

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JAMES I. MOORMAN,
OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will hold a ceremony in Dublin on November 7 to mark the induction of its 2019 class. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: James I. Moorman of Sidney.

Mr. Moorman's life and career are a model for all who would commit themselves to public service. After his time in the Air Force, he joined the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, where as Jail Administrator he spearheaded the planning and design of a new 172-bed facility. He was recognized by the Law Enforcement Association of Shelby County as the 1978 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Mr. Moorman is a life member of the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans of America. For six years, he was a member of the Shelby County Veterans Service Commission.

He played a key role in helping neighboring Logan County establish its own Vets to DC Program, coordinating veterans' trips to Washington to visit their memorials on the National Mall at no cost to them.

Madam Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to no more than twenty Ohioans each year. To be considered, individuals must not only serve our nation honorably in the military but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

I am pleased to join in the accolades for James Moorman and his outstanding record of service as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 31, I was unable to vote on the day's legislation due to a family emergency. Because of this unplanned absence, I missed seven Roll Call votes. Importantly, I was not present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 604 on the passage of House Resolution 660 (H. Res. 660).

Had I been present to vote on H. Res. 660, I would have voted "No."

I find it incredibly disappointing that the House of Representatives took up H. Res.

660, which moves us away from historic precedent and, instead, enacts unique constraints on Members of Congress who are in the Minority during this impeachment inquiry. In the resolution for the President Clinton impeachment inquiry, the House Majority provided strong, bipartisan checks and balances regarding subpoena authority. These were the same checks and balances afforded to Congress during the President Nixon impeachment inquiry.

However, H. Res. 660 removes Ranking Members' traditional co-equal subpoena power. Members of the Minority also lose the traditional right to refer to the committee questions on whether subpoenas can be exercised unilaterally by the Chairman.

For a process as important and consequential as an impeachment inquiry, my constituents in the Sixth District of Tennessee, and the American people, deserve better. They deserve fairness. They deserve transparency. H. Res. 660 gives our constituents neither.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM
STILLERMAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize William Stillerman of Winston-Salem, North Carolina for his outstanding tenure as President and CEO of Baptist Retirement Homes. Throughout his 34 years of exceptional leadership, Baptist Retirement Homes has been a pillar of effective care and compassion for the elderly in North Carolina communities.

The foundation he started now totals forty million dollars, helping to serve the Homes' over 500 residents and expand the reach of its services for homebound seniors.

Seeing such a successful local initiative to provide seniors access affordable prescriptions, comfortable housing, meals, companionship and many other needs is truly inspiring, and I'm proud to represent the person who embodies its powerful driving force.

Now that Mr. Stillerman himself is retiring, I wish him the very best and thank him for his incredible work and dedication in serving retirees in our state.

BRANDON BORTLES AND NOAH
HEANEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brandon

Bortles and Noah Heaney for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Brandon Bortles & Noah Heaney both Golden residents, own competing restaurants: Brandon owns Abejas, and Noah co-owns Miners Saloon. Instead of focusing on competing for customers, Brandon and Noah decided to work together to bring more diverse dining options to downtown Golden. This collaboration has already brought us Sur Mesa Taqueria, which opened inside Tributary Food Hall in September, and will soon bring us Nosu Ramen across the street. Together, Brandon and Noah are making an enormous contribution to Golden's economy, our culinary options, our social gathering places, and our sense of community.

I congratulate Brandon and Noah for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to a crisis of ongoing power outages and wildfires in California's 2nd District, I was unable to cast the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 585, YEA on Roll Call 586, YEA on Roll Call 587, YEA on Roll Call 588, YEA on Roll Call 589, YEA on Roll Call 590, YEA on Roll Call 591, and YEA on Roll Call 592.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 440.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, on June 18, 2019, I was unable to attend the vote on the Lesko Amendment to the House Appropriations Package. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted NO on this vote (Roll Call No. 324).

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

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

HONORING SERGEANT DAVID
CHAMBERS AS SOLDIER OF THE
YEAR

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Sergeant David Chambers from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 3rd Calvary Regiment on being named 2019 Soldier of the Year in the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

The annual competition tests soldiers physically and mentally, as they compete in urban warfare simulations, fitness challenges, warrior tasks, written exams and formal board interviews.

Sergeant Chambers represented the Brave Rifles, Fort Hood, III Corps and United States Army Forces Command with the highest honor and integrity.

He also represents the very best of America, and we should all look to his example of patriotism, selflessness and dedication.

Fort Hood, or 'The Great Place,' is one of the largest military installations in the world, where soldiers like Sergeant Chambers represent the gold standard for the United States Army.

The men and women who are stationed there truly remind us of what it means to be an American.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 25th District of Texas, I want to thank Sergeant Chambers for his service, and congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

May God bless the United States of America, and those who fight for our freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANE
DUNDAS SMITH

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of my constituent, Jane Dundas Smith—a dedicated educator who uplifted and inspired her students. Jane was an extraordinary leader both inside and outside the classroom who sought to better the lives of students in our communities and across the country.

After graduating from the University of California Davis, Jane began her career as a ninth-grade English teacher at Vallejo Unified School District. From there, she launched a more than 30-year career in education—eventually supporting educational programs for the largest county in the nation in the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office.

Jane's passion for improving the lives of others through education extended beyond the classroom. As a consultant and education specialist, she worked with school districts across the country, designing programs to support underserved schools and communities.

Even after her retirement, Jane continued to shape the lives of students in our communities, serving on the Board of Education in

the Yucaipa-Calimesa School District and on the Nominating Committee for the California School Boards Education Association.

Jane's devotion to her students and education was unshakable. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, we join together with her loved ones to grieve her loss. Jane's valuable contributions will be felt for generations to come, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the countless lives she touched.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ALTAMED HEALTH
SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AltaMed Health Services Corporation on its 50th anniversary. Over the past half-century, AltaMed has become a leader in delivering quality health care and empowering communities, and stands today as one of America's largest independent federally qualified health centers.

When AltaMed was founded in 1969 as the East LA Barrio Free Clinic, it relied entirely on grants and donations. The clinic provided critically needed care to predominantly Latino and underserved individuals and families who had little to no access to medical services.

Today, AltaMed is California's premier community health network, encompassing more than 50 service delivery sites throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and staffed by a culturally and linguistically competent workforce of more than 3,000 employees. It provides care to more than 300,000 individuals and families in one million annual patient encounters. In addition, AltaMed has expanded beyond primary care to deliver a full continuum of care that includes pediatrics, dental care, women's health, senior services, youth services, and HIV/AIDS services. To this day, AltaMed is committed to providing quality care without exception and working to address health disparities in our communities.

In 1982, AltaMed began offering senior services by opening its first Adult Day Health Care Center in East Los Angeles, providing medical and rehabilitative care to older adults. In 1996, AltaMed made the transition to PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), a world-class managed-care program that uses a unique team-based approach to provide frail older adults with medical, social, nutritional, and rehabilitation services. This program makes it possible for those who meet nursing home eligibility requirements to remain at home, enjoying the comfort and reassurance of familiar surroundings while receiving the care they need. AltaMed currently serves nearly 2,700 older adults at eight PACE locations in Los Angeles County.

With the passing of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, more than 20 million uninsured Americans gained access to comprehensive health coverage. AltaMed led widespread efforts through its service delivery sites to enroll and provide resources to newly eligible individuals, becoming Covered California's top certified enrollment entity for several years in a row, and earning a grant through the state's Navigator Program.

In addition to its role as a leading health care provider, AltaMed leads advocacy efforts to protect critical safety net programs and expand access to services in order to grow healthier communities. This is made possible through strong partnerships with elected officials and community organizations. AltaMed's advocacy includes championing California's historic Health for All Kids Act (SB 4) which granted an estimated 170,000 undocumented children access to health care coverage under Medi-Cal. AltaMed has also advocated to protect vital federal funding for community health centers.

With a commitment to social justice and the understanding that health centers play a significant role in helping to achieve health equity, AltaMed launched the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity in 2017. Through innovation, education, research, and community engagement, the institute works to inform and support the elimination of health disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

In 2018, AltaMed launched a first-of-its-kind effort to mobilize low-propensity voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box in the brand-new "My Vote, My Health" campaign. Drawing on best practices from Get Out The Vote research, and leveraging organization and community assets, AltaMed worked to inform, motivate, and mobilize patients and employees to protect access to their healthcare services through the power of their vote. AltaMed's effort resulted in increases in voter participation of as much as 432 percent in some of the hardest-to-reach voter precincts.

On November 8, 2019, AltaMed will commemorate its 50th anniversary. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating AltaMed on achieving this historic milestone as an exceptional health care leader, advancing quality care for Latino, multi-ethnic, and underserved communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 596 due to a meeting with constituents. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted: on roll call vote number 596, I would have voted NO.

CONGRATULATING HENRY
DESROSIERS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Henry Desrosiers after many years of service to our nation and community.

Mr. Desrosiers has been a leader in the Jim Thorpe community and has a long history of

service to our Commonwealth and nation. Mr. Desrosiers was born in Naugatuck, Connecticut and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force shortly after graduating from high school. During his four years of service, Mr. Desrosiers served as a law enforcement specialist in countries around the world, including in Japan and the Philippines, earning both the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After serving our country, Mr. Desrosiers returned home to serve and protect his community as a police officer for over 25 years, being promoted to sergeant before his retirement in 2003. Furthering his dedication to serve, Mr. Desrosiers joined Carbon County as the Director of Veterans' Affairs in 2008. Following a decade of dutiful service to Carbon County's veterans, Mr. Desrosiers will retire later this year.

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 in congratulating Mr. Desrosiers on his retirement and thank him for his many years of brave and honorable service.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DRUG DISCOUNTS AND REAL-TIME BENEFICIARY DRUG COST ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2115, the "Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act."

H.R. 2115 requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to publish certain payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and prescription drugs.

Specifically, the CMS must publish certain information, as reported by PBMs, relating to generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

Commercially available drug pricing comparison platforms can, at no cost, help patients find the lowest price for their medications at their local pharmacy.

Such platforms should be integrated, to the maximum extent possible, in the health care delivery ecosystem, while also protecting patient privacy.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding sensitive health care information.

H.R. 2115 will provide patients with access to drug prices information while also protecting patient health privacy.

Pharmacy benefit managers should work to disclose generic and brand name drug prices to such platforms to ensure that patients can benefit from the lowest possible price available to them; and overall drug prices can be reduced as more educated purchasing decisions are made based on price transparency.

Diabetes is a life-threatening disease that disproportionately affects communities of color.

Diabetes is associated with serious health problems, including heart disease and stroke, kidney failure, and blindness.

In 2017, diabetes contributed to the death of 277,000 Americans—and was the primary death for 85,000 of those individuals.

That same year diagnosed diabetes cost the United States an estimated \$327 billion—including \$237 billion in direct medical costs and \$90 billion in productivity losses.

Diabetes drugs, including insulin and oral medications that regulate blood sugar levels, play a critical role in helping people with diabetes manage their condition and reduce the risk of diabetes-related health complications.

After the Democrats took control of the House in January we got to work on a report on the high cost of insulin and we determined that the Americans' with diabetes are in crisis.

Even though analog insulin has been on the market for nearly 30 years, it has no meaningful generic competition.

Over the past two decades, manufacturers have systematically and dramatically raised the prices of their insulin products by more than tenfold—often in lockstep.

These prices dwarf manufacturing costs. One study found manufacturers could charge as little as \$7 to \$11 per month for insulin and still make a profit.

In recent years, the high prices of diabetes drugs have placed a tremendous strain on diabetes patients as well as the federal government, which provides diabetes medications to more than 43 million Medicare beneficiaries.

These high prices lead many people to ration or stop taking their medications, which can result in serious health complications and even death, as the Energy and Commerce Committee heard in direct testimony earlier this year.

The prices of diabetes medications—and insulin in particular—are far higher in the United States than they are overseas, in part because certain federal programs lack the authority to negotiate directly with drug manufacturers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2115 to require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to publish necessary payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers and prescription drugs.

FIGHTING HUNGER AT MINES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Fighting Hunger at Mines for receiving the Golden Mayor's Gold Mine Award for Excellence.

Fighting Hunger at Mines is a unique campus group that is dedicated to improving the physical and mental health of students at Mines and the Golden community. Their programming addresses food insecurity that's pervasive on college campuses, while raising awareness to local food resources and educating students on healthy eating habits. By working with the Golden Backpack Program, GoFarm and other partners, Fighting Hunger at Mines distributes healthy food to nearly 150 students each week and has made a substantial difference on campus and in Golden.

I congratulate Fighting Hunger at Mines for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor

Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS W. O'BRIEN, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Norfolk County Commissioner Francis W. O'Brien, in recognition of his over sixty-five years of dedicated public service, on behalf of the Town of Dedham and Norfolk County.

The son of Annie and John O'Brien, Fran is the youngest of seven children. A true son of East Dedham, Fran was born in 1929 and spent his entire childhood and young adult life at 236 Bussey Street in East Dedham. Fran attended the Avery Elementary School and graduated from Dedham High School in 1949. While in high school, Fran excelled in football, baseball and was the captain of the hockey team. He went on to play semi-pro football for the Canton Town Club and St. Mary's of Brookline. In 1951, Fran enlisted in the United States Navy during the Korean War era and served honorably until he was discharged in 1953.

On January 20, 1951, Fran had the tremendous good fortune to marry his longtime high school sweetheart and classmate, Nancy Kennedy, at St. Mary's Church in Dedham. They were blessed with four children, Francis M., Marlene, Jacqueline, and Cynthia as well as seven grandchildren: David, William, Jeffrey, Gregory, Amanda, and twins Patrick and Sean. He is also the proud greatgrandfather to Annabelle, Sophia, Evan and Aiden.

Fran began his career in public service at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Dedham as a photostat operator, soon after being discharged from the Navy. From 1953 to 1958, he was employed by Whiting's Milk Company as a milkman. Fran served his community as a Dedham firefighter, joining the department in 1958. During this time, Fran also owned and operated O'Bie's Variety store in East Dedham. Always one to help those in need, there were countless times Fran allowed customers to purchase necessary items such as bread or milk on credit, knowing full well they would be unable to pay him back.

Madam Speaker, Fran ran for public office becoming the first firefighter in the Town of Dedham to serve on its Board of Selectman. Fran proudly served as a Selectman from 1962 to 1976; he also served the Town of Dedham as a Town Meeting member, a member of the Board of Recreation and a member of the Board of Assessors. He instantly connected with the citizens of Dedham and continued to serve as Selectman for more than twelve years. Subsequently, he was hired at the M.B.T.A. as Liaison of Governmental Affairs. His compassion and understanding have earned him the deep and abiding respect of the residents in the cities and towns all over the state.

Fran continued with the M.B.T.A. until his retirement in 1993. In 2002, he was appointed, then elected, as a Norfolk County Commissioner, serving on a threeperson board. In

subsequent years, he has been elected to serve as Chairman by his fellow commissioners. Through his friendship and professional relationships with judges, clerk magistrates and clerks of court throughout Norfolk County, Fran helped institute physical changes and improvements to Norfolk County court houses.

On February 16, 2017, Fran lost the love of his life, Nancy, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease and the onset of Alzheimer's. Tragically, 19 months later, he lost his beloved daughter, Marlene, suddenly on September 15, 2018, after her longtime fight with multiple infectious diseases.

As Fran reaches the proud age of 90 years old, he remains living independently in Dedham, with his son, daughters and grandchildren close by his side for support. Not surprisingly, you'll find him still helping people, still caring for the town he loves, and still devoted and loyal to his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, Francis W. O'Brien epitomizes the definition of a truly dedicated public servant. His life-long vocation of service to his community is on constant display as he continues to honorably serve the Town of Dedham. I urge my colleagues, and all who know Fran, to wish him the best on his 90th birthday.

EDUCATING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND OPTIMIZING WORKFORCE EFFICIENCY AND READINESS FOR HEALTH ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to Representatives GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, STEVE STIVERS, KENNY MARCHANT, WILLIAM KEATING, ZOE LOFGREN, and LAUREN UNDERWOOD for their support of H.R. 2781, the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness (EMPOWER) for Health Act. They wanted to cosponsor this bill but were unable to be added in time.

When H.R. 2781 passes the Senate and is signed into law, we will increase the diversity of our health care workforce, improve geriatrics education and training to address gaps in caregiving and health care for older adults, and grow the critical pediatric health care workforce. I look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue our efforts to make sure health care is more equitable and accessible for our constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 due to a business call I was unable to vote on H.R. 2181,

the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 597.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG HISTORY OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN AMERICA

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first ever college football game played between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869. Just twenty-one years later, the Big Ten university in my district, the University of Illinois, would field its first football game in 1890.

Since those days, college football has become one of our nation's most beloved pastimes. Today, it's enjoyed by millions of Americans and the sport has grown immensely with nearly 80,000 student-athletes taking to the field every fall.

In many ways, it is a game that embodies the spirit of what makes us great as a country. As Americans, we have a determination to succeed; we believe in teamwork; we embrace our individual roles as we work together toward a common goal bigger than ourselves. Over the last 150 years, we've seen college football players become U.S. Presidents, Rhodes Scholars, actors, activists, CEOs, successful entrepreneurs, academics, and yes—even elected officials.

So today we recognize the strong history of college football in our nation: the games, the teams, the rivalries, and the memories. My family and I are longtime fans of college football, and I am proud to celebrate 150 years of its history today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote series.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 593; yea on Roll Call No. 594; yea on Roll Call No. 595; yea on Roll Call No. 596; nay on Roll Call No. 597; yea on Roll Call No. 598; yea on Roll Call No. 599; yea on Roll Call No. 600; yea on Roll Call No. 601; and nay on Roll Call No. 602.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DR. VIVIANNE CISNEROS WERSEL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel.

Dr. Wersel has a long and storied career caring for our nation's veterans, and she knows what it means to pay the ultimate sacrifice. She is the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Wersel, Jr. of the United States Marine Corps. Lieutenant Colonel Wersel served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and unfortunately died just one week after returning home from Iraq. Dr. Wersel grew from this tragedy and not only continued to help veterans through her role at Walter Reed Medical Center, but also as an advocate for Gold Star Families.

Dr. Wersel holds a Doctorate of Audiology from the School of Audiology-Salus University. She is also a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Monterey, CA and holds a language certificate in Spanish. She earned a Masters and a Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Disorders (Audiology) from San Diego State University.

Dr. Wersel currently works full time as an audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and is designated as a prestigious Master Clinician. In addition to caring for the active-duty military, retirees, and their families, she provides hearing health care for members of Congress, including myself.

Over the past 30 years as an audiologist she provided hearing care support to service members, retirees and their families at Camp Pendleton, CA; Twentynine Palms, CA, Nellis Air Force Base, Fort Bragg NC, Camp Lejeune NC, Fort Dietrick MD, Fort Belvoir VA, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda. But her service to our nation's veterans goes beyond her role as an audiologist.

Shortly after her husband's passing in 2005, Dr. Wersel discovered she was not eligible for the newly enhanced survivor benefits. She subsequently became instrumental in changing the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Death Gratuity so that all active duty widows are now eligible for enhanced benefits. Today, she is considered a subject matter expert on Military Survivor Benefits and has testified before this body twenty times on the subject.

In addition to her work on survivor benefits, she is a member of the Gold Star Wives of America (GSW) Public Relations; past chair of the GSW Government Relations Committee, President and founder of Arlington Gold Star Wives; military survivor advisor for the "Got Your Back Network"; is an active participant in the VA/DoD Survivor Forum, and founder of, and advisor to the Surviving Spouses Support Group II MEF, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. She was a local representative for the National Military Family Association and was a volunteer for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Military Officers Association of America.

Dr. Wersel has devoted her career and her life to caring for our nation's veterans and advocating for Gold Star Families. In recognition of her work and her much-deserved retirement, I will be flying a flag over the United States Capitol in her honor. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the rest of this chamber join me in congratulating Dr. Wersel on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT
CARL COATS ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE POLICE DE-
PARTMENT OF GRAPEVINE,
TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Carl Coats on his well-earned retirement from the Grapevine Police Department. After twenty-five years of dedicated service, Carl has distinguished himself as a respected member of the Grapevine police force.

Beginning his career with the United States Marine Corps, Carl attained the rank of Sergeant and served as a Marine Security Guard at the American Embassies in Prague, Czechoslovakia and Quito, Ecuador. Transitioning to law enforcement in 1990, Carl served four years as a correctional officer with the Cooke County Sheriffs Department in Gainesville, Texas. In addition to that experience, he graduated from the police academy and subsequently became Deputy Sheriff.

In 1994, Carl joined the Grapevine Police Department where he has devotedly served as Patrol Officer, Detective, CID Sergeant and Patrol Sergeant. As evidence of his dedication to professional development, Carl is a graduate of the School of Police Supervision through the Institute for Law Enforcement. Through rigorous instruction, Carl has also obtained his Master Peace Officer's License—the highest level of its kind.

Carl's colleagues, supervisors and community members have expressed their deepest appreciation for his accomplished service. Specializing in child protection and physical abuse investigation, Carl has earned twenty-four commendations to date. In 1999, Carl received the Life Saving Award for his rescue of a five-year-old autistic child from a swimming pool. The following year, he developed a multidisciplinary team approach to investigate shaken baby syndrome. Carl also received the 2002 Advocate of the Year Award from the Tarrant County Crime Prevention Resource Center, honoring his efforts in promoting safety for women and children in the community.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the excellence of Carl's work which has repeatedly been commended as an invaluable asset to both the City and the Grapevine Police Department. His legacy will leave a lasting mark. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Carl Coats for his numerous years of service.

THE GOLDEN LIONS CLUB

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Golden Lions Club for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden Lions Club has been serving the Golden community since 1942. Standing behind the International Lions Club motto of

"We Serve", the Lions Club offers their services to anyone that needs help with a project. With over 8,000 hours of volunteer service in 2019, the Golden Lions continue to make a positive impact within the community. From constructing public bathrooms and pavilions to providing eyeglasses and scholarships to school children; where there's a need, there's a Lion. Through funding efforts, engaging volunteers in community projects, and supporting local schools and students, the Lions Club has committed to making the City of Golden a better place to live, work, and play.

I congratulate the Golden Lions Club for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

COMMENDING PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI AND THE IN-
DIAN PARLIAMENT FOR PRO-
MOTING STABILITY IN JAMMU
AND KASHMIR

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

As we all have seen, the Indian parliament passed legislation last month changing the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. They modified provisions that were an obstacle to economic development and promoted a sense of separatism.

Up until recently, Kashmir had been governed by Article 370, which was an outdated provision of law that the Indian constitution recognized as "temporary."

Article 370 might have worked well for those with political connections, but it denied economic opportunities for the people.

I also created a polarizing environment that was exploited politically. During the past decades, thousands of people lost their lives due to terrorist attacks. Several groups based in Pakistan were able to conduct cross-border terrorism that wreaked havoc on individuals and families, and led to a morbid economy.

The Modi government had to make a decision on whether to continue with the old policy or to pursue progress by changing the region's legal status.

Madam Speaker, the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better and Prime Minister Modi was right to take bold steps to address this situation. Changes to the status of Jammu and Kashmir passed Parliament by a two-thirds majority, which highlights the consensus on the need for this reform.

Even with these changes, those seeking to cause disruption have continued to promote violence.

Pakistan-based terror groups have recently floated posters warning common citizens against venturing out, going to work, and visiting public places. The groups have continued to engage in cross-border terrorism and have attacked civilians and children. These militant groups have also attacked migrant workers and those who are involved in the apple business, which is the chief crop of Kashmir.

Madam Speaker, in order for Jammu and Kashmir to flourish, there must be peace and

stability. Individuals and families need to feel safe when they leave their homes and go to work.

The steps that Prime Minister Modi and the Parliament have taken are needed, they're good for the long-term stability of the region, and they should be applauded.

FULL UTILIZATION OF THE HARBOR
MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2440 the "The Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act."

In 1986, Congress enacted the Harbor Maintenance Tax to recover the operation and maintenance dredging costs for federally-authorized ports from maritime shippers.

This is a direct levy on importers and domestic shippers using coastal or inland ports and is typically passed along to U.S. taxpayers on the purchase of imported goods.

These revenues are deposited in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund within the Treasury Department, from which Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for harbor maintenance dredging.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers, navigation channels at our nation's 59 busiest ports are available less than 35 percent of the time.

The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our nation's ports and harbors will need additional investment of \$15.8 billion between now and 2020 just to meet the demands of larger and heavier ships that will use the Panama Canal.

H.R. 2440 ensures that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is used for its intended purpose—the maintenance of federally-authorized harbors.

This will enable the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge all federal harbors to ensure that they are to their constructed widths and depths.

The act also provides critical federal funding—\$34 billion—for infrastructure investment for our coastal and inland harbors over the next decade.

The bill achieves this task without raising taxes.

This bill also authorizes the expenditure of the expected \$25.5 billion in new revenue over the next decade, for our critical port harbor needs.

And, the bill authorizes the appropriation of additional funds for harbor maintenance needs.

As is clear, the need to ensure that this port, and similar such ports, stay open and operating as much as practical is vital.

The failure to do so can impact employment, the economy, and the livelihoods of countless individuals and businesses.

Ports are uniquely vulnerable to any number of disturbances, including those produced by weather, abuses by those who utilize the ports, and naturally-occurring wear-and-tear to the ports.

One such example of this naturally-occurring phenomena which requires remedial efforts is dredging.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, dredging is the act of removing silt and other material from the bottom of bodies of water.

NOAA goes further to explain that dredging is a routine necessity in waterways around the world because sedimentation gradually fills channels and harbors.

In the aggregate, this filling of channels and harbors can prevent the movement of vessels.

Dredging increases the depth of navigation channels, and thus plays a vital role in the nation's economy.

The Port of Houston is one of the largest in the world.

The Houston region is the country's top area for exports and the area surrounding the Port of Houston is home to the largest petrochemical manufacturing complex in the Western Hemisphere.

Due to its strategically advantageous location, the ingenuity of the 200 private companies that constitute the Greater Port of Houston, the Port of Houston is the number one port in foreignwaterborne tonnage.

And the most recent available statistics support the primacy of the Port of Houston.

The Greater Port of Houston complex is ranked sixth among U.S. container ports by size, and is the largest gulf coast container port—handling 69 percent of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic—and is the largest Texas port, with 45 percent market share by tonnage, and 96 percent market share in containers.

To wit, more than 200 million short tons of international cargo were handled in 2018 alone.

As such, this redounds to the benefit of the economy.

Nationally, the greater port supports 3.2 million jobs, boasts more than \$801.9 billion in economic value and produces \$38.1 billion in tax revenue.

As a Senior Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, with a significant global port near my congressional district, I will work tirelessly towards enactment of this legislation.

That is why I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 2440.

RECOGNIZING PHYLLIS GREEN
FOR HER RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF ISLE ROYALE
NATIONAL PARK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Phyllis Green for her retirement as Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park. Through her decades of leadership and commitment to our natural heritage, Phyllis has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

A U.P. native, Phyllis grew up surrounded by some of the most pristine natural landscapes our country has to offer. It should therefore not be surprising that she found her calling for conservation work at a young age. In high school, she led multiple clubs dedicated to environmental conservation before attending Michigan Technological University and

earning an undergraduate degree in forestry. Her 41-year professional career saw her serve in a variety of conservation and land management roles, including as supervisor of Ottawa National Forest.

As Superintendent of Isle Royale, Phyllis oversaw significant improvements to the operations and management of the park, including the implementation of a solar power system, invasive species control, and most recently, the reintroduction of the Gray Wolf to the island. This endeavor has required intensive ecological work and cooperation between the National Parks Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, USDA, and the State University of New York. Thanks in part to her leadership, the species introduction is well on its way to long-term success, with 17 wolves currently calling the island home.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Phyllis Green for her decades of service and her retirement as Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Phyllis all the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERBIE
FLORES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Heriberto "Herbie" Flores, my constituent from western Massachusetts, who recently received the prestigious Pynchon Award. The Pynchon Award, which is named after the founder of Springfield, Massachusetts is given to those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to their community. This award is a testament to Herbie's hard work, dedication, and exemplary character.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Herbie grew up harvesting tobacco for a \$1.25 an hour. After leaving the island, Herbie proudly served our country with distinction in the United States Army during the war in Vietnam. Through this experience he learned firsthand of the plight and hardship of poverty and decided to dedicate his life to helping those less fortunate in our community.

Herbie is very well known for his many leadership roles and non-profit work in Springfield and throughout New England. He is the founder of the New England Farm Worker's Council, a nonprofit human services agency dedicated to improving the quality of life for low-income workers through education, job training, and living assistance. In addition, Herbie also served as the President of Brightwood Development Corporation which provides housing and development opportunities to Springfield's North End. Also, Herbie has served as the Chairman of Partners for Community, which works around New England to provide employment and other social services to populations with special needs.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Herbie for receiving the Pynchon Award and for being an exemplary pillar of our community. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working alongside Herbie as Mayor and as a

Member of Congress and I am proud to call him a friend. I cannot think of anyone that brings a stronger personal commitment to those in our society that have been overlooked. To Herbie and his wife Grace Taylor, I want to wish them all the best in their future endeavors and say thank you on behalf of the United States of America.

GOLDEN UNITED

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Golden United for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Golden United is a non-partisan, resident-driven effort to engage Golden area community members across all walks of life to find common ground and act with respect and dignity in strengthening the community. Golden United launched in 2017, gathering residents of different backgrounds and asking them to identify shared values and initial actions. Their mission continued through community forums, rallies, annual events, task forces, supporting other community events, and most recently, hosting a Candidate Forum for the upcoming election. This organization is an example of democracy in action "of the people, and for the people."

I congratulate Golden United for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following votes due to the passing of my father.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 585; YEA on Roll Call No. 586; NAY on Roll Call No. 587; NAY on Roll Call No. 588; NAY on Roll Call No. 589; NAY on Roll Call No. 590; YEA on Roll Call No. 591; YEA on Roll Call No. 592; YEA on Roll Call No. 593; YEA on Roll Call No. 594; YEA on Roll Call No. 595; YEA on Roll Call No. 596; NAY on Roll Call No. 597; YEA on Roll Call No. 598; YEA on Roll Call No. 599; YEA on Roll Call No. 600; YEA on Roll Call No. 601; and NAY on Roll Call No. 602.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER
JUSTIN GOSS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Commander Justin D. Goss, United States Navy. After 20 years of dedicated service to our great nation, today marks his retirement from active duty.

Commander Goss grew up in Fairfax, VA, and graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. He earned his commission from Officer Candidate School in 2000. As a Surface Warfare Officer, he served on USS *The Sullivans* (DDG-68), USS *Zephyr* (PC-8), USS *Stout* (DDG-55), and in Riverine Squadron ONE. He was also assigned as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy where he served aboard HMS *Marlborough* (F233) and HMS *York* (D98).

Following his lateral transfer into the Foreign Area Officer community, Goss was assigned as the Chief, Office of Security Cooperation, at the United States Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. Additionally, he served on staff positions at U.S. Africa Command and the Navy's Military Personnel, Plans, and Policy Directorate.

Commander Goss' final tour of duty was serving as the Deputy Director of the Navy's House of Representatives Liaison Office (LA-4) where he was instrumental in developing and fostering key relationships between Department of the Navy officials, members of Congress and their personal and professional staffs.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Commander Goss, his wife Suzanne and his children Thomas, Orla, Arthur, Wilfred, and Agnes for their incredible sacrifices, devotion, and service to our nation; words cannot express our gratitude. We wish them well as they embark on a new adventure together.

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave Americans who served our country during the Vietnam Era. The courage, patriotism, and heroism that our servicemembers displayed when faced with the danger of serving in the Vietnam War speaks to the character and strength of these individuals and our nation.

I am honored to be a part of the Vietnam War Commemorative Committee. The brave men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War set aside their ambitions, left their families, and risked their lives for our country. This project is a token of our gratitude for their selfless service and steadfast, unwavering devotion to our nation and the American people. The legacy of all those who served during the conflict remains an inspiration to our nation. To the families of our servicemembers who stood by faithfully as your loved ones departed to defend our freedoms overseas, I offer my sincere gratitude for your shared commitment to duty and service.

I will continue to work each day to serve all those who have served us so valiantly. Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices in honor of our nation. It is a debt we can never repay, and one we can never forget. It is essential that we provide all our veterans with the care and support they so richly deserve.

As the Representative for New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I will continue

to work on behalf of our courageous Vietnam veterans, servicemembers, and military families who have given so much for our country. May we honor and celebrate all our soldiers, and may God bless the United States of America.

MARJORIE SLOAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mayor Marjorie Sloan for her many years of service to the City of Golden.

Marjorie Sloan has dutifully served as the 37th Mayor for the City of Golden for eight years, and as the first female mayor elected by the citizens since Golden became a Home Rule City.

Before she was elected as mayor, Marjorie represented Golden's District One as a city councilor for four years. Marjorie, her husband Dendy, and their children have lived in Golden for decades. In addition to her roles on City Council, Marjorie also served as Planning Commission chair, Foothills Art Center board president, Golden Urban Renewal Authority board member, volunteer, parent, neighbor, and all-around general Golden Ambassador.

Mayor Marjorie Sloan's legacy of leadership, vision, and trailblazing on behalf of the city will not soon be forgotten. I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Mayor Sloan for her service and commitment to our community and her service to the people of Golden, Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE, FATHER PAUL TAYLOR

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to congratulate Father Paul Taylor upon his inauguration as the 18th President of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

Father Taylor graduated from St. Vincent College in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary in 1993 and a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from Duke University in 1993. Father Taylor attended Boston College for his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, graduating in 1998 after presenting his dissertation "Boniface Wimmer and the Beginning of American Benedictine Education."

Father Taylor returned to St. Vincent College in 1987 in order to dedicate his life to Benedictine education. He made his simple profession of monastic vows in 1988 and his solemn profession of vows in 1991. Father Taylor was ordained as a priest on June 6, 1992 in Saint Vincent's Archabbey Basilica.

In 1996, Father Paul entered the Office of Admission and Financial Aid, eventually rising to the position of dean. It was in this role that he developed a strong commitment to helping students obtain financial aid. Under Father Taylor's leadership as Executive Vice President, St. Vincent College launched the Forward, Always Forward campaign. This \$100 million-dollar campaign seeks to strengthen the endowment, as well as expand financial aid opportunities and enrich academic programs. On July 1, 2019, Father Taylor became President of St. Vincent, and I know that under his leadership, the college will continue to excel in providing American students with an education that sets them up for future success.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Father Taylor has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to education, his Catholic faith, and St. Vincent College. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating the 18th President of Saint Vincent College, Father Paul Taylor.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Leelanau Conservation District as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Through its dedication to responsible natural resources management, land conservation, and a healthy environment, the Leelanau Conservation District has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

As an avid outdoorsman, I recognize the importance protecting our wildlife and natural resources through effective conservation. In that endeavor, the Leelanau Conservation District has been invaluable to Northern Michigan. First organized in 1943, the District works to promote the wise use of our natural resources through information and technical assistance to those throughout Leelanau County. From promoting healthy forests and responsible hunting, to fighting invasive species and preventing soil erosion, their work has been critical for the people of Michigan's First District. Our region is home to some of the most pristine natural landscapes in the country. I'm grateful for the Leelanau Conservation District's efforts to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same natural beauty we so deeply treasure.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate the Leelanau Conservation District for 75 years of service. Michiganders can take immense pride in knowing that the First District is home to such a trusted organization working to promote environmental and ecological health. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the Leelanau Conservation District all the best in its future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN CONYERS, TIRELESS FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY, CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE COMMITTEES ON OVERSIGHT AND ON THE JUDICIARY, FOUNDING MEMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM MICHIGAN FOR 53 YEARS, MENTOR, BELOVED COLLEAGUE, AND DEAR FRIEND

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Chairman John Conyers, Jr., the tireless fighter for justice and equality, Chairman of House Committees on Oversight and on the Judiciary, Founding Member of Congressional Black Caucus, Member of Congress From Michigan For 53 years, my mentor, a beloved colleague, and dear friend who died on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at his home in Detroit, Michigan at the age of 90.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers, Jr. was a statesman and strong supporter of equality, economic and social justice, civil rights, and human dignity for all.

John Conyers, Jr. was born May 16, 1929 in Highland Park, Michigan to Lucille Janice and John Conyers, Sr., a union organizer in the automotive industry and an international representative with the United Auto Workers.

After graduation from Northwestern High School, John Conyers dutifully served his country in the Michigan National Guard from 1948 to 1950, the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1954, and the U.S. Army Reserves from 1954 to 1957, serving during the Korean War and as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he was awarded combat and merit citations.

Following his military service, John Conyers earned his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from Wayne State University and was admitted to the Michigan State Bar.

Chairman Conyers began his legislative career on the staff of the late Congressman John Dingell and during this time he also served as counsel to several Detroit-area labor unions and was referee for Michigan's workmen's compensation department.

In 1964, John Conyers was first elected to represent the First Congressional District of Michigan and was reelected to the succeeding 90th Congress and the following 15 Congresses until he retired on December 5, 2017.

On the retirement of Congressman John Dingell at the end of the 113th Congress in December 2015, John Conyers became the longest-serving member of the United States Congress, serving as Dean of the House from January 3, 2015 until December 2017.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers was also the third longest-serving member of the House in history and the sixth longest-serving member of Congress in history; the second-longest serving member of either the House or Senate in Michigan history, trailing only his former boss, Congressman Dingell; and was the last member of the large Democratic freshman class of 1964 to serve in the House of Representatives.

In the more than half century he served in Congress, John Conyers was at the forefront

of most of the seminal moments in American political history, such as working to enact into law this partial list of landmark legislation:

Voting Rights of 1965
 Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare)
 Fair Housing Act of 1968
 Clean Air Act
 Clean Water Act
 Help America Vote Act
 Affordable Care Act
 Dodd-Frank Act
 American Act With Disabilities Act
 Assault Weapons Ban
 Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1982
 Drug Kingpins Act
 Fair Chance Act
 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 Social Security Amendments of 1965 (including Medicaid and Medicare)
 Voting Rights Act of 1965
 Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965
 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act
 Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
 Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments
 Freedom of Information Act
 Child Nutrition Act
 National Historic Preservation Act
 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
 Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act
 Cuban Adjustment Act
 Public Broadcasting Act of 1967
 Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
 Bilingual Education Act
 Civil Rights Act of 1968
 Consumer Credit Protection Act
 National Trails System Act
 Gun Control Act of 1968
 National Environmental Policy Act
 Organized Crime Control Act, including the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO")
 Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1970
 National Cancer Act
 Federal Election Campaign Act
 Equal Employment Opportunity Act
 War Powers Resolution
 Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act
 District of Columbia Home Rule Act
 Endangered Species Act
 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974
 Legal Services Corporation Act
 Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)
 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974
 Energy Reorganization Act of 1974
 National Mass Transportation Assistance Act
 Safe Drinking Water Act
 Privacy Act of 1974
 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 Copyright Act of 1976
 Federal Land Policy and Management Act
 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 Water Resources Development Act of 1976
 National Forest Management Act

The proposal to expand Medicare to all, a political idea gaining increasing popularity daily, was first introduced by John Conyers in 2003 as the United States National Health Insurance Act.

John Conyers served on the Judiciary Committee that investigated Watergate and voted articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon in August 1974.

John Conyers marched in the historic March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and later employed civil rights legend Rosa Parks in his congressional office until her retirement in 1988.

John Conyers was loved by his constituents, regularly winning reelection with 80 percent of the vote or more.

John Conyers is one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, which has worked diligently to strengthen African-American lawmakers' ability to address the legislative concerns of African American and minority citizens and has now increased to 55 members in the House and Senate, including myself.

While in Congress, John Conyers chaired the prestigious House Judiciary Committee from 1989 to 1995 and Oversight from 2007 to 2011, the first African American to hold these coveted positions.

Throughout his career, John Conyers used his influence to push civil rights; in 1968, only days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chairman Conyers began a long and ultimately successful effort to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, which was enacted in 1983.

John Conyers also cosponsored and worked tirelessly to pass the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which help topple South Africa's system of apartheid and free Nelson Mandela from prison.

In the 101st Congress, John Conyers introduced legislation to study the issue of reparations for slavery and was the original sponsor of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

I am proud to have assumed principal sponsorship of this piece of landmark legislative proposal and continuing the fight for justice.

John Conyers was dedicated to justice for all, he supported legislation to generate the Justice Department's national study on police brutality.

John Conyers was opposed to the imposition of the death penalty and began a series of hearings on police brutality.

As Judiciary Committee Chairman, John Conyers also worked to create and enlarge federal death benefits for police officers and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, John Conyers dedicated his life to serving his constituents and the citizens of the United States; his persistence for justice and his fight for equal rights is a testament to his character.

Chairman John Conyers will live forever in the hearts of the people of Detroit, his state of Michigan, and the United States.

John Conyers was a legislative lion whose presence will forever be missed, and we all mourn his loss and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Monica, his children, and family and friends who loved him so dearly, my deepest sympathies go out to and I hope you find consolation in the certain knowledge that John is now resting peacefully.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MS.
BRENDA JONES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Brenda Jones, who served as my communications director for over 15 years.

Ms. Jones came with a strong recommendation from my special assistant and had a resume and perspective that was unique to the United States House of Representatives. From the very first moment we met, I realized how fortunate I was to find Brenda.

Brenda Jones is a proud, native Washingtonian with a passion for social justice, history, and the arts. She studied the Civil Rights Movement, understood the challenges we faced, and dedicated her life to the work that remains. This vantage point provided a unique perspective and comprehension of the complicated matters facing my congressional district in Metro Atlanta and my work here in the United States Congress.

Before coming to Capitol Hill, Ms. Jones worked in media as a researcher for ABC News' Washington, D.C. Bureau, a writer and assistant editor at WTOP-AM News Radio, and a radio specialist of international activities for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She later transitioned to public relations where she honed her skills in developing media strategies, coordinating national book tours for civil and women rights luminaries, and launching public education campaigns.

One of the things that I most appreciate about Brenda is her constant commitment to education—whether in life or academia. I believe that her centenarian father, Mr. Robert L. Davis and her late mother, Mrs. Myrtle Mac (Bowers) Davis, planted these seeds of excellence, and in Brenda they bloomed. As a graduate of National Cathedral School, Indiana University Bloomington, and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Brenda returned to Harvard University to earn another master's degree in Public Administration, where she received the Gertrude Manley Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding leadership skills.

Ms. Jones invested her astute expertise and intellectualism in the United States House of Representatives. She brought life to her vision and took the role of communications director to new heights as she funneled depth and dignity into her work. Those, who know me, understand that I have a clear style—make it simple, make it plain. When Brenda joined my office, she made my words sing—in press releases, interviews, on the House Floor, in book forwards, in op-eds, and in speeches across the country and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Brenda quickly became the conscience of my office. For 15 years, she humbly and selflessly worked day in and day out to channel every ounce of her knowledge and experience into creating new methods of communicating and mastering uncharted territory. Ms. Jones created a national and international strategy to tell the story of my work in the Civil Rights Movement, as a Member of Congress, as a representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, and as a legislator, who found a way to get in the way—and get things done.

Since she consistently refuses to step into the limelight, I was particularly proud when the public, her peers, and colleagues began to pay tribute to this dynamic woman. In 2010, Brenda earned the prestigious Theodore C. Sorenson Speechwriting Award. In 2012, we worked together on a book, *Across that Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change*, and we won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work/Biography for her work in translating the philosophy and doctrines that inspired the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement into advice for a new generation. A few years later, the National Journal honored Ms. Jones as one of the 20 Most Powerful Women on Capitol Hill in 2015, and the Stennis Center for Public Leadership selected her as a senior fellow in the 114th Congress.

Somehow Brenda always found time to mentor aspiring professionals and build networks of kindred souls. In 2013, she founded the Capitol Hill Writers Workshop to develop the skills and art of professionals in a communal space. Brenda also served her communities—whether as a commissioner on the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., in advisory capacities for the Sustained Dialogue, Inc. and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, or on the Committee of Visitors for Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She also shared her expertise with the Democratic National Committee for national conventions and our former colleague's, Rep. John Barrow, inaugural campaign. For years, this steady stream of colleagues, mentees, and people with whom she connected across the country and around the world became a permanent part of Brenda's extended circle.

In this day and time when Congress can feel more transactional than communal, Brenda was the nucleus of the Team Lewis family. Shortly before joining my office, Brenda lost her beloved husband Dr. Martin Wilson Jones, M.D., and I often felt that she took care of us with the selfless passion and dedication that he showed her. If you were feeling down and out, we could always trust that Brenda has natural teas, organic tips, and an astrological analysis to soothe your mind, body, and soul. She was often a comfort and confidante during our darkest days and hours.

For 15 years, Ms. Jones fiercely and unequivocally advocated for me, my constituents, and my work in Congress. It was an honor to know that I had this trusted senior advisor and seasoned communications professional in my corner. Although I will miss having Ms. Brenda Jones by my side, I wish her happiness as she transitions to exciting new opportunities and inevitable success.

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW
BRADFORD

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a unique and special man, Corporal (Ret.) Matthew Bradford. Matthew is stepping down as Veterans Outreach Coordinator in my District office.

Matthew enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when he graduated from high

school and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Echo Company, 2nd Platoon. He was deployed to Iraq in 2006, and on January 18, 2007 he was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device. His severe injuries left him a blind double amputee. Matthew persevered and learned to overcome and adapt from his injuries. Matthew became the first blind amputee in history to re-enlist in the Marine Corps in 2010. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his service, his sacrifice, and his patriotism.

Matthew Bradford is a very determined individual. After his service with the Marine Corps ended, he married his "Warrior Princess" Amanda. Together they have three children. Through hard work and determination, Matthew graduated from the University of Kentucky. Matthew has found his purpose in motivating and encouraging others to overcome difficult obstacles. He spends a great deal of time speaking to groups and individuals and participating in challenging athletic events such as marathons, skydiving, surfing, hunting, and climbing 7000 feet up Mt. Rainier.

Matthew came to work in the Sixth Congressional District office in the spring of 2017, serving first as a college intern, then as a National Security Fellow, and lastly as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator. In his work in the district office, Matthew has been a strong advocate for veterans. He worked with our Veterans Coalition and it has grown tremendously under his leadership. Matthew has worked on many outreach initiatives, including a Facebook page, and has worked diligently to improve the lives of America's veterans. His work with veterans has made quite a difference. His passion, his humor, and his determination will be greatly missed.

Matthew has earned many honors, including the Purple Heart Medal, the George Van Cleve Military Leadership Award, the Gary Sinise Hope for the Warriors Award, and induction into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame. He was also invited by President Trump to attend the 2018 State of the Union Address. In his position in the Sixth District office, he has earned the respect of all his co-workers and of all the constituents with whom he interacted. He leaves a lasting legacy as a servant leader.

I am honored to call Matthew a loyal and trusted friend. I wish him all the best as he moves on to other interests. I thank Corporal Bradford for his friendship, his tireless work on behalf of the people of the Sixth District, and his outstanding service to our country.

CHAD WACHS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chad Wachs for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Chad Wachs launched AU Wireless in 2015 with a handful of neighbors to see if he could create a low-cost community broadband system. Their proof-of-concept has since grown into a full-fledged co-op with more than 300 members using the service all over town. AU Wireless works with community partners like

the American Mountaineering Center and they are helping to bring broadband into lower-income households in Golden. Because there are no shareholders, subscriber fees go back into the network. Chad, along with the board of directors, one employee, and three contrac-

tors, has accomplished all of this while serving as a full-time firefighter in another jurisdiction and as a volunteer with the Golden Fire Department.

I congratulate Chad Wachs for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan.

I thank him for his contributions to our community. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Fighting Hunger at Mines for receiving the Golden Mayor's Gold Mine Award for Excellence.