

resources. World War II may have been 181's finest hour. With the founding generation being too old for direct military service, men like Eugene Streed—a proud Marine who had fought Bolshevism in Vladivostok in 1918–1919—led war drives, supervised civil defense activities and put on remembrances and memorials. In Streed's case, this included handcrafting more than 1000 white crosses to identify veterans' graves. He was also the co-founder of Brea's Memory Garden, where American flags with the names of Brea's lost soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are displayed on Memorial Day.

Brea is not such a small town as it was in Eugene Streed's day. One hundred years later, its population, at well over forty thousand, is 40 times the size of a rural village that gave birth to Brea Post 181. Yet, for all the city's growth and for all that the Post has done to underwrite that growth, our local Brea Legion has not always prospered in the same way. Indeed, I would be remiss if I failed to point out the struggles. The demographic shift from the mid-twentieth century, when service was almost universal for physically qualified men, to today's all-volunteer force has dramatically changed the recruiting and financing picture of the Legion. Local membership had declined so precipitously that by 2014, the Post had to sell a property it owned to avoid insolvency. It might have collapsed, and the story might have ended before this centennial celebration. But the warrior spirit has always been fierce among the veterans of Brea, and Post 181 has evolved to thrive in its new demographic environment. The membership has made smart business decisions and even smarter partnership arrangements with other veterans and civic groups like Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5384 and St. Angela Merici Church. The Post has come through its crisis. It is more intergenerational than ever before with former Brea Mayor Carrey Nelson—a retired Navy Master Chief who served in both the Second World and Korean Wars—still an active contributing member alongside current Brea Mayor Pro Tem and Brea Post 181 Commander Steven Vargas, who is also a Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserves. I hope that other Legion Posts are beginning to thrive and reinvent themselves to meet a rapidly changing country that, however different, still needs a strong American Legion. As a member of the neighboring Legion Post 277 in Placentia, as the son of a Vietnam combat veteran and grandson of two World War II combat veterans, but most of all, as a member of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees, I congratulate and commend the Legionaries of Brea Post 181 and wish them another century of excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on March 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANAN AMERI
AS SHE IS NAMED THE 2020
ARAB AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Anan Ameri as she is named the 2020 Arab American of the Year by ACCESS. Dr. Ameri's lifetime of community service and activism is worthy of commendation, and we are proud to recognize her achievements today.

Anan Ameri is a pillar of Washtenaw County. For over forty years, she has dedicated her career to advocating for social justice and equity, upholding immigrant rights, and preserving Arab American stories. Dr. Ameri, an author, educator, and activist, is especially known in our community as the founding director for the Arab American National Museum. Thanks to her steadfast leadership and revolutionary vision, she secured the museum's Smithsonian affiliation, making it the only Arab American organization in the prestigious network. In addition, Dr. Ameri is the national president of the Palestine Aid Society of America and was inducted to Michigan's Hall of Fame for her extraordinary efforts in 2016.

Today, we celebrate Anan Ameri for her lifetime of service to her community. Born in Damascus, Syria and raised in Amman, Jordan, Dr. Ameri understands the daily trials and tribulations immigrants experience. As such, she has advocated for their voices and continues to fight to ensure their rights are upheld. Beyond her career in activism, she also has served as a mentor to young women. She has nurtured women to pursue their dreams, strive for excellence, and embrace their heritage. Dr. Ameri truly embodies the hopes and dreams of immigrants coming to America and has made a difference in our Michigan community. Her years of service 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 Dr. Anan Ameri. Her decades of selfless service make her a deserving recipient of the Arab American of the Year Award. I am grateful for her lasting impact and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

JUDGE MARVA CRENSHAW—BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of Florida's most distinguished jurists—and one of the highest integrity. Judge Marva L. Crenshaw was born in 1951 in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, one of seven children. A child of faith, naturally reflective in her calm demeanor, she would epitomize a commitment to justice and the judicial

temperament that would distinguish her service on the bench. She is married to Norman Campbell and together they raised their two daughters, Kalinda and Kamaria.

Growing up in the segregated south, Judge Crenshaw attended segregated schools during her formative years. She excelled in language arts and became inspired by the impact of the rule of law, an appreciation she acquired spending time with her grandfather as he attended his affairs in her small town's courthouse. She earned her bachelor's degree with honors in 1973 from Tuskegee Institute, where she pledged as a Delta Sigma Theta and also became active in voter rights. She then achieved her childhood dream by earning her law degree from the University of Florida in 1975.

Judge Crenshaw began her dedication to public service as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office under Richard Gerstein in Miami-Dade County, Florida. She was hired by Janet Reno, who would later become the U.S. Attorney General. She served in that capacity until arriving to the Tampa Bay community in 1978 to join Bay Area Legal Services. She put her skills and legal acumen to work for families who often faced financial barriers to the courthouse and the legal system. She provided important legal services to disadvantaged neighbors across Tampa Bay and was named the organization's Deputy Director a decade later.

In 1989, Governor Bob Martinez appointed her to the Hillsborough County Court. In 2000, Governor Jeb Bush appointed her as the first African American woman to serve on the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court. There she was assigned to civil, family, criminal and juvenile divisions—furthering her lifelong dream to serve the public and her community. In 2009, Governor Charlie Crist appointed her to the Second District Court of Appeal, where she presided until retirement in 2018.

Judge Crenshaw broke barriers and charted a course for others who are committed to equal justice to follow. She set the highest of standards in her courtroom and in service to our community to ensure fairness. While retirement marks the end of one chapter in her life, she continues to explore other opportunities to impact people's lives through service.

Judge Crenshaw has been extensively involved in bar activities and was recognized as recently as 2019 with both the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Robert W. Patton Outstanding Jurist Award and the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers' Trailblazer Award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am humbled to honor Judge Marva L. Crenshaw during this Black History Month for her many years of selfless service and leadership, and for being a trailblazer and a shining light for justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 81, and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.

IN HONOR OF SPRING GARDEN
WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 1A
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Spring Garden girls basketball team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 1A basketball championship.

The Panthers defeated St. Luke's 53 to 45 in the championship game on February 27th. Spring Garden has won three titles over the last five years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Spring Garden High School, the coaches, the players and all the Panther fans on this exciting achievement. Go Panthers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 79. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 80. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 81. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

I am not recorded on roll call vote No. 82. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING BONNIE HESTER
FOR HER WORK IN THE PEORIA
COMMUNITY FOR BLACK HIS-
TORY MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bonnie Hester for her work in the Peoria community and to honor her as a part of Black History Month. Bonnie spent 35 years in the public sector and was most recently a Program Assistant for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Bonnie Hester earned a certificate in Labor History from the University of Illinois and a Clerical Certificate from the Vocational School of Southern Illinois. Bonnie worked for the Peoria City/County Health Department for 25 years. Bonnie served on the Health Care Committee for Peoria County employees and was President of local AFSCME Union Chapter No. 3665 for 14 years. She represented District 1 on the Peoria County Board for eight years and served as the board's precinct committee person.

Now retired, Bonnie serves on the Executive Board for the West Central Labor Council representing AFSCME retirees and volunteers for the American Red Cross Disaster Services, the Heart of Illinois United Way, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She also serves on

the school board for Peoria Christ Lutheran School, and is a long-time member of Christ Lutheran Church, where she teaches Sunday School. Bonnie and her husband, Jerry, have been married for 39 years and have three children and six grandchildren. I commend Bonnie on her service to the Peoria community.

It is because of community leaders such as Bonnie Hester that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Bonnie Hester for her great work in the Peoria community and honor her as a part of Black History Month.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, let me commend my colleague and friend Congressman JOHN LARSON, the chair of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, for his leadership and his legislation the Social Security 2100 Act. He is a tireless advocate for upholding our promise to our seniors, with respect to their retirement and their economic wellbeing.

Perhaps the ultimate legislative expression of our nation's shared values is our Social Security program. In 1935, our federal government made a promise to American workers that if they worked hard all of their lives, they would not fall into poverty when they retire. Social Security is foundational to tens of millions' Americans economic security as they retire. It provides a stable and secure source of income for our nation's seniors and their families. We continue to keep that promise today, as Social Security lifts out of poverty 22 million seniors nationwide and 130,000 in Connecticut.

In fact, according to the Economic Policy Institute, quote, "Social Security remains by far the most important source of income for most seniors. It constitutes most of the income of seniors in the bottom half of the income distribution."

Yet, a cliff is coming. Social Security no longer stretches as far as it once did. Even with their Social Security benefits, more than 5 percent of Connecticut's seniors are living in poverty. And, if we do nothing, in less than 15 years, Social Security benefits will be cut by nearly 25 percent.

When Social Security does not keep up with the cost of living, or modern economic challenges, seniors are robbed of their dignity and independence. They suffer when we do not uphold our promise. That is why we need to protect and enhance Social Security and to ensure it is able to help those who need it. That is why we need the Social Security 2100 Act.

It was introduced by my dear friend Congressman JOHN LARSON. I am an original cosponsor. The bill expands benefits, strengthens the Social Security trust fund, and cuts taxes for seniors. The bill and House Democrats' leadership is critical at a time when Americans are struggling with stagnant incomes and a lack of good-paying jobs.

In total, this bill would boost benefits for 62 million people. And, it will put the program on sound financial footing for the next 75 years.

It does so with several smart steps, including by having millionaires and billionaires pay the same tax rate as everyone else. For many Americans, this is commonsense. What is nonsensical, however, is that Republicans passed a \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway for the wealthy and well-connected. 83 percent of the benefits go to the top 1 percent.

Instead of a giveaway to the rich, it is time for an investment in working people and seniors. That is what we are trying to do with the Social Security 2100 Act.

Experts have pointed to its economic benefits, for both individuals and the nation. For example, former Council of Economic Advisors Chair Jason Furman and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, have said this legislation would positively impact economic growth.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said of Social Security in 1934, quote, "This seeking for a greater measure of welfare and happiness does not indicate a change of values. It is rather a return to values lost in the course of our economic development and expansion."

Values lost, an apt description for our economy today. Costs skyrocketing. Wages stalling. Savings stagnating. And, seniors suffering. But, with this legislation, we can be returning to values lost, to upholding our promise, to ensuring economic security.

All Americans must keep up the fight to protect and expand social safety net programs like Social Security. The 60 million Americans receiving Social Security and countless more who will receive it are counting on us, and we will deliver.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on March 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 81, and YEA on Roll Call No. 82.

FEMA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "FEMA Disaster Preparedness Improvement Act," with support from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California State Association of Counties. I want to thank my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor.

This legislation would increase FEMA support for disaster preparedness and emergency response to reflect the needs of communities across the country. As states like California face increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters due to man-made climate change and global public health emergencies, Congress and the federal government must step up.