

# INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-WAGE FEDERAL CONTRACTOR EM- PLOYEE BACK PAY ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Low-Wage Federal Contractor Employee Back Pay Act to grant back pay to federally contracted retail, food, custodial and security service workers who are furloughed during a federal government shutdown this fiscal year (fiscal year 2019). This bill applies to all three branches of the federal government. After the 2013 government shutdown, federal workers received back pay, but not federal contract workers. While I believe that all federal employees and federal contract workers should receive back pay after a shutdown, we know that we cannot get Congress to make whole all who are hurt by a shutdown. My bill focuses specifically on low-wage federal contract workers, some of whom work here on the Capitol grounds providing Members of Congress and congressional staff with daily services, because these are the workers most likely to be irretrievably hurt by lost wages during a shutdown.

Many federal contract workers earn little more than the minimum wage and receive few, if any, benefits. While some are unionized with a little better wage, all are the lowest-paid workers in the federal government and should not be penalized because Congress has failed to do its job to keep the government functioning. Congress, historically, has provided back pay to federal employees, who often work in the same buildings as these low-wage contract workers, furloughed during government shutdowns—but not to low-wage contract workers. However, both groups of workers deserve to be made whole after shutdowns. I recognize, of course, that contract workers are employees of contractors, but the distinction between federal workers and, at least, the lowest-paid contract workers, who, for example, keep buildings clean, fails when it comes to a deliberate government shutdown. Unlike many other contractors, those who employ low-wage service workers have little latitude to help make up for lost wages. Low-wage, federally contracted service workers can least afford the loss of pay during a shutdown and should not have to go without pay while everyone else in their federal buildings likely receives back pay.

The nation's capital is the high-profile home of the federal government's complicity with contractors who pay low wages through leases and contracts with federal agencies. At least this legislation would provide some parity to their low-wage federal contract workers.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ANDREW  
FITZGERALD

## HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Andrew Fitzgerald

of the United States Coast Guard, a hero and beloved member of the community who passed away at the age of eighty-seven.

Andrew Fitzgerald, a true American hero, lived an exemplary life of service, demonstrating a true commitment to our nation and our community. Born in Whitinsville, Massachusetts on March 19, 1931, he was always motivated to better his community. As a young man he joined the United States Coast Guard. He would then go on to be a part of the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history and receive the Gold Lifesaving Medal.

On February 18, 1952, Mr. Fitzgerald and the crewmen aboard CG-36500 responded to two large oil tankers in distress, the *Fort Mercer* and the *Pendleton*. They showed exemplary skill as they navigated through high winds, lightning, and monstrous seas. While on their way to the *Pendleton*, the severe thrashing of the waves caused their engine to stall. Mr. Fitzgerald demonstrated extreme heroism as he crawled into their engine compartment to restart it every time, so they could continue on their mission. Once they arrived at the *Pendleton*, one by one, they took 32 survivors off the pitching stern and brought them safely to Chatham Harbor.

Following his service in the Coast Guard, Mr. Fitzgerald went on to have a successful business career in Colorado. He married Gloria Frabotta in 1956, and together they had a daughter, Dawn and a son, Michael. Mr. Fitzgerald dedicated his life to caring for his loved ones, including volunteering at his local church. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who crossed his path.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Andrew Fitzgerald. I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering his courageous actions, and those of his crewmen, that saved so many lives.

# HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

## HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This landmark law has protected cherished birds throughout North America while unifying environmentalists, hunters, and scientists for generations.

In New Hope, Pennsylvania, supporters of environmental preservation are gathering at the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow on December 19, 2018, to celebrate the "Year of the Bird" in honor of the centennial celebration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

It gives me immense pride to stand with them and their commitment to environmental stewardship for all animal species. As we celebrate the "Year of the Bird," let us remember the joy and beauty nature provides us, and strive for unifying goals of which the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a prime model.

# PASSING OF LARRY "PETE" PETERSON

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Larry "Pete" Peterson of Yuba City, CA, was born on April 23, 1936, and passed away on October 11, 2018 at Rideout Hospital in Marysville. Pete retired from the United States Air Force as a Tech Sergeant after serving 43 years and served in the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. Pete continued to serve his community as an officer with the Yuba City Police Department and after retiring, served 25 years as a Reserve Officer.

Pete was a member of the Episcopal Church and participated in the activities of the VFW Post 2563, Yuba City American Legion post 705, Disabled American Veteran Chapter 6 Sacramento, CA, and the Thomas T Smith Masonic Lodge No. 78 in Marysville, CA. Pete was an active participant in the Kiwanis Club. He served as past president and past Lt. Governor. Pete was the founder of The Hope Of America Scholarship Program. He was also a George F. Hixson Fellow. He received numerous awards and recognition from retired Police Chief Richard Doscher and retired Deputy Chief George Carey.

Pete is preceded in death by Debra Peterson and Sandra Pankey-Peterson, wives; his daughter, Nicole Peterson; his son, Lawrence F. Peterson, Jr.; and his brother, Paul Peterson.

He leaves to grieve a stepson, Aaron Pankey; his stepmother, Vivian Peterson; his sisters, Florence Dent-Hunter and Loretta Johnson; his brother, Vincent Peterson; daughters-in-law, Alfreda Peterson and Connie Peterson; five grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; one great-grandson; and numerous sisters and brothers-in-law, cousins and friends.

# HONORING DARIUS ANDERSON

## HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 19, 2018*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Darius Anderson for his outstanding business acumen and host of contributions to his community.

Darius Anderson is a founder and contributing member of a variety of businesses. About 20 years ago, he became the Founder and CEO of Platinum Advisors, a government affairs firm that works all throughout California. He also is the Founder and CEO of Kenwood Investments, a California Opportunity Fund that has been a fixture in many communities since 2000. On top of that, he is a Managing Member of Sonoma Media Investments, a newspaper publisher. He also served as the Chief of Staff for the Yucaipa Companies and was the Vice President of External Affairs for Ralphs Grocery Stores, Inc. between 1993 and 1998.

Darius Anderson has dedicated years of hard work and his own personal time for the betterment of his community. He was the