

restoration projects that the organization sponsored and successfully completed, with many still underway.

Madam Speaker, as ocean life continues to decline all over the world, organizations like Golden Gate Salmon Association are critical in protecting the natural habitat, wildlife, and fisheries that we all rely on and cherish. We therefore ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Victor Gonella for his tireless efforts to not only protect valuable natural resources but the communities that rely on them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, due to family illness on Wednesday, February 13th, I was not present to cast my vote on the Motion to Recommit on H.J. Res. 37 which contained a provision denouncing anti-Semitism in all its forms. I strongly agree with the motion's denunciation of anti-Semitism, and had I been present my vote would have been "YEA" on Roll Call No. 82. I also would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 83.

HONORING PASTOR PIERCE'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY AT MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENSBORO

HON. MARK WALKER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Bryan J. Pierce's sixth anniversary as the Senior Pastor and Chief Executive Officer of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro. Beginning to preach at the age of six and ordained by nineteen, Bishop Pierce is a man after God's own heart. It was in June of 2011 that Bishop Pierce became the Chief Administrative Officer at Mount Zion and worked diligently until his elevation to Senior Pastor on January 1, 2013. He strongly believes that he who serves the city, wins the city, which is expressed through a Church-wide campaign called No Greater Love, where members of Mount Zion come together to serve the Greensboro community. Also serving as 1st Assistant to 2nd Presiding Bishop, Bishop Pierce is a noted songwriter, arranger and producer. He successfully released his first solo debut album, which reached No. 3 on Billboard's Top Gospel Albums Chart by capturing an amazing sound that has facilitated openings for the Glory of God to be manifested in the lives of His people. With 20 years of Senior Pastoral Leadership, we honor another anniversary of service and the faithful future he is sure to bring our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAMELA C. ROBERTSON'S RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Pamela C. Robertson as she retires after years of civil service.

A native of Anniston, Alabama, Robertson graduated high school in 1976 and attended Ayers State Technical College with a certificate of completion in Business and immediately entered the workforce at AOD Federal Credit Union in 1978.

She began her civilian government service at Fort McClellan, Alabama, in 1979 as GSO4 Secretary-Steno. She served as Administrative Assistant in the Foreign Student Allied Liaison Office, Budget Assistant and Budget Analyst in the U.S. Army Chemical School and Accounting Technician with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Talladega, Alabama. From 1988 until 1999, she worked as a Budget Analyst at Fort McClellan. After Fort McClellan closed due to BRAC, she transferred to the Anniston Army Depot in the same capacity and become the Budget Officer in 2007. She will retire as Director of Resource Management, a position she's held since 2013.

Robertson has won several awards including: The Superior Civilian Service Award (Louis Dellamonica AMC outstanding person of the year), AMC Commander's coin, Army Achievement Medal, several special acts and performance awards.

She is involved in the Supervisory Committee of a local federal credit union and a volunteer in the pre-school department of her church. She's also an active member of the Chemical Corps Regimental Association, Order of the Dragon.

In August 2019, Pamela Robertson will retire with 40 years of primarily Army service.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pamela on her retirement and thanking her for her service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE JOSEPH "TED" STATON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Upper Arlington, Ohio's most distinguished citizens, a man who devoted his life to the service of others, Mr. Theodore Joseph "Ted" Staton. His commitment to good, ethical governance cannot be understated, and he made a lasting impact on my city, Upper Arlington.

An incredibly passionate and hardworking man, Mr. Staton valiantly offered his skills to Ohio serving as a City Manager for the City of Upper Arlington since 2011. He displayed strength and tenacity throughout his leadership positions on the Executive Board of the League of Women in Government, the Upper Arlington Community Foundation Board of

Trustees, as the Chair of the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Staton successfully led these organizations gracefully though both prosperous and challenging times. He continuously propelled Upper Arlington's community towards a bright and successful future.

To attempt to quantify the impact Mr. Staton made is impossible. He was a firm believer in the value of good, ethical governance. Due to his proven track record of these values, Mr. Staton was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Mentor Award from the International City/County Management Association; 2018 Upper Arlington Stewardship Award, and 2018 Ohio City Manager's Association Award for Career Achievement. His legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew him and loved him: his wife Carol; two sons, Paul and Bennet; and his extended family and friends.

As a dedicated public servant, community leader, family man, friend, and mentor Mr. Staton consistently seized upon new opportunities to enrich the lives of others. He enhanced the teamwork and collaboration with every organization he joined. Upper Arlington, Ohio is undeniably a better place because of Mr. Staton and the tremendous life of public service he lived, and I am honored to celebrate his legacy.

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSECURITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in discussing the disparaging effects of homelessness and housing insecurity in our communities.

In 2018, communities across the country faced a continuing housing affordability crisis that left thousands of Americans homeless and without any stable place to live.

For the second year in a row, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States increased.

In 2018, 552,830 people lived in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or were not sheltered at all.

This is nearly 2,000 more people than in 2017.

This is an ongoing problem that demands our immediate attention.

The state of Texas claims just under 9 percent of the population of the United States.

Sadly, 23,548 people are homeless in Texas.

This is 4 percent of the country's entire homeless population.

More than 10,000 men and women can be found on the streets of Houston, homeless, on any given night.

Of these, 3,000 are considered chronically homeless.

Those who are categorized as chronically homeless are people who have been continuously homeless for a year or more or those who have been homeless four or more times in the past three years.

Many of the chronically homeless suffer from a mental illness and/or a substance abuse problem.

Percy Lyons is one of these people whose home does not come with an address.

Mr. Lyons has made his home under a bridge.

He has all the comforts of home: a military cot, tucked behind a cement barrier, for a bed; a propane stove, hidden in a drainpipe, for cooking and heat; and hollow cement blocks function as shelves to hold his few articles of clothing and an extra pair of shoes.

Mr. Lyons is just one of those 3,000 people who are surviving on the streets of Houston.

Thankfully, Houston Police Department (HPD) is trying to help meet the needs of the city's homeless population.

HPD has created the Homeless Outreach Team.

This team is staffed with four officers, who instead of responding to complaints or ordinance violations, work on building relationships with those who live on the streets.

These heroes work with Houston's homeless residents to navigate the social services available and have helped hundreds of people move off the streets and into permanent housing.

These officers can discuss success stories, like that of Randall.

Randall spent over 30 years living on the streets.

The Homeless Outreach Team was able to help Randall get into a treatment program.

Unfortunately, there are not more stories like Randall.

Instead, the majority of those who are chronically homeless slip through the cracks, unable to find their way through the complex system of social services.

Each night in the United States of America an estimated 553,000 men, women, and children spend the night on the streets.

This is a national emergency.