

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on February 26, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; YEA on Roll Call No. 44; and NAY on Roll Call No. 45.

HONORING DENISHA GRAY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Denisha Gray. Denisha has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to educate Warren County youth.

Denisha, a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi, earned her bachelor's degree in general studies from Alcorn State in 2013. In 2018, she earned her master's degree from Louisiana Tech University.

Denisha Gray, a second-grade teacher at Dana Road Elementary School, said it is important that, through her teaching, her students are connected to the world around them, and that the lessons they learn connect them to that world. Before joining the staff at Dana Road Elementary, Gray taught one year at Vicksburg Intermediate School, her first with the Vicksburg Warren School District. Prior to that, she spent one year as a fourth-grade teacher and four years as a third-grade teacher at Wright Elementary School in Tallulah.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Denisha Gray for her passion and dedication to serving Warren County and her desire to make a difference in the community.

SUPPORTING THE CBC'S LIVING HISTORY EVENT AND CONDEMNING THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION OF JANUARY 6, 2021

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss Black History Month and the insurrection against our Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

Since 1926, America has celebrated Black History in some form. It started as a week and now it is a month to honor the achievements of Black Americans throughout our nation's history. Schools and organizations conduct seminars and events to highlight the month. It is a positive way to acknowledge the power of diversity in the growth of our country.

But there are still those in America who disagree with diversity. They want to return to a time when only a small minority of Americans were allowed to have rights and the full protections of the U.S. Government. They believe that 'white is right' and everything else is wrong. Luckily, their numbers have been decreasing across the country during the last few decades.

Unfortunately, they are not going quietly. The forces of white supremacy were strengthened and emboldened by former President Trump. In the last few years, they have acted out in ways both public and private. They were the ones who attacked our nation's Capitol Building on January 6th. They were the ones who wanted to "hang" former Vice President Mike Pence. They were the ones who brought a Confederate flag, one of the nation's foremost symbols of hate and prejudice, into the Capitol Building. And they forced elected officials of both political parties, Republicans and Democrats, to flee for their lives on that fateful day.

We know that white nationalists have become empowered to commit acts of hate like this one nationwide because they had support in the White House. In 2019, the total number of hate crimes rose to 7,312 and marked the fourth increase in the past five years. We know that white supremacy-supporting domestic terrorists pose a greater threat to our nation's peace and security than foreign terrorists. And we know how to fight and defeat white nationalism. The question is when are we going to defeat it for good?

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALAMEDA CONTRA COSTA LINKS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links (ACCL) for their 36 years of service throughout California's 13th Congressional District and the country.

Based in Oakland, California, the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links supports local service agencies serving primarily low-income, inner-city youth and their families in Contra Costa and Alameda counties through volunteer and fundraising efforts.

The Links, Incorporated was originally founded in 1946 and national membership now consists of more than 15,000 professional women of color. These women are committed to serving as "volunteers to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry."

The Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links was founded in 1985. Its members and leaders have worked since its founding to help East Oakland and the youth who live there through community service programs.

In 1996 ACCL established the Community Service Program called "Respect Yourself." This program's aims are to "Respect Your Health, Respect Your Knowledge, Respect

Your Family and Community, and Respect Your Creativity and Intuitiveness." Through an oral health initiative targeting children, a cardiovascular health initiative with the American Heart Association targeting African American women, educational activities for young children focused on STEAM, financial literacy, English literacy, international affairs, anti-bullying, environmental stewardship, and the arts, the "Respect Yourself" program has bettered the health and education of many in our community. Over the years, ACCL has been able to serve over 2,800 young Oakland students.

On February 26th, 2021, ACCL will hold its 25th annual Respect Yourself Youth Symposium. The Symposium directly supports young students in Oakland and exposes the students to thought leaders and educational content in STEM and health studies.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone of 25 years of the Respect Yourself Youth Symposium and 36 years of service. I thank the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links for dedication to excellence and to our community. I wish them continued success in working to better the lives of the children and women of color of California's 13th Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL WIND ENERGY MODERNIZATION AND EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Rural Wind Energy Modernization and Extension Act of 2021. This commonsense proposal builds on the success of the small wind investment tax credit by assisting farmers, ranchers, and small businesses in offsetting the up-front costs of developing and owning distributed wind turbines.

Small wind turbines are commonly installed on residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, and community sites and can range in size from a few-hundred-watt turbine at a remote cabin to a 5-kilowatt turbine at a home to a multi-megawatt turbine at a manufacturing facility. These systems allow farmers, ranchers, and other consumers to cut their energy bills and, at times, sell power back into the grid.

While this technology has grown in the past decade, federal policy to promote deployment of distributed wind has failed to keep up. Current law has constrained nameplate capacity in distributed wind projects and years of short-term extensions have created a significant amount of uncertainty in the distributed wind market. The Rural Wind Energy Modernization and Extension Act would increase the existing 100-kilowatt limitation to 10 megawatts and provide long-term certainty for distributed wind projects for decades to come.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an infrastructure investment package.