EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REINTRODUCTION OF PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today on National Peace Corps Day, I reintroduce the ''Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2023''. Sixty-two years ago today, on March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, and this legislation will enable the Peace Corps to continue their legacy. As the co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus and the only returned Peace Corps volunteer serving in Congress, I know that this critical legislation will invigorate the Peace Corps and ensure that its essential work can continue to shape and inspire people around the world for years to come. I thank my colleagues Ranking Member GREGORY MEEKS (NY–05), Congressman GARRET GRAVES (LA–6), and Delegate AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN (R–AS) for being the bill's original cosponsors. I also appreciate Senate Foreign Relations Chairman ROBERT MENENDEZ and Ranking Member JIM RISCH for their leadership on the Senate companion bill in the 117th Congress and look forward to continuing this partnership.

President John F. Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act into law to ''permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world peace''. He set out three goals: unpack your bag, live with and help meet the needs of your new community; in your new community work to create a better understanding of America by being the real face of America; and bring an understanding of the World back home.

My wife, Patti, and I answered JFK's call to service, beginning our careers in public service when we joined the Peace Corps as young married graduates fresh out of UC Berkeley. Our post was to a remote village in Western Ethiopia. We taught the 7th and 8th grades and engaged in community development.

Over 60 years since the first volunteer arrived in Liberia, more than 240,000 Americans have served in 142 countries. Over the years, volunteers advanced agriculture production, taught, provided medication education and health services, created cooperative road building, and brought every conceivable skill that every nation needed.

My bill, the bipartisan ''Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2023'', builds upon the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011; making critical reforms to the agency to support current and returned volunteers. It strengthens the protection of volunteers against reprisals or retaliations for reporting wrongdoing and increases the federal workers' compensation rate for all Peace Corps volunteers injured or disabled during their service.

In total, this bill would provide the necessary federal resources to better support international programs, and current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers. JFK gave the call to service, ''ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country''. It is truly an honor to reintroduce this legislation on National Peace Corps Day.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF MAJOR GENERAL GARY LYNN HARRELL

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Major General Gary Lynn Harrell. The retired two-star Green Beret and legendary Delta Force Leader lost his hard-fought battle with cancer at the age of 71 and was called home to be with his savior.

Gary Harrell was born in Jonesborough, Tennessee to Henry and Louise Harrell. Tennessee mourns the loss of a dedicated patriot, loving father, husband, and friend; a truly inspirational man.

Major General Harrell lived a life that most of us have difficulty imagining. He hunted the Columbian drug lord, Pablo Escobar, led an operation to free American hostages from a prison in Panama, fought our enemies in the Gulf, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, commanded Delta Force operations, and simultaneously raised a family with his wife and high school sweetheart, Jennifer.

Harrell suffered severe injuries in 1993, serving during Operation Gothic, a manhunt for Somali warlords that led to the Battle of Mogadishu. He recovered from these injuries and rededicated himself to another 15 years in uniform, proving his heart for service was stronger than external challenges.

The men who served with Harrell during that operation remember him as a respected commander and a trusted leader, bringing commands together and leading with honor, quiet dignity, and valor.

Even after hanging up his uniform, Harrell continued to do good and give back, joining the board of Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation which aids wounded, ill, and injured operators and their families.

He also served on the board of the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga and stayed active in communities close to home, chairing the Washington County Republican Party.

Gary was described by close friends and family as a ''strong, Christian patriot'' and a ''giant among giants''. He will be so dearly missed and fondly remembered.

May the legacy of Major General Gary Lynn Harrell live on in the hearts of those who loved him and served alongside him. May we always remember his courage, sacrifice, and dedication to this great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers, Texas's oldest law enforcement agency.

In 1821, Stephen F. Austin, the ''Father of Texas,'' brought 300 families to settle land in modern-day Texas. There was no regular army, so Austin assembled a fighting force to provide protection from Karankawas, Comanches, and eventually Mexican raiders—giving rise to the Texas Rangers.

Texans did what sovereign states have done throughout history: we stepped up and protected our communities. We stood up for the rule of law when there was none.

Much of the action seen by the early Rangers involved bloody conflicts with Comanche tribes and gangs of bandits who threatened the safety of Texans.

In the years following, the Rangers proved indispensable during major events such as the Mexican American War, the pursuit of criminals Bonnie and Clyde in 1934, and Hurricane Harvey rescue and recovery in 2017.

As local law enforcement slowly assumed much of the day-to-day peacekeeping role that the Texas Rangers held before the turn of the 20th century, the Texas Rangers now operate as a key investigative body for the State of Texas.

Rangers are renowned for conducting major criminal investigations, suppression of organized crime, border reconnaissance, SWAT, bomb squad, special rapid response, crisis negotiation, joint intelligence center management, and investigation of unsolved crimes.

The impact of the Texas Rangers on the Lone Star State cannot be understated. My home county, Hays County, is named for John Coffee Hays, a renowned Ranger appointed by Sam Houston. My great-great-grandfather John Vaughan Roy served as a Texas Ranger in Hays, Travis, and Blanco Counties, protecting our future home and holding the line against lawlessness.

To the west, Captain Charles Schreiner of Kerr County served with distinction and went on to donate land for the Schreiner Institute, a military school in my district. Today, I am honored to represent ''Ranger Ray'' Martinez, a living legend in New Braunfels with a long history of heroism and service. The Ranger spirit is also alive and well today in my friend and longtime Texas Ranger David Maxwell, who solved the over 35-year-old cold case in the unspeakable murder of his own sister.

''They were men who could not be stampeded.'' That's how former DPS director, Homer Garrison, Jr. described them. And they have certainly lived up to that.

As with so many other great figures of our history, some today wish to rewrite the legacy

of the Texas Rangers, focusing only on the harshest of narratives from the comfort of modern-day America while ignoring the sacrifice of these men to settle the west and establish the rule of law.

The scripture reminds us: ''Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'' These heroes wake up every morning and put their lives on the line to serve and protect their fellow Texans.

The Texas Rangers are owed a debt of gratitude that cannot be fully repaid. But today, we do thank them, and we congratulate them on 200 years of selfless service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for four important bills that were considered by the House on Monday: H. Res. 132, a resolution responding to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023; H.R. 538, Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act; H.R. 1059, the SECURE Notarization Act of 2023; and H.R. 1108, To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding.

Regrettably, I was unable to cast my votes for this legislation, but had I been able to, I would have voted to pass all four.

I had the pleasure of voting for the SECURE Notarization Act when this bill passed the House in the 117th Congress, and I would have gladly voted for it in the 118th Congress as well.

I regret having missed the vote on H.R. 1108, to extend the FCC's spectrum auction authority. In the 117th Congress, I introduced legislation to extend the FCC's spectrum auction authority through March of 2024, which passed the House in July 2022. However, only a short-term extension was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, and this bill would push that deadline back to May of 2023. This will give the FCC confidence to host upcoming auctions and to raise revenues for the federal government while Congress debates long-term action.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF SISTER JENNIE LOUISE JONES, S.S.F.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a true New Orleans spiritual leader, educator, culture bearer and mentor, Sister Jennie Louise Jones, S.S.F. who passed away at the age of 70 years old. Sister Jennie Louise Jones, S.S.F., the daughter of the late Leonard Earl Jones, Jr, in union with Mrs. Jennie Gourrier Jones, entered eternal life on Sunday, February 26, 2023. She was born on June 15, 1952, Sister Jennie entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1970, and made First Vows on August 15, 1973. Sister had celebrated 52 years as a Sister of the Holy Family.

Raised and deeply rooted in New Orleans culture, Sister Jennie attended Corpus Christi Elementary School and was a 1970 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. In preparation for her ministry in education, Sister Jennie received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of New Orleans. Sister Jennie served as teacher, principal and assistant principal in her ministries. She taught and was assistant principal at St. Raymond Elementary School, assistant principal at St. Paul the Apostle, principal at Corpus Christi Elementary and Marian Central Middle School, all in New Orleans. Sister Jennie also taught at Ecumenical High School in Dangriga, Belize, Central America. After Hurricane Katrina, Sister Jennie taught at Pineville Middle School in Pineville, Louisiana. Sister's longest tenure was as principal of St. Mary's Academy, serving over twenty years, from which she retired in 2022. Sister Jennie kept the school open after Hurricane Katrina, when the City of New Orleans planned to turn the school's campus into a green space. Sister also served as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family Leadership Team.

In 2012, ''Sister Jennie Jones, Principal of St. Mary's Academy, was among an elite group of nine Catholics honored as 'Champions of Change in Catholic Education' at a special White House ceremony,'' honored by then President Barack Obama, as the school was rebuilt and even expanded. During her tenure, their curriculum and program grew to include classes from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade to accommodate students and families displaced by the Hurricane. Now, middle and high school students are able to enjoy a new state of the art building because of her leadership and commitment.

Sister Jennie is preceded in death by her beloved father, Leonard Earl Jones, Jr., and brother, Benjamin ''Bennie'' Jones, and her paternal and maternal grandparents.

Sister Jennie leaves to cherish her memory: her mother, Mrs. Jennie G. Jones, two brothers, Carl A. Jones and Leonard E. Jones, III (Gwendolyn); niece Mikeall Caesar (Rickey); two nephews, Jeffery Lewis and Jude Lewis, great nephew Stanley Tate, great niece, Jennie Louise Hawkins; and a host of uncles, cousins, faculty, staff, and students of St. Mary's Academy, as well as religious sisters, and friends.

I am humbled to have personally known such a great spiritual leader and fighter for all, who has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across my district. So many people's lives are enriched because of the love and passion she expressed in touching them along the way. New Orleans has lost another one of its greatest champions of culture. Sister Jennie Jones touched tens of thousands of lives in our community, dedicating her entire life to educating young black children, impacting generations of families over five decades of religious life. May we continue to receive her blessings as she continues to watch over us and our entire country in prayer.

RECOGNIZING THE SOJOURNER TRUTH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum for contributing to Sacramento's rich history. Since 1996, the museum has served as an institution dedicated to community education, and the celebration of African American art, history, and culture.

The Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum honors the legacy of Sojourner Truth, not only by dedicating exhibits to her life and work, but also by enriching and empowering community members in the spirit of her activism. The Museum showcases a timeline of African American history, spanning across thousands of years from 14th century African kings to modern day icons. Exhibitions also honor innovators and their contributions to American culture by exploring topics such as Black Cowboys, Black Inventors, the Harlem Renaissance, and Black Millionaires. Sacramento's history is brilliantly displayed and highlights the reconstruction of Dunlap's Dining Room, Sacramento's first African American-owned restaurant and the Dana Maeshia Wall Library and Media Station, commemorating local hero Dana Maeshia, who served her community in life with literacy programs for African American children.

The Museum also hosts a variety of programs and workshops that invite community members to explore artistic interests and engage in skill development. Some of these programs foster youth personal and professional development, such as the After-School Mentorship Program and the Youth Entrepreneurial Development Program. The Youth Docent Program, a recent 2021 addition, hosts seven students in paid positions, offering them the opportunity to foster community outreach and visitor engagement skills.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor the Sojourner Truth African American Heritage Museum for educating and enriching the Sacramento community, and I thank Founder and Director, Shonna McDaniels, as well as the Museum's partners for making the continued success of this institution possible for the Sacramento region.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESIDENT SANTA J. ONO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Michigan's new President Santa J. Ono. Today, March 7, 2023, President Ono will be officially inaugurated as the 15th President of the University of Michigan.

The proud son of Japanese immigrants, President Ono was born in Canada and raised in Maryland. President Ono is a highly respected vision researcher who was educated

at the University of Chicago and McGill University, before spreading knowledge as a professor at Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, and University College London. As a trusted expert on higher education and mental health, he has advised stakeholders in both the public and private sectors throughout his career. His influence can be felt in academia and healthcare across this country and throughout Canada.

President Ono has deep experience working in the higher education sector. Whether serving as chair of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities, on the board of directors of the Universities Canada and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, or as past chair of Research Universities of British Columbia, he has constantly sought opportunities to educate and mentor a new generation of aspiring researchers, scientists, and doctors.

Within his first few days at The University of Michigan, President Ono has made a commitment to being available and meeting with students, faculty, and campus unions. President Ono wants to strengthen trust in the University with an emphasis on ethics and transparency. Additionally, President Ono has set out to improve the mental health programs on campus. In honest conversations and TED Talks, President Ono has been open about his mental health experiences and how his personal story guides his commitment to building access to mental health care. With his extensive experience and a strong commitment to students, President Ono will help the University of Michigan continue on the bright path ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Michigan's newest President Santa J. Ono. I join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him for the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF BARBARA LINCOLN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and commitment of Barbara Lincoln. Her dedication to our country throughout her lifetime demonstrates the true American spirit of sacrifice for the greater good.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Barbara Lincoln joined the United States Cadet Nurse Corps. She trained at the Lenox Hill Hospital for two and a half years, graduating in March 1947 as a registered nurse. Mrs. Lincoln then went on to work in several New York hospitals during the rise of polio. Despite already having a registered nurse's license, Barbara Lincoln continued her education, gaining a bachelor's degree in human health services and certifications to become a school nurse, teacher, and nurse practitioner.

In 1949, Barbara Lincoln married Donald Pantke and had three children. Unfortunately, her husband Donald passed away when she was 35, leaving her a single mother. Still, she persevered to provide for her family. In 1967, she eventually remarried to Judson Lincoln, a major in the Air Force. Their blended family had 7 children, larger than the Brady Bunch.

Today, Mrs. Barbara Lincoln is an active member of First Christian Church in Inverness, as well as a retired military group. She still finds time to be active and give back to her community through volunteering at Precious Paws Rescue. Mrs. Lincoln is also a loving grandmother to 15 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 18 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Barbara Lincoln's legacy truly represents the American dream through her marvelous life full of patriotism, courage, and determination.

HONORING MIKE GONZALEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Mike Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez is originally from Guadalajara, Jalisco, and immigrated to the United States of America at age 17. After immigrating to the U.S., he began his new life by obtaining a license from the State of California to start his career as a private investigator and bodyguard, eventually starting his own company.

A resident of Santa Ana, California, since 1987, he now owns several businesses, including Santa Ana Security Services, Inc., and employs 250 men and women. Mr. Gonzalez is a community leader and activist in Santa Ana, where he organizes the annual May Day March for immigrant rights, workers' rights, and human rights for all. He also coordinated the historic ''2006 March'' to protest a law that sought to criminalize those who help undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Mr. Gonzalez is an active member in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and he serves as the organization's vice president of Immigration Reform. In this role, he participates in historic campaigns such as, but not limited to, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the 2018 VOICES Act, and the 2019 ''Keep California Families Together'' law.

He was a counselor to the previous four Presidents of Mexico electors at the Consulate of Mexico. In 1995, he actively participated in campaigns that led to an amendment to the Mexican Constitution. In the period of 2005 through 2008, he was a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (CC–IME). From 2012 through 2015, he was an inventor and coordinator of the Commission of Art, Culture, and Mexican Traditions Abroad.

Mr. Gonzalez is a practicing Catholic and gives thanks to God for his many blessings. He is a man who has made many positive contributions to his community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the exceptional achievements and career of Mr. Mike Gonzalez.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL N. COPPOLA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Michael N. Coppola. He was an outstanding man of character who touched the lives of countless people and contributed to the betterment of the Buffalo community.

He was born at Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo, New York on August 25, 1948. He was the oldest of 10 children of Angela Coppola and Dr. Joseph R. Coppola. He attended Christ the King School in Snyder, New York, moving on to Canisius for high school. He continued to attend Canisius through college, where he earned a degree in Business Administration and Management. He was honored as an Outstanding Graduate by Canisius College in 2016.

At the age of 16, Michael Coppola began working as a stock boy for Tops Markets. Over the next 33 years, he climbed the ranks within the company, eventually earned the title of Executive Vice President of Marketing. He was considered an innovator in the supermarket industry, even opening up the first Tops International Store in order to meet the demands of the diverse cultures living within the City of Buffalo and the metropolitan area.

Michael Coppola was regarded as a dear friend, mentor, teacher, and inspiration both within and outside of the Tops company. It gave him great joy to guide and mentor others throughout his life and career; his lifelong motto was ''Choose Love.'' Before his passing, he was able to organize a reunion with his former Tops colleagues, further strengthening his local community. His leadership and dedication to God, family, and community will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Michael Coppola passed into the arms of the Lord on August 21, 2022. On the day of Michael Coppola's funeral, Byron W. Brown, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, proclaimed October 29, 2022, as ''Michael N. Coppola Day'' in the City of Buffalo and joined his family and friends in celebration of his life and selfless legacy.

Michael Coppola leaves behind to cherish his children Jennifer, Jill, Michelle, the late Joseph, and Jeffrey; his grandchildren the late Angelina, Serena and Arabella, Ryan and Miranda, Zach, Hailee and Addison; his siblings Leonard, Joe, Jack, the late Mary, Peter, Paul, Robert, Richard, and Donna—and a host of other family members and loving friends.

REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 347, the REIN IN Act.

House Republicans are claiming this bill will require the administration to publish the inflationary impact of executive actions before enacting them, but if Republicans had taken the

time to hold a hearing on this bill, they would have discovered that the bill merely requires the President to ''prepare and consider'' the inflationary impact—not publish it. This is yet another misleading political stunt from the new Republican majority.

For two years, House Republicans blamed President Biden and Congressional Democrats for inflation and promised they would fix it. Yet, they passed on the opportunity to work with Democrats to fight inflation by passing the Inflation Reduction Act to rebuild American manufacturing and lower the costs of prescription drugs, health care, energy, and other goods and services.

Since 2020, inflation has risen worldwide, exacerbated by supply chain delays caused by the COVID–19 pandemic. At the outbreak of the pandemic, Democrats worked swiftly to pass relief packages, helping American families and businesses survive while preventing economic collapse. Recent figures have shown that these programs worked: inflation is lower in the U.S. than in the U.K., Canada, and 20 European Union member states. Today, while Republicans offer this thoughtless bill, 432,000 Minnesotans and millions of other Americans who have benefited from the emergency SNAP funding are seeing their extra benefits run out. This bill does nothing to reduce everyday costs for these and other Americans.

Madam Chair, H.R. 347 is yet more proof that Republicans would rather blame President Biden and Democrats for inflation than take steps to address it.

It should be rejected.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JOSEFINA ORTEGA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Josefina Ortega.

Josefina was born February 10, 1923, in Contla, Jalisco, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1961, starting a new life in the City of Pomona. For 18 years she worked as a seamstress at Betty Oden Dresses in Walnut, California—famous for their vintage ruffle lace tulle and church dresses. In 2015, she became a proud naturalized citizen of the United States.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Josefina on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like her. I am grateful for her 62 years of residency in my district. I was honored to join her and hear her sing at her 100th Birthday celebration. I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. MARTIN HARMON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Mr. Martin Harmon, president and founder of the Western Care Construction Company. Mr. Harmon leaves behind an indelible legacy of over 50 years of service in the senior care and construction industries.

A lifelong Californian, Mr. Harmon demonstrated his persevering and industrious spirit from a young age, working from the age of nine to support his family during the difficult times of World War II. As an adolescent, Mr. Harmon went on to open his own market and meat-packing company, beginning what would become a long career of entrepreneurial ventures.

At the age of 27, inspired by his mother's selfless service in caring for the elderly, Mr. Harmon purchased his first nursing home in Auburn, California, discovering his passion for supporting his community through construction projects. Driven by his spirit of service, Mr. Harmon became a licensed general contractor, enabling him to create new senior living facilities and other community structures from the ground up.

Mr. Harmon's innovation and diligence left a lasting impact on the senior care and construction industries. After obtaining his Nursing Home Administrator's license, he founded Western Care Construction Company, dedicated to developing senior living and care residencies that prioritize dignity and quality of life. Under Mr. Harmon's patient leadership, Western Care has established itself as a company that does not merely create facilities, but also communities that enrich residents' lives and provide spaces to promote connections between residents.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Harmon founded multiple companies, including Horizon West Healthcare and Platinum Living Services, which spearheaded community development projects around California. His involvement in multiple industries—from construction to real estate development to senior care—allowed him to develop long-term, collaborative relationships with a wide array of individuals, extending the reach of his community influence. Mr. Harmon's critical leadership, strong work ethic, and creativity permanently changed the landscape of the senior care industry, ensuring future generations of aging Americans will be treated with dignity and compassion.

Mr. Harmon will be remembered not only for his decades of service to California seniors, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many and his steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship have left a lasting legacy on communities across California.

Mr. Harmon's enduring spirit will live on in the communities he impacted. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Harmon's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of California, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING ERC; COUNSELORS AND CONSULTANTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of ERC: Counselors and Consultants. Founded in 1992, this thriving Employee Assistance Program based in Green Bay partners with organizations throughout Wisconsin and the Nation with the goal of enhancing the mental health of employees, improving business performance, and strengthening communities. While ERC remains focused on the Midwest, the company has a national footprint through their network of counselors.

Steve and Allyson Baue purchased ERC in 2014. Their strong leadership and passion for helping others led ERC to experience record growth in 2022 as companies sought better benefits for their employees. Today, ERC has more than 100,000 employees covered by their Employee Assistance Program, and they have more than 400 partnerships with customers throughout Wisconsin and the United States. ERC has an outstanding reputation for helping lift the mental health burdens that hold employees back. I commend Steve and Allyson for the hard work and dedication they have displayed towards helping companies improve employee mental health.

ERC is positively changing the workplace by embodying Northeast Wisconsin values in all that they do. It is exciting to hear of ERC's plans to continue promoting quality mental health benefits while expanding their footprint in underserved areas. They are a true benefit to the Green Bay area and all of Northeast Wisconsin. I am grateful to Steve and Allyson, ERC's counselors, and the entire ERC team for their continued support and dedication to helping individuals address mental health challenges with easy access to quality counseling services.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate ERC: Counselors and Consultants on its 30th year in advancing the mental health of employees. I wish this company many more years of continued growth and success.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF AMBASSADOR JAMES A. JOSEPH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Ambassador James A. Joseph, who passed away on February 17, 2023, at the age of 87. Although originally from Louisiana, Ambassador Joseph had ties to Tuscaloosa, where he helped lead local civil rights efforts in the 1960s.

Ambassador Joseph served with distinction in under several Presidents, including as Under Secretary of Interior under President Carter and as our Ambassador to South Africa for three years during the Clinton Administration. The only U.S. Ambassador to present his credentials to President Nelson Mandela, he was awarded the Order of Good Hope by the Republic of South Africa in 1999, the highest honor bestowed on a citizen of another country.

Under President Clinton, Ambassador Joseph also served as the founding chair of the Commission on National and Community Service that established AmeriCorps. Reflecting the high regard in which he was held, Ambassador Joseph served under President Ronald Reagan on the Advisory Committee for the

Agency for International Development and on the Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and as an Incorporating Director of the Points of Lights Foundation under President George H.W. Bush. In 2010, he was honored by the United States Peace Corps for his life-long contributions to voluntarism and civil society.

From 1982 to 1995, Joseph was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Foundations, an international organization of more than 2,000 foundations and corporate giving programs, which changed communities and lives on five continents. He served as a Vice President of Cummins Engine Company, the world's largest producer of heavy-duty diesel engines, and President of the Cummins Foundation from 1971 to 1977, where he was a pioneer in corporate social responsibility and helped fund a broad array of civil rights and civil society organizations.

Ambassador Joseph's journey was historic, having started life on a family farm in Southwest Louisiana, spending his early years in segregated Opelousas, Louisiana—the state headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan—and rising to the heights of achievement and contributions in academia, public service, civil society, and the private sector. My House colleagues may be interested to learn that in high school, he won the state oratory competition and placed second in the national competition to one of my predecessors and role models, the future Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D–TX), the first Southern African-American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Ambassador Joseph was a leader in the fight for civil rights. After graduating from Southern University in 1956 and obtaining a master's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1963, he taught at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, the national headquarters of the KKK. While at Stillman, Joseph cofounded the local civil rights movement, leading marches, sit-ins, and other protests against segregation, garnering death threats from the KKK. He befriended and worked alongside renown civil rights leaders including The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, former Congressman John Lewis and William Gray, former National Urban League President Vernon Jordan, and others.

After his government service, Ambassador Joseph continued to find ways to contribute to American society, including serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Louisiana after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina decimated New Orleans and communities across the southern part of the state.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Ambassador Joseph's family, including his son and my college classmate, Jeff Joseph, his wife, the former Mary Braxton of Sarasota, Florida, daughter Denise, daughter-in-law Lisa Merman, and granddaughters Jordan and Julia Joseph.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN FRED UPTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman Fred Upton and his contributions to philanthropies throughout Michigan and across the country as he receives a well-deserved honor from the Council on Michigan Foundations this evening. Congressman Upton served his community for 36 years in the House of Representatives, and his significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Congressman Upton was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, and is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He first ran for office in 1986, and never once wavered in his commitment to the people he served. Known simply as Fred to everyone who has ever met him, he has always brought people together, and he has been one of my best friends for longer than either of us care to remember. To him, 'bipartisan' and 'compromise' are not forbidden words. Fred knows well that if we are going to deliver real solutions for the American people, we need to come together and listen to all perspectives, no matter how complicated the issue may be. It is because of that thinking, that he was able to get so much done in Congress.

Raised by a family with deep roots in their community, Fred spends day and night thinking of ways to support his neighbors. His family helped launch the Berrien Community Foundation as well as the Frederick S. Upton Foundation a few years later and has contributed tens of millions to charitable causes. These efforts include the creation of the Stephen E. Upton Love Your Community Endowment, which provides grants of at least $50,000 every year to local non-profit organizations supporting needs in their community. Though we lost Stephen last year, his impact will carry on through his loving wife of 71 years, Elizabeth, and his children, who like Fred, are always seeking opportunities to do the most good in his memory.

That family commitment to community always guided Fred's work in Congress. He introduced the Strength and Partnership Act of 2022 to strengthen the relationship between nonprofits and the federal government. He would spend hours on the phone or in his neighborhood talking to his constituents about how he could help them. Fred was never too busy to lend an ear or a shoulder to a neighbor in need. And even as he has retired from Congress, he will still be out in his community finding ways to serve anyone and everyone who needs a little help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring former Congressman Fred Upton. We are grateful for his time spent serving the citizens of Southwest Michigan. I join with his family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him for the future.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY AND BUILDING REDEDICATION OF BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an Orleans Parish Public School named in honor of an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to several presidents of the United States including Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite,

In 1881, the New Orleans School Board barred the city's black students from attending public school beyond the sixth grade. However, in 1917, due to pressure from the black community, the school board relented and converted the McDonogh No. 13 campus, then located at 655 South Rampart Street, from a white boy's elementary school to a public high school for black students and renamed the facility McDonogh No. 35. Through decades of sustained activism from Black leaders and a bailout from the federal government. Lacking political power, Black leaders worked through civic, religious and educational organizations to press their concerns before the school board, beginning first with the total lack of public education beyond the fifth grade, as mandated by school board policy in 1900. The sixth was restored in 1909, the seventh in 1913, and the eighth in 1914. With these milestones under their belts, Black leaders began the campaign for a high school. The much sought after school opened in 1917 as McDonogh 35 in a recycled former school for whites. The next item on the activist agenda was a sorely needed vocational school. But where to find the money? The Rosenwald Fund had expressed an interest but only if the school board shared the cost.

During much of the 1920s and early 1930s, the Orleans Public School Board was further pressed into initiating discussions to consider the construction of a new high school for New Orleans' black children as McDonogh 35's campus had proved woefully inadequate to accommodate the city's growing black community.

Census records indicated that 8,709 high school age black children resided in Orleans Parish in 1930. Of these children, 2,580 were enrolled in McDonogh No. 35, the city's black high school age population, it significantly taxed the McDonogh No. 35's physical plant and led to overcrowded conditions.

In 1930 the school board sold bonds for school construction and allocated $275,000 toward construction of a Black trade school. The Rosenwald Fund pledged $125,000. In response to concerns that a Black trade school might threaten white jobs, a public statement was issued, assuring everyone "that the trades to be taught at the school would be exclusively those which are largely occupied by colored labor at this time." But it would still be another dozen years before Booker T. Washington High School became a reality.

After purchasing a parcel of land for the purpose, the school board announced that it did

not have the money to match the Rosenwald offer. Instead, in 1934 they built on the site a wood frame elementary school for Blacks for $21,000. Although disheartened by this broken promise, black leaders continued to champion their goal throughout the 1930s. But it was federal, not local funds, that made Booker T. possible. In the twilight of its existence, the New Deal's Works Progress Administration funded the project to the tune of some quarter of a million dollars. Like other similar schools across the South, it was named for Booker T. Washington, the famous black educator.

(In regard to making it a vocational school) Many felt that such an education would prepare the city's Black students for employment in relatively high-paying emergent technical/trade careers, thus providing them with better opportunities in life.

At the same time, many within the city's Black community objected to this type of curriculum, as they felt that a college-preparatory education strongly based in classical academics of the same caliber offered to white students should be made available for their children.

In 1942, the Booker T. Washington campus was the first new high school built specifically for Black students in New Orleans. According to census records, the number of black high school age children in the city had increased from 8,709 to 11,238. Only 2,580 of those children had a place to attend school prior to the opening of Booker T. Washington.

It was named ''Booker T Washington Senior High School'' as a tribute to a celebrated Black educator and activist during the late 19th and early 20th centuries who passionately argued the benefits of a vocational education. He saw it as a benefit not only to the Black community but to uplift the Southern economy. New Orleans saw notable industrial developments in the 30s and 40s.

The school's curriculum was comprehensive. It offered both an impressive range of traditional academic courses in addition to vocational classes and training in the trades. Classes offered included shoe repair, biology, social science, physical education, graphic arts, home economics, vocal/music, masonry, woodworking, math, English, and instrumental music (OSPB, 1942–43: 110). The school boasted an enrollment of 1,600 children in its 1942–1943 school year. Students came from all corners of the city because of the promise to invest in the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers. The teachers were all Black, educated, and inspired by the pivotal role the high school played in the sojourn to racial equality. It was a unique snapshot of the richness of New Orleans.

During WWII, New Orleans was home to Higgins Industries which is credited for building a special boat that helped the U.S. win the war. The Higgins workforce was the first in New Orleans to be racially integrated. Employees included whites and Black people, men, women, seniors, and people with disabilities. All were paid equal wages according to their job functions. The significant industrial developments were the main reason educators and business owners were pushing for a vocational school that would prepare students to immediately join the workforce and provide for their families. These environmental influences aided in the popularity of Booker T. Washington High School, cementing it as a destination for New Orleans youth.

In 1945, following the close of World War II, BTW High School opened its doors to the community's returning Black war veterans with the establishment of the BTW Afternoon Center, which provided vocational training to veterans on a 12-month basis. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) held its local chapter's annual meeting at the BTW auditorium in March 1945.

In 1946, the BTW Summer School for Vets was established to teach automotive, shoe repair, woodworking, painting and decorating, and masonry to the community's former servicemen (OPSB, 1946: 538, 539).

In 1948, construction of an ''Auto Mechanics Shop and Greenhouse'' was complete.

Responding to a clear job training need during the 1948–49 school year, Cosmetology classes were first offered at BTW High School.

In 1949, OPSB authorized the expansion of the school's curriculum with the addition of ''short unit courses'' for the training of practical nurses (these classes would not actually be offered until 1959).

BTW emerged as a local sports powerhouse as its football team, the Lions, won both the city championship and the state title in 1949 and 1950.

In 1957, Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks at the National Beauty Culturalist League, Inc., 38th Annual Convention. The Convention was held at Booker T. Washington Senior High School auditorium. The school graduated cosmetologists, carpenters, auto repair experts, and other vo-tech specialists.

Dr. King spoke on ''The Role of Beauticians in the Struggle for Freedom.'' King said: ''I am not too optimistic to believe that integration is 'just around the corner.' We have come a long, long way and we still have a long way to go, but we must keep moving despite the delay tactics used by segregationists.'' King received the organization's Civil Rights Award at the event.

War bond rallies held at the auditorium between 1942 and 1945 raised thousands of dollars and enabled the city's black residents to contribute to the war effort.

In 1962, Orleans Parish School Board announced the launch of a building program to include the construction of the ''Booker T. Washington Addition and Gymnasium Annex.'' The annex was a freestanding, three-story edifice that was sited to the west of the campus's main school building. The annex housed a gymnasium, 16 classrooms, and laboratories. Dubbed ''The Lion's Den''. The City of New Orleans was still dealing with the desegregation of public schools that was initiated in 1960. In September 1962, the Catholic schools of Orleans Parish were also integrated, without much protest or disruption.

In the early 1970s this ''dual track'' curriculum was shelved for one that was primarily academic due largely to ''education reformers and civil rights activists who lobbied against vocational education for black students and for integrated college preparatory high schools.'' This sentiment was rooted in the belief that a vocational education would guarantee that Black people were trapped in low-wage jobs (Thevenot, 2004:1). Many firsts were happening at the same time throughout the city. In 1970, city organizers expanded on an idea that started at Dillard University and started the first Jazz & Heritage Festival. The Superdome opened on August 3, 1975. The city elected its first Black Mayor, Ernest N. Morial, who was a product of New Orleans Public Schools.

During the 1980s, it is noted that the high-quality curriculum that formerly distinguished the school also began to erode by the 1980s. The larger area of Central City continues to see a steady decline as the crack epidemic took over in New Orleans as well as other major cities and the homicide rates continued to increase. The city even took to imposing a curfew for those 16 and under in an attempt to reduce crime. Oil production was cut nearly in half in the late 1980s, creating a ripple effect in New Orleans that changed the landscape and economy of the city forever. It caused the state to reduce its support of local schools. The deteriorating environment began to negatively impact Booker T. Washington along with many New Orleans Public Schools that once were sources of tremendous pride.

By 1981, BTW reached back into its past and initiated an award-winning vocational program that endeavored to train students for agricultural-based employment opportunities. The course was classified as a ''Cooperative Agriculture and Education Program,'' with students receiving both course credit and a salary whilst receiving practical experience in an agribusiness occupation.

The course was classified as a ''Cooperative Agriculture and Education Program,'' with students receiving both course credit and a salary whilst receiving practical experience in an agribusiness occupation.

Booker T. Washington High School is added to the National Register of Historical Places in 2002 because of its architectural and historical significance.

By 2004, BTW is forced to suspend its curriculum due to extremely low enrollment and switches to a vocational/technical school for the 05/06 school year.

BTW building suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

BTW High School is officially demolished in 2012, sparing only the auditorium and entrance due to their historical significance.

In 2019, fifteen years after the historic Booker T. Washington High School building in Central City closed its doors, hundreds gathered in the school's gymnasium to celebrate its $52.5 million renovation.

I am humbled to have personally known so many great New Orleans legends, leaders and alumni of this great Institution. Each of them has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across Louisiana's Second Congressional District, the State of Louisiana and the entire Country. So many people's lives are enriched because of the passion expressed in touching people along the way. New Orleans is rich in culture because of many Booker T. Washington Alumni that makes a difference. I look forward to what will develop out of the walls of this great institution into our future. Congratulations on its reopening and the future it holds.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE CABIN AIR SAFETY ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the ''Cabin Air Safety Act,'' with U.S.

Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL (D–CT) and Congressman BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK (R–PA).

All Americans have the right to expect safe, clean air when travelling or reporting to work. I am deeply concerned by the documented cases where pilots, flight attendants, and airline passengers have been incapacitated or even hospitalized following exposure to toxic cabin air.

The ''Cabin Air Safety Act'' takes commonsense steps to protect airline crewmembers and the traveling public from toxic fume events, which occur when air contaminated by engine exhaust, fuel fumes, deicing fluids, and ozone enters the aircraft cabin through the jet-engine intake or the auxiliary air intake at the stern of the aircraft when on the ground. Exposure to even low levels of these contaminants can incapacitate passengers and crew. Long-term exposure could lead to serious, debilitating health issues.

Our bicameral, bipartisan legislation would better protect airline passengers and crew by mandating training on how to respond to toxic fumes, requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to record and monitor reports of toxic fume events, ensuring that investigations occur following reported toxic fume events, and installing air quality monitoring equipment such as carbon monoxide sensors on commercial aircraft as standard equipment. Lastly, the ''Cabin Air Safety Act'' makes clear that the FAA can indeed set standards for cabin air quality to safeguard the health of airline crewmembers and the traveling public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this bicameral, bipartisan legislation. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make the ''Cabin Air Safety Act'' a major priority in the coming FAA reauthorization.