

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE SERGEANT JUAN CARDENAS

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Juan Cardenas, badge No. 3793, who is retiring this month after thirty-two years of service.

For nearly twelve years, Cardenas has served as a Sergeant in the First Responders Unit. During this time, he has managed the mountain bike and First Responders' training programs that serve to protect Members of Congress during normal and emergency situations and acted as a supervisor in charge of motorcade operations for the President, Vice President, and Heads of State arriving at the Capitol. Sergeant Cardenas worked on projects of the utmost importance, including the State of the Union and the last three Presidential Inaugurations.

Sergeant Cardenas's success was grounded in his unwavering dedication and exceptional skill. From 2000 to 2008, Sergeant Cardenas was a supervisor in charge of the Patrol Mobile Response Division, and before that, Police Officer First Class in Communications Section 3. However, Sergeant Cardenas's life of service did not begin with the U.S. Capitol Police: Sergeant Cardenas first served his country in the United States Air Force, where he was selected for Special Air Mission and provided security to the Presidential aircraft for then-Vice President George H.W. Bush.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Cardenas has led by example as a friendly but resolute face on the Capitol grounds and beyond. Time and time again, Sergeant Cardenas has established himself as an expert, particularly due to his role in helping the U.S. Capitol Police establish a well-executed and safe motorcade operation. His ability and commitment showed every single day, whether he was managing a motorcade, searching for a lost child, apprehending a suspect, or delivering a hot meal or new shoes to a homeless veteran. Sergeant Cardenas has proven himself to be a man his colleagues and our country can rely on.

Over the years, Sergeant Cardenas has been showered with awards and commendation, including a Blue Badge Medal, one of the Department's top five honors. In 2004, Sergeant Cardenas received accolades for creating a child safety seat program and, in 1998, he received the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials telecommunicator of the year award for his role as a dispatcher during the shooting of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson. While he is clearly reluctant to retire, it should be noted that Sergeant Cardenas has given a great deal to the Force, suffering serious injuries in a 1992 motorcycle accident as a Private on Patrol Division.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Juan Cardenas for his incredible service to the U.S. Capitol Police, the Congress of the United States, and to our Nation.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCK- PILE ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020. This bipartisan legislation will play a crucial role in strengthening state's and the federal government's PPE reserves to ensure our great nation is even better equipped to eradicate future health crises. Americans, especially those in South Jersey, have been harshly impacted by PPE shortages that have increased contraction and death rates and put our frontline health workers at great risk. Under this legislation, not only will America be better prepared for health emergencies, but we will do so by increasing American manufacturing of PPE and other essential supplies through an innovative pilot program. I am proud to support this crucial bipartisan legislation.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCK- PILE ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7574, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2020. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

I'm also proud that this legislation includes my bill with Representative SUSAN BROOKS to allow the SNS to sell and transfer soon-to-be expired supplies to other government agencies, stretching taxpayer dollars so we can respond to the current pandemic and be prepared for the next.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare many sad and startling realities in our country. One of the most surprising is that the Strategic National Stockpile, established in 2003 to respond to public health emergencies like the one we're currently experiencing, was completely unprepared for the current outbreak.

When we opened the door of the SNS, the cupboard was bare, and American lives were lost. Today we're considering the Strength-

ening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act to address some of these shortcomings.

This legislation requires that the contents of the SNS be in good working order and mandates that the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and CDC implement a transparent process for the use and distribution of such supplies.

The bill increases reporting on how supplies are procured for the SNS, as well as requires reporting on states' requests for supplies during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While we cannot erase the failures of the SNS during the current pandemic, we can ensure that the stockpile is adequately supplied and maintained so we can be better prepared for the next public health emergency.

I'm proud to be an original sponsor of H.R. 7574 and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SAVANNA'S ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 227, Savanna's Act, a bill to combat the epidemic of missing and murdered Native women and girls.

In the United States, Native women face tragically high rates of violence, sexual assault, and murder. According to the Department of Justice, 84 percent of Native and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native women. These rates are ten times higher than the national average and reflect centuries of institutional racism and systemic inequalities that Native communities face.

Too often families of missing and murdered Native women are left without answers. We cannot allow the experiences of Native and Indigenous communities continue to slip through bureaucracy. I am a cosponsor of Savanna's Act, which will create and improve procedures, communication, and cooperation among federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies that may share jurisdiction over investigating crimes against Native women.

Our Nation's devastating history of colonization has left missing and murdered Native women invisible to law enforcement for centuries, but today, by passing Savanna's Act we can give a voice to this silent crisis. We must strive to better understand the institutional racism and systemic inequalities that Native communities face. And we must keep fighting for justice for those who are missing or murdered.

I thank Congresswoman TORRES for her leadership on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support Savanna's Act.

• 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.

SAVANNA'S ACT AND NOT
INVISIBLE ACT**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I offer my staunch support for Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act. It is a horrific fact that Native American women face a murder rate ten times higher than the national average, with eighty-four percent experiencing some form of violence in their lifetime. To make matters worse, without a dedicated federal database designated to collecting information on the number of how many Native women go missing or are murdered every year, we do not have the whole picture—this is completely unacceptable. Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act begin to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In Arizona, a state home to 22 Native American tribes, we recognize and know the horrors of this crisis. We know that it is a misconception that Native women only go missing on Tribal lands. Studies have shown that the majority of Native Americans and Alaska Native people now live in urban communities, where they also go missing. Violence against Native women spans beyond tribal lands and thus so must the solutions.

I am encouraged to see these bills come to the House Floor for consideration because it has taken us too long to act on this issue. It has taken us too long and lives have been taken and lost. We cannot in good conscience continue with inaction. I support the passage of these bills and hope they are signed into law as soon as possible—we owe it to the Native American women who we have lost and those who are still with us today and worry they might be next.

CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND
OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL
HAIR ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, and the Congressional Black Caucus, and as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5309, the "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act of 2019" or the "CROWN Act of 2019," introduced by Congressman RICHMOND, which explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of hair texture or hairstyles commonly associated with a particular race or national origin in areas of the law where discrimination on the basis of race or national origin is already prohibited.

It has long been my position that discrimination based on hair texture and hairstyle is a form of impermissible race discrimination.

According to a 2019 report, known as the CROWN Study, which was conducted by the

JOY Collective (CROWN Act Coalition, Dove/Unilever, National Urban League, Color of Change), Black people are "disproportionately burdened by policies and practices in public places, including the workplace, that target, profile, or single them out for their natural hair styles—referring to the texture of hair that is not permed, dyed, relaxed, or chemically altered."

The CROWN Study found that Black women's hair is "more policed in the workplace, thereby contributing to a climate of group control in the company culture and perceived professional barriers" compared to non-Black women.

The study also found that "Black women are more likely to have received formal grooming policies in the workplace, and to believe that there is a dissonance from her hair and other race's hair" and that "Black women's hairstyles were consistently rated lower or 'less ready' for job performance."

Among the study's other findings are that 80 percent of Black women believed that they had to change their hair from its natural state to "fit in at the office," that they were 83 percent more likely to be judged harshly because of their looks.

The study indicated that Black women were 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, and that they were 3.4 times more likely to be perceived as unprofessional compared to non-African-American women.

Three years ago, the United States Army removed a grooming regulation prohibiting women servicemembers from wearing their hair in dreadlocks, a regulation that had a disproportionately adverse impact on Black women.

This decision was the result of a 2014 order by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to review the military's policies regarding hairstyles popular with African-American women after complaints from members of Congress, myself included, that the policies unfairly targeted Black women.

In 2015, the Marine Corps followed suit and issued regulations to permit lock and twist hairstyles.

The CROWN Study illustrates the prevalence of hair discrimination but numerous stories across the country put names and faces to the people behind those numbers.

In 2017, a Banana Republic employee was told by a manager that she was violating the company's dress code because her box braids were too "urban" and "unkempt."

A year later, in 2018, Andrew Johnson, a New Jersey high school student, was forced by a white referee to either have his dreadlocks cut or forfeit a wrestling match, leading him to have his hair cut in public by an athletic trainer immediately before the match.

That same year, an 11-year-old Black girl in Louisiana was asked to leave class at a private Roman Catholic school near New Orleans because her braided hair extensions violated the school's policies.

The next year, two African-American men in Texas alleged being denied employment by Six Flags because of their hairstyles—one had long braids and the other had dreadlocks.

And earlier this year, there were news reports of a Texas student who would not be al-

lowed to walk at graduation because his dreadlocks were too long.

The CROWN Act prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs and activities based on an individual's hair texture or hairstyle if it is commonly associated with a particular race or national origin, including "a hairstyle in which hair is tightly coiled or tightly curled, locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, and Afros."

The legislation also provides that the prohibition will be enforced as if it was incorporated into Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in federally-funded programs, and that violations of Section 3(a) will be treated as if they were violations of Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to give another example of why this legislation is necessary and why I support it so strongly.

In July of this year, Barbers Hill Independent School District, just east of my home city of Houston, Texas school district reaffirmed its discriminatory grooming policy that led to the suspension of two Black students earlier this year.

The students—cousins Kaden Bradford and De'Andre Arnold—wear their hair in long dreadlocks.

But the school district forbids male students from keeping their hair at a length "below the top of a t-shirt collar, below the eyebrows, or below the ear lobes."

De'Andre Arnold had complied with the dress code throughout high school by keeping his hair up.

But in 2019 the school board made the code more stringent, requiring that students' hair meet the district's length requirement even if not worn let down, which meant that De'Andre Arnold would have been required to cut his dreadlocks and in the process, destroy them, all in contravention of West Indian cultural traditions that specifically prohibit cutting or trimming locs.

De'Andre Arnold, a senior who had been in the school district since pre-kindergarten, was told by school officials that he would not be able to go to the senior prom or walk in his high school graduation until he cut his dreadlocks.

Mr. Speaker, Black students are and have been disproportionately targeted and penalized for violating facially race-neutral grooming policies that are designed to, and have the effect of, profiling, singling out, and burdening Black children for wearing their hair in its natural state.

Students like De'Andre Arnold should not be faced with the impossible choice of either suppressing their cultural heritage and Black identity by cutting their natural hair or forfeiting their right to equal educational and extracurricular opportunities.

The CROWN Act says to students like De'Andre Arnold and others similarly situated that the Congress of the United States hears him, sees him, and affirms his beauty and dignity and pride in his culture.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CONTINUOUS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4866, the National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act of 2019. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

The National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act was introduced by Chairman Frank Pallone and Representative Brett Guthrie.

The bill directs FDA to designate National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing which would work with the FDA and industry to craft a national framework for continuous manufacturing implementation.

The bill authorizes \$80 million to be appropriated from 2021 through 2025.

Continuous Manufacturing is an emerging technology that has been shown to greatly reduce both the time and the cost of developing and manufacturing medicines. It also enables significant improvements in the quality of the final product and the reliability of the manufacturing process.

Through H.R. 4866, the Centers of Excellence in continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing will organize industry efforts to develop continuous manufacturing technologies.

The Centers could help grow the number of companies capable of using these technologies from the current group of approximately ten companies to as many as 100 users.

Our nation's dangerous overreliance on foreign production of critical drugs and their ingredients have led to drug shortages, subpar manufacturing and drug quality. This threatens patient health and safety and poses national security risks to our allied forces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this vulnerability and demonstrates the national security and public health risks inherent in allowing China or another foreign nation to gain control of critical drug manufacturing.

This bill is an important first step to bring pharmaceutical manufacturing back to the United States, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE HARVEY AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michelle Harvey, founder of the San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group, a Facebook community page dedicated to sewing face masks for donation. Now more than ever, as we continue addressing this unprecedented health crisis, it is on all of

us to do our part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. With this in mind, Michelle Harvey found herself getting to work behind the family sewing machine.

Ms. Harvey discovered her newly found sewing abilities when her friend, an ICU nurse at Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside, informed her the hospital would begin taking mask donations. In hopes of providing face masks for as many essential workers as possible, Michelle reached out to others who would be interested in helping her cause and found an overwhelming amount of volunteers. From there, the now 1,800 member San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group took off.

Providing members of our community with a face mask is one of the easiest and most effective ways to slow the spread. So far, with the unwavering support of her mask-making group, Michelle coordinated the donation of around 50,000 masks to hospitals, charities, and community members across San Diego County. In an effort to ensure all followers are covered, The San Diego Face Mask Sewing Group also offers tutorials for people to create their own mask from scratch without ever having to leave their homes.

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. Today, I am proud to recognize Ms. Harvey as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank her for being a leader and role model in helping our community collectively work together to both protect our frontline workers and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF AIS AND SEW THE MASKS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Affordable Interior Systems (AIS) of Leominster, Massachusetts, a company in my Congressional District which manufactures office furniture and which has organized and joined together with people from across the United States to create an amazing new nonprofit initiative called Sew the Masks.

Like so many other patriotic Americans, when the AIS team began to see the terrible toll the coronavirus pandemic was inflicting on our country, they jumped into action. Affectionally drawing on the inspiration of World War II icon Rosie the Riveter, AIS leveraged their expertise and retrofitted a chair production line to produce high-quality, reusable masks.

Then, they mobilized their own employees, as well as individual sewers across the country, affectionately known as "Rosies," to create high-quality reusable masks for first responders and other essential employees at risk of COVID-19.

Fifty masks at a time, these volunteers are sewing the pre-cut masks that AIS provides and then shipping them out to corporate sponsors across the country, which then are distributed to communities in need.

AIS has also launched a special partnership with the United Way of North Central Massachusetts to help combine efforts and provide masks for United Way volunteers.

Madam Speaker, I find this dedication to the fight against COVID-19 nothing short of awe-inspiring. During these challenging times, AIS has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to helping their fellow Americans. They now have hundreds and hundreds of volunteers across the country, and their leadership is a true testament to the value of bringing people together to make a difference. I am sincerely grateful to the employees of AIS, including President and CEO Bruce Platzman, and to all the volunteers across America who have given their time and talent to this awe-inspiring and selfless cause.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people impacted by this incredible work, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize AIS and Sew the Masks for their tireless efforts to support our communities during this unprecedented time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I missed the votes the week of September 14, 2020, due to full-time military duties with the South Carolina Air National Guard.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 183; YEA on Roll Call No. 184; NAY on Roll Call No. 185; NAY on Roll Call No. 186; YEA on Roll Call No. 187; YEA on Roll Call No. 188; NAY on Roll Call No. 189; YEA on Roll Call No. 190; YEA on Roll Call No. 191; NAY on Roll Call No. 192; NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; and NAY on Roll Call No. 195.

SUPPORTING FOUR BIPARTISAN BILLS THAT ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of four important bipartisan bills that address the mental health crisis in our country during the pandemic and economic recession. H.R. 1646, the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act of 2019, H.R. 4564, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2019, H.R. 4585, the Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act and H.R. 5619, the Suicide Prevention Act advanced through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support them on the Floor.

In a recent poll, half of adults report that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to the coronavirus. Add to this the mental impacts on those Americans who are grieving loved ones lost to the virus.

The economic downturn is also taking a mental toll on our fellow Americans. Studies found for every 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate, the suicide rate increases by 1 to 1.6 percent.

Despite the frequency of mental illness, too many suffer in silence. Mental health is a neglected part of our health care system, with

less than 40 percent of people with mental illness receiving any treatment.

These bills address this mental health care crisis.

H.R. 1646, the bipartisan HERO Act introduced by Rep. AMI BERA creates a data system at the CDC to capture public safety officer suicide incidences and study successful interventions, authorize grants for peer support behavioral health and wellness programs within fire departments and emergency medical service agencies. It also requires the development of best practices for addressing post-traumatic stress disorder in public safety officers and educational materials.

H.R. 4564, the bipartisan Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act of 2019 introduced by Reps. KATKO, BEYER, and NAPOLITANO increases the authorization funding level of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program to \$50 million each year, from FY 2020 through FY 2022. The bill also includes a pilot program to research, analyze, and employ various innovative technologies and platforms for suicide prevention.

H.R. 4585, the bipartisan Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act, introduced by Reps. BEYER and GIANFORTE directs HHS to carry out a national suicide prevention media campaign to advertise the new 9–8–8 number.

Finally, H.R. 5619, the bipartisan Suicide Prevention Act, introduced by Reps. STEWART and MATSUI, establishes two grant programs to prevent self-harm and suicide.

Our health as a Nation, both physical and mental, will be tested in the months ahead. These bills will help people find the care and treatment they need and can save lives. I urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills.

RECOGNIZING CONWAY COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The 3 Brothers Farm as the 2020 Conway County Family Farm of the Year. The farm, located near Sardis, is run by brothers Lucas, Nicholas, and Josh Moore.

Nicholas and Lucas started farming together 20 years ago by raising cattle and conducting a custom hay baling operation while they attending Morrilton High School.

In 2013, the two brothers began their crop-rotation program after they acquired more land after their former employer, Randy Pettingill, retired.

Today, all three brothers raise a mixed breed of cattle using Black Angus bulls which they sell based on their sterling reputation and word-of-mouth sales. One day, they hope to open their own retail store stocked by their own beef.

I thank our farm families, whose contributions to our communities and state keep our economy strong while producing the best agricultural products in the country. Congratulations to the Moore Family for winning the 2020 Conway Family Farm of the year.

SCARLETT'S SUNSHINE ON SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2271, the Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

No family should suffer the death of a child without knowing why, yet over 400 children and 3,600 infants die each year from unexplained causes.

We honor these children today by passing the Scarlett's Sunshine Act, which provides funding to improve data collection and death scene investigations related to unexpected deaths and promotes safe sleep practices.

Because of the lack of a specific way to record sudden and unexplained deaths in children, it's impossible to know how widespread the problem is or to conduct more research into the potential causes.

The Scarlett's Sunshine Act addresses this problem by funding child death review teams and improvement to the CDC's National Review Case Reporting System.

The bill also provides resources for the promotion of evidence-based safe infant sleep which the American Association of Pediatricians say will clarify guidelines making them easier for parents to follow. I urge my colleagues to honor these lost children by supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE HOGAN FOR HER WORK ON THE LI- BRARY OF CONGRESS' GERSHWIN PRIZE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Suzanne Hogan and her contributions to the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. The Gershwin Prize celebrates the work of an artist whose career reflects lifetime achievement in promoting songs as a vehicle of musical expression and cultural understanding. Suzanne's dedication, leadership, and expertise were instrumental to the success of the Gershwin Prize during her tenure at the Library of Congress.

Suzanne was recognized by former Librarian of Congress, James Billington, for her ability to successfully facilitate relationships between the Library of Congress and the many stakeholders involved in supporting the Prize, as well as for developing and executing the move of the Gershwin Prize concert from the White House to Constitution Hall. This move highlighted the connection between the Prize and the Library's mission and work, which Suzanne is credited with strengthening over the course of her work on the Prize.

Suzanne's work on the Gershwin Prize was also recognized by former Deputy Librarian of

Congress, Robert Dizard, Jr., who credited her work as being an example for other projects undertaken by the Library of Congress. Deputy Librarian Dizard also attributed Suzanne's work strengthening the administration of the Gershwin Prize as influential to its sustainability for many years to come. Not only was Suzanne able to build up the Gershwin Prize within the Library itself, she was able to work alongside legal professionals, production agencies, artists, and others to elevate the prestige of the Prize and build a foundation for its future success.

Suzanne's work on the Gershwin Prizes embodies initiative, commitment, and excellence. Her thoughtful leadership in this endeavor, acknowledged and celebrated by her colleagues, is to be admired and emulated. I commend her for a job well done.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the ongoing deterioration of good governance in the Republic of Georgia. Recent reports indicate the Georgian government has undermined the Digital Silk Way, a digital communications project meant to transform the region's technological integration and increase independence from Russian and Iranian influence. In light of Russia and Iran's ongoing corruption and threats to international peace and stability, this matter is of strategic importance to American foreign policy.

While the Georgian government is an important ally of the United States, it has become increasingly hostile toward investors in Georgian infrastructure, which threatens critical projects in the region. Additionally, the administration's recent adoption of new taxes and bureaucratic barriers for Western businesses only serves to further undermine American companies' ability to operate within Georgia. I fear these changes to Georgian business practices risks increasing the nation's dependence on Russia and Iran.

As an aspiring NATO member and United States ally, Georgia must continue to remove itself from Russia and Iran's sphere of influence. By focusing on infrastructure projects that bypass American adversaries in the region, the Georgian government can create new economic opportunities, attract additional foreign investment, and protect the country's sovereignty from perverse international influences.

The partnership between Georgia and the United States relies on Georgia's ongoing commitment to fair international business and governance practices. I urge the Department of State to raise these issues with the government in Tbilisi and ensure the Georgian government facilitates an environment where businesses are able to develop projects to help Georgia remain free from Russian and Iranian influence.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF JOHN MOLIERE AND STANDARD COMMUNICATIONS

HON. DENVER RIGGLEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work being done by 5th District residents to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The employees of Standard Communications, Inc. have worked diligently with the Department of Veterans Affairs to install medical IT solutions. This work has included a new device to aid in the decontamination of medical equipment using ultraviolet light.

As we continue to face the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to adapt and change the way we practice medicine in America. As the Congressman for Virginia's 5th District, I have been meeting with doctors, nurses, and other frontline healthcare workers to address our medical needs. One thing has become clear: Increasing our telehealth capabilities is critical to treating patients during the ongoing pandemic. In rural communities, we have seen a drop-off in patients seeking medical treatment for non-coronavirus related illnesses and injuries. This can create serious long-term issues in our healthcare system, where veterans can be vulnerable.

The work done by Standard Communications and their founder John Moliere is helping to alleviate some of these issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic we must strive to find innovative solutions to the medical needs of our community. Telehealth is now helping connect patients with healthcare providers in a way we had not considered before the outbreak. By increasing the number of doctor visits that can be done without face-to-face meetings we can continue to slow the spread of the virus and flatten the curve. I am grateful for the work of John Moliere and Standard Communications.

HAPPYBOTTOMS DURING DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize HappyBottoms. HappyBottoms is a very important organization as they help bridge the gap for the almost 22,000 children that do not have enough diapers and bring awareness to the need during Diaper Need Awareness Week, which is celebrated the week of September 21 through 27, in Missouri.

HappyBottoms is Kansas City's only diaper bank and they have been instrumental in alleviating the need of diapers for families in the Kansas City area since its creation. Created in 2011, HappyBottoms has provided over 13 million diapers for low income families in collaboration with 41 partner agencies at 54 distribution sites across 6 counties. In addition to their work within the community, HappyBottoms is also active within 5 area hospitals providing diapers to eligible mothers of newborns under their "Bundle of Joys" program. I strongly support these efforts to ad-

dress the dire need of diapers within the Kansas City area as I believe this will ultimately lead to improved health for families within our communities.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing HappyBottoms for their effort in collecting, packaging and distributing diapers to low income families across the Kansas City metro area. I am honored to represent this wonderful organization in the United States Congress.

MATERNAL HEALTH QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4995, the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019. I'm proud to have advanced this bipartisan bill through my Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to support it on the Floor.

My thanks to Reps. ENGEL, KELLY, BUCSHON, TORRES SMALL, LATTA, ADAMS, and STIVERS for introducing the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill to address the maternal health crisis.

"The U.S. is the most the dangerous place in the developed world to deliver a baby." This quote was the conclusion of a major investigation by USA Today.

Each year, 700 American women die and 50,000 women are severely injured due to complications related to childbirth. If you're a Black woman in the U.S., the risks are greater. Black women are three times more likely to die from childbirth than white women in the U.S., a startling statistic.

This is unacceptable and it's preventable. The CDC estimates as much as 60 percent of these deaths could be prevented.

This bill would prevent these deaths by expanding programs that improve the practice of maternal care across the country by developing and disseminating best practices.

For example, the bill authorizes and funds the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health or AIM, which includes provider, public health, and consumer groups working at the state level to implement evidence-based "maternal safety bundles."

AIM works. States who implement AIM safety bundles have reduced their maternal morbidity rate as much as 22 percent. This data-driven approach was spearheaded in my Congressional District. Stanford's California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative has reduced severe health problems from pregnancy-related hemorrhages by 21 percent and has contributed to reducing the maternal mortality rate in California by 55 percent.

H.R. 4995 also addresses the maternal mortality crisis in rural areas. Rural mothers are 60 percent more likely to die during or after having a child than mothers in American cities, and it's even more dangerous for rural minority women, including Native American women.

Fewer than half of rural women live within a 30-minute drive to a hospital with perinatal services, and over 10 percent have to drive 100 miles or more.

This bill will close those gaps by expanding telehealth grants and increasing training op-

portunities for medical professionals to provide care in rural community-based settings. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, September 17. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; and YEA on Roll Call No. 195.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUSTIN HICKLE SELFLESS EFFORTS TO DEFEAT COVID-19

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation for Southern Methodist University Student Body Vice President Austin Hickle of Lubbock, Texas.

During this pandemic Austin has demonstrated true leadership. He used his position as SMU Student Body Vice President to establish the College Health Alliance of Texas and recruited other student body presidents from colleges and universities across Texas to become a unified voice. Together, this alliance would be able to amplify the urgency of public health compliance and coordinating greater student engagement in all necessary measures to decrease the risk of outbreaks among students. By creating this alliance, Austin eliminated a leadership vacuum in the COVID-19 response due to the absence of a strong student voice encouraging students to do their part and maintain best safety practices on campus. The message of these campus leaders was carried throughout the state in various media outlets. It encouraged students to step up to keep their campuses and communities safe.

For leadership that advanced the cause of public safety during a global pandemic, I would like to thank Austin Hickle for his selfless efforts on behalf of the State of Texas.

HONORING RAY PETHTEL, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Ray Pethtel, Jr. of Christiansburg, Virginia, who passed away on September 12, 2020 at the age of 83. Ray was a longtime public servant who was committed to accountability and high performance in Virginia state government.

Ray was born in Gallipolis, Ohio and graduated from high school in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. After service in the United States Air Force, he returned to Pennsylvania and earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Pennsylvania State University.

He held multiple positions in New York state government, interrupted by a stint in Washington, D.C., as Director of Administration for the American Society for Public Administration.

The Virginia General Assembly established the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) in 1973, and Ray was hired as the first director. JLARC was created to assist the General Assembly in its oversight responsibilities by auditing state government agencies and analyzing their effectiveness. In this mission, JLARC located an ideal founding director in Ray. He assembled a strong team and performed his duties with rigor and attentiveness. When I was a member of the House of Delegates, I saw firsthand the importance of JLARC's mission and contributions; Ray's work for twelve years at JLARC helped build that institution and made it a model for other states.

After winning election in 1985, Governor Gerald Baliles appointed Ray to serve as the Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Highways and Transportation, now the Department of Transportation (VDOT). His time at JLARC had familiarized him with the Commonwealth's transportation needs. Under his leadership, which lasted through the terms of Governor Baliles and his successor Doug Wilder, VDOT completed many important projects, became more efficient, and improved its communications with the public about its work.

Ray continued to work on transportation after leaving office at Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute. He brought his knowledge of highways and transportation to the institute's research, and it now stands as one of the country's leading academic centers in the field. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to work with Ray.

For his leadership over the years, Ray won numerous awards and recognitions, including the New Century Region High Tech Leader-

ship Award, American Society of Highway Engineers Robert E. Person P.E. Person of the Year Award, the Rotary Foundation International Paul Harris Fellow, the Virginia Tech University Transportation Fellow, the Penn State Alumni Fellow, and the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Hall of Fame.

Ray is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, his three daughters, Jennifer, Leslie and Judy, his grandchildren, Austin, Stephanie and Kathleen, and his sons-in-law, Tom, Ken and Scott. I would like to offer my condolences to them on the loss of this committed and diligent public servant.

SUPPORT FOR THE UYGHUR MUSLIMS: H.R. 6210, UYGHUR FORCED LABOR PREVENTION ACT AND H.R. 6270 UYGHUR FORCED LABOR DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my unequivocal support for the Uyghur Muslim people, and to support the Uyghur bills being considered in the House.

For several years, China has violated international human rights through the mass surveillance and internment of as many as 1,800,000 Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang—an Autonomous Region in western China. Those detained in internment camps have described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, food deprivation, and denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms. What are the alleged high crimes that warrant such inhumane punishment against Uyghurs? Wearing long beards, refusing alcohol, or other behaviors that Chinese

authorities deem to be signs of “religious extremism.”

Alarming, there is a widespread forced labor system that exists inside the mass internment camps as confirmed by the testimony of camp survivors, satellite imagery, and leaked official documents from the Chinese government. In its 2019 Annual Report, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found that goods produced with forced labor included textiles, electronics, food products, shoes, tea, and handicrafts. We can not allow these goods to reach our shores. America must not profit off the denial of religious freedom and basic human rights that is perpetuated against Uyghur Muslims.

That is why I support the Uyghur Forced Labor Disclosure Act of 2020, H.R. 6270, and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, H.R. 6210. These bills will hold private companies wishing to import goods into the U.S. accountable by ensuring that they demonstrate a clean supply chain where goods or raw materials are not produced using forced labor. Additionally, these bills will authorize the President of the United States to apply targeted sanctions on anyone responsible for the labor trafficking of Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities.

There is no doubt that the United States has economically benefitted from the bilateral relationship with China. Yet, the United States' moral authority must be paramount to the economic relationship we have enjoyed. We must be willing to sacrifice any monetary gain. Our core democratic and constitutional principles to practice religion freely must be unwavering. In the plight of religious freedom around the world and for the Uyghur Muslims in China—the United States stands with you.

I urge my colleagues to support the Uyghurs and I urge my colleagues to support these bills.