

supports women business owners, encouraging them to enter the world of business ownership. She also serves with organizations that focus on aiding the hungry and homeless in Central Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, strong communities are built upon people like Michelle, who go above and beyond their own self-interests and devote their time and energy to helping others. I am honored to represent leaders like her in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Michele for receiving this outstanding recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF  
BELL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bell on its 90th anniversary. I am deeply honored to represent this city as part of California's 40th Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bell and its residents on the city's anniversary.

The foundation of the City of Bell can be traced back to the arrival of the first group of settlers in the mid-1870s. Among the settlers were the city founder James George Bell and his wife and children. They moved to a property on Gage Avenue that is now known as the Bell House. The house is now a historic landmark filled with antique furnishings, vintage clothing, and photographs, and is open for the public to visit.

In 1898, the town's name was officially changed from Rancho San Antonio to Bell, in honor of its pioneer founders. The City of Bell was incorporated in 1927 and is a small, vibrant community composed of young families, small businesses, and an industrial district.

Between 1920 and 1935, Bell experienced a growth spurt where schools, businesses, and community organizations were established, such as the Bell Chamber of Commerce and Bell High School.

Since its incorporation, the city has expanded its facilities, obtained land for public parks and recreational areas, and acquired basic amenities such as a city hall, parks, a fire department building, and a police department.

The city has recently enhanced transparency and accountability within the city government. In 2013, the city's website earned an A— from a non-profit organization that examines state and local government transparency. Through the city website, the public can now watch live streaming council meetings, look up city contracts, view warrant payments and public officials' salaries and compensations, and review budget information.

Over the years, Bell has become a vibrant city with an innovative approach to enhancing its services and infrastructure in order to support its growing community. Bell encourages programs that provide recreational activities and community services, preserve and improve the environment, and protect the safety of Bell residents.

In 2016, the Bell City Council adopted a five-year strategic plan, which outlines the top

five targets for the city: economic development, community outreach, public image, developing and improving strong city management, and fiscal sustainability.

Currently, the City of Bell is mostly composed of a large Latino population and a growing Lebanese American community. Bell's commitment to community engagement can be seen through the various programs it offers to youth, adults, and seniors.

Over 700 children are participating in the city's soccer program and parents turn out in large numbers to support their kids. Some parents even become team coaches. The city has also developed new adult sports programs, and has been renovating parks by establishing maintenance procedures for the synthetic fields.

Ernest Debs Park, which is home to the youth soccer program, includes a synthetic soccer field with covered bleachers and a covered fitness zone that are available to residents every day of the week. The largest park in the city is Veterans Memorial Park, which commemorates the contributions of war veterans to our country and our freedom. Veterans Memorial Park includes a veterans monument, a rose garden, a baseball field with stadium seating, two large park pavilions, and batting cages.

Family events such as the city's annual street festival, the Summer Concert Series, and the Bell 5K Run/Walk have also been developed to promote community, health, and fitness in the city. The city's smartphone application has made it possible for its residents to report street improvements, pickup of bulky items, and graffiti removals through the touch of a button.

The new City of Bell Technology Center has provided a safe learning environment where both adults and youth can access computers. This Technology Center provides free after-school computer skills training classes, which include introductions to computer equipment and operation, word processing techniques, e-mail correspondence, and fundamental skills required for safe web access.

As the City of Bell celebrates its 90th anniversary this month, the community will also be celebrating some of the following achievements: a "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada; the establishment of a Planning Commission; the initiation of a "Business of the Month" effort to highlight local businesses; a partnership with the Bell Chamber of Commerce to establish the Bell Family Food Truck Night; and adoption of the city's Strategic Plan and the new city logo.

That new logo is shaped by a bell design, and includes the city's motto: "Home . . . in the center of it all" to inspire civic pride and civic engagement in the community.

The City of Bell has made huge strides in the past couple of years and does not show any sign of slowing down. I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes and congratulations to Bell on its 90th anniversary. This small, diverse, vibrant community makes residents proud and visitors feel at home. I expect more great things to come in Bell's future.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT WILL  
WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Sergeant Will Williams, U.S. Army, Retired, of Round Rock, Texas, for his selfless dedication and service to our nation and his continued, unparalleled contributions to his community. I am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Following his enlistment in 1976, SGT Williams contributed 24 years of service that included deployments from Panama and Somalia, to Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an Army Ranger, Small Weapons Specialist with the 2nd Division. His commitment to keeping our nation safe is in his blood. Three generations of his family served in combat roles in the United States Army, and among the three they share 4 Bronze Star Medals.

SGT Williams' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to Round Rock, SGT Williams dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community. In 2013, he helped raise \$50,000 for Dell's Children's Hospital and over \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. In Round Rock, SGT Williams organized a food drive, sent out a care package to deployed soldiers, and provided clothing and supplies to 300 foster kids through Project Care.

His service has been recognized and appreciated throughout the community. SGT Williams was recognized with the Service to Mankind Award by the Round Rock Sertoma Club, received the Leadership Award from the "Heart of Texas Award" organization, and was honored with the Governor's Lone Star Achievement Award from Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

I commend First Sergeant Will Williams' selfless service to his community and nation. His commitment to excellence and citizenship reflect the best values we hold as Americans. I join his family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

H.R. 732, STOP SETTLEMENT  
SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2017

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 1, 2017*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in opposition to the so-called Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017 (H.R. 732).

The Department of Justice has long had the authority to enter into and enforce settlement agreements on behalf of the United States government. This includes payments to third parties that help right the wrongs caused by an entity that has broken the law.

For instance, the government can negotiate a settlement that allows payments to groups like nonprofits that help aid in the recovery of the individuals and communities hurt by unlawful conduct. These third-party payments are particularly important when it is impossible