

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE FOR MOHAMMED CHOWDHURY

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mohammed K. Chowdhury, a Staten Island resident. Mr. Chowdhury is an activist, community organizer, and civil servant who has spent his life fighting to make the world a better place.

Mr. Chowdhury was born in rural Bangladesh. Beginning as a college student, he fought to better the lives of rural Bangladeshis in a whole host of areas, including education, infrastructure, healthcare, and communications. He also pushed for democratic reforms, fighting against autocratic government and ensuring that everyone would have the right to vote.

Upon moving to the United States, Mr. Chowdhury did not stop trying to better his communities. He has served as a civil servant in both the New York City and New York State systems. In both jobs, he was an active union member. He currently serves as the Council Leader for the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) Division 349.

Mr. Chowdhury has consistently fought on behalf of Staten Island's South Asian community. In 2015, he became the Staten Island Chapter Secretary of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL) in 2015. By 2016, he had risen to become the National Secretary of the ASAAL. Under his leadership, ASAAL has grown to include 12 chapters across five states.

Mr. Chowdhury's work to raise the voice for the voiceless and build coalitions between labor and community organizations should serve as an example to all of us. With a vision for the future, a desire to bring people together, and a tenacious work ethic, we truly can enact change.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Mohammed Chowdhury's work to make communities across the world, from Staten Island to rural Bangladesh, a better place.

CELEBRATING TELEGRAM NEWS- PAPER'S 75 YEARS OF LOCAL JOURNALISM

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Telegram Newspaper, a local paper serving the Wayne County communities of Detroit, Ecorse, and River Rouge.

Founded in 1944, the Telegram is a multi-cultural community newspaper that is distributed weekly with the goal of connecting citi-

zens within the region by publishing information that educates, enlightens, uplifts and empowers its readers. The Telegram has been in continuous publication since its inception and continues to be unique in its approach to providing news the community turns to for local, state and national information.

We are especially proud of the Telegram's legacy as an African American-owned and run business and its outstanding commitment to the communities it serves. Their staff has developed partnerships with local schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, and city governments. They also participate in volunteer opportunities and provide media sponsorships for community events. The Telegram is helping to prepare the next generation of media personnel by establishing internship programs with local colleges & high schools. They expose youth to newspapers through the Newspapers in Education Program and Write Steps Internship Program.

Please join me in saluting publisher Gina Steward and the Telegram Newspaper for seventy-five years of local reporting.

IN MEMORY OF MR. LARRY N. WOFFORD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great man and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. Larry N. Wofford. Larry passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and a funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Vance Brooks Funeral Home in Phenix City, Alabama.

A native son of Columbus, Georgia, Larry was born on August 1, 1944, to the union of the late Claude Newton Wofford and Zola Coker Wofford. He was retired from AT&T where he faithfully worked for over 47 years. During his distinguished career, he served as President, Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local No. 3212 for over 38 years; President, CWA Retirees for over five years; member of five Bargaining Committees; member of Telephone Pioneers of America; President, Chattahoochee Valley Labor Council for four years; and was actively involved with the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes in LaGrange, Georgia for over 25 years. Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Larry paid his rent and he paid it well!

He will be remembered for his insightful and optimistic spirit, his passion for helping others, and his immense love for his family. He leaves behind a great legacy in how life should be lived and warm cherished memories in the lives of those who knew him.

While he was preceded in death by his parents, he is survived by his loving wife, Sue,

and a host of family, friends, and colleagues in the labor movement, who will miss him dearly. On a personal note, I am proud to have called Larry my friend. He was always encouraging and supportive of my career in the Georgia General Assembly and in the United States Congress and I will be forever grateful for his friendship, advice, and counsel over the years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with my wife, Vivian; and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in saluting Mr. Larry N. Wofford for his lifelong dedication to serving working men and women and humankind in general. I would also like to ask my colleagues in the House to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Larry's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RETIREMENT OF MS. PAULA KOCHER BARNES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ms. Paula Kocher Barnes on her retirement from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and for her decades of public service.

For over 40 years, Ms. Barnes served our country—most recently as deputy associate general counsel for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Office of the General Counsel located in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

It took some time for Ms. Barnes to make her way to our wonderful city. A native daughter of Iowa, Ms. Barnes completed her undergraduate degree at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. She continued her studies at Emory University's School of Law, where I believe Metro Atlanta infused her spirit. Ms. Barnes began a career in federal service at the Department of Education in 1980 and joined the HHS Office of the General Counsel in the Region IV Atlanta Office a couple of years later.

After five years in the regional office, Ms. Barnes transitioned to the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), where she continued her federal career for the next 32 years. During her tenure with the ATSDR, Ms. Barnes served on the front lines of implementing policy at the intersection of environment and health policy, an issue that is near and dear to my heart. As an attorney-advisor, Ms. Barnes worked to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, a monumental bill which became public law the same year that I was elected to Congress.

As a senior attorney, Ms. Barnes continued this important effort by providing key counsel

• 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.

for interagency initiatives and memoranda on environmental health policy. In January 2014, the Centers for Disease Control promoted Ms. Barnes to the prominent position of deputy associate general counsel for the CDC/ATSDR Branch. Over the years, she contributed to litigation efforts regarding the Agent Orange exposure studies, the Federal Advisory Committee Act-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Diesel Study, Freedom of Information Act, ATSDR cost recovery, and the precedential Hanford Downwinders case.

Ms. Barnes also managed to find the time to advance scholarship and policy in her professional field by contributing to numerous publications, including two prominent public health law textbooks and several articles. In addition, she served as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University's and Emory University's law schools and as a guest lecturer at Duke University.

During her esteemed career, Ms. Barnes played a critical role in several significant public health activities and events, including emergency responses to the September 11th tragedy, anthrax threats, Ebola Virus, Zika, and several major natural disasters. Our nation and the global family are forever grateful for Ms. Barnes and so many other CDC employees who help keep us safe, healthy, and alive.

Today, I would like to thank Ms. Barnes for her 41 years of federal service, for her dedication to public health, public service, and education. As she prepares for a well-deserved retirement, I wish Ms. Barnes the very best as she embarks upon this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, on December 3–4, 2019, I was absent from the House chamber. I remained in my district in South Carolina to attend to a family matter. Accordingly, I was unable to vote on five legislative measures on the floor.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Aye on Roll Call No. 643: H. Res. 546, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Disapproving the Russian Federations inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

Aye on Roll Call No. 644 S. 178, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unifed Response Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 645: H. Res. 739, On Motion Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 646: H. Res. 739, On Agreeing to the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 647: S. 151, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
WHITNEY DOTSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time community advocate, Whitney Dotson.

Whitney Dotson's commitment to the good of his community is demonstrated by his career with the East Bay Regional Park District. Beginning as an appointed member of the Park District Advisory Committee, he later was elected to the Board of Directors where he worked on his passion for parks and health.

During his many years on the Board of Directors, Whitney has supported several significant projects, including the Atlas Road Bridge at Point Pinole, restoration of Albany Beach, and preservation of the North Richmond Shoreline. He also supported the completion of two Bay Trails, one between Pinole Shores and Bayfront Park and the other between Berkeley and Albany. Director Dotson fought to prevent commercial and residential development of the Breuner Marsh at Point Pinole, which was renamed the Dotson Family Marsh. Through this project, Director Dotson was able to continue the work of his father, Reverend Richard Dotson, to keep the marsh a natural place for everyone in the community to enjoy. Director Dotson has been described by his colleagues as tirelessly pursuing environmental protections in his community.

Director Dotson's service extends beyond his work with the East Bay Regional Park District. He is the president of the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, Associate Director of the Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Group. Throughout his tenure with the East Bay Regional Park District and through his philanthropic work, Director Dotson has fought to preserve open space and ensure a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.

Director Dotson departs the East Bay Regional Park District with a legacy of championing the environmental well-being of his community. We wish him great luck and joy in retirement.

IN HONOR OF LADY LIBERTY DAY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, the following Proclamation is in honor of Lady Liberty Day:

Whereas, in 1986, the City started planning, a pavilion that would showcase three flag poles—one for the American flag, the State flag and initially the Texas Sesquicentennial flag; and

Whereas, the pavilion was to provide a base structure for the placement of the Lady Liberty statue and to light flag poles at night; and

Whereas, on December 7, 1986, with a deep sense of pride in our state's heritage, Forney held its Sesquicentennial Flag Dedication ceremony commemorating a new City landmark and gateway to the City; and

Whereas, due to highway reconfiguration and construction, the monument and flag poles had to be taken down until they could be placed in a new location; and

Whereas, today, 33 years later, the City is proud to be able to re-dedicate the redesigned and rebuilt Lady Liberty Monument, bringing back a much-loved City landmark and gateway to the City; therefore, be it

Resolved, I, Lance Gooden, representative of the 5th District of Texas, do hereby recognize the 7th day of December 2019, as Lady Liberty Day.

RECOGNIZING ILLINOIS STATE
TROOPER TODD HANNEKEN OF
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DISTRICT 10

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Illinois State Trooper Todd Hanneken for his heroic service on May 8, 2018. On that day Trooper Todd Hanneken was on the scene of a previous accident on the northbound lane of Interstate 57 when suddenly a semi-truck slammed into the last vehicle in line. The vehicle, driven by Andrew Bergan, burst into flames as it was thrust forward into the car in front of it. When Mr. Bergan's truck came to rest, the cab was engulfed in flames and its doors were blocked. As others attempted to keep the fire at bay, Trooper Hanneken kicked out the windshield and, with the help of two others, pulled Mr. Bergan to safety. The quick response saved Mr. Bergan's life.

In recognition of Trooper Hanneken's actions that day, he was awarded the Medal of Honor on October 30, 2019. This honor is awarded to Illinois State Police personnel who "perform a heroic act that by its nature results in saving a life, preventing a serious crime or apprehending a person who committed a serious crime." Since the events of May 8, 2018, Trooper Hanneken has called Mr. Bergan several times, visited the hospital and met with his parents, while Mr. Bergan was present for the awarding of the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Trooper Todd Hanneken for his heroism. His dedication to duty and to his fellow man is an inspiration to us all. I wish him the very best, along with all of the survivors of the crash that day.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men

and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, law, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to three extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Sheerine Karamzadeh, Texas Tech University; Elisabeth Foster, University of Texas; and Alejandro Izaguirre, St. Edward's University.

Madam Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright, and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH
BIRTHDAY OF JEAN WEST

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Jean West, a long-time resident of Detroit, Michigan, who will celebrate her eightieth birthday on December 11, 2019.

Ms. West has always been an engaged and active member of her community. She draws her strength from her family and community. As the matriarch of her family, she has always strived to uphold values that reflect strength, dedication and community and serves as a role model for her children and loved ones. Her strong family values are reflected in the life she leads and her willingness to always do for others.

Ms. West has never shied away from standing up for what she believes in. As an advocate, she doggedly pursues better for her community. She has remained active in the fight for civil rights, working with organizations like the NAACP to ensure equity for people of color and for her community. She continues to fight for a better community. Whether it's advocating for resources or uplifting her neighbors, it is clear that she believes in the good of people and future of Detroit.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Jean West the happiest of birthdays.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HATSUKO "SUSIE" KUSAKA

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Hatsuko "Susie" Kusaka from the City of Anaheim, California.

Born on November 14, 1919 in Rexburg, Idaho, Mrs. Kusaka has lived a rich life: raising a family, tending to crops of potatoes and strawberries, and caring for guests at the Disneyland Hotel.

Susie spent most of her childhood in Southern California and Japan. After marrying Shuichi Kusaka, she moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where she and her husband ran a potato farm. During that time, their four children—Warren, Alice, Ted, and Naomi—were born.

In 1953, the family moved to California, settling in Anaheim, where they made a living as strawberry farmers.

In 1978, at age 59, Susie began a second career with Disneyland Hotel. In 1987, she was named national "Room Keeper of the Year" by the American Hotel Association. She retired in 2009 after 22 years of hard work and dedication. In June of 2016, she moved into Walnut Village Retirement Community in Anaheim.

Along with enjoying her community's many amenities, she delights in visits from her family members, including her grandson, Brian, and a granddaughter-in-law, Katharine.

Please join me in wishing my constituent, Susie Hatsuko a happy 100th birthday and many more years of good health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DITSLEAR

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Ditslear on his retirement from the Office of Mayor of Noblesville, Indiana. A well-respected public servant, Mayor Ditslear's career has been defined by his steadfast leadership of Noblesville. His many decades of public service in a number of different roles has greatly impacted the community and its citizens.

A native son of Dublin, Ohio, Mayor Ditslear graduated from my alma mater, Miami Univer-

sity in Oxford, Ohio, with a degree in finance. After graduation, Mayor Ditslear chose to serve his country by joining the United States Navy. Serving in the early 1960s, at a time of tumultuous international relations, Mayor Ditslear and his fellow sailors were tasked with transporting their Marine and Army counterparts to active theaters in Vietnam. During this time in the United States Navy, Mayor Ditslear rose to the rank of lieutenant while developing his leadership and situational management skills.

After completing his naval service, Mayor Ditslear moved to Noblesville in 1966, where he invested a great deal of time in his community as a volunteer. He served as a board member for many community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Noblesville Boys & Girls Club, Riverview Hospital Foundation, Hamilton East Public Library and the United Way of Hamilton County. Ever the leader, Mayor Ditslear is also a past president of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Noblesville Redevelopment Commission, the Life Underwriter's Association and the Indianapolis chapter of Chartered Life Underwriters. It is clear that Mayor Ditslear's service to the citizens of Noblesville has reached far beyond his time in public office.

After his service in the Navy, Mayor Ditslear entered into the business world joining the American United Life Insurance Company in Indianapolis. His success in the insurance business led him to start his own company Ditslear Insurance, with offices in Indianapolis and Noblesville. After many prosperous years, Ditslear Insurance merged into the Ditslear Elmer Group, where success continued.

Mayor Ditslear made his initial foray into elected office with three terms on the Noblesville School Board, from 1984 to 1992 and then again from 2000 to 2004. This experience helped to prepare Mayor Ditslear for the rigors of serving in higher public office. When the opportunity presented itself in 2003, he chose to run for mayor of Noblesville, a race that he would go on to win against four general election opponents.

After assuming the Office of Mayor of Noblesville in 2004, and later joining the Republican Party, Mayor Ditslear would lead the city in continued growth over his four terms and became the longest tenured mayor in the history of Noblesville. His successful stewardship of the local economy has had major impacts on both the operations of the city and its citizens. Since 2004, the assessed value of the taxable property increased 134 percent from \$2.4 billion to \$6.04 billion today. By 2016, the population of Noblesville grew by over 10,000 people to more than 60,000 residents. This growth led to the school system adding additional schools to support the younger population and helping to improve access to education.

Mayor Ditslear led several quality of life initiatives, resulting in the development of Hamilton Town Center, and Federal Commons in addition to four new parks. Mayor Ditslear also worked to increase the amount of outdoor walking trails 183 percent by extending the Midland Trace Trail from Westfield to the center of Noblesville. His focus on the heart of the city also included renovating the downtown area through facade grants and road improvements and a focus on the White River. The Riverwalk Trail project provides a walkway down to the White River and provides citizens

the opportunity to enjoy nature. Mayor Ditslear was also instrumental in attracting SMC, a Japanese pneumatic technology company, to make a massive investment in the Noblesville community creating over 600 new jobs by locating their North American headquarters to the city.

As Noblesville continued to grow and expand to new heights under Mayor Ditslear's leadership, the Mayor and his team also led initiatives with fellow civic leaders and local business owners to maintain the vitality and attractiveness of downtown Noblesville. A long-time sector of commerce in the city, and the location of the Hamilton County Seat since 1824, downtown Noblesville has been the epicenter of Hamilton County since its inception. Working with groups such as Noblesville Main Street and various local businesses, Mayor Ditslear was able to encourage continued growth and revitalization of downtown Noblesville. Initiatives such as First Fridays, Jazz on the Square, and Small Business Saturdays, helped to build a sense of community that has made downtown Noblesville the focal point of life in the city once again.

By focusing on the infrastructure of the city, improving parks and community spaces, promoting quality education, and even playing a role in founding the Roots of Life Community Church with his wife, Head Pastor Teri Ditslear, Mayor Ditslear has impacted his city as both a government official and a committed, longtime resident.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I thank Mayor Ditslear for his many years of service to the city and people of Noblesville, Indiana. I wish him, his wife and fellow civic leader, Pastor Teri Ditslear, and his family the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, on S. 151, the TRACED Act, I was unable to cast my vote as I was giving a eulogy of a close friend and mayor in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 647.

HONORING MAJOR JEREMY PARR

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Jeremy Parr for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Major Parr is transitioning from his current assignment to serve as a Battalion Operations Officer at Fort Hood, Texas.

Hailing from Corpus Christi, Texas, Major Parr was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps from Army ROTC in 2007. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Distribution from Texas A&M University and a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University.

Major Parr served in a broad range of assignments during his 12 years as an Army officer. He has served in one combat deployment to Iraq with Task Force 2–16 Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

I had the privilege of working with Major Parr, who served as a fellow in my office, throughout 2017 and during his succeeding assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Parr diligently coordinated with Members of Congress and their staffs to articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, performance and commitment to the mission, as both a fellow and liaison, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on members and staff of the United States Congress.

Throughout his career, Major Parr has positively impacted soldiers, peers and superiors. Our country has benefited from his leadership, judgment and passion for the Army profession.

The foundation of Jeremy's success is his family. His wife, Yulia, and his children, Joshua, Evan and Alexander, are the light of his life. In addition, Jeremy's parents, Debra and Earl, exemplify the selflessness and humility that characterize the families of all of our service members.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Jeremy Parr since the first session of the 115th Congress. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Jeremy for service to our country and wish him all the best as he continues his service in the United States Army.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOBOSCO ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the history of the Lobosco Association, which will celebrate the 60th Lobosco Association Christmas Party on December 8, 2019 in Fredon, New Jersey. Four generations will gather to celebrate the strength of their family. They remain bound by the ideals of the first Loboscocos who immigrated to this great nation and, through their sacrifices, enabled their descendants to attain the American Dream.

The Association has helped the Loboscocos support one another, gather together, and strengthen the bonds of family. Family has been a constant throughout the years. The Association's dedication to Italian-American history and culture has kept its members deeply rooted to their shared ties and able to continue growing towards the future.

The Association began on April 28, 1957, when the descendants of Michele and Vincenza Lobosco first organized the group. They formed the Lobosco Association to strengthen the bonds of family and lend support to one another. The family's journey to Paterson, New Jersey, began with the early death of the family's patriarch, Michele. From their humble beginnings in Sala Consilina, Italy, seven of the ten surviving children came to Paterson to establish new roots and provide their children with greater opportunities. An-

gelo came in 1912 at age 19, followed by Rosario, Michele, Luigi, Giuseppina, Attilio, and Emilio. They overcame language barriers and limited resources in a country that considered them foreigners. Their family cohesion, drive, and determination helped them to persevere and lay a foundation for a prosperous future for their descendants. As the family grew, the Association was formed to help maintain the close ties they shared.

To keep the family together, the Association has organized various festivities, picnics, and trips, the most enduring of which is now the annual Christmas Party. Since the first one on December 21, 1958, the Lobosco Association Christmas Party has been an opportunity for generations of Lobosco family members to share in the joy of the season and family company. For 60 years, the descendants of Michele and Vincenza have continued the tradition of a Christmas Party to instill in younger generations an appreciation for the meaning of family. They come to connect with seldom-seen family members, meet new ones, celebrate their heritage, instill pride, and keep the family spirit alive.

As Members of Congress, we have the deeply rewarding opportunity to learn about and recognize groups like the Lobosco Association. They represent great American stories. Their contributions have strengthened this country for many years and will continue to strengthen it for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in this chamber to join me in recognizing the members and friends of the Lobosco Association and wishing them a joyous 60th Lobosco Association Christmas Party this holiday season.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JERRY BROWN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa, Jerry Brown.

After a decade of leadership at the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) where he served the people of our county, Jerry will be leaving at the end of the year. His 18 years at CCWD were supported by his strong educational background in mechanical engineering, civil engineering, and business administration. Prior to joining us in the Bay Area, Jerry started his career with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

During his tenure with CCWD, Jerry held various leadership positions and was appointed General Manager in September 2010. Throughout his career, he has worked in the water planning industry to ensure the proper management of water system facilities and secure water quality and supply to the public.

Jerry has influenced state and federal water policy through his participation on various boards and committees such as the Bay Area Council, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, and the California Urban Water Agencies. Above all, Jerry has placed his focus on customer service. Some of his notable achievements during his time with CCWD include constructing resilient and climate-adapted facilities and cultivating a strong safety culture within the organization.

Jerry has been a strong partner and advocate for the needs of the Delta, and I have enjoyed our working relationship. Please join me in congratulating Jerry for his dedicated service, and in wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, December 3rd, and Wednesday, December 4th.

On Roll Call Vote No. 643, on passage of H. Res. 546, disapproving the Russian Federation inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 644, on passage of S. 178, the Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act (UGHUR Act), if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 645, on ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 739, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 646, on passage of H. Res. 739, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

On Roll Call Vote No. 647, on passage of S. 151, the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, if I had been present, I would have voted YES.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FRANCES BARBER McCOMMONS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Frances Barber McCommons from the City of Anaheim, California.

Born on November 10, 1919 in McCrory, Arkansas, Frances has lived a rich and blessed life filled with raising her five children and serving others in her neighborhood and at her church where she was a Sunday School teacher of 4- and 5-year-olds for more than 50 years.

Frances spent her childhood in Arkansas as the eldest of seven children. She graduated at 16 as class salutatorian. At 18, Frances married her childhood sweetheart, J.R. McCommons, and started life as a farmer's wife. Frances, J.R., and their first four children were honored in 1949 as "The Farm Family of the Year for Woodruff County." Frances and J.R. were married 58 years and were true life partners.

In 1955, the family moved to California, settling in Anaheim, where they lived in a neighborhood in East Anaheim surrounded by or-

ange groves. It was here that they had another child. All five of their children would later attend and graduate from Anaheim High School.

Frances and J.R. were lay leaders in the Orange County Southern Baptist Association and helped start two churches: Crescent Southern Baptist Church in Anaheim and Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Orange.

In 1966, Frances and J.R.'s son, Michael McCommons, was killed in Vietnam while serving in the United States Army. He was posthumously awarded The Bronze Star with the V Device for Valor and Heroism in Combat and The Purple Heart. As a Gold Star Mother, Frances served veterans' organizations and worked with other Gold Star Mothers to support veterans and families of those who were killed in service to their county.

For many years, Frances's personal ministry was encouraging and celebrating others' achievements, birthdays, and other life events through personal notes, cards, and letters. Frances remained involved in the lives of the children she taught in Sunday School and continued to celebrate their lives with them through adulthood.

Her life revolves around her immediate family and her large extended family, including eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is still an avid reader and remains interested in current events and the news. As someone whose livelihood was once dependent on the farm, Frances still loves watching the changes in the weather.

Please join me in wishing my constituent, Frances Barber McCommons, a happy 100th birthday and many more years of good health and happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANK MERGER REVIEW MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Bank Merger Review Modernization Act.

When big banks get bigger, consumers and taxpayers usually end up losing.

Unprecedented concentration in the banking sector is hurting consumers, who pay more for critical financial services when their banks are merged out of existence. Since the 1980s, consolidation has swept the banking industry, with the number of FDIC-insured banks in the United States dropping from more than 15,000 in 1984 to less than 5,000 in 2018. Numerous studies have shown that bank mergers are associated with higher costs of credit, reductions in lending, and decreases in small business formation and local property prices.

Concentration in the banking sector also poses risks to financial stability. A wave of bank mergers by Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan, and Wells Fargo in the late 1990s created the "too-big-to-fail" banks that became so central to the 2008 financial crisis.

Rather than scrutinizing the considerable risks that bank mergers pose, the regulatory agencies tasked with reviewing these mergers have increasingly "rubber stamped" them. Bank merger approval rates are at historic highs.

Last month, the Federal Reserve and FDIC approved the largest merger since the crash when they gave the green light to the merger between BB&T and SunTrust.

I am concerned that the reviewing agencies are not giving adequate attention to the systemic risks that these giant megabanks pose. I am also concerned that the considerable harms to consumers are not being considered when mergers are reviewed. The Bank Merger Review Modernization Act strengthens the bank merger review process to give the CFPB and consumers a voice, and to require that the systemic costs of too big to fail institutions are taken into full account.

I urge this body to curb the creation of too big to fail banks and pass this bill.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER FOSS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the dutiful work of my constituent, Dublin City Manager Christopher Foss, on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 40 years of service in local government.

Chris began his career in local government as a deputy city manager for Burbank, California, where he eventually served as the economic development director. In these roles, he enriched Burbank's economy and local business environment.

In 1999, Chris began serving as the economic development director for my hometown of Dublin. He implemented a variety of economic development programs to bolster and retain the business community. Under Chris, Dublin's economy flourished, and his work has had a lasting impact on the economic endurance and vitality of the Tri-Valley.

Chris served five years as assistant city manager before being promoted to city manager in 2014. His five-and-a-half-year tenure as city manager can be characterized by his superb relationship building, sound fiscal practices, and collaborative leadership style.

Under Chris' leadership, Dublin vastly expanded its network of parks, constructed a new affordable housing project as well as key commercial projects, and increased its footprint in the medical and biotech communities.

Our community also has Chris to thank for the construction of several community facilities. One such example is the School of Imagination, to serve children with special needs. The influx of new jobs and services through these projects supports the sustainability of economic progress in our community.

Chris draws support from his amazing family. That network includes his loving wife Lisa, son Jordan, daughter-in-law Lizzie, and grandson Henry.

I want to thank Chris for the contributions he has made to the communities he has served, especially Dublin. His passionate leadership and enduring commitment to our community are very much appreciated.

RECOGNIZING JERRY REVISH

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Ohio's Third Congressional District, I salute Jerry Revish on his illustrious broadcasting career of 42 years.

In 1972, Jerry got his start in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio at WBBW Radio and in June 1980 he became a reporter for WBNS-TV.

Over the course of his more than four decades in journalism, Jerry won 13 Emmy awards, four Edward R. Murrow Awards, and the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In addition, he was recognized by the Associated Press for best feature, best documentary and best spot news coverage; honored with the Carl Day Award for Outstanding Achievement; and was the recipient of the Best International Reporting Award from the National Association of Black Journalists for a series of reports on the liberation of Haiti and a half-hour documentary on the new South Africa.

His reporting skills have taken him around the world.

He was the first Columbus TV reporter to go to Saudi Arabia to cover the Persian Gulf War, and he has reported from Haiti, Barbados, South Africa, Bosnia, Bahrain, Cuba, and Japan.

Among his numerous career highlights, Jerry covered many national political conventions, Ohio State University bowl games, the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, the Lucasville State Prison Riot, and the September 11th terrorist attack. He also interviewed President Barack Obama and helped Columbus bodybuilder Walter Smith—wrongfully convicted of rape—win his freedom through DNA testing.

In 2005, Jerry was inducted into the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Outside of the newsroom, Jerry is the founder and senior pastor of the Unity Temple Church of God in Christ in Columbus, Ohio alongside his wife of 45 years, Danielle.

As he signs off at 10TV, I salute Jerry Revish for his commitment to excellence and service to Central Ohio—and wish him all the best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SEBASTIAN J. ARESKO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to a very special member of the Middlefield, Connecticut community, Sebastian J. Aresco, who lost his battle with cancer late last week. Public servant, veteran, friend, and mentor, Seb's loss will be felt by many.

Born in Middletown, Connecticut, Seb was a member of the United States Air Force and

proudly served our country with distinction during the Vietnam War. He did not speak a lot about his time in the service, however, he spent countless hours with his fellow veterans throughout his life. He could often be found at events and programs sponsored by the local VFW. Seb was also very dedicated member of the Saint Colman Church community. In his professional life, Seb was a proud employee of the State of Connecticut—an auditor with the State Treasurer's office for several decades before his retirement just a few years ago. In his spare time, he could often be found at the shore, enjoying a day of fishing, grabbing a lobster or whole belly clam roll at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale, or simply enjoying the tranquil beauty of the ocean.

Seb took great pride in his military and state service, but he was perhaps best known for his work in the political arena. He was raised to understand the importance of our political process and his life experiences highlighted them even more so. He wanted to make a difference in his community, and he did so through the art of politics. He served on various Boards and Commissions in Middlefield, but it was his leadership as the Chair of the local Democratic Party—a position which he held for more than thirty years—where Seb excelled. Seb was one of those rare individuals who volunteered his time, energy, and even his home to ensure that every member of his community was encouraged to participate in the political process. He was a mentor to many as they became involved in local government and navigated elected office. He also had a unique understanding of how local, state, and federal government could work together to improve the quality of life for all. Though Middlefield is one of the smaller communities in Connecticut, Seb's dedication, passion, and commitment earned him the respect and admiration of political leaders across the state.

Put simply, Seb was one of the good ones. He had a quiet strength and heart of gold. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have known him and to have called him my friend. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, and the community to which he dedicated so much of his time and energies. His tireless efforts as a veteran, state employee, and community leader made a real difference in the lives of others and I am honored to have this opportunity to stand and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Sebastian J. Aresco. I extend my deepest sympathies to his daughters, Amanda and Andrea, as well as his long-time companion, Joan, at this most difficult time, and hope that they can find comfort in knowing that Seb's legacy of public service, generosity, and kindness will continue to inspire all of those privileged enough to have known him.

CELEBRATING RIVER ROUGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a hearty congratulations to the River Rouge High School Football on winning their first-ever state championship.

In a dramatic game, the River Rouge Panthers prevailed over setbacks early on to defeat a formidable opponent. This hard-earned victory is a testament to the countless hours of training put in by this dedicated team, as well as the support of its coaches and parents. As legendary basketball Coach Phil Jackson once said, "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

Please join me in recognizing the River Rouge High School football team, Coach Corey Parker for this outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SEAN CASEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time community advocate, Sean Casey as he begins retirement.

Sean Casey has dedicated his life and career to children and families. After graduating from Oberlin College and getting his master's degrees from UC Berkeley in both social welfare and public health, Sean worked at UC San Francisco, developing better data and analysis for maternal and child health programs. He also created Fetal/Infant Mortality Review programs in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Quickly after joining First 5, Sean became Contra Costa's Executive Director. Throughout his tenure, First 5 Contra Costa provided life-changing services to over 500 families.

While he was Executive Director, Sean oversaw the development of a county-wide preschool planning process which implemented a Quality Rating and Improvement System. He supported the development of three parent advocacy groups, which identified and addressed issues related to early childhood development including affordable housing, immigrant and racial justice, and the safety of neighborhood parks.

Sean also worked to establish Contra Costa County's Help Me Grow system to help parents identify potential developmental challenges their children may have and connect them with the necessary resources and services. He also developed Ready Kids, which helps young children prepare for kindergarten and their academic lives. On top of that, he helped establish the Children's Leadership Council, the Family Economic Security Partnership, the Early Learning Leadership Group, the Budget Justice Coalition, and the Contra Costa Funders Forum. Sean also served as the Chair of the First 5 Association.

Sean has always been a leader in the community and someone I have enjoyed working with greatly. Over my years in public service, I have visited First 5 and many of the other programs he is associated with and am always impressed by the impact he has on the children and families he works with. As he retires from First 5, we wish him well knowing that his legacy will continue to enrich the lives of Contra Costa families. We wish him great luck and joy in retirement.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
GEORGE WOLFBERG

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mr. George Wolfberg, a longtime community leader in California's 33rd Congressional District who will receive the Pride of the Palisades award from the Pacific Palisades Community Council. George worked for the City of Los Angeles for 37 years and played a hand in its bid for the 1984 Summer Olympics, divestment from South Africa over apartheid, and rewriting of the city charter.

Born on April 22, 1938 to Bernard Wolfberg and Leah Wolfberg, George was raised in Los Angeles, attending Los Angeles High School and the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his degree in political science. George and his wife, Diane, married on February 9, 1964 and went on to have three children: Anya, David, and Michael, and four grandchildren.

George began working for the city of Los Angeles in 1961 in the City Administrative Office, where he eventually rose to Chief Administrative Analyst, the highest non-appointed position in the office. In that role, he prepared Los Angeles' successful bid for the 1984 Summer Olympics and worked to ensure infrastructure upgrades were completed for the event. He also administered the City's anti-apartheid program, overseeing the research necessary to ensure successful divestment from South Africa under apartheid. Even after he retired, George continued to play an outsized role in city government, serving as City Charter Commission Research Director and co-authoring the City's administrative code.

The neighborhood of Pacific Palisades in some ways owes George a debt for its development. George helped craft and implement the Los Angeles Community Plan that has guided the growth and land use of Pacific Palisades and will for years to come. In addition to serving as Chair, Chair-Emeritus, and Vice Chair on the Pacific Palisades Community Council, he served on the board of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association and Portrero Canyon Park citizens advisory committee, calling attention to the importance of proper landscape design and infrastructure. Even from his bed in the ICU this past September, George has been contacting Los Angeles city staff and officials to support a new park in his neighborhood.

George's passion for engaging the youth is evident through his work on the Los Angeles

County Bicycle Advisory Committee, service as a Watts Friendship Sports League commissioner following the 1992 riots, and efforts with the local American Youth Soccer Organization, where he was a National Referee still overseeing games as recently as last year. George has also received numerous awards for his volunteer work, including the Pacific Palisades Community Council's Citizen of the Year award in 2011.

George's impact in Los Angeles and Pacific Palisades is remarkable and inspiring. I want to thank and recognize George for his efforts to improve his community and outstanding leadership throughout his career.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 742

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the important successes of the Food for Peace Act. Since 1954, Food for Peace has provided life-saving food assistance to some of the world's most vulnerable people. While it has already saved the lives of millions, there is more work to be done. Tens of millions of children suffer from the effects of malnutrition, while natural disasters, civil strife and other crises put food supplies at risk every year.

I have introduced H. Res. 742 to mark these important achievements and call for continued appropriations prioritization of Food for Peace. This resolution has strong bipartisan support and also the support of a number of interested organizations, including Action Against Hunger, Alliance to End Hunger, American Maritime Congress, American Maritime Officers, American Maritime Officers Service, American Soybean Association, Bread for the World, Breedlove Foods, Inc., Bunge, CARE USA, Cargill, Incorporated, Didion Milling, Edesia, Feed the Children, Food for the Hungry, InterAction, Land O'Lakes Venture37, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID), Masters, Mates & Pilots Union, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, National Milk Producers Federation, Navy League of the United States, Seafarers International Union, The Borgen Project, The Port of Virginia, Transportation Institute, UNICEF USA, USA Rice, World Food Program USA, World Initiative for Soy in Human Health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, on December 4, 2019, my vote did not register on the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act (S. 151) due to a technical malfunction. I wish the record to reflect my "AYE" vote for call No. 647.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED
HAMPTON AND MARK CLARK

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of Fred Hampton.

Mr. Hampton was only 21 years old when he was murdered by the Chicago Police Department and the FBI as he slept in his bedroom. The Chicago Police fired between 82 and 99 rounds into his apartment the night of his murder.

Although we lost a powerful fighter for justice on December 4, 1969, Mr. Hampton's commitment to social, racial, and economic justice and his legacy of helping the disenfranchised did not die with him.

Working predominately on the South and West Sides of Chicago, Mr. Hampton and the Black Panther Party provided free medical services and implemented a free lunch program that fed 4,000 children daily. These social programs were valuable resources to these underserved communities.

The Black Panther Movement shed a spot light on the disparities between the races. Mr. Hampton understood that many of the social injustices stemmed from an unjust political system and fought hard to change it.

Mr. Hampton's cruel murder was the catalyst for a political awakening that resulted in the unprecedented election of several African-American mayors like Harold Washington of Chicago in 1983; Wilson Goode of Philadelphia in 1984; Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore in 1988; and David Dinkins of New York City in 1989.

Mr. Hampton was the champion for the disadvantaged and I am proud to honor his legacy.