

American people. After over 40 years of dedicated service, Ms. Schneider is retiring.

When I was first elected to Congress, Ms. Schneider was my most valuable resource for learning how this institution functions. She helped me understand parliamentary procedure, and even took the time to role play scenarios with me so I could best serve my constituents. When Democrats lost the Majority in 1994, Ms. Schneider gave me all the tools I needed to tackle being in the Minority.

Over her storied career, she has honed a singular knowledge of the legislative and political process and has shared this insight for the benefit of the institution and the young people who came to this city to make opportunity real for their communities and their country. It is thanks to Ms. Schneider that many of my colleagues in Congress are able to serve their constituents every day. She taught me everything I know about the steering process, a key part of Congress' work. I still use the knowledge Ms. Schneider shared with me every day.

As well as helping to guide Members of Congress and their staff through the procedures of this institution, she has helped countless young professions through her Direct Connect to Congress classes. Ms. Schneider leaves behind a legacy of hard work and dedication to mentoring other professionals dedicated to civil service that will live on in the Women in Government Relations Judy Schneider Fellowship program.

One of my personal heroes, Shirley Chisholm, said "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." Ms. Schneider has certainly paid her rent. The Congress is a place long in history and deep with complexity. It can be a labyrinth where passionate individuals dedicated to service become separated from their original aspirations. It has been Judy who has, again and again, helped others navigate the path to change. I congratulate her on 40 years of service and I thank her for impacting the lives of hundreds of young people, staff and members.

It is my honor and privilege today to recognize Ms. Judy Schneider for her hard work and dedication, and to wish her the best of luck in her new retirement. She will be greatly missed.

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HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2019*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the anniversary of the passage of the American Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

The passage and signing of the Act represent the culmination of many years of hard work and advocacy by countless differently abled individuals, their families, and allies. It is unbelievable that until only thirty-nine years ago, there were no laws in place to protect the civil rights of some of our communities' most vulnerable populations. The American Disabilities Act provides important protections in workplaces, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who toiled to bring awareness and visibility to the people who were once disincluded or segregated from public life, due to physical barriers or due to the stigma of misconception. We still have a long way to go to ensure equity for the differently abled, but we can support and acknowledge the organizations that are advocating, educating, and protecting.

I therefore rise today to mark the anniversary of the American Disabilities Act.

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VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, "The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019."

The bill would designate Venezuela for temporary protected status (TPS), allowing certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

The Secretary of Homeland Security grants TPS to certain individuals who cannot safely return to their home countries due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances.

While the total number of individuals, who would be eligible for TPS under this bill, is unclear, about 72,000 Venezuelans have come to the U.S. since 2014.

The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 would:

Designate Venezuela for TPS, allowing its nationals to remain in the U.S. for 18 months, regardless of their immigration status if they:

Have been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of the bill; and

Meet all other requirements for TPS.

Provide Venezuelan nationals who meet the above requirements with:

Employment authorization; and

Authorization to travel outside the U.S. for emergencies and extenuating circumstances.

Direct the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to work with international partners to increase capacity of countries surrounding Venezuela to provide migration services and asylum, specifically to establish and expand in-country reception centers and shelters and improve migration and asylum registration systems.

Congress should designate Venezuela for TPS because:

The country has been facing unprecedented economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored repression.

Venezuela ranks as the most dangerous country in the world.

In 2017, the country's homicide rate stood at 89 per 100,000 people which compares to 5.3 per 100,000 people in the United States.

TPS holders contribute to the U.S. economy.

For example, TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti contribute \$4.5 billion in income to the gross domestic product annually and \$6.9 billion to Social Security and Medicare over a decade.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 549 to allow certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

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CONGRATULATING THE GUAM  
TERRITORIAL BAND

**HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2019*

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for taking home a Gold Award in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival held in Sydney, Australia.

The Guam Territorial Band was organized in 1976 as the Governor's Youth Band to perform for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter in 1977. The band continues its service to the people of Guam as the Official Band of Guam by performing at graduations, military events, national holiday ceremonies, official visits, village fiestas, local government functions, and numerous venues in Guam, the United States, and abroad. The Guam Territorial Band is led by Chief Band Master Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., and the Regional Band Masters, Joanne Matanane Sosa and William Brandon Aydtlett.

The Guam Territorial Band has educational programs for aspiring musicians to gain experience and training. The Guam Honor Band Program provides middle and high school students opportunities to develop their musical talents. For more advanced musicians, the Guam Band Academy offers in-depth training in music theory, marching band, solo performance, and small ensemble performance under the Chief Band Master.

In the 2019 Australian International Music Festival, the Guam Territorial Band was a Command Performance Band and received a Gold Award. The Australian International Music Festival is among the largest music festivals in the southern hemisphere, receiving participation from 62 ensembles and over 1,300 participants in 2019. The Guam Territorial Band has previously received numerous honors and awards, including being a Command Performance Band and received Gold Awards in the 2005 and 2014 Australian International Music Festivals, respectively.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for their success in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival. They continue to demonstrate outstanding musicianship in Guam, the United States, and abroad.

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IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH P.  
LEAHY

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 24, 2019*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my good friend Mr. Joe Leahy as he nears the end of his term as the 114th chairman of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I". He was appointed chairman of the Big "I" in August