

his own life—an act for which he was awarded the Navy Cross.

A motor vehicle operator for Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Lance Corporal Corbin was part of a convoy responding to a report of a platoon under fire near Haditha on May 7, 2005. As they approached the scene, a van loaded with explosives charged toward them, detonating between two of the convoy's vehicles. A brutal firefight ensued, during which many were injured and four—three Marines and a Navy corpsman—were killed. Most of the convoy's vehicles were disabled in this initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin immediately positioned his seven-ton truck between the enemy and the wounded Marines. After reporting the situation to the battalion, he immediately took charge at the scene, directing return fire. Under this covering fire, and disregarding the continued onslaught of the enemy, he retrieved his wounded patrol leader, placing him over his shoulder and bringing him back to the truck—all while firing at the enemy with his free hand.

He made five total trips through the kill zone to recover his dead and wounded comrades, shielding them from the enemy while returning them to the convoy. Despite the severe damage to his truck, which by this time had three flat tires, Lance Corporal Corbin drove it away from the scene and to an aid station five miles away. Because of his quick-thinking and heroic actions, no Marine was lost after the initial attack.

Lance Corporal Corbin is now Huron County Sheriff Corbin, re-elected to a second term last year. He credits the Marine Corps for helping him enhance the leadership skills that are so essential to his job, encouraging everyone in his command to be at their personal and professional best when interacting with the public.

Madam Speaker, we are grateful that people like Todd Corbin stand up and volunteer to serve this great Nation. He risked his life to save others under the most difficult conditions. For this, each and every one of us owes him a great debt of gratitude. I thank Sheriff Corbin for his many sacrifices on our behalf and wish him every success in the future.

#### REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF DEVOYD “DEE” JENNINGS

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a hardworking and dedicated member of our Fort Worth community.

Dee dedicated his life to ensuring the success, strength and mobility of the Black community in Fort Worth. Dee was born in 1947 in Fort Worth. After graduating from I.M. Terrell High School in 1966, he attended Tarrant County College and continued his education at Texas Wesleyan University where he graduated with a marketing degree in 1971.

He began his nearly 30 years of service for North Texas with TXU as a Community Affairs Specialist, and served as the first Black lobbyist for Texas Electric. Dee used his own experiences to help others. He quickly became

an influential mentor to minorities pursuing careers in business as he served on numerous boards including the Texas Association of Business, the North Texas Commission, the Texas Association of African American Chambers and as a chairman of the NTTA's Business Diversity Advisory Committee.

The pinnacle of Dee's career came when he began his most recent position as president and CEO of the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce. He left a powerful legacy by using this position to fight for economic opportunity for the Black community in Fort Worth.

Dee also assisted with the creation of two stand-alone organizations that directly serve to benefit minority development—the William Mann Community Development Corp and Southeast Fort Worth Inc. Because of his work with local government bodies, he was able to establish minority and women-owned business enterprise goals.

His long and appreciated service to the community of Fort Worth has been honored as he was a proud receiver of the Minority Leaders in Business Award in 2017 and was recognized with a proclamation for Devoyd Jennings Day.

Devoyd “Dee” Jennings—a public servant, successful businessman, and strong leader—will be deeply missed by our Fort Worth community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2021, I am not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 253. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF DAVID WITT

#### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Witt on his retirement as the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD).

David graduated with an associate's degree from Bakersfield College and a bachelor's degree in Range Resource Science from Humboldt State University, giving him a unique skill set for tackling the diverse terrain that the Kern County Fire Department covers. His interest in firefighting and emergency response were rooted well before his time in Kern County, as he had served with both the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection before being hired at KCFD.

David served in a variety of roles at Kern County Fire Department, including managing its air program, operations, and logistics. In June 2019, the Kern County Board of Supervisors recognized his leadership and hard work on behalf of our community by unanimously selecting David to become Fire Chief.

As KCFD Fire Chief, David successfully led a department of nearly 500 uniformed staff and oversaw emergency responses over a two-year period that included historic wildfire seasons, massive earthquakes, and a global pandemic. He was not only responsible for the safety of his personnel and the people of Kern County, but he was also responsible for overseeing the finances and operations of the department's \$150 million budget. In that role, he excelled. KCFD was \$10 million in the red when David took over the top department spot. Yet as a fiscally responsible, no-nonsense Chief, David turned the Department's finances around and KCFD is now operating in the black.

Even before becoming Fire Chief, David was well-known for his hard work and contributions throughout our community. In 2010, he was recognized by the American Legion, earning a certificate of commendation. In 2013, he received the Kern River Valley Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year Award. In 2017, he was recognized by KCFD with a letter of commendation, a testament to his work ethic and savvy that set him apart. David also serves on the Board of Directors for Kern County and Eastern Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross, where he lends his expertise to the organization. He also previously served as a Board Director and as Treasurer for the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.

David knows the needs of the people he protects, and when that includes nine different cities, 41 different distinct communities, and 8,163 square miles, that becomes an incredible challenge. David may be taking a step back from his role as Fire Chief of the Kern County Fire Department, but I am confident that his tenure will be remembered across our community through his mentorship of firefighters and his leadership during times of emergency response and disaster recovery.

On behalf of California's 23rd Congressional District, I want to thank David for his service to our community, and want to also thank his wife Pegeen and their children Andrew and Courtland for supporting him during his many years of public service to our community. I wish David and his family well as he settles into a much-deserved retirement.

#### IN HONOR OF NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to salute whistleblowers and to mark a day of appreciation for their critical contribution to American justice and to the safety and security of us all. Whistleblowers, among other things, keep companies that do business with the federal government honest and accountable. Working from confidential tips and insights provided by whistleblowers in qui tam cases, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recovers billions of dollars annually under the False Claims Act. Over a recent four-year period, the government recovered \$11.4 billion in fraud prosecutions and distributed more than \$1.54 billion in whistleblower reward payments.

For example, last year, a major toxicology laboratory was required to pay the government \$12 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case when it was found to have paid unlawful kickbacks to a marketer and health care provider in exchange for referrals for urine drug tests. The whistleblower-inspired investigation also led to a criminal indictment of individuals involved in the scheme and the establishment of a five-year Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General, which required the company to retain an Independent Review Organization to monitor its arrangements with individuals and other entities and to routinely report to the Office of Inspector General.

Those who blow the whistle on federal contractors are typically awarded 15 to 30 percent of the funds recovered by DOJ. One whistleblower collected \$4 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case on behalf of the government against two contractors that knowingly failed to comply with federal and state prevailing wage laws. The contractors agreed to correct their compensation practices, and their employees were paid back wages.

In these cases, whistleblowers brought the fraud to light, companies were held accountable, taxpayer funds were recovered, future misconduct was averted, and workers were made whole.

I want to thank my constituent Renee Brooker, partner at Tycko & Zavareei LLP and former Civil Frauds Assistant Director at DOJ for sharing her expertise on whistleblower law with my office.

Today, on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize whistleblowers and to encourage more individuals to become whistleblowers.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL AGENT  
SCOTT D. PAYNE AND HIS RE-  
TIREMENT FROM LAW ENFORCE-  
MENT

**HON. TIM BURCHETT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of newly retired Special Agent Scott D. Payne, who spent 28 years in law enforcement keeping our communities and our country safe.

Special Agent Payne started his law enforcement career in Greenville, South Carolina. He served in the Greenville County Sheriffs office for five years, working as a Uniform Patrol Officer and a Vice and Narcotics Investigator.

In 1998, he joined the FBI and became the primary undercover agent in many long-term undercover operations. He risked his safety to investigate violent motorcycle gangs, public corruption, murder for hire, drug trafficking organizations, and domestic terrorist groups with international ties. He was also an FBI SWAT Team Operator for over 7 years, diving head-first into dangerous situations to bring down violent criminals.

Special Agent Payne would go on to become an instructor in firearms, tactics, and undercover work. Thousands of law enforcement officers across the country were trained under

his leadership. He was also the Principal Tactical Instructor, Principle Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Lead Active Shooter Instructor for FBI Knoxville.

Special Agent Payne spent his career keeping folks safe, stopping criminals, and preparing the next generation of law enforcement officers for duty. I thank Special Agent Payne for his service. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE CALIFORNIA DE-  
PARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-  
FAIRS' HOME LOAN PROGRAM

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs' Home Loan Program. For a century, this loan assistance program has helped veterans and their families realize the American dream of homeownership after returning from their service to our country.

The Farm and Home Loan Program was created on May 30, 1921, to thank California veterans for their service and sacrifice in World War I. This program identified homeownership as a foundational step towards transitioning to civilian life, establishing credit, and building a strong financial future for veterans and their families. Over the course of the last hundred years, the Home Loan Program has aided veterans throughout times of war and economic crisis, including the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

During its existence, the program has distributed more than \$8.5 billion in loans to over 425,000 veterans and expanded to serve a growing and diverse veteran population. Today, the Home Loan Program is renowned for some of the lowest foreclosure rates in the country, personalized service, and a comprehensive homeowners insurance plan; and continues to deliver exceptional customer service to veterans who would otherwise not qualify for a loan.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that my home state has been a pioneer in assisting veterans to secure housing and I congratulate the California Department of Veterans Affairs on their exceptional work throughout the decades. The Home Loan Program has been a lifeline to thousands of veterans over the past 100 years, and I know that it will continue to help veterans achieve homeownership for the next 100 to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 245.

COMMEMORATING THE 56TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF MEDICARE AND  
MEDICAID

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2021*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation could enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Madam Speaker, 56 years later, the legacy of these programs have I proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98 percent of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation, and Texas'