

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BARBARA PAHRE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Pahre for her many successes throughout her career and at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Napa County AAUW.

Ms. Pahre is an exceptional past president of the Napa County American Association of University Women. She started the Author's Forum, an event to raise scholarships for girls and young women for their educational and professional pursuits six years ago. The event has been a major success and has raised over \$100,000 in scholarship funds.

Ms. Pahre was born in Illinois and moved to Napa, California with her husband Keith in the early 1960s. She began her career as a teacher at Carneros School and retired as Napa Valley Unified School District's (NVUSD) Associate Superintendent and Director of Human Resources. During her time at NVUSD she also directed the gifted students' program and the state funded school improvement programs and was the main negotiator for salary and employment issues. Ms. Pahre has worked with students in other capacities as well. She ran Magic Years Preschool and taught master's level courses at Chapman University and Pacific Union College.

Ms. Pahre is engaged in our community and has given her time to many state and county commissions and boards. Some of them include Napa Civil Service Commission, Napa General Plan Review Committee, Napa Open Space Committee, Golden Gate Bridge and Highway Transportation District, and Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Pahre has spent her career and retirement working to better our community and serve our county. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the service of Barbara Pahre here today.

SAFEGUARDING DISASTER-RECOVERY FUNDS FOR ARMY CORPS CIVIL WORKS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to prevent the President from diverting disaster-recovery funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works projects.

I want to thank my colleagues—Representatives CISNEROS, VELÁZQUEZ, BERA, GOMEZ, TAKANO, LOWENTHAL, ROUDA, CARBAJAL, HUFFMAN, ESHOO, VARGAS, ROYBAL-ALLARD, SOTO, LOFGREN, MATSUI, SERRANO, NAPOLI-

TANO, PLASKETT, and HARDER—for their support as original cosponsors.

Last month, I received alarming reports that the President had reviewed a list of Army Corps civil works projects in California and Puerto Rico, totaling nearly \$5 billion, from which to divert disaster-recovery funding for border wall construction.

Madam Speaker, it is morally reprehensible that any President would take recovery funds from disaster victims as ransom for a campaign promise. Targeting funds for Californians to make a craven political point and residents of Puerto Rico, who are denied voting rights in national elections and full representation in Congress, is equally low.

One of the Army Corps levee projects the Trump Administration may defund protects 12,000 residents of Marysville, California from hypothermia-inducing floodwaters that could inundate the town in a matter of hours. This is a matter of saving lives in my Congressional district and helping California communities rebuild.

My bill would eliminate a provision from the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662), authorizing Presidents to divert funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works directorate in exigent cases for national defense and emergencies. This obscure 1986 provision is the legal authority President Trump could invoke to divert disaster-recovery funding for his promised border wall.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, no President has ever invoked this 1986 legal authority, which was originally requested by the Reagan Administration for cases of Congressionally declared wars and presidentially declared national emergencies requiring civil defense during the Cold War.

In acting on my bill, the House can reassert its Constitutional authority to direct federal funding for national priorities that help communities rebuild and become more resilient to future natural disasters. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation. I also expect my bill will be included in the next Water Resources Development Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN C. WATKINS, JR.**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call Vote Number 75. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 75.

HONORING THE WORK OF MRS. MILLIE RUTH MCCLELLAND CHARLES

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Mrs. Millie Ruth McClelland Charles, a legendary social worker and native of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mrs. Charles was born July 25, 1923 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Rev. Williams McClelland, a Baptist preacher, and Frankie Little, a school teacher.

Mrs. Charles entered Dillard University when she was only 15 years old and graduated with a degree in secondary education. However, after a few years of teaching in north Louisiana and loving the children in her classes, she realized she could find more fulfillment in social work because she would be able to help children and their families find ways to solve problems. Therefore, she earned a master's degree in the subject at the University of Southern California in the mid-1950s.

Millie McClelland Charles has greatly impacted the field of health and mental health through her leadership in the founding and guiding of the Southern University of New Orleans School of Social Work (BSW and MSW programs) into fully accredited programs providing opportunity for professional development to countless students. She is currently Dean Emeritus and founder of the School of Social Work. The founding of Southern University in New Orleans was a highly political event when it took place at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, reportedly to discourage black students from attending the predominantly white University of New Orleans, located less than a mile away.

Millie Charles' ability in ultimately taking the handful of social work courses taught at the University of New Orleans, which were transferred to Southern University of New Orleans, and subsequently expanding on them and developing them into fully accredited BSW and MSW programs is considered somewhat of a miracle in New Orleans. The high caliber Programs have attracted a well-credentialed, culturally diverse faculty; the student population is now well integrated also.

Dean Charles' interests in social work education go far beyond just working in the state of Louisiana. She has served as the Co-Chair, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Meeting; a Member of the CSWE Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum Standards; and a Site Visitor for the CSWE Accreditation Commission. In addition, since 1972, she has consulted with numerous Undergraduate and Graduate Social Work Programs around the U.S., advising them on Curricula.

Millie Charles has received numerous awards. Some of them are: National Social

• 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.

Worker of the Year (NASW), 1975; Humanitarian of the Year, Federal Women Employees Association, 1975; Founders Award, New Orleans Chapter, National Association of Black Social Workers, 1979; Doctor of Humane Letters, Dillard University, 1993; and she also was one of four women honored by the New Orleans YWCA for lifetime of service to the community. Millie Charles was hailed as a life-long crusader for equality during a ceremony in which she was presented The Times-Picayune Loving Cup on Tuesday June 24, 2013. Throughout her life, Charles, a native of New Orleans' Central City, has said consistently that anything she might have accomplished was the result of a group effort.

Madam Speaker, I honor the work of Mrs. Millie Ruth McClelland Charles.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 72 on February 8, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE JOHNSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 74—MTR on H.R. 840 and "yea" on Roll Call No. 75—Final passage of H.R. 840.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATIE PORTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, January 28, 2019 due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted on "YES" on roll call votes 52, 53, and 54.

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HONORING GWENN KUSKIN  
FELDMAN

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Ms. FRANKEL. Madman Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Gwenn Kuskinn Feldman, a beloved constituent of Florida's 21st Congressional District. Gwenn will be remembered as a loving mother and sister, generous friend, and the grandmother who never said no to her grandkids—Ellie, Ben, and Ruby.

I was introduced to Gwenn through her son, my colleague from New Jersey—Congress-

man JOSH GOTTHEIMER. Gwenn was a woman who stood strong in her convictions. She wasn't afraid to give me a report on how I was doing as her Congresswoman or speak her mind about issues of the day. Above all, she truly cared about the future of our country.

Gwenn's contribution to our community came from her immeasurable amount of love. Before moving to Florida, she spent years working with preschool children at Congregation Beth El in South Orange, New Jersey. Her dedication to the growth of our youths continued in Florida. Countless loved ones honored her memory through donations to Jewish Adoption & Family Care Options' (JAFCO) Gwenn Feldman Fund for Fun.

In facing this loss, I am reminded of a Hannah Senesh poem, "There are Stars" or Yesh Kochavim in the original Hebrew. The first few lines embody Gwenn:

There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth  
though they have long been extinct.  
There are people whose brilliance continues to light  
the world even though they are not longer among the living.

Gwenn's star continues to shine bright through her children and the lives of the many she impacted. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this incredible American and celebrating the inspiring life she lived.

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HONORING CAPTAIN ROGER  
HARLESS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Captain Roger Harless and honor his commitment to public service and our community.

Mr. Harless was born in Berkeley, California and grew up in the nearby towns of Lafayette and Moraga with his brother, Paul. In May of 1990, he joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. He was in the first Fire District class of paramedics and kept his certification throughout his entire career. In April 2003, he became the captain of the district's paramedics team, where he worked diligently to serve and protect the people of Contra Costa County. In 2018, Captain Harless was a member of the first group to complete Hazardous Materials training. Mr. Harless passed away on January 11, 2019 from an illness acquired in the line of duty. He spent 29 years at the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, rising to the rank of Captain at Station 11.

Mr. Harless was dedicated to public service and our community. He cherished the time he spent mentoring new recruits and his fellow firefighters. Mr. Harless also mentored children in our community as a youth basketball and soccer coach. One of his joys was watching talent develop, whether at the fire station, on the court or on the field.

Mr. Harless leaves behind a loving and devoted family. He was married to his wife, Karen, for nearly 35 years. He was the father of Jessica, Martin and Kelsie and the grandfather to Sophia, Claire, and Mattisyn. He was adored by his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends and many others throughout our community.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Harless for his dedication to public service. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor and remember him here today.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I missed this vote series due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 72; yea on Roll Call No. 73; yea on Roll Call No. 74; and yea on Roll Call No. 75.

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REMEMBERING MIKE BOWEN

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 11, 2019*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Memphis businessman Mike Bowen who was killed in a car accident in Costa Rica on Saturday but who will be long remembered for his grace in giving others, including formerly incarcerated individuals, a second chance. He was 61. Mr. Bowen was the CEO of Champion Awards and Apparel, a company that grew out of Custom Print, founded in 1979, now the largest local licensee of University of Memphis-branded merchandise. Mr. Bowen was a 1979 graduate of then-Memphis State University and was active in its alumni association. He was also an active member of the Tiger Scholarship Fund, the Beale Street Merchants Association, the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Jaycees, Leadership Memphis and the Special Olympics. For years, Mr. Bowen coordinated the Memphis Business Journal's Small Business Awards ceremony.

Growing up in Parkway Village, he said his mother taught him that the only color he and his brother should see is green, hopefully with a "Benjamin" on it. In 2007, Bowen made the principled decision to hire people with felony convictions for his business in a program that he called Late Bloomers, begun in 2007. By late 2016, 18 of his 48 employees had been formerly incarcerated. Mr. Bowen said he hired the men and women because his company was doing 20th Century work in the 21st Century and need people willing to work hard and sweat. In exchange, they received a living wage and a lot of guidance on staying straight, including meeting their legal obligations. Known for hugging his employees, Mr. Bowen called many of them "heroes" for overcoming adversity and sticking with hard work. I want to express my condolences to his wife, Suzie, and his sons Colby and Michael, his extended family and his many friends. He led a good life.