

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth and to alleviate strain on state and local governments. This tragedy is not only harming our young people, but it is also costing our government billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, lost tax revenue and other costs. Although total unemployment has reached a relative low (3.5 percent), the unemployment rate for young people is eight percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.

What is particularly disappointing, particularly in today's low unemployment economy, is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college. The total unemployment rate is currently eight percent for people 16 to 24 years old, 4.5 points higher than the overall employment rate, and hundreds of thousands of them now compete for unpaid internships wherever they can find them. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill would need no new administrative structure or bureaucracy but would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend, obtain work experience and develop a good work history to help secure future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being eliminated or curtailed because of state and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have done what they could to enter into the job market, but, despite their best efforts, remain unemployed in this economy. AmeriCorps participants receive a living allowance and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding AmeriCorps, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with work skills and experience and help cash-strapped state and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut or eliminate altogether.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address the most stubborn forms of unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, many young graduates will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire necessary work experience. They deserve a better start in life as adults. I ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed, targeted assistance for young, unemployed Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF LILIJA GRUMULAITIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life of Lilija Grumulaitis and recognize her unwavering dedication to her community and causes closest to her heart.

Although a devoted American, Lilija was not born in the United States. Born on February 15, 1938 in Marijampole, Lithuania, Lilija migrated to Germany and Australia before calling America home. Her journey began during World War II when Russian forces attacked Lithuanian cities—making it impossible to live peacefully under communist rule. In 1944, her family sought refuge in Berlin, Germany for four weeks. At the young age of six, Lilija vividly recalls uttering her first words in English to an America soldier at a refugee camp in Wiesbaden, Germany, “Thank you for my freedom.” Lilija's family dreamed of moving to America—where she could practice faith and support candidates freely—but at the time, her family had the option to safely relocate to Australia through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRAA).

Many years later, Lilija was able to fulfill her dream to come to America when she married Leonas Grumulaitis. In 1958, the couple arrived at Ellis Island in New York. The pair would go on to live in New Jersey, Illinois and Florida before making their permanent home in Conroe, Texas in 1979. It was in Texas where Lilija would establish a lifelong legacy of service. Seeing a need for representation, Lilija helped establish several civic organizations and was an honorary member of Rotary Club Lake Conroe. With a strong sense of civic duty, she went on to be a strong supporter of both President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. She was entrusted to gather diverse crowds and encourage others to use their freedom to vote.

One of Lilija's proudest moments was on July 26, 1972—the day she became a U.S. citizen. For decades after obtaining her citizenship, the joy of liberty never left her, once stating how inexpressible it was to see the Statue of Liberty years later. Anyone who knows her, knows she never failed to take advantage of the opportunity to thank veterans for her freedom as she had done as a six-year-old in Germany. For years, she expressed her gratitude through Christmas cards to over 200 veterans each year and was a guardian on two of the Lone Star Honors Flights. Lilija is a remarkable patriot and example of how we can best serve our community.

While we mourn with Lilija's family, we also celebrate the life, service, and legacy that will live throughout our community. I am proud to join her family, friends, and the Eighth District of Texas in honoring her life and steadfast devotion to the United States of America.

HONORING AVERY DOGGETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Avery Doggett. Avery is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Avery has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Avery has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Avery has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Avery Doggett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE 2020 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize Catholic schools and parishes in our nation as we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. As we approach this celebration, I am excited to announce that this year's theme is “Catholic School: Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed” which resonates with my District which is home to thirty-five Catholic schools. Parochial education strives to instill faith, community involvement, and commitment in the classroom to shape each generation of students into well-educated, compassionate members of our communities. For forty-six years, Catholic schools have taken part in this tradition, which provides a time to reflect on and commemorate their contributions to education.

Due to the National Catholic Educational Association's (NCEA) leadership, 99.2 percent of all students at Catholic schools graduate high school and 86.2 percent go on to four-year college. The NCEA's legacy of success is a testament to the quality education and guidance through faith that each student receives through their time in Catholic schools.

As a proud graduate of St. Anne Grade School in East Moline, Illinois and Spalding Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois, I am honored to co-sponsor legislation supporting National Catholic Schools Week. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Catholic schools guides my daily life and continues to strengthen my relationship with God. My wife and I are thankful that our three sons have the opportunity to attend Catholic schools, allowing them to be immersed in the Catholic faith, endure a quality education, and participate in community service.

During National Catholic Schools Week, I extend my sincere blessings to Catholic

schools across the nation and I am honored to promote their successes. This week is a time to reflect and celebrate on all the contributions that the National Catholic Education Association and the impact their schools provide to our communities. I look forward to continuing to support Catholic schools and carrying out God's mission of faith, service, and knowledge.

TRIBUTE TO TOM WILSON PAGE,
JR.

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, today I wish to observe and mourn the passing of Tom Wilson Page, Jr. who was called home unexpectedly this past week. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Tom was a pillar of our Nelson County community and his loss will be felt throughout our district.

A small business owner, Tom was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. His passion and love of community were evident in where he spent his time; at his church and on the baseball field. Tom was an instrumental part of the Nelson County Youth Baseball Association, where he mentored young players and taught them the fundamentals of the pastime he loved.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 43 years, Esther W. Page; his sons, Prennis "Lamonte" Page and Brandon S. Page; and two grandchildren. I join all of Nelson County in mourning his loss, and extend my thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies to the Page family.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF DANIEL
STEERE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary career of Daniel Steere, Chief of Police at the Grandville City Police Department. I would like to express my appreciation to Chief Steere for over 37 years of dedicated services to West Michigan and our nation.

Chief Steere's career in law enforcement began in 1982 when he entered the Tampa Police Department Recruit Academy. After graduation, he quickly rose to become a Field Training Officer. Wanting to be closer to family, he moved back to Michigan in 1985, and soon after, found his professional home in the Grandville Police Department. In 1989, Chief Steere became the department's first vice detective and later would serve as the department's first officer assigned to a collaborative drug team.

In 1993, Dan was promoted to Sergeant and was tasked with overseeing the training program for new officers. Beginning in 1996, he became the department's Detective Sergeant and served in that position until his elevation to Deputy Chief in 2008. He served with distinction as Deputy Chief until being promoted to Chief in 2012.

Under Chief Steere's leadership, the department expanded to 26 sworn officers and added a second School Resource Officer position. Additionally, Chief Steere oversaw a department-wide rebrand, including new uniforms and patches for all officers. Exemplifying his successes, Chief Steere spent countless hours each year with the City Parks and Recreation Board to ensure the well-known July 4th celebrations occurred safely and successfully year after year.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Steere served with impeccable integrity even when it proved difficult. Aside from dedicating his life to public service, Chief Steere has proudly served as an active participant in our West Michigan community. He gives back by volunteering his time with Rotary International, the YMCA, the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy Advisory Board, and the Kent Country Corrections Board. None of the above would be possible without the support of his wife Julie, and now adult children Elizabeth, Adam and Emily.

It is because of the leadership and dedication of community members such as Chief Daniel Steere that I am especially proud to serve Michigan's 2nd Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Chief Steere on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his service to West Michigan and our nation.

HONORING SUSAN RITTER FOR 37
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
HOME BUILDING INDUSTRY

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mrs. Susan Ritter, who is retiring from her position as Executive Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee (HBAT) after 37 years of service to the home building industry.

Susan has been a tireless advocate for the home building industry—one of the key primary drivers of the American economy. Home ownership has long been one of the linchpins of the American dream, and the home building industry in Tennessee has long been in tune with the housing needs of local communities. I can personally speak of Susan's effectiveness in working on behalf of these goals.

Susan has served as the executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee since August 2000, serving as the point person for navigating the complex policy and regulatory world that members of the industry deal with as part of their day to day operations. It is not coincidental that a good number of these business leaders happen to be cornerstones of the communities they serve. All of these individuals that I have had the privilege of meeting and ask difficult questions say the same thing: "Susan Ritter is the person to who you need to talk."

There have been many accolades for Susan's service over the years, and her service was appropriately honored by the National Association of Home Builders when they named her the State Executive Officer of the Year. She was also a recipient of HBAT Past Presi-

dents' Special Award for her "dedication and loyalty to the home building industry" in 2005. As the chief officer in charge of Tennessee's association, she ran the daily operations of an association that includes 2,500 members while also monitoring the political and regulatory environments for the industry both in Nashville and Washington.

In addition to being an effective voice for the industry—whether through communicating with Members of Congress or state legislators or with members of the media, Susan also guided their charitable endeavors. She also served as chairman of the Executive Officers Council in 2009, co-chair of the NAHB National Membership Committee in 2000, and was a member of the NAHB Executive Committee in 2000 and in 2009, also serving as a founding member of the EO 20 Club.

Susan has been a successful and professional leader for many years, and while I know the industry will continue to be successful for many years to come, I also know that the home builders of Tennessee will miss her guidance. I would ask all of the Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Susan Ritter for her excellent work and sending best wishes to her and her family in their future endeavors.

HONORING BRONSON FRIELING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bronson Frieling. Bronson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bronson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bronson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Bronson has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Bronson fundraised, designed, and organized community volunteers to install an 8 foot by 10 foot road sign for the Andrew County Museum in Savannah, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bronson Frieling for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HEXAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Hexagon, a District of Columbia based original, political, satirical and musical comedy revue, on the occasion of its 65th anniversary. The show often makes fun of Congress here in the belly of the beast.