

left countless Texans struggling to receive unemployment benefits as they navigate the Texas Workforce Commission's confusing processes.

A decline in Texas' sales tax revenues—the largest source of funding for the state budget—has created a shortfall that lawmakers will have to fill in the 2021 legislative session. Economists say weakened global demand for oil, high unemployment and the ongoing public health crisis will continue to weigh down Texas' economic recovery.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED IN  
DECEMBER

Texas' unemployment rate in December was 7.2%—a decrease from the 8.1% November jobless rate, according to a Texas Workforce Commission report released Jan. 22. The state's unemployment rate for December is the latest indicator that the economic recovery in Texas will be slow and staggered.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM "RED"  
LEWIS

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man: William "Red" Lewis. A Green Bay native and successful businessman, Red Lewis personified the entrepreneurial spirit generosity Northeast Wisconsin is known for.

Born in 1942, Red was the youngest of four children. He attended Premontre High School (later to become Notre Dame de la Baie Academy) and graduated in 1960. After multiple jobs in the Green Bay area, Red began his career at the local PDQ car wash, working his way up to manager in 1967. Seeing an avenue to improve PDQ's cleanliness and efficiency, Red bought the business in 1974.

To enhance PDQ's customer experience, Red founded PDQ Manufacturing. His leadership drove PDQ into becoming the world's largest touchless car wash manufacturer with clients in over 30 countries. In recognition of his innovation and contribution to the industry, Red was inducted into the Car Wash Hall of Fame in 2000 by the International Carwash Association.

Beyond his business success, Red was well-known in the community for his kind heart and extensive philanthropy. He was deeply dedicated to giving back to a community that has supported him. He was particularly fond of supporting the Green Bay Boys & Girls Club, the Lac Baie Girl Scout Council, Catholic Charities, Manna for Life Ministries, NEW Zoo and St. Willebroed Parish. He was also generous to his alma mater, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, and local veterans organizations.

Red also had a passion for collecting cars, and in 2016 gifted the Green Bay community with The Automobile Gallery. This nonprofit is a beautiful addition to Green Bay's downtown whose collection of more than 120 automobiles spans 113 years. It boasts a 1912 Maxwell, 1963 Corvette, and 1982 DeLorean DMC-12, among many other restored models. Visitors from across the state come to Green Bay to enjoy the gallery which has quickly become a cherished community treasure.

Madam Speaker, words cannot adequately thank Red for his extraordinary commitment to

the Green Bay community. His passing will be mourned by many across Northeast Wisconsin. My prayers and condolences go out to his family and to all the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CAREN COWAN

**HON. YVETTE HERRELL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a New Mexican who has been a tireless advocate for our farmers, ranchers, and the families who work every day to provide for America. Caren Cowan is not only a friend of mine, but of the hardworking New Mexicans who she stands up for every day. As the 2020 Cattleman of the Year and for a lifetime of service, Ms. Cowan deserves our appreciation.

After graduating from Arizona University in 1975 with a degree in Agriculture Communications, Caren worked for the Arizona National Livestock Show, the American Red Brangus Association in Texas, and the New Mexico Wool Growers. She has served as the Executive Director for the New Mexico Cattle Growers since 1997 where she fights to protect the rights of livestock producers and ensure their voices are always heard on every issue. She has taken on battles in the courtroom, tackled the often burdensome statutory and regulatory requirements head on, and successfully navigated the bureaucracies' often confusing rules and regulations, something not easily done. For 23 years Caren has been at the forefront of these issues and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the organization's members.

As a leader on the issues facing the farmers and ranchers of New Mexico, Ms. Cowan is training the next generation of advocates to ensure the New Mexico's agricultural families always have a voice. We are forever grateful for her work and dedication to the state we love.

MR. AND MRS. ORESTUS AND  
GERALDINE FLOWERS

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Orestus and Geraldine Flowers of Burkesville for recently celebrating their 75th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers have displayed commitment in all facets of their life. At twenty-two years of age, Mr. Flowers left his then-girlfriend, Geraldine, to serve in the Army for three-and-a-half-years during World War II. Mr. Flowers kept a picture of Geraldine in his wallet during the war, and upon returning, married Geraldine on February 1, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Flowers displayed an exemplary level of commitment to both each other and our nation through his military service.

Mr. and Mrs. Flowers raised their family in Cumberland County, Kentucky. They and their three daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren have been a staple in the community of Burkesville. Mr. Flowers

has served in numerous capacities in the local community. In 1952, he brought Houchens Market to Burkesville, where he served as manager for 32 years. After retiring from Houchens, he has continued work at Norris and New Funeral Home, where he is still showing off the picture of his wife that he took to war with him seventy-eight years ago.

Once again, I would like to join everyone in Burkesville and throughout the 1st District of Kentucky in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Flowers on this extraordinary milestone.

HONORING VETERANS DURING  
NATIONAL SALUTE WEEK

**HON. JIM BANKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to veterans cared for by the Department of Veterans Affairs in northeast Indiana and across the United States.

Each year, the week of February 14 is an opportunity for Americans to express their collective gratitude for the more than 9 million veterans of the United States Armed Services who are cared for in the VA system. This year's National Salute Week is the most important one to date, given the difficult times our nation has faced over the last 12 months with many of America's veterans hardest hit.

This week also serves as an opportunity for Hoosiers and Americans everywhere to learn about the role of the VA medical system, to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers Nationwide, over 61,000 volunteers provide more than 9.2 million volunteer hours serving America's veterans. Volunteers are a priceless asset to our veterans, to the VA and to the country.

As a veteran myself and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in Congress, I am honored to have served in uniform and to serve the people of northeast Indiana in Congress. One of my top priorities has been, and always will be, ensuring those who served the United States receive the honor, care, and opportunity they deserve.

This is a testament to the honor and sacrifice of those heroes who have served our country, and to those who serve them.

HONORING JOE LAROCO

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Charles LaRocco of Salem, Virginia, who passed away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 67. Joe was a longtime coach and educator in Roanoke County who encouraged students and athletes toward excellence.

Joe was born in Schenectady, New York on October 28, 1953. He grew up in Roanoke, graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1972, and graduated from Roanoke College in 1976. As a young man, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout and was a standout track and field and cross country athlete, eventually