

after being unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate and served three years as Attorney General. He was steadfast in his pursuit against white-collar crime as the Department of Justice obtained a record number of convictions of savings and loan crisis and other securities officials, defense contractors and corrupt public officials. Dick also established strong relations with law enforcement agencies around the world to help combat drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and international white-collar crime.

As an accomplished public leader Dick Thornburgh also worked at the international level, serving as a consultant to the United Nations, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to combat against corruption and fraud. He penned the book "Puerto Rico's Future: A Time to Decide" in 2007, where he argued for a change in the island's territorial/commonwealth status, and concluded it was a relic of colonialism. Throughout his career, Dick traveled widely, visiting over 40 countries and meeting with leaders from Africa, Australia, Canada, China, Cambodia, Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Ukraine, Taiwan, New Zealand and Central and South America. He was a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

As evidenced by his historic career Dick Thornburgh, dedicated his life to advocating and improving the lives of others. He was a model public servant. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Dick Thornburgh for his dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mourns with his family and loved ones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote due to a family death. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 18.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD'S WORK TO IMPLEMENT POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for their work, which spans five decades, to implement positive train control, also known as PTC.

December 31, 2020, was a significant day for railroad safety as all 41 freight and passenger railroads required to meet the deadline set by Congress to implement PTC met the mandate. This life-saving technology will prevent train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, incursions into established work zones, and the movement of a train through a switch left in the wrong position.

The path to full implementation of PTC was long and challenging, and had it not been for

the NTSB's persistence and partnership with Congress, in particular the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, PTC may never have happened.

The NTSB's work on PTC began on August 20, 1969, when two Penn Central commuter trains collided head-on near Darien, Connecticut, killing three crewmembers and a passenger and injuring roughly 43 others. After conducting an extensive investigation, the NTSB issued its first PTC-related recommendation.

Over the next five decades, the NTSB investigated 154 more PTC-preventable accidents that tragically took the lives of 305 people and injured 6,885 others. Several of those tragedies gained the public's attention and changed the conversation around PTC, including collisions in Chase, Maryland, in 1987, Boston, Massachusetts, in 1990, Silver Spring, Maryland, in 1996, Placentia, California, in 2002, Macdonia, Texas, in 2005, Graniteville, South Carolina, in 2005, and Chatsworth, California, in 2008.

In 2007 and 2008, the House and Senate were negotiating legislation that would require PTC implementation, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). The tragedy in Chatsworth pushed Congress to act and brought about final passage of RSIA. But as railroads worked to implement PTC after the mandate, the NTSB continued to investigate accidents that could have been prevented had the technology been in place. These include the derailment of Amtrak 188 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2015, which killed 8 passengers and injured 185 others, and the overspeed derailment in DuPont, Washington, in 2017, which killed 3 passengers and injured 57 passengers and crewmembers.

Throughout these tragedies, the NTSB pressed on for PTC. The agency believed PTC was so important that it included the issue on its very first Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements in 1990, and it has remained a key focus in their advocacy efforts.

On December 18, 2020—12 years after PTC was mandated—the last railroad required to implement PTC, New Jersey Transit, announced that it had fully implemented the safety technology, which meant that all 41 railroads had fully implemented PTC two weeks short of the deadline: a tremendous accomplishment.

Without the tireless advocacy of the NTSB over the last 50 years, we may not have seen the day PTC was fully implemented. I commend all those from the NTSB who fought tirelessly to finally achieve fully implemented positive train control. Their work will save lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GODFREY FONDINKA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Godfrey Fondinka. A beloved member of our community, Dr. Fondinka's life was marked by an unwavering commitment to medicine and service to others.

Dr. Fondinka was born in Cameroon, Africa where he began a life of distinction. After com-

pleting his medical education in Cameroon, he studied hospital management at Technion—Israel Institute of Technology. Dr. Fondinka then moved to the United States, where he received a Master of Public Health from Tulane University before completing a residency in family medicine at LSU Shreveport in 2003.

Dr. Fondinka worked tirelessly on behalf of his patients and our community. He served as an emergency room physician at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center until 2010, when he founded an urgent care practice in Fayetteville, North Carolina. On the frontlines of our community's battle against COVID-19, Dr. Fondinka saved countless lives and, to him, our nation owes an immeasurable debt.

Dr. Fondinka passed away on December 18, 2020, and my thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Florence; his children, Tuma, Ghinna, Babilla, and Khamali; and all who knew and loved him. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Godfrey Fondinka.

REMEMBERING COACH JERRY JOHNSON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Jerry C. Johnson, the basketball coach and athletic director at the historically Black Lemoyne-Owen College, who coached the Magicians to Memphis' only NCAA Championship title in 1975 and died Sunday at the age of 102. Coach Johnson won 821 games over 46 seasons at LeMoyne-Owen, where he also coached swimming and track and field, and taught health and physical education courses. Many of the students he coached and mentored went on to illustrious national recognition, including eight who became NBA players. Coach Johnson, who came to the college in 1958, was the first Black basketball coach to win a Division III national title and LeMoyne-Owen was the first Historically Black College and University to win that recognition. The LeMoyne-Owen Magicians remain the only men's college basketball program in Tennessee, and the only sports program in the city of Memphis, to win an NCAA championship. In my own interactions with Coach Johnson, I was always impressed with his quiet demeanor and self-effacing attitude, even though he was as much a star in the Memphis basketball world as anyone. Off the court, he was just a good man, caring about people in a quiet and compassionate manner, reaching out to help players, former players, and students without regard to their athletic ability or gender. He offered a helping hand and his heart reached so many. Known as strict but fair, Coach Johnson, an Oklahoma native, had an unusual connection to the game of basketball: he learned it from Hall of Famer John McClendon, the former Cleveland State coach who served as the first Black coach of a professional sports team, and McClendon learned the game from James Naismith, the inventor of the modern game of basketball. Coach Johnson was the focus of a