa was notified he was under consideration for a promotion to rank as a General. However, this promotion would require yet another move which led to the Colonel to retire as he realized how entrenched and happy his family was with living in Kansas City.

Colonel Bassa's career of three decades is clear evidence of his dedication to his community and country. On behalf of the United States Congress and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Colonel Bassa for his work ethic and service throughout his career.

THANKING JOSEPH C. PICOLLA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, I kindly request that you join me in congratulating Joseph C. Picolla on his retirement from the position of House Inspector General. His retirement marks the culmination of 16 years of dedicated service to the House.

Joe began his service with the House in the Office of the Inspector General in 2008 as a

Management Analyst. Over the years, Joe advanced to management and then leadership roles, initially serving as Assistant Director and Director of the Management Advisory Services team. He later became the Deputy Inspector General before assuming the role of Acting Inspector General in June 2021. On April 25, 2022, Joe was officially named the sixth Inspector General of the House of Representatives. During his tenure as Inspector General, the Office of the Inspector General completed numerous audits and advisories targeting high-risk areas within the House and identifying significant process improvements and efficiencies to benefit the institution in the future.

Prior to joining the House, Joe held positions in major financial institutions managing IT service operations, including Technology Help Desks, Availability Management, Incident and Problem Management, and Software Portfolio Change Management, targeting high-risk areas. In addition to his professional work, he dedicated 15 years to volunteering with local law enforcement in his community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Joe for his unwavering commitment to service, his dedication, and his leadership while serving the U.S. House of Representatives. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD B. SEVERANCE'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Floyd B. Severance of Concord, New Hampshire, on the occasion of his 101st birthday. A World War II Army veteran, loving husband and father, and lifelong New Hampshire resident, Floyd has exemplified the virtue of service to family, community, and country throughout his life.

Drafted into the Army at 18 years old, Floyd was deployed to Europe in 1944 as scores of Americans bravely fought to protect our freedoms during World War II. Floyd saw action in the battles of Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland, some of the defining conflicts in the eventual triumph of the Allied forces. His courage and selflessness in defending his country speak to the strength of his character. He was honorably discharged in 1945 as a Private, First Class. His service during one of the darkest times in world history is a model of the power of sacrifice and devotion for future generations.

Upon completing his service, he met his wife Judith Girard at the bowling alleys of Pembroke, New Hampshire. They settled in Allenstown, where they raised their seven children. He continued to demonstrate his dedication to public service in a distinguished career with the United States Postal Service. After retiring from the Postal Service in 1986, he renovated his childhood home in Pembroke, where he lived with Judith until 2014.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Floyd B. Severance for his service to his community and Nation, and wish him a very happy