

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, hydropower 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.