

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.