When I came to the White House, I reflected on the responsibility I have always felt as a mother to encourage, give strength, and teach values of kindness. It is our duty as adults and parents to ensure that children have the best opportunities to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

The passion for helping children succeed would drive my policy initiative as First Lady.

I launched Be Best to ensure that we as Americans are doing everything we can to take care of the next generation. Be Best has concentrated on three pillars: well-being, online safety, and opioid abuse.

In a few short years, I have raised awareness of how to keep children safe online; we have made incredible progress on our nation's drug epidemic and how it impacts the lives of newborns and families, and we have given a voice to our most vulnerable children in the foster care system.

Internationally, Be Best has evolved into a platform that encourages world leaders to discuss issues impacting the lives of children and allows them to share solutions. It has been an honor to represent the American people abroad. I treasure each of my experiences and the inspiring people I have met along the way.

As I say farewell to my role as First Lady, it is my sincere hope that every American will do their part to teach our children what it means to Be Best. I ask parents to educate your children about the courageous and selfless heroes who worked and sacrificed to make this country the land of the free. And to lead by example and care for others in your community.

The promise of this Nation belongs to all of us. Do not lose sight of your integrity and values. Use every opportunity to show consideration for another person and build good habits into your daily lives.

In all circumstances, I ask every American to be an ambassador of Be Best. To focus on what unites us. To rise above what divides us. To always choose love over hatred, peace over violence, and others before yourself.

Together, as one national family, we can continue to be the light of hope for future generations and carry on America's legacy of raising our nation to greater heights through our spirit of courage, goodness and faith.

No words can express the depth of my gratitude for the privilege of having served as your First Lady.

To all the people of this country: You will be in my heart forever.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING RICK SENSE'S SERVICE TO WISCONSIN'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize my District Chief of Staff, Rick Sense, for his service to Wisconsin's Eighth District. He began his career with the U.S. House of Representatives in January of 2011 in the office of my predecessor, Congressman Reid Ribble. He then continued his service as my District Chief of Staff, serving with me in the 115th and 116th Congress, until his time working with us in the House has come to an end here in 117th Congress.

Rick has dedicated his Congressional career to providing superior service to the constituents of Northeast Wisconsin. He understood that his job was to make the federal government work for Wisconsinites. He dedicated his tenure to forging relationships from Appleton to Sturgeon Bay to Marinette, bringing together federal partners, the business community, and local nonprofits to share knowledge and resources.

Many who have had the pleasure of working with Rick describe him as passionate, reliable, approachable, intelligent, and extremely hardworking. He has a keen awareness of the needs of the community and provides valuable support in accomplishing the mission of my office. Despite being a Cubs fan, Rick is a valuable asset to Northeast Wisconsin whose work has touched the lives of many.

Additionally, Rick has inspired the next generation of leaders. Through patient instruction and mentorship, interns and staff who have worked with Rick have moved on to employments with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Member offices in this Chamber, creating a ripple of change that will surely leave positive impacts in its wake.

I wish Rick the best as he begins his new role with the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. I am sure he will excel in this new position, bringing with him a deep dedication to servant leadership and desire to foster collaboration amongst Wisconsin's business community.

Politics can be a difficult world to navigate. Rick brings to it a compassion and respect that provides a constant reminder to us all of why we choose to serve this great nation. I'd like to close with the words of our former president, Abraham Lincoln. "With malice towards none, with charity for all." Rick truly embodies these words, and I am proud to have served in this fine institution with him.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSTON COUNTY BEING ESTABLISHED IN TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Houston County being established and incorporated into the state of Tennessee.

Officially established on January 21st in the year 1871, Houston County takes its name from the legendary Sam Houston, who, among many things, served as the first member of Congress from the 7th district of Tennessee. Like its namesake, Houston County embodies the spirit of American grit and perseverance. From the stoked lime kilns of days past to the thriving timber industry of today, Houston County continues to foster a strong and proud community.

Over its long history, Houston County has endeavored to faithfully honor the heritage of the Irish pioneers who settled the land through the annual Irish Day Parade. One of my favorite events of the year, the Irish Day Parade, now draws over 30,000 people to Erin. The scenic countryside of Houston County is home to gently flowing creeks and streams, rolling hills and forests, and a vibrant community with a little bit of Ireland in its soul.

Houston County is home to many of Tennessee's finest citizens, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Houston County on this impressive anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MOLLY HAMMMER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sadness I struggle to express on behalf of a community that has lost a voice, a city that has lost a leader, and family that has lost a friend. I rise to honor the life and memory of Molly Hammer. Molly spent years gracing Kansas City and the world with a one-of-a-kind voice and an indomitable spirit. For thirteen of those years, she did so while sharing her life with metastatic breast cancer. On Tuesday, November 24, Molly lost her fight with breast cancer. She was forty-eight years old. Her story, cut tragically short, is of a soul who sought to use her gifts to spread joy and to use her hardships to inspire hope. For fifteen years, Molly sang for us. Today, we sing of her.

Those lucky enough to have followed Molly's career since its beginning know that the talent, work ethic, and grit she displayed in the final years of her life were nothing new. Her high school choir teacher remembers her astounding professionalism while playing the narrator in her high school's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. After graduating, she went on to become a stage actor and portrayed Patsy Cline on a stage in Iowa for five years. In 2005, Molly answered a spiritual call from a difficult industry where she could have the complete independence she craved—jazz and blues. And thank goodness she did. It was then that she dove into an intense study of vocal jazz and began an illustrious career in the Kansas City music community. Molly soon became a fixture of the 18th & Vine jazz scene, winning the 2016 Critics' Choice for Best Jazz Singer award from The Pitch, releasing four LPs—one just three months ago—and cementing her place as an integral stitch in the rich cultural fabric of Jazz's cradle.

In 2008, Molly was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she beat it. Eight years later, it came back, and Molly returned to her battle, this time fighting a more aggressive foe but with no less determination or spirit. And not only did Molly continue to bring joy to her community through song during that battle, she also became an outspoken advocate for cancer research and a powerful voice in bringing awareness to what it means to live life with the disease. She called for increased research funding and better methods of preventative screening, worked with organizations like METAvivor and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and even lobbied Congress. However, though her music and her advocacy took her

all over the country and all over the world, Molly, I am proud to say, was devoted to Kansas City, and more specifically to the Kansas City music community. She supported organizations like GUILDit, which seeks to connect the world of music to the world of business to help support artists, After all, when Molly was diagnosed, she had no health insurance—a tragically common phenomenon among independent artists. And recently, she chose to donate the proceeds from her albums to the Midwest Music Foundation, ensuring that her giving spirit will continue to touch artists in her community for years to come.

I have always been struck by Molly's ability play any room at all. Molly sang the National Anthem at Arrowhead Stadium. Molly sang it at Kauffman Stadium. Molly sang at the Kauffman Center. Molly sang at the Folly Theater. And yet, even when her fight with cancer was at its most painful ebb, Molly got out every single weekend and brought her voice and her presence to local jazz clubs and Unity churches throughout Kansas City. When the pandemic struck, dealing a crushing blow to musicians and venues everywhere, Molly sang online from her living room. On stage with a microphone in hand and a piano to sing beside—that's where Molly felt at home. She used to say it was because music fed her soul. I so hope Molly knew that her music fed our souls as well.

Today, my heart is with Molly's family and friends, who are coping with a loss no amount of preparation could have softened. To Molly's parents, I say this: we are never prepared to outlive our children. I hope you take comfort in that you were able to see Molly exhibit a resilience that every parent hopes their child will have when they send them out into what can be an unfair and unforgiving world. Scripture tells us, ''Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.'' Molly's story, to me, is a story of service. Molly was given the gift of a singular voice and a presence that could light up jazz club, a concert hall, or a stadium, and she used it to bring joy and music to others. Molly was dealt a terrible disease, and she used it to bring awareness and comfort to those fighting alongside her. Molly administered God's grace in one of its most breathtaking forms, and she did so for all of us.

Jazz is about many things. It is about finding beauty where there is pain. It is about finding freedom where there are shackles. But at a musical level, jazz is about setting up rules, so they can then be broken. It is about establishing a rhythm, so that it can be defied. Madam Speaker, as I reckon with this loss, I take comfort in my belief that Molly has defied the unrelenting rhythm of this mortal world and taken her place among a choir of angels. There is piano somewhere in heaven that has been waiting for Molly, and I know that today, she is singing beside it.

So, Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Molly Hammer. Though she may never return to the stages where we've seen her before, today Molly joins a pantheon of jazz greats whose music echoes through time. Artists never really die, and I woke up this morning with Molly's music in my head. ''So let me fly out of this world,'' she would often sing at the end of her concerts, ''And spend the next eternity or two / with you.''

HONORING JOSEPH A. MYERS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in memory of Joseph A. Myers, who passed away on December 29, 2020.

Born January 16, 1940 in Cloverdale, Mr. Myers was a native Pomo Indian. He began his career as a law enforcement officer and was the first known California Indian to serve in the California Highway Patrol. He earned both his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctor from UC Berkley.

Mr. Myers became a revered leader in the Native American community and developed a reputation for working effectively to preserve Native American history through education and activism. He served as the Associate Director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program where he mentored advocates on tribal law, and notably joined a lawsuit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs that successfully reversed the termination of 17 Rancheria communities in California. Mr. Myers later founded the National Indian Justice Center to help tribes strengthen governance capacity and improve the quality of life in Indian country. He was also a founding board member of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center.

Mr. Myers shared his knowledge of Native American issues at UC Berkley as a professor in the ethnic studies department. The University named the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues as a tribute to Mr. Myers contributions to the community including the Native American students on campus.

Along with his hard work ethic and commitment to making a positive difference for others, Mr. Myers was known for his good sense of humor, compassion and wit. Although he is already greatly missed, there is no doubt his legacy will continue to be an inspiration for many.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and me in expressing deep gratitude for Mr. Myers and his many years of selfless service to the Native American community and the entire North Coast, and in extending condolences to his family and many friends.

HONORING KELLY WALTERS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Kelly Brice Walters of Christiansburg, Virginia, who passed away on December 26, 2020 at the age of 84. Mr. Walters was a first responder who committed his life to providing and improving emergency services in the New River Valley.

Kelly Walters was born on September 16, 1936 in Rogers, Virginia, to Vada McGuire and George M. Walters Jr. He began his career as a first responder in 1964 with the Christiansburg Lifesaving and First Aid Crew. In this organization, later the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, he served as Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Treasurer, and President of the Board of Directors. He helped launch rescue squads in Floyd County and Riner in Montgomery County. In the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, he served as the District 7 Vice President twice and ultimately as President and was also honored in its Hall of Fame.

Colleagues and community members remember Mr. Walters for his kindness and dedication to the emergency services. They told the Roanoke Times about his willingness to help coworkers with bills without expecting repayment or to pay for EMT certifications for others before the state reimbursed such expenses. Many colleagues looked upon him as a mentor.

In addition to his work with the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, Mr. Walters worked earlier life at the Blue Ridge Overall Factory, Cromer Furniture, and as caretaker of the Cemetery Corporation. He also served for eighteen years as Montgomery County's Animal Control Officer. Apart from these responsibilities, he was a member of the Christiansburg Hunting Club, which he served as President and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Walters was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Gerald Walters. He is survived by his daughter Nancy; grandson Bradley Hutchenson; great-grandchildren Elizabeth Ann and Halley Jo; sisters Brenda Thomas, Shirley Bartlett, and Jean Walters; and sister-in-law Jane Akers. I would like to offer my condolences to them and the people of Christiansburg on the loss of this dedicated public servant.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BICYCLE COMMUTER ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Section 90436 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would reinstate and improve the bicycle commuter tax benefit.

The bicycle is the most efficient form of urban transportation ever devised. Cycling reduces carbon emissions, provides enormous physical and mental health benefits, and is one of the most cost-effective modes of transportation available. Communities across the country have realized these benefits and substantially invested in building better bike networks and improving facilities for biking to work. These investments are one of the reasons that rates of biking to work have increased by more than one-third since 2000. Still, however, only 0.51 percent of workers biked to work in 2019.

Despite these impressive developments, there is no commuter tax benefit for biking to work—like we have for parking and transit. First enacted in 2009, the bicycle commuter benefit was a tax benefit that employers could offer to provide a reimbursement of up to $20/month for expenses relating to bicycle commuting expenses. But if an employee elected