

crime for a person in the District of Columbia to obstruct any bridge connecting D.C. and Virginia. The District already had, and continues to have, its own local law prohibiting obstructing a bridge in the District. There is no federal law that prohibits a person in Virginia from obstructing such a bridge or a person in any state from obstructing a bridge connecting two states, and, fortunately, D.C. does not need a federal law to keep our bridges clear either.

This law is as offensive as it is redundant. It harks back to a time when a private group in D.C. attempted to block the 14th Street Bridge into Virginia, although there is no evidence that D.C. authorities failed to act. The District's local criminal law prohibiting obstructing a bridge takes care of any obstruction occurring here.

Under the 1997 federal law, "whoever in the District of Columbia knowingly and willfully obstructs any bridge connecting the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia . . . shall be fined not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000, and in addition may be imprisoned not more than 30 days. . . ." Under D.C. law, a person may be subject to imprisonment and/or fines for "crowd[ing], obstruct[ing], or incommo[d]ing . . . [t]he use of any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, or sidewalk."

The courts have long held that D.C. may repeal federal laws that predate the 1973 Home Rule Act (HRA) and apply exclusively in or to the District, but have not ruled on whether D.C. may repeal post-HRA federal laws that apply exclusively in or to the District. My bill would avoid any court challenge the District could face if it tries to repeal this 1997 federal law.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY OF LYONS, NEW YORK

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the important history of Lyons, New York. Recently, the town's iconic downtown historical district was granted a designation on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation allows for the town to keep and preserve many historical buildings and landmarks.

Located in Wayne County, the Town of Lyons was originally settled in the late 1700's and then, in 1796, renamed after Lyons, France. The construction of the Erie Canal was pivotal to the growth of the town. The town also grew due to an abundant amount of peppermint oil, and a great deal of manufacturing.

I would like to congratulate Joan Delaro, the Executive Director of the Lyons Main Street Program. This program is essential to the Lyons community, as is it assists local businesses, organizes community clean up and beautification program, and leads the effort to designation downtown Lyons as a historical area. I would also like to thank Brian Manktelow, town supervisor, and all of the

town board members for their support in designating Lyons a historical place.

This new designation not only allows for the community to preserve and revitalize many buildings and landmarks, but it will also help encourage economic development.

I am proud that Lyons has received this designation, and I will fight to make sure that it has the means it needs to be able to succeed.

#### PASSING OF EARL MASSEY

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report the passing of my dear friend and colleague, and a former Congressional staff member, Earl Massey, laid to rest on June 16, 2018.

Devoted to Los Angeles and to serving its diverse communities, Earl was an activist, who worked with the faith community, small businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies to help the community thrive. Having grown up in a military family, he went to work for the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1980. He came to work with me at the Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment shortly after the civil unrest in 1992, and he founded his own organization, Surviving in Recovery (SIR) that same year.

Earl aided in the development of prevention and intervention programs with a wide range of issues such as substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, police and community relations, violence prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, STD prevention, and teen drug prevention/intervention, including for Charles Drew University. He was a contributing author to Substance Abuse Prevention: A Multicultural Model by Snehen du B. Kar published in 1999, he worked on research projects with UCLA and the Rand Corp., and is accredited with contributions to multiple publications. When President Bill Clinton offered a long-overdue apology for the Tuskegee Syphilis Study in 1997, he worked with the Presidential committee tasked with establishing trust between researchers and minority communities.

I welcomed him to my Congressional staff when first elected, and I appreciated his many community connections, his work ethic, and his focus on service and social justice.

Later in life Earl focused on emergency preparedness. Having survived the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 as a child, he knew the disruption and harm that results when people are unprepared for disaster. His firm, Disaster Awareness Project, conducted seminars for hundreds of people. At the time of his passing, Earl served as Vice Chairperson for the Latin American Bible Institute College Board of Trustees and advisor to the American Red Cross, USC's Southern California Earthquake Center, The Great Shakeout, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and a multitude of nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles County and Central California.

Earl touched many, many lives and his passing leaves a hole in the community that all of us must work to fill. May he rest in peace.

#### HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES SAVE LIVES

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the past month, four deputies of the Harris County Sheriff's Office saved two lives.

On a Sunday morning in early May, Deputies Jesse Leal and Rebecca Cruz were driving along I-45 when they came upon a man dangling from an I-45 overpass, apparently attempting to take his own life. Covered in mud, oil, and water from a previous call, Leal pulled over and dashed to the side of the bridge. He and Cruz then leaned over the edge of the overpass, risking their own wellbeing, and began heaving the 21-year-old back onto the road. Leal injured his knee in the process, but the two successfully pulled the young man to safety.

In June, Deputy Blake McElhaney was driving home, exhausted after having worked the night shift. On his way, he noticed an accident, a nasty one, on the side of the road. Although he was no longer on duty, McElhaney pulled over and jumped out of his car to help the victims.

Upon his arrival, he discovered an infant, just seven months old, trapped under a dashboard. He called for backup, and then proceeded to shield the helpless baby from glass.

Backup came in the form of Deputy Joe Leal. Leal rushed to the side of his partner and lifted the dashboard enough to take pressure off of the infant. The two continued to protect the small girl until the Spring Volunteer Fire Department arrived. With their assistance, Leal raised the dashboard high enough to pull the baby out of the wrecked car safely. The girl was then life-flighted to a nearby hospital.

For their exceptional performance in the line of duty, these four members of the Thin Blue Line were awarded Deputy of the Month Awards by the HCSO for the months of May and June respectively. In true blue blood fashion, the deputies deflected credit of their heroic efforts to save the lives of two Houstonians, instead highlighting the assistance received from other first responders and ordinary citizens on site during both events.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who wear the badge are a cut above the rest. Our peace officers protect us from harm, and these events further demonstrate how lucky we are to have such men and women as Deputies Rebecca Cruz, Jesse Leal, Joe Leal, and Blake McElhaney looking out for us.

And that is just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING TOM KLASNER

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2018*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Klasner, who was honored with the 2017 Rural County Engineer Award in April.

Over the last 16 years, Tom has worked to reduce the number of 19 structurally deficient or obsolete bridges in Jersey County down to