

April 5, 1970, Officer Frago was one of four CHP officers tragically gunned down in a police shooting near Interstate 5. In remembrance of his sacrifice, a section of State Highway 99 in Merced is being dedicated to him and his colleague, Officer Roger Gore.

Born on December 22, 1946 to Augustine L. Frago and Rose M. Piovano, Officer Frago was the third of seven children in the family. He graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School and later Merced College. In 1965, he married Nicola B. Dunaway, together they had two daughters Amorette and Gabriell. In 1968, he began his career as a CHP officer.

On April 5, 1970, Officers Frago and Gore were the first to respond to a suspect who had been reported brandishing a weapon. Upon pulling over a vehicle with two men, a gun fight ensued leaving Officers Frago and Gore, as well as Officers George Aleyn and James Pence dead. This tragedy is one still remembered by the law enforcement community and Merced County residents as Officers Frago and Gore were both born and raised in Merced.

In honor of Officer Frago's commitment to duty and sacrifice, the section of Highway 99 between Mission Avenue and Campus Parkway is being dedicated as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway. This location is fitting, as Campus Parkway will eventually connect Highway 99 to the University of California, Merced campus. This section of highway being dedicated will continue to ensure our local community and future generations remember and honor the sacrifice of these two young officers, each of whom lost their lives at 23-years-old on that tragic day.

The CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway symbolizes the sacrifice these two gentlemen gave for all citizens to help continue building a better future for our community and country. Furthermore, it will help bridge Merced County's past to its present and remind community members of the dedication to duty exhibited by these two fine officers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the duty and sacrifice of CHP Officer Walter Frago. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway is dedicated. I wish his family, the California Highway Patrol, and the Merced law enforcement community the best as this section of Highway 99 is dedicated in his honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT OF 2019

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, America is in the middle of a micromobility revolution, with bikeshare and scooters changing the way that people get around. First introduced in the United States in 2010, more than 100 communities now have bikeshare systems, supporting a network of more than 100,000 bikes. Since bikeshare's launch in the United States, riders have taken more than 100 million trips, with the number of trips and systems increasing each year.

My community recently celebrated the third anniversary of its BIKETOWN bikeshare

launch. Since then, Portlanders and visitors have taken nearly 900,000 trips, covering more than one million miles and removing untold numbers of automobiles from city streets. The system's success has already led to its expansion, giving more communities access to efficient, carbon-free transportation.

The increased commercial investment around bikeshare stations and networks is driving economic development across the country. Systems are opening in communities of all sizes from Los Angeles and Cleveland to Topeka and Birmingham. While some existing bikeshare programs received federal dollars to develop their systems, the lack of an established funding source has proved an impediment to many other projects. Since the term "bikeshare" is not defined in U.S. code or described by law as a form of transit, existing bikeshare systems and departments of transportation are forced to operate in a gray area, creating challenges for funding, maintaining, and administering these programs.

Today, I am reintroducing the Bikeshare Transit Act of 2019, legislation that will eliminate this gray area by defining bikeshare in statute and making bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. The bill allows federal funding to be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare-related equipment and constructing bikeshare facilities. Bikeshare systems will also be listed as eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program.

The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new and existing bikeshare projects applying for federal funding while underscoring that bikeshare programs drive economic development and add value to America's transportation system.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRAVO COMPANY, NEW BATTALION'S SERVICE IN BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication, and outstanding service of Bravo Company, NEW Battalion in helping veterans in Brown County, Wisconsin.

In 2017, the citizens of Brown County were asked to create a new program to help veterans in Northeast Wisconsin transition from active duty to civilian life. As a result, a group of hardworking veterans and citizens formed Bravo Company, NEW Battalion, a non-profit veteran-to-veteran sponsorship organization. The veteran sponsorship program increases veterans' awareness of the educational, state, and federal benefits, as well as community resources that are available to them upon returning home from active duty.

Earlier this year, the first set of veteran-to-veteran sponsors completed training, receiving education on the many veteran service organizations and resources available to veterans and their families in Northeast Wisconsin. After training, each sponsor is partnered with a recently discharged veteran to support the

veteran through the transition phase and connect him or her to support services in the area, like the County Veteran Service Office.

Since its creation, Bravo Company, NEW Battalion has already helped veterans in Northeast Wisconsin navigate and return to civilian life. I am confident the organization will continue to help many more returning veterans as its ranks grow.

The commitment to excellence, dedication and service that Elaina Koltz, Scott Katzka, Ken Corry, Dick Marbes, and Patrick Fauldes have shown is integral to the success of veterans transitioning to civilian life in Brown County. These founding board members of Bravo Company, NEW Battalion insure that veterans receive a warm welcome from active duty or deployment back home to Brown County. They truly demonstrate selfless service and are an asset to this community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Bravo Company, NEW Battalion, its board, and its veteran volunteer sponsors for their service to discharged veterans in Northeast Wisconsin. I am proud to have such an organization in my district, one which consists of many veterans whose service continues even after they remove their uniform.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank you as well as Chairman MALONEY, Ranking Member GRAVES, and Ranking Member GIBBS, for your leadership.

I rise in support of H.R. 3409, and applaud the inclusion of Title VIII, the Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act.

I have been honored to work closely with Chairman DEFAZIO and Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, as well as with Congressman JOE COURTNEY, to address the troubling issues that have arisen at the Coast Guard Academy.

As Chairman of the Coast Guard Subcommittee from 2007 through 2010, I convened a series of hearings to push the Academy to ensure that its cadet corps reflects the diversity of the nation it is being prepared to serve. And progress has been made.

However, the recent Equity Scorecard evaluation has found profoundly troubling trends at the Academy.

Specifically, the review found that, "Black/African-American cadets have been consistently less likely to graduate than the all-cadet average" and, "Of particular urgency is Black/African-American cadets' disproportionately high share of disciplinary sanctions."

Then, in December 2018, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security issued a report finding that a Lieutenant Commander on the faculty of the Academy, "was retaliated against on the basis of her complaints, in violation of the Military Whistleblower Protection Act."

Chairman THOMPSON, Congressman COURTNEY, and I are continuing to conduct oversight