

Brienne, beloved father to his four children Isaiah, Elijah, Camryn, and Kinsley, and treasured son, brother, friend and fellow officer.

The sudden deaths of Detective Skernivitz and Officer Sabo serve as a constant reminder of the dangers and stresses put on public safety officers every single day. Both men lived and died as heroes and the Cleveland community will never forget their service and sacrifices.

My sincerest condolences and prayers are with their families, the Cleveland Police Department, and the entire Cleveland community during this difficult time.

In their memory, I will request that American flags be hoisted over the U.S. Capitol in their memory and be presented to their families as a token of our everlasting gratitude for their ultimate sacrifices to Protect and Serve.

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CELEBRATING HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Observed from September 15th to October 15th, Hispanic Heritage Month honors those of Hispanic heritage, praises the extraordinary contributions that they have made to our society, and reaffirms our commitment to protecting their culture.

Hispanic Americans are among the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States. For evidence, simply turn to my home state of Texas. In the 30th District alone, Hispanic Americans account for nearly 40 percent of my constituents. The inclusion of their voices and values in the community make my district, and the United States, stronger as whole.

Sadly, as a result of systemic inequalities, Hispanic Americans face a higher risk of contracting and dying from the coronavirus. Additionally, many have been forced to choose between returning to work in unsafe environments or losing their jobs—quite literally a choice of life or death.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us be mindful of the pain this community has felt these past few months, and continue to push for the passage of bills—such as the HEROES Act, the DREAM and Promise Act, and Raise the Wage Act—all of which would greatly improve the lives of our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

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HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK,  
SEPT. 17 THROUGH 23

**HON. HARLEY ROUDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constitution Week, which is observed during the week of September 17 through 23. This week is intended to commemorate the adoption of the United States

Constitution, a document that has embraced freedom and been a shining light of democracy since its adoption in 1787.

In 1787, at a time when it was unheard of, the founding fathers set out to establish a bold, new way of life that warded against governmental tyranny and instead embraced freedom and democracy. The founders sought to replace the flawed and insufficient Articles of Confederation with a new document that better encapsulated a balance between sovereignty and cohesion to guide the fledgling country. The framing process itself was grueling, entailing several hour-long debates inside of a hot room in Philadelphia, during which the framers clashed over ideas of sovereignty, distribution of power, and individual liberties. Out of this grueling process eventually arose the United States Constitution, which establishes the United States government and outlines its relationship to the people, along with other rules and inalienable rights guaranteed to its citizens.

The Constitution serves as an example of American tenacity and embodies our commitment to freedom, democracy, and honor. Since its adoption in 1787, dozens of other countries have followed suit and have adopted measures to enhance freedom and democracy in their own lands. During this celebratory week, we take a moment to pay respect to this document, which has had such positive benefits for human civilization, both domestically and abroad.

I ask that all Members join me in recognizing Constitution Week.

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TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN W.  
MATTHEWS, JR.

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a true public servant. Senator John Wesley Matthews, Jr. is retiring after 46 years of service in the South Carolina State Legislature. He is renowned for his commitment to education and job creation especially in Berkeley, Calhoun, Colleton, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties, which he proudly serves. His leadership and tireless dedication will truly be missed.

John, a son of South Carolina, was born to Reverend John Wesley, Sr. and Victoria Williams Matthews. He is a graduate of South Carolina State College (now University), Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and Lincoln Electrical Institute.

John began his career as a public-school teacher and rose to become a school principal. He was also a small business owner. These experiences led him to seek elective office and he ran for the South Carolina State House. He served as a State Representative from 1975 to 1984, when he ran for the State Senate. He has held the Senate District No. 39 seat since 1985.

While in the Senate, John served as a member of the Senate Education, Finance, Banking & Insurance Committee, the Agri-

culture & Natural Resources Committee, and the Ethics and Interstate Cooperation Committee. He currently serves as the Assistant Minority Leader in the State Senate and as Chairman of the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation. He has previously served as Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and as a member of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Education Oversight Committee, a member of the 2016 Democratic National Platform Committee and a member of the Governor's Middle Grades Task Force.

In 2004, I was proud to be on hand, when the Orangeburg County Council named a 500-acre site at the intersections of U.S. Highways 301 and 176 the John W. Matthews Industrial Park. Our alma mater, South Carolina State also honored John in 2006 with the naming of the John W. Matthews, Jr. 1890 Extension Building. Last year, the South Carolina Senate unveiled a portrait of their colleague, currently the longest serving South Carolina State legislator. The portrait hangs in the Chamber. These honors are richly deserved and represent the impact that John has had on his native state.

In addition to his service in the General Assembly, John has served his community in many other capacities. He has served as a member of the South Carolina Education Association, the Orangeburg County Education Association, the Clemson University Board of Visitors, the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, the Winthrop Board of Visitors, the Human Affairs Commission Board of Trustees, the Voorhees College Board of Trustees, and the Claflin University Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

John has received numerous awards over the years including induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and being named Minority Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration and South Carolina Primary Health Care Legislator of the Year. He is also a recipient of the South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities Legislative Champion Award, the Wilkins Legislative Leadership Award, the Ernest Finney Chairmen's Award, the Orangeburg Chapter NAACP Exceptional Legislative Service Award, the Congressman Clyburn and Congressman John Spratt Public Service Award, the SC Alliance for Mobile Infrastructure Elected Official of the Year Award and the National Trends and Services Award of the Orangeburg Chapter of the Links, Inc.

He has received honorary doctorates from South Carolina State University, the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina.

John was married to the late Geraldine Hillard Matthews, and the couple had five children. He attends Pineville United Methodist Church and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the tremendous service John W. Matthews has provided to the State of South Carolina. He embodies the true definition of a servant leader, and his longevity in the South Carolina General Assembly has left a lasting mark on the State and its citizens. We are all better for his service, and I know he will continue to serve his community for years to come.