

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK 2020

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the selfless sacrifice made by law enforcement officers across this great nation and to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. Ever since President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officer's Memorial Day, we as a nation have paused to show our support and eternal gratitude for the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their fellow citizens.

I embrace this opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers. These are true and brave public servants who made the conscious decision to stand in between the men, women, and children in their communities and those who would do them harm. While these courageous individuals hail from a broad spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, they all share the common instinct to protect and serve their fellow citizens. These officers are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. They understand the perils they face every day when they go to work in service of others, but they are defined by a rare sense of duty and a love for their fellow human beings. They keep our roads and highways safe. They safeguard our property. They secure the event sites and venues where we gather. They respond to incidents of domestic violence and calls for help. They bring criminals to justice. They are the ones who are moving toward the sound of the gunfire when everyone else is running away.

Law enforcement officers engage in thousands of face-to-face encounters throughout their careers. They do so in most cases without knowing, even in the midst of the encounter, if the individual or individuals they are confronting are in need of their help or intend to harm them. Too often, these encounters end tragically. 128 officers died in the line of duty in 2019. Including officers identified from previous years, 307 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial here in Washington, D.C. this year. Eight of those names are from my home state of Maryland.

Officer Kyle David Olinger was a husband, a father, and a Police Officer in the Montgomery County Police Department. On August 8th, 2003, while serving the citizens of my home district, he initiated a traffic stop in Silver Spring, MD on a vehicle with three passengers. Officer Olinger observed one of the occupants attempting to conceal a handgun under the seat, and he ordered the man to drop the weapon. A struggle ensued, and Officer Olinger was shot in the neck and paralyzed below the chest. Despite his wounds, Officer Olinger, a former U.S. Marine, contin-

ued to serve his department until his injuries forced him to retire in 2007, demonstrating the type of man he was and his commitment to the service of others. On April 18th, 2019, Officer Olinger succumbed to complications from the gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Beyond recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals like Officer Olinger, we must acknowledge the sacrifices made by their loved ones. Every day our officers leave for work, their families must live with the anxiety of knowing that they may not return home. The burden of the profession is not just borne by officers themselves. Their family members endure these circumstances for the benefit of others—in exchange for all the pain and suffering that is prevented by the actions of these dedicated officers. So, today we salute not only the fallen officers, but the loving families that supported them in their very challenging profession.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the courageous men and women who have taken the oath to protect and serve, and who have fallen in the line of duty. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice, and they will not be forgotten.

HONORING MURINDIA WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Murindia Williams. Murindia has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Murindia was born and raised in Rolling Fork and began her career with Sharkey County in 1992 as a deputy clerk in the Chancery and Circuit Clerk's office. Ten years later she was chosen by the voters in the county to serve them as the first black Chancery and Circuit Clerk.

She is also heavily involved in community organizations, serving as co-chair for the Deep Delta Blues Heritage Festival and is a long-time member of the Ebonette Social and Civic Club. She is currently a member of the Circuit Clerks Leadership Committee, and is past president of that association, a member of the WWISCAA Advisory Board, and member of the Shiloh M. B. Church where she serves as choir president.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Murindia Williams for her passion and dedication to serving Sharkey County and desire to make a difference in the community.

RECOGNIZING GREATER
VALDOSTA UNITED WAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greater Valdosta United Way from Georgia's First District.

Since 1954, Greater Valdosta United Way has raised over \$35 million to support human services across their community.

Through their hard work and dedication of numerous businesses, clubs, and individuals, the organization has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Georgians.

Greater Valdosta United Way strives to advance the common good by investing in education, income, and health, which are the pillars for a strong and healthy community.

Last year, they remarkably exceeded their fundraising goal of \$750,000 by 105 percent.

I am so thankful for the tremendous work this organization has done to improve the lives of countless individuals across our district for so many years, and for their outstanding volunteers.

I want to encourage all involved with Greater Valdosta United Way to keep up the wonderful work they've done, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING TEJ PATEL AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tej Patel and his team at Fluxergy, a local company developing rapid COVID-19 testing, as my April Constituent of the Month. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Americans are looking for beacons of hope in the fight against COVID-19. Tej and his team answered the call. Founded in 2013 by engineers Tej Patel, Ryan Revilla, and Jonathan Tu, Fluxergy, a medical diagnostic company based in Irvine, worked in collaboration with UC San Diego Health to create a testing system designed to diagnose COVID-19 in under an hour.

Tej saw a deficiency in the turn-around of testing for COVID-19, and knew there was a better way to address testing in the most efficient way possible. Many tests sent to outside labs range from days to weeks for a patient to receive their results. Fluxergy's on-site test for COVID-19 requires a very small sample, typically a nasal swab. This swab is mixed with a reagent solution, loaded onto the Fluxergy card and inserted into the Fluxergy Analyzer that produces results in under an hour.

During a rapidly spreading global pandemic, it is imperative to know the results of a patient's test as soon as possible. The quicker

• 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.

we have results, the sooner we can implement proper precautions and care. Solutions like the testing system that Fluxergy developed can help us save lives.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. There are countless health care workers, first responders, grocery workers and many others who deserve recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Tej and his team's innovation during this time of crisis for our country, which is both inspiring and encouraging. I am honored to recognize Tej Patel and the Fluxergy team as my Constituent of the Month and I thank them for being beacons of light and hope for our community as we fight this global pandemic together.

HONORING IOWA'S TEACHERS AS
IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I am recognizing the incredible educators of Iowa's Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. Their daily contributions to our children's lives have perhaps never been more evident than during the past couple of months while our nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic. As distance learning has become the new norm, parents-turned-home-educators have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional support teachers provide our children.

It has been remarkable to see educators and school staff rise to the challenge of serving their students in the face of this unprecedented crisis. With little time to plan and while coping with the pandemic themselves, they transitioned lesson plans to fit the constraints of distance learning and have worked hard to find creative ways to keep students engaged. Within the Des Moines Public School district alone, teachers have now moved more than 6,300 Pre-K through 8th grade classes to an online learning platform and distributed nearly 21,000 laptop computers to students across grade levels. In districts across central and southwest Iowa, teachers have also packed countless bags of books, school supplies, games, and other supports for students and families. And at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, teachers are now hosting activities like Anime Club meetups via Google Hangouts.

Their efforts extend far beyond traditional lesson plans. Teachers were among the first to recognize and fill the void of food insecurity for many students in their school districts; for weeks now, they have stepped up to pack and serve tens of thousands of meals weekly for students who might otherwise go without. They know many students still need a wellness check, so educators have donned masks and knocked on doors to make sure students are safe and secure. And at the end of the day, teachers still find the energy to organize parades through their school districts just to put a smile on their students' faces.

Their contributions to our community don't end with their students. We even have teach-

ers who are working around the clock to produce face shields for health care workers on their school's 3D printers.

Teachers deserve special recognition this week and every week for their willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of our students and families. In many ways, educators are the heart of Iowa's communities. They are thoughtful caretakers and mentors of our generations to come, and it is a role they approach with purpose and compassion. While educators face various professional challenges, many see teaching as their life's calling. I am grateful for every person who has chosen to spend their careers sparking curiosity and creativity in our children. So please allow me to express my deep appreciation and thanks to every teacher in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and to honor them as Iowans of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JO ELLIS AND
MAKE.DO.

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Jo Ellis and her team at the nonprofit organization Make.Do., an organization that has been restoring hope through creativity, connection, and compassion in Searcy, Arkansas.

The team at Make.Do. has shifted their focus during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19 and have dedicated their abilities to making masks for the community and healthcare workers, so far producing more than 780 masks.

The team has also adapted their community outreach by starting the Quarantine Craft Camp. Here, they provide craft supplies to Searcy residents and encourage them to participate in the educational Facebook Live events that they host.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite a community even amidst a public health crisis.

I congratulate Jo Ellis and the team at Make.Do. for their creative way to bring the community of Searcy together.

HONORING ESTHER MARTIN
RIGSBY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby. Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby entered into eternal rest March 17, 2020. She was born August 31, 1932 to Reverend and Mrs. Alex L. Martin in Port Gibson, Mississippi. She was a graduate of Claiborne County Training School, where she was the class salutatorian and choir accompanist. She matriculated at Alcorn State University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in English Education. While at Alcorn, she was a member of the col-

lege choir, the Dramatic Guild, and was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

On December 25, 1954, she united in holy matrimony to her college sweetheart: Dr. John D. Riggsby. He predeceased her.

Her other educational attainments included the Master of Science Degree in English Education from Indiana University. She also attained advanced certifications in Curriculum and Instruction and did additional studies at Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and New York University.

Her teaching career was in several Mississippi School Districts: Quitman County, Leflore County, Rankin County and Jackson Public Schools. During her career, she taught English, Journalism, Speech, Drama and Reading. She served as newspaper and yearbook advisor, District-wide English Department Chair, and participated in the writing and implementation of English instructional manuals. She was also employed at Tougaloo College as an Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator of Humanities Special Events. During her career, she served as an Adjunct Instructor of English at Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and Hinds Community College.

Further, she was an Essay Reader for the Graduate Record Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service.

As a child, she joined First Baptist Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi where she was the pianist for the church and state pianist for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. Mrs. Riggsby was a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi for over sixty years. She served in many capacities: pianist for the Senior Choir; Co-Director of the Junior Choir; Alto vocalist in the Sanctuary Choir; Vice President of the Women's Missionary Union; Publicity Coordinator; and Deaconess Chair.

Her community service included membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson Urban League, and the International Community Ambassadors Network.

Mrs. Riggsby served Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on many levels: President of the Beta Delta Omega Chapter, 17th South Eastern Regional Director, member of the International Board of Directors, and served on five international committees: Standards, Membership, Programs, Nominating and Constitution. She was co-author of the local chapter history book: "Capturing A Vision Fair" and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Sorority's centennial history publication: "Pearls of Wisdom." She was a charter member of The LeFleur's Bluff Chapter of The Links, Incorporated where she served as Financial Secretary and Chair of the Arts Facet.

She was inducted into the Alcorn State University's Hall of Honor and received the NAACP's Mother of the Year Award. She also received many recognitions and honors for her leadership in various organizations. She served as a mentor to numerous students and teachers.

Mrs. Riggsby is survived by her four sons: Reginald D. Riggsby, M.D., of Madison, Mississippi; Delbert K. Riggsby, Esq. of Mitchellville, Maryland; Mark D. Riggsby of Beech Island, South Carolina; and Kenneth W. Riggsby of Nashville, Tennessee. Her daughters-in-law are Terri, Linda, and Virginia

Rigsby. Her grandchildren are: Erin (Devin) Hawkins, Esq. of New Orleans, Louisiana; Morgan D. Rigsby and Markesa B. Rigsby of Nashville, Tennessee; and Reginald D. Rigsby II of Madison, Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Esther Martin Rigsby.

REMEMBERING ROBERT TORRAS
SR.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. Robert Torras Sr. of St. Simons.

Mr. Torras was a remarkable businessman, philanthropist, and visionary who was always thinking of ways to solve problems.

Through his work running the family-owned operations including the Brunswick Landing Marina, Kut-Kwick Corporation, and Torco Incorporated; developing the West Point Plantation on Saint Simons Island; and running multiple other commercial real estate holdings in both the Atlanta metro area and Glynn County, he left an indelible mark on the state of Georgia.

When Mr. Torras purchased the land now occupied by Brunswick Landing Marina, it resulted in the development of the largest salt-water marina in Georgia.

After studying the waterways, marine life, and shipping routes, his work helped spur legislative changes regarding marinas to pave the way for other commercial ventures which benefited many.

I am grateful for Mr. Torras' many years of hard work and for his wisdom, determination, and energy.

My thoughts and prayers are with all who worked with him, knew him, and loved him.

THANKING "THE THREE
MASKETEERS" FOR THEIR HARD
WORK KEEPING OUR COMMU-
NITIES SAFE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three young heroes from Pearland that are doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

When Amar Sehgal, Karthik Bhagavatula and Praneel Bhagavatula heard that hospitals could possibly face shortages of face masks and other personal protective equipment, the three decided to act. Although COVID-19 had cancelled this year's Texas Science and Engineering Fair, this trio of heroes found a way for their work to help protect their community.

Known as "The Three Masketeers," Amar, Karthik and Praneel have been using 3-D printing to create N95 facemasks to give to people at higher risk of contracting the coronavirus. These masks take only three hours to print, are cost-effective, and the Three Masketeers aren't charging a dime for them.

When we face great challenges like COVID-19, the people of TX-22 come together and lift each other up; Amar, Karthik and Praneel are living proof.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank "The Three Masketeers" for their hard work protecting our community from coronavirus. They have provided critical aid to people in need during these unprecedented times.

RECOGNIZING LOHGAN DENNEHY
OF BUTTE

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lohgan Dennehy of Butte for her work providing handcrafted personal protective masks to health care, school district, and community workers as Montana combats the COVID-19 outbreak.

At 10 years old, Lohgan knows what she wants to be when she grows up—a fashion designer. To encourage her dream, Lohgan's parents bought her a sewing kit, and her mother taught her how to sew. She's become a natural.

Her parents say she has a heart of gold, that she's one of the most kindhearted human beings you've ever met. She enjoys making a difference. It was no surprise when Lohgan wanted to help when she heard there was a shortage of masks in Butte.

Lohgan watched YouTube videos on the proper way to make a mask with her sewing machine and materials. She admits it was difficult at first, but eventually she mastered the process and can make one in just 20 minutes. Lohgan sends her special masks to doctors and nurses at both St. James Healthcare in Butte and the Community Hospital of Anaconda, Butte's public transportation drivers, school district employees delivering meals to kids, soldiers at the local military enlistment offices, and anyone who has a pre-existing condition. Montanans throughout our state embraced Lohgan in her efforts, donating money and supplies to keep her going.

So far, she's made 120 masks and has another 50 requests to make more. It's a lot of work for Lohgan, who's completing her fourth grade assignments from home, but she's committed to doing her part to keep people safe and healthy.

Madam Speaker, for using her talents to help her fellow Montanans amid a public health crisis, I recognize Lohgan Dennehy for her spirit of Montana.

KERRY GLENN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerry Glenn, who after 30 years in the Adams 12 School District, is retiring. Kerry's dedication to STEM education in the Adams 12 School District and in the City of Northglenn has made a significant impact on students which will last for years to come.

In 1984, Kerry graduated from Northglenn High School and received his bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1989. In 1990, he started teaching math at his alma mater, Northglenn High School. He continued to advance his own learning, and in 2003, he earned a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado, Denver. From 2003 to 2012, Kerry was the instructional leader of the math department at Northglenn High School. In addition to teaching all levels of mathematics, Kerry also taught Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering classes from 2010 to 2012. These positions reflect his talent for bringing people together and fostering and strengthening collaboration in education—all with a smile on his face.

In addition to his teaching career, Kerry has provided countless hours and resources to his community by serving on local and state boards and commissions including District STEM Coordination, CTE DAG team, City of Northglenn Business Recognition, City of Northglenn Branding, Adams County Business Pitch Committee, Adams County Education Consortium, Adams County Manufacturers Youth Pipeline, Colorado P TECH, as well as Board President of Anythink Libraries. He also cofounded STEMinspired. In 2012 as STEM Coordinator, Kerry used the K-8 Adams 12 STEM Model to design and implement the curriculum in grades 9 through 12. In 2016, Kerry became the District P TECH/STEM Coordinator.

Through both the STEM and the P TECH programs in Adams 12, Kerry has created hundreds of industry partners that work side by side with students, helping to improve outcomes for students and the surrounding community. I congratulate Kerry on a lifetime of service and wish him all the best in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENNETH
LEVENO, MD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work and life of service of Kenneth Leveno, MD with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Leveno was instrumental in developing a number of the innovative programs that are an integral component of Parkland's Women and Infant's Specialty Health division for decades.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Notre Dame University and his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. Dr. Leveno joined the Parkland medical staff in the 1970s and passionately sought to provide the best obstetrical care for patients entrusted to Parkland's care. His clinical studies demonstrated that access to prenatal care could mitigate health disparities among patients who face high levels of socio-economic hardship. He collaborated with medical, nursing and administrative leaders to create a highly organized, evidence-based system of care that led to excellent clinical outcomes and became known as the "Parkland Way."

Dr. Leveno was a pioneer in the deployment of advanced practice providers to expand

services to an ever-growing population of patients in need of care. In addition to the development of a low-risk delivery unit, he initiated the nurse-midwives program at Parkland. In 1987, Dr. Leveno recruited midwives across the U.S. and even abroad to launch Parkland's program, now one of the largest and most respected Certified Nurse-Midwives services in the United States. His groundbreaking research and development of innovative obstetrical care practices transformed Parkland's obstetric service and created a unified system that integrated prenatal delivery and postpartum care.

Dr. Leveno devoted more than fifty years of his life to the medical profession, including serving as the UT Southwestern Jack A. Pritchard Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology and was recognized as the Distinguished Physician Award by Parkland Hospital in 1998. His positive impact and worthwhile contributions to the medical profession will be sorely missed by the patients he so diligently served and by the colleagues who held him in great esteem. I am deeply grateful for his friendship and service and pray for comfort and peace for his wife and family.

HONORING QUITMAN COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD PRESIDENT LORENZO
"DC" WINDLESS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize the Honorable, Mr. Lorenzo Windless, fondly affectionately known as, 'DC', was born and reared in Darling, MS. He is a supportive and dependable brother to six siblings and a dedicated and loving son to his mother, Ms. Fannie Windless of Sledge, MS. Lorenzo has a genuine love for family, for friends, for the community, for our nation and to simply put it he has a love for people.

We would like to share a few of Mr. Windless' accomplishments and positions that he has proudly and effectively held within our communities: Lorenzo was born with a heart to help others-at the age of 18 he was Asst Fire Chief of Sledge MS's volunteer Fire Department, and being the trailblazer that he is, he began as a Security Officer at Sam's Town Casino in 1994, onto a Police Officer in 1998 promoted to Police Chief in Sledge, MS by 2000 (tactical training at Ole Miss University) and Mayor of Sledge MS 2001 to 2005. During his tenure, as the 1st African American male Mayor of Sledge, MS, a new and robust water system was installed, and the town of Sledge celebrated their very 1st 'Sledge Day.' With the sole purpose of engaging, understanding, and assisting and impacting the lives of other African American men, DC began a career as a Bail Bondsman in 2010 to current.

Mr. Windless is a 'Man of many gifts.' He started mowing lawns, transporting, and cooking for the elderly within the community or those less fortunate. Lorenzo became an entrepreneur and community-made businessman from 2008 to 2014: owning and operating such businesses as; Lorenzo Lawn Service, Big Dog BBQ Catering and Liberty Transportation, Wrecker Service and Used Cars.

Always seeking to inspire, motivate, nurture, and cultivate, Lorenzo became a member of the School Board and has served for two terms and is currently serving as President of the Quitman County School District. He is a board member of the Marks Project Community Work Force alliance, where they provide job training, certification and skill enhancement. Mr. Windless is also the Lambert Community Housing Manager. In the midst of it all, he is pursuing his own educational goals as a student of Strayer University College, studying Business Administration with an expected end of an MBA Degree.

All that we do is for naught if we are not doing it for the glory and edification of God. Minister Windless accepted his calling as a preacher in 2003, where he began as the Youth Minister at St Phillips Missionary Baptist Church in Sledge, MS. He became a pastor in 2004 and is currently the shepherd of the Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church in Farrell, MS. He was also the Chaplain for Memorial Hospice and Palliative Care. Pastor Windless believes that it is the heart of a man that rules him and if he can touch hearts, then minds will be changed, and our black heritage will thrive. Moreover, he works tirelessly and consistently towards that end.

All that God has allowed Pastor Windless to accomplish would not have been attainable if not for the sacrifices, support, and strength of his own family. Pastor Windless is adorned by his eloquent and graceful wife of over 20 years, Lady Sharonda Windless and his beautiful and respectful daughters: Gabrielle, Alesha and Zaria Windless. As he journeys through this life being the example and epitome of a wise, courageous, fierce, strong and loving black man—he does so through the love and encouragement of his family and by the grace of God. President Windless and his family not only open their hearts to those in need, but they also open their home to those God has directed to them. With their nest one child from being empty, they have taken on the responsibility of providing a home, helping to mold and teach three other young men. His life is not one of the words but actions and deeds.

A glimpse into the life of Mr. Windless is a reflection of 'helping others.' He is a man with a God-given vision, the will to press forward, and a zeal to change lives. No task set before him has gone undone; hurdles placed in his path, have made him stumble, but he has yet to fall; conflict, health issues and life itself have thrown darts of hatred, bigotry and dismay towards him but he does not bow down nor will he back down. President Windless is a man of fortitude, laughter, wisdom and truth, wise enough to be patient and humble enough to listen.

It has been an honor to recognize and present an outstanding and remarkable Man of God businessman, and community leader.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT R. BARBRE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and congratulate Director Brett R. Barbre on his retirement from the Mu-

nicipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Board of Directors after nearly 20 years of valued service.

Director Barbre has been a valued member of MWDOC since he was elected to the Board in November 2000. He serves as the Director of Division I which includes the cities of Brea, Buena Park, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. In this role, Director Barbre has dedicated his career to ensuring there is an adequate water supply for Orange County residents and businesses. He has helped MWDOC secure millions of dollars in local, state, and federal funds to build projects to increase water reliability for his region. He was a driving force behind the construction of a desalination plant in Dana Point, and he has played an active role in finding other viable desalination sites in Huntington Beach and throughout our southern counties.

In 2009, Director Barbre was appointed to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) Board of Directors. MWD delivers water to approximately 20 million residents and serves the largest population of any water district worldwide. He took on his role at MWD with enthusiasm and was recognized both in California and Washington, D.C., as a tireless advocate for our region. His vision to modernize our water supply systems has benefited all of Southern California.

Director Barbre is an Orange County native, having left only to attend George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. After graduation he moved back to Orange County and has been a Yorba Linda resident since 1969. He and his wife, Jean, have two daughters, Kimberly and Kathryn, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

The entire Southern California region thanks Brett for his many years of service, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TED ROWSE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ted Rowse, a wonderful constituent who just celebrated his 100th birthday. Mr. Rowse has honorably served our country in battle and as a public-spirited journalist, and he has been a popular member of the Chevy Chase community for over 45 years. This past Saturday, I was touched to join his loving friends and family who organized a drive-by parade of cars to celebrate Ted's 100th birthday in a safe and festive way.

Ted left college in 1942 to enlist in the Army. During WWII, he served in North Africa and Italy and was awarded 4 battle stars for his courageous service. Following the war, Ted returned to education and received his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Ted led a fascinating career as a journalist, beginning at the Boston Globe before eventually moving to Washington to work as an assistant city editor of the Washington Post in 1960. He went on to serve in the Johnson White House on programs to help consumers. His distinguished career culminated in his generous creation of the Arthur Rowse Award for Press Criticism.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the important accomplishments of my distinguished constituent, Ted Rowse, and hope this chamber will join me in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

As the world responds to the novel coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever to invest in science and the next generation of scientists who will lead us through future global challenges.

My state is proud to be home to one of the eight NSF-funded Mathematical Sciences Institutes—the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM).

In early 2019, scientists gathered at the Institute to study mathematical models related to treatment and prevention of infectious disease, research that has become glaringly necessary in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investments like this are vital to prepare us for future challenges to Americans' health and welfare and are why I continue to champion America's research enterprise.

I hope you will join with me in celebrating the many accomplishments of NSF over the last 70 years, as well as the crucial work it continues to do.

RECOGNIZING GERRI BACKES OF KALISPELL

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gerri Backes of Kalispell for supporting and caring for seniors in her community as we face this unprecedented time.

Gerri is the president of the Kalispell Senior Center. Since taking over last summer, she has made increasing social events a priority, with a goal of creating programs that seniors will look forward to. Gerri says this new approach has paid dividends and now their group is closer than ever. Last year, she set up a "90-plus" party for 17 members of the senior center, and dozens showed up to celebrate their long, fulfilling lives. She says parties like these promote community and build critical relationships that ultimately improve the life of her members.

She also oversees the center's "Warm It Up" program. Through this major project, seniors knit hats, scarfs, and quilts to donate to organizations and schools throughout Kalispell. In 2019 alone, they donated 3,000 items. Under her leadership, the center also offers exercise classes along with educational presentations on health care and fraud. They play Pinochle on Tuesdays and Fridays and

have a very popular weekly Bingo night. But all of that has come to a screeching halt.

Officials closed the center in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, seniors are confined to their homes, isolated and with little to no social interaction. Luckily for this Kalispell group, they have Gerri.

For Gerri, one of the best things in life is laughter. She says it keeps the soul happy and hopeful. While the center's doors are closed, Gerri has been making phone calls to check up on her friends, and she refuses to hang up until she gets a laugh. And that's not all she does.

During these long days at home, it's easy to get lonely and restless, so Gerri delivers puzzles and books to her friends. She says this group of Kalispell Valley seniors is her family, and she'll continue to help them whether the center is open or closed.

Madam Speaker, for delivering laughs and hope to Montana seniors, I recognize Gerri Backes of Kalispell for her spirit of Montana.

REMEMBERING JAMES WAYNE SMITH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of James Wayne Smith of Jesup, Georgia, who passed away at 92 years old on April 22nd.

Known to some as "Hatchet," and others as "The Mayor of Doctortown," which had no mayor, he had a talent for making friends and was loved by many.

Wayne was a faithful member of Epworth United Methodist Church, and quite literally played a role in its foundation, as he graded the lot where the church now stands.

Although his dedicated work in highway construction for over 60 years sometimes took him away from home, he always returned to his beloved Jesup.

In his free time, he loved to fish and hike on the Altamaha River, but most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends.

A renowned raconteur and spinner of yarns, Wayne's good humor never failed to bring a smile.

I am thankful for the immense impact he had on his community, and I know his legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved Wayne during this most difficult time.

HONORING DEBORAH WRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Deborah Wright, who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Deborah was born to the late Mr. Lee Grant Bridges and Mrs. Lutishia Bridges on November 6, 1961 in Rosedale, MS. She attended

Marshall Elementary, Brinkley Jr. High and Hinds A.H.S. then crossed over to Hinds Jr. College in Utica, MS.

Deborah Wright married in 1981 and two loving children, Laquita Shonta Sampson and Lawrence Douglas Sampson Jr., were born.

In 1995, Mrs. Wright received her Real Estate Degree from the Mississippi Realtors Institute in Jackson MS. With an unwavering passion to improve her community, create balanced mental health care regimes, and to encourage others to excel past adversity, Deborah became the epitome of women in business leadership. She has established herself as a trailblazer in the business industry for over 30 years with entrepreneurial experience in the state of Mississippi. After college in 1981 Deborah Wright was employed by Milwaukee Electric Tools as a repair person. In 1992, she incorporated her first business, Teen's World Activity and Community Center, which is a non-profit organization. In 1992, Deborah worked as the Public Relations Officer for Operation Shoestring, Inc. and later Deborah partnered with her mother, Lutishia Bridges and opened "Linda's Florist and Gift Shop" in Jackson in 1996 and she also worked in transportation for Jackson Public School District.

Mrs. Wright rose against adversity by becoming the first African American woman in the world and sole proprietor of Mississippi Truck Driving Training, Inc., located in Jackson, Mississippi. After closing the truck driving school Deborah started Sincere Trucking. She wittingly coined its name from her late grandson, Master Sincere Rachele Christian.

This Bolivar County native has always exhibited visionary strength, while achieving a ripple effect of empowerment for future endeavors within the Health Care Industries. She later started Sincere Home Care, LLC in June 2013, certified and licensed with MS Department of Mental Health and MS Health Department to provide a complement of services to the community. She patterned her mission statement after her non-profit organization: Helping Other People Excel (H. O. P. E.). She developed her companies to offer a solution for the need of a permanent mediator between mental health and health care.

Deborah is not a stranger to blazing paths; she is motivated by the belief to insure a healthy standard of care for every client. She has vowed to ensure that Sincere Home Care LLC would become a pillar of major change for the impoverished and unhealthy in every county in Mississippi. Her goal is to provide first-rate employment opportunities as well as outstanding health care services for all social classes. Some of her services include: Assisted Living; Supervised Living; Sincere Home Care, LLC: a Mental Health Headquarter which includes: Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse and Recovery, Supported Living, Community Respite, Peer Support, Disabled & Developmental Disabled Community Support, Home Nursing Respite, Private Duty Nursing and Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy; three Adult Day Service Centers: in Jackson, Louisville and Morton, MS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Deborah Wright for her passion and dedication to serving many people and having the desire to make a difference in the communities.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the fallen officers from the state of Florida who diligently gave their lives to protect their communities. This week marks the annual observance of National Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement across the country, I encourage all Americans to join me in recognizing the dedication, courage, and selfless sacrifice of our nation's officers every day.

The men and women being honored this week gave the last full measure of devotion to their country in the form of the ultimate offering—their lives. Every community is indebted to those individuals in uniform who voluntarily put themselves in danger for our safety and security.

Over three hundred officers' names from across the nation will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., this year for sacrificing their lives in the line of duty. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the 13 officers from Florida who bravely and selflessly served to protect the state. It is an honor to recognize them along with all men and women in law enforcement.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY IN
THE OSCE REGION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the urgency of global press freedom, particularly across the 57-nation region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Earlier last week, we celebrated World Press Freedom Day, a day originally proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993 to celebrate the fundamental principle of a free and independent press. On this day and beyond, we honor journalists and media professionals for their tireless service in reporting the truth, sometimes at the risk of their own personal safety. World Press Freedom Day serves as an important reminder to governments around the world to respect their country's commitment to press freedom.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, of which I am Chairman, is charged with monitoring compliance with human rights and security commitments in the OSCE region. Freedom of the press is a foundational commitment to human rights and democracy. Unfortunately, however, some leaders view the media as a threat and seek to silence individuals and outlets through financial, legal, and physical means. What these leaders truly fear is that journalists will expose corruption, human rights violations, abuses of power, and other undemocratic behavior.

According to the latest reports from the Committee to Protect Journalists, 250 journalists are imprisoned worldwide for their work, 64 journalists are missing, and 1,369 journalists have been killed since 1992. Additionally, Reporters Without Borders' 2020 World Press Freedom Index found that global press freedom has deteriorated by 12 percent since 2013.

Madam Speaker, I also rise to applaud the undaunted service of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Dé sir. His leadership as an independent monitor for these issues among OSCE participating States has offered candid review of our collective challenges, while demonstrating the importance of OSCE institutions. Mr. Dé sir's team has provided impeccable service to help nations implement their international commitments to this end through country visits and legislative review, as well as hosting expert conferences. I encourage my colleagues to closely follow his work and to learn more about his mandate by reviewing the proceedings of the U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing I chaired with Mr. Dé sir on July 25, 2019, addressing "State of Media Freedom in the OSCE Region."

Madam Speaker, amid this global pandemic, it is more important than ever that journalists and media professionals are able to work freely and without retribution. Unfortunately, too many journalists remain in jail throughout the OSCE region, while states like Russia, Azerbaijan, and Hungary criminalize providing essential information and transparency about the COVID-19 pandemic. Independent media continues to be assaulted under the pretense of punishing allegedly false, misleading, or unofficial information. This is unacceptable.

Earlier in April, I released statements expressing concern with the latest attacks on press freedom in Russia and the unchecked power granted to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During these trying times, strong journalism and access to accurate, unbiased information are essential tools for countering the spread of the disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging states to recognize the indispensable role of the media during this time and to reverse policies that in any way discourage freedom of expression.