

Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) No. 9305, in El Centro, CA. In addition, he was selected to be one of only seven members of the newly formed American Legion Department of California Training Committee. There he drafted the approved Annual Training Budget and is leading the development of Post Finance Officer training to assist the 442 American Legion DOC Posts.

Tracy continues to demonstrate his dedication to our community, veterans and patriotism. This can be easily seen by his roles and active participations: Co-Founder and President of the Imperial Valley Patriotic Planning Committee, member of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Committee, member of the Vietnam Moving Wall 2020 Ceremonies Committee, Advocate and active participant for the Imperial County Veterans Advisory Council and Veterans Employment Committee, member and Secretary of the Imperial County Continuum of Care Council and Point-In-Time Count Committee.

Tracy is a Cold War and Gulf War Veteran. In the past year, he alone raised several hundreds of dollars to help support California Veterans through the American Legion's CALVAR Helmets for Heroes program. He has also provided multiple patriotic ceremonies to the community and served as the Master of Ceremony for the Boyce Aten Post 25's 100th Anniversary.

Tracy is known and highly respected by many of the elected leaders within my district and Imperial County. I thank Tracy for his service and congratulate him for being selected as California 56th Assembly District's 2019 Veteran of the Year.

LOCAL-BASED SOCIAL SECURITY
BENEFITS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the need to ensure that we protect the most vulnerable of Americans, our elderly, disabled and disadvantaged citizens, from the risk of living in poverty. Social Security was established 85 years ago, to provide a structure to maintain a collective sense of security amidst the expansion and development of our great Nation.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), about 63 million Americans received \$1 trillion in benefits in 2018. SSA estimates that about one-third of beneficiaries depend on Social Security benefits for more than 90 percent of their retirement income. Furthermore, the number of Americans 65-and-older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060; their total population will rise from 16 percent to 23 percent. Unfortunately, due to inflation and wide economic disparities by region, Social Security provides an uneven distribution of benefits across the country. As you know, New York City is one of the most expensive places to live in the nation, and many, especially seniors, battle with paying for even the most basic of necessities, including food and rent.

That is why I am introducing the "Locality-based Social Security Benefits Act", which would adjust the amount of monthly old-age,

survivors, and disability insurance payments under Title II of the Social Security Act based on locality-based comparability payment rates.

Madam Speaker, Social Security is an important safety net that many Americans have come to rely upon as their main source of income. We must ensure that the quality of life is not dependent upon where our senior and disadvantaged citizens live in America. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNUAL
SALUTE OF THE BLACK NURSES
ASSOCIATION OF GREATER
WASHINGTON D.C. AREA, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 40th Annual Salute of the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Inc.

The Black Nurses Association (BNA) of Greater Washington, D.C. Area (GWDCA), Inc., chartered in 1975, endeavors to support the mission of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) and provide services to residents in the D.C. area.

BNA of GWDCA acts as a vehicle for cohesion and solidarity among Black nurses to ensure the continuity of common heritage. The BNA of GWDCA hosted its first Annual Salute to a Black Nurse on February 14, 1981 at St. Elizabeths Hospital to recognize the contributions of nurses in the community and to celebrate Black History Month. "The Salute" has become a signature community program, where one practicing nurse is awarded "Nurse of the Year" and one nursing student is awarded a scholarship.

BNA of GWDCA has a distinguished legacy of community service with a focus on addressing specific health problems of the Black consumer and health care disparities. Past programs have included participation in the National Black Nurses National Hypertension Project, National Depression Project and partnerships with the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. The association's signature community service project provides community-based health assessments and teaching through church-based and collaborative health fairs and partnerships with the D.C. Department of Health, Office of Immunizations and the Washington Hospital Center.

Importantly, we are grateful that in response to the critical shortage of nurses in all areas of practice, the BNA of GWDCA's "Choose Nursing Project" provides career information and mentoring in the field for students in D.C. area middle and high schools. As a chapter, BNA of GWDCA continues to carry the mission of "Empowering the community through Education, Service and Caring" and support the NBNA's theme, "The Art and Science of Nursing."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Black Nurses Association of Greater Washington, D.C. area for 45 years of working to improve the lives of D.C. residents and the profession of nursing.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUP-
PORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF
THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY
EACH YEAR AS "RARE DISEASE
DAY"

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for its leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern "blood bank," which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More than 840 drugs and biologics have been approached by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of rare diseases. However, Congress must do more to combat rare diseases. That's why in September of 2019, Rep. HUDSON and I introduced the Rare Disease Advancement, Surveillance Research, and Education (RARE) Act of 2019 (H.R. 4228). Our legislation, cosponsored by 57 bipartisan Members of Congress, expands the ability of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) to study rare diseases by improving