

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT PAUL ROBERTS

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Paul Roberts, born August 22, 1922 in Lexington, Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts graduated from Lexington High School in 1941 and attended the University of Tennessee-Martin in 1941 through 1942 when the nation was swept into World War II.

About one year after Pearl Harbor, Mr. Roberts entered active duty in the U.S. Army on December 5, 1942. Roberts served in the 84th Infantry Division/9th Army Company. He served in Holland, Belgium, and Germany, including battles and campaigns in the Rhineland. He landed in Omaha Beach in the fall of 1944.

Mr. Roberts returned home on the Queen Elizabeth II and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1946 in Ft. McPherson, Georgia. Upon his return, he worked as a farmer and a brick and stone mason, helping to build many homes, schools, and churches in West Tennessee.

Mr. Roberts is a decorated veteran, having earned the World War II Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and a Bronze Star American Service Medal.

Mr. Roberts is married to Betty Wood. They have six children, eleven grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren, and a loving church family.

Madam Speaker, I commend this great American on another year lived. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and thanking him for his service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING KENNICE ALEX OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Kennice Alex in 40 years of service to the California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles Communications Center.

"Wow! Thank You!" & "There she goes!" These are just a few expressions Kennice Alex hears from her co-workers on a daily basis. But before you can truly understand these expressions, you must first hear the many accomplishments of a woman who began her career with the California Highway Patrol 40 years ago.

Kennice is a native of Los Angeles, California. She was born on September 26th, and

has raised two amazing daughters: Tiffany and Brittany. While doing so, she was able to nurture and love three additional children, and is currently assisting in raising her grandson, all within Los Angeles. In addition to spending time with her family, Kennice enjoys many activities such: Water Aerobics, Zumba, and AARP Soul Steppers. Not only has she volunteered at different food banks in Los Angeles, she has also worked with the Lakers organization, helping feed the homeless on Thanksgiving Day. Her volunteer work does not stop there. She has donated items and worked with the Dream Center assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina; recruited coworkers, dubbed "Chippies Angeles," to donate items at the Louis Dantzer Preparatory Academy Middle School; and raised money for breast cancer patients at the City of Hope.

Kennice began her career with the California Highway Patrol on July 23, 1979. At work, Kennice is well-respected and referred to as "Ms. Kennice". She was part of the last training class to work on cards and one of the first to work on computers, as Los Angeles Communications Center served as the Pilot for CHP going live on Computer Aided Dispatch. During her tenure, Kennice served as a union representative for 26 years. While in this position, she attended numerous meetings in Sacramento with state legislators to discuss allocating funds for programs in public safety and 911 issues. During the many incidents Kennice has worked over the years, the 1199 Officer-involved shooting of Officers Martinez and Szabo is one she will never forget. While on duty, Kennice received the call for help from the Officers, and immediately began to work diligently to ensure both Officers received immediate assistance from all field personnel and allied agencies. Unbeknownst to Kennice and her beat partner, the outcome of this incident would leave Officer Martinez fatally wounded and Officer Szabo severely injured. Kennice remained calm and professional under the most stressful situation a dispatcher can ever face. Throughout her career, she has also worked numerous events such as the 1984 Olympics, the 1991 LA Riots, the Northridge Earthquake, the OJ Simpson Pursuit and trial, the 2000 Democratic National Convention, and the Y2K changeover, just to name a few.

Throughout the years, Ms. Kennice has benevolently and continuously met the needs of her peers. She was one of the main coordinators in creating the Relaxation room at our Communications Center, where she continues to maintain and purchase supplies. She generated "Team CHP" where she and coworkers help raise awareness and funds by participating in charity events such as the Revlon Breast Cancer Walk, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, and several Chips for Kids toy drives.

Ms. Kennice has not only dedicated her time and talent but has given us 40 illustrious years of hard work and dedication to the community and the California Highway Patrol.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH AMERICAN GAY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ALLIANCE GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to celebrate the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series this year being held in Kansas City, Missouri. On behalf of myself and Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, we are honored and overjoyed to have been selected as the 2019 host of the Gay Softball World Series.

In 1977, teams of athletes from New York and San Francisco, met to form the organization that would become NAGAAA and organize the inaugural Gay Softball World Series. Today, over four decades later, the NAGAAA is an international sports organization committed to providing and promoting opportunities for LGBTQ+ communities to participate in amateur athletics across the United States and Canada. In 2019, more than one thousand NAGAAA teams competed across seven divisions of play in forty-six cities throughout North America. The organization is focused on creating a safe and inclusive environment where its athletes can compete and be themselves.

Kansas City has a longstanding tradition of LGBTQ+ activism and advocacy, which was kindled in 1966 when the city hosted the National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations. After the conference, the city became a leader on the national stage for the movement for LGBTQ+ civil rights, spearheaded by the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom. The Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom was committed to "improving the legal, social, and economic status" of members of the LGBTQ+ community while providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ Kansas Citians to live freely. In the face of discrimination and inequality, LGBTQ+ individuals found refuge and community in Kansas City.

Kansas City, with its history of championing LGBTQ+ rights and culture, is extremely proud that the NAGAAA selected us to host the Gay Softball World Series this year. Today, Kansas City continues to be a metropolis of LGBTQ+ culture nationwide. Through cornerstone institutions such as the Kansas City Center for Inclusion, Empowering Queer Activists and Leaders (EQUAL), and the Mid-America Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, to name a few, the city fosters a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for the uplifting of LGBTQ+ individuals. LGBTQ+ arts thrive in Kansas City as well via the Heartland Men's Chorus, performances at Hamburger Mary's and Missie B's, and at the annual KC LGBT Film Festival. In April, the AIDS Walk of Kansas City is held to raise awareness for the disease, and in June, the entire city celebrates

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Pride. As a proud host of the Gay Softball World Series, Kansas City looks forward to continuing its rich history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance for their admirable work with the LGBTQ+ community nationwide and celebrating the 2019 Gay Softball World Series in Kansas City. We are indebted to the NAGAAA which has changed the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals for the past forty-two years and left an indelible mark on our country and communities.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE, ON
ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Springfield, Tennessee, in honor of its 200th anniversary. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, located just north of Nashville and just south of the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

With a little over 16,000 citizens, Springfield has regularly demonstrated exactly what it means to be a tight-knit community. This town is built on a solid foundation of hard work, agricultural acumen, and family values, and it has continued to show these unwavering attributes over the course of its long history.

Although Springfield was not incorporated until 1819, the first General Assembly of Tennessee gave a county seat identified as Springfield to Robertson County in 1796. Two years later, in 1798, the town was established under this name.

Since the early eighteenth century, agriculture has played a large role in Springfield's development, and it continues to provide many employment opportunities for its citizens. Thanks to its rich soil, Springfield thrives in the production of hay, corn, and wheat, but is best known for its production of tobacco. In fact, in 1928, Springfield was labeled as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco."

I hope that my House colleagues will join me in celebrating this bicentennial achievement of Springfield, Tennessee. The town and its residents have continued to show the strong faith and values of Tennessee since the days when its first courthouse was built of hand-hewn logs. I wish Springfield and its citizens much prosperity and happiness over its next 200 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING DOUG GIBSON AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to name Doug Gibson, of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for his 23 years of leadership as the Executive Di-

rector and Principal Scientist of Nature Collective, formerly known as San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Residents of North County may remember that, not so long ago, our beautiful lagoons and river valleys were not valued for their biodiversity and were threatened by development and pollution. Their outlets to the ocean were blocked and invasive plant species were growing out of control. Few fish or invertebrates could survive in the murky waters. Today, they have largely been restored to their natural states. They provide critical habitats for native plants and animals as well as wetlands for migrating birds.

It has taken years of stable leadership, hard work, and a shared commitment by professionals, local citizens, elected officials, and supportive organizations to restore the ten beautiful wetlands in North County San Diego and South Orange County. They enhance our coastline—from the Los Penasquitos Lagoon in the south—to the San Juan Creek in the North.

Under Gibson's leadership, the Nature Collective is guiding to completion the \$120 million restoration of the 1,000-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Forty miles of streams have been restored. An annual breaching of the inlet has been established to keep the lagoon healthy. More than three thousand school children in the Nature Collective's nationally recognized school program receive field trips throughout the Escondido watershed. Walkers and joggers can access seven miles of trails from Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Rancho Santa Fe, and new trail connections are coming soon.

Gibson's contribution goes beyond the San Elijo Lagoon. For decades, he has collaborated on the planning of large restoration projects in seven north San Diego County watersheds, including Buena Vista Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit. He has chaired the San Diego County Wetlands Task Force and chaired five coastal counties for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

There is no doubt that Gibson's dedication to protecting our environment has improved the quality of life for families in Southern California and uplifted our communities. I am deeply grateful for his hard work, and I am proud to recognize him as the Constituent of the Month.

HONORING VIOLET BARTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Violet Barton, a doctoral candidate at UC Merced who has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. While receiving this highly competitive scholarship, Violet lived in El Salvador to research the socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequality present in the country.

During her time in El Salvador, Violet connected closely to her culture as a Latina woman and worked towards uplifting the community. Violet spearheaded the creation of the first ever indigenous Nahuatl spiritual guide leadership program and coordinated with oth-

ers to identify and train future spiritual leaders. She has also recently completed her level four Nahuatl language training at the University of Central America, furthering her understanding and study of the culture.

Violet's passion for her research and the communities she serves has distinguished her as a true pioneer in her field. During her year abroad, Violet was selected to serve as a panelist at the annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in Boston, where she presented some of her ongoing research findings. In addition to the Fulbright Scholarship, Violet received the coveted UC Merced Miguel Velez Scholarship alongside a \$10,000 fellowship from the UC Office of Multi Campus Research Programs.

While earning these countless honors for her academic excellence, Violet has distinguished herself as a student leader who works tirelessly to better the lives of her community. Violet received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2018, the UC Merced Social Justice Award in 2017 and 2018, and during that same timeframe, was nominated for UC Merced's Outstanding Student Leadership for three consecutive years.

Violet's successes do not stop at her professional and academic achievements. Violet and her daughter, Danielle Bermudez, made Fulbright history as the first mother and daughter to receive the Fulbright Scholarship as graduate students during the program's 72-year history. Together, they exemplify the pioneering spirit of UC Merced and the diversity that embodies California's San Joaquin Valley.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Violet Barton for her outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to her community. I join Violet and her family as they celebrate her incredible accomplishments and wish her the best as she completes her PhD at UC Merced.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FRANKLIN AUGUSTUS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus, a stunt pilot and avid flyer. Mr. Augustus passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 69.

Mr. Augustus was an acrobatic air show pilot and a member of a New Orleans-based group that honored the Tuskegee Airmen. A licensed pilot who had been flying since the age of 19, he once described himself as the "world's only black civilian air-show acrobatic pilot" in a 1988 Times-Picayune Newspaper article. Mr. Augustus performed hundreds of daredevil aerial maneuvers at shows and often visited schools to speak with young students to encourage them to explore aviation.

In addition to being a stunt pilot and avid flyer, Mr. Augustus was a longtime community activist, a U.S. Army veteran, the president of the Lake Charles Tuskegee Airmen Chapter and a Reserve Deputy for the New Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Augustus was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to

Mr. Augustus for his life and we keep his friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER VANG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Peter Vang. Peter passed away on Friday, May 18, 2019 in Clovis, California. He was a beloved and well-respected member of the community, and he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

Peter was born on January 20, 1960 in Laos and immigrated to the United States with his family as a refugee after the Vietnam War. He was an embodiment of the American Dream. Peter and his family came to settle in the United States to start a new beginning. His own experiences as a refugee motivated Peter to help those in the Southeast Asian community assimilate to life in the United States. Peter loved the United States and became a naturalized citizen. He was very proud of this accomplishment.

Peter served as the Executive Director of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., in Fresno, California where he helped the Lao and Hmong soldiers who fought in the Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU) during the Vietnam War. Peter was a driving force in assisting my office with the creation of the Hmong Burial legislation that became Public Law 115–141 on March 23, 2018.

Peter was a hard-working individual who dedicated his life to serving others. During his career, Peter worked for the Fresno County Department of Social Services for over 21 years, until his retirement in 2015. He also spent many years with the Lao Family Community of Fresno. In addition to his professional career, Peter served on numerous community boards and committees and received awards and recognitions during his lifetime. It was most fitting and appropriate that I appointed Peter to the Fresno County Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), where he served with distinction as a commissioner for 22 years. His service to the community will not be forgotten.

Peter was preceded by his mother, See Yang and by his son, Richard Vang.

Peter is survived by his son, Billy Vang who is currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Billy's wife, Ryoko Vang and their child, Haruka Vang; his daughter, Sarah Vang; his daughter, Mindy Ruz, her husband, Anthony and their children, Valerie and Audrey Ruz; his daughter, Sylvia Phillips, her husband, Matthew and their children, Andrew and Charlotte Phillips; his father, WaCheng Vang; brother, Yeu Vang; sisters, Kaying Moua, Mee Vue and Betty Vang-Do, a long with his nephew and nieces. Peter was a wonderful son, brother, father, uncle and grandfather.

I will remember Peter's good humor, his willingness to always help, his calming demeanor and his smile. He was a great friend and advi-

sor. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and career of Peter Vang, a hero to his family, a wonderful role model for his children and grandchildren, his siblings and friends and an exemplary member of the community.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "JIM"
ALBERT CULLUM, JR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of jazz legend Jim Cullum, Jr. who passed on August 11, 2019. Mr. Cullum hails from my hometown of San Antonio. For 60 years he exemplified what it means to be an artist. He is survived by his longtime companion, Donna Cloud; sister, Mary Conoly Hester; children, Bonnie Cullum, Blanquita Sullivan, Lené Conner-Foley, Chris Cullum, James Cullum, Katie Cullum, and Catlin Cloud; and six grandchildren. Although the San Antonio and Jazz community will mourn the loss of Jim Cullum, Jr., his impact will endure for many years to come.

James "Jim" Albert Cullum, Jr. was born on September 20, 1941 to James Albert Cullum and Conoly Prendergast Cullum. At an early age he was drawn to music, listening to his father's records and who was a well-respected jazz clarinetist and saxophonist. In 1953, the family moved to San Antonio from Dallas.

In 1963, the Cullum family established the Landing Jazz Club in the basement of the Nix Hospital, becoming the first nightclub on San Antonio's historic Riverwalk. For decades, the Landing played six nights a week until the passing of Jim Cullum, Sr. Shortly after, the band renamed itself the Jim Cullum Band. Since then, the band performed over 300 jazz masses across the United States. The band and its members became ambassadors of the City of San Antonio, and played in venues like the Carnegie Hall, Austin City Limits, the White House, and the Kennedy Center.

Jim Cullum carried his performances throughout the world and taught music workshops locally. He served as the president of the San Francisco Traditional Jazz Foundation and created the Cullum Riverwalk Jazz radio program, syndicated on National Public Radio broadcasting. The weekly program reached across 200 stations for 25 years.

Cullum was a historian at heart. He dedicated much of his time advocating for the preservation of San Antonio's historic sites. He was known to live by the Golden Rule, holding strong convictions of integrity and respect. Notably, he inspired many to pursue their interest in music and would bring light into every room he occupied.

A mentor, artist, and activist are just a few words to describe such a remarkable individual. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand and recognize this brilliant bohemian who dedicated his life to music and community. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING ELI PANNELL ON WINNING ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S CLASS 1A STATE FINALS BOYS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eli Pannell, a senior from Fulton High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Boys Wrestling Tournament.

Eli Pannell finished his final year at Fulton High school with 34 victories, a record single-season. He won the finals by pinning his opponent in 5 minutes 3 seconds. Due to his victory he not only won the State Finals, but holds multiple records at Fulton. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Eli displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his determination and attitude. Eli is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Fulton so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Eli that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Eli Pannell on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENIAL OF THE WALDORF EDUCATION SYSTEM

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Waldorf education system.

The first Waldorf school was established in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany to reflect the principles of education outlined by Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, artist, and scientist. These principles aim to nurture the needs of growing children from preschool through twelfth grade and enable them to fully develop their intellectual, artistic, emotional, and physical skills. A Waldorf education allows children to experience music, theater, literature, and writing in unique ways that help them cultivate their imagination and creativity and truly be confident of their place in the world.

The Waldorf Education system plays an important role in our community. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor, one of the over 160 Waldorf schools across North America, opened its doors in 1980, beginning as a school for grades one through four. Since then, the school has significantly transformed. Today, Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor offers a complete pre-k to 12th grade program and continues to encourage students to take risks, be passionate, and strive to reach their personal goals. Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor is truly dedicated to inspiring our nation's next generation and preparing them to tackle life with confidence, self-knowledge, and a true understanding of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the centennial of the Waldorf education system. We are grateful for its impact on the children of our community and wish it many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GRACIA MOLINA
ENRIQUEZ DE PICK

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I stand today to remember Gracia Molina Enriquez de Pick, who passed away on August 11th at the age of 91.

A fierce feminist, educator, and philanthropist, Gracia will be remembered for her work in both Mexico City and San Diego. She was a tireless activist whose incredible contributions to San Diego and the world will not be soon forgotten.

Gracia was born into a politically active family in Morelia, Mexico. As a teenager, Gracia had the opportunity to meet Diego Rivera and Frida Khalo, whose words—"the importance of social responsibility mandates fighting for those who cannot defend themselves"—became a lesson Gracia would return to many times during the course of her work.

Before moving to San Diego, Gracia fought for women's suffrage while living in Mexico City in the early 1950s. Gracia was known for taking a literal soapbox to the city's open-air markets and advocating for the right to vote to anyone who would listen. Mexican women were granted full citizenship and suffrage in 1953. While living in Mexico City, Gracia met Richard Allen Pick, whom she would later marry and relocate with to San Diego in 1957.

Gracia earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, teaching credentials, and her Master's degree from San Diego State University and went on to teach junior high school in the National City neighborhood of San Diego. She later became a faculty member at Mesa College, where she helped found one of the nation's first Chicano Studies programs. Gracia went on to teach at Third College (later Thurgood Marshall College) at the University of California, San Diego.

In addition to teaching, Gracia was involved with politics in San Diego. She served as the Chicana Caucus Chair of the National Women's Political Caucus and the National Council of La Raza (now UnidosUS). She was a published author, whose 2008 book "Mujeres en la Historia & Historias de Mujeres" explored the history of indigenous women in Mexico.

Later in life, Gracia turned to philanthropy. She donated money to scholarships at UC San Diego and Mesa College and helped fund the construction of the Logan Heights library branch.

Gracia is survived by two sons and a daughter. She will be remembered by her life of service and her commitment to uplifting her communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE PASADENA BRANCH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pasadena Branch upon its centennial anniversary.

Established on September 8, 1919, the NAACP Pasadena Branch was founded when a small group of citizens gathered at the request of John Wright, founder, NAACP Pasadena Branch, to address the needs of Pasadena's minority population. As the recipient of the national NAACP's 16th charter, the Pasadena Branch emerged during the NAACP's initial period of membership growth and meteoric rise to national prominence. The Pasadena Branch's founding mission was to serve as the voice of all people who were denied the basic dignities rightfully due to human beings, especially African American residents in Pasadena.

Over the past century, the national NAACP has proven itself as the country's premier civil rights organization, fulfilling its mission of ensuring the educational, political, social, and economic equality of minority groups in the United States and eliminating prejudice based on race. Among its many national achievements, the NAACP played crucial roles in the establishment of the Fair Employment Practices Committee in 1941, the integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, and 1968, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Locally, the NAACP Pasadena Branch followed the national organization's course of action by petitioning for school and municipal employment, home ownership, and access to public swimming pools for African Americans. Under the leadership of Ruby McKnight Williams in the 1970's, the Pasadena Branch also supported two national precedent-setting school integration cases in the Supreme Court, paving the way for a more just and inclusive education system in our public schools.

Today, the Pasadena Branch continues its commitment to racial justice and equality through community engagement, partnering with local organizations to find solutions for issues such as affordable housing, a livable minimum wage and law enforcement matters. To inspire and prepare the next generation of leaders, activists, and engaged citizens, the Pasadena Branch organizes the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) to encourage and stimulate academic and cultural achievement among high school students. In addition, the branch awards the Maurice Morse Scholarship to high achieving African American students in the Pasadena area pursuing higher education.

I am honored to recognize the NAACP Pasadena Branch for 100 years of outstanding service to the community and its commitment to eliminating racial barriers. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Pasadena Branch for its remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JOAN ANN STARCHER LATIMER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Joan Ann Starcher Latimer, who passed away on Saturday, August 10th.

Mrs. Latimer was born on May 31, 1946, in Alum Creek, West Virginia and was a proud resident of Horn Lake, Mississippi. Joan was the wife of Horn Lake Mayor Allen B. Latimer. She and Allen shared a 42-year long marriage. Throughout her life in Horn Lake, she worked for the Federal Reserve Bank, Sacred Heart School, and the City of Southaven.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Allen B. Latimer of Horn Lake, MS; her stepdaughter Collen Latimer Sears; her two grandchildren; as well as many other beloved family and friends.

Joan's life was one of service, grace, love for her family, and community. She will be greatly missed by all who she encountered.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LOUISIANA GOVERNOR KATHLEEN B. BLANCO

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Louisiana Governor Kathleen B. Blanco. Governor Blanco passed away on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the age of 76.

Governor Blanco was a giant whose life and presence in Louisiana politics made an indelible mark in history, and I am saddened by the news of her passing. As Louisiana's first woman to serve as governor coupled with her time spent in the Louisiana State House, Governor Blanco was a trailblazer whose work and dedication to the state of Louisiana remains unquestionable. Her legacy of leadership during the plight of Hurricane Katrina will be marked by her championship of all Louisianans.

It has been an honor to work with Governor Blanco during my career, and I am grateful for her service. I send my sincere condolences, prayers, and strength to the Blanco family during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Governor Kathleen B. Blanco.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKSIDE SHOPPING DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate one hundred years of Brookside, Kansas City's first suburban shopping area. It brings me great joy to

have such a historically significant establishment in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Located in the Brookside neighborhood of Kansas City at 63rd Street and Brookside Boulevard, the historic shopping district was founded on September 1, 1919. Headlining the Country Club District Bulletin as "the first group of neighborhood shops", it brought a sense of utility and practicality. Construction for the Brookside Shopping District began before World War I and would be completed over the next decade. An innovative undertaking that proudly followed the model of other developments taking place across the United States, particularly Yorkshipp Village, New Jersey. Like the historic Yorkshipp Village of 1918, the Brookside Shopping District emerged steadfast in its goal to meet the needs of the community it served. In its founding, the district consisted of grocery and drugstores, medical offices, a community center, as well as the first southside police and fire stations, providing all the necessary resources for the community in a neighborhood-focused model. In the same spirit, one hundred years later, this welcoming and vital collection of businesses serves as a hub of a community and exemplifies a model neighborhood center.

To this day, the Brookside Shopping District continues to add to Kansas City's rich historical fabric by providing community members with a charming, diverse place to shop and experience the city's history. Brookside is home to over eighty shops, restaurants, and offices; all unique while keeping with the original neighborhood allure and design. Moreover, in an effort to further promote the interests of individuals and property owners alike, the Brookside Business Association, originally the 63rd and Brookside Business Association, was founded in 1939. The association's efforts have ensured the continued improvement of the district, making it a better place to live and work.

Today, the Brookside Business Association is a voluntary organization that preserves the history of the Brookside Shopping District and neighborhood, maintains an aesthetically beautiful area for all to enjoy, and ensures that the historic community center withstands the test of time for future generations to visit and appreciate.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Brookside Shopping District's tremendous milestone of one hundred years of service to the people of Kansas City and recognizing the district as a model for what good urban planning and stewardship can provide to its citizens.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF
LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

A Public Safety Operator at LACC is responsible for answering any and all 911, pub-

lic information, and allied agency calls in the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. LACC is the largest dispatch center in the state and Los Angeles County and answers an average of 7,000 calls a day, and over 10,000 calls a day during holidays, special events, or catastrophes.

Beverly Lee's journey at LACC began on July 23, 1979. Her younger brother was a dispatcher at LACC, and he encouraged Beverly to apply and test for a position. Beverly worked hard during her training and passed probation; the rest is history.

Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

Beverly has an excellent work ethic and displays it daily. She physically, mentally, and emotionally exceeds her job expectations and does it with a smile. She is a strong and dedicated supporter of LACC's training program, and her guidance has led to many supervisorial and managerial promotions. She has donated food, clothing, and monetary gifts to the homeless and to Hurricane Katrina Victims, and is an active member of "Team CHP", supporting the Revlon Breast Cancer Walks and CHIPS for Kids. Her infectious laugh contributes to the morale of LACC, and her willingness to go above and beyond is truly an inspiration.

Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty, and support she has experienced here. Beverly's heart and attitude are an example to us all.

HONORING THE IMPACT OF
SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important work of Sowing Seeds of Hope, a faith-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Perry County, Alabama. The organization was founded in 1999 by a group of mission-driven people, drawn together by a worthwhile vision for improving their community. Twenty years later, Sowing Seeds of Hope has grown by leaps and bounds, and now boasts a committed Executive Director, Mrs. Frances Ford, a hard-working staff, a board of directors and

a task force of members committed to improving the quality of life for residents of this rural county in the Black Belt.

One focus of Sowing Seeds of Hope has been providing low-income residents in the area with access to affordable prescription drugs. Rising prescription drug prices can often be prohibitively expensive for the un- and under-insured, but Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked to fill in those gaps by providing assistance to those in need.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has a longstanding partnership with Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy which provides outreach opportunities within the Perry County community to emerging pharmacy students. This includes access to diabetes support groups, cardiovascular risk reduction research, hypertension clinics and opportunities to assist qualifying constituents to sign up for Medicare.

Sowing Seeds of Hope has worked diligently and successfully to advocate for the establishment of a DaVita Dialysis Center in Marion, Alabama. Since its establishment, the DaVita Dialysis Center has provided crucial care to the community. Thanks to the center, citizens no longer have to drive thirty minutes to an hour to receive treatment, helping countless individuals to lead healthier, fuller lives.

On the educational front, Sowing Seeds of Hope hosts "Seed Camp," which is a week-long summer camp held on the campus of Judson College. During "Seed Camp," school-aged children from across the Black Belt are exposed to an array of stimulating subjects including science, math, arts, cooking, recreation and character education.

Additionally, Sowing Seeds of Hope offers social services, including parent training seminars, census counting initiatives and job placement services, along with many other resourceful programs. Their cornerstone offering is the "Self-Help Housing Program" which is truly unlike any other program in the state of Alabama. The program provides a pathway for low-income families to secure their own version of the American dream of homeownership. This is made possible through low-interest USDA mortgages and the homeowners providing "sweat equity" by helping build their own home with the assistance of community members. Nearly 20 families have transitioned from substandard housing to high quality, affordable homes thanks to the Self-Help Housing Program.

The work being done by Sowing Seeds of Hope is integral to building stronger communities, economically and morally. In a county that faces extreme adversity, this nonprofit serves as a beacon of hope, letting the community know that there are people that believe in them and their abilities and are willing to invest in a brighter future, not only for individuals and families, but for the overall good of the entire community.

Let the extraordinary efforts of this organization continue to inspire others to be engaged in compassionate community service, making this state and country a better place, one day at a time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF KENNETH ABRAHAMIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. Kenneth was a distinguished military veteran and community member in Fresno, California. He will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Kenneth was born on November 21, 1923 to Abraham and Aurora Abrahamian, Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in search of the American dream. He was raised in Rolinda, California, where hard work was instilled in him from a young age. Kenneth graduated from Central Union High School in 1941 and began working at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. He worked on building WWII submarines, before enlisting in the United States Navy at the age of 18. He served on the USS *Spangler* and USS *Ajax*.

After returning home from military service, he met and married the love of his life, Isabelle Zadurian. They were happily married for 72 years and were parents to three children. Kenneth began to farm during the day and attended night school to become a plumber. Throughout his career, he worked on numerous projects throughout the Central Valley, such as the San Louis Project, Balsam Meadows Hydroelectric Project and was a proud member of Local 246 for 70 years. However, as his farming operation expanded, he eventually returned to farming full time.

Kenneth was active in the Kearney Park community. He forged many lifelong friendships and was well-liked and respected. Kenneth was a proud member in his church, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Madam Speaker, I would like to note the Abrahamian family were dear friends of my parents and me. As a young boy, I have fond memories of spending time with their family and growing up with their children. It was also a pleasure to be able to be a part of what Kenneth called "a trip of a lifetime," in which he traveled to Washington, DC, for the Central Valley Honor Flight. My office also worked to secure his well-earned medals from his time in the service.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his infant son, and brothers, Gabriel, Leon, and Richard. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, their children Jeanette, Patricia, and Kenneth, his grandchildren, great-grandson and many beloved friends and family members.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his life.

IN HONOR OF NICK BUONICONTI

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend Nick Buoniconti, the hu-

manitarian and football legend who contributed to two Miami Dolphins Super Bowl wins in the 1970s. He passed away on July 30, 2019, at the age of 78.

Mr. Buoniconti grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, before enrolling in Notre Dame, where he began his football career. Small for the N.F.L., he began playing for the American Football League (A.F.L.) in 1962. An ambitious student as well as an excellent athlete, he studied at the Suffolk University School of Law in Boston during his tenure with the Patriots, graduating with his law degree in 1968.

Mr. Buoniconti was traded to the Miami Dolphins in 1969. After the A.F.L. and N.F.L. merged, he helped the Dolphins win the Super Bowl VII, capping off a season in which the team went undefeated. The Dolphins continued to dominate the next year, winning the following Super Bowl as well. Mr. Buoniconti played with the team through 1976, when he retired from professional football.

In 1985, Mr. Buoniconti's son Marc sustained a spinal cord injury in a college football game that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Mr. Buoniconti left his job at U.S. Tobacco to focus on his son's health and support the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, of which Marc Buoniconti currently serves as president. The Miami Project is a Center of Excellence at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where I have seen the groundbreaking research it has supported in the fields of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. Mr. Buoniconti and his family also founded the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, which has raised over \$500 million in support of the Miami Project's research objectives.

Nick Buoniconti dedicated his life to excellence, both in his football career and in his work with the Miami Project. His influence will be felt in Miami for years to come. We will remember him with love and pride.

RECOGNIZING LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS WATER CHALLENGE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the League of Women Voters of JoDaviess County for winning the Water Quality Challenge put on by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The League of Women Voters won this challenge by showing how an edge-of-field sensor system could support farmers in reducing nitrogen loss from their fields.

The League of Women Voters worked to combat one of the most challenging water quality problems in our nation. In doing so, they identified creative ways to use low-cost tools to understand our resources and better advise nutrient management decisions. The installed sensors provide real-time data to best inform and guide farm-scale management decisions. They showed innovation, passion, and a drive to help our environment. Participation in this challenge strengthened the connections between scientists, advocates, and farmers in JoDaviess County and Northwest Illinois. The prize will be used to continue to build a model of cooperative problem-solving and improve water quality in the Driftless Area of Northwest Illinois.

It is because of community leaders such as the League of Women Voters of Illinois that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Illinois League of Women Voters on their initiative in the Water Quality Challenge put on by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNI-
VERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDU-
CATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill similar to one I have introduced in six previous Congresses, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2019. My bill would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-old children. The District of Columbia has made considerable strides since I first introduced this bill, but today's bill is still needed for the nation to fill a gap in the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education, but ignores the prekindergarten years, the most critical years for children's brain development.

My bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would eliminate major shortcomings of unevenly available "day care" and, importantly, would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, it almost surely will continue to be unavailable to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of a state's own funds; to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique money-saving aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public-school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all, saving billions of dollars for its implementation.

The success of Head Start and other prekindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to universal, public preschool education for the majority of families. The goal of the bill is to afford the benefits of early childhood education

to the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy and crime.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The arts are very important to the Eighth District of Virginia, and play a crucial role in our economic growth, community development, and educational opportunities.

The U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Alexandria opened a century ago and has served many unique roles in its lifetime. During World War II it was used as a munitions plant before being turned into a storage facility. In 1969, the City of Alexandria bought the building for use by its residents.

The President of The Art League of Alexandria, Marian Van Lanningham, proposed converting the space into art studios in 1974. Today, 45 years later, the Torpedo Factory Art Center continues to be a thriving creative community in the City of Alexandria. The center hosts over 500,000 visitors every year and is the nation's largest collection of working-artists' open studios under one roof. It is a significant part of the City of Alexandria's history and, I hope, its future.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Torpedo Factory Art Center on reaching this milestone anniversary, and in thanking all those who have contributed their time and talent to the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

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Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

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Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty and support she has experienced here. Beverly's health and attitude are an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO AGUSTIN SILVAS "GUS" CHAVEZ

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Agustin Silvas "Gus"

Chavez, who passed away surrounded by friends and family on August 18th. He was 76 years old.

Agustin, affectionately known as Gus, was an exemplary community leader and activist who worked tirelessly for the Latino community in San Diego, California. He advocated for the importance of education as the most effective way to achieve economic success and self-sustainability.

Born in Texas, Gus arrived in San Diego in 1963 after joining the United States Navy, where he served as a Hospital Corpsman at Balboa Naval Hospital. It was during Gus's time in the Navy that he first began to work within the San Diego community and found his passion for activism through education and social justice work.

After he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1966, Gus earned his Associate of Arts degree from San Diego City College and later his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University. Throughout his education, Gus worked with several student associations to fight for equal access to education. His work led to the founding charter of the Latino student group Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), as well as the Brown Berets and MAPA.

In 1969, Gus co-founded the Chicano Federation of San Diego, a group dedicated to improving the lives of people in the Mexican American community in San Diego. The Chicano Federation started as a way to provide valuable resources and services to the Latino community. Today the organization offers child care programs, nutrition assistance programs, and affordable housing for families and seniors across all underserved communities in San Diego.

Gus served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at San Diego State University for 30 years. Throughout his tenure, Gus took personal interest in students. He constantly motivated them to reach new heights and celebrated their accomplishments. I loved his sense of passion and excitement at the success of his students. I always felt a kindred spirit with Gus and his enthusiasm for lifting every student he worked with to their full potential.

Gus never stopped advocating for educational equity and educational access for all, particularly on behalf of first-generation students from marginalized communities. He firmly believed in the value of service and mentorship, and instilled that same sense of purpose into countless students.

I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. I take comfort in knowing that Gus leaves behind a legacy of service and empowerment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NANCY PARKER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker, an author, breast cancer advocate, dedicated community leader, and award-winning journalist at WVUE FOX 8 News. After bringing the news to South Louisiana for nearly 25 years, Mrs. Parker passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 53.

Mrs. Parker was a loving mother of three and wife of longtime newsman, Glynn Boyd. She was a veteran journalist at FOX 8 News where she was both a nominee and awardee of several Emmy Awards. Outside the newsroom, Mrs. Parker wrote two beautifully written children's books tailored in the culture of New Orleans. She was also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Mrs. Parker was a treasure to us all. She lived a fulfilled life doing what she loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to Mrs. Parker for her eternal impact and we keep her friends and loved ones near and dear to our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE GREG
HORTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Greg Horton with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department for being named one of the Top 10 Computer Forensic Examiners in the country by the United States Secret Service.

Detective Horton is one of 3,000 examiners on the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. Detective Horton has been working with the Electronic Crimes Task Force since 2011 and has performed over 2,200 forensic examinations. Out of all his peers, the United States Secret Service has ranked him number four in the country.

I thank Detective Horton for his dedicated service to our law enforcement community and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR.
GEORGE T. FRENCH, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George T. French, Jr., the 14th President of Miles College, on his twenty-three years of exemplary service to Miles College and his recent appointment as President of Clark Atlanta University. Under the impressive leadership and oversight of Dr. French as President since 2005, Miles College has met unprecedented fundraising goals, has more than doubled its existing campus size through land acquisition and, most importantly, has continued to fight for and implement the values upon which it was founded—providing its students with quality, first-class higher education. A man of steadfast and unwavering faith, Dr. French's experience as a pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has lent him strength and purpose as he has navigated his impressive career.

Miles College was established over one hundred years ago in 1898 in Fairfield, Alabama. The college is a historically black college, whose mission has always been to pro-

vide top-tier higher education to the African American community and to educate the minds of future local, national and global leaders. Miles College has deep roots in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, whose guiding principles helped to shape the school's mission and curriculum. Miles College also played a major role in Birmingham's struggle for civil rights. When the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was scouting a city in which to test methods of peaceful protest, Birmingham was decided upon in large part because members of Miles College were already engaging in activism.

A native of Louisville, KY, Dr. French joined Miles College with a strong educational background, having earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Louisville. He was then competitively accepted to the University of Richmond Law School before being recruited by Miles College's former President Albert Sloan to join Miles College as the Director of Development. Dr. French completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School where he earned his Juris Doctor. He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Jackson State University in 2018.

As Director of Institutional Planning and Development at Miles College, Dr. French oversaw the offices of Alumni Affairs, Federal Contracts and Grants, Title III, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Congressional Relations and Public Relations. He was also primarily responsible for fundraising, a task he met handily. As part of the Capital Campaign Fund Drive, Dr. French raised twelve million dollars, making it the largest drive in the history of Miles College.

During his fourteen-year tenure as President of Miles College, Dr. French has worked to strengthen the college's academic standing and offerings. Under his direction, faculty has secured some of the largest grants in the college's history, and the initiative of "culture, class and civility" has been put into action, in the classroom and throughout all other initiatives. During his presidency, Miles College received a federal grant to become a Center for Academic Excellence in Intelligence. As a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am especially proud of the work of Miles College within the Intelligence Community. During visits from the Director of the Office of National Intelligence to campus presentations before two Directors of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the students and professors at Miles College brilliantly personified why diversity in the Intelligence Community is so important. In addition, Miles College was rated by HBCU Digest as one of the "Top Three Most Underrated Historically Black Colleges and Universities."

Under his impressive leadership, Dr. French has also increased Miles College's allocation to education and educational support services by 11.03 percent. The school's total operating budget has increased significantly as a result of Dr. French's superior fundraising abilities and has realized a 32.28 percent increase in operating revenue thanks to state and federal grants and contracts aimed at reducing student debt. Dr. French's administration has also worked to progressively increase student access to education funding through a 54.31 percent increase in awarded Pell Grants.

Dr. French has also kept an eye to the future, acquiring the North Campus, a forty-one-acre site whose inclusion doubles the size of

Miles College's existing campus. He has seen the college successfully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, an affirmation that will stand through 2023.

In addition to his exemplary work at Miles College, Dr. French has been a true servant leader within the broader Birmingham community, boasting numerous awards and accomplishments. In 2011, Dr. French was appointed Treasurer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and in 2013 he was named the Birmingham Spotlight "Man of the Year." He currently serves on the Regions Financial Diversity Advisory Council and as an officer of the Birmingham Business Alliance Executive Committee. Dr. French was invited by former President Barack Obama to a meeting at the White House and, per the recommendation of U.S. Congressional leaders including Reps. NANCY PELOSI, John Boehner and TERRI SEWELL, was appointed to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, an entity which serves to advise the Secretary of Education. Dr. French was also appointed by the U.S. Congress to serve on the U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, which was established ahead of proposed regulations for the Federal Student Aid programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

On a personal note, I have had the great honor of knowing and working with Dr. French for over a decade. He has been an exemplary President of Miles College, an outstanding mentor and a dear friend. I know that Miles College stands tall today as one of the "Crown Jewels of Alabama's 7th Congressional District" because of Dr. French's visionary leadership, fundraising prowess and inspiring and infectious charisma. Thank you for your twenty-three years of supreme service to Miles College and congratulations to you for the outstanding legacy that you will leave here. I am forever grateful for our friendship and for the amazing partnership that my congressional office has enjoyed with Miles College. From growing the college financially and literally to all of the outstanding academic programs and athletic events, you will leave this institution a stronger and better place. For that I say, "Well done," my friend. I know that your brilliance, love of learning, faith and determination has and will continue to serve you well in your new endeavor as the incoming President of Clark Atlanta University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, the Miles College family, the Birmingham community and the State of Alabama, in paying tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. George T. French, Jr., the beloved 14th President of Miles College.

IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO
PORTILLO

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Francisco Portillo, the Honduran political activist who fought for immigration reform in the United States. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 64.

Born in Honduras, Mr. Portillo dedicated his life to defending and advising Central American immigrants. He founded the Francisco Morazan Honduran Organization in 1996. The organization advocates to improving conditions for Central American immigrants and extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Central Americans, Venezuelans, and Haitians living in the United States. Until his death, Mr. Portillo served as president of this organization and the Coalición de Organizaciones Latinas Unidas por una Reforma Migratoria.

Mr. Portillo received multiple awards for his work, including the 2018 Pride Hispanic Prize. His dedication to public service and immigration reform changed our South Florida community for the better. We will remember him with love and honor him by continuing his work for immigrant rights.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Sawyer International Airport upon the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. Through its outstanding service and commitment to excellence, Sawyer has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

With the expansion of the U.S. Air Force following World War II, a small airstrip near Marquette, Michigan, was chosen as the site for a new base. After signing a 99-year lease on the land, the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base officially opened on May 8, 1959. For nearly 40 years, the base hosted thousands of airmen until its eventual closure in September 1995. In its place opened Sawyer International Airport, a public-use airport owned and operated by the County of Marquette. Its first incoming commercial flight landed on September 22, 1999.

Since that first flight, more than two million commercial airline passengers have been served by Sawyer, with more than a hundred thousand flyers going through the airport each year. Sawyer has also constantly worked to improve and expand over the last two decades—shaping the airport into the first-rate option for businesses and travelers that it is today. In addition to its passenger air service, Sawyer's campus is home to over five dozen businesses with more than 1,200 employees. It should be no surprise that Sawyer was named the 2019 Airport of the Year by the Michigan Department of Transportation, while Airport Manager Duane DuRay was named Airport Manager of the Year. Day after day, Sawyer International Airport demonstrates its commitment to connecting those in the U.P. with the rest of the world, while allowing those from around the globe to visit and experience the best that Michigan has to offer.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Sawyer International Airport for 20 years of success and service. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an outstanding institution. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Sawyer all the best in its future endeavors.