

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP
Z.L. GRADY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great leader in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Bishop Zedekiah LaZett (Z.L.) Grady who transitioned on Sunday, April 19th. Bishop Grady was one of my spiritual and political mentors and—like many others—I will always cherish his memory.

Z.L. Grady was born the son of Walter and Sylvira Bynum Grady in Loughman, Florida. Education was extremely important to him, and he was a life-long learner. He was educated in Sanford, Florida public schools and graduated from Crooms Academy. He attended Florida's Edward Waters College and the B.F. Lee Theological Seminary, where he earned A.A. and B.Th. degrees before earning a B.A. degree from Allen University, in Columbia, South Carolina, and a M.Div. degree from Dickerson Theological Seminary. He continued his theological studies at the Union Theological Seminary in New York and the Urban Training Center in Chicago, Illinois. Bishop Grady was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Kittrell College, Allen University and Edward Waters College.

While Bishop Grady was a highly respected AME church leader, his influence spread far beyond the church walls. He was a pastor and an astute administrator who excelled and had many great successes in both roles. He also wore the mantle of civic organizer, social reformer, and teacher. These roles enabled him to make indelible marks on many communities.

I met Bishop Grady when I was a young public-school teacher in Charleston, South Carolina. Although I was born and had grown up in a Church of God parsonage, and my wife, Emily, had been born and grew up in a United Methodist Church family, we were drawn to and often attended Morris Brown AME Church where Z.L. Grady was pastoring at the time. It was under his influence and tutelage that we became AMEs.

He demonstrated to us what the Bible means by "faith without works is dead." Not only did he preach the Word on Sundays, he often played instrumental roles in civic and community activities throughout the week. His role in the infamous 1969 Charleston Hospital Workers strike was pivotal. He joined with ministers at Emanuel and Ebenezer AME churches to build affordable housing on Johns Island, a sea island near Charleston. He instituted a daycare center and kindergarten at Morris Brown and our first-born began her formal education in that kindergarten. He began a radio broadcast of the church services.

During his time in South Carolina, he served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the South

Carolina Juvenile Parole Board, Chairman of the Charleston Community Race Relations Committee, Member of the Charleston Housing Authority, and a Board Member of C&S National Bank and NationsBank. And he served as an advisor to elected officials on the municipal, state and federal levels.

As he rose in church and civic leadership, Bishop Grady's work took him outside South Carolina to share his talents with the world. He was elected the 111th Bishop of the AME Church in 1992, and served in the 16th, 9th and 1st Episcopal Districts.

One of my most memorable experiences was arriving at the AME University in Monrovia, Liberia with the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI, and us being greeted by Bishop Grady. He wanted it to be a surprise and it was.

Bishop Grady retired from his official role at the AME General Conference. His civic memberships included being a life member of the Beta Mu Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and a life member of the NAACP.

Bishop Grady leaves to cherish his memory his wife Carrie Etta Robertson Grady, a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina, who served admirably at his side throughout their leadership journey with the AME Church. The two were parents of four children and five grandchildren, one of whom Carey has followed him into the ministry and was my first Congressional Intern.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this religious and community leader and recognizing the tremendous positive impact Bishop Z.L. Grady made in South Carolina and around the world. Although he will be sorely missed, we are all better for his service among us.

MIAKODA SEYBOLT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miakoda Seybolt for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Miakoda Seybolt is a 10th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miakoda Seybolt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miakoda Seybolt for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I

have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 935, CREATING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of the creation on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Majority Whip, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADER HOYER, AND WHIP CLYBURN: I write today to express my strong support for the creation of the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, and to thank you for your leadership of the House of Representatives' ongoing work in response to the unprecedented public health and economic crises we are facing. I also thank you for your continued focus on ensuring effective oversight of the trillions of taxpayer dollars that are being directed to support our nation's recovery.

As work continues on the establishment of the Select Committee, I write to recommend specific cross-cutting issues regarding implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and other legislation addressing the coronavirus pandemic that require sustained oversight from the Select Committee. My comments encompass three broad areas, as described in more detail below. I appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to working closely with you and the Select Committee to address these urgent issues.

STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, AND FIRST PRIORITIES

To be most effective, the Select Committee must be capable of producing hard-hitting findings and concrete recommendations in near real-time to help shape the course of the Federal response. The Select Committee must be organized quickly, and it must be allocated the robust budget necessary to ensure it is staffed by experts in such fields as public health, economics, public finance, and the operations of Federal programs.

As there may be sustained efforts to impede oversight of the Federal response to the pandemic, the Committee must quickly establish effective working relationships with the oversight entities created in CARES and other legislation and with agency Inspectors

• 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.

General. However, the Committee must also be prepared on day one to seek relevant documents and information, particularly regarding those programs deemed to be at high risk, and it must be agile in responding to the information it receives.

I strongly agree the Committee must work to eliminate “waste, fraud, and abuse” and “price gouging and profiteering.” The Select Committee must also be the central mechanism the House uses to measure Federal expenditures against two critical, over-arching benchmarks: their effectiveness in supporting recovery among those most affected by COVID-19 and their effectiveness in preventing and preparing for future waves of infection. In addition to examining specific expenditures, the Committee must also closely examine the responsibilities, authorities, and capacities of both Federal and state agencies charged with implementing the CARES Act and other legislation related to the pandemic, and hold senior agency leadership accountable for managing programs in ways that will achieve national recovery and preparedness objectives while effectively stewarding taxpayer resources.

There are two key priorities that require immediate attention. First, the Select Committee must conduct comprehensive oversight of the supply chains through which personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medical supplies and equipment are distributed to states. The Committee on Homeland Security has written to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeking basic information on distributions of PPE and essential medical supplies and equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile, as well as the subsequent Federal role in acquiring PPE and medical supplies and equipment, supporting private supply chains, and actively managing the sale of PPE and essential medical supplies and equipment to states and counties.

To date, DHS, HHS, and FEMA have failed to provide the documents and information sought by the Committee. Ensuring that all health care workers have the PPE and medical supplies and equipment they need to test and treat patients with COVID-19 is one of the most urgent issues facing the nation at this time, and yet Congress has little visibility into the opaque and evolving roles of DHS, HHS, and FEMA in the acquisition and distribution processes. The Select Committee must quickly initiate oversight over this issue.

Similarly, the Select Committee must conduct thorough oversight of testing processes, particularly as the country prepares to begin relaxing social distancing protocols. The availability of testing kits and effective contact tracing procedures when new cases of COVID-19 are diagnosed will be essential to enabling the nation to safely resume near-normal economic activity, and oversight of these processes must be a key priority for the Select Committee.

FOCUS ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES

DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Although additional data are clearly needed, emerging evidence indicates that communities of color are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and that mortality may be much higher among minorities than among other groups. For example, in my state of Mississippi, approximately 38% of residents are African Americans. However, the State Department of Health has reported that, as of April 9, 2020, 54% of those diagnosed with COVID-19 are African American while 35% are white. Further, 67% of those who had died from COVID-19 in the state as

of April 9 were African American, while 33% were white. African Americans who died from COVID-19 were also far more likely to have had underlying health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. These infection, morbidity, and mortality statistics demonstrate the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on communities of color.

Unfortunately, the trends observed in Mississippi appear to be prevalent across the nation. For example, according to the *New York Times*, “The coronavirus is killing black and Latino people in New York City at twice the rate that it is killing white people” according to preliminary data released last week by the City of New York. And an analysis by the *Washington Post* found that “counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority. Keeping in mind that minority communities may have more limited access to testing for COVID-19, it is also possible that rates of infection, morbidity, and even mortality among minorities are being under-reported.

The Select Committee must document the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. All aspects of the Committee’s work must be informed by this data so that the Committee can maintain a laser-focus on detailing how Federal policies are responding to this disproportionate impact by addressing the many factors that leave minority communities so vulnerable to this disease.

The Select Committee must review public health strategies to ensure that they address the heightened risks of infection and death from COVID-19 in minority communities. The Committee must also rigorously assess the extent to which under CARES and other legislation, Federal expenditures in the healthcare, education, social welfare, and industry rescue sectors address the pandemic’s disproportionate effects on minority communities, including the extent to which expenditures narrow or exacerbate the inequality prevalent before the crisis, and whether expenditures improve resilience among at-risk communities. Similarly, as part of its review of small business lending, the Select Committee must carefully review lending patterns to disadvantaged business enterprises.

Finally, it is likely that highly vulnerable populations—such as children, individuals with special needs, and the elderly—may face unique and especially difficult long-term consequences as a result of the pandemic and the economic displacement it causes. Of particular concern is addressing the impact of the crisis on children. Just over 16% of children in the U.S. lived in poverty in 2018—and, sadly, that figure is likely to spike as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Science is also clear that adverse childhood events (ACES) can “have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity.” While poverty is not itself an ACE, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies it as an associated condition and warns that together, “ACES and associated conditions, such as living in under-resourced or racially segregated neighborhoods” and “experiencing food insecurity” can lead to “toxic stress,” which “can change brain development” in ways that have life-time consequences. At a time when millions of families are losing employment and struggling to make ends meet—and children may be unable to attend school for as long as half a year—the Select Committee must examine the unique needs of children during this crisis and assess how Federal aid efforts are meeting these needs.

PRIORITIZING THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Obviously, the Select Committee must carefully review the loans, loan guarantees,

and other investments made in eligible businesses in distressed economic sectors under CARES and other legislation, including the covenants, representations, warranties, and other requirements imposed as conditions of aid. However, because of the Senate’s unwillingness to impose stricter worker-protection criteria, the CARES Act has only limited protections to ensure that businesses receiving aid prioritize the retention of workers “to the extent practicable.” The Committee must therefore document the full impact of Federal aid to industry on job retention, workers’ wages and benefits, and economic recovery among low-income and middle-class Americans, including assessing the trajectory of recovery among different income brackets and the long-term consequences of potentially uneven recovery on economic inequality among Americans.

The Committee must also closely assess whether Federal aid is comprehensively addressing what may be the profound cascade of economic harms that the prolonged shutdown of economic activity needed to slow the spread of coronavirus will impose on low-income and even middle-class families. According to the Federal Reserve, even before the pandemic hit, approximately 40% of Americans reported that they would have “difficulty” covering an extra expense of \$400, and minorities were more likely than other groups to report they would face such difficulty. The harms suffered by those who were already living on the margins as a result of this crisis are likely to be severe and multi-faceted.

The direct payments and expanded unemployment benefits provided by CARES and other legislation will provide essential support in the short-term, but the disruptions workers and their families face will likely lead to unforeseen conditions that may continue to destroy household wealth. Newly unemployed Americans will also be facing challenges unique to this moment, including the need to seek new work at a time when the national economy will likely be contracting. The Select Committee must assess whether Federal expenditures address in a comprehensive manner the full spectrum of harms families may face.

Finally, many of those who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic will also lose their employer-sponsored healthcare. While newly unemployed individuals and families could seek insurance on the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act or may even qualify for Medicaid, as you well know, the “Trump administration in recent years has also added more red tape and obstacles for people looking to sign up for those programs and hasn’t shown any signs it will waive those requirements because of the pandemic. It is imperative that the Select Committee examine how the hurdles intentionally placed in the way of accessing health care under the Affordable Care Act are affecting those who lose health insurance when they become unemployed as a result of the coronavirus.

CONCLUSION

I truly appreciate your leadership in these unprecedented times. A Select Committee is urgently needed to conduct oversight of the issues of greatest concern to the American public during our ongoing effort to combat COVID-19 and restore our economy, and I thank you for the opportunity to share these observations and recommendations regarding that Committee’s work. Please do not hesitate to contact me whenever I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

BEST WISHES TO MICK MULVANEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the people of South Carolina are so appreciative of the achievements and success of former Congressman Mick Mulvaney serving as White House Chief of Staff for President Donald Trump.

I include in the RECORD a deserved tribute published by John Feerhery with his column entitled "Mulvaney fit for Northern Ireland Post" in The HILL on March 10, 2020.

To the untrained eye, Mick Mulvaney's departure as White House chief of staff and appointment as the president's special envoy to Northern Ireland might seem to be a bit curious and a big demotion for the former congressman from South Carolina.

But those who know Irish politics understand that this new assignment is very important to the United States and that Mulvaney is well suited to take it on.

For his entire time in the White House, Mulvaney has developed deep relationships within the Irish government and with key actors in Northern Ireland. These relationships became critical as Great Britain negotiated its departure from the European Union and created a special status for Northern Ireland and its border with the Republic.

Most analysts expect that Great Britain and the United States will start negotiating a free trade agreement once the dust settles on Brexit. But any FTA must acknowledge Northern Ireland and the reality of the all-Ireland economy, a reality that some negotiators might want to ignore. It all gets very complicated.

Ireland has done well over the last decade, bouncing back from the dark days of the 2008 financial crisis. Unemployment is at historic lows, property values are at historic highs, and growth is the strongest of any country in Europe. Multi-national corporations from around the world, especially the United States, choose to headquarter in Ireland because of its highly trained workforce and its very favorable corporate tax rates. Those corporate tax rates cause heartburn in Brussels, but all political parties in Ireland support them, even the left-leaning Sinn Fein.

Northern Ireland has a good story to tell, as well. They have a highly educated population, a favorable regulatory regime and increasingly close economic ties to their island neighbor. But they also have the lingering legacy of the Troubles, pockets of persistent economic hardship, border communities that lack access to any infrastructure and a fragile political structure that hasn't been functioning for over three years.

And the reality is that Northern Ireland and Ireland are, at the moment, two different countries with two different outlooks, two different attitudes towards the future, two different views of the past. Integrating these two different countries economically while respecting their different political and cultural traditions is not going to be easy.

The Good Friday accords, negotiated by George Mitchell, another special envoy from the United States, are the basis for the current power sharing agreement in Northern Ireland. It has been two decades since that agreement was reached, and for the most part, they have held up pretty well. That the United States was central to bringing an end to the Troubles was no accident. No other country has the ability to serve as an honest broker to both sides, a role that continues to this day.

Making sure that the United Kingdom continues to vigilantly honor the Good Friday accords is one of Mick Mulvaney's central tasks. Another is to make certain that Ireland doesn't get ahead of itself when it comes to talk of a unified island. Sinn Fein, the dominant Catholic political party in the North, surprised observers and gathered the most votes in the last election in the Republic. Talk of a new border poll, a vote to see if the majority in the North would want to unify with the South, immediately ensued.

But time is not ripe for those discussions. Let's see how things develop in the post-Brexit world first.

Mick Mulvaney, whose grandparents hail from County Mayo, knows the players and knows the issues that separate them. He knows that America must play the indispensable role in continuing to broker peace and to make sure that Ireland as an island succeeds both economically and socially.

Serving as chief of staff to President Trump undoubtedly had its challenges. This new assignment will prove to be challenging too.

JESLYN TERAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jeslyn Teran for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jeslyn Teran is a 10th grader at Pinnacle Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeslyn Teran is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeslyn Teran for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hot Springs Village. The largest gated community in North America with land spreading across 20,000 acres of Garland and Saline Counties, Hot Springs Village has long been a community vital to the Fourth District of Arkansas. April 20, 2020 marks 50 years since the community's founding by local developer John Cooper Sr. and his family.

Boasting an extensive list of recreational activities, a deep appreciation for local art, culture, and history, beautiful scenery of the Ouachita Mountains and nearby Hot Springs National Park, Hot Springs Village has be-

come one of the premiere retirement communities and tourist destinations in the United States.

Using the expression "Proud Past and Strong Future," the Hot Springs Village 50th Anniversary Planning Committee strives to make this year-long "party" a celebration of the Village's rich history and a platform to discuss its future successes. While the Village leadership has already hosted several celebration events throughout the early part of this year, local citizens can expect a schedule of events to celebrate the founding of this close-knit community until December 2020.

I take this time to recognize the work of this citizenry's leadership, their commitment to community, and their 50 years of success. For many in the Fourth District of Arkansas, Hot Springs Village serves as a model reminder of the values we all hold dear and the homes we all strive to create.

HEALTH CARE HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, all communities are grateful to all our health care heroes in the State of South Carolina. Throughout this national emergency, they have been on the front lines working long hours to keep our communities safe. Hospitals and community medical centers are unselfishly serving patients with the Wuhan Virus.

Citizens correctly appreciate Aiken Regional Medical Center led by CEO Jim O'Loughlin, Lexington Medical Center under the leadership of President and CEO Tod Augsburger, Prisma Health Richland Hospital under guidance of President and CEO Mark O'Halla, Providence Health of Columbia with Terry Gunn's leadership as CEO, Regional Medical Centers Orangeburg Hospital and Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center, both under guidance of CEO Charles Williams, and Rural Health Services Inc. led by CEO Carolyn Emanuel-McClain.

From performing tests to helping patients recover, they have been and remain leaders in our community. I am grateful to have worked with my colleagues in the 116th Congress to provide needed funding for vital personal protective equipment and ventilators.

EVARISTO "KIDANE" ARCE III

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Evaristo "Kidane" Arce III for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Evaristo "Kidane" Arce III is a 10th grader at Prairie View High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Evaristo "Kidane" Arce III is exemplary of the type of

achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Evaristo "Kidane" Arce III for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAC
JARAMILLO

HON. GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a man from my district and to mark, in his passing, both what we have lost and what we must refuse to lose as our country faces a great crisis. This man was not lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. But his memory almost was. Mac Jaramillo was born on March 10th, 1927 in Hanford, California, and died peacefully a few miles from his La Habra, California home on March 22nd of this year. Mr. Jaramillo was not a great statesman, not a wealthy man, at least in material things, nor was he any kind of dignitary except to his family, his community, and his church. I only learned about Mac from his children who reached out to my office asking for help in remembering him because in the midst of our public health crisis, Mac's family and friends were denied a funeral mass. They were nearly barred from his burial altogether. On April 7th, Mac, a man who was rich in friends and family, was buried by his parish priest and nine family members. The many more people who loved him and wanted to render their respects were denied that opportunity. That is why I felt the need to speak, so that an American who came from the humblest of roots, who carried himself with great humility and dignity, who sought little for himself, who served his country in the Second World War, and who not only exemplified the American dream but helped build and expand it for his children, could be remembered and honored. This is not then merely a gesture to a grieving family; it is a reminder of the great stock of which our country is made and how the example of men like Mac give us strength when we are called to answer our own challenges.

Mac's father and mother, Fortino and Sotera Jaramillo started their family in the State of Guanajuato where, like many other peasant farmers of the revolutionary era in Mexico, they had trouble feeding themselves between harvests. Like my ancestors, they sought greater opportunities in an Estados Unidos that was often hostile to them even as it profited from their labor and skill. The City of Hanford became their home, but they really lived across California's great Central Valley and out to its lush Central Coast. The seasonal rhythm of migrant farm work brought the family out of Hanford every March and down to the lettuce and bean fields in coastal Nipomo and Santa Maria. Then it was north to San Jose to pick cherries and pears. By August, the family would find work back in the central

valley grape regions and only return to Hanford in September for the cotton harvest.

The Jaramillos worked hard for little. Tough times in the 1920s became unimaginably harsh by the early 1930s as the country sank into the depths of the Great Depression and the winters left the children hungry. For the family, the winter of 1934, when the average temperatures in Hanford hovered in the low 40s, was the worst of the Depression. It was that year that the family lost Mac's youngest brother who succumbed to a combination of cold and influenza. But even in the face of such tragedy, the family carried on. For meager wages, they lent their backs to the agricultural colossus of the Central Valley that fed and clothed so much of the nation in those lean years. It was a system of work that cost Mac a formal education as he left school in the eighth grade to join his parents and siblings in the fields.

It was the body he developed in those fields that gave him the physical strength to carry his two brothers out of their bedroom during a 1941 house fire. The fire had engulfed their bedroom and the two brothers were already unconscious from smoke inhalation when Mac, a mere boy of 14, saved their lives without even a thought for his own. In the summer of 1945, Mac was inducted into the US Army. He served as an infantryman and a firefighter in the Second World War. Though he was garrisoned in Panama and never saw combat, on at least two occasions he showed his courage again fighting fires, first aboard a heavily laden ammunition ship and later rolling barrels of oil down the side of a mountain before they were engulfed in flames. Heroism and quick action in the face of fire seemed to be a theme in Mac's life. Even in middle age, when a neighbor's house was set ablaze by fireworks, he instinctively jumped into action putting out the fire and saving the house before the La Habra Fire Department arrived.

Like most men of his generation, Mac Jaramillo came home from the war with wider eyes and bigger ambitions. Building on skills he had acquired in the service, Mac no longer worked in the fields but as machinist running cotton gins. In 1955, he joined his brother Dave in La Habra, working first in a packing house, then in manufacturing plants in La Habra, Brea and Placentia. He purchased a Texaco gas station and ran it for three years. Until, with his GI Bill benefits, he decided on barber college. He worked in a variety of shops until founding his own barbershop in downtown La Habra. Then in 1969, searching for better benefits, and perhaps looking for something to distract him from the recent loss of his child Lucy Lita to Leukemia the year before, Mac started a new chapter. At the age of 42, he became a Teamster and drove RC Cola deliveries for 19 years until he finally retired to tend a modest garden of roses and fruit trees.

But Mac Jaramillo's real ambitions were always to be a faithful servant to his God and family. In 1956 he met and married his wife of 63 years, Lucina Quintero. Together they used his GI Bill benefits to buy a home in La Habra where they raised eight children. All eight children received their baptism, first communion, and confirmation in La Habra's Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where Mac and Lucina were married and Mac remained a parishioner until his passing. The couple taught their children to revere God, protect the family, and

love their country. They also taught their children to seize opportunities. Mac and Lucina's proudest achievement was to see all eight of their surviving children graduate from La Habra High School and to watch two of them graduate from the California State University at Fullerton.

Mac Jaramillo left this world as the beloved patriarch of a large and proud family, he regularly entertained groups of 30 to 40 at Christmas and other holidays. Indeed, it is a great irony that this family man, this veteran of the greatest generation, this partner in America's post-war prosperity, who loved his church, his family and his community so much more than he loved himself, was denied a public mass and a large burial reception. He is survived by his wife Lucina, brother Greg, sisters Lita and Mary, children Carlos, Dona, Mack, Eileen, Inez, Joachim, Peter, Lucy, 24 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren, seven of whom have followed in the patriarch's footsteps by serving in the Army, Air Force or Marines.

With this, we have tried to ease the hurt of this one family by helping to remember Mac Jaramillo and the life he led. I feel we all gain from learning about him. He isn't the kind of man who history will normally take note of. But if we can remember him and the millions like him who built the American and Californian dream out of the ruins of the Great Depression and the Second World War, if we can remember their courage as well as their kindness and humility, then how can we despair for our future. God bless Mac Jaramillo, his family, Our Lady of Guadalupe where he worshipped, his adopted city of La Habra, the people of my district, and the country we all love.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT ELFORD
LIVINGSTON, SR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during this extraordinary period of national emergency with the Wuhan Virus, there is time to cherish the service of citizens who have made America great.

In South Carolina a true Southern Gentleman is Robert Elford Livingston, Sr., who justly has been recognized by the obituary below:

Robert Elford Livingston, 90, of West Columbia passed away Tuesday, April 14, 2020. He was born on September 18, 1929 in Columbia, SC to the late Gerhard Elford Livingston and Essie Culclasure Livingston.

He is a life-long member of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, founder of Livingston Insurance Agency, and a founding board member of Lexington State Bank. His service to his state and country includes the South Carolina Army National Guard, where he retired as a Colonel. He was also a member and served in leadership positions on the Lexington District 2 School Board, State School Board, Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands Board, Glen Forest School Board of Directors, Columbia Convention Center Board of Directors, Independent Insurance Agents of America, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of South Carolina, Lexington County Planning for the Future, Board of Directors for South Carolina BB&T, Lexington County Water and Sewer Commission, River

Alliance. Board of Directors, Old Charleston Insurance Company Board, American Legion Post 79, and numerous other community organizations. Bob is a member of the Sinclair Lodge, Columbia York Rite Bodies, and Jamil Shriners.

He was predeceased by his wife of sixty-seven years, Raye Hutto Livingston. He is survived by his son, Bob Livingston, Jr. (Barbara), his daughter, Marilyn Gray (Billy); seven grandchildren, Acy Flora (Blair), Bob Livingston, III (Katie), Betsy Sippel (Patrick), Rachel Popkowski (Joe), Anna Bryant (Tom), Rebekah Morris (Alex), and Roxanne Rich (Auston); thirteen great-grandchildren, Jack Sippel, Joe Popkowski, Jr., Connor Bryant, Margaret Raye Flora, Emily Sippel, Barbara Popkowski, Georgia Popkowski, Ford Livingston, Greyson Bryant, Court Morris, Foster Rich, Mary Lane Livingston and Baker Morris.

A private graveside service will be held at 9:00 on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at Mount Tabor Lutheran Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, 1000 B Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169.

ALICIA QUINTANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alicia Quintana for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Alicia Quintana is a 10th grader at Adams City High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Quintana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alicia Quintana for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY CANNABIS SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended life as we know it and has impacted every aspect of American society. The abrupt health and economic turmoil caused by COVID-19 has left businesses, workers and families questioning the security of their futures. Our nation's small businesses are among those who have felt this pandemic most acutely. To prevent workers from choosing between their health and a paycheck we passed sweeping and unprecedented legislation to shield American busi-

nesses from the full economic consequences of COVID-19. However, state-legal cannabis small businesses were excluded from this economic relief and remain ill-equipped to respond to the health and economic crisis before them.

Small businesses across the country are being asked to do their part in keeping their workers, customers, and families safe. To support these efforts, on March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which contains \$376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses. However, many state-legal cannabis small businesses are not eligible for this-relief and are being asked to protect workers and their families without the federal support available to other American small businesses. State-legal cannabis entrepreneurs and their workers are no different from those of other industries, and since COVID-19 does not discriminate, the inability of certain groups to protect themselves could inadvertently jeopardize the health of us all.

The Emergency Cannabis Small Business Health and Safety Act would open access to SBA assistance relating to COVID-19 to state-legal cannabis businesses and their service providers. Specifically, this legislation would allow state-legal cannabis businesses to be eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and Economic Injury Disaster Loans emergency advances. Among other things, this support is specifically designed to be used to pay workers, group health benefits and paid sick leave.

The health and safety of the American people must be put first during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without doing so, we risk undermining the efforts of us all.

SUPPORTING H.R. 266, THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM, AND H. RES. 935, THE HEALTH CARE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, today the House will consider the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, crucial legislation to deliver resources our small businesses and health care providers need to confront the coronavirus outbreak. I will not attend House proceedings today but if present would have voted YEA on H.R. 266 and YEA on H.Res. 935 to establish a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

This public health crisis has upended businesses in my community and across the country. Additional resources for the Paycheck Protection Program will ensure these businesses can retain employees and are ready to participate in our economic recovery. Further, additional resources for our healthcare system—including \$825 million for Community Health Centers—will make sure these essential organizations can continue to serve our communities during this pandemic.

I am proud of the efforts of House Democrats to strengthen this legislation, including securing key resources for testing and allocating small business loans to community-

based lenders that have strong relationships with local small businesses.

While I am proud of this bipartisan agreement, we must re-double our efforts in the weeks ahead to develop a relief plan that paves the way for our economic recovery.

AMANI ABDALLAH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amani Abdallah for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Amani Abdallah is a 10th grader at Aurora West College Prep Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amani Abdallah is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amani Abdallah for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

BATTLING THE PANDEMIC—A POEM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, at a time of national emergency, it is inspiring that the positive "It Can Be Done" American Spirit is appreciated.

I include in the RECORD a meaningful contribution by Joan M. Lacombe, the Poet Laureate of Aiken, South Carolina, published in the Aiken Standard.

BATTLING THE PANDEMIC

They have closed the building, but not the church!

We will continue to reach out to the needy and distressed,

Vowing not one soul left to be missed.

For the church is not a building constructed by man.

It is made of "we the people," God's message to bring.

The church embodies the God-crafted Temples of the Holy Spirit

Where we all lovingly dwell within.

The cancellation of liturgies, a dramatic move,

New rules or worship set in place, health conditions to protect; we to obey.

Heartbreaking—as it disrupts our Lenten Journey

To have this taken away when we need it most—a bitter irony.

Together we will get through this—

It is not for us to fall into a faithless abyss. For we Christians are persevering

As our Easter goal we are nearing.

With 2000 years of History behind us,
Our current effort to worship, an added plus.
We can recall times and places
Where we have endured persecution and
trouble.
We can still pray, worship, and commune
with God—all together in the great
outdoors,
While maintaining social distancing and
Greeting each other with hands folded in
prayer, fingers pointing to heaven, a
simple bow of the head—the Namaste
greeting—
Acknowledging, “I recognize the Spirit of
God within you.”
Our Faith still alive and flourishing, car-
rying us through difficult times.
Our effort shows our resiliency and resource-
fulness—
To be together, yet apart, as we cope with
our current distress.
We are up to the challenge—Praising God in
new and creative ways.

Our prayers and sympathy for the tragic
loss to the Wuhan Virus of Nursing Student
Joshua Bush of the University of South Caro-
lina-Aiken. Our community is blessed with the
determined leadership of University Chancellor
Sandra Jordan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KRISTIN
JACOBS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam
Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I, along
with Representative DEUTCH, rise to honor the
life of our dear friend, Florida State Represent-
ative Kristin Jacobs.

We were heartbroken to learn of her pass-
ing and join Floridians in mourning this tre-
mendous loss to Broward County and the
state of Florida.

Representative Jacobs began her career in
public service on the Broward County Com-
mission, eventually serving as Mayor in 2012.
She served in the Florida House of Represent-
atives from 2014 until her passing on April 11,
2020.

She was a groundbreaking environmental
leader and fierce protector of Florida's lakes,
streams, and oceans. She spearheaded the
development of the Southeast Florida Re-
gional Climate Compact, created the Broward
Water and Climate Academy, and during her
term as Mayor, was selected to serve on
President Obama's Task Force on Climate
Preparedness and Resilience. Representative
Jacobs fought her illness just as she fought
for our community—with determination, resili-
ence, and grace. She was smart and tough and
stood up for her beliefs, always backing them
with facts and data.

Even while she underwent chemotherapy
treatment for cancer, she remained an active
member of the Florida State Legislature, serv-
ing her constituents from her hospital bed.

Kristin was the most genuine, decent, car-
ing, and effervescent person. She was a loyal,
real, and true friend, and we will miss her
deeply.

Our hearts are with her three children, three
grandchildren, and all her extended family.
May her memory be a blessing.

SAVAUGHN CROOKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise
today to recognize and applaud Savaughn
Crooks for receiving the Adams County May-
ors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Savaughn Crooks is a 10th grader at
Kearney Middle School and received this
award because her determination and hard
work have allowed her to overcome adversi-
ties.

The dedication demonstrated by Savaughn
Crooks is exemplary of the type of achieve-
ment that can be attained with hard work and
perseverance. It is essential students at all
levels strive to make the most of their edu-
cation and develop a work ethic which will
guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to
Savaughn Crooks for winning the Adams
County Mayors and Commissioners Youth
Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the
same dedication and character in all of her fu-
ture accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RABBI
ALAN MAYOR SOKOBIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today
to honor the life of Alan Mayor Sokobin, Rabbi
Emeritus of The Temple—Congregation
Shomer Emunim in Sylvania, Ohio. Rabbi
Sokobin suddenly passed from this life on Fri-
day April 3, 2020.

Rabbi Sokobin was a giant in our commu-
nity. Learned, faith-filled, a family man, loving,
a leader, compassionate, a World War II vet-
eran, funny, high-spirited, reverent, a commu-
nity leader and so much more. As we mourn
Rabbi Sokobin's passing, in the midst of Pass-
over, as the Jewish people commemorate the
exodus from Egypt to the promised land, they
recognize the importance of welcoming the
stranger, to opening one's home and the
Passover dinner table to the other. Rabbi
Sokobin spent his life welcoming the stranger
and his imprint on our community is writ large,
his contributions invaluable.

Alan Mayor Sokobin was born on March 8,
1926 in Newark, New Jersey, to parents Pau-
line and Max. At the age of fifteen he slipped
away from his family to join the Navy, hono-
rably serving in Europe and Japan. After the
war he graduated from Syracuse University,
and then pursued rabbinic studies at Hebrew
Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. He went on
to receive his Doctor of Theology degree from
Burton College. Marrying the love of his life on
May 19, 1957, together he and Mickey raised
two children and eventually presided over a
family including five grandchildren.

Rabbi Sokobin came to our community in
1972 to join the congregation as co-rabbi with
Leon Feuer. He soon established himself as
an intellectual and ecumenical community
leader, pairing with Toledo's mayor to improve
Toledo Municipal Court, chairing the Labor-

Management-Citizens Committee, and working
with Promedica Health System. Rabbi
Sokobin's greatest gift to the faith community
was the partnerships he formed with Toledo's
faith leaders in the Catholic, Muslim, and other
religious traditions.

After officially retiring in 1992, Rabbi
Sokobin decided to go to Law School and
graduated in 1996. He was named out-
standing student of his class by a vote of fac-
ulty members. Rabbi Sokobin remained a con-
stant figure not only in his congregation, but
our community as the years passed into this
decade. His wise counsel was sought and
carefully considered regarding issues of the
day. His thoughtful countenance and astute
observations were treasured. Yet, it was al-
ways the most charming sight to see Rabbi
Sokobin pull a balloon ever present in his
pocket and fashion an animal as children—
and adults—watched in wonder.

The young Anne Frank noted “Our lives are
fashioned by our choices. First we make our
choices. Then our choices make us.” Rabbi
Alan Mayor Sokobin chose to live his life serv-
ing God with his whole heart,” a choice that
made many all the richer. He spent his days
putting the pieces of the world back together,
he worked to fix the disconnected, to repair
the world—he truly embodied tikkun olam.
Today we mourn at his passing, but we cele-
brate his life and the progress he made to fix
our broken world. We offer our heartfelt con-
dolences to his family as they mourn this great
man.

ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise
today to recognize and applaud Enrique Her-
nandez for receiving the Adams County May-
ors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Enrique Hernandez is a 10th grader at
Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and
received this award because his determination
and hard work have allowed him to overcome
adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Enrique
Hernandez is exemplary of the type of
achievement that can be attained with hard
work and perseverance. It is essential stu-
dents at all levels strive to make the most of
their education and develop a work ethic
which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to
Enrique Hernandez for winning the Adams
County Mayors and Commissioners Youth
Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the
same dedication and character in all of his fu-
ture accomplishments.

NEVER FORGET SMOLENSK
MASSACRE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam
Speaker, this month, the people of Poland

mark 10 years since the tragic Smolensk plane crash, which killed 96 people including President Lech Kaczynski and Polish First Lady Maria Kaczynska. On April 10, 2010, a Polish state delegation was heading to Smolensk, Russia, to commemorate the murder of nearly 22,000 innocent Polish citizens by the Soviet secret service NKVD in the spring of 1940 during World War II. The gruesome crash in the thick fog near Smolensk in western Russia was Poland's worst air disaster since World War II and completely stunned the country as scores of military political leaders were killed in one fell swoop.

The American people stand with the people of Poland in solemn commemoration of this horrible national tragedy that still reverberates throughout Polish society to this very day. The Soviet Union was complicit with Nazi Germany in the oppression of the courageous people of Poland. Despite the ongoing Wuhan Virus, senior Polish officials laid wreaths at the monument to the victims of the Smolensk air disaster at the Pilsudski Square in Warsaw earlier this month.

Unfortunately, questions relating to the cause of this tragedy still linger. Although an official Polish government investigation concluded that the crash was caused by pilot error, suspicions of foul play persist. At the memorial earlier this month, Polish President Andrzej Duda said, "After 10 years, it's difficult to say anything or predict whether the case can ever be resolved." This is mainly because Russia has consistently refused to turn over basic evidence to the Polish state. The Russian government is still in possession of the plane wreckage including the black boxes that could provide more clarity.

In a press statement from earlier this month, Poland's Foreign Ministry renewed demands that Moscow return the wreckage of the Tupolev aircraft that crashed so that the Polish people can finally find some closure. Russia's refusal to turn over evidence raises many suspicions, despite claims by Russia's Investigative Committee that crew errors led to the accident.

The American people support the Polish Foreign Ministry's calls to return the wreckage to Poland, as well as the Ministry's assertion that "no norm of international law gives grounds for Russia to impound Polish property." We stand with the people of Poland in remembering the victims of this awful tragedy and supporting efforts for a transparent investigation into its cause to provide a measure of justice to the victims and their families.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington is well represented by Ambassador Piotr Antoni Wilczek, promoting the message to never forget this catastrophe. President Andrzej Duda is appreciated in America. Democratic Post-Communist Poland is the only country in Europe to have 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, which I saw firsthand in January. I particularly know the significance of America's beloved Polish-American Community of 10.5 million citizens. My daughter-in-law Jennifer Miskewicz Wilson is grateful for Krakow heritage and her association with Poet Adam Mickiewicz.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. (JACK)
BARRY

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of one of my longtime constituents from Millis, Massachusetts, John F. (Jack) Barry, and to congratulate him on his retirement this coming April after 40 years of service with the American Hospital Association.

Jack has held several leadership positions at the AHA since 1980, including a temporary assignment from 1993 to 1995 in Washington, where he directed the association's regional operations during the Congressional deliberations over national health reform legislation. Since 1996, Jack has served as the AHA's regional executive in New England. He has worked with the region's six state hospital associations and hundreds of member hospitals to direct grassroots advocacy on issues of importance to hospitals.

Jack has long had ties to both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Born in Newton, he earned a B.A. in journalism from George Washington University in 1976 and an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care management from Boston University in 1991.

Jack looks forward to enjoying his retirement with his best friend and spouse of 38 years, Ellen Kelly, a retired nurse; his daughter Elizabeth; his son Patrick; and the host of friends and colleagues he has amassed over the years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jack Barry and wishing him and his family much happiness as he begins the next chapter of his life.

MINDY FREEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. Perlmutter. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mindy Freel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mindy Freel is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mindy Freel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mindy Freel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SELFLESS
AMERICANS WORKING ON THE
FRONTLINES TO BATTLE THE
CORONAVIRUS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the brave men and women of this country who are risking their own lives every day to help our nation get through this terrible coronavirus pandemic. They are our emergency first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, members of the postal service and those who work in the shipping and delivery industries. Their continued service throughout this crisis means life or death for some patients fighting off this disease, and it also means that our families can continue to have the food and products we all need to survive.

Our local newspaper, Florida Today, recently highlighted the efforts of fifteen Brevard County nurses as they rushed to aid Americans suffering from COVID-19 in the town of Taunton, Massachusetts, a hard-hit community just south of Boston. These brave nurses, currently on staff with Rockledge Regional Medical Center, answered the call for help and volunteered to go for two weeks to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients. Since being there, they have vowed to stay as long as they are needed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the selfless acts of nurses Jennifer Nelson, Lorraine Blake, Tandy Beck, Allison Salidino, Betty "Joanne" Crespo, Deidra Gansel, Jill Barrett, Amanda Tebault, Lisa Colon, Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel, Kris Smith, Nora George, Linda Fleming Dutton, Kara Ehrhardt and Gena Gillespie. These are real life heroes.

"When I first walked into ICU, I thought, 'Oh, my goodness. What is this?' It looked like, to coin a phrase, a war zone," Nurse Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel was quoted describing the situation saying in Taunton. "The housekeepers do not come in to clean the rooms at all. That's the job of the nursing staff. So not only are you the patients' nurse, you're their cleaner. You're their spiritual support system, even though they're intubated and heavily sedated."

Andy Romine, President of Rockledge Regional Medical Center, said originally thirty nurses had volunteered to go to Massachusetts, but our own needs in Brevard County required some to stay and care for patients in our own community. "Our organization is very proud of them for their willingness to put their safety at risk to care for others—their courage and selflessness is a source of pride for us," said Romine. Since then, forty-five other nurses have traveled to Boston to treat the surging cases of COVID-19 putting their lives at risk.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting these brave nurses, and all of the selfless Americans who are risking their lives every day to help the American people overcome this serious coronavirus pandemic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, after consulting with physicians about traveling during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was not able to make it to Washington for this vote, but I would have voted YES on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266. Our local small businesses are facing unprecedented circumstances due to the COVID-19 crisis, with many struggling to keep all of their employees on payroll. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a solution passed unanimously by the House just a few weeks ago, providing loans that keep Americans employed across the country. It was no surprise that demand for these loans was high, but it was a surprise to see members of Congress hold up more funding for the PPP over partisan political demands. I am glad to see my colleagues on the other side of the aisle finally bring up this vital bill for a vote today to provide the relief that so many businesses and workers need. Estimates already predict that this additional funding will keep over 103,000 workers on payroll.

Unfortunately, the Speaker's push for the creation of a new select committee to conduct oversight of the response to COVID-19 is another attempt to use taxpayer dollars to fulfill partisan goals. There are already eight different mechanisms in place for the House to exercise oversight over the response to this virus, making this new one completely redundant. It is clear that this committee is intended to score political points against the President rather than improve our pandemic response. If that is the goal, it should be funded by their campaigns, not by American taxpayers. That is why I would have voted NO on the Resolution Establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

DOUBLE DOWN ON HEALTH TIES WITH ISRAEL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we are fortunate our alliance with Israel has never been stronger with the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Amid international lockdowns and cancellations due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. and Israel quietly marked a major milestone in our militaries' bilateral defense relationship. For the first time ever, on March 29 U.S. and Israeli F-35s trained together in Israel in a combined air-power exercise dubbed "Enduring Lightning." Despite coronavirus-related cancellations across the globe, this exercise over Israeli skies illustrated the strength and endurance of the military cooperation between our two nations. Our militaries have worked together for years to fight the threat of terrorism and defend our way of life from those that seek to threaten it. Today, as we all face the universal threat of COVID-19, it's time we en-

sure that our cooperation with our friends in Israel relating to public health is as prioritized as our strong defense ties.

It's no surprise that defense has long been at the forefront of our bilateral cooperation with Israel. But our collaboration with Jerusalem spans all sectors of our society and our government-to-government collaboration on public health goes back decades. In 1985 when the Department of Health and Human Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Israeli Ministry of Health. The MOU provided for the exchange of information between the two countries, joint training and education, conferences, and collaborative projects.

But our bilateral work on public health is certainly not limited to government-to-government cooperation. The nature of cooperation between the United States and Israel, in every field, is based on the deep respect, friendship, and affection between Americans and Israelis. Just last month, the Israeli pharmaceutical company Teva announced it will donate more than six million doses of the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine sulfate to hospitals across the United States. More than ever, we can appreciate person-to-person friendships as evidenced by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) so ably led by President Betsy Berns Korn and Chief Executive Officer Howard Kohr.

It is no secret that for years Israel has been at the forefront of breakthrough scientific research and technology. Just last week, the Galilee Research Institute in Israel announced it was on the cusp of developing a vaccine for the coronavirus, with estimates that it could be ready within a few weeks and available within 90 days. The Israel-based company Pluristem developed a placenta-based cell therapy treatment that has shown a 100 percent survival rate among severely ill COVID-19 patients and has just begun treating American patients days ago. During this crisis, Israel has also developed new, more affordable methods of producing ventilators and personal protective equipment that could change the way we respond to epidemics in the future. As we move forward in the fight against COVID-19, we would be wise to double down our health cooperation with Israel. There is no doubt that our two countries will benefit from information sharing related to the virus' spread, treatment, and containment.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to support deepening our health ties with the Jewish State. As Ranking Member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I work closely with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to prioritize the U.S.-Israel relationship. I'm grateful to be the lead Republican with Chairman TED DEUTCH (D-FL) on H.R. 1837, the United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act which among other things seeks to deepen our collaboration with Israel on health issues.

The bill calls for close collaboration with Israeli institutions on research and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, with which Israelis have, unfortunately, had a lot of experience given their current security situation. It also authorizes and funds a bilateral cooperative program with Israel for the development of health technologies, including artificial intelligence, biofeedback, and kidney care. Importantly, the bill, which passed the House of

Representatives in July of last year, also includes language support for setting up a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regional office in Israel to facilitate joint work on critical issues relating to health. Last November, I was grateful to co-lead a letter with the Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, ALCEE HASTINGS, to HHS Secretary Alex Azar underscoring that the establishment of an FDA office in Israel, "would facilitate collaboration in life-saving research and is a natural step for strengthening the special relationship between our countries."

There has never been a better time to invest in robust bilateral health cooperation between the United States and Israel. Victory against the Invisible Enemy will require close collaboration with partners across the globe, especially with true friends like Israel. It's time we deepen the ties between Washington and Jerusalem for the sake of global public health.

SHANE COLLIN BRASHERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shane Collin Brashers for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Shane Collin Brashers is a 10th grader at Mapleton Early College High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shane Collin Brashers is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shane Collin Brashers for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

THANKING THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER MOLECULAR SPECIALISTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the tireless efforts our caregivers and healthcare professionals are exciting patriotically to combat coronavirus. Those on the frontlines are bravely caring for sick patients. Those behind the scenes are working to find a vaccine or expand testing of the virus. Today in particular, on a day when Congress has recommended to pass additional legislation to heal our nation and unlock the mystery of COVID-19, I want to recognize the seven female molecular specialists at the University of Toledo Medical Center who have been instrumental in bringing in-house testing capabilities to our city and Northwest Ohio: Heather

Byrd, Michelle Lewandowski, Nicole Ortiz, Heather Kvale, Holly Mohon, Shauna Rasor, and Ji-Youn Yeo.

Not many hospitals have a molecular department, but UTMC does. Thanks to the work of these highly trained women specialists, and the UTMC lab capabilities, COVID-19 testing was made available for our entire region and results dropped from an 8 day wait period to just 48 hours. And the lab is poised to invent even better results with the research funds Congress has passed.

These swift test results have had a priceless impact on the lives of people in our community. Quick test results help us identify sick patients, get them the care they need, and prevent further spread. Their work brings our community great pride in their accomplishments at the precious labs of UTMC. I will continue to support their efforts at UTMC as the country works to ratchet up production and make widespread testing more available.

In the difficult circumstances Americans find ourselves in, hope must not be forgotten. The rays of hope we see in our researchers and caregivers' dedication to heal and find solutions to this virus serve as a reminder of the resiliency of our community and the strength of America as a whole in an interdependent world. Today, America thanks you—the Toledo Rocket women of science—who helped bring testing to our region. To quote Abraham Lincoln—you are “the better angels of our nature.”

[From the Blade, Apr. 1, 2020]

HOW UTMC SPECIALISTS WORKED SWIFTLY TO BRING CORONAVIRUS TESTING TO AREA

(By Brooks Sutherland)

Around the same time the United States reported its first case of coronavirus, molecular specialists at the University of Toledo Medical Center had already begun discussions to bring in-house testing capabilities to its pathology lab.

It was that foresight that paved the way for coronavirus testing capabilities at UTMC, the former Medical College of Ohio hospital, under a U.S. Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization, to sprout in just weeks.

Testing in Lucas County previously took up to eight days for results to finalize even as concerns around the global pandemic continued to heighten and the number of confirmed cases skyrocketed nationwide.

But today, the lab at UTMC can test up to 180 samples a day and returns take 48 hours or less. That quick turnaround is possible thanks to efforts from molecular specialists such as Ji-Youn Yeo and Heather Kvale and a handful of others at UTMC, according to Cynthia O'Connell, the administrative director of the medical center's pathology lab.

“We have a molecular department, and not many hospitals do,” she said. “So we have a lot of specialists and they worked tirelessly to make this happen.”

Understanding its impact during a health crisis, Ms. Kvale added: “We really wanted to bring this in house, so it would reduce the turnaround time for our patients.”

“I'm really glad that we're able to decrease that time so that people don't sit there in limbo,” she said.

But in order to bring testing capability to UTMC, the molecular diagnostics specialists had to validate a testing kit to show it was accurately providing results. Thankfully, the lab was already equipped with the correct machine and the kit before they became in short supply.

In order to validate testing, lab workers collaborated with Beaumont Health, which is

based in Royal Oak, Mich., and the Ohio Department of Health to gather known positive and negative specimens which were in turn used to test accuracy.

Ms. Yeo's expertise in molecular genetics then helped the lab modify the test to keep employees safe during the process, Ms. Kvale said. But that modification then had to be validated, she said.

“She's really brilliant,” Ms. O'Connell added of Ms. Yeo.

Ms. Yeo declined to be interviewed, but in a prepared statement said members of the pathology team “worked fast together,” to put all the pieces in place to bring testing to northwest Ohio.

Dr. James Willey, a UT professor who specializes in pulmonary medicine, said Ms. Yeo trained and performed her thesis in his National Institutes of Health-funded lab, where she learned lots of unique skill sets.

“I'm proud of all those guys,” he said. “This is really important.”

Dr. Thomas Blomquist, deputy coroner at the Lucas County Coroner's Office, helped set up the molecular diagnostics lab and hired Ms. Kvale and Ms. Yeo. He said the two “deserve a ton of credit,” and said he was proud that the specialists were able to fend off any challenges that stood in the way of bringing testing to the area.

“Molecular testing is really critical for society,” he said. “It allows people to have quick results so they can be quarantined as quick as possible to prevent the spread. This is going to have a huge impact.”

HEROES IN THE WUHAN VIRUS PANDEMIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the national emergency being successfully faced by President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, there have been so many citizens stepping forward to help fellow neighbors in need. I am grateful to recognize heroes who are making a difference.

Journalist Kara Gormley Meador has initiated highlighting innovative citizens efforts to address the Wuhan Virus with former S.C. Revenue Director Burnie Maybank of the Nexsen-Pruett Law Firm. There is free streaming at www.buzzpodcast.com. The first conversation was with President Lou Kennedy of Nephron Pharmaceutical where she explained retrofitting her operation almost overnight to respond to the virus. She has been welcomed to the WVOC Radio in the Midlands with Gary David and Christopher Thompson.

Dale Hatchell and Elizabeth Burt of Lexington have organized Support a Nurse to provide “Light of Love” care kits to nurses on the front lines. These kits are donations of nutritional and immunity products with a support message helping the Dorn Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington and Prisma hospitals, and Department of Juvenile Justice.

Talk radio host Kevin Cohen has been relentlessly providing important updates for the Midlands of South Carolina, fulfilling his goals on The POINT promoting charities and local events.

Halsey Cook, Chief Executive Officer of Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is continuing the visionary tradition of the late Roger

Milliken. Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is developing the manufacturing process for a new nanofiber with antiviral properties.

Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute in The Wall Street Journal (April 12) has thoughtfully presented a plan to reopen the economy for jobs with companies diagnosing coronavirus cases in the workplace. He understands healthy citizens need a healthy economy.

Ambassador Andre Haspel of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has thoughtfully forwarded encouragement to members of the Congressional Caucus of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The alliance of the Netherlands and the United States is strong and appreciated to defeat the Wuhan Virus.

General Milford Beagle, Commander of Fort Jackson, with Army Chief of Staff Major General James McConville have been pro-active to protect the lives of new recruits and the dedicated personnel at Fort Jackson. The installation trains nearly 50 percent of all Soldiers and more than 60 percent of all women entering the Army each year.

Cecil Staton, President and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners of America, with Vice President Chirag Shah have worked tirelessly to promote the gruesomely impacted hospitality industry. AAHOA is the largest hotel owner's association in the world with 20,000 members owning half of hotels in America.

Walgreens Drug Stores with the dedicated staff in West Columbia is appreciated for featuring “Thanks to our frontline heroes”. On Saturday, first responders, law enforcement, doctors and nurses will receive 30 percent off Walgreens brands and 20 percent off other brands. Drug stores, grocery stores, convenience stores and grocery stores, truckers, and other essential enterprises have been vital services for communities.

SAMANTHA LIEGGI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samantha Lieggi for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Samantha Lieggi is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samantha Lieggi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Samantha Lieggi for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.