

Madam Speaker, I send my condolences to the family and friends of John Haggins. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating his incredible life and legacy.

Rest in peace, John.

CELEBRATION OF THE GI BILL'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY AND ITS AU-
THOR SENATOR ERNEST "MAC"
MCFARLAND

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration and honor for the 75th anniversary of the GI Bill as well as the bill's co-author, the late Arizona Senator Ernest "Mac" McFarland. Officially titled the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," the GI Bill provided a slew of benefits for veterans returning from World War II. These new benefits were available to every veteran who had been in active duty for ninety days and they continue to this day. The benefits bestowed onto our veterans include low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans, payments for tuition and living expenses to attend university college of vocational education and up to one year of unemployment compensation. With this bill, we've been able to offer a small token of our gratitude to those who put their lives on the line in order to defend everything we hold dear. The assistance cemented in the GI Bill is thanks, in large part, to the former Majority Leader from Arizona Ernest McFarland. Mac's accomplishments stretch far beyond his work on the GI Bill. As it stands today, he is the only person in Arizona's history to have served as U.S. Senator, Governor of Arizona and Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. He was a leader for our state and his tireless efforts enabled so many wonderful opportunities for our uniformed men and women. I am proud to honor this man and his diligent work for our veterans.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF READING AND BEYOND

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the local non-profit organization Reading and Beyond of Fresno, California as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since its creation in 1999, Reading and Beyond has been a leader in the community, providing educational, health and wellness opportunities to underserved families of Fresno County. The impact Reading and Beyond has had over the past two decades continues to be felt by countless families in the Central Valley.

In the fall of 1998, members of the First Covenant Church called together leaders of the community to explore prospective solutions to help neighborhood students struggling with reading. Reading and Beyond was founded with the belief that a child's path toward a brighter future was paved with books. Initially, Reading and Beyond provided tutoring and

parenting programs for 30 families in need. Eventually, it expanded to include cradle-to-career services for both children and their parents, health services and tailored programs to help families increase their social mobility and strive for success and self-reliance.

Since its founding, Reading and Beyond has earned many honors both locally and nationally. In 2003, Fresno Unified School District praised Reading and Beyond as a "model for other organizations". In the same year, it was chosen as one of only four organizations to receive national funding from the U.S. Department of Education to develop its Early Childhood Education program into a replicable model. In 2008, Kerri Briggs, the U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, recognized Reading and Beyond as a "remarkable example of the impact that faith-based organizations have in a community". In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$12 million dollars in pilot funding to Reading and Beyond's Fresno Bridge Academy program; one of only ten national projects to receive this grant.

What started out as a community-led effort to help neighborhood children in Fresno develop their reading abilities, has evolved into an organization that serves the needs of children and families across seven counties in California. Reading and Beyond has committed to empowering families to achieve productive lives through its holistic, research, and results-based programs with the end goal of helping children succeed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reading and Beyond as it celebrates twenty outstanding years. Our community is forever grateful for the contributions Reading and Beyond has made in the Central Valley. I ask that you join me in wishing Reading and Beyond long-lasting success.

IN HONOR OF THE 2018-2019 AAAA
STATE CHAMPIONS: THE CARVER
TIGERS BOYS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018-2019 AAAA Boys Basketball Georgia State Champions, the George Washington Carver High School Tigers of Columbus, Georgia. The team commemorated this significant milestone on Sunday, March 17, 2019, with a celebratory parade followed by a celebration of honor at the Columbus Civic Center.

On Friday, March 8, 2019, the Tigers won the state championship game against Americus-Sumter High School by a score of 58-55. This was the fifth game of the season against the Americus-Sumter Panthers and it was an exciting end to their series. The Tigers took the lead for a second and final time in the game with 28 seconds left. This historic victory marked the first championship for the Tigers since 1971.

Their victory in this year's AAAA state championship follows years of frustration, hard work, and determination bursting forth into an unbelievable season of teamwork and athletic

excellence. The perseverance of these Tigers, after placing No. 3 in the MaxPreps AAAA Boys Basketball rankings for Region 1, was clearly shown by a spectacular season.

I cannot put into words the tremendous pride that the citizens of Columbus, and indeed the entire Second Congressional District, have in being able to call this outstanding team of athletes their own. They have accomplished an incredible feat, one that could not have been possible without the tireless leadership and encouragement from their head coach, Warren Beulah and his staff, as well as their families, classmates, and members of the community who believed in them and their ability to bring home a state championship title.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in congratulating and honoring these hardworking young men who have persevered, sacrificed, and achieved the pinnacle of success in basketball—the Georgia AAAA State Championship title.

HONORING AERA ENERGY FOR RE-
CEIVING THE BAKERSFIELD COL-
LEGE FOUNDATION CORPORATE
PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Aera Energy, and President and CEO, Christina Sistrunk, as the recipient of the 2019 Bakersfield College Foundation Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Industry-leading oil and gas producer Aera Energy has displayed its commitment to California and the communities in which it operates for nearly 100 years. Jointly owned by Shell and ExxonMobil but operated as a stand-alone company with its own board and managers, Aera is proudly based in Bakersfield, California and in Kern County, one of the largest oil-producing regions in the entire country. Innovative approaches to engineering, lean processes, and data quality helped Aera become a titan of industry—Aera produces about 125,000 barrels of oil and 32 million cubic feet of natural gas each day, accounting for nearly one-quarter of California's oil production annually. However, its community involvement and philanthropy are what truly sets them apart.

Aera actively encourages their employees to participate in events and causes that strengthen communities, recognizing individual employees who go above and beyond in this regard. Through various programs like Partnership A.E.R.A. (Achieving Excellence, Rewarding Academics), the Community Reading Project, and multiple high school programs, Aera employees are heavily involved in the communities where they live and work. In addition to these volunteering and mentoring efforts, Aera donates to over 100 community organizations each year.

Bakersfield is fortunate to have a premier oil and gas producer like Aera so dedicated to the betterment of its people and community.