

been formed to conduct foreign internal defense. MARSOC deployed its first units in August 2006, six months after initial activation, and since that time has deployed continuously. MARSOC's current missions include counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, foreign internal defense and security force assistance.

Since its inception, MARSOC has received numerous unit awards including: Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer, Afghanistan Campaign Streamer with One Bronze Star, National Defense Service Streamer, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Streamer as well as Global War on Terrorism Service Streamer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of this brave and patriotic unit and their standard of Spiritus Invictus, an Unconquerable Spirit. May we always keep our dedicated service members treasured in our hearts and constantly in our prayers for their service to God and country.

MS. JEAN WILEY, CIVIL RIGHTS
LEADER AND ACTIVIST

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Jean Wiley, who transitioned from the world that she tirelessly fought to improve, on December 9, 2019.

Born on June 11, 1942 to Elizabeth Thelma Holland Boyer Wiley and Joseph Alphonsus Wiley, Jean Wiley was a proud daughter of Baltimore, Maryland, where she completed her undergraduate degree at Morgan State University. As a testament to her work and legacy, many parts of our country—Michigan, Alabama, California, Washington, D.C., and Georgia to name a few—claim this amazing woman.

In 1953, the Supreme Court integrated Washington, D.C., but a few miles up the road, Ms. Wiley grew up surrounded by the oppressive stench of segregation in Baltimore. In 1963, she and other students took matters into their own hands; police arrested Jean and her friends as they conducted a sit-in to desegregate Baltimore's theaters. Upon hearing that Howard University students were heading up the highway to reinforce their protest, Baltimore's Mayor released these brave young activists and integrated the facilities.

Madam Speaker, I believe that taste of success fueled Ms. Wiley's life-long passion for civil and human rights. A few years later, Jean completed graduate studies at Michigan State University and began to teach at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute (now University). Professor Wiley challenged her students to expand their minds and inspired many to join the national movement for civil rights.

I will forever cherish my memories from this period of our lives, when young people from all different walks of life became nonviolent foot soldiers in the fight for our freedom. After Hosea Williams and I attempted to lead a march from Selma to Montgomery on a day that became known as Bloody Sunday, Ms. Wiley and more than 500 Tuskegee students caravanned from Macon County to Montgomery, Alabama to protest in solidarity for our right to vote. At the end of the summer, Con-

gress passed, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965.

Madam Speaker, for many of us in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Jean was and will always remain a sister. Time and time again, she put her life and livelihood on the line in her pursuit of truth and justice. Jean taught volunteers to canvass, offered her home as a refuge, and even became the voice and face of SNCC during the summer of 1965, when she served as our national media relations coordinator. In this role, Ms. Wiley played the integral, critical role of sharing our work in the Deep South with the nation and the world. Whether we were boycotting, protesting, or testing voter registration procedures, Jean made sure that our work was not ignored.

After serving on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement, Ms. Wiley made her way to Washington, D.C. where she helped create the Center for Black Education. Throughout her life, Jean was committed to the betterment of the African Diaspora and refused to wait for oppressive forces to see the light on their own. Over the years, she shared her expertise with Howard University's WHUR radio station, Essence Magazine, and the Institute for the Black World, an Atlanta-based think-tank.

As a devoted educator, Jean also continued to teach at the University of the District of Columbia and the University of California at Berkeley. Whether in the classroom or in her home, Professor Wiley shared the lessons and tactics of the Civil Rights Movement with new generations—including her cousin, Ms. Kimberly W. Ross, who works closely with me and my office on Capitol Hill.

As loved ones gather to reflect upon Ms. Jean Wiley's good and great work, I would like to pay tribute to the unbreakable bond of her adoring family—son, Cabral Stuckey Wiley; granddaughter, Brejaneey Wiley; great-granddaughters, Shariyah Harris and Narii Parker; sisters, Joyce Dyson and Lois Wiley Benjamin; nieces, Shiree Dyson and Ayisha Dyson; and nephews, Keith Dyson, Touré Dyson, and Malcolm Wiley.

Madam Speaker, the record should be clear: Ms. Wiley dedicated every ounce of her energy to the fight for justice. For these reasons, I proudly join all who knew, loved, learned from, and cared for this great leader in celebrating her life's work to transform the face and soul of our nation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of Congress, I rise in support of H.R. 4737, the "Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act," which requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to evaluate existing federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security, to identify areas for further research within the Department, and to research and develop approaches to mitigate

the consequences of climate change on homeland security.

This legislation directs DHS to assess and potentially expand existing federal research projects that examine ways to mitigate the effects of climate change on homeland security programs.

The development in research from DHS will explore the connection, if any, between climate change and homeland security, including how the resulting competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent can contribute to acts of terrorism.

Climate change poses a direct threat to U.S. national security through its effects on critical infrastructure, the lives of citizens, the economy, and energy security.

The scarcer resources become, the more power is given to those who control them, especially in regions where people are particularly reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods.

Terrorist groups will exploit the natural disasters and water and food shortages expected to result from climate change and allow them to recruit more easily, operate more freely and control civilian populations.

H.R. 4737 will ensure that DHS is adequately structured to meet the demands of responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are aggravated by climate change.

Climate change is not just a global problem, but also a threat to domestic security.

More than 60 percent of the country has faced moderate to extreme drought conditions and massive heat waves which devastated corn crops, put pressure on food prices, and caused deaths around the country.

Climate change poses costly threats to our domestic installations and potentially destabilizing threats to our international installations that hold strategic importance to the United States.

The extreme weather events that we have witnessed in the past 5 years illustrate the impact of climate change in the U.S. is much more complicated than a simple rise in temperatures.

Each region of this country will be impacted differently; understanding these regional consequences is important to policymakers because it will allow planning for response and adaptation.

Studies show that Texas is among a string of "Deep South" states that will experience the worst effects of climate change.

For example, Hurricane Harvey was a 1,000 year storm that has to date claimed the lives of at least 30 persons.

Before it was finished, Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons of rainfall on Texas and Louisiana, most of it on the Houston Metroplex.

A record 4,323 days, which is nearly 12 years, elapsed since a major hurricane (Category 3 or above) made landfall in the United States prior to Hurricane Harvey; the last Category 3 hurricane to hit the United States was Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the same year Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of New Orleans.

To put in perspective the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey, the volume of water that fell on Houston and other affected areas of Texas and Louisiana could fill more than 24,000 Astrodomes or supply the water for the raging Niagara Falls for 15 days.

In the first three days of the storm, more than 49,000 homes that had suffered flood

damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

Local authorities closed major freeways, airports, and schools.

In the first three days of the storm, more than 49,000 homes that had suffered flood damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

More than 30,000 persons were forced out of their homes due to the storm.

Presently, Houston experiences about five days each year over 100° Fahrenheit and by 2100, the city could expect some 70 days over 100° Fahrenheit.

The major weather and climate disasters that Texas experienced each produced at least a billion dollars in losses.

As the climate continues to warm, more multi-year droughts are expected with devastating impacts to the state's agriculture sector and drinking water.

As climate change affects food security and the availability of water and land, affected people will become more vulnerable not only to negative climate impacts but also to recruitment by terrorist groups offering alternative livelihoods and economic incentives.

Climate change will directly affect America's homeland and the security of its citizens.

I ask all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 4737, the "Department of Homeland Security Climate Change Research Act."

STANDING IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Social Security and Medicare, programs that literally save the lives of millions of Americans every day and serve nearly 200,000 veterans, children, seniors, and persons with disabilities in my district, and over 69 million across the country. I was deeply disappointed this week to see that the President's budget included steep cuts to these life-sustaining programs. Cutting \$35 billion from Social Security and \$500 billion from Medicare, not only puts Pinellas families and their loved ones at risk of losing their healthcare and benefits but also places a huge undue burden on some of the most vulnerable in our communities. We should be lending a helping hand to those in need, not turning them away. These cuts and broken promises will hurt people. And we cannot stand idly by. Let's protect Social Security and Medicare, now and always.

HONORING JUDGE ROMONDA D. BELCHER AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Judge Romonda D. Belcher, a District Associate Judge at the Polk County Justice Center in Des Moines, Iowa as the

lowan of the Week. Judge Belcher is the first African American female judge to serve in the state of Iowa. She was appointed to the bench on August 20, 2010 and serves our community with distinction.

Like many young girls across this country, she set her goals high at a young age. She grew up in North Carolina and moved to Iowa to attempt Drake Law School. Before she was selected to be a judge, she worked in the Polk County Attorney's Office for 15 years, serving in multiple different capacities including important work in juvenile justice. She's been a mentor to women and attorneys across Iowa—including mentoring those who move here from out of state about how to handle our winter.

As District Associate Judge, she continues to exemplify justice and equality by treating those who come before her fairly, with compassion and respect. The late Iowa Supreme Court Justice Mark Cady believed it was these qualities in Judge Belcher that makes her so valuable to our community. He said that Judge Belcher's "presence and her approach and the kindness she displays is very needed" by the those who come before her courtroom.

I have great respect and admiration for folks who stand up for people who can't always stand up for themselves. Judge Belcher has made it her mission to help and had a dedicated life of public service, and Iowans are better because of it. It is an honor to commemorate the outstanding achievements of Judge Belcher and celebrate her as our lowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JOHN C. DORTCH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has held many titles throughout his life; scholar athlete, Howard University graduate, U.S. Army officer, decorated Vietnam veteran, professor, attorney, pastor, and—for fifteen years—inmate.

John C. Dortch was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, the son of a Baptist minister. He was a gifted musician at a young age, an impressive student athlete, and a distinguished Military Graduate from Howard University who volunteered to serve in Vietnam at the age of 22.

After returning home from war, a series of bad decisions led John to participate in a bank robbery where a police officer was killed. John took full responsibility of his past, enrolling in law school after he was released from prison and leading programs for first-time juvenile offenders and anti-violence initiatives.

John turned his biggest regret into a mission of servitude, founding the Circle of Hope Ministries for the homeless in the Lowcountry. Every day he asks himself, "Did I help someone today?" John's life of service is a testament to the truth that every person is more than the worst thing they have done. It is an honor to know him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLY DOBSON AS SHE IS NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Dobson as she is named Woman of the Year by the United Way of Washtenaw County's Women United group. Dobson's lifetime of community service and philanthropy is worthy of commendation, and we are proud to recognize her achievements today.

Molly Dobson is a pillar of Washtenaw County. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1944, Dobson enlisted in the U.S. Navy where she worked in communications throughout World War II. After returning home to Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dobson embarked on a new era defined by giving, philanthropy, and community service. In the 1960s, Dobson began working with United Way and has been completely dedicated to furthering its community-building mission ever since. Throughout the years, Dobson has assisted the organization in several capacities, serving as a fundraiser, a member of the Budget Priorities Committee, and later sitting on the Board. Alongside numerous other achievements, Dobson will particularly be remembered for her efforts to develop the D-SIP internship program with the University of Michigan. Thanks to her work and generosity, 313 undergraduate students have completed the program since its inception.

Today, we celebrate Molly Dobson for her lifetime of service to her community, her state, and her country. Her years of philanthropy have impacted the lives of many, and her continued dedication provides a lasting example for what we should all endeavor to accomplish—to effect change, be compassionate community members, and do all we can to make a difference in the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Molly Dobson. Her decades of selfless service make her a deserving recipient of the Woman of the Year award. I am grateful for her lasting impact and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANTONIO R. RODRIGUEZ

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Antonio R. Rodriguez, who gave his life on February 8, 2020 while serving our nation in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant First Class Rodriguez of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group out of Eglin Air Force Base in Florida is a true American hero, one that honorably served the United States for over a decade as an elite Army Ranger. Sergeant First Class Rodriguez deployed ten times to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.