

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE CAMERA ACT 1/3/19

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Police Creating Accountability by Making Effective Recording Act, also known as the Police CAMERA Act, a bill I introduced today with several of my colleagues. If enacted, this bill would establish a grant program to assist state and local law enforcement with the deployment of body-worn camera programs.

Safe communities require good police.

Good policing requires public trust.

Unfortunately, in far too many communities, that trust has become strained.

In the wake of recent police shootings, our nation is facing sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. We face sobering questions about race.

Over the past several years, the wider availability of video has shined a much-needed light on police use of deadly force. Without video of places like North Charleston, Staten Island, Chicago, Cleveland, Baton Rouge, Tulsa and Falcon Heights, Minnesota the world might never know what occurred.

The more we see of these types of videos, the more we are left to wonder about all the incidents that were not recorded.

Had there been better video of the shooting of Darrius Stewart in my home town of Memphis, it might have helped to better inform the grand jury that, sadly, refused to indict the police officer who was responsible.

Justice is supposed to be blind, but it is not supposed to be blind to the facts.

Police body cameras can help provide evidence and restore some much-needed trust.

They can protect both police and citizens alike.

The vast majority of police are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. They have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. Their actions damage the public trust that is essential for good police to be able to serve and protect our communities.

Police body cameras, alone, won't solve this problem. But they are an important step in the right direction.

I urge all members to help pass the Police CAMERA Act quickly.

IN MEMORY OF MR. RALPH
WILLIAM HALL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great soldier, dedicated

husband, loving father, and loyal friend to many, Mr. Ralph William Hall. Sadly, Mr. Hall passed away on December 18, 2018. His funeral service will be held on January 5, 2019 at 11 am at St. Timothy Episcopal Church located at 3601 Alabama Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20020.

Mr. Ralph William Hall was born on January 25, 1919, in Metcalf, Georgia to the union of Adam and Maggie Franklin Hall. He was the oldest of five children. At an early age, he moved to Thomasville, Georgia where he lived with his parents and maternal grandmother. During this time, he learned to fish, hunt, and perform farm chores. But, it was also during this time that his unbreakable bond with God was cemented. He joined St. Mark AME Church and attended every Sunday. He also attended Allen Normal School, a private Congregational school where he learned self-discipline and bible study.

A diligent student, Ralph graduated from Douglas High School, where he served as Senior Class President. He went on to continue his education at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he earned a degree in Mathematics in 1941. Ralph was drafted into the United States Army while in college, but was allowed to complete his degree requirements, then served faithfully for five years. He was discharged in 1946. He was initiated into the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was a life member for 80 years until his passing.

Following his discharge from the Army, his life would change forever as he was joined in holy matrimony with his college sweetheart, Virginia (Ginny) Holder.

He moved his new family to Washington, D.C. and embarked on a career with the Federal Government that lasted for 35 years. During this time, two children were born to this union, Douglas and Angela.

Sadly, Ginny became ill and passed in 1962. Mr. Hall was then left with the awesome task of being a single father. However, as with other challenges in his life, he was more than ready to meet this one. His strong and unwavering faith in God led him to become a member of the Jones United Methodist Church, where he proudly served as Chairman of the Trustee Board, where he led the completion of the Education Building along with serving as the Church School Superintendent.

Another major life changing event for him occurred when he was introduced to Thelma Johnson by a dear Army Buddy and his wife, Milton and Evelyn Serallee. This led to their marriage in 1965 and the new family moved to Hillcrest area in Southeast Washington, D.C.

Ralph Hall continued his love for service to humankind as a member of the Hillcrest Civic Association and as PTA President at Anne Beers Elementary School. In 1966, he and Thelma joined St. Timothy's Episcopal Church where he served many roles to include: Lay Reader, Diocesan Delegate, Member of the Men of St. Timothy's (Most), and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews. He truly dedicated his life to the service of others. And was a con-

stant example of sincerity, loyalty, and devotion to family.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mr. Ralph William Hall. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to the Hall family during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation proposals for African-Americans Act. This legislation was first introduced by retired Member of Congress John Conyers of Michigan in 1989, and was intended to examine the institution of slavery in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present, and further recommend appropriate remedies.

Since the initial introduction of this legislation, its proponents have made substantial progress in elevating the discussion of reparations and reparatory justice at the national level and joining the mainstream international debate on the issues. Though some have tried to deflect the importance of these conversations by focusing on individual monetary compensation, the real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society. Through legislation, resolutions, news, and litigation, we are moving closer to making more strides in the movement toward reparations.

Today there are more people at the table—more activists, more scholars, more CEO's, more state and local officials, and more Members of Congress. However, despite this progress and the election of the first African American President of African descent, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications remain largely ignored by mainstream analysis. These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare and criminal justice policy, including policing practices. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

Over the last several years, we have had a distinguished academic and activist panel from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the National African American Reparations Commission dive into some of the most salient points in the reparations discussion. I am supporting this effort by continuing to hold the annual reparations retrospective at the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I believe that H.R. 40 is a crucial piece of legislation because it goes beyond exploring the economic implications of slavery and segregation. It is a holistic bill in the sense that it seeks to establish a commission to also examine the moral and social implications of slavery. In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement for slavery.

With the over criminalization and policing of black bodies, a reoccurring issue in African-American communities, I believe this conversation is both relevant and crucial to restoring trust in governmental institutions in many communities. As in years past, I welcome open and constructive discourse on H.R. 40 and the creation of this commission in the 116th Congress. Though the times and circumstance may change, the principle problem of slavery continues to weigh heavily on this country. A federal commission can help us reach into this dark past and bring us into a brighter future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Police Training and Independent Review Act, a bill I introduced today with colleague LACY CLAY of Missouri.

If enacted, the Police Training and Independent Review Act would help ensure the independent investigation and prosecution of law enforcement officers in cases involving their use of deadly force. It would also help ensure that law enforcement officers receive appropriate training.

America received a wakeup call in Ferguson, Missouri. We received another in Staten Island, New York.

We received yet another in Ohio, South Carolina, Illinois, Minnesota, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Our nation faces sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. And we face sobering questions about race. These questions simply cannot be ignored.

For too many, for too long, justice has seemed too lacking.

President Obama's Commission on 21st Century Policing suggested several common sense reforms, including the use of independent prosecutors for police-involved civilian deaths, as well as additional training for law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, Congress has yet to act on these recommendations.

We need to stop asking local prosecutors to investigate the same law enforcement officers with whom they work so closely, and whose relationships they rely upon to perform their daily responsibilities. Prosecutors also often seek the support of their local police when they run for reelection.

This is an inherent conflict of interest, and if we are serious about restoring a sense of fairness and justice, we must remove this conflict immediately.

To be sure, the vast majority of prosecutors and law enforcement officers are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. And they have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains that some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. When it comes to investigating, and potentially prosecuting, these actions, there is often a perception of unfairness, and that perception poisons the public trust.

That is bad for law enforcement as well as citizens, making their work more dangerous.

The Police Training and Independent Review Act would give states an incentive to use independent prosecutors when police use of deadly force results in a civilian death. It would also give states and incentive to provide training to police to help them better understand the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, as well as how best to work with individuals who are disabled or mentally ill.

If states use independent prosecutors and provide appropriate training, they would become eligible for additional federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation quickly, and help restore some much needed faith in our criminal justice system.

I want to thank my colleague, LACY CLAY for his partnership on this bill. He is a tireless advocate on these issues, and I am honored to work with him. I also want to thank Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH for her leadership on this legislation, and look forward to her introducing a Senate companion soon.

COMBATTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SCIENCE ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by my good friend, Ranking Member LUCAS, in introducing the Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019.

Over the last year, the #MeToo movement emboldened countless women, many who had remained silent for years, to share their experiences. Their stories made it clear that the experience of sexual harassment is much too common across all segments of our society. A recent report by the National Academies of Sciences revealed that sexual harassment is pervasive in the scientific workplace—in lecture halls, laboratories, observatories, and remote field sites. The report also found that sexual harassment stifles the advancement of female scientists.

This bill establishes a research program at the National Science Foundation to examine the prevalence of and factors contributing to sexual harassment in the scientific workforce. Furthermore, this bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to issue uniform policy guidance to Federal science agencies to ensure every agency has clear policies and dedicated resources to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual harassment at academic institutions receiving federal research funding. This legislation also creates an interagency working group to improve coordination and communication among agencies in addressing sexual harassment by federally funded scientists.

Sexual harassment is driving some of our brightest minds away from careers in research at a time when we need them most. If we are to tackle the scientific and technological challenges ahead of us, we must do more to ensure women are free to conduct their research without being degraded, harassed, or abused because of their gender. The Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 is an important first step in that direction, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will support this legislation.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BUILD AMERICA ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Build America Act, legislation that will provide \$10 billion annually for merit-based infrastructure grants across the country. For years, House Democrats have called for a dramatic investment in infrastructure, and for years, these call calls have gone unanswered. I am hopeful that this will be the year that we finally make the investments we need. I am proud to offer my own legislation today—not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package—but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit that will ensure we put money towards the greatest infrastructure needs regardless of any additional package passed in the House.

My legislation will significantly increase the size and scope of two existing infrastructure grant programs, the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), also known as New Starts/Small Starts, and the BUILD Grant Program, formerly known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program, or TIGER Grants. These programs have been immensely successful in the past, assisting rural and urban communities prioritize their own needs. Each program requires matching funds from those seeking assistance, making them smart and effective avenues for leveraging federal funding to make a real impact across the country.

My bill takes these programs out of the annual appropriations process. Instead, it establishes them as mandatory programs with permanent and expanded funding streams totaling more than \$10 billion annually.

This expansion will be welcome news to the thousands of communities like those I represent. Consider this, Madam Speaker: since

2009, Congress has dedicated more than \$5.1 billion for multiple rounds of TIGER funding. In FY2015 alone, the program received \$10.1 billion in applications. That's twice the total amount of funding over a 10 year period in just a single fiscal year. The process is competitive, and it allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate commitments to their projects.

By increasing these funding levels and removing the programs from the annual appropriations process, we will take the guesswork and uncertainty out of the programs. This in turn will allow communities around the country to submit funding requests for projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance, including the construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water infrastructure, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Madam Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Last Congress, Congressional Democrats unveiled a trillion-dollar plan to make these investments and create tens of thousands of jobs. However, like so many other proposals, it was rejected out of hand by the Republican Majority. We need to get serious.

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' issues a "Report Card" for America's Infrastructure. The report depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure, assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement across 16 major infrastructure categories. The most recent report card was issued last two years ago. Among the national rankings, transit systems were rated a D— and roads were rated a D.

Dams: D.

Drinking water: D.

Inland waterways: D.

Levees: D.

We need to move this process forward. I urge my colleagues to consider my bill without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STREAMLINED AND IMPROVED METHODS AT POLLING LOCATIONS AND EARLY VOTING ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early Voting Act, also known as the "SIMPLE" Voting Act for short that I introduced today.

This is a scary time for voting rights. We are witnessing an assault on voting rights the likes of which our nation has not seen since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. The President has alleged during the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, without evidence, that there is widespread voter fraud in our country.

In the name of protecting Americans from supposed in-person voter fraud—a fraud that

is virtually non-existent—states have been enacting voter ID laws. The real reason for these laws, however, has been anything but election integrity. It has been about partisan politics and discrimination.

But don't take my word for it. Take the words of legislators like the then-Pennsylvania House Majority Leader who boasted in 2012 that the state's newly enacted voter ID law would allow Mitt Romney to win his state. While speaking about his legislature's accomplishments, he said, "Voter ID, which is going to allow Governor Romney to win the state of Pennsylvania: done."

Or take the comments of a freshman Republican Wisconsin state representative who, while being interviewed ahead of the 2016 election, said, "And now we have photo ID, and I think photo ID is going to make a little bit of a difference as well."

Or take the word of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit which said that provisions of a voter ID law in North Carolina "target African Americans with almost surgical precision[.]" According to the court, the law imposed cures for problems that did not exist, and "thus the asserted justifications cannot and do not conceal the State's true motivation."

The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. It is sacred. Yet, sadly, we have an ugly history in this nation of efforts to limit people's ability to access this constitutional right.

We need to make it easier for people to vote, not harder, and that is why I have introduced this bill today.

If enacted, the SIMPLE Voting Act would require states to allow early voting for federal elections for at least two weeks prior to election day, and to the greatest extent possible ensure that polling locations are within walking distance of a stop on a public transportation route.

It would also require that sufficient voting systems, poll workers and other election resources are provided, that wait times are fair and equitable for all voters across a state, and that no one be required to wait longer than one hour to cast a ballot at a polling place.

None of this should be controversial. This is all common sense, or at least should be, to those who want help more Americans to vote.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. PAUL STEWART

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Paul Stewart as he is inducted by the USA Hockey Association into the USA Hockey Hall of Fame.

Mr. Stewart was born and raised in Dorchester, Massachusetts, where he got his first pair of skates at age six, after borrowing his sister's figure skates too many times. He rose to playing in the National Hockey League for the Quebec Nordiques.

Transitioning from a career playing in the NHL to paving the way for American referees, Mr. Stewart became the first American to both

play and officiate in the National Hockey League. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, he officiated his first game on March 27, 1986 in his hometown rink, the Boston Garden.

Players respected him, as he had a great respect for the players. He set an example for the future of NHL officiating and a new pathway for future referees. A testament to his strength and commitment came in the middle of his career, when he beat cancer and was back officiating within a year of his diagnosis. Outside of the regular season, Mr. Stewart officiated 49 Stanley Cup playoff games and two NHL All-Star games.

In 2003, Mr. Stewart became the first American born referee to officiate 1,000 NHL regular-season games. He finished out officiating his 1,010th and final game right where it all started, at home in Boston surrounded by family and friends.

After his trailblazing career on the ice, Mr. Stewart served as an ambassador for the NHL's Hockey Fights Cancer campaign. He also went on to be the director of the Bill Stewart Foundation, raising money for inner city youth sports, and the ECAC director of officiating, now working to break down barriers for women in the NHL. Following in the family profession, his two sons, McCauley and Maxwell, are both officiating hockey.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Paul Stewart for his trailblazing efforts that have changed the future of the sport, and who now joins his grandfather in the USA Hockey Hall of Fame. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI JUDGE JOHN ANDREW HATCHER, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of one of Mississippi's most devoted citizens and public servants, the Honorable Judge John Andrew Hatcher, Jr. Judge Hatcher, a native of Sunflower, Mississippi, is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Upon graduation from Drew High School in 1966, Judge Hatcher continued his education at Delta State University. After graduating in 1969, he attended the University of Mississippi School of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate. This began Judge Hatcher's impeccable legal career.

Judge Hatcher began practicing law in Booneville, Mississippi, in November 1973. He also took up teaching as he taught a paralegal program at Northeast Mississippi Community College. This led to a passion advocating for public service. Judge Hatcher served as the vice chairman of the Mississippi Council on Children from 1977 to 1979, the Housing Specialist with the Governor's Office of Federal, State and Local Programs, Division of Housing Coordinator from 1978 to 1979 and the Director of Yocona Area Council of Boy Scouts of America from 1979 to 1980.

Judge Hatcher went on to serve as the county prosecutor for Prentiss County, Mississippi, from 1980 to 1995. He also served as

the city prosecutor for Baldwin, Mississippi and the city attorney for Marietta, Mississippi, from 1991 to 2006. During this time, he also began representing Farmington, Mississippi, as the city attorney. More recently, Judge Hatcher has served as the Chancery Court Judge of the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi for eleven years.

Judge Hatcher's experiences have helped him serve in several leadership roles throughout his community. He was the president of the First Judicial District Bar Association. Along with the founding incorporator, director and secretary of Booneville-Prentiss County Parks, Inc. he currently serves as the founding incorporator, director and secretary of Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission Inc. He is also the founding incorporator, director, and president of Lower Anderson Owners' Association Inc., and is also a very active member of Booneville First United Methodist Church currently on the pastor-parish relations committee.

Judge Hatcher has had the love and support of his wife of 49 years, Kathy Hatcher. He has selflessly served the people of Mississippi for more than forty years. His devotion to God, America and his fellow man will always be remembered, and I wish him and his family many years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL STATISTICS ON DEADLY FORCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the fact that after the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, the Eric Garner killing in Staten Island, and so many other, similar tragic events around the country, we still don't have reliable statistics about when, where and against whom law enforcement uses deadly force is shameful.

Even former FBI Director James Comey has said it is "ridiculous that [he] can't tell you how many people were shot by the police last week, last month, last year."

If we are serious about addressing excessive force, we need to know the full scope of the problem. For example, how often is deadly force used? Are minorities disproportionately the victims? Could other, non-lethal measures have been taken?

That is why today I am introducing the National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act. It would require collection of this type of information. Although a provision of the 1994 Crime Bill requires the Attorney General to collect statistics on the use of excessive force, there is no enforcement mechanism and the federal government has been unable to gather data from many local police departments. Since excessive force can be difficult to define, this bill would be limited to just instances where deadly force is used.

Specifically, this legislation would require any law enforcement agency receiving federal funds to provide data to the Department of Justice on when each instance of deadly force occurred, including the race and gender of both the victim and the officer involved. It would also require an explanation as to why law enforcement felt deadly force was justified

and any non-lethal efforts that were taken before deadly force was used.

The Department of Justice would make this data publicly available but would not disclose any personally identifying information.

This is information the public should already have. The fact we don't is absurd. I urge my colleagues to fix this problem and pass the National Statistics on Deadly Force Transparency Act without delay.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR VALARIE GANDY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, our men and women in uniform sacrifice to keep our nation strong and free. They are well-trained, extraordinarily capable and are some of our country's best and brightest. Among their ranks is Major Valarie Gandy, who I want to help recognize today for her service to the U.S. Army Reserve and Congress.

Major Valarie Gandy, from Sylacauga, Alabama, was selected for the Army's Congressional Fellowship Program in 2015. She served as a Defense Fellow in my office from January to December 2016. I, along with my staff, greatly benefitted from her expertise, assistance, and advisement during the year-long assignment. During that time, Major Gandy became a valuable member of my team and earned my confidence to serve as my Military Legislative Assistant.

She served as an advisor on all matters relating to defense, intelligence and veteran affairs. She researched and drafted multiple pieces of legislation introduced to Congress, including a provision on equal survivor benefits for Reserve and National Guard members in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

After her time in my office, Major Gandy became a legislative liaison for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve (OCAR) Legislative Affairs Division, where she oversaw the military personnel, civilian employee and medical portfolios.

Major Gandy facilitated my visit to the Army Reserve Center in Grand Prairie, Texas in 2018. Due to her outreach efforts and effective communication, she became a heavily relied upon resource for congressional offices. For her congressional contributions and efforts, she has been recognized by veterans and military support organizations.

Our military personnel do not shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone, and Major Gandy is no exception. Her husband of 17-years, Raphael, sons, Ty and Alex, and daughter, Blayze, have stood proudly by her side, sacrificing time with their wife and mother while she fulfilled her military commitments. To them also, we offer a truly heartfelt thank you.

I proudly recognize Major Valarie Gandy's years of service to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRESH START ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Fresh Start Act, a bill I introduced today.

If enacted, it would allow certain individuals who have been convicted of nonviolent offenses, paid their debt to society, and are now law-abiding members of the community to petition courts to have their nonviolent conviction expunged from their records.

A criminal record, even for a minor, non-violent offense, can pose as a barrier to employment, education and housing opportunities—the very things necessary to start one's life over.

This is not only bad for rehabilitated offenders, it is bad for their families and for the communities in which they live.

The Fresh Start Act would give nonviolent offenders a chance to start over again, a chance to become productive members of society.

The bill allows offenders to apply for expungement to the court where they were sentenced and allows the United States Attorney for that district to submit recommendations to the court. Applicants who are denied could reapply once every two years. Once seven years have elapsed since an offender has completed their sentence, expungement would be automatically granted. However, sex offenders and those who commit crimes causing a loss of over \$25,000 would not be eligible for automatic expungement.

Finally, the bill would also encourage states to pass their own expungement laws for state offenses. States that pass a substantially similar law would receive a 5 percent increase in their Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding while those that do not would lose 5 percent of their Byrne funds.

It is one thing to convict someone of a non-violent crime. It is quite another to condemn him to a de facto life sentence for it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2019

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2019. This legislation will serve to clarify and, in some cases, expand the voting rights of people with felony convictions, the next logical step in restoring their full participation in civic life.

The United States remains one of the world's strictest nations when it comes to denying the right to vote to citizens convicted of crimes. An estimated 6.1 million citizens are ineligible to vote in federal elections due to their status as ex-offenders. More than four and a half million of these disqualified voters are not in prison, but are on probation, parole, or have completed their sentence. Due to differences in state laws and rates of criminal

punishment, states vary widely in the practice of disenfranchisement, demonstrating a critical federal interest for uniform standards.

Clarification of the law on restoration of ex-offender voting rights is a critical next step in criminal justice reform. In 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, signaling a bipartisan awareness of the importance of enacting policies that assist in the reintegration of ex-offenders into their communities. Recent public opinion research has also shown that a significant majority of Americans favor voting rights for people on probation or parole, who are currently supervised in their communities, as well as for individuals who have completed their sentences. This legislation both captures the bipartisan spirit of the Bush administration and is consistent with evolving public opinion on rehabilitation of ex-offenders.

From a constitutional basis, the Democracy Restoration Act is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for people with felony convictions, while protecting state prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. The legislation would only apply to persons who are not in prison, and would only apply to federal elections. As such, our bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding federal voting rights laws.

Since the initial introduction of this legislation, the Sentencing Project reports 27 states have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand voter eligibility. These reforms have resulted in an estimated more than 800,000 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, the overall rate of ex-offender disenfranchisement has not abated and continues to have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. Many of the state reforms still rely on lengthy waiting periods or clemency and several feature burdensome procedural hurdles that have proven difficult to navigate for persons seeking to restore their voting rights. As a result, approximately 50 percent of the entire disenfranchised population is clustered in 12 states, with Florida alone accounting for 48 percent of the post-sentence population.

Proponents of ex-offender disenfranchisement have offered few justifications for continuing the practice. In fact, the strongest empirical research suggests that prohibitions on the right to vote undermine both our voting system and the fundamental rights of people with felony convictions. A series of studies make clear that civic engagement is pivotal in the transition from incarceration and discouraging repeat offenses. Disenfranchisement laws only serve to isolate and alienate ex-offenders, creating additional obstacles in their attempt to successfully put the past behind them by fully reintegrating into society. Unfortunately that is only half the story.

The current patchwork of state laws has created widespread confusion among election officials throughout the country and served as the justification for flawed voter purges. For example, although people with misdemeanor convictions never lose the right to vote in Ohio, in 2008, 30 percent of election officials in the state responded incorrectly or expressed uncertainty about whether individuals with misdemeanor convictions could vote. A similar survey by the Nebraska ACLU in advance of the 2016 general election determined

that about half of state election officials gave out the wrong information about former felons voting rights. Given the general confusion by election officials on restoration of voting rights, many ex-offenders are hesitant to even attempt registration, depriving eligible voters of their rights. Only federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

In past Congresses, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, Human Rights Watch, the Brennan Center for Justice, and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others. This coalition has expanded to include many law enforcement groups including the American Probation and Parole Association, the Association of Paroling Authorities International, and the National Black Police Association, among others, who recognize that allowing people to vote after release from prison helps rebuild ties to the community that motivate law-abiding behavior.

The denial of voting rights by many states to ex-offenders represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin and property. I believe that our nation fails not only people with felony convictions by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of our society that has struggled throughout its history to ensure that its citizenry be part of legitimate and inclusive elections. It is long overdue that these restrictions be relegated to unenlightened history.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. PAUL ELIZONDO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Paul Elizondo, who passed away on December 27, 2018. Mr. Elizondo was a fellow San Antonio resident and public servant who dedicated his life to others. He is survived by his wife, Irene, 3 sons and 3 granddaughters. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Elizondo studied Music Education at St. Mary's University. In 1957, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served 2 years. A skilled saxophone player, he carried an appreciation for music throughout his life. For 14 years, Mr. Elizondo taught music at the San Antonio and Edgewood Independent School Districts. He was Director of the Paul Elizondo Orchestra for 50 years. His orchestra was enjoyed by the community for many years.

Mr. Elizondo was a meaningful force for progress in our community. In 1978, Mr. Elizondo was elected to the Texas House of Representatives where he served two terms and was a member of the House Committee on State Affairs and the House Committee on Public Education. In 1982, he was first elected to the Bexar County Commissioners Court, later being elected to serve an unprecedented 10th term as Commissioner for Precinct 2, making him the longest serving member of the five-person Commissioners Court.

Mr. Elizondo was known as a no-nonsense individual whose commitment to policy was

only matched by his strong sense of humor. He led incremental health care and criminal justice programs. He was strong advocate for mental health services throughout the county. He was instrumental in major infrastructure and safety projects such as the Bexar County flood control program. Mr. Elizondo's presence in the community extended beyond the Court. Notably, he assisted in bringing critical development to the Westside of San Antonio.

To many, Mr. Elizondo was considered a mentor who dedicated over 30 years to public service. His institutional recollection of many county matters will be sorely missed. Bexar County was well served by Commissioner Paul Elizondo.

I am proud to have known this great individual. The passing of Mr. Paul Elizondo has been greatly felt throughout our community. However, I am confident that his impact will last for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWBORN ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Nationally Enhancing the Wellbeing of Babies through Outreach and Research Now (NEWBORN) Act, a bill I introduced today.

In 2016, Tennessee had almost 600 children die before their first birthday, including over 120 in Shelby County. Shelby County's infant mortality rate was 9.3 per 1,000 live births, which was a 13 percent increase over 2015 and significantly higher than both Tennessee's rate of 7.4 percent and the national rate of 5.9 percent.

In the United States, our infant mortality rate is comparable to countries like Bosnia, Chile, and Cuba, and an American child is 76 percent more likely to die before their first birthday in America than in 19 other wealthy nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Even more concerning is the racial and ethnic infant mortality disparities that continue to exist. In 2016, the rates for infant mortality was nearly double for African American infants compared to white infants in Tennessee.

This is unacceptable. That's why I am introducing the NEWBORN Act.

If enacted, the NEWBORN Act would create infant mortality-focused pilot programs in the highest-risk areas of the country.

The pilot programs would focus on addressing one or more of the top five reasons for infant mortality: birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, maternal pregnancy complications, and injuries to the infant.

The NEWBORN Act would specifically encourage the development of community-specific practices to promote pre-natal care and community outreach and education.

The current infant mortality rates are tragic, but good practices can improve health and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Washington, D.C. Admission Act with 156 original cosponsors, a record number. This is the most important bill I introduce each Congress. District of Columbia residents have always been citizens of the United States, ranking number one in federal taxes per capita that support the federal government, but are the only federal income tax-paying Americans who do not have full and equal citizenship rights. The denial of local control of local matters and of equal representation in the Congress can be remedied only by statehood.

Therefore, I am introducing the Washington, D.C. Admission Act to create a state from essentially the eight home-town wards of the District. This 51st state, of course, would have no jurisdiction over the federal enclave that now consists of the Washington that Members of Congress and visitors associate with the capital of our country. The U.S. Capitol Complex, the principal federal monuments, federal buildings and grounds, the National Mall, the White House, and other federal property here would remain under federal jurisdiction. Our bill provides that the State of Washington, D.C. would be equal to the other 50 states in all respects, as is always required, and that the residents of Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship, including two senators and, initially, one House member. The District recognizes that it can enter the Union only on an equal basis, and is prepared to do so.

A substantially similar version of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act was the first bill I introduced after I was first sworn in as a Member of Congress in the 102nd Congress in 1991. Our first try for statehood received significant support in the House. In 1993, we got the first and only vote on statehood for the District, with nearly 60 percent of Democrats and one Republican voting for the bill. The Senate held a hearing on various approaches to representation, but the committee of jurisdiction did not proceed further. In the 113th Congress, our statehood bill got unprecedented momentum with the Senate's first-ever hearing on statehood, which was the first congressional hearing held on statehood in more than 20 years, since the House held its hearing on statehood in 1993, and obtained a record number of cosponsors in the House and Senate, including then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as well as the other top three Democratic leaders in the Senate. In addition, then-President Obama endorsed D.C. statehood in a public forum before the statehood hearing was held. In the 115th Congress, not only was there a record number of original cosponsors in the House (116) and Senate (18), but also a record number of cosponsors in the House (181) and Senate (30).

Statehood is the only solution for full and equal citizenship rights for residents of the District. To be content with less than statehood is to concede the equality of citizenship that is the birthright of our residents as citizens of the United States. That is a conces-

sion no American citizen has ever made, and one that D.C. residents will not make as they approach the 218th year in their fight for equal treatment in their country. This bill reaffirms our determination to obtain each and every right enjoyed by citizens of the United States, by becoming the 51st State in the Union.

Since the founding of the nation, District residents have always carried all the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the nation's wars and payment of federal taxes, all without voting representation on the floor in either house of Congress or freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE LEE
BROWN COLLIER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated woman of God, great wife, steadfast mother, and friend of longstanding, Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. Sadly, Mrs. Collier passed away on December 27, 2018. Her funeral service will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 11 am at the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier was born on October 22, 1926, in Columbus, Georgia to the union of Cleola Daniel Brown and Daniel Brown, Sr. She gave her life to Christ and was baptized at an early age at Rosehill Memorial Baptist Church. From that time on, God continued to be the center of her life until her passing. She served as the Sunday School Superintendent and Church Clerk at Rosehill before moving her membership to the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in 1957. Her first pastor at Fourth Street was the late Reverend Henry Harris. Mrs. Collier paved the way for others as she was the first Church Secretary at Fourth Street. She was a natural and gifted leader as she served in a variety of leadership positions at Fourth Street to include the Deacon's Wives (she served as Chairperson for two terms), Pi Com Community Leader in Zebulon Community, Women's Day Speaker, 1961, Chairperson of Program and Pastoral Relations Committee, and was the Roast and Toast Honoree in 1996.

Mrs. Collier was the epitome of a great wife and mother. She married the late Deacon Samuel Lee Collier on April 26, 1950. God blessed this union for 34 years until Deacon Collier's untimely death on May 27, 1984. Six children were born to this union to include two sets of twins out: Bernice Collier Collins, Bernard Collier (deceased), Agnes Collier Averett, Samuel Lee Collier, Jr., Michelle Collier McLain, and Michael Collier. Fred Rogers once said that, "It's not so much what you have in life that matters, It's what we do with what we have." Mrs. Collier did a lot for others with what she had. In addition to her own children, she served as a mother figure to her siblings and countless others she found in need of guidance and a helping hand.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we

pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Collier paid her rent and she paid it well. She served in a variety of community organizations to include: Electric City Chapter 482 of the Order of the Eastern Stars (Worthy Matron), Spencer High Alumni (Class of 1943), and she was a Muscogee County Board of Elections Voting Precinct Manager and she traveled to various state conventions to further her knowledge of the voting process. She was also an entrepreneur and a photographer. Her professional career took her to the Medical Center, the Area Mental Health Clinic, and the Enrichment Services Program. Her benevolence extended throughout the community and she often used her influence and networking to help others to find gainful employment.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Collier's family during this time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF JOHN TANNER
FAIRNESS AND INDEPENDENCE
IN REDISTRICTING ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the John Tanner Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act, a bill I introduced today.

In most states, districts are drawn by the state legislature, and as a result, whichever party controls the state legislature ends up drawing Congressional districts specifically designed to maximize the number of Congressional seats that party can win.

In other words, the elected officials choose the voters, instead of the voters choosing the elected officials.

If enacted, the John Tanner Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act would fix this by requiring states to use bipartisan redistricting commissions to draw maps. No single party would get to control the process.

Historically, both parties have engaged in gerrymandering to some extent or another. But that does not make it right.

In a representative democracy, the people need to be able to freely and fairly choose their elected representatives.

Unfortunately, that is not always happening. This is not what the Founders envisioned. They designed the House of Representatives to be the Congressional chamber that most accurately reflects the views of the people.

The failure of the House to more accurately reflect the will of the electorate is a formula for the electorate to lose faith in the institution. It makes people cynical and discourages them from participating.

We can do better.

A democracy is supposed to be marketplace of ideas. The playing field is supposed to be fair and competitive, not gerrymandered and monopolized.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and help restore some much needed faith in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF PETER
CARNES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Chief Peter Carnes, the Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College.

Chief Carnes has devoted his life to serving and protecting the people and communities across Massachusetts. He began his illustrious career with the Wenham Police Department in 1973. Chief Carnes progressed through the ranks, becoming Wenham's chief of police.

In 1995, Chief Carnes took on the task of heading up Cape Cod's third largest Police Department as Yarmouth's Chief of Police. He brought considerable positive change to the department during his time there. His citizen's police academy and Adopt-A-School programs played an essential role in bringing together the police department and the community through education. Beyond a career serving others, Chief Carnes still calls Cape Cod home, living in Yarmouth with his wife Karen and their son.

Chief Carnes took up his current post as Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College in 2008. He has embraced a proactive approach to safety and policing, engaging with and learning from the communities he serves. Chief Carnes' innovative approach to policing has continued to put him at the forefront of his field.

Unrelenting in his commitment to advancing the cause of policing and its principles, in addition to serving faithfully as Chief of Police at the Wenham, Yarmouth, and Stonehill police departments, Chief Carnes has led many of Massachusetts' most prodigious non-departmental policing bodies. He served as the President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, The Essex County Chiefs of Police Association and the Cape Cod Chiefs Council. Chief Carnes' preeminence has allowed him to spread his community centered brand of policing to departments across Massachusetts. He has repeatedly exemplified the highest ideals of his profession throughout his years of leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Chief Peter Carnes and his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his hard work and dedication as he celebrates his retirement.

ENERGY AND WATER RESEARCH
INTEGRATION ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019.

I first want to thank my friend, Mr. LUCAS, for joining me in introducing this legislation, which calls attention to the critical link between energy and water and instructs the Department of Energy to ensure due consideration of water issues in its research, development, and demonstration programs.

As we all know, especially those of us who represent Texas, Oklahoma, and other southwestern and western states, water is a very valuable and at times rare commodity nowadays. We have experienced crippling droughts in recent years, so it is vital that we do as much as possible to use this commodity wisely. However, not many people are aware of the importance of water to energy generation and, similarly, the crucial role that energy plays in the delivery of safe, sanitary water to our constituents.

The Energy and Water Research Integration Act is a proactive measure that takes into account recent studies produced by the Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute, both of which have highlighted how closely connected energy production and water usage are. This bill encourages research into energy technologies that would improve and minimize the use of water in energy production, and also establishes a mechanism for federal agencies to work with state and local governments and other stakeholders to advance our understanding of what is known as the "energy-water nexus." In addition, the bill requires a regularly updated strategic plan to guide these efforts. These provisions are important, positive steps towards using our limited resources in the most efficient and effective way possible.

I would like to commend the Department of Energy for taking substantive action on this issue under the leadership of former Secretary Moniz and more recently under Secretary Perry. This bill will ensure that activities to address the energy-water nexus remain a priority within the Department, and provide additional tools to better guide these efforts well into the future.

The legislation Mr. LUCAS and I are introducing is a constructive, bipartisan measure and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. Working together, I hope that we can demonstrate a strong, sustained commitment to research and development in this vital area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE ACCESS, RESEARCH EXPANSION AND RESPECT STATES (CARERS) ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act, also known as the CARERS Act. This bipartisan bill would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, allow states to import cannabidiol to treat patients with seizures, give the Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to patients and improve opportunities for research on marijuana.

The consensus on medical marijuana is already overwhelming and continues to build.

According to a Quinnipiac University poll, 93 percent of Americans believe people should be allowed to use medically prescribed marijuana.

93 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

In November, Missouri and Utah joined a growing majority of states that have legalized medical marijuana. Thirty-two states plus the District of Columbia have approved medical marijuana.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 93 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures.

Her family tried desperately to treat her with cannabidiol—also known as "Charlotte's Web" or "CBD" for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe.

Chloe died without receiving CBD.

This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

I want to thank my colleague DON YOUNG of Alaska, for his partnership on this bill as well as Senator CORY BOOKER and the bipartisan coalition he is leading in the Senate on these issues. I urge both the House and Senate to pass this swiftly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER IN-LIEU AND TREATY FISHING ACCESS SITES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, I am once again reintroducing the Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act. Last Congress we came so close to making this bill into law—passing it in the Senate and reporting it out of the House Natural Resources Committee. I am committed to finally passing this bill to improve the living conditions at the 31

Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites along the Columbia River.

This legislation calls for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to conduct a much-needed assessment of current conditions at the In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access sites under BIA ownership on both sides of the Columbia, in coordination with the four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Yakama Nation. It authorizes the BIA to improve existing federal structures and infrastructure, improve sanitation and safety conditions, and increase access to electricity, sewer, and water infrastructure. BIA may contract with tribes and tribal organizations to conduct this important work that will lay a critical foundation for the construction of permanent tribal housing.

Congress must do more to help members of these four tribes who reside here after being displaced by decades ago by the construction of the Columbia River Dams and who never received the permanent replacement housing that was promised to them by the federal government. Those tribes have a treaty-protected right to fish along the river at their usual and accustomed places that must be respected.

I will continue to work with federal partners and tribal nations to see that the need for more permanent housing is fulfilled and tribal member's treaty rights are respected. In the meantime, Congress must improve the living conditions for the affected treaty tribe members, and we must pass this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 1.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment I introduced today to eliminate the electoral college and provide for the direct election of our nation's President and Vice President.

As Founding Father Thomas Jefferson said, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might well as require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized

society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

In 2016, for the second time in recent memory, and for the fifth time in our history, the national popular vote winner did not become President because of the Electoral College. This has happened twice to candidates from Tennessee: Al Gore and Andrew Jackson.

The reason is because the Electoral College, established to prevent an uninformed citizenry from directly electing our nation's President, no longer fits our nation's needs.

When the Founders established the Electoral College, it was in an era of limited nationwide communication. The electoral structure was premised on a theory that citizens would have a better chance of knowing about electors from their home states than about presidential candidates from out-of-state. Electors were supposed to be people of good judgment who were trusted with picking a qualified President and Vice President on behalf of the people. They held the responsibility of choosing a President because it was believed that the general public could not be properly informed of the candidates and the values each held.

That notion—that citizens should be prevented from directly electing the President—is antithetical to our understanding of democracy today, and our electoral process has not evolved to match our abilities to communicate, collect information, and make informed decisions about candidates. The development of mass media and the internet has made information about presidential candidates easily accessible to U.S. citizens across the country and around the world. The people no longer need the buffer of the electoral college to be knowledgeable about and decide who will be president. Today, citizens have a far better chance of knowing about out-of-state presidential candidates than knowing about presidential electors from their home states. Most people do not even know who their electors are.

While our ability to communicate has evolved so has the Electoral College, but not in a positive way. Electors are now little more than rubber stamps who are chosen based on their political parties and who represent the interests of those political parties, rather than representing the people. Most states legally bind their electors to vote for whomever wins that state's popular vote, so electors can no longer exercise individual judgment when selecting a candidate.

In our country, "We the People," are supposed to determine who represents us in elective office. Yet, we use an anachronistic process for choosing who will hold the highest offices in the land.

It is time for us to fix this, and that is why I have introduced this amendment today.

Since our nation first adopted our Constitution, "We the People," have amended it repeatedly to expand the opportunity for citizens to directly elect our leaders:

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of race.

The 19th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens to vote, regardless of gender.

The 26th Amendment guarantees the right of all citizens 18 years of age and older to vote.

And the 17th Amendment empowers citizens to directly elect U.S. Senators.

We need to amend our Constitution to empower citizens to directly elect the President and the Vice President of the United States.

Working together, I know we can make our Constitution better reflect the "more perfect Union" to which it aspires.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH BIRTHDAY OF IRENE MILLER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Irene Miller she who turned 110 years young on December 28, 2018.

Mrs. Miller has been a lifelong resident of New Bedford, Massachusetts. When asked about her growing up, she reminisced about her favorite childhood activities, sliding down Weld Street whenever it snowed and playing hopscotch. She married her first boyfriend and together they celebrated over fifty years of marriage. They went on to have two children, Paul and Marcia, and a continually growing family. Mrs. Miller now lives with her grandson.

Born in 1908, Mrs. Miller has lived through countless historical events, including eight of the nine World Series victories of her beloved Red Sox. In her free time, she loves to read and is described by friends as an absolute joy who brings happiness to everyone around her. She is known as "everyone's grandma," treating all her friends like family, and for her wit, humor, and laughter.

To celebrate her 110th birthday, she wishes for everyone to be happy, which is how she lives each day. We could all benefit by learning from Mrs. Miller's approach to life.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Irene Miller for a lifetime spent making her community a better place. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy birthday and many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RETIRED MISSISSIPPI JUDGE CHARLIE BRETT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Judge Charlie Brett. Judge Brett, a native of Lee County, Mississippi, is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Upon graduation from Kosciusko High School, Judge Brett attended Mississippi State University where he graduated in 1968. Following his graduation, Judge Brett answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Army where he served from 1969 to 1971. He then attended the University of Mississippi Law School where he earned his Juris Doctorate. During Judge Brett's time at law school he received several honors and served on the Moot Court Board.

This was the beginning of Judge Brett's long career. He served four years as the Prosecutor for the City of Tupelo and fourteen years as Lee County Prosecuting Attorney and Youth Court Prosecutor. Judge Brett has

served sixteen plus years as County Court Judge and Youth Court Judge and retired as the longest serving County Court Judge in Lee County, Mississippi.

Judge Brett also served six years on the Mississippi Judicial Performance Commission and has been the Secretary of the Mississippi County Court and Youth Court Judges Conference for twelve years.

Judge Brett's love for his country and community is evident but falls short of his love for his family. He is married to Vicky Brett and the father of four daughters, Melanie, Jennifer, Lindsay, and Kayty. He is also the grandfather of seven grandchildren and the great grandfather of three great grandchildren.

Judge Brett is also very involved in his community outside of the court room. He is a member of the Community Development Foundation, and avid hunter, sportsman and target shooter and strongly supports many youth and conservations groups including the Boy Scouts, National Wild Turkey Federation, Jakes Program, and the NRA.

Judge Brett has selflessly served the people of Mississippi for more than thirty years. His devotion to God, America and his fellow man will always be remembered, and I wish him and his family many years of happiness.

IN MEMORIAL OF ELLIS COLLINS,
JR.

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Mr. Ellis Collins, Jr., affectionately known among family and friends as "Toby." Born on July 2, 1973, to parents Emma J. Collins and Ellis Collins, Sr., Toby lived a remarkable life dedicated to his country and his education. He enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of 18, receiving several accolades throughout his service, including the Air Force Training Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Upon completing his military duties, he enrolled at Southern University & A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned a baccalaureate degree in Computer Science. He continued his studies at Louisiana State University and earned a Master's of Business Administration in December 2013. Toby's service to his country and commitment to bettering himself and those around him is an inspiration to us all. He was a beloved friend, son, student, and patriot. He will be dearly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT THE PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment I introduced today with several of my colleagues to prevent the President of the United States from pardoning himself, members of his family, members of his administration or members of his presidential campaign.

The pardon power is supposed to be a safety valve against injustice. It is not supposed to be a way for presidents to put themselves, their families and members of their administration above the law.

Unless we change the Constitution, however, this is how it could be used.

There are already serious questions swirling around the current President, his family and members of his administration—including possible collusion with Russia during the 2016 presidential election, which is currently being investigated by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

To ensure that everyone is treated equally under the law, we need to amend the Constitution to narrow the scope of the pardon power.

I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment without delay.