

want to learn new skills and be proud of the work that they do. It is important that we do our part to ensure these opportunities are available.

We can bolster veteran employment opportunities with career and technical education. Many of the men and women seeking civilian employment are already highly skilled, highly trained. They are experienced, literally, under fire.

The skills that come with CTE training can help expand our veterans' existing skill sets and prepare them for careers in STEM disciplines, nursing, construction, information technology, energy, cybersecurity, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are a huge part of what makes this country so great. They have chosen to risk their lives to protect our Nation. We have the opportunity, no, the responsibility to provide them with the best possible care and to empower them with the necessary tools to make smart career decisions when we welcome them home.

Hire Our Heroes says the best way to thank a veteran is to hire one. We should all keep this in mind as we celebrate our Nation's veterans today and for many more days to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARBARA KELLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, there are people whose empathy and compassion glow like a beacon, and others whose shine like the sun.

That was Barbara Keller: A blazing star of kindness and an inspiring local leader who lived to serve others, championed causes that uplifted the sick, the poor, and fought for the rights of the LGBTQ community.

For 3 decades, Barbara called California's Coachella Valley home. Barbara and her husband, Jerry, brought award-winning restaurants to the Coachella Valley. But it was Barbara's generosity and commitment to serving others that made her so remarkable.

Barbara was a champion for combating HIV/AIDS through her leadership as the first female president of the Desert AIDS Project. Barbara was moved by the deaths and suffering of many HIV-infected friends living on the margins, facing injustice and discrimination in their struggle to live. She brought hope and healthcare to so many individuals living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS.

As a doctor, I had the honor of working with Barbara on the Desert AIDS Project in our shared advocacy for the health of local and medically underserved communities.

Barbara's annual Steve Chase Awards fundraisers were a fixture of the Coachella Valley, as was her incredible gala dress fashion, second only to her beauty and class.

Barbara also lent her compassion to defending the health of patients while

working with the AIDS Assistance Project and the Loma Linda Children's Hospital.

During her years of service to our communities, Barbara also helped grow our desert's art scene through organizations like the Palm Springs Art Museum and the McCallum Theatre.

Barbara's generosity in her public life was complemented by her extraordinary kindness in her private life.

My wife, Monica, and I knew Barbara as a dear, dear, friend and a wonderful role model to our daughters, Sky and Sage. I was constantly personally touched by her loving nature, her unwavering support and encouragement, and her dedication to her higher purpose.

Barbara most treasured her family, and her greatest pleasure was being a loving wife, a mother, a daughter, and grandmother.

Barbara devotedly cared for her aging father, Marvin Cohn, until he passed away in March at 106 years old, never once telling him she was undergoing intense chemotherapy for breast cancer. Barbara's death soon followed the following month on April 15, 2019.

Barbara and her husband Jerry's marriage was a love story few can claim and a touching example of the power of true love.

Barbara leaves behind her devoted husband, Jerry, her son, Brad, her daughters, Lindsay, Lisa, and Kelly, and her seven grandchildren, Taylor, Rebekah, Graham, Ridley, Greta, Eva, and Levon, and her sister, Carole.

While Barbara's passing deeply saddens me, her memory will live on in my heart and in the hearts of the countless individuals whose lives she touched.

In an era of "me first," ego-driven, selfish ambition, Barbara reminds us that love, kindness, and genuine service to others is possible. She is the embodiment of good, humility, strength, and outer and inner beauty. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she improved and inspired. And she was a giant, a social architect, designing a healthier, kinder, more just community.

Knowing Barbara, and calling her my friend, was an incredible, unique, and beautiful blessing in my life. And her story must be told and recorded in our national records, so that generations to come can learn the vast potential of our national spirit.

She will be missed.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF GROVER DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary man. He is from Bay County, Florida, and I am fortunate to have him as a dear friend of mine, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover was born into a fishing family in December of 1941 in Parker, Florida, and he learned the value of hard work

at a young age. He built fishing boats with his father and his brothers, leading his family to own the first charter fishing boats in Panama City.

When his father died, Grover dropped out of high school and worked with his brothers to support the family. They made a living in the charter fishing business, with young Grover below deck keeping the boats running. He still keeps the boats running 70 years later.

He learned a lot about life at a young age. He met his wonderful wife, Judy, at Bay High School, and married her in 1961.

By the 1970s, the Davis family was managing the St. Andrews Marina, and Grover became interested in a new business venture. In 1974, he began Marine Transportation Services, which provided transport services for oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Marine Transportation Services has truly become a family affair, with his wife, Judy, and his daughters, Kim and Kerrie, joining him at the helm.

Grover treats all of his employees like family. In fact, 50 percent of his employees started at Marine Transportation right out of high school and still work there to this day.

He is unfailingly supportive of all of his employees. When they make a mistake, he doesn't let them go. He is famous for sitting with them and saying: "Did you learn something from this?"

His favorite phrase is: "There are only two kinds of captains; those who have run aground and those who are about to run aground."

Grover truly leads by example in all aspects of his life, and he has spent much of his life giving back to the community. He is a big supporter of Camo Dreams, a nonprofit that helps disabled children go on hunting trips, and routinely supported events for the Girl Scouts when his daughters were growing up.

Grover, his wife, Judy, and his daughters, have long since cemented their place in the firmament of stars that are the foundation of our community back home.

He has always preached that honor is the most important value among people, and no one person is better than another. He never asks anyone to do what he would not do himself.

Judy and Grover have two children, Kim and Kerrie, two grandsons, and two great grandsons. They all describe him as an amazing friend, father, and leader in our community.

He is the single most social man I know. A great storyteller, he always surrounded himself with his friends, and if he stood still for more than a few minutes, it was certain that he was frying grouper or mullet for a host of people. He loves people and they love him.

I have to say, Grover is also widely known as a huge and very inventive practical joker. He has been known to go to elaborate lengths to prank his friends.

He is also an amazing historian, especially knowledgeable about the minutiae of World War II. All of his friends, and I count myself lucky to be among those, revere our time that we spend with him. He is always entertaining, educational, and exceptional.

One of his daughters recently said to me: "Daddy is so social and he knows so many people that he could cause a traffic jam in Calhoun County." That is a lot of personality.

I spoke with him on the phone last week, after he received his diagnosis of a rapidly progressing terminal illness. After sharing his terminal diagnosis with me, he lightheartedly promised that, come what may, he would vote for me by absentee ballot next year.

Mr. Speaker, as the curtain draws closed on the life of my friend, I ask that we cast our attention on a man who lived an extraordinary life; a man who changed my community for the better; a man who cared for and supported many, many friends and family; a man who is, quite literally, larger than life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, who made me a better person, made my community a better place, Mr. Grover Davis.

Grover, we are praying for you, my friend, and for your family.

#### COAST GUARD REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise in support of the 42,000 men and women of the United States Coast Guard, the vital public safety, humanitarian, and national defense missions they perform, and this House's passage yesterday of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Coast Guard members are the first responders of America's oceans, waterways, and coastlines, conducting varied missions, often at a moment's notice, including search and rescue, securing our Nation's ports and waterways, and conducting law enforcement operations.

In my district in New Hampshire, we have been home to the Coast Guard since its founding, and the Granite State has relied on its work to keep us safe and strong for generations.

Last month I had the privilege of meeting with the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As I met officers and crew members and toured their vessel, I was struck by the critical nature of their missions and the challenges they encounter in executing them.

Cutters like *Tahoma* patrol international waters and interdict drugs coming to America's shores. Their work saves lives and makes our communities safer. The Coast Guard has been doing this work despite being chronically underfunded and under-resourced.

The Coast Guard faces cartels and smugglers with staggering resources and advanced technology, and studies show that only 20 to 30 percent of the illegal drugs coming to our shores are interdicted.

According to the leaders of the Coast Guard, the most significant factor in its inability to meet drug interdiction targets has been insufficient inventory of vessels and aircraft to support operations.

At a time when our Nation is facing a profound crisis of addiction, we can and must do more to ensure that the Coast Guard is fully funded and has the resources it needs to keep our country safe.

That is why yesterday's action to pass the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2019 in a bipartisan way was so critical. This act supports the Coast Guard for the next 2 years with more than \$11 billion in discretionary funding each fiscal year, allowing them to address a backlog created by previous cuts.

An important bill I introduced was also included, the Fair and Equal Treatment of Women in the Coast Guard Act. This seeks to increase the recruitment and retention of women in the U.S. Coast Guard and improve gender diversity in this branch of the Armed Forces.

This comes in response to a study commissioned by the Coast Guard that identified barriers to attracting, recruiting, and retaining women, and recommended ways to improve gender diversity in the service. It is one important step to assure that the Coast Guard can continue to attract our Nation's best and brightest.

When we talk about keeping this Nation safe, let's remember the incredible work performed by our Coast Guard close to home and around the globe.

Let's show the Coast Guard Members that Congress has their backs, and let's continue to work collaboratively to ensure the Coast Guard has the proper support and policies in place to carry out its missions.

#### THE PLAGUE OF ROBOCALLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great uncertainty. I am uncertain that I can make it through this speech without being interrupted by a robocall, which has become a daily or, rather, sometimes an hourly nuisance.

For far too long now robocalls and spoofing have become a hindering plague upon the phones of millions of Americans. I hear from constituents on a daily basis about how their lives are habitually interrupted by phony phone calls, and how their cell phones, once seen as necessities, are now sources of frustration.

In many cases, these calls are dangerous and disguised, seeking to steal valuable information by tricking the

unsuspecting. In other cases, these aggravating calls disrupt important business, intrude on leisure activities, disturb family dinners and, even worse, are not restricted by the time of day.

□ 1030

These calls have been distracting, irritating, and deceiving Americans for long enough, and that is why I have introduced a bill called the Double the Enforcement and Fines of Everyone Associated with Terrible Robocalls Act, or, in short, the DEFEAT Robocalls Act. This bill ensures the harshest penalties for the individuals who are caught making illegal robocalls and spoofing calls. Simply said, the bill takes all the fines and penalties that those making robocalls currently face and doubles them.

It is time that we hold those who continue scamming Americans all across the country liable for their actions in a manner as serious as their crime.

I am encouraged to see Congress' recent legislative actions to prevent robocalls from being a daily hindrance, and I call on my colleagues to continue moving swiftly to send a bill to the President's desk so that we can restore Americans' trust when they answer their phones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KRAFT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Christopher Columbus Kraft, who served as NASA's first flight director and one of the agency's preeminent leaders.

Kraft passed away on July 22, 2019, at the impressive age of 95 years old and only 2 days after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

It is impossible to overstate the vital role that Kraft played in the formative years of NASA.

After graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1944 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, Dr. Kraft started work at NASA's precursor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; and toward the onset of the space race in 1958, President Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and tasked Project Mercury with getting America into space and putting a man into orbit.

During this time, Kraft essentially created the entire concept of mission control and successfully directed all six crewed Mercury missions, including those that made Alan Shepard the first American in space and John Glenn the first American in orbit.

In Project Gemini, Kraft was promoted to the head of mission operations. Now in charge of a team of flight directors, he served "on console" during many historic moments, including Ed White's first spacewalk in Gemini 4.

Achieving all of this proved to the country and the rest of the world that America could succeed in space, and certainly set the stage for the Apollo missions to the Moon.