

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2398,
VETERAN HOUSE ACT OF 2020

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2398, which amends the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, of the United States Code to expand eligibility for the HUD-VASH program.

The bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual homeless veteran reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

This amendment will help to ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

Currently, 107,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, while double this amount will experience homelessness at one point in their lives.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is a government agency dedicated to fulfilling the need for affordable housing in America.

VASH is a jointly-administered permanent supportive housing program for disabled Veterans experiencing homelessness in which VA medical Centers provide referrals and case management while Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) administer the Section 8 housing vouchers.

The VASH program expands access to HUD for homeless veterans.

H.R. 2398 adds the word "veteran" to the Housing Act's authorizing language, thus strengthening the Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program.

This change will increase the total number of permanent government-issued housing benefits to veterans most vulnerable to homelessness.

The services provided by the programs would assist veterans in both attaining and sustaining permanent housing.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is far too high in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us.

I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2398.

RICK TAYLOR

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the life and legacy of the late Pennsauken, New Jersey resident, The Honorable Rick Taylor.

The late Rick Taylor and his family lived in Pennsauken, New Jersey, where he served as

Pennsauken Township's Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Township Committeeman for 25 years and served as a longtime educator at Pennsauken Public schools.

Rick Taylor earned his master's degree in education administration from Glassboro State College and moved to Pennsauken in 1969. His lengthy career in the township's schools began when he was hired as a Pennsauken High School English teacher and held that position for eight years before advancing to the role of assistant principal, which he held for a decade. Rick then became principal of two Pennsauken elementary schools for nine years. He also served as an assistant football coach and head golf coach at Pennsauken High School and spent 15 years as director of personnel for the Pennsauken School District.

Along with his dedication to students and education, Rick also served in positions of civic leadership. He served on the township committee for 25 years and served as Mayor for nine terms. He also served as a Lector at St. Stephen's and was on the board of the Diocese of Camden's Office of Black Catholic Ministry. Additionally, Mr. Taylor was a Commissioner on the Delaware River Port Authority Board and was reappointed to the Board by Governor Christie in 2017.

Among his many accomplishments, Rick received Camden County's MLK Freedom Medal for his service to the community of Pennsauken for over 40 years and for his work as a tireless advocate for children, youth and families.

The residents of Pennsauken, New Jersey greatly adored and appreciated Mr. Taylor. His passing is a great loss to Pennsauken and our entire community, as well as a deeply personal loss for those who were privileged to call him a friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the late Rick Taylor, of Pennsauken, New Jersey, a dedicated public servant who fought tirelessly for his students, fellow educators, his committee members and for the constituents of Pennsauken, New Jersey.

HONORING LOUIS GILL

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Louis Gill in celebration of his decades of work as a dedicated volunteer, leader, and activist in the City of Passaic and the Polish community.

Born to Mr. Ludwig Gill and Ms. Leona Stolarz, Mr. Gill's commitment to service began very young. After graduating from Passaic High School in 1957, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson College and received a bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1961. After becoming the Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (W.E.C.E.P.) Coordinator and teacher at the Paterson Board of Edu-

cation, Mr. Gill continued to earn multiple degrees and certifications for business, education, and administration. Following his years in school, Mr. Gill founded his own store, Gill's Market, right in his hometown of Passaic.

Mr. Gill married his beloved wife Mary in 1963 in Passaic, New Jersey. Together, they raised four children and are grandparents to four grandchildren. Five years after his wedding, Mr. Gill began his lifelong career in public service. He was appointed to the Passaic Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission, where he served for five years, three of which he was the Chairman. In 1977, he was elected to the Passaic City Council, where he served for another 19 years and eventually became the President of the City Council. During his service there, Mr. Gill was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly to represent the 36th District for two terms in 1987.

Mr. Gill's service to his community here in New Jersey and to the Polish community is extensive. While pursuing higher education and serving his local community, he was the Grand Marshall of the Pulaski Day Parade and President of the Sons of Poland for five years. He also joined the League of American Poles, and was a part of the Board of Directors for the Polish Cultural Center and Clifton Community Center. In addition to getting involved with the Polish community, Mr. Gill was also a part of the Chopin Singing Society for 50 years, where he served as President.

Mr. Gill's service to his community is a credit to his character, and he has consistently been recognized for his work. He was awarded the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Pulaski Association of Police and Fire Departments in 1978. In the following year, he received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Policemen's Benevolent Association. Finally, as a member of the Passaic-Clifton Y.M.C.A., Mr. Gill received the Recognition For Service Award in 1985.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Mr. Gill.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, friends, family, and the residents of New Jersey in recognizing Louis Gill for his outstanding work, as we celebrate his decades of distinguished service to the State of New Jersey and the members of his family and community.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF LEO AND EVELYN
HUPPE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th wedding anniversary of Leo and Evelyn Huppe, longtime residents of Rochester, New Hampshire.

• 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.

The Huppes have shared decades of life and love together, marrying on January 31, 1945. Since that date, their family has grown to include one daughter, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandson, all while living in the same home in Rochester.

Together they have enjoyed many adventures, celebrated great achievements, and persevered through life's challenges. Mr. Huppe answered his nation's call, serving in the Pacific during World War II, where his distinguished service earned him the Silver Star. And Mrs. Huppe recently celebrated her 100th birthday in May 2019. May your love and commitment continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

On behalf on my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. and Mrs. Huppe a very happy 75th anniversary. I hope they enjoy a wonderful celebration with their family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 180th anniversary of Sumpter Township.

Sumpter Township can trace its origins back to the revolutionary war era. As one of the original bounty land act areas off the Erie Canal, Sumpter's first settlers were revolutionary war soldiers looking for large land tracks and farm land out west. On April 6, 1840, the Township of Sumpter—named after revolutionary war General Thomas Sumter—was officially formed, home to a total of 228 residents. In the years that followed, Sumpter Township became a busy town with shopping districts, a town hall, the first producing oil well in Wayne County, and its own school district.

Since its humble beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century, Sumpter Township has grown and transformed significantly. Today, Sumpter Township is a diverse community of 9,549 residents drawing from a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Even 180 years later, Sumpter Township continues to be an important component of our Michigan community. Its woodlands, wetlands, prairies, parks, and abundant wildlife are natural treasures for all Michiganders to value and enjoy, and its welcoming, neighborly, and tight-knit community serves as a model that others should strive to emulate.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 180th anniversary of Sumpter Township. As one of Michigan's earliest communities, it is my wish that Sumpter Township continues to be a pleasant place for people to live, work, and enjoy the vast beauty Michigan has to offer. Congratulations on this historic milestone, and best of luck in the years ahead.

HONORING THE BRUCE
ELEMENTARY 3

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the Bruce 3, the three first graders who integrated Bruce Elementary School in Memphis in 1961, and to the artist who so thoughtfully depicted that historic event in a mural on the school's cafeteria walls. Harry Williams, Dwania Kyles and Menelik Fombi were the courageous pioneers, part of the Memphis 13, who integrated the Memphis school system that year.

Memphian Jamond Bullock's mural of the Bruce students was unveiled in a ceremony on January 17 at which I was proud to speak. I reminded the current students, teachers, Shelby County School Board officials, other alumni and school supporters that it was my friend, the late Civil Rights advocate and long-time judge Russell Sugarmon, who came up with the idea that it should be first graders integrating Memphis' public schools. This was unlike the practice at Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas, in 1957, where older students who were integrating the school incurred the taunts of angry mobs and federal troops were called in to keep the peace.

Judge Sugarmon said that escorting the Malone twins, Sheila and Sharon, into Gordon Elementary School in 1961 was one of his proudest moments. The Bruce 3 endured the loneliness and ostracism of being the only African Americans in the otherwise all-white school, and did not even share the same classrooms. They were heroes and so were their courageous parents.

Menelik Fombi's father, A.W. Willis Jr., was a leading Civil Rights advocate and Russell Sugarmon's law partner at the time. A.W. Willis Jr. and Russell Sugarmon were the first and second African Americans elected to the Tennessee General Assembly since Reconstruction. Dwania Kyles' father, the late Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles, pastor of Monumental Baptist Church, was one of the last to speak with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in April 1968.

Artist Jamond Bullock, founder of AlivePaint, is a nationally recognized mural designer and painter who has enlivened the walls of buildings in Memphis with uplifting imagery. His Bruce Elementary painting, which he completed over two and a half months during school holidays and off hours, was inspired by the courage of the three Bruce students, and he has said he is proud that current students will be reminded of their predecessors' courage and sacrifice. He has done our city a great service. I was pleased to speak with the Bruce students, young and old, and to celebrate this important chapter in Memphis and American history.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 35th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and the cornerstone of the event, the 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Every year, members of the community gather on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to reflect upon the past year and receive a message of hope from the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will forever be enshrined in our history as the formative figure in the quest for justice through civil dialogue.

Dr. King has continued to be an inspiration to all for generations. Many have answered his call to both stand up and call out inequalities that we still see today. The struggle for freedom that Dr. King was fighting for was brought to the forefront during the March on Washington. On that day, while standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King famously said "Let Freedom Ring" which is fittingly the theme for this year's Oratorical Contest. He wanted our youth to have the future they are seeing today, free to reach unlimited heights. The talented students who are participating in this contest are true examples of the continuous efforts Dr. King wanted from us all.

I congratulate the following contestants in the 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest:

Middle School Contestants: Nyela Asterilla Anderson—Hampton Middle School; Kamari Chisolm—Bull Run Middle School; Myles Lainer—Manassas Park Middle School.

High School Contestants: Zion Fozo—Potomac High School; Jessica Gyamfi—Colgan High School; Hanaan Khahir—Osborn Park High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for showcasing the power of purposeful and meaningful communication reminiscent of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in congratulating the talented youth of the 2020 MLK Youth Oratorical Contest.

HONORING CAPTAIN VERONICA
PEPPERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Captain Veronica Peppers, a resident of Madison County, Mississippi. Captain Peppers is a 1990 graduate of Velma Jackson High School. Captain Peppers graduated May 1996 with a BS in Mass Communication from Jackson State University. She also received the prestigious honor of Captain of Mississippi Army National Guard in March