

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION
INITIATIVE**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate House passage of H. R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019, which will support the health of America's Third Coast. The Great Lakes provide drinking water to more than 30 million people, support more than 300,000 jobs, and are home to more than 3,500 plant and animal species. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a multi-agency program that addresses threats to this ecosystem, such as algal blooms and invasive species. More than 4,700 projects have already been completed under GLRI, leading to healthier fisheries, clean drinking water, and stronger wildlife habitats.

I was proud to cosponsor this bill to reauthorize GLRI with increased funding. I thank my colleagues for passing this bill last week and I urge swift passage in the Senate.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PHOENIX PRIDE**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Phoenix Pride. As one of the longest-standing LGBTQ+ organizations in our state, their work has taken the values of diversity, inclusivity, and equality to every corner of the state of Arizona.

Phoenix Pride is a groundbreaking pillar of advocacy for the city's LGBTQ+ community. In addition to producing the two largest annual LGBTQ+ events in Arizona, they work extensively to reach out to marginalized communities, preserve the unique culture and history of LGBTQ+ Arizonans, and provide scholarship funding for LGBTQ+ students. In fact, the organization awarded over \$47,000 in scholarships in 2019 and has helped dozens of students reach their academic goals since 2008.

Thanks in part to the hard work of Phoenix Pride, Phoenix ranks among the most LGBTQ+-friendly cities in the state, with protections against discrimination and a strong, involved LGBTQ+ community. Our city certainly would not be the same without their tireless work for equality and justice.

They have served as a beacon of hope and growth in the fight for equality for decades. The changes experienced and catalyzed by Phoenix Pride over the last forty years have been tremendous, and I join them in working to ensure that the next forty bring even more progress.

As they celebrate their fortieth anniversary, I wish to congratulate Phoenix Pride on all of their achievements and thank them for their service to our city.

HONORING DR. LYNDA YOUNG

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lynda Young, whose term as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Federal Government Affairs wraps up later this month. I have had the honor and privilege of calling Dr. Young a friend and working with her for many years, and I know her to be a brilliant pediatrician and tireless advocate for the well-being of all children and families.

For 34 years, Dr. Young has been a practicing pediatrician in Worcester, Massachusetts as well as serving as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Throughout her career, she's worked with numerous non-profits serving children in Central Massachusetts and devoted countless hours to advocating on behalf of children at the local, state and national levels.

After serving as a member of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs for several years, it was no surprise that Dr. Young was elected chair in 2016. During her tenure, she's never shied away from a fight where the well-being of children was in question. Among her many accomplishments during her time as chair include serving as a plaintiff in a successful federal lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which resulted in a court order requiring the FDA to finalize graphic warning labels for cigarettes; fighting for a 10-year extension of the vitally important Children's Health Insurance Program; defeating attempts to repeal and replace the transformative Affordable Care Act; and co-chairing four national AAP Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C. Dr. Young has also been an integral contributor to the AAP's Blueprint for Children: How the Next President Can Build a Foundation for a Healthy Future, which outlines federal policy priorities for the next presidential administration on improving children's health.

Madam Speaker, for all of Dr. Young's accolades and accomplishments, none resonate more than the day-in and day-out care she provides for children and their families as a pediatrician. She is compassionate and reassuring during tough times. She takes the time to really listen to and take an interest in her patients. She is always there for them and she has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of thousands of children. And I speak from firsthand experience—Dr. Young was my children's pediatrician in Worcester.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to warmly congratulate Dr. Young on her successful tenure as chair of the AAP's Committee on Federal Government Affairs. I look forward to continuing to work with her to improve the lives of all children and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, due to a medical reason, I was unable to vote on the following 10 Roll Call Amendments/Bills.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 60 (DeGette Amendment)—Makes changes to Title I—Colorado Wilderness and designates an additional 60,000 acres wilderness; NAY on Roll Call No. 61 (McClintock Amendment No. 2)—Authorizes local counties to veto Congressionally approved wilderness designations; NAY on Roll Call No. 62 (McClintock Amendment No. 3)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior to veto wilderness and wild and scenic river designations authorized by Congress under this Act if the areas do not meet the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act or the criteria for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 63 (Panetta Amendment)—States that the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may manage for fire, insects, and diseases in wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 64 (Westerman Amendment No. 6)—Allows the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of the Interior to exempt from wilderness designations under the Act any area determined by the Secretary to be at high risk of wildfire; NAY on Roll Call No. 65 (Westerman Amendment No. 7)—Strikes all designations of "potential" wilderness under the bill; YEA on Roll Call No. 66 (Cunningham Amendment)—Ensures that military aircraft overflights, units of special air space, and flight training routes are allowed over wilderness areas designated by this Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 67 (Tipton Amendment No. 9)—Strikes wilderness additions in the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado; NAY on Roll Call No. 68 (Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2546); and YEA on Roll Call No. 69 (Final Passage of H.R. 2546)—Protecting America's Wilderness Act (Rep. DEGETTE—Natural Resources).

SUPPORTING H.J. RES. 79 AND THE
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. SPEIER, has introduced H.J. Res. 79, legislation that would provide for the Equal Rights Amendment's immediate adoption as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As Majority Leader, I am proud to bring that legislation to the Floor this week. Because House rules prohibit the addition of further cosponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, however, I am not able formally to cosponsor this legislation. I am in support of the bill and request to be considered by this body as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 79.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BAKU POGROMS**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Baku Pogroms. These atrocities, in addition to

pogroms committed in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Maraga, should never be forgotten. During this horrific period, the Armenian population of the former Soviet Azerbaijan were the victims of state-sponsored violence. These acts of violence paved the way for outright war against Nagorno-Karabakh and decades of conflict. The legacy of this conflict persists today.

The Soviet-sanctioned violence against the Armenian population in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh earned strong condemnation from the United States Congress, which we are proud to uphold today. The systematic looting, maiming, and murder of Armenians permitted and encouraged by the Soviet Government remain a terrible stain on our world history. On this anniversary, it is vital that we recommit ourselves and United States policy to healing the pain caused by anti-Armenian aggression.

I urge the Trump Administration to support life-saving programs like demining assistance in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as officially recognize the Republic of Artsakh. It is past time to implement carefully crafted, bipartisan proposals to cement peace in the region. Only by doing so can we honor the memory of the countless victims of the anti-Armenian pogroms and their descendants. I am proud to stand with Armenians and Armenian-Americans on this solemn day.

CITY OF SAN JOAQUIN
CENTENNIAL

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of San Joaquin which celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

The City of San Joaquin is a vibrant community located in rural Fresno County on what was previously part of a large ranch settled by Jefferson James, a miner and cattle rancher. After James' passing, his heirs sold their property to settlers, led by a gentleman by the name of Benjamin F. Graham, who created a formal plan for the community to be named Gramtown.

Graham sold the land to a company that, under the direction of their representative Dr. Herman Janz, established the community of San Joaquin. When the Southern Pacific Railroad established a line passing through San Joaquin in 1912, the flow of commerce expanded the area's economy. On February 14, 1920 the community elected to incorporate and became formally established as the City of San Joaquin.

Over the years, San Joaquin has become a hub of the agricultural industry with farms that produce food that feeds the world. Today, San Joaquin is known as the "everything is possible city" and continues to be a beacon of progress, aptly demonstrating a wholesome, rural way of life.

It is communities like San Joaquin that have shaped California's Central Valley, and indeed our country, into what it is today. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of San Joaquin and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in the many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 58 and YEA on Roll Call No. 59.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOE
BONAMASSA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, Joe Bonamassa is one of the most gifted, talented and accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarists in modern day blues. Blues is a quintessential American musical art form and Joe, throughout his life, has embraced and excelled in his pursuit of mastering this music. Joe, in exhibiting his extraordinary talents at the very early age of 4, was blessed to have his parents, Len and Debra Bonamassa, do everything possible to nurture and develop Joe's undeniable talent. Joe met the blues legend BB King after his mother received a call asking him to be the opening act for a concert headlined by King. Joe's incredible talent so impressed BB King that he was asked to continue as the opener and did over 20 shows with King by 1989. Len and Debra made significant sacrifices to help Joe realize his potential, including engaging Danny Gatton to mentor and train him. Len, who owned a guitar shop with his wife and a musician himself, cultivated not only Joe's interest in music but also his love of guitars. It is that connection with the guitar that is evident in all that Joe pursues in the world of music. He is an avid collector of guitars and amplifiers and is a subject matter expert on both the history and the mechanics of these instruments. He graciously shares his extensive collection of guitars and amplifiers with the public at one of the greatest guitar collections in the world—Nerdville, California. The "Bonaseum" as it is sometimes called displays some of the most historic and iconic guitars and amplifiers in the history of modern music.

Joe has released 13 studio albums and a fantastic series of live albums and DVDs that capture the essence of what makes him extraordinary, which is his ability to connect with folks before a live audience. His incredible talent and the phenomenal musicians he selects to play with him make for an unparalleled experience for his fans. Joe has pioneered a different way of doing business in the music industry. Not satisfied that he couldn't perform his music the way he wanted but the way the music industry dictated in a ones size fits all mentality, Joe broke the mold and did things his way. He took a big risk in developing a new business plan for his musical enterprise and was not sure at the time if he would survive in the music industry. He has persevered and now prospers in performing his craft the way he believes is best. He saw that there is a connection between recording and live per-

formances and has revolutionized the industry by developing and implementing a business that connects studio recording, live performances and booking his own shows. He has focused on playing smaller venues where the experience matches his style and magnitude of his performance. He has performed for over 30 years and continues to practice relentlessly and work incredibly hard at his craft. Every day he wakes up he is excited about the guitar and is equally thrilled to play it. Joe is one of the most thoughtful, caring and passionate artists in the music business. He has done a tremendous service to the world of blues music by creating the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation. This foundation each year brings together some of the best blues artists on the planet to share their talents with folks in a close, intimate setting. This connection with music fans is a great opportunity for both emerging and established artists to enjoy playing in a small venue and to raise money for a great cause. The Foundation awards grant money to extend the reach and value of the musical experience, especially in schools. Joe is extremely accessible, humble, and infinitely committed to encouraging others to pursue their musical interest just as his mom and dad from childhood. Our nation truly values the efforts and contributions of Joe Bonamassa to the world of music and his efforts to preserve guitar history and to inspire others in their musical pursuits.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JAMES L.
ROBERTS, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Circuit Judge James L. Roberts, Jr., who retired from the Pontotoc County Courthouse after a 48-year judiciary career.

Judge Roberts was born on June 8, 1945, in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He attended public school in Pontotoc County and later pursued higher education at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He then earned his M.B.A. at Mississippi State University in Starkville and later received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

As a life-long public servant, Judge Roberts served as Pontotoc County Prosecuting Attorney, municipal judge, chancery judge, circuit judge, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice, and was the Mississippi Commissioner of Public Safety for four years.

Throughout his life and to this day, Judge Roberts has set an example for others to follow. He and his wife, Mrs. Rose D. Roberts, are active members of Pontotoc First United Methodist Church. He has served the church as administrative council member and chair, trustee member and chair, finance member and chair, lay leader, head usher, and Sunday School Teacher.

I thank Judge Roberts for his lifelong dedication to the law and for making Mississippi a better place. I wish him many years of good health.