

World War I, who upon returning home noticed a lack of government assistance in assimilating back to their pre-service lives. Though they had experienced extreme suffering during the war, veterans received no disability compensation, comprehensive medical care, pensions for widows and orphans, or vocational training. As a result, The American Legion sought to create a self-help organization that would provide veterans with devoted care nationwide with Posts in local communities. The 28th Congressional District is proud to house Burbank Post 150, Glendale Post 127, Los Feliz Post 527, Hollywood Post 43, Sun Valley Post 520, Sunland-Tujunga Post 377, and Verdugo Hills Post 288.

The American Legion's mission was founded on four principles: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, National Security, and Children and Youth, and these principles reflect the founders' vision for America, one in which military veterans are honored, respected, and prosperous. For 100 years, they have done just that as The American Legion has made great strides in strengthening veteran care in America. In 1923, results from a nationwide survey conducted by The American Legion shocked the nation, as they showed that many veterans from the Great War had given up hope and were homeless, suffering from PTSD, and were merely attempting to survive. As a result, the Veterans Bureau was created, and federal and state laws were enacted that provided greater care for veterans. One of the laws that The American Legion is credited for creating is the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, or the GI Bill, which provided benefits for servicemen returning from World War II.

A lifeline to the veteran community, today The American Legion boasts over 2 million members and 13,000 posts nationwide. Some of the nationwide programs include The American Legion Baseball program, which is dedicated to mentoring the youth of America and Operation Comfort Warriors, which provides recovering wounded warriors with comfort items during their time in hospitals.

I am proud to recognize The American Legion for a century of outstanding service to veterans and the United States. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating The American Legion for its remarkable achievements.

CITRUS COLLEGE, GLENDORA,
CALIFORNIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Citrus College, the first California community college to receive top honors for student success by a national organization. At an awards gala on April 15, 2019, American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) President, Dr. Walter Bumpus, and AACC Board Chair, Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, presented Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Superintendent/President of Citrus College, with the 2019 AACC Award of Excellence in the Student Success category. This well-deserved national recognition affirms the outstanding campus-wide effort to boost completion and transfer rates. Citrus College is the only community college in Cali-

fornia to have been honored by the AACC in 2019.

Every year, the AACC recognizes the exceptional work accomplished by the nation's community colleges by presenting Awards of Excellence in six categories: Student Success, Advancing Diversity, CEO/Board Relationship, Community College Safety and Planning, Faculty Innovation, and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership. The AACC Award of Excellence in the Student Success category recognizes a community college that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to student achievement. The criteria used to determine this year's finalists included the development of a comprehensive strategic completion plan, the achievement of measurable and significant increases in degree completion, certificate completion, and transfer from two-year to four-year institutions.

Citrus College was highlighted for establishing and promoting an associate degree for transfer (ADT) pathway to four-year colleges and universities, and for introducing the Citrus College Promise, a program designed to cover enrollment fees and other college costs for first-time students for up to two years. As a result of the college's efforts, transfers have risen by 38 percent from 2014 to 2017.

We send our sincere congratulations to Dr. Perri and all students, faculty, staff, and Members of the Board of Trustees at Citrus College, and we wish them continued success.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN JOHN
O'CONNOR OF PAYSON, ARIZONA
CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II Veteran John O'Conner as he celebrates his 100th Birthday. John O'Conner of Payson, Arizona epitomizes a life dedicated to serving others and defending our country.

John was born on June 11, 1919 in Bradford, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, New York. During this time, he met and married his wife of 54 years, Velma. After such a joyous and momentous occasion, his country called for him to serve as socialism spread throughout Europe.

Without hesitation, John answered his country's call, took his new bride to live with his mother and joined millions of the Greatest Generation to fight for the survival of mankind. The year of 1940 marked the beginning of John's five-year service in the European Theatre. He served in the artillery division of the United States Army Air Corps. By the grace of God, John survived the war and helped save the world from the rise of socialism.

After the war, he went on to author the first instruction manual for the nuclear submarine, the very same nuclear submarine invented by the "Father of the Nuclear Navy," Admiral Hyman Rickover. John and Velma went on to raise three wonderful children, John, Patricia and Kathleen. John moved to Payson in 1969.

When we look at John's life and what he has accomplished, it's clear to see why he is loved by so many. He and so many like him put their lives on hold and placed themselves

in a situation that none of us could possibly fathom. All of this, in defense of our country. We can never repay John's service to our country. May he have a blessed birthday and may many learn from his example of service and patriotism. Happy Birthday, John.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CAPABILITIES ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2539, "Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2019."

H.R. 2539 requires DHS to prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts from TSA and DHS I&A to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset.

The tragic events of 9/11 thrust the issue of physical security into public domain as never before and set in motion responses that have re-shaped transportation in unforeseen ways.

H.R. 2539 authorizes DHS to develop, through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, a training program to enhance the protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of law enforcement agencies with respect to terrorism and other serious incidents at surface transportation assets.

In addition, threats to health, such as the spread of pandemics, present significant challenges to transport planning and operations.

Railway stations and airports are some of the most densely populated sites anywhere.

From 2009, all the flights originating, bound to or flying over the United States had their list of passengers cross-referenced by a central no-fly list managed by the TSA.

Security involves many steps, from restricting access to airport facilities, fortifying cockpits, the setting of no-fly lists, to the more extensive security screening of passengers.

Screening now involves more rigorous inspections of passengers and their baggage at airports, including restrictions on what can be personally carried in airplanes such as gels and liquids.

Considering the emergence of global supply chains, the emphasis in freight transport security is gradually shifting into a more comprehensive but complex approach.

The large number of ports, the vast fleet of global shipping and the range of products carried in vessels, and the difficulty of detection has made the issue of security in shipping an extremely difficult one to address.

The less regulated and greater international dimensions of the shipping industry have made it vulnerable to security breaches.

We need appropriate security measures to protect the susceptibility of American lives against possible acts of violence and terrorism.

The growth in the use of information technologies and their associated networks have opened new forms of vulnerability as control and management systems can be remotely accessed.