

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HAROLD WILLIAM
“BUD” MARESKO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Harold William “Bud” Maresko, of Crown Point, who passed away on October 17, 2019, at the age of 91. Mr. Maresko's military service to our nation and his dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana is noteworthy and admirable. While he will be truly missed by his family and friends, the impact he has had on his community will live on for generations to come.

Harold William Maresko was born in East Chicago, Indiana. He attended Tolleston High School in Gary, Indiana, before joining the United States Merchant Marine at the age of seventeen. Serving during World War II, Bud transported ammunitions, equipment, and supplies to the Allied Forces on six different liberty ships. Following his discharge in 1946, Bud worked as a crane operator at US Steel in Gary. In 1951, Bud was drafted into the United States Army during the peak of the Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. He was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where he received military communications training. In 1952, Bud was deployed to Germany and was assigned to the 7th Army (5th Corps), 816th Battalion, which was attached to the 30th FA Group. The unit trained at USAG Baumholder and was stationed in Darmstadt. In 1953, Bud was discharged from the United States Army. He went on to graduate from Merrillville High School in 1965 and then became a telephone repairman for AT&T, where he worked for thirty-five years until his retirement from his position of Repair Foreman. Post retirement, Bud worked for Gary Methodist Hospitals as a Communications Director, overseeing the installation and maintenance of the phone systems, a position he held for ten years.

Bud is most remembered for his willingness to lend a hand or his assistance with solving a problem. He was also a devoted fisherman who always owned a boat and loved to be on the water. Harold was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his wonderful wife, Grace, and their two beloved children, William A. Maresko and his wife, Elizabeth, and Laura Ann Low and her husband, Kevin, as well as two amazing grandchildren. He also leaves to cherish his memory many other dear family members and friends, as well as a saddened but grateful community.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Harold William “Bud” Maresko for his outstanding service to the United States military and for his devotion to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. Bud's life of

service is truly commendable, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING BUFFY SMITH OF
HELENA

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Buffy Smith of Helena for encouraging female students to study computer science and for emphasizing the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Buffy grew up in and graduated high school in Gardiner. She then went to Carroll College where she majored in English and minored in Computer Science. Following her undergraduate studies, she earned a secondary high school teaching endorsement in computer science. It was there she found her call to teach.

As an educator for 27 years, Buffy is breaking down barriers, paving the way for female and minority students to find their way into computer science.

This year, Buffy received the National Educator Award from the National Center for Women and Information Technology. The award honors educators who encourage underrepresented students to participate in computer science. Buffy won statewide awards in 2014, 2015, and 2017.

When Buffy began teaching, she thought she would focus mostly on academics. Years later, she came to believe the relationships developed in the classroom are as critical.

With her commitment to her students and her knowledge of computer science, Buffy has created an all-inclusive approach to the subject. She prioritizes encouraging students to work with others who have different views and thus enhance the outcome of a project.

Buffy mentors' girls in her class and encourages them to explore computer science and technology careers. She says, as with her classroom, computer science and other STEM fields can only improve with greater diversification.

Madam Speaker, for her dedication to educating Montana students and for encouraging more young people, particularly young women, to study computer science and other STEM fields, I recognize Buffy Smith of Helena for her Spirit of Montana.

CONGRATULATING WASHOE RTC
CEO LEE GIBSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lee Gibson on his retire-

ment from the Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), where he served as Chief Executive Officer since September 2009.

Having begun his career at Washoe RTC during the height of the Great Recession, Mr. Gibson immediately restructured the agency's transit service to cut costs, preserve service, and build a stronger footing toward sustainability.

With a career spanning 36 years, Mr. Gibson has become a recognized leader in the transportation community, earning some of the highest awards from the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), including the prestigious DeBoer Award for his planning leadership in Nevada. Mr. Gibson has also served on the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Board of Directors, as Chairman of its Policy and Planning Committee, and as an APTA speaker on performance-based planning.

During his tenure at the Washoe RTC, Mr. Gibson's organizational leadership, planning policies, and innovative project delivery methods have successfully resulted in well over \$750 million of multimodal highway projects in Washoe County, eventually leading the RTC to earn a Silver-level of recognition from the APTA's Sustainability Program in August 2017.

Today, Washoe RTC's transit service employs cutting-edge electric buses, customer service information technologies, and is preparing to expand service. Additionally, our region's highway system supports connectivity that has greatly improved the traveling public's accessibility to jobs, while offering new opportunities to move throughout the region.

Without a doubt, Mr. Gibson's investment in our community's infrastructure projects have significantly improved Nevadans' ability to travel more safely and efficiently.

On behalf of Nevada's Second Congressional District, I offer my sincerest appreciation to Mr. Gibson for his service and wish him all the best on his retirement.

HONORING DR. BENJAMIN BABST
FOR FORESTRY SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Benjamin Babst on receiving the 2019 Ouachita Society of American Forester's Award for Forestry Science Research.

Dr. Babst and his students at the University of Arkansas at Monticello have spent the past five years studying the impact of certain forest management practices on the development of ecosystems. This research includes a study on environmental factors such as flooding or contact with insect species which can influence the growth of the nation's forests. The

• 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.

development of this knowledge has also served to influence more innovative forest management practices.

His contribution is not limited to the sphere of research, but also includes his commitment to educating the young people of our district and our state. As a fellow forester, it is a supreme encouragement to see the dedication of Fourth District Arkansans like Dr. Babst to the proper management and stewardship of our nation's forests. I take this time to commend him on receiving this honor and to thank him for his years of study and service.

TRIBUTE HONORING MAYOR
SAMUEL EUGENE MURRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding South Carolinian, leader, public servant, and personal friend. Samuel Eugene Murray has ably served as Mayor of Port Royal, South Carolina for the past 24 years, and will be leaving office at the end of 2019.

Mr. Murray is a native of Dorchester County and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from South Carolina State University. He continued his graduate studies at The Citadel, University of South Carolina, Appalachian State and Harvard University.

Mr. Murray is an educator at heart and served 16 years as a teacher in the Beaufort Country School System. He rose to become an elementary school principal for another 20 years. During his tenure as principal, Mr. Murray was the recipient of a \$50,000 Science Foundation Grant and was the only Principal from South Carolina chosen to attend that Summer's Principal Institute at Harvard University.

He has always had a passion for public service. Mr. Murray served on the Port Royal Town Council for 17 years before becoming mayor. During his tenure as mayor, he worked to improve his city's infrastructure with a new town hall, police station, and fire station. He also oversaw the city's growth with the construction of new health care centers, several commercial buildings, numerous businesses, apartment complexes, single family homes, and fast food facilities. During his time in office, Port Royal's population increased from 1,500 to approximately 13,600.

In addition, Mr. Murray has been a servant leader in his community by mentoring a young man with special needs for thirty years, serving as coach for the Neighborhood Youth Core Baseball Team, and volunteering as a homebuilder for Habitat for Humanity. He is involved in many organizations and has served in leadership roles in several of them.

He is currently a board member of the Low Country Blood Alliance and a member of the South Carolina Black Mayors Association. He has served on the Beaufort County Board of Special Needs, the Board of the Municipal Association and the Reconstruction Era Committee that laid the foundation for what is now the Reconstruction Era National Park.

Because of his tremendous service, Mr. Murray has received numerous awards and special recognitions. He was awarded the Life-

time Achievement CIVITAS Award for Business excellence presented by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Joe Wilson Second Congressional District Minority Advisory Committee Award, and the Special President's Award by the Montford Point Marine Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and sincere gratitude to Mayor Samuel Eugene Murray for his unwavering service to his community. His extraordinary work has made a great impact in the lives of the citizens of Port Royal and I honor him for his selfless deeds throughout his career.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN
DROPIEWSKI FOR A DISTIN-
GUISHED CAREER IN PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Jonathan Dropiewski as Mayor of Flat Rock for nine years.

Jonathan Dropiewski has become a cornerstone of the Flat Rock community. After receiving his B.S. from Georgetown University and MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, Dropiewski moved to Flat Rock to begin a family with his wife, Robin, in 2001. Together, the pair raised two children, Nicholas and Alexander, who inspired Dropiewski to strive to ensure Flat Rock remained a wonderful city for people to live, work, and grow. In addition to his successful career in business and technology, Dropiewski set his sights on public service. In 2004, Dropiewski was elected to serve as a City Council member, and simultaneously served as Mayor Pro-Tempore from 2006 to 2007. In 2010, Dropiewski was elected as Flat Rock's Mayor, a position he has held ever since.

Mayor Dropiewski began his tenure at a critical moment in Flat Rock's history. Mayor Dropiewski faced a significant budget cut coupled with the worst financial crisis since the 1980s. Despite these challenges, Mayor Dropiewski's leadership and business expertise led the city to incredible progress and increased economic development, and his efforts have been paramount in ensuring Flat Rock continues to be a vibrant and welcoming destination for businesses, families, young professionals, and the like. Moreover, his leadership has been widely recognized amongst his colleagues and peers. On two occasions, Dropiewski was elected by his fellow mayors and supervisors to be the treasurer and chairman of the Downriver Community Conference. Among a host of other awards and accolades, Dropiewski was also recognized as a Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" Leader, a Detroit Rotary Club Citizen of the Month, and a WWJ Citizen of the Week. Undoubtedly, Mayor Dropiewski is beloved, respected, and appreciated by many, and he has left a mark on the City of Flat Rock that will be remembered forever. He started community events that have brought people together and have become traditions such as the Riverfest, Summer Blast, and Taste of Flat Rock.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jonathan Dropiewski for his years of service to the Flat Rock community. Flat Rock's continued success can be attributed in no small part to Mayor Dropiewski's hard work, leadership, and dedication. We are all grateful for his exemplary service and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF WILLIAM "BILL" MOREAU, JR.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Moreau, Jr. who is retiring from Barnes and Thornburg Law Firm. As a partner in the Firm's Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. offices, Bill has been named as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" for his expertise in higher education and government relations practices.

Bill has provided legal, tactical and fiduciary guidance to a variety of post-secondary education institutions including his undergraduate alma mater. As a graduate of Purdue University, he proudly serves as a trustee. He is also a member of the Indiana State University President's National Advisory Board and the Board of Advisors of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, located in the heart of my congressional district. Bill's expertise in higher education issues was instrumental in the development of Indiana's community college system as a gubernatorial appointee to the Community College Policy Committee.

Bill's government relations practice has included representation at all levels of government over a broad array of issues. Bill is no stranger to Capitol Hill, having worked in both the House and Senate. He also served as Chief of Staff to then-Indiana Secretary of State, Evan Bayh.

For his extensive and passionate work, he has won numerous awards, including being named Master Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation. He also received the 2017 Leadership in Law Distinguished Barristers Award from The Indiana Lawyer and, in 2015, he was Barnes and Thornburg's winner of the Joseph A. Marley Pro Bono Award. As an advocate and engaged citizen, Bill has dedicated his efforts to promote civic literacy and engagement and has worked to reduce homelessness in Indianapolis. He led our community in the effort to create the Blueprint to End Homelessness, which is still hailed as a national model. His ongoing support of this priority includes an annual fellowship funded by Bill and his wife, Ann, to support a graduate student training program to advocate for those impacted by homelessness.

I am proud to call Bill Moreau a friend and advisor, and I'm incredibly grateful for his support and counsel through the years. His passionate work on behalf of all Hoosiers shows that he truly understands the meaning of community, and I applaud him for his efforts to improve ours. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a big impact in his next chapter, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF CATHY THOMAS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe and mourn the passing of one of the pillars of civic life in the Northeastern Corner of the state of Connecticut, Cathy Thomas. Sadly, Cathy passed away on November 26, 2019 surrounded by family and friends at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Cathy served for 40 years as the Chair of the Thompson Democratic Town Committee—a record that I am confident will never be broken. In that role, Cathy supported hundreds and hundreds of candidates for town, state and federal office, generously volunteering her time to the nuts and bolts of campaigns—organizing conventions, lining up delegates, filing the critical paperwork to ensure ballot access and most of all, giving wise, common sense counsel to public officials about what the important issues were and how to talk about them, and address them. Forty years ago, Cathy was a pioneer political leader paving the way for women to occupy positions of power. Over time, the respect she garnered with her quiet, steely manner became an inspiration for other women to succeed in public office. It was truly fitting that she was awarded the 2019 Ella Grasso Women's Leadership Award this year. This is a special honor reserved to an elite group of Women in Connecticut named after the first woman in America to be elected the governor of a state in her own right. I personally experienced and benefitted from Cathy's dedicated work during all my campaigns for Congress. I will be forever grateful to her for her unstinting, unselfish help.

Her life was not solely defined by politics and government. Cathy grew up in Thompson and attended Annhurst College and Nichols College where she received her degree in accounting. She worked as an accountant for many years at Davis publications in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was close to her brother Paul LaRoche of North Grosvenordale and had many friends in town with whom she enjoyed going to concerts, the beach, and Kittery, Maine. She was also an avid New York Yankees fan, living in an area that leans in favor of the Red Sox. Nonetheless, she reveled in the rivalry.

Cathy's passing is a big loss for Northeastern Connecticut and was felt far and wide by all who knew her and will miss her. Madam Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in expressing our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

HONORING MR. FELIPE 'TRES' BARRERA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Felipe 'Tres' Barrera, a member of the Washington Nationals 2019 World Series Champions and a Rio Grande Valley Native.

Tres Barrera is an incredibly talented professional baseball catcher for the Washington Nationals. He was born in Eagle Pass, Texas, and moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 10 years old. Tres played on the baseball team for Hidalgo High School his freshman year, winning the District 32–3A Most Valuable Player award, before transferring to Sharyland High School. At Sharyland High School, Tres played football and baseball, and quickly became a standout athlete and student. He was selected to two all-state teams, and won the 30–5A Most Valuable Player and the All-Valley Player of the Year as a senior. His batting average was an astonishing .452, hitting 22 home runs during his time at Sharyland High School.

Tres' incredible work ethic, determination, and sheer talent earned him a spot on the renowned baseball team for the University of Texas at Austin. As a freshman, Tres was the team's starting catcher, won the 2014 College Home Run Derby, and led Texas to the College World Series. His achievements continued on.

During his sophomore year, Tres was a vital part of the University of Texas' Big 12 championship team, while adding his name to the All-Big 12 second team. In his junior year campaign, Tres earned the 2016 Academic All-Big 12 baseball honors and was named an All-Big 12 honorable mention. He left Texas after his junior year to join the minor leagues, but only after walking away with 20 home runs and 106 runs batted in (RBIs) for the University of Texas at Austin.

Tres Barrera's hard work and dedication continued for the next three years as he played for a number of minor league teams before being called up to the Major League Baseball, MLB, on September 8, 2019, for the Washington Nationals. Being a member of the Nationals, Tres participated in one of the most unlikely runs in the history of professional baseball.

The Nationals' record through 50 games was a poor 19 wins and 31 losses before they won 74 of their next 122 games. This secured the Nationals a wild-card spot in the postseason. The Nationals continued their unlikely playoff run until the very end, where they beat the Houston Astros in seven games, winning the World Series on October 30, 2019. On that day, Tres earned himself the coveted World Series ring.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Tres Barrera worked tirelessly to prove that with determination, will power, and commitment, we can accomplish anything we set ourselves to do in life. Tres made history, gave young people across our country the hope to achieve anything they set their mind to and for that I stand here today to recognize him. He is a proud son of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, and we appreciate him for his work and dedication to the Washington Nationals.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF FAIRPLAY, PARK COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, each and every day, across America our fellow commu-

nity members find opportunities to be of service to one another. These small acts of heroism, pinnacles of our values and ideals as Americans, are far too frequently lost in the rapidity of our society.

I would like to take a moment to draw attention to one of those small acts of heroism in the town of Fairplay in Park County, Colorado.

In a small mountain town of just 762 people, nearly 750 people were stranded last Friday and Saturday after snow, wind, and low visibility made travel impossible. At the height of the post-Thanksgiving travel rush, with their town's limited shelter resources strained to breaking, the people of Fairplay jumped to action to ensure safety and comfort for all those who could not continue their travels. Hotel operators housed people in every space possible; churches opened their stores of food to ensure no one went hungry; neighbors went door-to-door to gather blankets and supplies; transportation authorities brought vehicles abandoned on the highways to the town and reconnected drivers to their cars. In the end, everyone remained safe and sheltered. This is the type of hospitality and generosity that makes Park County and Colorado such an incredible place.

This year I am grateful for citizens like these in Park County, and throughout our nation, who remind us during this holiday season of the essential goodness of people.

THANKING LC "BUCKSHOT" SMITH FOR HIS 56 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and extend my gratitude to Mr. LC "Buckshot" Smith of Camden, Arkansas.

Officer Smith has spent a lifetime in law enforcement. His career spans over five decades in the Fourth District of Arkansas. Having spent 46 of those years with the Ouachita County Sheriff's Department, he officially retired in September 2010. However, after only a few short months in retirement, he decided to return to the Camden Police Department. At the age of 90 years old, he is still serving the community after 56 years of service.

President George H.W. Bush said, "Public service is a noble calling." Officer Smith has answered this call to service everyday as a police officer, church deacon, and community member for decades. The Ouachita County and Camden communities can attest to the exemplary character and dedication to service found in Officer Smith.

I'm proud to know of the lifelong commitment to service men like Officer "Buckshot Smith" have. His life serves as a powerful reminder of what an impact a lifetime of service can have on our communities. I take this time to thank him for the decades he has given to the Fourth District of Arkansas and for the example he has provided for generations of Americans to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ZATINA
FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Zatina and recognize her years of distinguished service with Beaumont Health.

Mary Zatina was the Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs at Beaumont Health. In this role, Zatina advanced Beaumont and Oakwood Healthcare's relationship with government leaders, significantly improving the well-being of patients community-wide. Zatina joined Oakwood from the Office of the Governor, where she served as an advisor to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and chief of staff to First Gentleman Daniel Granholm Mulhern. Prior to her career in the state government, Zatina was the Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Communications and Strategy at Campbell-Ewald and Director of Corporate Communications for the MichCon/MCN Energy Group.

Throughout all her professional endeavors, Mary Zatina has been recognized as a dynamic, accomplished, and effective leader who strives to effect meaningful and lasting change. She has used all her experiences to enhance Beaumont's partnerships with local, state, and national officials, chambers of commerce, and community leaders at all levels, enabling Beaumont to strengthen its outreach and expand its services. Beyond this, Zatina has also been an active member of her local Michigan community. She is a member of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Fitness Foundation Board of Directors, the Southwest Solutions Board and Development Committee of the Greening of the Detroit, and serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In addition, she was a founding member of the Arab-American Women's Business Council and the Chicago Boulevard East Block Club. Zatina's work has earned her widespread acclaim, evident in her designation as a Fall 2017 Arab American Business Woman of the Year and a Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" Honoree.

Still, Mary Zatina's accomplishments and accolades only scratch the surface. Put simply, Zatina is a good person with a kind heart. Despite her busy life, she is dedicated to uplifting everyone she encounters and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Zatina is known amongst her friends, family, and colleagues as an accomplished chef, master gardener, and friend who will always do the right thing. Moreover, she is a creative hostess who is welcoming of all, whether it be at spontaneous gathering or one of her famous annual parties.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mary Zatina for her accomplished career at Beaumont Health. We deeply appreciate her dedication to improving the lives of others and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

PARTISAN IMPEACHMENT
PROCEEDINGS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, even before President Donald Trump was elected, Democrats have been scraping for any excuse, threatening impeachment to overturn the election results. It is shameful that House Democrats are wasting time and money, over \$30 million dollars, on this Impeachment Hoax instead of fixing trade deals, funding our military, and addressing issues that create jobs.

House Speaker NANCY PELOSI continues to move forward with these warrantless attacks which undermine the results of the last election, nullifying 63 million votes. House Democrats should stop misleading the American public and work for those who put them in office. This partisan witch hunt diverts attention from the President's successes.

The lives of Americans have truly changed for the better under President Trump. The unemployment rate has its record lows, wages have continued to increase, and there is record job creation, showing that President Trump keeps his promises.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVERSIFYING BY INVESTING IN EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH ACT

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Diversifying by Investing in Educators and Students to Improve Outcomes For Youth (DIVERSIFY) Act.

It should be a guarantee that all students in our country are taught by expert teachers and attend schools where the teacher workforce reflects our nation's rich diversity.

However, research tells us that while people of color comprise 40 percent of our nations' population and majority of our public school students, only 20 percent of all teachers are people of color.

One of the barriers to a well-prepared and diverse teacher workforce is the high cost of college and student loan debt.

High quality teacher preparation is also more likely to be financially out of reach for students of color, while the high cost of college and increasing student loan debt burdens hits students of color especially hard as they are more likely to come from families that are unable to contribute financially to their higher education.

These facts come at a time when college affordability has reached crisis levels.

Today, more than two-thirds of individuals entering the field of education borrow money to pay for their higher education, resulting in an average debt of about \$20,000 for those with a bachelor's degree and \$50,000 for those with a master's degree.

Our nation's service scholarship for teachers—The TEACH Grant Program—has not increased to keep up with the rising cost of college.

While college cost have increased, the TEACH Grant has been cut each year for most of its existence.

Failing to protect and increase the TEACH Grant limits the program's potential to support high needs schools in ensuring that all students are taught by a well-prepared and diverse educator workforce.

I urge this body to pass this bill.

CONGRATULATING REV. JESSE TURNER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Jesse Turner of Pine Bluff on his recent selection to receive the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the 400 Years of African American History Commission.

This award is given to those who have made a lasting commitment to community service and work to commemorate the contributions of African Americans to our nation's history. Rev. Turner easily fits this description and is well deserving of this honor by the commission due to the profound impact he has had in his community.

As the pastor of the historic Elm Grove Baptist Church, Rev. Turner's commitment to service has touched the lives of individuals across the country. The City of Pine Bluff issued a proclamation in his honor, highlighting his decades of work promoting African American history in the State of Arkansas and the impacts it has had on the people in his community.

I'm proud to know of men like Rev. Jesse Turner and the commitment he has demonstrated to public service over his lifetime. His is a life well lived and truly is part of "The Distinguished 400."

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE GREENWOOD

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, each and every day we must honor the legacy of those who came before us; those who dedicated their lives to promoting freedom and forging the path on which all future generations walk.

Today, I wish to honor the life and work of Ms. Marie Greenwood whose long and full life was devoted to creating a more equitable and just society for countless Coloradans. Marie passed away on November 18th at 106 years old.

As one of the first Black teachers to be hired by Denver Public Schools in Colorado, Marie spent her entire teaching career fighting segregation and uplifting students through one simple creed: every child can learn.

A first-grade teacher for 30 years, Marie guided educators throughout her long and illustrious career in the importance of early literacy programs. "Teaching first grade was the

joy of my life," she once said, "I believe it is there that one lays the beginning of a sound education foundation upon which a child can continue to learn successfully."

Marie continued her passion for literacy by participating in the Each One Teach One program which aims to improve early literacy by building vocabulary through hands-on community projects. This program allows students to contribute to their communities while building topical vocabulary.

To Marie's four children, to her entire family, and to all those who loved and admired her, I share my condolences and my gratitude for the exceptional dedication and progress made possible by Marie's life and work.

TRIBUTE HONORING VICTORIA
BARNES ANDERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and wish a happy birthday to a Centenarian and constituent who serves as an example for how we all might live to see 100 years of life. Mrs. Victoria Barnes Anderson is celebrating this remarkable milestone on December 23, 2019, an added blessing during our nation's most joyous season.

The daughter of a foreman, Mrs. Anderson grew up on a sharecropper's farm in Pineville, South Carolina, and was the fifth of eight children born to parents, William and Mariah Barnes. She attended Barhill Elementary School and later Dubass in Bonneau. She was forced to quit school in the sixth grade when the bus service stopped. However, she later went back to school at night so she could help her children with their homework.

She was married to the late James Anderson, and the couple was blessed with eight children. To support the family, she was a domestic worker earning just \$5 to \$10 per day. The family did not have much, but never went without. The Andersons were able to put three children through college, an accomplishment she attributes to the Grace of God.

Since she was a young child, Mrs. Anderson has had a great faith. She attended Sunday School and church at the Good Shepherd Reformed Episcopal Church until her marriage, when she joined Bethel United Methodist Church. She has been a member there for 81 years, participating in many ministries: Junior and Senior Choir, Vice President and President of United Women, Women's Day Program Chairperson, Prayer Band Member, and Harvest Day Program Co-Founder. Mrs. Anderson frequently says, "I've been serving the Lord a long, long time, and I'm not tired yet."

During her more active days, Mrs. Anderson had a number of hobbies such as gardening, canning, and cooking. She still cooks from time to time with family assistance. Mrs. Anderson enjoys singing and her favorite song is "Your Grace and Mercy." As a devout Christian, Mrs. Anderson's favorite book is the Bible, and her favorite scripture is Psalm 27, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"

Mrs. Anderson has lived through six wars and 18 presidents. She says the proudest mo-

ment in her life was witnessing the election of President Barack Obama. Mrs. Anderson never imagined she would see the election of the first African American President of the United States of America. Her response was simply, "Look at God."

In addition to her 8 children, she has 30 grandchildren, 68 great-grandchildren, and 49 great-great-grandchildren who love and cherish her.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and a special happy 100th birthday to Victoria Barnes Anderson. Her longevity has set an example for all of us and inspires us to persevere no matter the circumstances. I am pleased to honor her for her lifelong devotion to faith and family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, on December 5, 2019, I was not recorded on Roll Call Vote No. 651 on H. Res. 741, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) Voting Rights Advancement Act and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 326) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution. I would have voted Aye.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Montgomery Fire Department in Montgomery, Texas.

From its inception in February of 1969, the Montgomery Fire Department has protected and served the entire Montgomery area—approximately 232 square miles—in the Eighth District of Texas, including the Cities of Montgomery, Dobbin, Walden, and Bentwater. This area was originally covered by two fire departments, the Montgomery and the Walden Volunteer Fire Departments but the two merged in 1982 to keep up with the growing population of the county.

As more and more people came into the area, more fire stations were built in Walden, Cape Conroe, the City of Dobbin, and Montgomery. In 1989, in response to growing demand for their services, the Montgomery Fire Department hired its first full time firefighter, and in 2001 they opened another station in Bentwater that housed both volunteer and full-time firefighters.

Today, the Montgomery Fire Department has five manned stations and an administrative building. Their full staff includes a Fire Chief, four Battalion Chiefs, 51 full-time firefighters, and 25 part-time or volunteer firefighters.

The Montgomery County Fire Department employs the use of three booster trucks, five pumps, three tankers, and one All-Terrain-Vehicle. This equipment allows the fire department to respond to fires, car accidents, and any other emergency or natural disaster in Montgomery County.

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Brian Edwards, the fire department serves Montgomery County by offering not only protection from fires and other emergencies, but education and prevention. It's incredible to see just how much they've grown these past 50 years.

I would like to thank the Montgomery Fire Department for half a century of service, and congratulate them on a job well-done. The entirety of Montgomery County is grateful for their service and keeping our community safe. Congratulations on 50 prosperous years, and we look forward to 50 more.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark an important anniversary. Last month, the Daughters of Penelope, an international woman's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), celebrated its 90th anniversary on November 16. Founded in San Francisco, the Daughters of Penelope originally worked to improve the status and well-being of women and their families. They also sought to provide women with the opportunity to make significant contributions to their communities and country. After successfully achieving many of their early goals, the Daughters of Penelope now promote the ideals of ancient Greece: philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence, achieved through community service and volunteerism.

I am a proud Greek-American. As a young boy, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles instilled in me an appreciation for our beautiful Greek culture, which focuses on family, community, and faith. As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it is with great pride that I see these values shine through the Daughters of Penelope today, across all its 250 chapters worldwide. Through the exceptional Penelope House in Mobile, Alabama and Penelope's Place in Brockton, Massachusetts, the organization vigorously supports efforts to combat domestic violence in Greece as well as the United States. The development of these shelters brought renewed hope to many areas with suffering families who previously did not have access to the same level of care.

As a member on the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I am impressed with the organization's efforts to provide financial support and raise awareness for medical research on treatments for breast cancer, Thalassemia (Cooley's anemia), muscular dystrophy, and Alzheimer's disease. The Daughters of Penelope are also a leading sponsor of the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program, which offers affordable housing to senior citizens in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. Recently, the Daughters of Penelope has also demonstrated support for senior nutrition and isolation with support for Meals on Wheels of America.

In addition to helping the elderly, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc., supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to schools, shelters and churches through the "Penelope's Books" program. After ninety meaningful and productive years, it excites me to see what the Daughters of Penelope will accomplish and how they will help our country and our culture in the next ninety years.

HONORING ROGER E. HEDGEPEETH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Roger E. Hedgepeth, one of the longest-serving mayors of Blacksburg, Virginia and a professor at Virginia Tech in that town, who died on November 12, 2019 at the age of 89.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, on January 17, 1930, Roger E. Hedgepeth went to Maury High School and then graduated from Virginia Tech, where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Following graduation, Mr. Hedgepeth served in the Armed Forces during the Korean War. Mr. Hedgepeth returned to Virginia Tech after serving his country and received a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

He married Jenny in 1956. They would remain happily married for 55 years until her death.

Mr. Hedgepeth used the education from his two degrees in mechanical engineering to teach students at Virginia Tech for 38 years.

As a resident of Blacksburg while teaching at Virginia Tech, he was active in his community and decided to make the leap to elected office. After two years of serving on the Blacksburg Town Council, Mr. Hedgepeth became mayor. Mr. Hedgepeth served in that position for 24 years, the second-longest tenure in Blacksburg's history.

As mayor, Mr. Hedgepeth was respected by his colleagues in government as well as his constituents. The relationship between Blacksburg and Virginia Tech during his tenure was so cordial that representatives from other college towns around the country would come to study their success.

Virginia Tech and the town of Blacksburg were fortunate to have this leader and educator in the community. Mr. Hedgepeth is survived by his children Natalie and Michael and grandchildren, Taylor and Austin of Bristol, Virginia, and Risher and Azat of Blacksburg. I offer my condolences to the Hedgepeth family on their loss.

RECOGNIZING THE 11TH ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 21, 2019, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather to celebrate the 11th Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. Having become one of the largest Christmas celebrations on the Space Coast, this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, promising a place for family and friends to partake in a wide variety of holiday festivities to get them in the Christmas spirit.

This year's event will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay from 11 am–4:30 pm and will be completely free of charge thanks to over 80 local businesses and organizations that came together to donate food, gift certificates and equipment. Because of their generous contributions, families will be able to enjoy cotton candy, hotdogs, snow cones, bouncy houses, ride horses and trains and even go rock climbing.

Hosting the event will be Eddie Anthony Izquierdo as "Eddie Frost" and Ahriel Brown as "Arctic Ahriel," who will engage families with Christmas singalongs, short skits, and giveaways. A variety of exclusive performances will follow by Grammy Award-winning bassist Trae Pierce and the T-Stones, Chagy the Clown and the acrobats of Cirque Adventure.

The House of Palm Bay, City of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation along with several community business partners such as Thrifty Specialty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, Gator Automotive and Edible Arrangements are just among the few names of many we have to thank for providing the venue and resources to make the celebration unforgettable.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of the House at Palm Bay said in anticipation of the event, "With today's news being filled with division, contention and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with its businesses and citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace is expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus saying, 'Peace and good will towards all men.'"

The City of Palm Bay issued a proclamation in support for this year's celebration, proclaiming December 21, 2019 Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving and spending time with loved ones. This year's Extravaganza brings our community together to remind us of that.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who are doing their part to spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season and those who have worked so hard to make the Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible.

DECEMBER VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the American heroes who nobly defended our nation, and those who lost their lives in the name of that cause, during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

With the 78th anniversary of the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor approaching, I cannot think of a better time to take pause and to remember those Americans who courageously jumped into action upon seeing enemy airplanes overhead. In what would remain the deadliest foreign attack on American soil for 60 years until the devastating events of September 11, 2001, 2,335 American servicemen were killed that day and an additional 1,143 were wounded. In an effort to cripple America's naval might, the Japanese destroyed or damaged 19 United States Navy ships, including eight battleships during the attack. In spite of their best efforts, the Japanese could not defeat American resolve and although our nation was wounded, as the world would later learn, the Japanese had simply awoken a sleeping giant.

As time marches on and we lose more and more members of America's Greatest Generation, I am proud to recognize Arles Cole. Quartermaster Cole was aboard the USS *West Virginia* on December 7, 1941, and heroically defended his ship and its crew at all costs. Quartermaster Cole is one of the few survivors of Pearl Harbor still with us and I am proud that he is my constituent in Oklahoma's First Congressional District. I am honored to recognize Quartermaster Arles Cole not only for his venerable service on December 7th and throughout World War II, but also for his continued commitment to his community.

Every American should take heed of the example set by those brave servicemembers who fought and those who died at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In the face of overwhelming odds, they remained committed to their mission and to their country even if it meant sacrificing their life. I am proud to recognize them today and to remember and honor their service and sacrifice everyday as we enjoy the freedoms that they so gallantly defended.

IN HONOR OF GERTIE WILKERSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gertie Wilkerson and wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

Gertie was born on December 7, 1919, to Everett and Gracie Cline Carter. Throughout her life she has developed the reputation of living a life full of purpose, commitment and keenness in acknowledging blessings from God.

Gertie and her family moved to Annapolis in the 1920's where she began a 30 year career

at Cannon Mills, which at the time was the world's largest producer of sheets and towels. She married her husband Henry R.C. Wilkerson, a United States Army veteran who fought in World War II. They spent 59 years together and raised three children, who later blessed them with six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In her free time, Gertie has led a full life. She was a passionate bowler who played regularly until she was 98 years old. In addition to being a fervent bowler, she has been a faithful member of Central Baptist Church for the last 63 years. Gertie has earned the esteemed reputation of being a funny, dedicated and compassionate individual, who possesses the true principles and morals to which we all aspire. I know all of you will agree with me when I say, she is a blessing to all who know her and a treasured part of this community.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in wishing Mrs. Gertie Wilkerson a very happy 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph Catholic Church and Parish in New Waverly, Texas.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, now a celebrated place of worship, first began as a small gathering for planter families who formed the Waverly Emigration Society. In 1869, Father Orzechowski officially formed the Parish of St. Joseph. The parish met at various farms until 1877 when they opened the first church—a small box building only 20 by 30 feet. The land they built the church and school upon was acquired for the modest price of one dollar.

In 1892, as the parish expanded, a second building was constructed to make room for the growing congregation. This building, designed by Tom Lawandorski, was much larger and more ornate than the first. Mrs. Catherine Ripowski donated trees from her property to aid with construction.

The longest serving priest was the adored Father Bily, whose tenure lasted 19 years. Under his leadership, the church still in use today was built. The gothic style building was designed by architect L.S. Green and took three years to finish. At its opening, it was deemed the finest church in the South. In 1909, four years after the opening of the third church building, St. Joseph's school was built on the property for 160 students.

Since its opening, the church has been restored and repaired, but the welcoming community atmosphere and the parishioners' enthusiasm for worship has remained constant for the last 150 years.

As St. Joseph's Catholic Church celebrates a century and a half of worship, I thank them for creating a welcoming space dedicated to bringing people together to worship The Lord. Congratulations on 150 years, and may the next be just as prosperous.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT LAKES MARITIME ACADEMY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Through its commitment to excellence and dedication to its students, GLMA has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Founded in 1969, the Great Lakes Maritime Academy is one of only six maritime academies in the United States. The first cadets of the academy received an associate degree and a license allowing for service on the Great Lakes upon graduation. In the 1980s, GLMA partnered with Ferris State University to allow cadets to earn bachelor's degrees, opening opportunities for graduates to serve in the United States Navy and Coast Guard. In 2012, thanks to the dedicated efforts of President Nelson and other public leaders, Governor Snyder signed legislation allowing community colleges to award bachelor's degrees in disciplines including maritime technology. This change allowed GLMA to partner with Northwestern Michigan College and enabled cadets to earn a bachelor's degree at a fraction of the cost.

The work of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy is essential for providing the next generation of Merchant Marine officers with the education, training, and credentials needed to serve on the Great Lakes and the high seas. Piloting everything from cruise ships and ferries to tankers and cargo ships, graduates of GLMA play an essential role in supporting our economy, national security, and everyday lives. The impact of their work on the people of Michigan and the United States cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, Michigan's proud maritime history is continued every day by the students, graduates, faculty, and leaders of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, and it is my honor to congratulate them for fifty years of excellence. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish GLMA all the best as it ventures into the future.

CONGRATULATING MARY RYMAN ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 46 YEARS AS BRISTOL TOWN CLERK

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Ryman on her retirement after 46 years as Bristol Town Clerk, making her the longest-serving town clerk in the State of Indiana.

For the people of Bristol, Indiana, walking into Town Hall means seeing a friendly face every day. For nearly half a century, Mary has been there to serve the community of Bristol, and she is always the right person to ask

when residents have a question or need assistance. Her unparalleled commitment to her community exemplifies what it truly means to be a Hoosier and a public servant.

Guided by the values of integrity and respect for all people, Mary has proven to be a pillar of the town and a model citizen. Her unmistakable passion for making Bristol a better place inspires all who know her, and it's no surprise that she plans to continue serving her community as a volunteer at Bristol's Community Food Pantry.

Mary's compassion and warmth go far beyond her duties at Town Hall. She constantly strives to give back to those in need and to strengthen her community. As a member of the Bristol United Methodist Church, she has taught Sunday School for many years and enjoyed singing in the choir. She is also often found helping stray animals by providing them food and comfort. And she is a devoted wife and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank Mary for the many years she has dedicated to serving the hard-working Hoosiers of Bristol and building a brighter future for northern Indiana. With her retirement, she leaves behind a legacy full of accomplishments, but her impact on the community is sure to last far into the future.

TRIBUTE HONORING COMMISSIONER RAYMOND BUXTON, II

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding leader Raymond Buxton, II, who is retiring after 40 years of service to the State of South Carolina. Mr. Buxton is a personal friend and his many contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Buxton received his Bachelor of Science degree from Savannah State University in Savannah, Georgia. He went on to serve his country as a dental technician in the United States Army with the 87th Medical Detachment in Nuremberg, Germany and at Moncrief Army Hospital in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He furthered his education by taking graduate courses at the University of South Carolina and graduating from the South Carolina Executive Institute.

In 1979, when I was South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner, I hired Ray as a community relations consultant. While in this position, he consulted with community leaders around the state to build relationships among a diverse group of citizens to promote unity. He went on to work as an employment investigator, senior analyst for employment discrimination, division director of the private sector/employment, and executive assistant for internal affairs before being tapped to run the agency in July 2012.

As the agency director, Mr. Buxton has worked diligently to make positive changes within the agency. He was responsible for fully restoring the once underfunded budget for the agency and increased staff from 20 to 46 employees. Also, Mr. Buxton instituted a new initiative, the "Quality of Life" dialogue, within the Community Relations Department to promote better human relations among diverse

populations in South Carolina. Professionally, he serves as vice president of the South Carolina Fair Housing Council, Inc. and as a South Carolina Human Affairs Representative for the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies.

Mr. Buxton is also committed to serving the community. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He has served as the Fraternity's Chapter President and has been honored as its Man of the Year. He also volunteers at the Meals on Wheels Senior Resource Center and is an active board member on several committees including the Budget and Finance Committee and Board of Trustees at Saint John Baptist Church, the Columbia Housing Authority Development Board, and the Israel Brooks Foundation Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and well wishes to Raymond Buxton, II, for his 40 years of service at the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. His extraordinary work

has made a great impact in the lives of South Carolinians. I wish him all the best as he transitions into retirement, but I know he will continue to be an active participant in the community always striving to improve the quality of life for everyone.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ROY
LAWRENCE WILSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 6, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Roy Lawrence Wilson who passed away recently. He had a distinguished military career, retiring from the U.S. Army in 1997 at the rank of Colonel. Between 1967 through 1971, he served three tours of duty in Vietnam and was decorated

with multiple awards and citations including a Bronze Star Medal with an oak leaf cluster and an Army Commendation Medal with an oak leaf cluster. Subsequently, he was recalled to active service for Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Dr. Wilson had a private practice in Richardson, Texas as a dentist and oral surgeon and was a member of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the American Dental Association. After twenty years in private practice, he devoted his time during retirement to train students as a clinical advisor at the Texas A&M College of Dentistry.

It is my honor to recognize Roy Wilson's notable service in the military and medical field. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather and will be sorely missed by his family and friends to whom I extend my sincere condolences.