

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 501(c3) 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