

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
BATEAUMEN OF THE JAMES
RIVER

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the legacy of the African American Bateamen of the James River. These men played critical roles in establishing the economy of colonial Virginia, and it is imperative we honor and remember their work.

The James River Bateau, a series of flat-bottomed wooden cargo vessels first used in the 1770's, was the primary means of transporting goods on the James River until 1840. Crews of men performed the difficult, dangerous, and physically demanding work of moving tobacco and other goods and services up and down the river, connecting Richmond to the wider world. Their efforts helped make the City of Richmond a regional hub for industry and commerce.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth is recognizing the profound impact of the African American Bateamen of the James River with a historical highway marker designation from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. By highlighting the experiences of these men, this highway marker helps us achieve a more inclusive understanding of our shared history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the legacy of the African American Bateamen. Their contributions to colonial Virginia were formative in growing the Commonwealth's economy, and I am grateful for their work. This landmark designation will help us remember the important work they did and preserve their legacy for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's National Day. On October 10th, Taiwan celebrated the 108th anniversary of the Republic of China. On the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important anniversary and express the sincere commitment of our nation and Congress to the bilateral relationship. As security, diplomatic, and economic challenges in the Pacific region grow, it is vital for our mutual security that the bond between the United States and Taiwan remains strong.

I am proud to support our continued defense partnership, trading relationship, and a shared belief in democracy and human dignity

that stands in stark contrast to the behavior of the government on the mainland. The United States and Taiwan have built an alliance that can withstand future threats, and to which I know President Trump and his administration is committed to preserving. I also want to commend the Americans serving in the American Institute in Taiwan for their patriotism and commitment to preserving this critical partnership.

We cannot be complacent when the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing attempts to export authoritarianism and corruption and tries to weaken our democratic allies. I encourage my colleagues to support measures to stop Beijing's ongoing attempts to undermine Taiwan's participation in international fora and its increased disruption of Taiwan's diplomatic ties.

From its beginning over a century ago to its embrace of a vibrant democracy today, the Republic of China (Taiwan) shares a bond with the United States founded on common principles. As Taiwan celebrates Double Ten Day, I extend my best wishes and congratulate the Taiwanese people for all they have achieved.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
LAURA HAND

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Laura Hand as she retires after 47 years as a celebrated journalist in Central New York.

For nearly five decades, Laura Hand has been a trusted source for news in our community, a household name in broadcasting, and beloved by many in Central New York. Throughout her career, she has told countless community stories, inspired rising journalists, and used her platform to raise awareness for childhood literacy.

Born in a military family in Virginia, Laura Hand spent much of her childhood travelling around the world to countries including England, Germany, Thailand, and Italy. Developing an interest in news and politics at a young age, Laura Hand followed this passion and enrolled in Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where she studied journalism and political science. While a student at Syracuse University, Laura Hand became the first woman to direct the campus radio station, WAER. After graduating in 1971, she took her first full-time position as a radio news reporter with WFBL in Syracuse, NY.

In 1972, Laura Hand transitioned from radio to television, joining the NBC 3 broadcast team. Throughout her reputable career with NBC 3, she held a number of positions, but has become best known for anchoring "Weekend Today" and "Monday Night Answer

Desk," where she encouraged viewers to get involved and have fun in the Central New York community. Passionate about her community, for years Laura Hand maintained the "In Your Community" webpage, a site dedicated to informing residents of the many community events in Central New York.

Throughout her career, Laura Hand has interviewed some of the most prominent figures in American politics, including former New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller and former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Laura Hand has coupled her prominent career in journalism in Central New York with her passion for reading, and, for more than 30 years, has organized the "Books Breaks" summer reading campaign, an annual program that promotes childhood literacy in our community. She plans to continue this work into retirement. In addition, she has served as a long-time member of the Salvation Army/Syracuse Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Laura Hand for an incredible 47-year career in journalism. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUND
BREAKING FOR FORT STREET
BRIDGE PARK AND THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ROUGE
RIVER FIRE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Rouge River fire and celebrate the ground breaking of the new Fort Street Bridge Park.

On October 9, 1969, sparks from an acetylene torch ignited debris in the Rouge River. With flames rising 50 feet into the air, the burning river quickly became a symbol of societal indifference to pollution and became a catalyst for change in our community. Years before the Rouge fire, the river also served as an important site for another event that provoked societal transformation. On March 7, 1932, thousands of unemployed auto workers embarked on a march from Detroit to the Ford Rouge Factory in Dearborn to protest the economic devastation in Detroit's automotive industry during the Great Depression. In a painful part of our community's history, the marching autoworkers clashed with police and Ford Motor Company security guards on the historic Fort Street Bridge above the Rouge River, resulting in the death of five protestors and leaving dozens of others injured. Later known as the Ford Hunger March, this event laid the groundwork for the formation of the United Auto Workers in 1935.

Without a doubt, the Fort Street Bridge and Rouge River are prominent symbols of Detroit's past.

In the half century since the Rouge River fire, heightened public and political attention to

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

America's environmental crisis has generated both formal legislation like the Clean Water Act of 1972 and independent action to transform the severe health hazard into a regional asset. Thanks to the river's renewed health and viability, members of our community have taken the initiative to commemorate the legacy of the Ford Hunger March by planning the creation of a pocket park located at the foot of the Fort Street Bridge. The new park will honor our community's vast history and highlight the significance of the Rouge River fire and the Fort Street Bridge for generations of Michiganders to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Rouge River fire and celebrate the ground breaking of the future Fort Street Bridge Park. I am grateful for our community's efforts to ensure our history is never forgotten.

HONORING MS. KATHY TEAL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Kathy Teal of Greeley, Colorado.

Kathy Teal was an accomplished woman who always kept the needs of women and children at heart and fought hard for life. Ms. Teal dedicated her career to serving teenage and unwed pregnant mothers, working as a certified midwife. In the 1980s, Kathy was part of a group that founded Birthright of Greeley where she served as a counselor and later as the organization's director. She also played an instrumental role in drafting and advocating for the law legalizing lay midwifery in the state of Colorado.

From 2002 until her passing on March 21, 2019, she helped found and was actively involved in the Genesis Project of Northern Colorado, a faith-based, nonprofit organization serving single mothers and their children. She later served on the Executive Board and the Advisory Board, continually guiding this organization with her passion to protect life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Ms. Kathy Teal for all her contributions to Eastern Colorado and recognize the profound legacy that she leaves behind. It is an honor to celebrate her impact on our community and state.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMITY TOWNSHIP

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and appreciation that I rise today to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Township of Amity, Pennsylvania.

The oldest incorporated township in Berks County, Amity predates the county itself. Settled by Swedish settlers on land granted by William Penn in 1701, Amity is home to the county's oldest structure, the Mouns Jones House, which was built in 1716, as well as St. Gabriel's Church, Berks County's first orga-

nized religious congregation. Among Amity's other contributions to history is the White Horse Inn, which served as a gathering place for officers of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and was visited by President George Washington in 1793. The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County has been instrumental in preserving Amity's rich history as part of Morlatton Village.

Amity's 300th anniversary has been heralded with great celebration. Events commemorating the township's tricentennial have brought the people of Amity together to recall and celebrate their longstanding sense of community that was the foundation of its establishment 300 years ago. Amity has remained a strong community because it holds the same values as at its founding.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me and the great people who call Amity home in celebrating 300 years and wishing them many more years of community and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RODNEY ALLEN MORTENSON ON THE EVE OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Rodney Allen Mortenson of Greensboro, North Carolina on the eve of his retirement.

Dr. Mortenson has practiced sports medicine and orthopedic surgery for nearly five decades in the Greensboro and Eden areas. He has been a stalwart of the medical community, expertly servicing the needs of his patients while expanding the knowledge within the orthopedic field more broadly. Through his service as a faculty clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and authorship of numerous published studies, Dr. Mortenson's intellectual contributions to his field and positive impact on future surgeons have been measurable.

In 1976, Dr. Mortenson founded the Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center in Greensboro specializing in trauma care, joint function, and hand and foot surgery. Countless patients have come to see Dr. Mortenson with serious, debilitating afflictions and left his office with a new lease on life.

Dr. Mortenson now steps into a new phase of life, retirement, with the love and support of his wife Linda and daughters Ashley, Julie, and Lindsay. I am beyond grateful for the work Dr. Mortenson performed in a community that we both care deeply about, and I wish him only happiness in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the career of Dr. Rodney Allen Mortenson and honoring his service to the city of Greensboro.

RECOGNIZING STU SKAUGE, TOMMY SPENCER, AND SHANA THORNTON FOR THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the lives and service of Stu Skauge, Tommy Spencer, and Shana Thornton on the occasion of their induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. Through a lifetime of unparalleled service and devotion to the public good, these three leaders have become indispensable parts of the state of Michigan.

The U.P. Labor Hall of Fame was established in 1993 to recognize unionists who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of worker dignity and workplace fairness. With their lifetimes in service to their fellow workers, Shana, Tommy, and Stu are all clearly deserving of this honor.

Stu Skauge served as a Michigan school teacher for 33 years. As a member of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), Stu served as president-elect, president, and chief negotiator for his bargaining unit in the Marquette Area Public Schools district for over 25 years. He would go on to become the MEA UniServ director in Marquette and Alger Counties for another 10 years before his retirement. He has remained a dedicated leader in retirement, serving on the Ishpeming City Council and continuing to be active with the MBA-Retired organization. Stu also served as a Sergeant E-5 in the Korean War and is a life member and former commander of the Ishpeming VFW.

As a member of the United Steelworkers for 38 years, Tommy Spencer served as a leader, trainer, and activist for on-the-job health and safety, eventually becoming the Company Committee Safety Chairperson. His efforts were critical in forming the Steelworkers Coalition and establishing the Worker Memorial Day event—helping to remember workers killed or injured on the job and continue the fight for stronger safety and health protections. Tommy has devoted countless hours to volunteer work and public service through organizations like the Marquette County Labor Council, the Cliff's Shaft Mining Museum Board, the Negaunee Township Building and Recreation Committee, and the Harley Owners Group.

While she started her career as a teacher's aide, Shana Thornton quickly found her calling as a union activist—serving as steward, chapter chair, and local president in her local organization. Her drive led her to become a Staff Representative for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) before ultimately serving as the Director of Field Services for AFSCME Council 25, where she supervised 23 Staff Representatives across the state of Michigan. Shana was the first and only woman to serve as President of the Marquette County Labor Council. She also served at the state-level on the Michigan AFL-CIO General Board and the Michigan Labor-Management Council, representing the U.P.

Madam Speaker, induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor

and reflects a lifetime of service towards the rights and well-being of fellow workers. None are more deserving of this honor than Stu Skauge, Tommy Spencer, and Shana Thornton. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated leaders. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Human Rights Council. Their exemplary efforts in defending and protecting human rights are worthy of commendation.

The American Human Rights Council (AHRC) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization committed to protecting, promoting, and defending human rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution and outlined in the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since its inception, the AHRC has worked tirelessly with community leaders and human rights advocacy organizations to intervene in situations where human rights are at risk. Through high-level legislative work, media outreach, and grassroots mobilization, the AHRC strives to protect individuals whose rights are being violated regardless of geographical or other boundaries.

The AHRC's Annual Community Forum and Dinner Reception exemplifies the council's continued commitment to protecting and uplifting human rights worldwide. The 2019 forum titled "Human Trafficking: Universal Challenge, Common Responsibility" will focus on the challenges of human trafficking and generate awareness of its prevalence on a local, national, and global scale. Human trafficking constitutes a serious human rights violation and must be handled with the utmost care and concern. Thus, the AHRC strives to use its platform to educate attendees further on the impacts of human trafficking and provide opportunities to learn about ways to combat this alarming human rights crisis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the American Human Rights Council. The AHRC's meaningful work plays a crucial role in protecting human rights worldwide, and we are grateful for the tremendous dedication to solving the world's toughest human rights challenges.

HONORING CALFIRE FIRE CAPTAIN PAUL ROTONDARO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. Mr. Rotondaro served the State of California during his distinguished career with CalFire, until he was tragically killed in a head-on collision while on-duty on October 2nd, 2019.

Mr. Rotondaro began his career in 2006 as a Firefighter 1 at the Ahwahnee Firestation in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit of CAL FIRE. He was promoted to a Firefighter II in 2011 and in 2012 was promoted to Lieutenant Fire Apparatus Engineer in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit then transferred to the Riverside Unit as a permanent Fire Apparatus Engineer in 2015. In 2016, Mr. Rotondaro was made a permanent Fire Captain in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. In 2018, he was selected as the Merced County Firefighter of the Year.

In both his personal and professional life, Mr. Rotondaro was a lover of the outdoors. He was an avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed camping, off-roading, boating, and many more outdoor activities.

Paul is survived by his loving wife Jennifer, his daughter Kiersten and his son Wyatt Dune. He is also survived by his father, Vincent Rotondaro, parents, Michael and Toni McMillin, his siblings, grandparents and many family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Fire Captain Paul Rotondaro. His sacrifice in service to our community will always be appreciated and remembered. I ask that you join me and his family in celebrating his great life.

HONORING THE WORK OF ELVIRA RAMOS

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, there are people in every community who are the gears that make the entire engine run, and who make their homes better, stronger and more interconnected. On the precipice of her retirement, I wish to honor one of those people from my community, Elvira Ramos. For over a decade, Elvira served the Community Foundation of Boulder County in grantmaking, mentorship, and as co-director of the Leadership Fellows Program. We have been blessed by her service and commitment to all of us, and now it is our chance to honor her.

An experienced trainer and facilitator, one of Elvira's greatest gifts to the Colorado community is her willingness to mentor and further the leadership skills of others, focusing especially on those from communities that are too often overlooked. She has led workshops in board and leadership development, inclusive leadership, volunteer management and strategic planning. Elvira convenes thoughtful, thorough conversations that tackle critical subjects and empower others with knowledge and expertise which they can pay forward to create a more just and representative society.

Elvira has made inclusivity and diversity pillars of her work. As an activist and philanthropist, she has built beloved and vital local organizations, ensuring that these organizations were always reaching outwards and creating more space at the table. Elvira has worked to create permanent and positive change through civic engagement and has built a foundational legacy upon which new community leaders will stand. Each of us are truly fortunate to feel the effects of her life's work.

One of Elvira's favorite quotes comes from Lao Tzu: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." Though for countless Coloradans Elvira has emulated this exact form of leadership, kindly and gently guiding so many of us on a righteous path, today I would like to shine a bright light on her myriad contributions and powerful influence for good. The Colorado community wishes Elvira happiness and relaxation in her retirement, and sends our endless gratitude for her many contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE, WILLIAM GREEN MILLER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay respectful tribute to the gifted, compassionate, and persevering life of American diplomat William Green Miller, our nation's second Ambassador to Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

A highly trusted advisor and valued friend to Members of Congress, and the diplomatic and intelligence communities, Ambassador Miller's distinguished service to our nation elevated the possibilities and promise of liberty to people living in nations that had never known freedom.

He dedicated his life at liberty's edge with great humility. His steady, unselfish, and tenacious nature allowed him to tackle infinitely complex situations— Iran, the Soviet Union, Ukraine—and advise ways forward. He never really retired and remained engaged and insightful during his golden years.

A renaissance man, Ambassador Miller's career spanned assignment in Iran, staff director of the Senate Intelligence Committee, senior Administrator and professor at Tufts University, chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, and president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations. Upon leaving Congress, the U.S. Senate recognized his leadership by passing a special resolution commending him for "contributions and for his dedication, loyalty, integrity, and service."

Simply, he was exceptional.

It is with deepest condolences that I offer sympathy to his beautiful wife Suzanne, their two sons, and extended family at this difficult time.

May the life he has lived continue to inspire a new generation of Americans to embrace his calling to scholarship, service, and patriotic commitment to liberty's cause at home and abroad.

[From the Kyiv Post Sept. 24, 2019]

WILLIAM GREEN MILLER, SECOND US AMBASSADOR TO INDEPENDENT UKRAINE, DIES AT AGE 88

William Green Miller, who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in the 1990s as the euphoria of national independence gave way to the misery of economic destitution for many Ukrainians, died in his home in northern Virginia on Sept. 23, according to friends. He was 88. He served as America's second ambassador in Kyiv, from 1993-1998, and is the first of nine American ambassadors to independent Ukraine to have died.

His death was confirmed by friends, including Marta Farion, a Ukrainian-American in Chicago who worked with Miller on the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America, raising money to support the university with 5,000 students in Kyiv. Farion spoke to Miller's wife, Suzanne Lisle Miller, and said that the ambassador died in his home "one minute before noon" on Sept. 23, in the company of their two sons, William and Christopher, and grandchildren. "He was surrounded by his leather-bound books, in front of the beautiful garden that he and Suzanne cultivated and loved all their lives, with the blooming flowers and many butterflies that bid him farewell," Farion told the Kyiv Post.

Miller's tenure as ambassador coincided with momentous events under Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, who served from 1991-1994, and then Leonid Kuchma, who ruled from 1994-2005. During Millers era, Ukraine adopted a Constitution, launched the national currency, the hryvnia, and signed the Budapest Memorandum in which Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States offered security assurances to Ukraine for surrendering its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal.

The agreement now is derided by many in Ukraine as a worthless piece of paper, considering Russia's dismemberment of Ukraine—including seizing Crimea and parts of the eastern Donbas—as the Kremlin prosecutes a war in its sixth year that has killed 13,000 people. His term also witnessed Ukrainian lawlessness and the rise of the oligarchy, which still plagues the nation today.

But his friends say that Miller always found the beauty in Ukraine, despite its hardships. Farion described Miller as "a writer and poet, a Renaissance man in every respect and Suzanne was his muse, his adviser, and his protector to the very end. They loved Ukraine since the days when he was ambassador there. To the end, he wanted to know what is taking place in Ukraine." She said that "Bill and Suzanne were responsible for the establishment and renovation of the historic building in the Podil neighborhood that became the residence of the American ambassador, and they paid special attention to the garden, restoring the original plants, trees, and flowers that were cultivated there when the building was first built. They paid attention to the historical artifacts that were recovered while rebuilding the residence, and they hosted many Ukrainian artists, historians, musicians, and writers there."

Said Farion: "Bill embraced his role as chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation with all his vigor and believed in the power of education and the role of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in building Ukraine as a democratic country, where rule of law and human rights were priorities. He was honored by Kyiv-Mohyla Academy with an honorary doctorate and spoke on the stage of the university to students on many occasions. He inspired me to push forward, to never give up, to stand up for the truth. He was my mentor in many respects and taught me not to be afraid. He loved the principles upon which the United States was established and he truly believed in those principles. He was an admirer of Thomas Jefferson. He was a scholar. He left a book of poetry and many writings. I will miss him and his guidance."

Monica Eppinger served as the second secretary to Miller in the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and recalled her work with him as "the best time." To the end, she said "he wanted to be a good friend of Ukraine." "I was part of that small early team during Ambassador Millers tenure in Ukraine. He had headed the Washington side of a late Soviet human rights organization, and

through it was thoroughly acquainted with the cases of the major human rights heroes of the last decade of the U.S.S.R. When he got to Ukraine, he already had made common cause with—Mustafa Dzhemilev, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Semen Gluzman. Anyone who'd done Soviet prison time for advocating human rights was a part of his 'team.' He was a fervent Jeffersonian democrat. He also worked very closely with Voldoymyr Horbulin (former secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council), especially on denuclearization, and to the best of my knowledge respected him and appreciated him as a pragmatic strategic thinker who cared about Ukrainian independence."

During Miller's ambassadorial tenure, Eppinger said, he took a keen interest in people working on human rights and advocating freedom of speech, religion and the press.

"He was just really interested in the project of independent Ukraine and really interested in Ukrainians," said Eppinger, a professor at St. Louis University School of Law and director of its Center for International and Comparative Law. He'd meet with anybody practically who wanted to meet with him." She said Miller was also interested in archaeology and remembers him stopping frequently to visit the excavation site of what is now the rebuilt Mikhailovsky Cathedral in Kyiv. "All the archaeologists at the site knew him," she said.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller delivers remarks at the observance of the 60th anniversary of the Voice of America's Ukrainian Service on Dec. 11, 2009, at VOA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Farion said that she traveled with him and a team of archaeology students "to the magnificent Chersonesus in Crimea. He promoted the site to be protected by UNESCO. The occupation of Crimea by Russia stung him personally, not only because of the loss of the strategic territory but because he realized that Russian authorities would raid the archaeological site. He was deeply concerned for the fate of the Crimean Tatars after Russia's invasion and occupation."

Eppinger called him a big fan of ballet, especially Swan Lake. "He also loved the Philharmonic and actively supported the rehabilitation of the Philharmonic building near the Friendship Arch" on the right bank of the Dnipro River in central Kyiv. She said he even vacationed in Ukraine, taking driving tours to explore ancient wooden churches of the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. "He just loved Ukraine and his interest in Ukraine and support for Ukraine knew no bounds," she said. Eppinger recalled his experiment in taking up the Ukrainian tradition of beekeeping. He installed beehives in the backyard of the ambassador's residence. At a traditional Fourth of July reception, she recalled that a colleague with the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs "got stung right on the nose" by a bee.

Miller joined the Foreign Service in 1959 and served a five-year assignment in Iran, where he immersed himself in Persian culture. Farion said he never lost interest in Iran. "He was instrumental in many informal talks between the US and Iran, trying to find peace," she said.

After his Iran assignment, Eppinger said he returned to Washington, D.C., and quit the Foreign Service over the Vietnam War and got a job as a staff director of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee.

"He was part of the team that put together the hearings on the U.S. intelligence services attempted assassinations in the post-World War II/Cold War era," Eppinger said. "It was thanks to those hearings and the report that resulted that we got a revision to the execu-

tive order that sets the parameters to the intelligence community . . . that resulted in the ban on assassinations by the U.S. intelligence committee. He was sometimes criticized as a romantic or idealist, but—as I think the intelligence committee work shows—he also had a canniness to thinking about where a threat to democracy could come from, and how to thwart it. I think there was a hard practical streak in there that often got overlooked."

According to a Eurasia Foundation biography, Miller was educated at Williams College, Oxford, and Harvard. After leaving his Iran assignment in 1964, he returned to Washington, D.C., as a line officer for U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Miller then went to work in the U.S. Senate in 1967, where he served as foreign policy and defense adviser to U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, a Republican who served Kentucky. In 1981 the U.S. Senate passed a special resolution commending Miller "for exceptional contributions and for his dedication, loyalty, integrity, and service." Miller was associate dean and professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts from 1981 to 1983.

In 1986, Miller returned to Washington as president of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations, traveling frequently to the U.S.S.R. and living in Moscow from 1988 to 1993.

In retirement years, Miller was a senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Middle East Institute. He was also co-chairman of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and a director of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation as well as a consultant for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Farion said a memorial service is being planned at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12 or 13, but that arrangements are still being finalized.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League. Their meaningful work throughout Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Founded in 2011, the Arab American Civil Rights League (ACRL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights and liberties of the Arab-American community. Through education and advocacy, the Dearborn-based organization is committed to building inter-community coalitions that promote cooperation, broaden the understanding of the Arab-American community, and dispel negative stereotypes associated with Arab-Americans. With a mission to protect the civil rights of all ethnic minorities, the ACRL aspires to be a driving force that will propel America forward, effecting meaningful and lasting change throughout the entire nation.

The ACRL's 8th Annual Fight for Justice Gala exemplifies the organization's continued commitment to supporting the Michigan Arab-American community. Every year, the gala brings countless elected officials, civil rights

activists, and community leaders together to discuss major civil rights issues within the state, generating a wider dialogue that is necessary to tackle these important matters. In addition, the gala serves as a great way to celebrate the outstanding progress and achievements that have already been made. The ACRL's work truly make a difference, and I am proud to be part of a community that is so dedicated to promoting equality and justice for all.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Arab American Civil Rights League. Their efforts to defend the constitutional rights of Arab-Americans and unite the country are much appreciated. We are grateful for the impact the ACRL has made—and continues to make—on our vibrant and diverse community.

COMMEMORATING THE
GROUNDBREAKING OF FORT
STREET BRIDGE PARK

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the groundbreaking of Fort Street Bridge Park in Detroit, Michigan.

Thanks to the hard work and advocacy of community members, today we break ground to build the Fort Street Bridge Park. This park is the culmination of the efforts of environmental activists, historians, and dedicated neighbors who all fought for a vision of a beautiful community green space for all to enjoy.

Fort Street Bridge Park will be a jewel of our community, a green oasis amongst the heavy industry that lines this section of the Rouge River. It will connect us to the water that has been the lifeblood of our region, a constant reminder of our past and our future. The Park will commemorate the 1932 Ford Hunger March, where brave workers stood up to Ford, demanded economic justice and fair working conditions, and the police responded with gunfire, killing four people and played a key role in ushering in the unionization of the auto industry.

This Park will not only be dedicated to conservation and education, but will also serve as a reminder of the fragility of our natural resources and public health if we do not do what's necessary to protect them. The Park will occupy a significant space in history and community, especially as it honors the late Congressman John Dingell and his legacy of environmental advocacy, which is so intertwined with the Rouge River.

Please join me in rising in tribute to Fort Street Bridge Park.

RECOGNIZING GAIL FISHER FOR
WINNING THE U.S. ARMY MATE-
RIEL COMMAND PARALEGAL OF
THE YEAR AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gail Fisher for winning the U.S.

Army Materiel Command (AMC) Paralegal of the Year Award. Ms. Fisher received the award at the AMC Legal Conference held in Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama in August.

Gail Fisher was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, and started working at the Rock Island Arsenal in August 1981. She began as a receptionist before working her way up to a secretary and then a paralegal, after attending Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. From 1999 to 2006, Ms. Fisher worked for the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM) in Rock Island, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration from St. Ambrose University. After leaving TACOM, she moved to her office in the AMC Legal Center, where she has worked for the past 31 years. Her award is well warranted. Ms. Fisher is responsible for ensuring the assembly of agency reports and administrative records for federal court—confirming they are accurately marked, indexed and uploaded and transmitted in a timely manner. Her vast knowledge of law and wide range of experience allow her to process and track numerous cases at the same time. I commend Ms. Fisher for winning this prestigious award and thank her for her service to the Rock Island Arsenal.

It is because of community leaders such as Gail Fisher that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Gail Fisher for winning the prestigious AMC Paralegal of the Year Award.

HONORING DELL-CAM FARMS AS
THE 2019 SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
OF ARKANSAS FARM FAMILY OF
THE YEAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Goldmon family of Jefferson County, Arkansas who have been selected as Arkansas Farm Bureau's 2019 Farm Family of the Year for the Southeast District.

The Goldmon family owns and operates Dell-Cam Farms, which features 1,400 acres of corn, rice, and soybeans in the heart of Arkansas' Fourth District. Dewayne and Debra Goldmon, and their two children Camille and Dewayne Jr. have been actively engaged in production agriculture for over 22 years. After touring their farmland, I was impressed by the Goldmon family's dedication to agriculture, family values, and quality products.

In addition to being recognized as the Farm Family of the Year for the Southeast District, Dell-Cam Farms has served as a model for agricultural innovation for producers throughout the United States. The title of Farm Family of the Year serves to illustrate the Goldmon family's pursuit of effective and efficient farming technologies and practices.

I take this time to congratulate the Goldmons on this tremendous honor and thank them for their commitment to wise land stewardship.

CONGRATULATING LOVE THY
BABY ON TWENTY YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Love Thy Baby on twenty years of exemplary service to newborns and their families in North Texas.

Love Thy Baby is a Dallas-area, non-profit organization that provides support to families of newborns experiencing an economic or health crisis. By supplying blankets, quilts and clothing to families in need, Love Thy Baby helps to ensure a standard of comfort and warmth for infants in our communities. The organization also coordinates monthly deliveries to healthcare facilities such as Parkland Hospital in Dallas, John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, and PediPlace Pediatric Clinics, among others.

On October 11, 1999, Patricia Clay-Jolly created the Dallas Chapter of Newborns in Need upon identifying a demand for warm blankets, clothing, and other essentials for newborn babies at Parkland Hospital. The organization would go on to provide tens of thousands of items to newborns and their families. In January 2015, Newborns in Need integrated into the organization, Love Thy Neighbor, ultimately changing its name to 'Love Thy Baby'.

Today, Love Thy Baby has 120 active volunteers and provides over 40,000 new items every year. Furthermore, Love Thy Baby donates over 10,000 gently used items to other area nonprofits including Hope 4 Refugees, Sharing Life, Nexus, Family Place, and White Rock Center of Hope.

Madam Speaker, Love Thy Baby's incredible contributions to the newborn children of North Texas has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of so many North Texas families. Such an accomplishment should not go without recognition and I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Love Thy Baby for their twenty years of service.

COMMEMORATION OF THE PRO-
MOTION OF FELIX GARCIA III TO
NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PUR-
PLE HEART

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the election of Felix Garcia III as National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH).

Serving in the Marine Corps, Felix was deployed to Iraq in August and November 2004 as part of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. While in Fallujah and Al Karmah, he was injured during search and destroy missions in Operations Iraq Freedom II and Phantom Fury.

For his valiant service and sacrifice defending our great nation, Felix was awarded three

Purple Hearts and a Navy/Marine Commendation Medal with Combat V. He medically retired to Texas with his wife Christina and their three children.

In 2005, Felix joined MOPH Chapter 493 in Vista, California where he quickly rose through the ranks to become Senior Vice Commander. He went on to found MOPH Chapter 808 in Palm Coast, Florida, where he led its members in installing the Purple Heart Monument in Hero's Park.

Felix moved to Texas in 2012, where he joined his current MOPH chapter, Chapter 723, and served as its commander for three terms of office. He grew the chapter by recruiting younger award recipients who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Felix was recently elected to become the new National Commander of the MOPH. I had the honor of working with him on my Veterans' Advisory Board, where he played an integral role.

I am proud to see Felix ascend into his new position and I am confident the MOPH is in great hands. Congratulations to Felix and God bless all of our Purple Heart veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAQUETTA PALMER FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN ACTIVISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paquetta Palmer on her retirement from Community Public Health and recognize her years of distinguished service. Her contributions to the community are worthy of commendation.

Paquetta Palmer's work at Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health has been paramount in addressing our community's mental health needs. As a Customer Resource Specialist, Palmer provided mental health services to people with mental illnesses, emotional disturbances, and developmental disabilities, giving them the tools necessary to work through their struggles. Palmer is known among her colleagues for her high degree of professionalism, kind demeanor, and passion for helping others.

Paquetta Palmer's commitment to serving Washtenaw County extends far beyond her professional work. Palmer has used the bulk of her free time working tirelessly with a variety of organizations to advance racial, economic, and social justice for all within the community. Palmer is a volunteer cook at Food Gatherers and participates in Neutral Zone, an organization dedicated to promoting the personal growth of our community's youth. Furthermore, Palmer has been an informal Health and Human Services advocate, a longtime community advocate for affordable housing in Washtenaw County, and even was a pioneer in comprehensive healthcare reform for low-income residents, fighting for the adoption of the Washtenaw County Health Plan long before the Affordable Care Act was even implemented. Palmer's steadfast dedication to supporting the entire community is truly remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Paquetta Palmer's retirement. Over her decades of service, Palmer has become a pillar of the Washtenaw County community, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize her dedication today. We are grateful for her outstanding work and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE AND REHABILITATION ACT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Water Supply Infrastructure and Rehabilitation Act. This legislation will help address the need for the new storage, conveyance, and recycling projects necessary to increase our drought resilience and provide the water security required to meet the needs of our agricultural economy and our local communities.

As a farmer, former state Director of Agriculture, and now a Congressman representing one of the most flourishing agricultural regions in America, I fully understand how important it is that we reinvest in the water infrastructure our farms and communities were built upon—much of which is over a century old at this point. I have made it a priority to address these important issues for Central Washington, and for rural communities across the West, that have Bureau of Reclamation projects in their regions.

That is why I am introducing this legislation—to help local water managers access the funds they need to repair and rebuild aging facilities and ensure our existing surface storage facilities are operating as efficiently as possible.

The Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Utilization Act addresses the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) maintenance backlog at water supply infrastructure projects. Since 1902, BOR has constructed dams, hydro-power plants, canals, and irrigation conveyances to provide for our water needs. Far too much of this infrastructure is in serious need of maintenance and repair. My legislation creates a streamlined process, so local water operators can initiate maintenance projects with extended repayment through a much more clearly-defined application and review process. Local users need this flexibility to access these resources—this bill will help them do just that.

Earlier this year, Central Washington crossed one of the most significant hurdles for water needs in our region when President Trump signed my legislation into law authorizing the next phase of the Yakima Project. It was a momentous occasion and a testament to the many collaborative efforts and stakeholders in the Yakima Valley. But as many of us know, authorization is only the key first step.

Next comes—what some would say is—the even more difficult part: securing the resources and the funding to actually implement those projects authorized. I have been working on the Yakima Project for much of my career, and this bill will create an easier, more-

streamlined process to access the funds for this desperately needed infrastructure in Central Washington.

This legislation also strengthens the "Safety of Dams" program to improve structural integrity of dams across the U.S. In Central Washington, we are no stranger to the benefits dams provide for irrigation districts and the agricultural industry. Like much of our nation's infrastructure, dams are aging and require regular maintenance and upkeep. The "Safety of Dams" program is important for ensuring all BOR dams across the country continue to operate safely and efficiently—from the Grand Coulee Dam down to the Sunnyside, Prosser, and Roza Diversion dams. The Yakima Project alone has five storage dam and reservoirs, including Bumping Lake, Clear Creek, Tieton, Cle Elum, Kachess, and Keechelus. Washington's 4th District truly is at the epicenter of need for ensuring the stability of BOR dam infrastructure, and this program is responsible for funding any updates or maintenance to these dams. However, BOR expects to reach their current statutory cap on the program in the next two years. My bill will increase the authorization of this program to meet BOR's projected funding needs for the future workload to ensure water users in regions like Central Washington can continue to enjoy the benefits of dams, large and small, that all make our way of life possible.

Finally, the legislation creates a pilot program to give more flexibility to reservoir operators. Communities across the West know the impacts of droughts all too well. This bill allows local operators to temporarily store water in dedicated flood control space during certain low-risk times of the year. By addressing the maintenance backlog at our water supply projects, strengthening the structural integrity of our water infrastructure, and providing flexibility for water storage to best equip our communities in times of drought, we can secure the resources required to address the current and future water needs for the Yakima Valley and for water needs across the West. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Water Supply Infrastructure and Rehabilitation Act. I look forward to pushing for its passage here in the House and for its companion legislation, led by Senator MARTHA MCSALLY, in the United States Senate.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES E. INGRAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles E. Ingram, who is retiring after 28 years of public service as a Member of the Mathews County Board of Supervisors. Charles said his philosophy of public service is to always be fair, reasonable and impartial in dealings with everyone, focus on the community and the wonderful people of Mathews County.

Charles and his wife, Jean Flippin Ingram, have been married for 61 years and have raised their family in Mathews, Virginia. They have two daughters, Jeannie Elliott and Robin Jenkins, as well as two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Charles spent four years in the U.S. Army, serving 15 months in Korea. He is a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, Mathews American Legion Post 83, and Oriental Lodge No. 20. He also serves on the board of directors of the Mathews Farm Bureau. Charles has been a businessman in Mathews County for over six decades, concurrently operating a barber shop for 63 years and a daffodil farm for 55 years. He has previously served on the Mathews Memorial Library Board of Trustees and the Middle Peninsula Community Criminal Justice Board.

Charles' tremendous contributions to his community include: building one new school and renovating two others, building a new auditorium at Mathews High School, closing the landfill and constructing a new transfer station, renovating and adding onto Mathews Memorial Library, building a new court house, supporting a new senior center and installing a new 911 system.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments, tenacity, and dedication of Charles Ingram. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless Charles Ingram and his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MESIK
ABAJIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Mesik Abajian, who passed away on Thursday, September 27, 2019 at the age of 97. Mesik will be remembered for his service to our country and contributions to the community.

Mesik was born to Salve and Nishon Abajian in Selma, California on May 31, 1922. He was raised in Selma and graduated high school in 1941. Mesik joined the United States Army Air Corps and served courageously in World War II. Upon his return from service, he married the love of his life Peggy Emerzian in 1946.

Peggy and Mesik began farming in Selma on their Bethel Avenue ranch and together raised two daughters, Wendy and Shelly. Mesik was passionate about farming and lived on the family's farm until his passing. Mesik was married to Peggy for 61 years until her passing in 2007.

Mesik is preceded in death by his parents Nishon and Salve Abajian, brother Seth Abajian and his wife Ruby Abajian, sister Anna Abajian, brother-in-law Manuel Kay Emerzian, and wife Peggy Abajian. He is survived by his daughters, Wendy and Shelly, and his many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of my friend Mesik Abajian. He was a respected man of the Central Valley and his community.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE VIRGINIA WOMEN'S
MONUMENT

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the unveiling of the Virginia Women's Monument in Richmond, Virginia.

I would like to recognize the Virginia Council on Women for hosting the unveiling of this groundbreaking monument, the first-of-its-kind in the country to be erected on State Capitol grounds. The Virginia Women's Monument acknowledges the profound achievements and lasting legacies of extraordinary women who have lived and worked in Virginia.

The monument honors over four hundred years of women's history through twelve historic Virginia women: Anne Burras Laydon, Cockacoeske, Mary Draper Ingles, Martha Washington, Clementina Rind, Elizabeth Keckley, Sally L. Tompkins, Maggie L. Walker, Sarah G. Jones, Laura S. Copenhaver, Virginia E. Randolph, and Adèle Clark.

These women made significant strides for the betterment of our Commonwealth and our country. Their distinct accomplishments range across various fields, such as business, banking, arts, politics, medicine, and social justice. These women deserve a prominent platform and our nation's attention, and I am honored to recognize them.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished women and honoring their memories through the dedication of the Virginia Women's Monument.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION TO COMBAT WORK-
PLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the National Commission to Combat Workplace Sexual Harassment Act to establish a national commission to examine and combat sexual harassment in the U.S. workplace.

I have modeled this bill on legislation Congress has passed to address other national problems considered to be serious, such as gambling. The almost daily exposure of allegations of sexual harassment, many not denied, more than qualifies sexual harassment for national attention and priority. This bill would create a national commission to focus on sexual harassment in major industries and workplaces throughout the United States.

Congress recently adopted a bill that addresses harassment in the congressional workplace. It requires Members of the House and Senate to be personally liable for settlements and awards resulting from harassment and retaliation claims, removes the mandatory counseling, mediation and "cooling off" periods for accusers that is currently required, mandates publicly reporting awards and settle-

ments and covers unpaid staff as well. This is a step in the right direction beginning where Congress should—right here in the Congress itself. However, nothing equivalent has been done for sexual harassment that affects the American people. We have largely neglected our own constituents, despite the increasing number of troubling reports in the news of sexual harassment claims.

A national commission would assure the American people that Congress takes sexual harassment affecting them—the typical worker—seriously, beyond the high-profile examples, such as allegations against Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein and the Congress itself, that have garnered the headlines. Most importantly, the commission would hear from a cross section of the public—from office and factory workers to retail and food service employees—whose experiences with sexual harassment have received almost no national attention. The commission could travel or invite witnesses to Washington from throughout the country to recommend changes in laws or regulations and best practices on preventing, training, investigating, responding to and penalizing sexual harassment in the private and public sectors.

Our constituents expect Congress, which represents every sector, to take on the problem of sexual harassment throughout our national economy, including private and public (federal, state and local) workplaces. A national commission could help reach and reduce sexual harassment, a form of gender discrimination, where the average American works.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE MINORITY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CEN-
TER AND DENISE MOORE FOR
BEING NAMED SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR
THROUGH THE TURNER CEN-
TER'S SMALL BUSINESS
AWARDS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denise Moore and the Minority Business Development Center for winning the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award for the Bradley University Turner Center's Small Business Awards.

The Minority Business Development Center is a 501c3 organization that was created by Denise Moore and the Black Business Alliance to aid aspiring business owners get their ideas off the ground. The Minority Business Development Center addresses concerns like lack of resource accessibility and a need for training on topics addressing business expansion. The organization serves the Peoria community by providing local aspiring business owners with education and training in the fundamentals of business planning and development. I am deeply grateful to Denise Moore and the Minority Business Development Center for their service to the Peoria community.

It is because of community leaders such as Denise Moore that I am especially proud to

serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Denise Moore and the Minority Business Development Center for winning the Small Business Advocate of the Year award from Bradley University's Turner Center 2019 Small Business Awards.

COMMEMORATING THE 50 MILLIONTH VISITOR TO THE SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for welcoming its 50 millionth visitor. Through a commitment to conserving this natural treasure and ensuring it can be enjoyed by visitors from throughout the world, the Sleeping Bear Dunes has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

Our state is home to some of the most beautiful natural wonders in the country—attracting visitors from around the world and providing Michiganders with a quality of life that is second to none. Perhaps first among these picturesque landscapes is the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Located in the northwest corner of the Lower Peninsula, the Sleeping Bear Dunes covers a 35-mile stretch of Lake Michigan's coastline. Its bluffs, forests, beaches, inland lakes, and unique wildlife have been enjoyed by locals and visitors for centuries. The land was established as a National Lakeshore under the National Parks Service in October of 1970—and over the next 49 years, millions would come to enjoy everything it has to offer. On August 19, 2019, the National Lakeshore welcomed its 50 millionth visitor. This incredible milestone, coming at the cusp of its 50th anniversary, clearly shows how dearly the Sleeping Bear Dunes are held in the hearts of Michiganders and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for welcoming its 50 millionth visitor. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such an important and beloved natural treasure.

IN RECOGNITION OF EXPRESS, FULFILL, PROSPER AS IT HOSTS ITS FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Express, Fulfill, Prosper for its dedication to our community. Its meaningful work is worthy of commendation.

Established by the students at the University of Michigan in 2017, Express, Fulfill, Prosper

(EFP) is a voluntary organization committed to supporting anyone in need of assistance, especially those struggling with mental health issues. The volunteers of EFP strive to help people feel acknowledged and offer them the opportunity to talk through their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, allowing them to feel supported by the community around them. Members of the organization work on campus, in hospitals and schools, and throughout the local Ann Arbor Community to uplift others while simultaneously developing their own valuable leadership skills. Through the organization's efforts, EFP hopes their members' work will encourage individuals to express themselves, fulfill their goals, and prosper.

Social and fundraising events are essential to EFP's success in aiding others. Thus, EFP's First Annual Fundraising Dinner for Mental Health Awareness demonstrates the organization's unrelenting commitment to supporting those struggling with mental health issues. Hosted during the week of world mental health awareness, this inaugural event will generate greater awareness about mental health and begin to challenge the troubling stigmas associated with it. I am proud of EFP's commitment to mental health and I am very excited for the future dinners to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring EFP and celebrate their First Annual Fundraising Dinner for Mental Health Awareness. We appreciate EFP's dedicated work in our community and wish the organization continued success ahead.

RECOGNIZING ARBETTER HOT DOGS' 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 60th birthday of Arbetter Hot Dogs. Founded in 1959, Arbetter Hog Dogs is a family enterprise born out of passion for incredible cooking and the love of making people happy. The restaurant draws on Flaminia Arbetter's experience with Italian cuisine and Robert "Bob" Arbetter's memories of eating hot dogs at Fenway Park in Boston during his childhood.

Arbetter Hot Dogs is a beloved institution in Miami, providing good, fresh food to our community. As the Arbetters work to honor their customers, provide for their family, and expand their hot dog enterprise, they do so with the support of so many in our community who have tasted their passion.

I wish the Arbetter family a fantastic 60th anniversary of Arbetter Hot Dogs. I am confident that their next 60 years will be as fruitful as these last.

REJOICING THE BIRTH OF AFTON MARGARET JONES

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to rejoice the birth of Afton Margaret,

daughter to Lauren and Tyler Jones. Born on Wednesday, October 9th at seven pounds and 15 ounces, she is the greatest God given gift anyone would be lucky to receive. There is no stronger love than that of a parent for their child, and I couldn't think of two more perfect people to raise a kind, brave, and intelligent person in this world than these two.

Tyler and Lauren have been with me from day one. Tyler has been an amazing colleague, confidante, and most importantly, a remarkable friend. We have seen ups, and we surely saw downs, but I have found a loyalty and friendship in Tyler that I know he and Lauren will instill in their very own daughter's values, and Lauren has proved to have the same grace and strength I found in my wife, as her husband and I learned how to win over the Lowcountry we all four deeply love.

If y'all thought my campaign was tough, welcome to parenting. I cannot wait to see the beautiful journey that unfolds. Amanda, Boone, Teddy and I are here for anything that you two, Afton, and Leia will ever need.

We love y'all, good luck and congratulations.

HONORING NBA CHAMPION TERRY DUEROD

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Terry Duerod, former NBA champion and former Detroit Fire Fighter, a native of the city of Highland Park, Michigan.

Mr. Duerod began his sports career when he joined Highland Park High School's basketball team. He excelled at the sport and brought athletic prestige to the program by leading the team to the 1975 state championships. Mr. Duerod continued to play basketball after high school at University of Detroit before moving on to a career in professional basketball, first playing for the Detroit Pistons and the Dallas Mavericks before finally landing a spot on the Boston Celtics. As a Boston Celtic, Mr. Duerod was voted a fan favorite and earned a championship ring in the 1981 National Basketball Association Finals. For his efforts and outstanding performance, he was inducted into the University of Detroit's Hall of Fame and has only continued to serve his community. Following his athletic career, Mr. Duerod switched gears to public service and has worked tirelessly as a Detroit firefighter, where he continued to play basketball with the Detroit Fire Department's team. Since retiring, he still finds time to impact the lives of others through basketball.

Throughout his life, Mr. Duerod has represented the cities of Highland Park and Detroit with astounding spirit, serving as an inspiration to others. Please join me in recognizing Terry Duerod.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF AFL-CIO LABOR AWARDS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), recognized several individuals and organizations for their dedication and service during the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Memorial Park in Highland, Indiana, on Thursday, October 10, 2019. These individuals, in addition to all Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, Indiana State Representatives Carolyn Jackson, Ragen Hatcher, Ross Deal, Pat Boy, Chris Chyung, Lisa Beck, and Chris Campbell were the recipients of the Service to Labor Award for their outstanding support to the labor movement.

The Union Labor Award was presented to Vern Beck, President, USW Local 12775, for his selfless devotion to the labor movement through the union's promotion in all areas: social, civic, educational, and political.

Carpenters Local 1005 and President Steve Toth were recognized with the Community Services Award for enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors of Northwest Indiana through their exemplary work on behalf of the community.

Earl Cox, retired UAW member and Indiana United Way Labor Liaison of Greater Lafayette and Tippecanoe County, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of labor activism and his commitment to his community. For the exceptional service he has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, he is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Sharon Patterson, NALC Local 1624, 1st Vice President NIALF, and Mark Slonaker, Battalion Chief, Hobart Firefighters Association Local 1641, were presented the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America.

The President's Award was presented to Mike Millsap, Director USW District 7, for his dedication to the labor movement and his noteworthy service to the organization. He is truly worthy of the honor bestowed upon him.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary leaders, while commending all of the hardworking union men and women locally and throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent each of them in Washington, D.C.

CONGRATULATING MR. STANLEY BALZEKAS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stanley Balzekas who has been awarded the title and badge of an Honorable Nobleman by the Lithuanian Royal Society of Nobility.

Mr. Balzekas has dedicated his life to preserving and spreading Lithuanian history and culture. In 1966, Mr. Balzekas founded the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. Through his dedicated leadership, the museum has grown to become the largest repository of Lithuanian cultural artifacts outside of Lithuania. Mr. Balzekas's tireless work has enhanced America's understanding of Lithuanian history and enriched the culture of the Chicagoland community.

Mr. Balzekas is also an American patriot, having proudly served in the United States Army during World War II. He bravely fought in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, one of the longest and fiercest battles in Europe. For heroically risking his life to rescue twelve wounded soldiers, Mr. Balzekas was awarded the Bronze Star as well as the Purple Heart.

To recognize Mr. Balzekas's noble lineage and his contributions to Lithuanian culture, the Lithuanian Royal Society of Nobility conferred to him a title of nobility in his absence. The title was conferred in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 7, 2019, the anniversary of the crowning of King Mindaugas. The Lithuanian Royal Society of Nobility strives to safeguard the traditions of the Lithuanian nation and revive the spirit of the ancient Lithuanians. The nobility award will be personally presented to Mr. Balzekas at an event in his honor in Chicago on October 11.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Stanley Balzekas on this tremendous honor. He deserves praise for the energy and time he has dedicated to preserving Lithuanian culture, as well as serving his community and country. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARGARET
"MARDEE" XIFARAS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras, a passionate political activist, successful lawyer, and a beloved member of the community on the South Coast of Massachusetts.

Born in Winnetka, Illinois, MarDee first came to Massachusetts to earn her master's degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford. Shortly after graduating, MarDee moved to New Bedford to help run Congressman Gerry E. Studds' first campaign for Congress. Though that first campaign was not successful, MarDec had nevertheless found her new home. It was there that

she would meet her future husband or forty-eight years, John Xifaras.

Continuing her education, MarDee earned a second master's degree at the former South-eastern Massachusetts University in Dartmouth and a law degree at Boston University. Soon after, she worked as an assistant district attorney, a special assistant to Governor Michael Dukakis, and later became a partner at the New Bedford law firm of Lang, Xifaras and Bullard.

With the desire to do more, MarDee worked tirelessly for the presidential campaigns of Ted Kennedy, Michael Dukakis, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, John Kerry, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, in many instances uprooting herself and moving to where she was needed most. A nearly fifty year member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, her years of service to the party were deservedly recognized when MarDee was elected to the Democratic National Committee by her peers.

Possibly MarDee's greatest accomplishment, however, was the role she played in creation of the University of Massachusetts Law School. Recognizing the need for a public law school in Massachusetts, MarDee fought against private interests to ensure the school's opening. Later she would sit on the board of trustees, working tirelessly to guarantee that its commitment to the community was fulfilled.

MarDee left us too soon on October 8th, 2019, at the age of seventy-four after a long battle with breast cancer. She was an inspiration to all that met her and a mentor to many. MarDee would talk to Presidents or someone in need with the same respect and dignity. She will long be remembered far and wide for her dedication to her community and her desire to make the world a better place. In addition to her husband John, MarDee is survived by her children Dena, Juliet, Michael, her two brothers John and Jim, and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her many years of dedication to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MICHIGAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Michigan Muslim Community Council. Its meaningful work across the state is worthy of commendation.

The Muslim community is an important component of Michigan's identity. Since the community's humble beginnings in the state over 100 years ago, the Muslim community in Michigan has grown significantly and today represents one of the most diverse groups in the nation. Seeing a need for greater unification among the smaller communities divided by Muslim sects, ethnicities, and races, the Michigan Muslim Community Council (MMCC) was established in 2012 through the merger of two other Muslim organizations, the Council of Islamic Organization of Michigan and the Islamic Shura Council of Michigan. Since its inception as a new, consolidated organization, MMCC has worked tirelessly to promote unity

and cooperation by mobilizing the entire Muslim community statewide. Together as one voice, the council strives to pursue social justice, improve human relationships, and uphold human rights for all.

The Michigan Muslim Community Council's 33rd Annual Unity Banquet exemplifies the council's continued commitment to unifying, coordinating, and empowering Muslim communities across the state. Like the name suggests, the MMCC Unity Banquet brings countless community members together to honor our state's diverse Muslim communities every year. In addition, the banquet serves as a great opportunity to celebrate the impactful work of notable community figures who strive for unity throughout our state's vibrant and diverse Muslim communities every day.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Michigan Muslim Community Council and celebrate their 33rd Annual Unity Banquet. We are grateful for the council's dedicated efforts to unite Muslim communities and promote social justice across our state.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS FOR
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Rock Island, Illinois for its 100th Anniversary. The club's rich history has been the cumulative effort of its members coming from fields such as accounting, civil service, education, management, retail stores, retirees and many more.

Founded in 1919, the Kiwanis Club of Rock Island began with 50 charter members and has grown to its current membership to nearly 100. Throughout the years, the Kiwanis held numerous fundraisers, including pancake breakfasts, spaghetti suppers, peanut days, rose days, bags tournaments, and more. They are committed to serving the community through their support of service leadership programs throughout the schools in Rock Island. The Kiwanis have also cleaned up highways, aided with numerous community events and have raised money to benefit children and children's support groups across our community. In addition, they provide scholarships to outstanding graduation seniors of Alleman and Rock Island High School. Their impact is outstanding. I want to thank and commend the Kiwanis Club for its extraordinary service to the Rock Island community.

It is because of the community leaders at the Kiwanis Club in Rock Island, Illinois that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Rock Island for its 100th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF ARCHBISHOP MARY
FLOYD PALMER

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Archbishop Mary Floyd Palmer, the first female African-American Archbishop in America and presiding prelate of the Philadelphia Council of Clergy. She has—and continues to be—a vital part of the Philadelphia community, where she carries out her life mission of helping and ministering those in need.

As a native of my district, Archbishop Floyd Palmer is the eldest daughter of Rev. Dr. Melvin Floyd and has been serving her community since childhood. She began her career in full time ministry as a Motivational Speaker and soon became Confidante and Counselor to Pastors, their wives, and Episcopal leaders from all around the world.

She continued to be a positive influence in Philadelphia by ministering in federal, state, and county prisons, half-way houses, nursing homes, and youth centers. Her commitment led to her appointment as the Pennsylvania Re-entry Council, which focused on reducing recidivism rates. Archbishop Palmer soon became the founder and Pastor of the Samaritan Temple.

Her dedication has been recognized by the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women and she was named their "Women of the Year in Ministry." She also received the Lucien E. Blackwell Guiding Light Community Award. Moreover, Archbishop Floyd Palmer hosts an award-winning, weekly radio show called the "The Bishop Mary Show" to connect with national, and even international, listeners. In March 2019, she made history by becoming the first female African American Archbishop in America.

Philadelphia is extremely lucky to have someone like Archbishop Floyd Palmer to enrich our community. There is no doubt she has positively impacted many lives, and I am certain more lives will be impacted by her service.

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE
CLERGY IN SOUTH FLORIDA ON
NATIONAL PASTOR DAY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the ministers, pastors, and priests in my district for Clergy Appreciation Day. Also known as National Pastor Day, this annual celebration falls on the second Sunday of each October. On this day, congregations around the country recognize the clergy and take up special offerings to bless them.

Members of the clergy provide their congregations spiritual guidance with words of wisdom, healing, and inspiration. But they also serve their larger communities, especially those of us who find ourselves most in need. It is an honor to recognize their leadership in

promoting our shared values of love, service, and community.

I ask that all my colleagues join me today in thanking the members of the clergy in your districts for the selfless work they do. I look forward to continuing to work together with the clergy in my district to improve the lives of everyone in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND
F. ENSHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Raymond "Ray" Ensher, who passed away on Friday, September 27, 2019 at the age of 85. Ray will be remembered for his dedicated service to the community of Fresno, California.

Ray was born on September 26, 1934 in Fresno. He graduated from California State University, Fresno in 1956, earning his degree in Theatre Arts. After college, he began working as a high school drama teacher at the North Folk School District that was recently named the Chawanakee Joint School District for 28 years. Ray had a passion for the theatre and enjoyed being a part of the local arts community and film festivals.

Ray was a gifted educator and won two awards for his dedication to teaching. He was awarded the Ron Ely Award for Communications and the Mickey Matheson Award for Advocacy from the California Retired Teachers Association. He established the Raymond Ensher Creative Achievement Theatre Arts Award, an endowed scholarship awarded to one theater arts student a year at his alma mater.

Ray was known in the community for his tireless efforts for social justice and his active memberships in numerous civic groups. He was chair of the Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley, and recipient of the Fresno County Democratic Party's Democrat of the Year award in 2012. He was a member of the Fresno County Democratic Women's Club, serving as diversity chair and past president. He would passionately write to the Fresno Bee and the Community Alliance newspapers on his typewriter. His generosity with his time and resources was known through the Central Valley.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and achievements of my friend, Ray Ensher. He was a respected member in the community and had a passion for the people of the Central Valley.

COMMEMORATING SULIN HUANG
FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL WORK
INSPIRING STUDENT ARTISTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inspirational educational work of Sulin Huang of Sugar Land, Texas.

Known by her students as "Ms. Sue," Sulin was born in Taiwan and demonstrated artistic

talents from an early age. She pursued those talents and studied commercial design in her country of birth while continuing to make art.

Sulin eventually moved to Hawaii for two decades, where she learned how to make three-dimensional floral designs out of clay. Her ceramic flowers were a hit and soon she was setting up shop at shows to sell her works of art.

Ms. Sue moved to Sugar Land in 2015 where she began teaching art at schools before opening up her own studio where she has had immense success privately instructing students. Three of Sulin's students were among the 40 winners selected from over 3,900 submissions in the 2019 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest.

Sulin embodies what it truly means to be an educator. She fosters creativity and love for the work that she and her students do and is a stellar example of the inspirational power that teachers have.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, I thank Sulin Huang for inspiring so many with her art.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
JOSEPH GIULITTO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judge Joseph Giulitto, who has been named the 2019 Circle of Caring Honoree by the Hattie Larlham Foundation. Each year, Hattie Larlham honors an individual for their long-time support of and commitment to the Hattie Larlham Foundation and to the community.

Judge Giulitto was born in Bitritto, Bari, Italy and arrived in the United States at the age of 11. This was the beginning of his impactful legacy as a proud Portage County resident.

He is a graduate of Ravenna High School and Kent State University, graduating cum laude in 1958. He graduated with an L.L.B. from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1961. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in May 1961 and opened his private law practice in Ravenna in July of that same year.

For nearly a decade, Judge Giulitto served as Prosecutor and Law Director for the City of Kent. In 2005, Judge Giulitto was elected Judge of the Portage County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division. He retired on January 1, 2011 but continues to serve as a Visiting Judge by appointment by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Judge Giulitto holds a lengthy record in civic involvement, which includes past or present membership in: the Ravenna Jaycees, Ravenna Rotary, the Board of Directors for First Federal Savings and Loan in Kent, Ohio, the Board of Trustees of Robinson Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, the University Hospitals Portage Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees, the Portage County Bar Association (President, 1997–98), the Ohio State Bar Association and the Ravenna Elks.

In 2012, Judge Giulitto was awarded the Norm Sandvoss Memorial Humanitarian Award by the Portage County Bar Association for his dedication to the standards of the practice of law, and his integrity and commitment to helping others in his community.

Judge Giulitto also previously served as a Board Member and Legal Counsel for Hattie Larlham. Judge Giulitto was a founding member of the Sugar Bush Golf Classic, which began in 1986 as a fundraiser for the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities in Mantua. Since its inception, the Sugar Bush Golf Classic has raised over \$1,000,000 for Hattie Larlham. Over the years, the money raised has funded the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities renovations, a toy tech library, a sensory playground and nature walk, an education center, a pediatric ventilator program and Hattie's Creative Arts.

It gives me great pleasure that Judge Giulitto is being honored by Hattie Larlham for his dedication and service to our community. His service and philanthropy are truly unmatched, and I thank him for all he has done. Portage County, and our region, owe Judge Giulitto an enormous debt and our eternal gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID P.
HIGGERSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and retirement of David P. Higgeson, Director of Field Operations at the Laredo Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He is a great friend, and I sincerely appreciate his service.

Mr. Higgeson was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. He attended St. John's Military Academy, Canal Zone College in Panama, and Valparaiso University where he was awarded an associate degree in Accounting. He then chose to serve in the U.S. Army, and was honorably discharged in 1971. Thereafter, he worked as a Customs Inspector in the Panama Canal Zone for seven years, until the treaty of Panama. Mr. Higgeson was then transferred to Laredo, Texas as a Supervisory Inspector. He continued to hold various leadership roles, including Port Director in Hidalgo, Texas and Director in the El Paso and Tucson Field Offices, totaling forty-nine years of experience in the federal government.

As Director, Field Operations for Laredo Field Office, Mr. Higgeson was responsible for 8 international ports of entry and the Machinery, Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) processing nearly 59.4 million people, more than 21 million vehicles, over 3.5 million commercial trucks, and over \$194 billion in international trade in 2018.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2018 DHS Secretary's Leadership Award and the South Texas Railroad Strategic Problem-Solving Initiative—Commissioner's Strategic Problem Solving Award.

Mr. Higgeson is married to Maria Teresa Higgeson and is the father of five wonderful children. In his free time, he is an avid reader of military and historical tomes. After retirement, Mr. Higgeson plans to spend time with his family and play some golf.

Madam Speaker, I have known Mr. Higgeson for many years now and I have always appreciated his friendship and dedication to his work. I am honored to recognize his

service and I wish him many more years of happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 RECIPIENT
OF THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
AWARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization will host a celebratory dinner on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Each year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council presents the Distinguished Citizen Award to an individual whose selfless efforts have had a positive impact on their communities in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council will honor Mr. Donald Fesko, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Healthcare System and the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana. Under Don's outstanding leadership and guidance, these successful organizations have received numerous local, state, and national accolades.

In addition to his outstanding career, Mr. Fesko gives of his time and efforts to several organizations that serve the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond. He is on the Board of Directors for Peoples Bank, the Advisory Council of Indiana University School of Medicine, the Board of Directors for Hospice of the Calumet Area, and he is President of the Cancer Research Foundation, Inc. Don is also actively engaged with the Munster High School Booster Club. For his dedication to such worthy causes, Mr. Fesko is worthy of the highest praise.

Throughout Mr. Fesko's remarkable career, he has received several honors and awards. In 2009, Don achieved Fellow Status in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He was also presented the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award, recognizing him as the 2012 Young Healthcare Executive of the Year. In 2013, Mr. Fesko was appointed Chairman of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority by then Governor Mike Pence. Additionally, Don was honored with the Executive Regent's Award for the State of Indiana, bestowed upon him by the American College of Healthcare Executives in 2014.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Donald Fesko. Don continues to serve as an exemplary leader for the community of Northwest Indiana, and he is undeniably deserving of the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award. His exceptional devotion to the region and to the wellness of our community will have a positive impact for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YEMEN AMERICAN BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Yemen American Benevolent Association. Its meaningful work in Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Established in 1969, the Yemen American Benevolent Association (YABA) was created to support targeted communities. YABA endeavored to strengthen families, grow a sustainable regional economy, promote environmental protections, cultivate leadership, and encourage mutual respect for all. Since its inception, YABA has been dedicated to its mission and offers services like immigration assistance, Arabic language classes, fax services, and tutoring, to name a few, to achieve its goals. The association's efforts truly make a difference and positively impact the communities it serves.

The Yemen American Benevolent Association has been a valued part of our Michigan community for half a century. Although YABA's dedicated work continues to uplift targeted communities across Michigan, the association especially supports Dearborn and addresses the community's changing needs. Through its efforts to create links between people and the services they require, YABA has helped the Yemeni-Arab-American community in Dearborn thrive. YABA's wide range services prove to be an indispensable resource for many, and I deeply appreciate the association's tremendous work in our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Yemen American Benevolent Association. For half a century, YABA has been an essential part of our Yemeni-American community. We are grateful for its impact and wish it continued success ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLORADO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE RUBEN VALDEZ

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I stand with the State of Colorado in mourning the loss of an historic and iconic public servant—Colorado Speaker of the House Ruben Valdez.

Born in Trinidad, Colorado, Speaker Valdez left school at the age of 15 to find work and support his mother and family. He later received his high school diploma through a GED program and used this experience to motivate his passion for expanding education opportunities to all Coloradans.

Early in his career, Speaker Valdez joined the United Steelworkers of America and rose through the union ranks. He eventually became the President of Steelworkers Local

5099 in Denver where he fought alongside his fellow union members for countless protections for workers throughout Colorado and the United States.

Speaker Valdez was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1970, representing west and southwest Denver. In 1975, he became House speaker, Colorado's first Latino Speaker. Throughout his time in the State Legislature, Speaker Valdez was a strong advocate for workers, consumer protections and equity in education.

Speaker Valdez's involvement in politics remained constant throughout his life, even following his historic Speakership. Amongst many accomplishments, he served as a Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation under President Jimmy Carter and worked as Executive Director of Colorado's Department of Social Services and Department of Labor and Employment. In his later years, he worked alongside his granddaughter as a lobbyist in the State Capitol, continuously pushing the legislative body toward justice and equity.

Throughout his many years of service, Speaker Valdez created a legacy of which his family, friends, and supporters should be so proud. It is a legacy that will no doubt continue to influence lawmakers and Coloradans alike, for generations to come.

For me, Speaker Valdez was a personal hero whose commitment to our state and to justice in our legislative process we can only hope to emulate. I join my Colorado community in mourning the loss of this thoughtful and empathetic leader, and send my deepest condolences to his entire family.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. ROSA SLADE GRAGG

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg, a woman who represented and championed the civil rights of Black women of the City of Detroit.

Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg worked as an English teacher before she became involved with civil rights advocacy. She quickly became an outstanding advocate for the advancement of Black women's rights. She was eventually appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to serve on the Board of the National Volunteer's Participation Committee of Civil Defense. Dr. Gragg also worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as an active and vocal champion of the civil rights movement. In addition to her advocacy, Dr. Gragg founded the Slade-Gragg Academy of Practical Arts in 1947, the first Black vocational school in Detroit. More than two thousand women and returning veterans were trained at the academy, the first Black owned and operated business on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Over the years, Dr. Gragg accumulated a number of honors and recognition for her work to advance civil rights and served as an advisor to three United States Presidents.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the hard work and dedication of Dr. Rosa Slade Gragg. It is with great honor that I ask my colleagues

to join with me in honor of her memory and upon the dedication of a street named to acknowledge her civil rights activism.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I join the community of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in the Cliffwood section of Aberdeen, New Jersey in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the church. Through its long history, Mount Moriah Baptist Church has provided a spiritual center for prayer and fellowship to the community.

The church property was purchased from Gelhaus White and Charles H. White in 1914 and deeded in 1919. While the church members worked on raising money to erect the building, they held services in each other's homes. The church, originally named Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, was led at the time by Reverend J.W. Coakly and five additional trustees, T.M. Lester, Joseph Boles, Bearl Smith, Fred Coakly and Edward D. Causy.

Today, Mount Moriah Baptist Church remains a close-knit congregation. Its 60 members are led by Pastor Eddie Aikens and board members Deacon Marvin Fisher, Trustee Deputy Maor Robert Swindle, Financial Secretary Van Lane and Treasurer Betty Duncan. Throughout its long history, the church's spiritual leaders, Board of Trustees, staff and members have endeavored to carry on its mission of faith and service.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Mount Moriah Baptist Church as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. This incredible milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF VERO BEACH

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, October 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Vero Beach, an iconic and vibrant seaside town full of rich history and culture in my district that I am proud to celebrate. Known locally as the "Hidden Jewel of the Treasure Coast", Vero Beach continues to showcase the unique wildlife, scenic coasts, thriving local businesses and the hardworking people of Florida.

First settled in the 1800's, Vero Beach's original pioneers paved the way for the prosperity the city enjoys today. One of the most notable early settlers, Henry T. Gifford, owned and operated a citrus grove business in addition to establishing the area's first mercantile store that doubled as a post office, express office and railroad ticket office. The story of how the town got its name "Vero" is often attributed to his wife Sarah who suggested the settlement be named the Latin word for "to speak the truth."

The Giffords' entrepreneurial spirit lived on, then leading Vero to experience significant growth and expansion in the following decades. In 1893, Henry Flaglers Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC) began service through Indian River County, serving as a turning point for the growing settlement that led to the Indian River Farms Company's launch of an extensive land reclamation project. This included a vision for a town that would become "one of the finest in Florida." The final plans for the "Town of Vero" were adopted in 1913. In 1925, following Vero's incorporation into the City Beautiful Campaign, the town's most prominent members lobbied the Florida Legislature for the creation of a new county known as "Indian River." Vero was designated the county seat and was re-named Vero Beach.

Just recently, the city officials of Vero Beach gathered in recognition of the Centennial with an official proclamation. The Mayor of Vero Beach, Val Zudans says of the milestone, "There is no better small town in America to live, retire, visit, raise children, or start a business. At 100 we are proud of our heritage, culture, and freedom. We eagerly await the next 100 years of making Vero more Vero."

In 2018, Vero was named one of the "Top Ten Happiest Seaside Towns in America" by Coastal Living Magazine, and it continues to stand as a beautiful and lively back drop for families looking for a place to settle and for veterans seeking retirement. Its residents led by the Vero Beach Centennial Committee, intend to celebrate the 100 years with a month-long celebration of the community that includes a historic slide show and video presentation, live music, and a parade by Vero Beach High School.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Centennial of Vero Beach. Here's to 100 more years of memories and community.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR ARTHUR
HOLK ON HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Arthur Holk upon his 94th birthday.

Arthur has a decorated career as a public servant that began in 1952.

Arthur served as the mayor of Foley from 1976 to 1996 after serving on the Foley City Council for 24 years.

While Mayor, Arthur was elected President of the Alabama League of Municipalities, President of the Alabama League of Municipal Insurance Corporation, and Chairman of the State of Alabama Aeronautics Commission. Outside of office, he remained an engaged leader in his community.

During Arthur's long tenure in public office, Alabama incredibly had nine different governors.

Outside of public office, Arthur served his hometown as an insurance agent for over 60 years with State Farm Insurance and Baldwin Mutual Insurance.

Arthur is a 1949 graduate of Auburn University. He and his late wife, Fannie Jo, had two children, Frances and Andy. Their children and grandchildren have continued Arthur's leg-

acy of community service and civic involvement.

I congratulate Mayor Holk, on his 94th birthday, and thank Kim for all he has done for Southwest Alabama.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
ANTHONY OVIEDO

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the life-giving choice made by Mike Oviedo.

In August, Mike, a lively, jovial 21-year-old from Katy, Texas passed away suddenly from an asthma attack.

A child of a military family, Mike embodied the value of service and worked hard to make others happy. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and was a hard worker who took immense pride in his job at Gorman Uniform.

Mike continued exemplifying the value of service even in death by making the magnanimous decision to donate his organs.

Organ donors are some of the most selfless and honorable people, giving up their own bodies after dying to ensure that others can live happier, healthier and longer lives. People like Mike demonstrate what it truly means to give.

Mike's memory will forever live on in the hearts and minds of his family, friends and community. And now, his big heart will continue to beat on, imparting onto someone the greatest gift of all: life.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I would like to commemorate Mike's memory, his selfless gift and the wonderful legacy he has left to his family and our community.

FIRE OPERATIONS CHIEF MARK
BURNS OF MEDFORD FIRE &
RESCUE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Fire Operations Chief Mark Burns of Medford Fire & Rescue.

Mark James Burns was born on June 18, 1953 in Medford, Oregon, located in the Rogue Valley where he resided and worked the rest of his life. Mark's desire to help others surfaced at an age when he became a volunteer firefighter as a 16-year-old.

In 1971, just months after graduation from Crater High School in Central Point, Mark accepted a full-time firefighter position with Jackson County Fire District 3 and worked there for the next 10 years. His hard work, determination, wisdom, sense of humor, and his ability to inspire others garnered him the respect of his peers and supervisors—who quickly promoted him to Fire Engineer and then to Fire Captain.

Throughout his fire & rescue career, Mark consistently focused on his professional devel-

opment so he could be the best leader for his fellow firefighters and his community. He worked vigorously to advance his working skills and knowledge: completing the four-year Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland, earning his Fire Science Technology degree at Rogue Community College, his Certificate in Fire Services Administration at Western Oregon University, and several certifications from the Department of Public Standards and Training.

In his leadership roles, Mark always led by example and played a significant role in grooming Rogue Valley's next generation of fire & rescue leaders. In fact, he became a mentor to many outside his own department while off-duty, teaching Fire Science in the classroom at Rogue Community College and serving as the campus Fire Science Program Coordinator.

In 1982, Mark left Jackson County Fire District 3 to serve as a Shift Battalion Chief for Medford Fire-Rescue, and in 1990 he became their Training Chief. By 1991, Mark was promoted to Operations Chief and, for the next 20 years, was responsible for all fire and rescue emergency response within Medford city limits. During this time, Mark led the Oregon State Fire Marshal Region 8 Hazardous Materials Response Team and the City of Medford Emergency Management Team, and he served on the Oregon Department of Forestry's statewide Incident Management Team.

Mark lived a life of selfless service as a firefighter and first responder protecting and saving the lives and property of southern Oregonians. Unfortunately, while battling the Oak Knoll Fire in Ashland on August 24, 2010, Mark experienced intense smoke inhalation and was medically retired in 2011 after 40 years of service. This incident caused Mark to develop an aggravating lung condition that he struggled with for the next five years, ultimately leading to his death. Chief Burns succumbed to his fire-related illness on March 6, 2016 at the age of 62.

Over the weekend, on October 6, 2019, Mark was one of the 119 fallen firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD.

Mark is survived by his wife of 45 years, Darcy, his son, Trevis, his daughter, Karlie, and his eight grandchildren, Kristyn, Eryn, Zachary, Kayla, Payshens, Braylon, Brittney and Casey. Mark is also survived by his mother, Sally Burns, his sister, Patty Moser, his brother, John Burns, and his three nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Burns.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Mark's family in honoring the life, service, and sacrifice of Battalion Chief Mark Burns. May his dedication to Oregonians, our community, and his leadership among the fire & rescue community be long remembered and honored.

RECOGNIZING HELEN KEATING
DILLON FOR HER RETIREMENT
AS CAPTAIN OF THE IRONTON
FERRY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Helen Keating Dillon for

her retirement as Captain of the Ironton Ferry. Through her thirty years of experience and commitment to excellence and public safety, Captain Helen has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

First starting operations in 1876, the Ironton Ferry has made the 600-foot trip across the Ironton Narrows on Lake Charlevoix for more than 140 years—providing vehicles, cyclists, and walkers a shortcut from the 20-mile route around the lake's south arm. What started as a simple rowboat eventually turned into a horse-powered cable ferry, before being replaced with its current incarnation in 1926. The ferry has received national fame as a subject in the Ripley's Believe it or Not! series, and was even referenced in writings by Ernest Hemingway. Since 1989, Helen has captained the ferry and has helped continue its history of success. Notably in October 2015, Helen successfully docked the ferry after an onboard car caught fire. Her skill and calm demeanor in ensuring the safety of those on the ferry was recognized with multiple accolades, including a plaque of meritorious commendation from then-Sheriff Don Schneider. Her 30 years serving as Captain of the Ironton Ferry is commendable, and her impact on the people of her community cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Captain Helen Keating Dillon for her decades of service to the people of Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Helen all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF DETROIT RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 110th anniversary of Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM). The Mission's years of service to Detroit are worthy of commendation.

On February 14, 1909, the Detroit Rescue Mission was founded by David C. Stucky. The Mission began as a soup kitchen in an old poultry store, offering food, clothing, shelter, and church services to Detroit's homeless. As the years passed, the Mission evolved to meet the changing needs of the inner city and provide support to even more groups of disadvantaged people. As it grew, it began to offer new services like substance abuse treatments, educational courses, and job preparation training to help rebuild lives destroyed by poverty, homelessness, and addiction.

Since its inception, the Mission has remained fully committed to supporting people across Detroit. Even during the trying years of the Great Depression, DRMM volunteers sacrificed food from their own personal shelves to ensure families would not be left to starve. Decades later, DRMM still continues its selfless mission and truly has become an invaluable resource to many in our community. From offering medical treatments to low-in-

come mothers and their children to providing permanent housing solutions to our nation's veterans, DRMM has proven an overwhelming and lasting commitment to Detroit. I am grateful for its dedicated efforts to provide hope to hopeless, abused, and disadvantaged members of our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 110th anniversary of Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. We deeply appreciate DRMM's 110 years of remarkable service and wish the organization continued success in the decades ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF SARAGALE WEINSTOCK

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my mother-in-law, Saragale Weinstock, on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Saragale lives with her husband Frank in Boca Raton and is an incredibly loving wife, mother of three, and grandmother of nine.

Saragale was born October 12, 1939 in Chicago, IL to Cele and Dr. Samuel Reinglass. She was raised in Canton, OH and later went on to study at the University of Michigan for two years and graduated from Indiana University. After graduating college, she met Frank Weinstock at University Hospitals, in Cleveland, and the two married in 1962.

Since then, they have enjoyed a beautiful 57 years together and raised their children Michael, Jill, and Jeffrey. The family has had the opportunity to travel the world and spend over thirty Summer vacations in Chautauqua, NY with four generations of family. Saragale loves spending time with her family and her friends at Boca Pointe.

We join in wishing "Happy Birthday" to my wonderful mother-in-law Saragale. We also wish her and her family the best in health and happiness on this special day and moving forward.

CONGRATULATING SAMARITAN MINISTRIES ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samaritan Ministries on their 25th Anniversary. Samaritan Ministries recognizes health care needs as multi-dimensional—requiring emotional and spiritual support, as much as physical and financial. They address these needs by coordinating and connecting members through prayer, encouragement, and financial support.

Samaritan Ministries was formed by founder Ted Pittenger, who was inspired to provide an affordable non-insurance health care option for the Christian community after joining a health care sharing ministry in the 1980's. Intrigued by the method of sharing health care costs, he

began considering how to improve the process to reach a wider population and share medical needs more efficiently while maintaining Biblical foundations. This idea came Samaritan Ministries International in 1994. Since then, this organization has helped countless of people all through our community. I thank Samaritan Ministries for seeing a need in the community and rising exceptionally to meet that need.

It is because of community pillars such as Samaritan Ministries that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Samaritan Ministries on its 25th Anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA WITTE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra Witte, the Dean of Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, on her retirement from Fresno State University after 38 years.

Ms. Witte first ventured into the dietary and nutrition industry in the 1970's, when she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Nutrition at California State Polytechnic University. She continued her studies, earning a Master of Science in Home Economics, Nutrition and Dietetics at California State University, Fresno. Then in 1992, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Food Systems Management at the Oregon State University.

Sandra has been a registered dietician since 1975, held a certificate in Adult Weight Management, and a certificate in Child and Adolescent Weight Management. Her 15 years in the nutritional industry allowed her to serve as a well-versed program representative on the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education Board.

Sandra began her career at Fresno State as a professor of nutrition. She later became a chairwoman of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. In 2007, she rose to assume the title of Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and in 2014, she held the role of Interim Dean. In 2016, Sandra was named the Dean of Jordan College.

Ms. Witte has had a transformative effect on the students, staff, and community at Fresno State. Under her administration, Jordan College strengthened and expanded partnerships that will have a lasting impression, including overseeing renovations for the college's food science and nutrition laboratory.

As Sandra steps into the next chapter of her life, I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish. She leaves a legacy of leadership, hard-work, and determination, which will remain instilled in the Fresno State community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Ms. Sandra Witte on a successful career as a valued educator and leader. It is my honor to join her family and many friends in celebrating her retirement.