years. We'll miss her dearly at the New Democrat Coalition, and I wish her only the best.

HONORING MIAMI/BAHAMAS GOOMBAY FESTIVAL BOARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor Fredrika S. Brown, Leona Cooper, and Herb Hiller who have served on the board of the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival since its inception.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is a celebration of cultural expression embracing the legacy of Miami's Bahamian-rooted community known as Coconut Grove. The three-day celebration strives to provide a historical overview of the American/Bahamian culture by educating and exposing the public to its rich heritage and traditions.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival in Coconut Grove is dedicated to recognizing, promoting and educating the residents of Miami-Dade County and tourists about the rich Bahamian and American Heritage and what makes this such a unique and positive blend.

The board strives to provide a historical overview of the Bahamian Culture, the commemoration of the early Coconut Grove settlers, and to introduce their music, native food specialties, artifacts, and crafts that are indigenous of the island.

The Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival is held to bring about unity and bridge a cultural gap by building communities through the understanding of each other's likenesses and differences.

Since 1977, the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival has celebrated the Bahamian culture of Miami-Dade County. The festival would not be possible without the hard work of the board who has stayed the course. I salute this effort and I am thankful to the Goombay Festival committee for keeping the rich culture of our Bahamian ancestors alive in Miami.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DELANO JOHNSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Delano Johnson as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Delano has dedicated his life to serving and empowering the East County community in Contra Costa, California. Delano is the founder of Bay Point Community All-N-One Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2012 that helps connect Bay Point residents with essential resources including housing, food, clothing, and hygiene products. The organization hosts a weekly event that provides critical support and services to up to 200 families each week. Further, thanks to Delano's leadership, the organization recently hosted a very successful Thanksgiving Giveaway, distributing over 1,000 turkeys and chickens to the community.

Delano participates with a number of nonprofits in the area to do more work to better his community, including White Pony Express, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Village Keepers, and Stand Together Contra Costa. Additionally, Delano regularly hosts meetings between local charities, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations, allowing these groups to easily connect and to better provide for the residents of East County. Delano's hard work and dedication are admired by all who know him.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking Delano Johnson for his years of dedicated service as we celebrate his 80th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW WASHINGTON ON HIS DEPARTURE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Matthew Earl Washington as he departs federal service after a lengthy career in the House of Representatives.

Originally from North Carolina, Matt's distinguished career in the House began in the office of the late civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis of Georgia as a Legislative Assistant. He later served as Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman John Olver of Massachusetts when the congressman served on the Appropriations Committee. His extensive knowledge of America's security, transportation, and infrastructure earned him the position of Staff Director of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee of the House Committee on Homeland Security where he adeptly served as the lead staffer on all Subcommittee matters for Chairwoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Since then, for the past nearly 15 years, Matt has served the Appropriations Committee with great diligence. The Committee's longest serving African American staffer on the Democratic side, he began his impressive tenure as a Professional Staff Member on the Defense Subcommittee where he oversaw the programs and funding that support active duty and reserve personnel. He later served as a Professional Staff Member for the full committee, ensuring smooth legislative and procedural processes for the Committee and Member offices.

Following these roles, equipped with unparalleled knowledge of the Committee, Matt took on the role of Clerk for the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee in 2011 becoming the first African American staffer to hold the position. He skillfully managed and negotiated all aspects of the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, and his leadership has helped protect our national security, uphold our commitment to servicemembers, veterans, and their families, and rebuild critical military infrastructure. In 2019, Matt began serving as Clerk of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, expertly leading the Subcommittee to enormous legislative triumphs in an attempt at making Congress work better for the American people.

His years of experience and expert knowledge of the Appropriations Committee made him an excellent addition to my Front Office staff when I became Chair of the full committee, where he has since served as Deputy Staff Director for the past two years. He has been at the helm of the investments we have made to help working families and vulnerable people all over our nation. In his unique role, he has been instrumental in the implementation of Community Project Funding, coordinating spending between all 12 subcommittees, and representing the Committee in front of critical partners during negotiations. And personally, he has been a trusted advisor throughout my first term leading this Committee.

While we will miss Matt greatly, we are excited for what the future holds for him. I wish Matt, his wife Chandini, and their children Yara and Zayn all the best, and extend my gratitude to his family for sharing him with us for so many years.

Our Nation is safer and this body is stronger because of Matt's tireless work. I join all Members of the Appropriations Committee who he has worked with in saying we will miss his expertise greatly. The Appropriations Committee is a family—one made up pf all the staff and Members who serve and have served this great institution. We are all so lucky that he will forever be part of this distinguished group. Congratulations on a remarkable federal career. His country is endlessly grateful for his leadership, service, and dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL BENJAMIN NICHOLSON

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Admiral Benjamin Nicholson for his outstanding leadership as Commander of Joint Region Marianas. In June of 2021, Admiral Nicholson was sworn in as Commander of Joint Region Marianas tasked with fortifying American freedom and democracy in his work to achieve Indo-Pacific Command objectives while strengthening Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. With unwavering focus on the mission of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Nicholson goes above and beyond the call of duty with his attention to the communities he serves, actively engaging local leadership and stakeholders to ensure the welfare of the general public.

Admiral Nicholson's commitment to our Armed Services began in the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering in 1993. He continued to build his foundation earning his master's degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. His background spans numerous command positions and numerous deployments around the world during his seagoing career.

Admiral Nicholson has further served in combat tours in Helmand, Afghanistan, and