

life-long resident of the Circle City. David later married Luisa Ruiz, his wife of fifty-one years, and together they raised eight children. David is survived by his loving children, Joe Ruiz, Jesse Ruiz, Sr., Luci Ruiz-Hernandez, Sally Ruiz-Cortez, David Ruiz, Jr., Gloria Ruiz-Sabatelli, Rufus Ruiz and Mary Lou Ruiz-Statham, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Not only was David a committed family man, but he was also a vital member to the Corona community. David began his working life in irrigation at Foothill Ranch and as a milk processor at Grand View Dairy. From 1965 to 1978, he went to work at the Circle City Hospital in Riverside County, followed by employment for the Corona Police Department until his much deserved retirement in 1992. All the while, from 1965 to 1980, David had his own janitorial business rooted in Corona.

His tireless passion and love of family has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and we will all miss David dearly. A funeral mass honoring David's life will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014. The level of commitment he showed to his community, his work, and his family is truly an example of a life lived well and a legacy that will endure. I extend my condolences to David's family and friends; although David may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, VINEYARD HAVEN

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven and the generous contributions by residents of this Martha's Vineyard town that helped to create this memorial to our nation's veterans.

Legionnaires at the General George W. Goethals Post #257 in Vineyard Haven wanted their memorial to be something that could be enjoyed by Vineyarders, and not simply observed by them. Instead of a statue or other traditional sculpted war memorial, these men deemed a park with playing fields and a playground would be a more suitable tribute to their brave service to America. As such, construction began on 10 acres of an undeveloped swamp in 1951.

Construction on the Memorial Park engaged the Vineyard Haven community in a variety of fundraising events such as bean suppers, dances, and auctions. Over the last 8 years, many contributions by Islanders have made possible the leveling and developing of the Park's land, laying down a grass surface, and replacing over a thousand yards of peat with top soil.

The War Veterans Memorial Park in Vineyard Haven will serve as a proactive memorial to the men of Legion Post #257 and General George W. Goethals himself, distinguished nationally for his role in digging the Panama Canal and, locally, as a member of the Martha's Vineyard community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor these veterans as well as recognize the vast and

generous contributions by Vineyard Haven residents who made possible this memorial park and engaging community center.

RECOGNIZING FULTON COUNTY HERITAGE DAYS AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST CONFEDERATE BIVOUAC

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Fulton County Heritage Days and the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac, which took place in Fulton County Pennsylvania, and was a pivotal event in the Civil War.

On July 30, 1864, Confederate soldiers descended on Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and burned the town of Chambersburg to the ground when the \$500,000 ransom they demanded was refused. Following this brutal act, the soldiers made their way to McConnellsburg, where the Confederate forces encamped and proceeded to terrorize the local citizens. Though these Confederate soldiers inflicted a brutal toll on McConnellsburg during their time in the town, this moment was a turning point in the course of the war. Indeed, no more battles would take place on Union territory, as it would be the last time that the Confederacy would have troops occupying land north of the Mason-Dixon line. For this reason, the time these Confederate soldiers spent encamped in McConnellsburg has come to be known as the last Confederate bivouac.

Fulton County Heritage Days commemorates this important event, which is so crucial to both the history of Pennsylvania and our nation. We must never forget the lessons of history, or the great sacrifice made by the brave Pennsylvanians who gave their lives to hold the Union together. I wish to thank all those involved with organizing Fulton County Heritage Days, and invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the last Confederate bivouac.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. In 1964, our predecessors in the House and Senate passed the Wilderness Act by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote and President Johnson soon followed with his signature making the Act law on September 3, 1964. This action created America's National Wilderness Preservation System that reserves lands in a special status to be, in the words of the Act's remarkable preamble, "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character."

50 years later, the wilderness idea is going strong with over 100 million acres of our nation's most spectacular lands preserved for future generations. It is an achievement truly worth celebrating. And while I rise today to recognize it, I also rise to celebrate the Americans who have kept the wilderness idea alive in our national consciousness and who have worked to care for each designated acre and to shepherd new additions to the system.

The people of the Central California Coast region that I am privileged to represent exemplify this ethic. There is a deep commitment to open space conservation in the communities that border the Monterey Bay. From the farmers and ranchers who fuel a dynamic agricultural economy to individual citizens who recreate on the public lands to rural residents who care deeply about the landscapes that surround their homes, the open space ethic runs strong. And when it comes to the wilderness lands of the Santa Lucia Mountains and the Big Sur Coast, no group of people lives that commitment more strongly than the community activists of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

Founded in 1998, the VWA is dedicated to preserving the wild lands of the Northern Santa Lucia Mountains managed by the U.S. Forest Service. VWA members partner with the Forest Service to maintain trails and clean up the debris from illegal marijuana plantations. VWA members lead hikes and education programs. And VWA members advocate. They advocate for better management of existing wilderness, and they advocate for the inclusion of additional wild lands into the wilderness system when those lands warrant such inclusion. I have had the great fortune to work with the VWA in all of these capacities, but most especially in the several wilderness bills that I myself have had the honor of introducing. And while I may claim credit for authoring those bills, I know it is the hard work of VWA members like Gordon Johnson, Tom Hopkins, Nikki Nedeff, and so many others that made those bills possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary, we are not only celebrating the great American landscapes that this idea has preserved, but the great Americans who have done the preserving.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL NONVIOLENCE WEEK RESOLUTION

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of establishing a National Nonviolence Week.

Tragedies at school, at home, and in our communities are destroying too many lives. We need to find ways to make our country a beloved community—where the dignity and respect of every person is a clear, common value.

Simply said, Mr. Speaker, no one should have to live his or her life in fear. We must all love each other as brothers and sisters. This resolution will raise awareness of youth violence in our country and encourage all Americans to learn how the doctrine of nonviolence

can be applied as a successful means of deterring violence.

The National Nonviolence Week resolution is closely related to my other bills, the SAFETY through Nonviolence Act, the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act, and the National Parents Corps Act, which I plan to reintroduce soon. Combined, these are legislative solutions to break the cycle of violence, bullying, and hate in our country by addressing the root causes.

During National Nonviolence Week, Americans should organize and participate in programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of violence. It is an opportunity, for people of all ages and backgrounds in every corner of our nation, to pause and take a long look inward and reflect on how we all can be vessels of peace in our actions, thoughts, and words.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring and passing this very simple, common-sense resolution of establishing a National Nonviolence Week. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIKAEL AUDEBERT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mikael Audebert. Born in France, Mikael moved to the U.S. at age 18 and has lived in Orlando since 2000.

Mikael has been with Metropolitan Business Association of Orlando (MBA Orlando) since 2008. MBA Orlando, Central Florida's LGBT Chamber of Commerce, is the largest of its kind in the Southeast and a fast-growing entity in Central Florida. Mikael started as Technology Director for the organization and quickly rose to the position of Vice President. In 2012, he became President of MBA Orlando, as well as Executive Director of Come Out With Pride and Converge Orlando, two of MBA Orlando's sister organizations.

Since taking over as President, Mikael has initiated and overseen a vast expansion of MBA Orlando, including a move to larger offices; the launch of a printed directory; the development of a small business initiative program; a marketing campaign to increase the visibility of LGBT businesses; and the creation of a small business start up grant program in partnership with the federal government and the City of Orlando.

In 2008 Mikael joined Come Out With Pride as Marketing Director and quickly rose to become Executive Producer of Development before becoming the organizations' first Executive Director in 2010.

Mikael is also a co-founder of Converge Orlando, a non-profit organization with the mission to develop and expand LGBT tourism to Orlando. Converge Orlando partnered with the Central Florida Sports Commission to bid on bringing the 2018 Gay Games to Orlando. Converge Orlando is also launching the very first Family Outfest event in Orlando, aimed at bringing LGBT and allies families closer together. In addition, the organization is hosting

several LGBT conventions in Orlando and continuing to organize media trips which have generated articles in national LGBT and Brazilian magazines. Converge also recently launched the first LGBT Travel Guide with Visit Orlando, getting Central Florida ready for this emerging market.

In addition to his lifelong passion for travel, Mikael is also an avid event planner and organizes Orlando's annual LGBT Pride event, the largest in Florida. Mikael was named one of the "40 Under 40" in 2013 by the Orlando Business Journal. The same year, he was named one of the most influential men by the same paper and "Most Remarkable Person" of the year by the Watermark.

Mikael was born in France and moved to the U.S. at age 18. He has lived in Orlando since 2000.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "GENERATING RENEWAL, OPPORTUNITY, AND WORK WITH ACCELERATED MOBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND REBUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA ACT"

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join Congressman PETRI in introducing, on June 11, 2014, the Administration's \$302 billion, four-year surface transportation authorization proposal—the "Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act" (GROW AMERICA Act). With the goal of trying to get greater focus on surface transportation reauthorization before the Highway Trust Fund becomes insolvent, I was in touch with Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx about introducing the Administration's bill. He agreed, and, subsequently Chairman TOM PETRI, as a courtesy, agreed to introduce the bill at the request of the Administration.

Particularly considering that the funding provided in the current authorization, MAP-21, based on the Highway Trust Fund plus an additional \$18 billion from general revenue, has proven unable to get states through the two-year duration of the bill, I believe Congress must act soon on a fully funded six-year reauthorization. Such a bill would provide the funding and the certainty necessary to give the nation a chance to reduce the backlog of needed transportation infrastructure work waiting to be done. This Administration's four-year bill is a timely contribution as Congress works towards passage of a long-term surface transportation authorization, and should provide guidance and ideas as we develop legislation to set the future course of these vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, federal investments in transportation and infrastructure contribute much more to our economy than they cost the federal government, as they improve the nation's mobility and economic competitiveness and create good-paying jobs. Unfortunately, we have not been providing the investment levels necessary to keep pace with the growing de-

mands on the nation's surface transportation network. The GROW AMERICA Act recognizes that we have fallen behind, and calls for increasing investments in modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, railways, and transit systems. We cannot address our infrastructure deficit by just continuing to provide baseline levels of funding.

Specifically, the GROW AMERICA Act provides:

\$199.2 billion over fiscal year 2015—fiscal year 2018 for highways, compared to \$40.9 billion authorized in fiscal year 2014;

an increase of 70 percent over current investment levels in transit, by providing more than \$72 billion over four years and dramatically increasing investment in all modes of transit, including buses;

more than \$19 billion in freight and passenger rail investments, including \$9.5 billion over four years for Amtrak; and \$9.5 billion to states for investment in high-speed and intercity passenger rail and to eliminate congestion on shared-use track; and

\$5 billion over four years for the TIGER discretionary program.

In addition to these critical investments in the nation's intermodal surface transportation network, the GROW AMERICA Act also includes a number of important policy provisions that ensure that surface transportation investments create good-paying American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the GROW AMERICA Act proposes to strengthen Buy America by closing a major loophole in the application of Buy America requirements for public transportation rolling stock by requiring that transit rolling stock must consist of 100 percent domestic content by 2019. It also applies Buy America to all Federal Railroad Administration grant programs and the Railroad Infrastructure Financing program. These provisions will spur job creation in the United States and foster domestic manufacturing, and should be included in the next surface transportation authorization legislation.

The GROW AMERICA Act also protects truck and bus drivers by changing worker wage and hour laws to ensure that these drivers are compensated at no less than the federal minimum wage for hours spent on duty but not driving.

The proposal also provides \$245 million over four years for workforce development to support and enhance the size, diversity, and skills of our nation's construction and surface transportation workforce.

There are aspects of the bill that may give some of my colleagues pause. For example, eliminating the prohibition on tolling of existing free interstate highways for reconstruction of an existing facility and further streamlining environmental reviews will be subject to significant debate as Congress begins developing its legislation. But, this bill is an important first step in our efforts to craft a bill to move our nation into the 21st century.

I again thank Congressman PETRI for his courtesy in introducing this proposal. I look forward to working closely with him and Republicans and Democrats on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit as we begin to develop new surface transportation authorization legislation.