

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 15
THROUGH 21, 2019 AS RESPON-
SIBLE GAMING EDUCATION
WEEK

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize this week as Responsible Gaming Education Week.

In 1998, the American Gaming Association established Responsible Gaming Education Week to promote responsible gaming nationwide and to educate employees and customers on the subject.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas, the gold standard when it comes to gaming and gaming regulation. Gaming generates jobs for 1.8 million Americans, providing \$74 billion in wages, benefits, and tips. The U.S. casino industry at large generates more than \$40 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, supporting a range of needed services like hospitals, schools, transportation routes, and public safety.

The gaming industry goes to great lengths to make sure employees are trained in best practices for recognizing and dealing with problem gaming and patrons are aware of options for help if they need it. The industry contributes hundreds of millions of dollars each year toward research and treatment of problem gambling as well as awareness and other training programs. In short, responsible gaming has become an integral part of their daily operations.

I am proud to support the goals and ideals of Responsible Gaming Education Week which brings together the gaming industry, advocacy groups, regulators, and other key stakeholders to promote transparency and gaming literacy. I commend the industry for its work on the issue and the education provided to promote responsible play and awareness of gaming disorders.

I also applaud the employees of the gaming industry for the work they do every day educating patrons about the issue. Las Vegas is a better community and tourism destination for it.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MORFORD OF
LIVINGSTON

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Morford of Livingston for his many years of dedicated service to Montana and the Livingston community through his participation and leadership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

John has served selflessly through the local and state Elks Lodges, including as president

of both lodges. His project management skills have helped turn many Elks programs into well-oiled machines that reach hundreds of people throughout our communities.

For over a decade, John has been the director of the annual Hoop Shoot program in which thousands of Montana students compete against students nationwide to be one of the six national champions. This competition is aimed at helping children develop and reinforce perseverance.

He also assists with the Elks' food basket distribution project, which coordinates community efforts to provide families in need with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Last November they delivered food baskets to over 300 families in Livingston and surrounding communities.

John also created a scholarship for Montana students interested in studying music. Stemming from his love of music, he created a unique music scholarship program through the Elks almost 10 years ago, securing the necessary funding and creating a panel of musically-versed Elks members. High school seniors throughout Montana, who plan to major or minor in music performance or education, send their musical pieces to the panel for a chance to win a scholarship.

Madam Speaker, for his dedication to charitable giving in the community and the state of Montana, I recognize John Morford of Livingston for his spirit of Montana.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE
PEOPLE'S LAW OFFICE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The People's Law Office. Founded in August of 1969 in Chicago, the PLO has championed many important struggles against official racism, police violence, and mass incarceration over the past 50 years.

The first important case taken on by the PLO was the Fred Hampton Black Panther case. My friends and fellow students of the struggle, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were killed by 14 raiding Chicago police officers under the command of Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan on the early morning of December 4, 1969. After 13 years of hard-fought court battles in the wake of Fred's death, the PLO and their clients in the Illinois Black Panther Party proved that Fred was murdered in his bed as part of the FBI's COINTELPRO initiative. As the founder of the Illinois Black Panther Party, I was privileged to have a front-row seat to the commitment, diligence, and resilience of the PLO's lawyers. Together, we won a victory for justice and accountability, and made sure that Fred's death was not in vain.

The PLO was also an early pioneer in fighting against the inhumanity of America's pris-

ons both in Illinois and nationally. Its lawyers were instrumental in fighting for justice for the men who were murdered, tortured, and unjustly prosecuted in the 1971 Attica prison rebellion. They also fought for years for justice in the Marion Federal Penitentiary and several Illinois prisons, including Pontiac, Stateville and Dwight. Together with other Chicago lawyers and activists, the PLO obtained the acquittal of 16 Pontiac prisoners wrongfully prosecuted for capital murder after the Pontiac Prison rebellion in 1978.

In my district, as well as the greater city of Chicago, PLO has fought for more than 30 years to expose and bring to justice a ring of racist police torturers, led by police commander Jon Burge, who tortured more than 125 suspects of color from 1972 to 1991. Their work in uncovering the scope and breadth of this officially sanctioned scandal has been instrumental in freeing numerous men who were wrongfully convicted as a result of torture, winning money settlements for many of those men, helping to end the death penalty in Illinois, in obtaining the firing and conviction of Burge, and in obtaining from the City of Chicago a historic and wide ranging package of financial and non-financial reparations for many of the survivors of police torture.

PLO lawyers also fought for justice in Greensboro, North Carolina, in a case brought by the families of five anti-Ku Klux Klan demonstrators who were massacred by KKK and Nazi members in 1979.

The PLO continues to champion cases that advance the civil rights and civil liberties that uphold the very foundations of our government. The PLO has represented many generations of protestors, Puerto Rican independence and Palestinian activists, victims of police brutality, and other forms of official violence and abuse.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the PLO on fifty years of fighting for truth, justice, and accountability. I wish them another fifty years of success in protecting the civil rights of my fellow Chicagoans.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASSISTANCE
LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Assistance League of Los Angeles upon its centennial anniversary.

Beginning in the mid-1890s, Assistance League founder Anne Banning and a small group of prominent Los Angeles women initiated a tradition of benevolence and compassion by performing local relief work for those underserved by conventional charities. By 1906, the group's humanitarian efforts extended beyond Southern California to victims of the devastating San Francisco earthquake.

• 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.

Joined by her close friend and co-founder Ada Edwards Laughlin in 1919, Mrs. Banning officially formed the Assistance League of Southern California as part of the first wave of American nonprofits that empowered ordinary citizens to serve their communities through long-term volunteerism. As the organization expanded in the coming decades, Mrs. Banning and Mrs. Laughlin founded the National Assistance League in 1935, which today supports over 120 individual branches with the Assistance League of Los Angeles as the founding chapter.

Over the last century, the Assistance League of Los Angeles has responded effectively and compassionately to national, state and local issues, staying true to Mrs. Banning's original vision, acting "as a friend at any and all times to men, women and children in need of care, guidance and assistance, spiritually, materially and physically." The League began by providing food and clothing to families severely impacted by World War I and the Great Depression, before moving on to organize blood drives supporting the Red Cross and holiday gift exchanges for soldiers during World War II. Closer to home, the League formed auxiliaries that tackled a diverse array of issues and broadened the scope of the organization's assistance. Among their many achievements, these auxiliaries organized day nurseries and preschool programs, counseled families in need, provided clothing and supplies to underserved schoolchildren, and raised funds through theater performances, fashion shows, thrift stores, and other efforts.

Today, the Assistance League of Los Angeles continues its commitment to helping the Los Angeles community, with eight auxiliaries conducting six significant services. These services include The Preschool Learning Center, Foster Children's Resource Center, Theatre for Children, Hollywood Children's Club, and Operation School Bell support children and families, giving future generations resources they need to succeed and grow. Additionally, the Court Referred Volunteer Center enables adults and youth convicted of infractions, misdemeanors, or felonies to serve the community they have wronged as a more meaningful and beneficial alternative to fines and incarceration.

I am honored to recognize the Assistance League of Los Angeles for 100 years of outstanding service to the greater Los Angeles community. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Assistance League for its remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS J. COLLINS OF COLLINS ENGINEERS, INC. ON THE COMPANY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Thomas J. Collins, founder of Collins Engineers, Inc., on his company's 40th anniversary. Tom has been a longtime constituent and resident of La Grange, Illinois.

Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Collins is a Vietnam War veteran, a professional engineer,

and a certified diver. He pioneered the use of engineers as diving inspectors for underwater bridge infrastructure that eventually became the basis of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) program mandate for underwater bridge inspections. Additionally, Mr. Collins developed and carried out several DOT training programs for infrastructure assessment and management, including teaching best practices to ensure public safety.

Mr. Collins played a significant role in Vietnam as part of the 39th Detachment, setting up operations at Cam Ranh Bay in the then-largest military quarry in the world, operated by the 864th Battalion. During this time, he joined the local Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Post and continued to advance his noteworthy military career. In February 1967, he became the quarry officer and supervised drilling, blasting, and crushing to produce aggregate. In July 1967, he was assigned as the Battalion Civil Engineer before leaving active duty to return home with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Collins' expertise led him to found Collins Engineers, Inc. in 1979, a civil and structural engineering firm with a concentration on infrastructure that supports a safe and efficient transportation system. Under Mr. Collins' leadership and with innovation as a guiding principle, Collins Engineers, Inc. pioneered the use of underwater inspections. Today, the company is using underwater imaging, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and partnerships with technology firms like Google for mobile work platforms and asset management.

Mr. Collins is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a diplomate of the Academy of Coasts, Ocean, Port & Navigation Engineers, a member of the Standing Committee on Structure Maintenance of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Chair of the Underwater Inspection and Maintenance Subcommittee of the TRB, and was elected a permanent member of the Ports & Harbors Committee of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute, among many other notable distinctions. He is a mentor to generations of engineers, including his five children, three of whom are currently in the business, and a devoted husband to Roxanne Horswell since 1966.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Collins and Collins Engineers, Inc. as they celebrate 40 years of hard work and innovation. I look forward to their continued success for many years in the future.

RECOGNIZING WHITING AMERICAN LEGION POST 80'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to honor one of America's finest organizations, the American Legion, and to recognize one of its local posts, Whiting American Legion Post 80, on its 100th anniversary. Post 80 came to be shortly after the founding of the national organization. In honor of this momentous occasion, the members of Post 80 will be celebrating with dinner

and entertainment on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at the legion hall in Whiting.

For the past one hundred years, Whiting Post 80 has been an extraordinary example of the ideals and mission of the American Legion. Overall, the American Legion boasts nearly 13,000 posts, and remarkably, consists of nearly two million members. In their communities, American Legion posts are a source of pride for their many contributions made to aid and honor veterans and to better their communities.

Throughout the years, Whiting Post 80 has taken heed of the American Legion's mission. They have been well known in the Whiting—Robertsdale area for their many activities aimed at honoring veterans, which have included an honor guard and drum and bugle corps, but also for their many programs that serve the youth and families in their community.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the elected officers, committee members, and delegates for 2019–2020 who have dedicated their time and efforts to Whiting American Legion Post 80. They include Commander Harry Triplett, First Vice Commander William Montanez, Second Vice Commander Kevin Fuller, Adjutant and Finance Officer Bill Palmer, Chaplain Bob Downey, Sergeant-at-Arms Johnathan Hernandez, Judge Advocate Mike Wooden, Historian Dan Scott, Service Officer Brian Humenik, and Executive Finance Officer Harry Nee. The executive committee nominees include Bob Downey, Art Peschke, and Moe Davila, and the delegate nominees include Commander Harry Triplett, Mike Wooden, and Bill Palmer.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing American Legion Post 80 and its members on its 100th anniversary. I also ask that you join me in honoring its membership for their service to their community, its veterans, and their commitment to the ideals of the American Legion. Their efforts have played a major role in elevating the quality of life in their community.

HONORING LOUISE JEAN SIGNORE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today Co-op City's oldest resident, Louise Jean Signore, who this year is turning a remarkable 107 years old.

Louise, or Jean as she is also known to her friends and family, was born on July 31, 1912 in Manhattan. One of five siblings born to Theodore and Marie, the family moved to the Bronx in 1926, where Louise's father worked as a custom tailor to the rich and famous. Louise's mother was very social, and would host open houses on Sundays, serving waffles.

Louise worked for the Mass Transit Authority for 34 years as an Administrative Assistant and retired in 1977. As a retiree, Louise loved to swim. She'd pack a lunch bag and head to Orchard Beach during the week days early in the morning. Louise did this, incredibly, into her 90's. On weekends, Louise and her sister would go dancing. In the 1940's they frequented the Essex Ballroom, Roseland Ballroom, the Savoy Manor and the ABC Club.

They also traveled extensively to Europe; twice by ship to Italy and also to places like Spain. She also enjoyed domestic trips, especially to Los Angeles. Louise felt like she educated herself through her travels.

Though she is now 107, Louise is not slowing down. She still loves to dance and exercise, has a great sense of humor, and is still as sharp as a whip. Louise younger sister Renee credits both of their long lives to their faith in God and their avoidance of prescription medication.

Madam Speaker, I lived in Co-op City and know what makes it so special. It's the people. People like Louise Signore, who have made an indelible impact on the community. I want to congratulate Louise in reaching this incredible milestone. Here's to many more years of joy and happiness.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH COOK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Kenneth Cook, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Last October, Kenneth first came to Encompass Health with the diagnosis of Guillain Barre. He had very little movement in his lower extremities and little strength in his upper extremities. On his first day, he needed the help of two therapists to get out of bed.

Kenneth knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. He never missed a day of the therapy and always showed up with a positive attitude and willingness to work.

In four short weeks, Kenneth was able to walk under his own power with a walker. He eventually regained his ability to walk without a walker and return to work.

It is thrilling to hear that Kenneth was able to accomplish this with hard work and determination. Congratulations once again to Kenneth on this recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELAL FARHAT'S APPOINTMENT TO THE WAYNE COUNTY THIRD CIRCUIT COURT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helal Farhat on his appointment to the Wayne County Third Circuit Bench.

Since receiving his Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 2002, Farhat has been an active member of the legal community. For the past 16 years, Farhat served as the principal attorney at Farhat & Associates, a firm he established that specializes in commercial and business litigation, criminal law, family law, and immigration, and formerly served as partner at Salamey & Farhat. In addition to his work as an attorney, Farhat

served as a magistrate judge on the 19th District Court in Dearborn. He held this position from 2009 to 2012, and then again from 2016 until his appointment to the Wayne County Circuit Court by Governor Whitmer on March 28, 2019.

Helal Farhat has established himself as a pillar of the Dearborn community, earning his impeccable reputation amongst his peers, the legal community at large, and the judiciary through his accomplished legal background. Aside from serving southeast Michigan in a professional capacity, Farhat also dedicates a significant amount of time to charity work and involvement with advocacy organizations. Notably, Farhat is the President of the Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Michigan families by supporting their social, health, educational, and economic well-being. Throughout all his work, Farhat displays an overwhelming commitment to protecting the fundamental rights of all Americans, and his efforts have received widespread acclaim, evidenced through his designation as a Super Lawyer and President of the Dearborn Bar Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Helal Farhat for his appointment to the Wayne County Circuit Court. His legal expertise, character, and public service experience will make him an excellent judge who will dutifully serve the people of Michigan.

HONORING GLADYS BARKER GRAUER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Gladys Barker Grauer, the "Mother of Newark Arts," after her passing on September 5, 2019.

Gladys Barker Grauer was a renowned artist, gallery owner, and arts educator for more than 70 years. She was born Gladys Frances Barker in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 15, 1923, to Maudie and Charles Barker. When her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, she discovered her love of art at Englewood High School and later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1946, she met and married Solomon Grauer. Five years later, they moved to Newark's South Ward, a place where she would live her entire life.

Mrs. Grauer established herself as a true force in Newark's art scene in 1971 when she opened the city's first African-American-owned art gallery, the Aard Studio Gallery on Bergen Street. Her art focused on Newark's marginalized populations with themes that included poverty, homelessness, and urban conflict. Her art has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally in locations as varied as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C.; The Newark Museum and the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her most recent show, called "Speaking Her Mind: Then and Now," was showcased at Gallery Aferro in Newark just last year. In addition, she has

painted five murals around the city for current residents and visitors to enjoy.

More than an artist, she was a dedicated teacher of art. The Aard Studio Galley was a place where young artists, particularly young artists of color, could learn and showcase their artistic talents. They knew that the Aard Studio provided them a rare and critical place for mutual support and professional networking as well as a location for exhibitions and sales of their work. Also, she taught commercial art for the Essex County Vocational Schools from 1974 to 1989.

She was a founding member of Black Woman in Visual Perspective, New Jersey Chapter of the National Conference of Artists, and the Newark Arts Council. She even received the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for the Arts for her contributions to the local art scene and support for local artists.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives agree that Gladys Barker Grauer deserves to be recognized at the time of her passing for her tremendous contributions to the international artistic community and her dedication to the education and betterment of Newark's artists of color.

CONGRATULATING CAMERON YINGLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Cameron Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Cameron and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue "Fight Ataxia" bracelets and donated all to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, he and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Cameron was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Cameron on this recognition.

HONORING COMMUNITY LEADER FAY H. WILLIAMS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and recognize Fay H. Williams, an attorney, civil rights activist and community advocate in my district. Fay is being celebrated by the Asante Children's Theatre as a living legend, receiving the 2019 Asante Legacy Honoree.

Fay has dedicated her life to the betterment of her fellow citizens through a commitment to fighting for the rights of women and minorities, as well as disenfranchised and mentally ill individuals. She has also championed diversity and inclusion in our community and around Central Indiana.

For the past half a century, Fay has served as a board member for several prominent non-profit organizations including the American Red Cross Indiana Region Chapter, Children's Museum of Indianapolis and United Way of Central Indiana. At United Way, she co-launched the Minority Key Club, later renamed the Diversity Leadership Circle, a cornerstone organization with a commitment to diversity through talent acquisition in the community. Fay also went on to establish the Indianapolis Chapter of Coalition of 100 Black Women and served as a founding board-member of the Indianapolis Urban League and Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Fay H. Williams for her invaluable and ongoing contributions to our community, state and country.

HONORING ASSYRIAN MEMORIAL
DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Assyrian people. On the occasion of Assyrian Memorial Day, we pay our respects to and remember those Assyrians who have lost their lives to genocide and persecution.

The Assyrian people have faced systematic persecution from the early 20th century to the present day. From 1915 to 1918, 750,000 men, women, and children of Assyrian descent were killed under the Ottoman Empire, while still hundreds of thousands more became homeless and stateless refugees. In the Simele Massacre on August 7, 1933, 3,000 Assyrians were killed at the hands of the then-government of Iraq. In recent years, ISIS committed a brutal genocide against religious and ethnic minorities, including Assyrians, killing thousands of people.

We will ensure these tragedies are never forgotten. I would like to recognize New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for his work in highlighting the valuable contributions that members of the Assyrian-American community have made in my state and across the country. We must recall the commitment of the United States to promoting freedom and human rights for all people regardless of their national, religious, or ethnic identity and remain steadfast in our conviction.

We must continue to speak out against injustice everywhere and contribute to a world in which all people can live without fear of genocide or persecution.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ROBERT LEE SMITH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Lee Smith. For decades, Robert pursued public service as a dedicated teacher, school administrator, and a member of the United States Air Force. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous educator, and a dear friend and advisor.

Robert dedicated his life to sharing knowledge. He sought out opportunities through which he could give back to his community, progressing first as a high school valedictorian and scholarship recipient to earning degrees from Florida A&M University and Columbia University Teachers School in education and school administration. As an exceptional Communications Specialist in the United States Air Force, education remained a focus as he additionally served as a part-time instructor and education services coordinator. Robert's service was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Outstanding Airman Award. He was Honorably Discharged as a Sergeant on June 10, 1956. Robert knew what it meant to serve his community and our nation. He always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around him.

Robert's 36-year career in the Broward County School System enriched the lives of thousands of students, having served as a well-respected and cherished elementary school teacher and principle. His leadership expanded far beyond school walls, as he was president of Justice for All in Broward and the Golden Heights Homeowners' Association and he was the first African-American president of the Fort Lauderdale Optimist Club. He was also a leader in the First Baptist Church Piney Grove and his 63-year membership included serving as a Deacon and as Chairman of the Deacon Board. Undoubtedly, Robert's membership to the NAACP and position as Board Chairman for the L.A. Lee YMCA ensured his indelible mark on every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Robert's wife, Betty; his daughter, Anitha Rhodette; his son-in-law, Darrell; his grandson, Kamyron; and his entire family during this extremely difficult time. His life and legacy will always live on and he will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING DICK SHAFFER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Dick Shaffer, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Dick's first injury was in 1991 when he fell off a ladder while he got stung by a hornet as he was cleaning his gutters. He shattered his hip as a result of this. Most recently he fell at his home, cutting his head.

Throughout the years he has showed up each time for his rehabilitation with the determination to succeed over his injury, working hard to return to his healthy self.

Despite the challenges he faced, Dick never let his previous injuries deter him from living his life. He still maintains his positive attitude, strength, and love for his family.

Congratulations once again to Dick on this recognition.

REMEMBERING WILBERT
GREENFIELD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, the 10th President of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina as well as the 10th President of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Dr. Greenfield passed away last month at the age of 86. As President of the historically black university from 1973 to 1982, Dr. Greenfield strengthened Johnson C. Smith by gaining the financial support of several government and community agencies, by creating an Honors Program and by developing an Archival Center for preserving the university's heritage. He garnered funds to build new dormitories, which had not been done for years. The University's Board of Trustees named Wilbert Greenfield Hall in his honor in 1984. While at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield became a founding member of NAFEO, the National Association for Equal Opportunity In Higher Education and remained a member until his death. The City of Charlotte benefitted by having a growing Johnson C. Smith University on its west side thanks to Dr. Greenfield's efforts.

After ten years of dedicated service at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield accepted the position as President of Virginia State University, where he served from 1983 to 1988. During his presidency, the University experienced numerous academic strides. He instituted the expansion and renovation of the Hunter-McDaniel Science building as well as other academic buildings. Additionally, grant funds were secured for an agricultural research building. This vigorous initiative led to the revitalization of the Randolph Experimental Farm, which is located near the University's main campus. It is noted that one of Dr. Greenfield's proudest moments was bringing aquaculture (fish farming) to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to his legendary vision, VSU took the lead in Virginia as the pioneer in aquaculture. During his VSU tenure, Dr. Greenfield visited the White House under the Reagan and Bush Administrations to continue strategic initiatives to enhance higher education for minorities. In addition, Dr. Greenfield was named Educator of the Year in 1988 by the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, a worldwide organization with more than 150,000 members.

Dr. Greenfield was born on July 18, 1933 in Seven Springs, North Carolina, and earned degrees from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State College in Greensboro and was the fifth African American in this country to earn a PhD in Cardiac Physiology from the

University of Iowa-Iowa City. Dr. Greenfield began his academic career in 1967 as Professor, Chairman of the Department of Biology and Academic Dean at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he taught NFL legend Walter Payton, among others. I wish to express my condolences to Dr. Greenfield's friends, former students and family, and especially to his son George whose technical expertise keeps my Congressional offices running smoothly. Dr. Greenfield will long be remembered in those places where he made such a profound impact and legacy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVIS BROWN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Revis Brown of Anna, Illinois, who passed away peacefully earlier this month. Revis, born on August 5, 1926, was a decorated World War II and Korean War veteran who served his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Immediately after graduating high school, Revis enlisted to serve his country in the Pacific during World War II. While fighting in the Battle of Iwo Jima, Revis was blasted and wounded with shrapnel, but continued to fight on bravely. Though some of this shrapnel remained in his back for the rest of his life, Revis selflessly reenlisted to fight in the Korean War. After his service was finished, Revis worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. Revis Brown was a hero during wartime and an exemplary citizen during times of peace. He was the definition of a true American, and we wish his family and friends our prayers in their time of mourning.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Corporal Revis Brown for his service to our country and his contributions to Southern Illinois. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND DEBBIE LEE BRYANT'S FAMILY CELEBRATING 379 YEARS IN HAMPTON

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Reverend Debbie Lee Bryant celebrating her family's 379th year in Hampton, Virginia.

Reverend Bryant's rich and diverse ancestry in Hampton Roads epitomizes the complex backgrounds so many fellow Americans share by telling the story of the Native Americans who lived on the land we now call home, the enslaved Africans who were brought here by force, and the plantation owners who profited from the properties.

I also wish to commend Reverend Bryant's diligent work as an historian documenting and

researching the origins of the first Africans to land at Old Point Comfort. We must continue to remember the difficult past so we can move forward together as a community toward a better future for all.

I thank Reverend Bryant for sharing this milestone with me and all that she does in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 11 ELEFSON-ZEUSKE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legion Post 117 Elefson-Zeuske as its members celebrate the 100th anniversary of their charter in Shawano, Wisconsin.

Post 117 was chartered on November 1, 1919 in the name of Edwin Elefson as a patriotic veterans organization dedicated to supporting America's service members and veterans. A member of the 32nd Red Arrow Division, Elefson was killed in action on September 14, 1918 in France. He is memorialized at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery.

The Post held its first meeting on November 17, 1919 shortly after 30 members signed the original charter. In 1942, the Post changed its name to Elefson-Zeuske in honor of Wilmer Zeuske. A Sergeant in the U.S. Army, Wilmer Zeuske was killed in action during World War II.

For 100 years, the Post has been an active member of the greater Shawano community by sponsoring numerous activities with the goal of improving the community, state, and nation. The members work hard to improve youth leadership through school programs, Boy Scout programs, and American Legion baseball.

The Post has helped develop statewide veteran programs to ensure that veterans are cared for when they return home from service. The members of Elefson-Zeuske truly embody the qualities of patriotism and selfless service to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Post 117 for its support of veterans, students, and the Shawano community.

HONORING THELMA FIXLER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to mark a tremendous milestone for one of my constituents, Thelma Fixler of Larchmont, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on September 17, 2019.

Thelma has lived an amazing life, filled with some impressive roles. Born in Buffalo in 1919, she started singing at a young age, and

after winning an inter-scholastic vocal contest at the age of 15, she matriculated at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Thelma graduated in 1942 and left Rochester for New York City to pursue a career in opera. A mezzo soprano, Thelma joined the chorus of the Broadway production of the operetta *Rosalinda*. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut on November 22, 1943 in Boris Godunov on opening night of the Met's Diamond Jubilee Year. This was the first time an American-born singer debuted on an opening night. Thelma sang at the Met for seven years, performing 299 times in roles including Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, and numerous "pants" roles.

Thelma met her husband Robert (Bob) Fixler, an Army Air Corps veteran and New York attorney, and the two were wed in 1950. The couple moved to Larchmont Woods in New Rochelle in 1954 with their two young sons, Michael and Peter. The family joined Temple Israel of New Rochelle, and Thelma became an active member of the Sisterhood and served as its president from 1983 to 1985. Thelma spent a number of years as a volunteer with the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels program and with the Coalition for Mutual Respect, an African American-Jewish dialogue group. After Bob passed away, Thelma moved to Larchmont in 1999 and remained an active member of her synagogue, including helping to plan monthly lunch-and-learn events. She regularly attends Met Opera live broadcasts, frequents Westchester restaurants with friends, and enjoys attending Broadway shows and shopping with her grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on this special occasion I want to personally wish Thelma a very happy 100th birthday and thank her for the years of service and dedication she has shown to the community.

CONGRATULATING ROD BARONNER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Rod Baronner, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Rod came to Encompass Health for rehabilitation following brain surgery. When he first arrived, he required a hoist lift to get him out of bed due to his weakness. Rod had to focus on the basic fundamentals from the beginning, including to lift his head.

As his rehabilitation continued, his wife Rose began to attend more therapy sessions and helped Rod in his recovery.

In 43 days in rehabilitation, he progressed from limited mobility, to requiring only steady assistance to walk with a walker and was able to care for himself. He continues to make progress each and every day and has been able to return to things he loves like camping with his family.

It is thrilling to hear what Rod was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Rod on this recognition.

CONGRATULATING AMY CAMPBELL ON BEING NAMED WASHINGTON STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Amy Campbell, from Camas, Washington on being named Washington state's Teacher of the Year.

Amy has been teaching special education at Helen Baller Elementary for the past 12 years and has been an invaluable resource for students and families in Camas.

The Washington State Teacher of the Year program helps shine a much-deserved light on our educators who are dedicated to their students and communities—and Amy is no exception.

From helping make her students feel inspired, to encouraging them to see their own potential, Amy works tirelessly to ensure each one of her students is successful. This kind of hard work and dedication is exactly why Amy was given this well-earned recognition.

Once again, I want to congratulate Amy on receiving this honor. I want to thank her and all of our teachers for their hard work and devotion in serving our students and families in Southwest Washington.

HONORING THE KESSELRING NAVAL PROPULSION SITE IN WEST MILTON, NY FOR RECEIVING THE TOWN HERITAGE AWARD ON THEIR 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site in West Milton, NY for receiving the Town Heritage Award on the occasion of its 70th anniversary.

The Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site was founded in 1948 and began operations in 1955. Previously known as the West Milton site, it was renamed the Kenneth A. Kesselring Site in 1968. Despite being established to serve as a testing location for liquid-metal cooled power breeder reactors, the site's focus changed to the testing of propulsion plants through the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Over the next four decades, several generations of power plants were successfully tested at Kesselring before being deployed onto submarines like the USS *Ohio*.

Today, the Kesselring Naval Propulsion Site serves as a training site for Nuclear Reactor Operators. Kesselring allows for trainees to have a hands-on experience to better prepare them for operating these complex systems. Kesselring has trained over 50,000 sailors since 1955.

On behalf of New York's 21st congressional district, I want to join The Saratoga County

History Roundtable in honoring the Kesselring Naval Propulsion site and the Town of Milton on this historic occasion. I also want to thank the leadership team at Kesselring and the service members who have trained there for their dedicated service. I look forward to the continued success of the Kesselring Naval Propulsion site training future generations of sailors and submariners.

RECOGNIZING BUMP BOXES FOR WINNING SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bump Boxes in Peoria, Illinois for winning the Small Business of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Bump Boxes was founded in 2015 by Christine and Leland Deehring as an idea to provide healthy and chemical-free products to expecting mothers through a monthly delivery service. They moved to their first warehouse in 2015, and by 2016 hit a \$1 million revenue with six employees, which meant they had to add a second warehouse. In 2017, they hit \$3 million in revenue with 11 employees and acquired Hello Mamas in addition to launching Glow Organics. By 2018, the business hit \$8 million with 32 employees. They are currently thriving and continuing to develop their company. It takes dedication and hard work to keep a small business prospering and I am so proud of all Bump Boxes has done for the Peoria community.

It is because of community leaders like those at Bump Boxes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Bump Boxes for winning the Small Business of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY BASS FISHING CLUB WINNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the Auburn University Bass Fishing Club for winning the first ever Major League Fishing College Redcrest National Championship.

The championship took place in August in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on the Mississippi River.

The Auburn University Bass Fishing Club was founded in 2007. This season, the club will compete in up to 20 events.

Club members include Logan Parks, Lucas Lindsay, Will Phillips, Chase Mundhenke, Patch Pelt and Anthony Vinston.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Auburn University Bass Fishing Club.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BAUER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Bauer, a larger than life, beloved Chicagoan who made an impact on the most powerful American leaders as well as the most humble and vulnerable people.

Michael Bauer was only 66 years old when he passed away after a battle with cancer on August 29th. On September 3rd, hundreds gathered at Anshe Emet Synagogue on Chicago's north side to pay tribute to Michael and hear from some of the people whose lives were deeply affected by this passionate and exuberant activist.

Speakers included Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a long-time and very close friend, who Michael worked day and night to help elect, as well as Senator DICK DURBIN, a friend and political ally. Governor JB Pritzker was in attendance along with several Members of Congress, including me, and many members of the State Legislature as well as officials at the County and local level.

Michael had a law degree and an MBA, but his real passions were fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ community, Holocaust Remembrance and progressive politics. As a gay man, he began his activism during the ravaging days of the AIDS epidemic, but he never stopped fighting to end all forms of discrimination. He worked to change laws at every level of government to assure the right of gay couples to marry and the rights of transgender people, among other issues.

Both of Michael's parents were Holocaust survivors, and he and his brother Jerry grew up without grandparents, aunts and uncles or cousins. Poignantly, Michael's beloved mother Tema Bauer, 103 years old, was at the funeral of her younger son. Not surprisingly, Michael played an important role in the establishment of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, a city that is home to many survivors.

And Michael was deeply involved in politics, raising money and campaigning for his chosen candidates. His endorsement was heavily sought by Democratic candidates, but each had to pledge support for Michael's priorities, including protecting women's reproductive rights.

For nearly four decades, Michael shared his life with his partner and husband Roger Simon. They were inseparable, particularly going through the difficult phases of Michael's illness—Roger always at his side, always lovingly caring for his every need.

Michael was a dear, dear friend of mine. My husband and I loved to be in the same room with Michael and Roger, often watching Michael command the space—always forcefully making a point, or making a joke and being the force of nature that he was. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF THE 50TH UPWARD ACADEMY AT THE TYSON FOODS PLANT IN ZEELAND, MI

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of the 50th Upward Academy at the Tyson Foods Plant in Zeeland, Michigan.

This unique in-plant educational program offers a plethora of empowering resources and courses to all workers, from the frontlines to the offices, at no-cost. By partnering with local community organizations, Upward Academy provides team members the opportunity to access important classes that would otherwise be unattainable. Examples include English as a Second Language, General Educational Development (GED), and United States citizenship, among others. For new immigrants to the U.S., Upward Academy helps to assimilate and integrate them into American society, thereby creating a bedrock for their future success.

Moreover, the Upward Academy includes multiple components focused on workplace skills and professional training to develop talent, especially in rural or marginalized areas. This includes classes in driver education, computer technology, financial literacy, and a variety of soft skills. Through these programs, Upward Academy brings knowledgeable experts directly to workers so they can move beyond entry-level jobs, receive valuable qualifications, and perform at high levels.

The 50th launch of Upward Academy will open the door for all team members at Tyson's Plant in Zeeland, MI to strive beyond current limitations. Tyson Foods and Upward Academy's commitment to cultivating a modern workforce that is prepared for the 21st century will help our community grow stronger and make West Michigan a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in officially recognizing the launch of the 50th Upward Academy at the Tyson Foods Plant in Zeeland, MI.

CONGRATULATING TIM HOYER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Tim Hoyer, this year's recipient of the Encompass Health Advocate Award.

Tim has been active with brain injury support groups since his own injury in 2012. In January 2016, Tim assumed leadership of the Blair County Brain Injury Support Group. He has also founded an Asperger's support group. Tim has taken special interest in each group member and encourages them to reach whatever goals they have set.

Tim is a tireless advocate in our community, and his work is truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations once again to Tim on this recognition

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON ALLEN WOLF

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the incredible life of Mr. Don Wolf. Don was an upstanding citizen, father, husband and business leader in north-east Indiana who dedicated his life to the humble service of others. The lives of his fellow Hoosiers have been vastly improved because of Don's generosity and good will.

Don truly lived out the American Dream. He established Do It Best Hardware which is presently the largest privately-held company in the state of Indiana and has a large presence across the entire country. The City of Fort Wayne and the entire Hoosier State feels a deep sense of pride in counting him as one of our own.

Achieving great success, Don set out to better the community he loved so much and worked to significantly improve the lives of those around him. His many philanthropic efforts range from serving as the first president of Big Brothers of Greater Fort Wayne, the founder of Study Connection, and a member of the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame. There can be no doubt that Don's top priority was to set our future generations up for success.

The positive impact Don made on his city, his state, and people across the country will not soon be lost or forgotten. Through a life as a business leader and community servant, Don Wolf shines as an example of what it means to live well and live for others.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PEORIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR WINNING THE COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council for winning the Community Partner of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

The Greater Peoria Economic Development Council—a non-profit organization focused on helping local businesses, site selectors and the local community develop in the Peoria community—is a wonderful resource for all businesses in the Peoria area. The Council currently runs several programs, including Elevate, Manufacturing Network, Economic Gardening, Startup, Pathways, Hello Greater Peoria, Farm Forums and Co Starters. These programs all help local businesses thrive. I commend the Council for all of its work in Peoria and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

It is because of community builders like the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council for winning the Community Partner of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

HONORING EPISCOPAL HOMES OF MINNESOTA ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Episcopal Homes of Minnesota on its 125th anniversary of caring for and serving senior communities in Saint Paul.

Episcopal Homes began in 1894 with a visionary leader named Sister Annette Relf. Sister Annette was a hospital nurse and Minnesota's first Episcopal Deaconess, who saw a need for a home and place of comfort for poor and elderly women. The first home was founded at 710 Martin Street in Saint Paul. In 1909, Sister Annette herself became a resident of the home until she died in 1915. The tradition of strong women's leadership continued in 1930, when Eliza May was elected as the first President of the Board and women took over daily management of the home.

The Great Depression brought major challenges to the community, and the federal government responded by granting the home an exception from taxes. The Social Security Act was passed which kept many residents out of poverty by providing retirement security. After World War II, the home grew to accommodate 70 residents. In 1970, the home officially became the Episcopal Church Home of Minnesota. The need for more supportive services led to the hiring of an occupational therapist who could address the physical, recreation and social needs of residents.

Episcopal Homes has continued to grow to serve residents, receiving a major grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to build subsidized housing for seniors. In 2011, Kings Crossing Apartments opened in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, which HUD lauded as a model for innovative community planning and neighborhood revitalization. This federal investment has continued and been valuable to Episcopal Homes' nine senior communities located near Green Line Light Rail stops along University Avenue in Saint Paul. Episcopal Homes has won numerous awards and recognition for its care and services—including those from Aging Services of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, the Midway Chamber of Commerce, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Episcopal Homes is home to more than 1400 residents who thrive in their retirement years through the continuum of care offered through the homes in the heart of Saint Paul. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Episcopal Homes of Minnesota's dedication to building affordable, diverse, vibrant communities and enhancing the lives of older adults.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
ELIZABETH JANE KERLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Kerley, who died peacefully at her Rossmoor home on May 22, 2019. Betty was born on March 6, 1923 in Oakland to first-generation Welsh immigrants, Hugh and Anna Williams. Betty was the youngest of three children and was very proud of her Welsh stock. She was a lively and resilient child, qualities that she drew upon throughout her long life.

When Betty was ten, her mother died of pneumonia. Betty took charge of the house, helped by her father Hugh and their housekeeper Mrs. Benson.

Betty's father was a noted professional singer who was once Director of the famed Grace Cathedral Boys Choir. Believing that his daughter was a child prodigy, he encouraged her to pursue her unquestionable musical talents to become a concert pianist. Betty attended San Francisco State College to pursue a teaching degree, and in 1944, she married William Strehl, a Seabee who shipped out shortly after their marriage. Their first child Katherine was born in 1944 and their son Bill in 1954.

In 1959, Betty became a single mother raising two children on her own. She secured a position with the University of California's Office of the President, and worked at UC for 17 years. Betty met and married Robert F. Kerley (Bob) in 1975, and moved with him to Rossmoor in 1977. There they joined a vibrant community of UC retirees and enjoyed many years of retirement. Betty enjoyed art and gardening, and she and Bob worked tirelessly in her daughter's garden in Menlo Park, California. She started her own interior decorating company, but her real passion was painting . . . first with oils and later watercolors. She lived a long and happy life and was known for her loving smile, her loyalty to family and friends, her wit and laughter, the glint in her eye and for always being a classy lady. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Betty is survived by her two children: Katherine (Bill Dempsey) Strehl of Menlo Park, California, Bill (Sue) Strehl of Eugene, Oregon and stepchildren, Kathleen James of Bend, Oregon, Maureen (Taylor) Douglas of Bend, Oregon, Barbara Neill of Austin, Texas and Bill (Jerri Townsend) of Austin, Texas; ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Her beloved husband of 31 years, Bob, died in 2006. She is also survived by her loving caregiver Atiola Raura, Ati's husband Emosi, and their family of seven children who brought love and joy to Betty in her last six years of life.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Elizabeth Jane Kerley, and in extending our most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on September 12, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 529 and Roll Call 530. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Nay on Roll Call Vote 529 and No on Roll Call Vote 530.

CONGRATULATING ADAM GEE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Adam Gee, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Adam first came to Encompass Health in December of 2018 after falling off a ladder at work and sustaining a spinal cord injury. He arrived on his first day in a wheelchair. Adam knew that he had a long road to recovery ahead of him, but he was determined to emerge victorious. Adam set goals and strived to meet them each session. He struggled to take his first few steps after the injury, barely walking three feet, but that did not deter him.

During his rehabilitation, Adam continued to work and live his life. He chose to modify his everyday tasks, rather than sit and wait for things to get better.

It is thrilling to hear all that Adam was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Adam on this recognition.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE JANET POSS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts but the greatest of memories that I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Janet Poss as family, friends, and colleagues gather to remember her invaluable contributions to the Guilford community. We lost Jan earlier this year and at the age of ninety-six she certainly lived a full life, but her presence will most certainly be missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Jan was one of the community giants on whose shoulders we all stand. She was incredibly generous with her time and energy, serving on a myriad of boards and commissions throughout her life. The Youth Services Board, the Guilford ABC program, the East Shore Adult Daycare Center, the Human Services Council of Guilford, Guilford Interfaith Housing, and the East Shore League of Women Voters are just some of the organizations she dedicated countless hours to over the years.

In addition to that, Jan also served in public life, having been elected as both a member of

the Guilford Board of Selectmen and as the State Representative for Connecticut's 98th District. She was best known for no-nonsense personality—she worked on behalf of the people she served and did not apologize for doing what she believed was right. Jan was also known as a voice of reason during the most heated of debates.

Jan was also a mentor to many in the community who followed her in public service. There are many who can tell you stories of her sitting down with those interested in seeking public office and working out a strategy to ensure an election night victory. I have the fondest of memories of Jan from when I first ran for office. She was an extraordinary sounding board and had a great sense of humor. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend.

It extend my deepest sympathies to Jan's family and hope that they know what a remarkable impact she had on all of those who knew her. Jan has left an indelible mark on the Guilford community and a legacy of service and dedication to which we all should strive.

HONORING LILLIAN STEWART

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lillian Stewart and to extend my deepest condolences to her family upon her passing at the blessed age of 95. Ms. Stewart was a devoted mother, grandmother, and community activist. I am also privileged to have been able to call Ms. Stewart my friend.

Born in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, in 1923, Ms. Stewart was born the middle of five children. She spent her formative years in Washington, D.C., where she attended Garnet-Patterson Junior High School and Cardoza High School.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Stewart went on to continue her education, completing a postgraduate course in Cosmetology at Madame CJ Walker's College of Beauty Culture; a foreign language course at the University of the District of Columbia; and medical secretary training by the District of Columbia Medical Society; and earning a Montgomery Ward Consumer Education "Art of Interior Decorating Home Fashion Forum" certificate.

Ms. Stewart spent much of her professional career at Howard University Hospital, where she served in several support and junior management positions. She retired from the hospital as Hospital Utilization Review Coordinator. Upon retirement, Ms. Stewart dedicated her time to a range of community activities and small business ventures. She was active in the AARP Shepherd Park Chapter No. 2667, chair of the Southwest Advisory Council-Southwest Health Clinic and was a D.C. Public Notary. Ms. Stewart was also an outspoken activist. She actively protested the planned closure of DC General Hospital, located in a predominately African American neighborhood, in 2001.

As a mother, Ms. Stewart encouraged a pursuit of education in her children. She was

privileged to live to witness her three children's professional accomplishments in communications, medicine, and photography. She also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I had the honor of spending private time with Ms. Stewart thanks to her loving son Dwight who has been a dear friend for decades. I loved being with her. She brought me joy and made me laugh. Her colorful descriptions and deep insights were remarkable. I attended mass with her on several occasions and she demonstrated in words and deeds her belief in God, who she knew was all merciful and loving. I will deeply miss Ms. Stewart, but her indomitable spirit will endure forever.

Today, I join Ms. Stewart's family in celebrating her life and enduring legacy. May she rest in power and in peace.

HONORING AMERICAN CLERGY
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE NATIONAL
PARENTS' DAY AWARDS
LUNCHEON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize and honor this year's National Parents' Day Award Luncheon hosted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference in my district, New York 16.

In 1994, Congress unanimously passed "The Parents' Day Resolution"—which I cosponsored—establishing the fourth Sunday of July as an annual holiday, like Mother's Day and Father's Day. National Parents' Day this year will actually be on Sunday, July 28.

The American Clergy Leadership conference is an interfaith and interracial coalition of faith leaders working together beyond denomination to strengthen marriages and families, renew communities and our nation. ACLC ministers share the vision that America should be an example to the world showing how all people can live together as one family.

To mark National Parents' Day, the ACLC is promoting family as a way to support the community by upholding and awarding people who have been role models in parenting their children and serving the broader community.

As Representative and a proud parent of three wonderful children, I applaud the work the ACLC is doing to recognize and celebrate all of the wonderful parents we have in this amazing district. I want to congratulate this year's ACLC Awards Luncheon honorees and thank them, along with our dear friends in ACLC, for all they do every day to better our community and create a strong foundation on which our children can learn and grow.

RECOGNIZING LUX BLOX FOR WINNING
INNOVATION OF THE YEAR
THROUGH THE TURNER CENTER
SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lux Blox for winning the Innova-

tion of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

Lux Blox was founded by Michael and Heather Acerra of Galesburg, Illinois, who created a construction system designed to build things the same way nature builds itself. The blocks curve, bend and move without the limits of traditional building blocks. With the help of Daniel Wollin, a 15 year-old down the street from their home, and a 3-D printer, they developed these innovative building blocks. Their product aims to inspire future creativity and exploration. The blocks are manufactured near Galesburg, Illinois, and are packaged by the skilled hands of those with disabilities living their community.

It is because of community pioneers like Lux Blox that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Lux Blox for winning the Innovation of the Year award through the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

CONGRATULATING BREENEN
YINGLING

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Breenen Yingling, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

This past summer, Breenen and his brother were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia. This disease affects balance, coordination, mobility, and the heart. There is no treatment or cure, but that has not deterred the boys. Following their diagnosis, they started selling blue "Fight Ataxia" bracelets and donated all proceeds to research.

Since coming to Encompass Health, Breenen and his brother have always showed up with a fighting spirit and a positive attitude each session as they participate in aqua and land therapy to maintain muscle strength and mobility.

It is thrilling to hear that Breenen was also able to help others in his program to push a little harder once they saw his work ethic.

Congratulations once again to Breenen on the recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARISOL
CHALAS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Marisol Chalas for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow in my office and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Lieutenant Colonel Chalas is transitioning from her current assignment to serve as the Legislative Assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army.

Born in Bani, Dominican Republic, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas moved with her family to the United States at the age of nine. She began her military career as an enlisted Soldier in July 1990, and in 2001 she received her commission as Second Lieutenant in the Aviation branch from the Georgia Military Institute Officer Candidate School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has served in a broad range of assignments during her extensive military career. These include two rotations as Company Commander, operational experience at multiple echelons with Army units and Joint Task forces, international duties with Dominican Republic Canadian Forces, and completion of the Army Congressional Fellowship program.

In 2017, as an Army Congressional Fellow, I had the privilege of working with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas in my office for a year and during her subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. She worked tirelessly as Defense Fellow, assisted my office on a range of legislative issues, and coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. Her professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and her work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Chalas has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. I join my colleagues today in honoring her dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Lieutenant Colonel Chalas since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Marisol for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF HOPE TOWNSHIP,
NEW JERSEY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 250th anniversary of Hope Township, New Jersey. Hope Township is a community with rich history, located in my District, the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.

Hope Township is one of the earliest planned communities in our nation. In 1769, German Moravians settled in what is now Hope Township. Prior to 1769, several families farmed on Jenny Jump Mountain and on John

Samuel Green, Jr.'s farm in the center of what is now the Village in Hope Township.

The first industrial building in Hope was the Grist Mill and its Mill Race which diverted a channel of water to the Mill to grind flour. This was built in one year and began immediate production, which continued into the 1950s. A tragic fire in 1918 destroyed several blocks in the town, but Hope bounced back, even stronger than before. Major development often bypassed Hope, which has allowed the Township to maintain the original town structure for so many decades.

In 1973, Hope Township was named a Historic Place in both the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places, and the Township has maintained its commitment to preserving history.

Under the leadership of Mayor Tim McDonough and the Township Committee, Hope Township has continued to flourish. I encourage my colleagues to come enjoy the natural beauty of Hope Township and visit great attractions including the Land of Make Believe, the Hope Historical Museum, and the Inn at Millrace Pond.

As the Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey, I am proud to recognize Hope Township on their 250th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hope Township for reaching this amazing milestone and look forward to many great years ahead.

U.S. TREASURY SETTLES WITH
DR. VALENTIN GAPONTSEV

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the settlement concluded between the Department of Treasury and my constituent, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev, acknowledging that Dr. Gapontsev is not a Russian oligarch for purposes of the CAATSA listing that appears on Treasury's website. Dr. Gapontsev is the founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, a global leader in fiber laser technology. I have followed his dispute with Treasury for over 18 months, and I am glad to see it resolved favorably on behalf of my constituent.

Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following: September 11, 2019 Letter from Department of the Treasury to Dr. Gapontsev; September 11, 2019 Press Release by IPG Photonics; and September 11, 2019 Washington Post article, "Treasury admits Russian-born physicist shouldn't be on oligarch list that it cribbed from Forbes."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2019.

DR. VALENTIN P. GAPONTSEV,
c/o IPG Photonics Corporation,
Oxford, MA.
IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION,
Oxford, MA.

DEAR DR. GAPONTSEV AND IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION: The following concerns the Secretary of the Treasury's unclassified report to Congress on January 29, 2018, pursuant to Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act

("CAATSA"), Pub. L. No. 115-44, 131 Stat. 886 (2017) ("the Section 241 Report"). The United States Department of the Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA. Consequently, Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of CAATSA. The Department's view is based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress. Among other things, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev is a U.S. citizen and chairman and CEO of IPG Photonics Corporation, a publicly-traded corporation headquartered in the United States.

Any reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified Section 241 Report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law, including those relating to sanctions against Russia or its oligarchs.

Sincerely,

PAUL AHERN,
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes.

[From IPG Photonics, September 11, 2019]
US TREASURY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT VALENTIN GAPONTSEV IS NOT AN OLIGARCH

DR VALENTIN GAPONTSEV AND IPG SETTLE LITIGATION WITH US TREASURY OVER CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

OXFORD, MA.—IPG Photonics Corporation (NASDAQ: IPGP) today announced that the U.S. Treasury publicly acknowledged Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation for purposes of Section 241 of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Litigation over his inclusion in the so-called oligarch report was resolved in consideration for the Treasury Department's official and public finding that Dr. Gapontsev is not an oligarch in the Russian Federation, and he would not be included in the report to Congress if it were compiled today.

Dr. Valentin P. Gapontsev, founder and CEO of IPG Photonics, a U.S.-based global leader in fiber laser technology, sued the U.S. Treasury in December 2018 over its report to Congress listing him as an oligarch of the Russian Federation under CAATSA. Dr. Gapontsev asserted that the U.S. Treasury had no basis in law or fact for including him in the report.

The letter, signed by Paul Ahern, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, says "Treasury is of the opinion that, if it had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation referred to in Section 241 of CAATSA based upon information it did not have when the report was submitted to Congress." The letter also states "[a]ny reference to Dr. Valentin Gapontsev in the unclassified 2018 report does not reflect any judgment of the Treasury Department regarding compliance with U.S. law." The Treasury published the letter on its website at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Letter-09-11-2019.pdf>.

"Ever since the Treasury Department issued the 2018 CAATSA report to Congress, we have asserted that it was wrong in declaring Dr. Gapontsev to be a Russian oligarch. We are pleased that the Treasury has finally admitted this much in its letter," said Angelo Lopresti, IPG Photonics' General Counsel. He continued, "During a court hearing, the U.S. Government conceded that the U.S. Treasury based its unclassified CAATSA oli-

garch report entirely on a list taken from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article. Dr. Gapontsev, a U.S. citizen, is a world-renowned scientist and entrepreneur who created thousands of U.S. jobs as he commercialized fiber laser technology."

On January 29, 2018, the U.S. Treasury Secretary designated 96 individuals as "oligarchs in the Russian Federation" pursuant to Section 241 of the CAATSA, including Dr. Valentin Gapontsev. IPG Photonics, headquartered in Massachusetts, is the world leader in fiber laser technology, with more than 4,000 customers, 25 facilities and 6,000 employees worldwide.

Dr. Gapontsev asserted in the litigation that his wealth stems entirely from successfully growing IPG Photonics and his fiber laser innovations over the last three decades, not from any connections with the Russian government.

ABOUT IPG PHOTONICS CORPORATION

IPG Photonics Corporation is the leader in high-power fiber lasers and amplifiers used primarily in materials processing and other diverse applications. The company's mission is to make its fiber laser technology the tool of choice in mass production. IPG accomplishes this mission by delivering superior performance, reliability and usability at a lower total cost of ownership compared with other types of lasers and non-laser tools, allowing end users to increase productivity and decrease costs. A member of the S&P 500® Index, IPG is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts and has more than 25 facilities worldwide. For more information, visit www.ipgphotonics.com.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 11, 2019]
TREASURY ADMITS RUSSIAN-BORN PHYSICIST SHOULDN'T BE ON OLIGARCH LIST THAT IT CRIBBED FROM FORBES

(By Steven Mufson)

The U.S. Treasury Department issued a letter Wednesday stating that Valentin P. Gapontsev, an 80-year-old laser physicist who became a U.S. citizen a decade ago, does not belong on a list of Russian oligarchs that Treasury admitted in court to having cribbed entirely from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article.

Gapontsev, who has built a \$6.8 billion company called IPG Photonics based in Oxford, Mass., was No. 27 on the list of 96 Russians that Treasury gave Congress when lawmakers were eager to retaliate for Russian interference in U.S. elections.

In the letter Treasury issued Wednesday, it said it was revising its view "based on information we did not have at the time the report was submitted to Congress."

Gapontsev has said that he never belonged on the list and that he had feared that Congress might use the list as a tool for applying pressure on the Kremlin. He said that unlike the Russian oligarchs, he built his company over three decades based on its advanced laser technology, not Kremlin connections.

Under sanctions law, targets could be banned from entering the United States, and their assets could be frozen. Some lawmakers in 2018 quickly launched a letter-writing initiative aimed at getting financial institutions to identify the assets of people on the list as a way to make banks skittish about doing business with them.

Treasury wouldn't budge on the listing, however, and Gapontsev filed suit in federal court Dec. 3, 2018.

The Treasury said in a settlement Wednesday that Gapontsev did not belong on the list under Section 241 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. It said that it was "of the opinion that, if it

had to create the unclassified report today, Dr. Valentin Gapontsev would not be listed among oligarchs in the Russian Federation.”

The CAATSA legislation was passed by overwhelming margins in Congress on Aug. 2, 2017, in a rare show of bipartisanship. The measure demanded both classified and unclassified lists of “the most significant senior foreign political figures and oligarchs in the Russian Federation, as determined by their closeness to the Russian regime and their net worth.”

“Ever since the Treasury Department issued the 2018 CAATSA report to Congress,

we have asserted that it was wrong in declaring Dr. Gapontsev to be a Russian oligarch. We are pleased that the Treasury has finally admitted this much in its letter,” Angelo Lopresti, IPG Photonics’ general counsel, said in a statement.

Gapontsev earned his doctorate and worked at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. In 1990, at age 51, he started IPG Photonics, which produces high-power fiber-optic lasers for telecommunications and cutting materials. He also opened facilities in Burbach, Germany.

But he soon moved the firm to the United States, then his biggest market. BellSouth was one of his main customers. He raised \$100 million of private-equity investments from U.S. firms.

“During a court hearing, the U.S. Government conceded that the U.S. Treasury based its unclassified CAATSA oligarch report entirely on a list taken from a 2017 Forbes Magazine article,” Lopresti added.

He said that Gapontsev “is a world-renowned scientist and entrepreneur who created thousands of U.S. jobs as he commercialized fiber laser technology.”