

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

just five, with plans to further reduce that number. Tom has been an outspoken advocate for improving this infrastructure, especially those traveling with heavy farm equipment. Most of the bridges had been made of timber during the 1920's and 50's, and were deteriorating rapidly.

Tom has been a strong advocate for improving the Highway Department facility on Illinois Route 16. He has worked relentlessly to make sure Jersey County's Highway Department employees and their equipment is being protected and kept safe especially during the harsh winter months.

Tom is an exceptional individual within my congressional district. His leadership and expertise has made a lasting impact on Jersey County. Congratulations, Tom, on receiving the 2017 Rural County Engineer Award. I look forward to continuing to work with him throughout the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes because I was unavoidably detained. I wish to reflect my intent and strong support for the following legislation to address the opioid crisis.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 2851, Roll. 268; YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5735, Roll. 266; YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5890, Roll. 263; and YEA on Roll Call No. H.R. 5891, Roll. 264.

HONORING ALFIO RAUSA, MD, MPH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D., a public health hero who worked valiantly for half a century to improve the health of Mississippians.

Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D. passed away at home after several months of illness on January 3, 2018. He leaves a legacy of dedication to countless public health and community efforts, including his work at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH); his work as a family medicine physician; his contributions to the Golden Age Nursing Home; his founding of Life Help, a regional mental health and retardation center; his founding of a youth soccer league; his work as Chairman of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation; and his contributions to many other projects and boards. He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the 2007 Greenwood Commonwealth Community Service Award and the 1992 Felix J. Underwood Award for public health service.

Dr. Rausa originally came to Greenwood as a Lieutenant Commander with the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a position he held from 1966 to 1970. Raised in the Bronx, Dr. Rausa's intention was

to stay in Mississippi for a year, but his plans changed when he saw all the work to be done.

In 1970, Dr. Rausa accepted a position as Regional Public Health Officer in Greenwood with MSDH, and in 1980, he was promoted to District Health Officer. At first he was over Public Health District III and then over District I as well, for a total of 18 counties, including some of the poorest in the state. He held this position until last summer when he retired, partly because of the consolidation of offices due to state budget cuts.

As District Health Officer, one of the projects for which Dr. Rausa served as medical consultant was WIC and its breastfeeding peer counselor program. He fully supported this program, always encouraged the peer counselors, and was always willing to speak with other physicians, the media, hospitals, or at events about the benefits of breastfeeding. He emceed CHAMPS' first conference in Mississippi in 2015, "The Delta Breastfeeding Summit," and gave opening comments on the importance of breastfeeding.

Freddie White-Johnson, MPPA, President and Founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Cancer Foundation, where Dr. Rausa served as Chairman until his death, also has fond memories of Dr. Rausa. She knew him since she was 29 years old when she worked for him on a project called Partners for Improved Nutrition and Health and then at MSDH.

He served as District III health officer for the Mississippi Department of Health, overseeing its disease-control and wellness efforts in a nine county area that included Leflore and Carroll counties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Alfio Rausa, MD, MPH for his dedication to serving others.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS,
RUDY BALDONI

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the Big Brothers Big Sisters national headquarters in my district, Tampa, Florida. Big Brothers Big Sisters is lead by the former two-term mayor, Pam Iorio who is beloved in Tampa, and we are proud of her and Big Brothers Big Sisters across America. Today in that spirit, I rise to honor the accomplishments of a true advocate for children everywhere, Mr. Rudy Baldoni. His tireless work for Big Brothers Big Sisters has impacted the lives of countless youths. I am grateful to recognize the incredible work he has put into the nation's oldest and most effective mentoring organization.

Mr. Baldoni, as the two-year National Board Chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters, has been instrumental in creating meaningful and positive change within this incredible organization and for young people who need a supportive mentor. Today, he continues to dedicate his time and energy to this important cause—leading the board in a time of progress and change.

Mr. Baldoni was born and grew up in California, eventually attending the University of Southern California. He earned his J.D. from

Western State's College of Law and attended UC Irvine in 1989 to earn another degree in Commercial and Industrial Development and Management. Following his education, Mr. Baldoni worked in real estate development as President of Arnel Development Company until 2007 and became President and CEO of Newport Investment Associates in 2008, where he continued to manage growth and venture capital investments.

Mr. Baldoni got his start with Big Brothers Big Sisters after volunteering to host a dinner for the Orange County, California affiliate. In the fine tradition of volunteer organizations everywhere, after raising more money than any previous dinner, he found himself chairing the board. In 2012, Mr. Baldoni joined the National Board. His passion and drive for Big Brothers Big Sisters caused him to stand out, as he drove to find new ways to improve the organization and both expand and improve its reach. Mr. Baldoni was named National Board Chairman in 2016 and was instrumental in sculpting a five-year plan for the organization, along with the introduction of new modern technology that tracks the match between a Big and a Little. He has also played a huge role in adopting new criteria for all Big Brother Big Sister affiliates to improve standardization between chapters and has worked to rebrand the organization as a whole.

Overall, Mr. Baldoni's time working with Big Brothers Big Sisters has been characterized by his unwavering loyalty and dedication to this cause of mentorship. His national perspective combined with a local understanding of issues has made him an incredibly gifted leader who continues to work for change. His unwavering and endless dedication to this cause has made him a true champion for kids.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, proud home of the national headquarters for Big Brothers Big Sisters, I am proud to honor Mr. Baldoni for his formidable efforts and investment in our children all across America. The time and energy he has put into this organization shaped the futures of children from all different backgrounds. By strengthening communities and allowing these positive relationships to grow within Big Brothers Big Sisters, his work empowers children from Tampa Bay and beyond to achieve, succeed and flourish a blessing not just for them but for all of us.

RECOVERING AT THE REFUGE
RANCH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Austin, Texas there is a beautiful community with pets, rooms for arts and music, and beds for 48 young girls. No, this is not a sorority house, rather it is a safe haven for victims of domestic sex trafficking.

Known as The Refuge Ranch, this community is designed to assist girls that have been rescued from the evils of sex trafficking and will open its doors this coming August. When the first girls arrive at the ranch, they will have access to a school, counselors, and different types of therapy including art, garden, and music therapy.