

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CARLOS A. PENIN FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in recognition of his long-standing contributions to the engineering profession and his dedication to bettering South Florida, I rise today to honor my good friend, Mr. Carlos A. Penin.

Born in Holguin, Cuba, Carlos was forced into exile by the Castro dictatorship with his mother and three sisters in 1962. They arrived in Miami, Florida where they rebuilt their lives in pursuit of the American Dream. Carlos knew that with hard work and perseverance, he could turn this dream into a reality. In 1977, he graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and Construction Management. He continued with his studies and received an M.S. in Environmental and Urban Systems from Florida International University in 1982.

After graduation, Carlos remained in South Florida and worked for several architectural and engineering firms. He played a key role in designing and managing major infrastructure projects, including the Joe Robbie Stadium, now known as the Hard Rock Stadium. Despite his success, Carlos always knew he wanted to start his own company and give back to the community that has given so much to him. In 1989, he took a chance and began C.A.P. Government, Inc. (CAP), and, in 2019, CAP celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Under his leadership, CAP has provided unparalleled expertise for government clients who need assistance with building department services. Presently, they serve over sixty municipalities and six educational institutions across Florida.

While Carlos's professional accomplishments are impressive, it would be remiss to honor him without touching on the love he has for his three daughters, Monica, Teresa, and Isabel. His daughters are truly his greatest treasures, and, with their support, he has become not only a successful businessman, but also a leader in his community. He has been actively involved in promoting the importance of engineering careers through leadership positions in several organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cuban American Association of Civil Engineers (CAACE), and, in fact, is the 2020 recipient of their Plinio Villanueva Award. This award recognizes his commitment and dedication to advancing the civil engineering profession. Further, it acknowledges the difference that he has made in the lives of so many, and it is one that he greatly deserves.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to call Mr. Carlos A. Penin a close friend, and to pay tribute to his impressive accomplishments. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

RECOGNIZING CLAY COUNTY SUPERVISOR, MR. SHELTON DEANES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clay County Supervisor, Mr. Shelton Deanes, who is being inducted into the West Point Hall of Fame for his outstanding public service.

Supervisor Deanes was born in West Point, Mississippi, in 1956. He and his wife, Mrs. Frances Deanes, are blessed with eight children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Supervisor Deanes has always set an example of faith for his family to follow. He has been a proud member of Palo Alto Missionary Baptist Church for over 54 years and has served his congregation as a Deacon.

Supervisor Deanes was first elected as Clay County Supervisor in 1991. During his 29-year career, he has been instrumental in developing multiple projects for Clay County. His initiatives included building the Judicial Court Building, adding more voting precincts to the county, developing the Una Community Center, adding the walking trail and Fun Day, and paving residential roads.

Supervisor Deanes is a remarkable Mississippian who has set a shining example for others to follow. I thank him for his positive impact on his community, and I wish him many more years of good health.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD POLLARD

HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donald W. Pollard, III for his service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Donald joined our office as a legislative assistant and served as an advisor for my work on the House Committee on Homeland Security, in addition to handling a policy portfolio that included energy, environment, natural resources, judiciary, campaign finance, and other issues. Among other accomplishments, he developed and led introduction of the Climate and Health Protection Act and the Safe Communities Act. Donald was instrumental in our office's work to advance clean energy policy, protect communities from domestic threats, and counter gun violence.

Donald's intellect, diligence, and professionalism have been invaluable assets as we worked to establish our legislative operation from scratch during my first year in office. I commend his ability to direct a wide policy portfolio while leading my staff work on the Committee on Homeland Security. Although

Donald may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois will continue to benefit from the results of his hard work and accomplishments.

Prior to joining my staff, Donald earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond. He then earned a Master of Public Administration from American University while serving his home-state Senator. I am grateful he chose to continue his career in public service by joining my office. Our team will miss his expertise, work ethic, sense of humor, and encyclopedic knowledge of Beyoncé.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Donald W. Pollard, III for his service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 28th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. Tragically, on February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women and 83 children—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed.

Even though a ceasefire went into effect over two decades ago, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remain occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain unable to return to their home villages. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory emphasizes the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works toward a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included: playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

• 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.

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, let us commit ourselves to supporting non-violent efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY
MASSACRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Khojaly Massacre, and to honor the victims of this horrendous act.

The appalling massacre perpetrated on the innocent people of Khojaly in February 1992 is no less shocking 28 years later. One of the worst atrocities ever committed in the South Caucasus, justice has still not been delivered and 150 civilians are still missing.

As we demand respect for human rights and democratic accountability within the international community, it is important that we continue to remember what happened in Khojaly and bring those responsible to account.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD
G. STRATTON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald G. Stratton, who passed away on February 15, 2020 after a lifetime of service to his country. Mr. Stratton was a dedicated husband of 69 years, a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, New York Times best-selling author, USS *Arizona* Survivor, and a champion of the memory for those who did not make it home.

Mr. Donald Stratton was born July 14, 1922 in Inavale, Nebraska to Robert and Jessie Stratton. After growing up in Nebraska and graduating from Red Cloud High School, Donald attended Navy bootcamp in 1940. After graduation from bootcamp he was given orders to join the USS *Arizona* in dry dock at the Navy shipyards in Bremerton, Washington. Upon completion of her maintenance and retrofit in Washington, the USS *Arizona* steamed across the Pacific to join her fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in early 1941.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Stratton was on his way to visit a shipmate in sick bay when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began. He immediately raced to his battle station, winding through ship spaces and climbing three ladders to reach the *Arizona's* sky control platform, where he yelled coordinates to the gun crews firing at the incoming waves of Japanese bombers. Just minutes after he arrived, a bomb struck a direct blow to the *Arizona* hitting the ammunition stores, lifting the 35,000 ton ship out of the water, and sending a fireball hundreds of feet skyward.

Seaman First Class Stratton and his shipmates in the director were surrounded by flames. He and five other sailors were able to

navigate the burning wreckage and signal for help. Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George from the USS *Vestal* came to their rescue and saved their lives by repeatedly throwing a heaving line until the men were able to secure it and climb seventy feet, hand over hand, to safety above the inferno that raged below.

Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joe George disobeyed a direct order to cut away from the *Arizona* and instead courageously fought to provide a means of escape for the sailors. Mr. Stratton credited Joe George for saving his life that day and petitioned for years to have his actions recognized. Mr. Stratton called and wrote numerous letters, ultimately meeting with President Trump before Joe George was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his heroic actions that day.

Mr. Stratton was medically discharged from the Navy in 1942 and returned to Nebraska. Ever the fighter, he decided to reenlist a year later, deny orders to a stateside posting, and eventually joined the USS *Stack* on its way to the Pacific. He fought in the invasion of the Philippines, the invasion of Okinawa, and on patrol missions throughout the Pacific theater.

After returning from war, Donald Stratton traveled the world, raised a family, and devoted his life to preserving the story of what happened that day. Donald is survived by his wife of 69 years Velma, son Randy (Kathy) Stratton, brother Willie Stratton, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stratton was a hero. A selfless American who dedicated his life to our country and fought to have his shipmates remembered long after they, or he, had passed to another life. It was a privilege to have met Mr. Stratton and it is an honor to stand and commemorate his incredible and full life.

HONORING MR. FULTON W.
WALKER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker, a three-year World War II Veteran of the United States Army. On February 28, 2020, Mr. Fulton W. Walker will be recognized for his service and commitment to the United States and presented with his service medals.

Mr. Walker, of Emerson and Texarkana and resident of the Fourth District of Arkansas, began his service during World War II in 1943 at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he trained as part of a tank battalion. He later transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a member of a transportation outfit where he learned how to drive military trucks to haul supplies.

In July 1944, he deployed overseas to the European Theater of Operations where he served in England, France, Germany and wherever service needs required. He worked tirelessly as a truck driver transporting supplies from coastal docks to the frontlines, all during the darkness of night to avoid enemy detection.

At the end of the war, he returned home to Arkansas and re-entered the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at

Pine Bluff (UAPB). He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and English in May 1950. He then moved on to graduate school earning a Master's in Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1957.

He then served in several different capacities including as an English teacher and high school basketball coach in Rison, Arkansas. In 1952, he accepted a teaching position in the grade 1–12 school in Star City, Arkansas and two years later became principal, serving in this position until 1965. The Pine Bluff School District hired him into his next assignment where he served as elementary school principal, middle school principal, district central office federal title I program coordinator and finally assistant superintendent in charge of all federal programs for the Pine Bluff School District.

Mr. Walker mentored many students throughout his 36-year career and served as a role model to all he interacted with. His faithful service to students in Southeast Arkansas is a testament to his military service in putting others before self.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Fulton W. Walker and all African American veterans of World War II for their rich history of service and bravery. I thank each and every one of them for protecting the freedoms of this country, and hope their legacy continues for generations to come.

HONORING PAM WILLIAMS AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Pam Williams, the Director of the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps in Des Moines, as the Iowan of the Week. As the Isiserettes celebrate their 40th anniversary this year, I know this longstanding community program relies on the contributions and dedication of Ms. Williams to the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps.

Ms. Williams, or Ms. Pam as her students call her, co-founded the Isiserettes in 1980, a time when there weren't many creative outlets for young African American kids in Iowa. Since then, the Isiserettes have become an icon in the Des Moines Metro, with performances at the Iowa State Fair, parades all over the city, and even music videos with local musicians. They also perform nationally, hold several titles and have earned the honor of performing in both of President Obama's Inaugural Parades. We are deeply proud to see them representing Iowa as they travel across this country.

Even at the age of 75, Ms. Pam never misses a rehearsal. You can always find her working hard on choreography and helping students reach the high expectations she's set for them. Students between 7 and 18 years old dedicate themselves to early morning practices on hot summer days, and must maintain good grades in order to participate. As a result, they boast a 91 percent graduation rate amongst members of their team. Ms. Pam's students describe her as one of the

strictest people they know, but they will also tell you she is like a second mother to them. The key to the Isiserettes' success is the family atmosphere fostered by Ms. Pam and her team.

It should not go without notice that Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps is a volunteer-led organization. Ms. Pam does not receive a single dime for the thousands of hours she puts into the organization every year. She does it out of the goodness of her heart, the benefits to our community, and her commitment to the success of her students. Ms. Pam has built the tradition, pride, and dedication that has sustained the Isiserettes for 40 years.

It is Ms. Pam's dedication to providing a safe place for students to express themselves through music and dance that makes her a pillar of our community. It is an honor to commemorate Ms. Pam and recognize her as the Iowan of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 7, 2020, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 52: Amendment No. 1 offered by Rep. Shalala. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 53: Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call No. 54: Passage of H.R. 5687, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRALIA COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centralia High School Competitive Dance Team for its first-place finish in the 2020 Class 1A Illinois state dance competition.

After the first day of competition, Centralia found itself in third place. By the thrilling conclusion of the event the next day, though, Centralia was hoisting the championship trophy.

Centralia finished with 97.18 points, beating its nearest competitor by nearly a full point. The score would have been high enough to top Class 2A, as well. Teams are evaluated in categories such as choreography, difficulty of the music, technique, synchronization, staging, spacing, and showmanship.

Centralia's victory is a testament to great coaching, hard work, skill, and raw nerve. The squad is coached by Bethany Lorenzini. Team members include Jestin Taylor, Andrew Johnson, Ali Moreno, Gracie Moore, Elijah Jones, Erica Burnett, Clara Peroo, Alyssa Smith, Katelyn Parker, William Collins, Destiny Wallace, Reed Mays, Kailynn Witherspoon, Cash Berry, Zoe White, and Sophia Schossler. Managers are Diamond Battle and Ece Polat.

The state championship is the first in any IHSA competition for Centralia since it claimed the Scholastic Bowl during the 1990–91 school year.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize the Centralia Competitive Dance Team and offer it my sincere congratulations on being state champion. I wish the team all the best in the future.

IN HONOR OF EL AMOR M.
BRAWNE ALI

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Ms. El.

El Amor M. Brawne Ali, of Ward 37, has also taken it upon herself to invest in our city's youth. Beyond her work for local candidates and elections, she has undertaken projects that will provide structured activity to keep kids involved after school. This manifests itself in many ways, one of which is through her efforts to revitalize Foterall Square Park. What used to be a vibrant gathering place has since devolved to abandoned fields and neglected playgrounds, but with El Amor's leadership, Foterall is back on track to reach its full potential. The impact of her efforts will transform the neighborhood for these kids, their kids, and generations to follow. I thank Ms. El.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Ms. El has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

HONORING THE PASADENA HOST LIONS CLUB'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pasadena Host Lions Club upon its centennial anniversary.

Lions Club International began in 1917 with a mission to encourage volunteers to serve their communities, promote peace and international understanding, and improve the world with kindness by meeting humanitarian needs. Currently, Lions Club International has 1.4 million members in forty-seven thousand Lions Clubs. As the fifth Lions Club in the state of California, the Pasadena Host Lions Club was chartered on March 26, 1920.

For 100 years, Pasadena Host Lions Club members have provided innumerable hours of dedicated service toward the improvement of the Pasadena community, with an emphasis on persons with disabilities, seniors, youth and the homeless. Helen Keller referred to Lions Clubs as the "Knights of the Blind," for their support of organizations that serve those impaired in sight. This is seen through Pasadena Host Lions Club supporting White Cane Safety Day—providing Lions the opportunity to raise awareness on safe navigation of the visually impaired, support of other local groups for the visually impaired, assisting the founding of Lions Eye Foundation of Southern California, and creating the Pasadena Lions Memorial Trust for the welfare of persons with disabilities and children.

Other organizations the club supports include the Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Pasadena Police Foundation, American Red Cross, Pasadena Senior Center, City of Hope, Union Station Homeless Services, Pasadena Jaycees, Young and Healthy, Pasadena YMCA and the Salvation Army.

In addition, the club provides youth scholarships, and currently has six charter LEO Clubs for youth that focus on leadership, experience, opportunity and service.

Pasadena Host Lions Club members have faithfully served the greater Pasadena area for one hundred years. I ask all Members to join with me in commending the Pasadena Host Lions Club on their celebration of hundred years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF EDWIN ALLEN, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edwin Allen Jr. who is retiring from the City of Fredericksburg's Fire Department. He served as their Fire Chief for the last 16 years and substantially contributed to city's public safety. Edwin had a long, rewarding career serving the community and working for the great people of the First District.

45 years ago, the Fredericksburg Fire Department hired Edwin. As an ecstatic, driven

man, Edwin rose through the ranks and became a Lieutenant by 1986, then a Captain the following year. His service did not disappoint because by the mid-1990s, he oversaw critical operations for the Department. Soon enough, Edwin found himself leading the Fire Department as their new Chief by 2004.

As Fire Chief, he exceptionally performed his duties and gained a reputation for his effective management capacity. He secured millions in grant funding and amazingly acquired more responsibilities for the Department. The increased responsibilities expanded the force and augmented operational capacity. The responsibilities included expansion in emergency medical services and even water rescue services. With Edwin at the helm for 16 years, he understood the value of camaraderie and his distinguished service is worthy of veneration. His love for firefighting and passion for serving his community should be admired by all of us.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, join me to recognize Chief Allen's service to the First District and to the Commonwealth. His dedication to the Fire Department exemplifies the type of leadership that our great Nation demands. Let us wish Edwin the best during his retirement, as his rest is well deserved. On behalf of the First District, we say thank you.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER
"WALLY" WILKERSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Walter "Wally" Wilkerson's service to the community as a physician, community leader, and as Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party for fifty-six years.

Born and raised in Bryan, Texas, Dr. Wilkerson stayed close to home and earned a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Texas A&M University in 1951. After graduation, Dr. Wilkerson pursued a Medical Degree from the prestigious University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1955. Just one year after finishing medical school, Dr. Wilkerson joined the United States Navy and spent two years as a General Medical Officer. While stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego, California, Dr. Wilkerson served aboard the USS *Hooper Island*. In the summer of 1958, Dr. Wilkerson participated in the historic atomic weapon test operation known as Operation Hardtack at Eniwetok Atoll in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

When it was time to return to civilian life, he found his way back to home to Texas and joined his family in Conroe. After encouragement from his father, he introduced himself to a local family medical practitioner, Dr. Deane Sadler. After shadowing Dr. Sadler for a day, a simple handshake sealed the deal and Dr. Wilkerson joined his clinic. Over the years, Dr. Sadler, became not only a business partner, but a mentor and a friend.

Eager to get involved in the community, Dr. Wilkerson entered the Conroe political scene while working at Sadler Clinic. In 1964, he ran successfully for Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. The following years of leadership and devoted service to the com-

munity earned him the nickname "King Wally." Dr. Wilkerson has received several accolades for his effective leadership, vision, and hard work, has been selected as a delegate for multiple Republican National Conventions, and continues to be active in the Associated Republicans of Texas. In 1989, Governor William P. Clements appointed Dr. Wilkerson as a member of the San Jacinto River Authority Board. In 1995, Governor George W. Bush selected Dr. Wilkerson to Chair the Texas Board of Health.

In 1996, Dr. Wilkerson retired from family medicine after thirty-eight years of service and dedication to his community. Today, he relinquishes the helm as Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Party. Dr. Wilkerson is respected by many and has been a faithful friend and source of professional guidance to many. We are thankful he chose to make a lasting difference right here in our community. Our entire community has been inspired by your character, integrity, patience, fairness and optimism. Your principles of freedom and limited government enhance the lives and opportunity for the people we seek to serve.

I join the communities of Conroe and Montgomery County in thanking Dr. Wilkerson, and I am proud to join him and his wife Neddie Jane in celebrating this amazing milestone of service and leadership for fifty-six successful years.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR GREEN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Arthur Green.

Arthur Green, who proudly served our nation's Navy before taking over the helm of Ward 14, oversees a smooth electoral operation, but also is a dedicated advocate on behalf of his constituents. Instrumental in the formulation of the 14th Ward Registered Community Organization, Arthur has made it a priority to ensure that as the East Poplar area continues its developmental boom, residents will reap the benefits while avoiding gentrification-induced displacement. His efforts will bolster

quality of life for those who live in Ward 14 and serve as a model for our entire city as it struggles with gentrification. I am grateful to have Arthur on the frontlines of this fight, and I thank him for his work on behalf of Ward 14. I thank Arthur for his service.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Arthur Green has left his own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
EDWARD WILLIAM LEAL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward (Ed) William Leal as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Ed is a longtime resident of Concord and a former public servant for Contra Costa County.

Ed was born in Oakland, California in February 1920. His family lived in Oakley where his father was a butcher and ran a local grocery store. Ed attended Antioch High School where he played varsity football, basketball, tennis, and track and field. He set numerous records, including one for pole-vaulting that stood for 27 years. While at Antioch High School, Ed also met his future wife, Wilma.

Ed went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley where he was a member of the track and field team. However, Ed's collegiate career was interrupted when he decided to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He was stationed in North Africa as a member of the 49th Fighter Squadron. Before being deployed, Ed and Wilma wed in 1942.

After Ed returned home from the war, he and Wilma moved to Concord where they raised their family. Ed worked for Contra Costa County, serving as the Assistant County Treasurer—Tax Collector. In 1970, Ed was elected as the County Treasurer—Tax Collector and served two terms before retiring.

Ed's military service, commitment to his community, and his 9 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren are a legacy to be proud of. Please join me in congratulating Ed on his 100th birthday and his life of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 71, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, YEA on Roll Call No. 72, H.R. 4852, and YEA on Roll Call No. 73, H.R. 2490.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for votes taken on the House Floor on February 26, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 71: YEA; Roll Call Vote No. 72: YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 73: YEA.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY GREGORY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Shirley Gregory.

Shirley Gregory of Ward 49 is no stranger to Congress after serving as Congressman Bob Brady's District Director. She embodies the qualities that make for a successful Ward Leader by facilitating candidate meet and greets, hosting ballot machine demonstrations, and helping our officials disseminate information to the public. She keeps her finger on the pulse of local, state, and federal politics, helping those of the 49th ward learn how they can get involved and make a difference in their community. With Shirley as the Ward Leader, I know every resident in her community has a friendly face and helpful resource. She is a staple in the city, and I am grateful of our overlap as we look to serve the people of Philadelphia. I thank Shirley.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Shirley Gregory has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWMAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Newman First Christian Church was born in the hearts of a small band of believers in 1870. An early focus of Newman First Christian was to make disciples of Jesus, and so for the first sixteen years the church did not have a regular minister and services were led by lay leaders, evangelists and circuit riders. As the congregation grew in spirit as well as in numbers, it soon outgrew its facilities. A new building was built to the glory of God on the corner of Green and King streets in Newman in 1904 and is used to this day for worship.

Throughout its history, pastors have generally served for short periods of time, the longest being only four years. Then in 1950, the church called Reverend Wolfe and for thirty-seven years he served as its minister. After his death, the congregation took a step of faith in a new direction and in 1987 Newman First Christian became a "teaching congregation." It was led by faithful men and women, preachers, and ministers until, under the leadership of Perry Albin and Laverne Fraser, the church recruited its current pastor, Justin Smith, in November of 2017.

The church is serious about loving Jesus, as well as creating opportunities for community involvement, spiritual growth, and outreach. Newman First Christian, for example, continues to provide meals to various local school sports teams and prayer for local school events, sponsor community events, and offer biblical counseling to the congregation and community. This focus on service and outreach has improved the spiritual and physical well-being of countless people in the community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. I wish Pastor Smith, the congregation, as well as the community of Newman, all the best for a bright and joyous future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th anniversary of the anti-Armenian pogroms in then-Soviet Azerbaijan's capital of Baku.

In January 1990, a violent seven-day long riot in Baku broke out against the city's ethnic Armenian civilian population. Approximately 90 Armenians were killed, and hundreds more were brutally beaten and forced to abandon their homes. The Baku Pogrom was just one of several anti-Armenian attacks that took place across Azerbaijan from 1988 to 1990

that were enabled by the Azerbaijani government. From Sumgait to Kirovabad and Baku, Armenian Christians living in the country were murdered, raped, and robbed. These vicious attacks led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing the targeted violence as refugees.

These were crimes against humanity that have still gone unrecognized by Azerbaijan. I call upon their government to acknowledge and condemn these acts of violence, actively prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, and take all appropriate action so that these atrocities never happen again.

Throughout history, the Armenian people have been targets of violence, murder and genocide. We must emphatically condemn these actions and any efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Failure to do so will only serve to embolden purveyors of violence against religious and ethnic minorities around the globe. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Armenian Caucus to continue pushing policies promoting peace and human rights for Armenians and for all.

If we do not stand up to hate, we cannot end the cycle of intolerance.

IN HONOR OF PETER LYDE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Peter Lyde.

Peter Lyde, the Ward Leader for the 61st ward, helped shape our city's justice department and is a long-tenured labor organizer. In this modern age where technology has allowed more and more people to access information with ease, Peter has ensured the residents of Ward 61 can find helpful guidance on their political questions, and information on upcoming events, by following their active social media accounts. As we look to bring in new participants to the political sphere, Peter models the innovation that will expand the electorate and allow new voices to take part in our political process. With ward cookouts, community gatherings, and seasonal events, he brings politics to his constituents, encouraging

engagement in ways that I admire. I thank Peter.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Peter Lyde has left his own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE
JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to honor the life of Katherine Johnson and to celebrate the achievements of her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Her passing has been felt around the world, but her legacy lives on in so many ways.

Katherine Johnson will forever be remembered for her tenacity in spite of the challenges women and African Americans faced in the workforce, as well as for her aptitude for mathematics that became central to the nation's success in landing the first human on the surface of the Moon. Her life and her accomplishments are inspiring to all, especially to young women and African Americans who dream of pursuing a career in STEM. May future generations look to Katherine Johnson and her fellow Hidden Figures' dedication to advance the NASA space program with admiration and know that they too can follow in the footsteps of those talented women.

As we pursue our nation's human spaceflight programs and advance into the next phases of space exploration, we will always remember the immense role Katherine Johnson played to get us to where we are today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 99TH
BIRTHDAY OF RUBLE RAY GARDNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Mr. Ruble Ray Gardner who will be turning 99 on March 1, 2020.

Mr. Gardner was born on March 1, 1921, and served his country in the Army and Air Force. During his service, he was stationed in Africa, Great Britain, the Middle East, Germany, Paris, Alaska, Italy, the North Pole, Arctic Circle and other locations.

His wife, Ruth "Boots" Gardner, joined him in Great Britain.

During his military career, he received numerous medals including two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star and a Good Conduct award.

Following his service in the military, Mr. Gardner was employed by the United States Postal Service.

He was a resident of Childersburg, Alabama and a member of the CornerStone Church of

Christ. He currently lives at the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ruble Ray Gardner and wishing him a very happy 99th birthday.

IN HONOR OF SHARON VAUGHN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Sharon Vaughn.

Sharon Vaughn, Leader for the 42nd ward, is transforming how this role can impact people's lives. Sharon, a dedicated employee of the City Council, serving as Chief of Staff to Councilman at Large Derek Clark, has used her ward position to ensure her constituents understand the impact of public policy on a granular level. The residents of Ward 42 are lucky to have such a knowledgeable, dedicated representative who can articulate intricate policies in a digestible way. Her understanding of how government can serve as a conduit for change is truly an asset for those living in Ward 42. I thank Sharon.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Sharon Vaughn has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND
WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2427, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act.

This bipartisan bill will provide robust, long-term federal support for the Chesapeake Bay

Gateways Program, which helps increase public access to the Bay.

As the largest estuary in the nation, the Chesapeake Bay extends through six states and the District of Columbia. It's home to more than 18 million Americans and thousands of species of plants and animals.

However, roughly 98 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's 11,684 miles of shoreline is privately owned, leaving only a small fraction of shoreline available for public use.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program helps maximize this tiny fraction of public shoreline by improving infrastructure, signage and exhibits at key public access points throughout the Bay Watershed. The program also supports education initiatives that connect young Americans with the Bay Watershed and help instill a passion for environmental stewardship.

To date, the Gateways Program has invested more than \$20 million in 300 projects across the Bay Watershed, helping boost our region's outdoor recreation economy.

This small investment over the last few decades has not only succeeded in promoting meaningful educational and recreational experiences for Marylanders and residents across the region but has also helped the National Park Service fulfill its responsibilities under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

As a key ally in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the National Park Service works to increase land conservation, public access to the Bay, environmental stewardship, diversity and environmental education—all of which is supported by the Gateways Program.

By connecting more Americans with the Bay, we can deepen ties to one of our country's most important environmental treasures, inspire future generations of environmental stewards and give a tremendous boost to our region's economy.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this small, but mighty program.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

IN HONOR OF TODD MARTIN'S
DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE
24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Todd Martin, a member of my District Office staff for over a decade, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives and to the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Todd joined my staff over ten years ago initially as an intern, following his graduation from Baylor University in Waco, Texas with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. He didn't stay an intern for very long, as with his sharp talents he was quickly hired on to the permanent district office staff as the Director of District Affairs. Throughout his time in my office, Todd has been an integral part of the team, working diligently to provide outstanding constituent service and helping to manage the daily operations of the district office. During this time, Todd has conducted

himself with the utmost dedication and professionalism, ensuring the needs of every constituent he encountered were addressed to the fullest extent possible. Going above and beyond the normal expectations of a Congressional staffer is a normal day for Todd.

Todd's tireless efforts ensured countless constituents received federal assistance, unpaid benefits, and additional earned services provided by the federal government which may have been delayed, misplaced, or unknown to the constituent. Additionally, Todd's efforts on the ground in the District ensured the legislative needs of constituents were heard and communicated to myself and my legislative team in Washington, D.C. This work often goes unnoticed but was instrumental in ensuring voices of the 24th District were constantly heard in Congress. Todd's commitment to public service is apparent in his pursuit of excellence in the public sector. During his time on my staff, Todd acquired a master's in public administration from the University of North Texas in 2012, further improving his abilities to serve the American public.

In a very bittersweet moment, this upcoming Friday, February 28th will be Todd's last day working for the people of the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District. He will leave as the fourth longest serving staffer in the office during my time in Congress. Todd will be continuing his commitment to public service in a new capacity, as he will soon be working for

the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the contributions Todd has made to the 24th Congressional District of Texas, The State of Texas, and the United States of America. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Todd Martin and his outstanding service. We wish him well in his next chapter of public service.

IN HONOR OF RENEE MCNEAR

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Renee McNear.

Renee McNear, who leads Ward 20, has been extremely active in her first term. An experienced grassroots activist, Renee has taken it upon herself to educate voters not only on the importance of voting, but the value of being an informed and engaged voter. With a constituency that includes Temple University's main campus, I can think of no better leader to inspire civic engagement in our youth, and I look forward to serving as her partner in the ever-important endeavor of increasing turnout among the next generation of American leaders. I thank Renee.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Renee McNear has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.