

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY HOWARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, the late Evangelist Dorothy Howard.

Dorothy Howard was born on March 13, 1959, to the late Eugene and Marie Perry of Scott, MS. She departed this life on Monday, August 7, 2023, peacefully at her home.

Evangelist Howard confessed Christ at the age of eleven. She later became a member of Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, MS under the leadership of Pastor Willie Harris. She has served as an assistant pastor, choir member, and a prayer intercessor. She was an active member until she took her final rest.

She attended Greenville Public Schools and graduated from Greenville High prestigious class of 1978. Then, she matriculated at Mississippi Valley State University. She also was a graduate from Nina Taylor Biblical Schools Institute, where she was ordained as an Apostle and served on the board.

Evangelist Howard was known in the Christan community as a prolific vessel of God known for her charismatic preaching and singing that God gifted her with. She was a well-known Good News Sharer and Encourager of the Faith. She made history and broke glass ceilings in ministry. She was also a gifted educator serving in the education and childcare system for more than three decades. Students all over the world have her to thank for a great head start.

Evangelist Howard had an immense amount of love for God. Her hobbies include but are not limited to; spending time with her family/friends, singing, shopping, and reading. She also had a passion for assisting others and praying for them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Evangelist Dorothy Howard, for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be a light that shines even in her dark times.

HONORING THE HEROIC MILITARY SERVICE OF SERGEANT PETER GLASSER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Peter Glasser of Flag Pond in Unicoi County for his courageous military service during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Glasser served as an infantryman in E Company, 2nd Battalion 5th Marines regiment, then transferred to M Company, 3rd Battalion

1st Marine Regiment, and finally transferred again to C Company, 1st Battalion 27th Marine Regiment. Upon completing boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina and advanced infantry training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina in 1966, Private Glasser was assigned his first tour of duty in Vietnam with the 5th Marine Regiment from California.

Upon their arrival, his company was tasked with helping guard a United States military airstrip in Chu Lai, but he was transferred to the 1st Marine Regiment, with which he participated in multiple operations between Chu Lai and Danang. In 1967, then Lance Corporal Glasser returned stateside and served in the Military Police at Parris Island until being transferred to the 27th Marine Regiment in Hawaii. However, his homecoming was short-lived, and he soon received another assignment to Vietnam.

During his second tour of duty, Corporal Glasser would fight in the historic Tet Offensive, one of the deadliest battles throughout the conflict. During a "Search and Destroy" operation on May 4, 1968, he suffered an injury from friendly fire, but returned to duty after just two weeks. He would finally return stateside in July of 1968 and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Sergeant Glasser was discharged with an Honorable Discharge on April 18, 1969.

Please join me in celebrating the courage and bravery of Sergeant Glasser and his valiant service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, OAKLAND COUNTY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Jack and Jill of America's Oakland County Michigan Chapter. For 45 years, they brought leadership and mentorship programming to African-American young people across Oakland County.

Founded in 1978, the Oakland County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America was the realization of a dream of two mothers, Robbie Johnson and Bobbye Wilhite, who were looking for more opportunities for their young children. The 39 charter members were united in seeking social, cultural, educational, recreational, and community service opportunities for their children. The Oakland County Chapter is 1 of 262 chapters nationwide.

Education, civic service, health, cultural awareness, and recreation are the keystones of Jack and Jill of America's programming. Their goal is to give children of color opportunities to develop as leaders and have access to opportunities that will allow growth, development, and a better quality of life. Jack and Jill members work on service projects that are aligned with its five values and are hands-on opportunities for young people to become involved with their communities.

Please join me in recognition of Jack and Jill of America's Oakland County Chapter, as they celebrate 45 years of service, education, and excellence.

HONORING THE LATE NATHAN HARRIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late pastor, correctional officer and self-motivated community leader, Nathan Harris, Sr. Nathan enjoyed an extensive career of correctional officer, safety officer, teaching and serving.

Nathan's formal education was in the public-school systems in Quitman County. After graduating, he attended Northwest Community College, Charles Harrison Mason Bible College and earned a certificate in Theology from the Interdenominational Theological Seminary of Atlanta, GA. Nathan had a long successful career with the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) for 29 years. After retiring from MDOC, he went to work for the Arkansas Department of Corrections where he remained employed until his passing.

In December 2008, Elder Nathan Harris was appointed as Pastor of St. Peter Church in Shaw, MS along with his wife, Missionary Charlestine Scott Harris. Prior to becoming the Pastor, they worked hard and diligently for the Lord and the ministries of the church and community. He served as a faithful example and dedicated leader to St. Peter Church for over 15 years. Elder Harris believed in supporting the members, children, parents and the community. The ministries of teaching, saving, giving and counseling was truly in his heart.

Nathan married Charlestine Harris almost 36 years ago, and they have 5 children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Nathan Harris, Sr. for his dedication to advocacy in correctional rehabilitation, Biblical education, public service and his selfless service to Bolivar County, Coahoma County, the MS Delta Region, and Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING AURORA, TEXAS' NEW CITY HALL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Aurora as the residents gather to celebrate the dedication of their new City Hall. This proud Wise County community has a story that has historically overshadowed its population, but I am confident it has only begun to realize its potential.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Named by William W.O. Stanfield, the name "Aurora" was chosen to represent the settler's perspective that it "was the dawn of something luminous and beautiful in the new land." Looking back in time, Aurora's history reflects his vision. Through a history that includes a thriving western settler community, stories involving alien sightings and a reported crash and burial site, a Marine Air Base and recent challenges that have led to the construction of their new City Hall, Aurora's story is rich and compelling. However, as we look to the future, it is clear that the opportunities, located at the edge of what is currently the fastest-growing region of our country, remain almost as limitless as any that Mr. Stanfield could have imagined.

Endowed with attentive and responsible leaders, served by a top-rated public school system and located at the juncture of a growing traffic flow, Aurora's dawn with the celebration of this new City Hall is bright with opportunity for both current and future residents.

I am encouraged by the resilience of this community and honored to represent this historic Wise County gem as a part of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. I offer these remarks and a commemorative flag in celebration of the City's current leadership and accomplishments. I share their commitment and I am honored to contribute my efforts toward their success in dutifully representing this community I am blessed to serve on behalf of our Nation's Capitol.

HONORING THE TOWN OF PROSPER'S RESILIENCE AND UNITY
IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11

HON. KEITH SELF

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, our Nation witnessed a tragic and unprecedented attack that forever changed the course of history.

Under the leadership of Mayor David Bristol, Police Chief Doug Kowalski, and Fire Chief Stuart Blasingame, the town of Prosper commemorates September 11th each year with a solemn and heartfelt Remembrance Ceremony.

Prosper's commitment to honoring the sacrifices made and the lives lost on September 11, 2001, reflects the enduring spirit of the American people and serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of community, compassion, and service in times of adversity.

It is with much appreciation that I honor the town of Prosper's dedication to preserving the memory of 9/11 and foster a sense of unity and resilience within its community.

HONORING KRISTEN WASHINGTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristen Washington: Jacksonian Baker On 'The Great Chocolate Showdown' of Jackson, Mississippi.

If a dessert could describe Kristen Washington, she said it would be a cinnamon roll because that baked good is brown and round, just like her. The Jackson native grew up watching her grandmother, Maple Washington, throw down in the kitchen, and while those skills skipped a few of Kristen's siblings, Maple passed them down to Kristen.

Some of her favorite recipes she learned from her grandmother are her peach cobbler and tea cakes, which fed her a love for dessert in her youth. "Dessert can be your breakfast, lunch and dinner," Washington told the Mississippi Free Press. "You can have a cinnamon roll for breakfast, and it's still a dessert. And it's comfort food. Dessert is a comfort food."

As an adult, Washington always baked in her free time for fun, using her grandmother's old recipe books or following Instagram reels for cake ideas and inspiration. She started selling funnel cakes in 2021, and later that year, she made a birthday cake for her sister-in-law. Washington was hesitant, but her sister-in-law encouraged her to step outside her comfort zone.

That affirming moment led Washington to launch PhatKake's, her at-home baking business, where she creates homemade cakes, funnel cakes, tarts, and other desserts. She named the business after her childhood nickname and runs it while balancing her day job as a personal-care aide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kristen Washington for her passion, dedication, and tenacity to serving her community.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF SENIOR
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PAUL
HONEA

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vietnam Era Veteran, Senior Chief Petty Officer Paul Honea of Chuckey, Tennessee for his distinguished service in the United States Navy.

Senior Chief Honea served in stations across the globe, including Europe, North Africa, South Asia, and the Caribbean. He also protected our Nation's homeland, serving on bases in San Diego (CA), Naples (Italy), Norfolk (VA), Charleston (SC), Louisville (KY), and Raleigh (NC)—to name a few.

Senior Chief Honea began his esteemed military career in 1974, where he found his passion as an Optical Repairman. During his tenure, the Senior Chief repaired not only U.S. Navy ships, but also restored local churches and orphanages while on deployment overseas. In 1994, Senior Chief Honea ended his accomplished military career of 20 years.

Following his retirement, together with his wife, Senior Chief Honea commissioned the inaugural Navy Junior R.O.T.C. Program at Sullivan East High School in Bluff City, where he educated aspiring students for another 3 years.

Please join me in thanking American patriot, Senior Chief Petty Officer Paul Honea, for his commitment and honorable service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING KAZAKHSTAN'S
LEADERSHIP IN NUCLEAR NON-
PROLIFERATION AND DISAR-
MAMENT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, as we marked the 14th annual "International Day Against Nuclear Test" on August 29, I rise to commend the Republic of Kazakhstan's role in nuclear disarmament and its work alongside the United States. I commend Kazakhstan's unwavering commitment to preserving international peace and stability.

Upon the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the Republic of Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the Semipalatinsk nuclear weapons test site. In the 4 decades before the fall of the Soviet Union, 456 explosions were carried out at the Semipalatinsk test site, 1 of the largest sites of its kind. These tests caused irreparable damage to human health and the environment, leading to high morbidity and mortality rates among the local population.

Despite global pressure and potential political and strategic advantages that this arsenal would provide for Kazakhstan, the newly formed republic understood the potential political, security, and humanitarian issues that could arise if such a nuclear arsenal were maintained. On August 29, 1991, Kazakhstan made the historic decision to decommission the Semipalatinsk nuclear weapons test site. Shortly after, the Nation voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons arsenal.

Kazakhstan's decision demonstrated a clear commitment to the goals of nuclear security and nonproliferation, which became 1 of its landmark policies and was the first in a series of vital measures aimed at achieving a more peaceful international community. Since the site was closed, the United States has partnered with Kazakhstan to eliminate the Soviet legacy of nuclear test infrastructure from Kazakhstan's territory.

Kazakhstan and the United States implemented the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program—or the "Nunn-Lugar" program—which resulted in the dismantling of nuclear-weapon infrastructure. The states secured and removed residual weapons of mass destruction-related materials and technology from the former nuclear test site. These actions signaled a major shift in the existing global political paradigm and have led to the closure of other major test sites around the world. The Nunn-Lugar decision propelled a collective momentum for the global ban of nuclear testing, and it paved the way for the adoption of the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Today, when the risk of using nuclear weapons has come under increased scrutiny, it is important to remind the global community of the dangers that weapons of mass destruction pose to our safety and future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reaffirming the United States' commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and working alongside Kazakhstan to strengthen the global regime for the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free future.

HONORING JIMMY SWEET

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Jimmy Sweet. Jimmy Sweet has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Jimmy Sweet was a standout football player and track athlete at Temple and North Vicksburg from 1970 to 1973. Sweet was part of the Temple team that won the 1970 Red Carpet Bowl and Black Big 8 championship, and then scored 18 touchdowns in three seasons at North Vicksburg.

After his playing career, Sweet spent 28 years working for the Vicksburg Police Department and was involved in several community organizations and programs.

Sweet was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jimmy Sweet for his passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District and City of Vicksburg.

RECOGNIZING THE CONFERENCE
OF WESTERN WAYNE**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the Conference of Western Wayne, a bipartisan organization that serves to connect the 18-member communities of western Wayne County in Michigan as they celebrate 45 years of service.

The Conference of Western Wayne was founded in 1978 with the purpose of coordinating 911 services across western Wayne County. Beyond connecting on the day-to-day coordination of emergency response, the Conference of Western Wayne provides a monthly meeting and creates stronger connections across the communities of western Wayne County. These monthly meetings, which are held in rotating locations across the county, are held with the purpose of creating strong connections across communities and a way for community leaders to exchange ideas and resources to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Whether it's helping to create opportunities for residents to engage or coming together to improve services, the Conference of Western Wayne has been an outstanding hub point and partner. We offer gratitude and wish them well on their 45 years of service.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE NEW CITY DOGS & CITY
KITTIES RESCUE CENTER**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue and

its new Operations and Intake Center in the District of Columbia, which opens on September 18, 2023.

Founded in 2011, City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue takes in dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters. Over the past 12 years, City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue has saved over 8,700 dogs and cats. Many of these dogs and cats were rescued from high-kill shelters, where resources are so limited that animals are frequently euthanized.

City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue has been widely acknowledged by the community for its work in animal welfare. The Washington City Paper has honored City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue numerous times, awarding it the title of Best Nonprofit in D.C. in 2022 and awarding its annual online auction the best charity event of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to celebrate the opening of City Dogs & City Kitties Rescue's new building in the District of Columbia and recognize its many years of providing a lifeline to dogs and cats in need of a home.

HONORING WILLIE G. OWENS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Fire Chief Willie G. Owens.

Chief Willie G. Owens is the leader of the Jackson Fire Department, and he has 32 years with the department. He is a native of Belzoni, Mississippi, where he attended McNair High School and enrolled in Jackson State University in 1970. He received a B.S. degree in Health & Physical Education from Jackson State in 1972. In 1974, he began a career with the Jackson Fire Department. In 1979, he went back to Jackson State University and received a degree in Fire Science Technology.

The City of Jackson entered a Consent Decree with the Federal Government for racial discrimination in 1973, and therefore, hired an all-black class the next year that produced two Fire Chiefs, with Chief Owens being one of them.

Chief Owens has made many accomplishments since becoming fire chief. He extended the promotional list from one to two years, decreased the age limit from 21 to 18 to become a firefighter, establish a fire science program in the Jackson Public School System, and increased the number of firefighters to its station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fire Chief Willie Owens for his dedication to the City of Jackson.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a significant milestone in the illustrious history

of our district—the 150th anniversary of Holyoke's incorporation. Such a special occasion necessitates pausing and reflecting upon our shared heritage, the indomitable spirit of our forebears, and the bright future that lies ahead.

Since its incorporation in 1872, the City of Holyoke has stood as a beacon of progress, resilience, and community. Pioneers, innovators, and everyday heroes have walked its streets, contributing to its tapestry of stories that resonates with the promise of the American Dream. It was here that the Connecticut River powered the Paper City, symbolizing not just an industrial triumph but also the ceaseless flow of ideas, culture, and determination that defines Holyoke.

Throughout these 150 years, we have seen the city transform, adapt, and grow. From the humming mills to the thriving arts and cultural institutions, Holyoke has always been a place where dreams are realized, and challenges are surmounted. It is the dedication, hard work, and vision of countless individuals, families, and institutions that have carried Holyoke forward, making it a cherished gem in Massachusetts' First District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Holyoke on this sesquicentennial celebration. May we continue to appreciate our shared history and look ahead with optimism, passion, and a commitment to making Holyoke's future even brighter than its storied past.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY OF
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merrimack County in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District celebrating 200 years since its founding. For two centuries, Merrimack County has offered a wonderful place for families, businesses, and more to call home.

Merrimack County, named for the Merrimack River, was organized in Concord 1823. It was formed by taking towns from northern Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties to create something new, a spirit of innovation that continues to this day. Nearly 154,000 people call Merrimack County home. The County has two cities and 25 towns, including our state capital, Concord. Merrimack is the third-largest county in our state by land area. The highest point of the County is Mount Kearsarge, at 2,937 feet.

A dedication ceremony with special guest speakers, barbeque meals, a tree planting, musical presentations by the Concord Community Music School, a K-9 demonstration, informational booths, a youth activity corner, 'touch-a-truck,' and raffles will all be part of the events commemorating the occasion.

Today and every day, I am proud to call Merrimack County home. Here's to many more years.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, my best wishes to all gathering for Merrimack County's 200th community

celebration. The leaders and residents of Merrimack County are part of what makes the Granite State such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING AURELIA JONES-TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Aurelia Jones-Taylor. Aurelia has been a champion of healthcare and community service.

Born and reared in Hollandale, MS, Aurelia has directed Aaron E. Henry for close to thirty years. During her tenure, she has increased the number of service sites from 2 to 10 and developed, implemented, and expanded on several community and statewide economic and community development initiatives, including programs to address health disparities in chronic diseases, pharmaceutical access, local network development, workforce development, emergency room diversion initiatives, community health education initiatives, health and wellness programs and rural general public transportation.

Aurelia has oversight over all aspects of the corporation including the Delta Area Rural Transit System, Ryan White Part C and the Mississippi Children's Health Project. Aurelia has presented at various national and state conferences and her projects have been featured in Delta Business Journal, Mahogany Magazine, Centers for Disease Control, National Association of Community Health Centers, AARP and the Journal of the Community Transportation Association of America, to name a few. She earned a BS Degree from Tougaloo College and a MBA from Jackson State University.

Aurelia's outlook and passion for good, decent health has had a profound impact on not only Clarksdale, Mississippi, but the surrounding communities as well. Her continuous progress that as a community and state are making enforces the fact that she is focused on protecting the well-being of the community and that their health is valued.

Aurelia is a recipient of the coveted John Gilbert Award presented by the National Association of Community Health Centers in 2003, Executive Director of the Year for Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, The Aaron Shirley Disguised Indigent Care Award and many others. Aurelia served two terms as president of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, member of the National Rural Health Task Force, Geiger Gibson Leadership Advisory Group at George Washington University and on several local and state boards and committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Aurelia Jones-Taylor for her outstanding dedication, compassion and advocacy in her community. Her selfless service to the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center, her community, Rural MS Delta Region and the State of Mississippi are commended.

ACCURATELY COUNTING RISK
ELIMINATION SOLUTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1567, the Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions (ACRES) Act of 2023.

Drought conditions and invasive grasses throughout the country in recent years have compounded the threat of wildfires, and the recent wildfires on Maui serve as a tragic reminder of how serious the risks are. These wildfires devastated a vibrant community and serve as a stark warning sign of the reality of such risks.

Federal lands are particularly vulnerable to wildfires, as they alone experience a fifth of the country's wildfires every year. To combat this danger, the ACRES Act will help mitigate the risk of wildfires across the country by mandating that our Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior conduct more accurate risk assessment tracking of dry invasive grasses on our federal lands. This will help prevent wildfires before they start. This legislation will also mandate that data collection processes involved in wildfire risk assessments be updated and standardized across both departments to ensure that their cooperation will be seamless and efficient.

Each department will also be required to submit a report of the number of acres of federal lands that underwent a risk assessment every year and provide critical information on wildland-urban interface and wildfire risk. The ACRES Act will add an extra layer of oversight and public transparency to ensure the accuracy of wildfire risk assessments, allowing for more effective wildfire prevention.

This legislation will be especially helpful in Hawaii, which has large public land holdings and currently suffers from a higher risk of wildfires due to vast swaths of land being overrun by dry invasive grasses, directly linking to fires across my state every year. This commonsense bill will enable us to reduce hazardous fuels and protect our communities from this threat.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help advance smart data collection and protect our public lands from wildfire by supporting this bill.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH 2023

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2023 theme, Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America. From September 15, 2023, through October 15, 2023, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the cultures, traditions, and the many outstanding contributions that Hispanic Americans have made throughout our country's history.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15 and recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Since its establishment as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to reflect on the remarkable efforts of generations of Hispanic Americans that have helped to create and build our prosperous Nation.

America's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. This month, and always, we remember and honor the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities throughout history who have added to the success of the United States in every facet of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. For their many noteworthy contributions, which have been vital in shaping our great Nation, the Hispanic community is worthy of our honor and praise.

HONORING CHAQUINA GRIFFIN
TAYLOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Chaquina Griffin Taylor. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Chaquina Griffin Taylor, the youngest of four siblings, is the daughter of Willie Earl Griffin and Jacqueline Griffin. She spent her formative years growing up in Lambert, MS. Mrs. Taylor currently serves as the Collective Impact Coordinator at Delta State University, focusing on Quitman County.

Mrs. Taylor is a proud graduate of Madison Shannon Palmer High School. She furthered her education at the illustrious Tougaloo College, receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Mrs. Taylor holds a Master of Science in Psychology with specializations in Child Adolescent Development and Applied Behavior Analysis. She is a certified Meditation Mindfulness Teacher, Trainer, and Positive Psychology Practitioner.

Mrs. Taylor began her career working in corrections at an all-male facility providing substance abuse services and cognitive behavior therapy to the inmate population (2008–2017). While working in corrections, Mrs. Taylor revamped the Alcohol Anonymous program, implemented a Victim's Impact program, taught orientation classes, and trained new managers on the substance abuse curriculum. Mrs. Taylor has also been working in higher education since 2017. At Coahoma Community College, she was appointed the MIBEST College and Career Navigator (2017–2021), providing wrap-around services to the non-traditional student population. She continues to serve as an adjunct Psychology Instructor.

Mrs. Taylor is an advocate for education. She is a life learner and a natural leader. Mrs. Taylor has served as the Quitman County

School District P–16 Council president. She is a Samberg Leadership Maximizer completer. In addition, she completed the Mississippi Community College Policy Fellows Program and the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy. Mrs. Taylor obtained her Quality Matters Online Teaching Certification as well. Additionally, she is a dedicated member of esteemed professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA), the National Education Association (NEA), and the Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE).

Last and most important, Mrs. Taylor is Michael Taylor's wife and Scholar Taylor's mother. She has a bonus daughter named Mariah Taylor. She is an active member of Power House Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Robert Griffin, Jr., where she serves as the church treasurer. Mrs. Taylor is passionate about helping others. She aspires to inspire. Her motto is "You are the pilot of your life, so take control."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Chaquina Griffin Taylor for her contributions and service to her community.

SALUTING A CENTENNIAL HERO:
HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF A WWII VETERAN

HON. KEITH SELF

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Dr. Howard Riley of Greenville, Texas, who recently marked his 100th birthday on August 24, 2023.

Dr. Howard Riley is a true example of courage, sacrifice, and commitment. He served our Nation with honor as a Corporal in the Army Air Forces during World War II, from December 9, 1942, to February 18, 1946, where he worked diligently as a radio operator. His dedication to our Nation and its values extended far beyond his military service, as he continued to contribute to the betterment of our society in the post-war years.

Dr. Howard Riley serves as both an inspiring testament to the resilience of the human spirit and a living reminder of the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation in the pursuit of freedom. For this, we extend our eternal gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for one vote during the vote series last night. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 383.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote yesterday due to a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 383.

HONORING DR. WILLIE J. REECE,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr.

Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr. is a native of Grenada, MS and the youngest of six children. His parents Willie Reece, Sr. and the late Sharon Seals Reece are his biggest inspirations.

Dr. Reece enjoys singing and is actively involved as a member at Greater Faith MB Church under the leadership of Pastor Alvin D. Brown, Sr.

Dr. Reece graduated from Grenada High School in 2010 and received his Bachelor of Art degree in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2014.

Later, he obtained two master's degrees from Belhaven University—Master of Art in Teaching (2016) and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (2018).

In 2019, Dr. Reece completed an educational leadership degree, and he completed the doctor of education program in educational leadership in 2023.

Dr. Reece has completed eight years of experience in education in the roles of teacher, lead teacher, MTSS coordinator, curriculum specialist, and principal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Willie J. Reece, Jr. for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be a light that shines even in his dark times.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 385, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present for the Roll Call vote on H.R. 3152. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 383.

HONORING LARRY BENFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Pastor Larry Benford. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Pastor Larry Benford surrendered his heart to God at a very young age and he has been declaring the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ since then. A native of Leland, Pastor Benford graduated from Leland High School and Mississippi Valley State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in environmental health with a minor in Chemistry. He also has received training from The University of Illinois at Chicago as well as formal Biblical tutelage from Lifeway Christian and New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Pastor Benford is an anointed leader. With pastoral services expanding over two decades, through the help of the Holy Spirit, he has served as Deacon, Sunday School Director, Assistant Pastor, and Pastor at Greater Springfield, Victory Temple and Mount Carmel Churches, respectively.

As pastor of Living Word Fellowship Church since October 10, 1999, he has always taken the stance that the Word must be taught with passion and boldness—without compromise—in order that the lost will be saved, and the saved will be strengthened.

Growing together in the Word of God, Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford are consummate students of the Word and outspoken believers in its ability to change lives for the better. Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford's greatest desire is that others would develop an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord.

Pastor Larry and First Lady Wanda Benford have been married for 32 years. To this union, they have been blessed with 3 daughters, Keyna, Leslie and Ariel and 3 grandchildren, La'Kya, Kylar and Gervase.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Larry Benford for his passion and dedication to serving the Lord, his members, and his community.

RECOGNIZING JIM WEBER

RETIREMENT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Weber who recently retired after a 47-year career at the Port of Everett. A native of Marysville, Washington, Jim began working at the Port's marina as a seasonal employee while attending Marysville-Pilchuck High School. Jim did whatever needed to be done—pushing a broom, checking moorings and taking meter readings. Four years later, he landed a full-time job with the maintenance team. Over the next 43 years, Jim worked his way up at the marina—from maintenance journeyman to maintenance foreman to operations director. His hard work and

dedication earned him great respect among his colleagues and everyone he encountered at the Port.

Jim's storied career paralleled the growth of the Port of Everett. When Jim first started working at the marina in the 1970s, the Port hosted fishermen, mill workers and log tug crews; its central marina was home to fewer than 1,000 slips. Over the next 50 years, Jim played a central role in the transformation of the Port from an industrial waterfront into the largest public marina on the West Coast, helping to design, build, maintain and upgrade many of the marina's facilities, as well as the Jetty Landing boat launch, Jetty Island docks and Boxcar Park. Today, the new and improved Port is the "jewel of Snohomish County," a place where people can work, shop, go out to eat and enjoy the outdoors, thanks to the hard work of people like Jim Weber. Jim was involved in and had time to enjoy many of the great events the Port offers throughout the year, including Wheels on the Waterfront, Sail-In Cinema, Holiday on the Bay, waterfront concerts, Opening Day of Boating and fishing derby events.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Weber's accomplishments are many, and his commitment to the Port of Everett is remarkable. As Jim told the Everett Herald in a recent article, he plans to dig his toes in the sand a bit and buy a few more classic cars in retirement. Congratulations to Jim on a well-earned retirement. We hope to see him showing off his newest classic car at Wheels on the Waterfront.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN
FIELDER

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative DEGETTE, to honor the life of an extraordinary Coloradan.

John Fielder was a prolific nature photographer who lived in Summit County since 2006. Over 50 books have been published showing his photography.

John also worked to protect Colorado's ranches, public lands, and wildlife. Over his 40 year career, John was recognized on several occasions for his work. He received the 1993 Sierra Club Ansel Adams Award, the 2011 the Aldo Leopold Foundation's first Achievement Award ever given to an individual, and an Honorary Degree in Sustainability Studies from Colorado Mountain College.

We thank John for his work elevating the natural beauty of Colorado and for fighting to protect our pristine lands.

HONORING KELVIN REED

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Kelvin Reed. Kelvin Reed has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Kelvin Reed was one of Warren Central's top boys' basketball players in the late 1980s. He led the Vikings in scoring as a sophomore, and steals and assists as a junior and senior, and was twice selected to The Vicksburg Post's All-County team. Reed averaged 15 points, 7 assists and 3 steals per game over three varsity seasons.

After high school, Reed moved on to Pensacola Junior College in Florida. He set the school's assists record and led the team to the 1993 NJCAA Division I national championship.

Reed was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kelvin Reed for his passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District.

HONORING OFFICER URBANO
RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Officer Urbano Rodriguez, Jr., a dedicated civil servant who is retiring from the Denton Police Department, having honorably served his community for over a decade.

Prior to joining the Police Department, Urban, as he is fondly known, worked for over two years at the Denton Animal Shelter. During that time he bonded with one particular disabled dog, personally constructing a make-shift walking device that was equipped with wheels to allow the dog to walk freely. This act of compassion and needs-based service is symbolic of the character and calling that quickly led him to leave the shelter to become a Police recruit for the City in 2014.

Upon completion of his training, Urban joined the front lines of the Denton Police Department as a part of the thin blue line protecting the public he had committed to serve. He knew from the outset that he belonged on the streets. Recognized as a "go-getter" with a strong work ethic, Urban quickly became a valued member of the Denton PD team. During his service he was involved in a number of notable traffic stops, including a large and unexpected confiscation of methamphetamine. Through the dedication and effort he and his shift partners brought to the streets, he helped disrupt a damaging delivery, protecting the community by preventing it from reaching its intended market.

Urban was confronted with the full weight of his commitment when, on October 29, 2019, as a five-year veteran of the Denton Police Department, he was unexpectedly attacked and struck by multiple bullets from an assailant's weapon during a routine traffic stop. It was at that moment that Urban's inner strength and character were defined. Unimaginably, he survived the trauma, beginning the long, difficult path to become the walking miracle he is today.

When many felt it unlikely that he would even leave the hospital, Urban's strength and resolve led him through a challenging rehabilitation process to not only leave the hospital bed, but push beyond the damage of his injuries to regain his strength and mobility to once

again walk freely. An outcome that seemed a fantasy to those who saw him during his initial recovery less than four years ago, is a testament to the enthusiasm and determined work ethic he was known for when he joined the department.

In his service commitment to the community he swore to protect, and through the courage he has shown through his recovery, Urban embodies the very essence of Texas values. Each day he is continuing to build the example for those who will follow in his footsteps.

On behalf of a grateful community, I want to thank Urban Rodriguez for his service and example. I truly wish him the very best in a well-deserved retirement and for the continued contribution I know he will make in his new role and as an inspiration for his children and all who hear of his story.

IN MEMORY OF JACK DELBERT
STEWART II

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, on September 2, 2023, Jack Delbert Stewart II, died peacefully at his home in Denton, Texas at the age of 88. He was born on July 6, 1935, in Ennis, Texas, to the late Jack Delbert and Dora Ellen (Johnson) Stewart. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1953 and Abilene Christian College in 1957. During his summer breaks, he and some friends worked for the U.S. Forest Service backing up the Hot Shot teams fighting wildfires out of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

In 1958, a roommate set Jack up on a blind date with Jean Pogue. They went to the King and I at the State Fair. After a two-year courtship, they were married on January 23, 1960.

Jack served for six years in the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard, which was mobilized in April of 1961 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. They spent one year stationed at Fort Polk in Leesville, Louisiana.

Jack and Jean returned to Dallas where he worked for Industrial Indemnity Insurance until he was transferred to Beaumont. In 1970, they moved to San Antonio to work with SP Personnel Associates. He was a member of the MacArthur Park Church of Christ where he was active in church leadership, serving as both a Deacon and an Elder. He also served on the founding board of Christian Heritage Schools.

In 1992, they moved to Abilene for Jack to be the director of the Career Center at Abilene Christian University. There he helped students prepare for life after college, including helping to counsel them on career next steps as well as resume writing, interviewing skills, choosing the right majors, and setting up job fairs and job interviews. Of all the careers he had, this was his favorite because he loved working with the students and helping to put them on a path to success. He was an active member of Hillcrest Church of Christ and served as an Elder.

Jack always had a servant's heart, and he volunteered frequently at the food pantry in Abilene. A committed family man who always wanted everyone to be together, Jack and Jean fulfilled a dream of buying a cabin in Angel Fire, New Mexico where they shared

many wonderful memories with their friends and family. He was also a lifelong Dallas Cowboys and San Antonio Spurs fan. He rarely missed a game and loved to talk sports, including the latest on his ACU Wildcats. In April of 2021, Jack and Jean moved to Denton to be closer to family and UT Southwestern.

He is survived by his wife Jean of 63 years and their children, Jeff, Jay, and Jill. Jack was blessed with seven grandchildren who knew him as Papa, including Joshua Stewart, Jackson Stewart, Meghan Tapia, Morgan O'Connell, Jamie Barber, Clarke Bartholomew and Grant Dowdy. Papa was also a great-grandfather to Grace and Evelyn O'Connell, Elliot Stewart, and Willow Tapia. He was known as Apple Jack to his nephew Todd and nieces Tracy and Taylor.

He was preceded in death by his brother Michael G. Stewart and wife Barbara.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL "DANNY"
LEE CROMER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud South Carolinian, a devoted public servant, and a dear friend, Daniel "Danny" Lee Cromer. Danny transitioned to eternal rest on September 5, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina. His brilliance and personality will be remembered by all who were fortunate to meet him.

Daniel Lee Cromer was born on August 19, 1958, in Greenville, South Carolina. He was a proud graduate of Carolina High School and of the University of South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1980. He furthered his studies in public administration and social work at his beloved alma mater.

In 1981, Danny embarked on what would become a lifetime career in public service beginning in the office of two governors of South Carolina, Governor Richard Wilson Riley, a Democrat, and Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., a Republican. In those offices, Danny coordinated federal grant applications and intergovernmental review for all federal programs across the state of South Carolina.

Following my election to Congress in 1992, Danny moved to Washington, D.C. and joined my staff as Legislative Director, a position he would serve in for 18 years. Danny quickly developed expertise in federal spending and the appropriations process. He viewed his role as a champion of poor communities in South Carolina and was committed to channeling federal investment to people that needed it most. Building on his experience in my office, he served on the staff of the House Appropriations Committee before retiring in 2013. Danny was integral to many of my legislative accomplishments but perhaps his proudest achievement was his work creating the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Having worked for years on the legislation which passed in 2006, the Secretary of Interior appointed Danny to the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission where he served for 14 years.

Danny was an iconic character on Capitol Hill. While a passionate Democrat, he was

often called on by members of Congress and staff from both sides of the aisle to find solutions to thorny appropriations and legislative issues. Never shy with his opinions or his unique Southern sense of humor, Danny made an indelible impression on all who met him, from visitors to my office to colleagues. He was passionate about mentoring interns and young staffers, always taking time to teach and impart lessons from his experiences.

Danny was a devoted, longtime parishioner of St. Monica and St. James Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill, often inviting his friends and colleagues to join him for worship. His love for the church knew no bounds and he was particularly proud of his service on the vestry. He relished the high mass, organ music, and rituals of the Episcopal Church. After relocating to Columbia, he joined St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Danny Cromer. Danny often quoted a Mormon hymn: "Do what is right, let the consequence follow." Danny lived by those words, and the people of South Carolina are better off because of his adherence to them. I will always remember Danny and he will be sorely missed.

HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN
OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans from Oregon's Second Congressional District who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of George S. Patton, Jr., who said, "The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country." These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: Joshua Alvarez, Army; Dennis Anderson, Navy; Thomas Beckley, Army; Jerry Chartier, Sr, Marine Corps; Fredd Conn, Marine Corps; David Cunningham, Navy; William Duncan, Army; Richard Gehrke, Navy/Marine Corps; Edward Goodman, Navy; Roger Haynes, Air Force/Army; Robert Howerton, Navy; Michael Hoffman, Navy; David Johnson, Army; Earl Kilpatrick, Air Force; Jesse Redding, Navy; Paul Lofland, Army; Robert Long, Marine Corps; Jesus Lopez, Air Force; Preton Manville II, Marine Corps; William Mathews, Army/Air Force; Lawrence Mixon, Jr, Army; Charles Owen, Army; Robert Rammin, Army; Steven Rolston, Army; Loyd Thurman, Army; Jerry White, Army; and Otto William, Air Force. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers. I would also like to recognize the volunteers and guardians traveling on this

trip: Janet Wilkerson, and the guardians who have also served our country: Kathrine Berg, Army; Jody William, III, Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1983 Memorial Day address, Ronald Reagan said, "We are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free." As a Nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING DR. AUSTIN AND
MRS. BEA FLINT FOR THEIR
DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a notable couple that have had a significant impact on Northwest Georgia and have become pillars of the community in and around Cherokee County, Georgia, Dr. Austin Flint and his lovely wife, Mrs. Bea Flint.

The Flint's contributions to their community and the state of Georgia are immeasurable. Their positive impact in north Georgia inspired the Georgia General Assembly, in 2021, to designate the portion of Georgia State Highway 108, which runs through the heart of Reinhardt University in the town of Waleska, Georgia as the Dr. Austin Flint Highway.

Born in 1937, Austin Flint grew up south of Atlanta in the town of Hapeville, GA. While attending college in Atlanta, Austin Flint met a lovely young lady from Dublin, Georgia named Bea. Austin and Bea were married in Dublin on June 27, 1959, and recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Flint continued his education, enrolling in the Emory University School of Medicine. He graduated in 1962, joined the United States Air Force as a Flight Surgeon, and was stationed at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Following his military service, Dr. and Mrs. Flint returned to Georgia, where he served his residency in radiology at Grady Hospital in Atlanta. After completing his residency, Dr. Flint wanted to utilize his medical training where he could have a significant impact. The North Georgia community of Cherokee County had gone for many years without a new doctor, and there were no radiologists in the area; so, in 1969, Austin and Bea Flint chose to move to Cherokee County, where he became the first radiologist in the county's history.

Bea, an English Major, began teaching and raising a family, as well as continuing her education. In 1978, Bea took a teaching position at a local private college which, at the time, was known as Reinhardt Junior College. Bea continued to teach at Reinhardt for over a decade, still speaking of the school and her colleagues as being like a family.

Bea and Austin made their home near the small college town of Waleska, where they

raised their three children, Russell, now an Orthopedic Surgeon, Douglas, now an Attorney, and Chris, now a Schoolteacher. The Flints also have eight adored grandchildren.

With deep roots in the medical and educational communities, the Flints have been actively involved with the local college for many years. Austin has served as a trustee at Reinhardt since 2016, Bea was a charter member of the Cherokee Chorale, and they have generously contributed to the school's music department for capital projects, a scholarship fund, and the recently acquired pipe organ. Because of their philanthropic efforts and ongoing support, a hall in the Falany Performing Arts Center at Reinhardt has been named Flint Hall in their honor.

Through supporting these and countless other educational and cultural programs, and lending their expertise to the students and faculty, the Flints have been instrumental in the growth and advancement of Reinhardt, from a Junior College to a full four-year accredited college, to now being named Reinhardt University.

Dr. Flint officially retired from the full-time medical practice in 2022, but he hasn't slowed, as he continues to serve the community on the Reinhardt University Board of Trustees, the Northside Cherokee Hospital Board, and the Georgia Medical Board.

In addition to his continued community service, at the age of 86, Dr. Flint spends as much time as possible at their beautiful property in Waleska, known as BAR Flint Preserve, a permanent conservation, adjacent to Reinhardt, where he and Bea are developing an expansive network of nature trails, and manage an orchard of American Chestnut trees. Working in conjunction with the American Chestnut Society, students and interns from Reinhardt assist with the care and study of the endangered species.

On behalf of the citizens of Cherokee County, and Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Austin and Mrs. Bea Flint for their unyielding dedication to our community; and recognize them for their decades of care and service.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD TAYLOR
"DICK" SCHULZE AND ROBERT
LINDSAY THOMAS AS RECIPIENTS
OF THE DINGELL-YOUNG
SPORTSMEN'S LEGACY AWARD

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I rise today to recognize two individuals that have made significant contributions to our Nation's fish and wildlife conservation efforts, as well as America's longstanding outdoor traditions. These individuals are also the recipients of an award named after members of this body that have made lasting and significant contributions to our Nation's outdoor heritage.

Richard Taylor "Dick" Schulze was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to John L. and Grace (Taylor) Schulze in 1929. Schulze attended the University of Houston, Villanova University, and Temple University and served in the United States Army.

Schulze was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1975, where he served for 18 years. As a result of his leadership and understanding of complex policy, Schulze rose to serve as the Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, but his passion always remained with conservation. To satisfy this passion, Schulze also served on the Natural Resources Committee and was a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, two roles that positioned him to be a true leader for sportsmen and women across the country. Recognizing his passion and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors, President George H. W. Bush appointed Schulze to serve on the board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Robert Lindsay Thomas was born in 1943 in Patterson, Georgia to James and Aline (Jones) Thomas. He attended Gordon Military Academy in Barnesville and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1966. After graduation, Thomas served in the Georgia Air National Guard and was in the 165th Tactical Airlift Group. Prior to his political career, Thomas worked as an investment banker and stockbroker until 1973, when he took over management of Grace Acres Farm in Screven, Georgia. Thomas is the father of three children and still resides in Georgia with his wife.

Thomas served five terms in the United States House of Representatives during the 1980s and early 1990s. Following his political service, Thomas served as the director of state governmental affairs for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. He also served as the president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Thomas also served as a longtime board member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, serving as Board Chairman from 2010 to 2012. Today, Thomas can be found enjoying the outdoors on his family farm, particularly through fall deer hunting and turkey hunting in the spring.

What makes these two individuals unique amongst the conservation community is that Schulze and Thomas were instrumental in the establishment and development of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, one of the largest bipartisan, bicameral caucuses in the United States Congress. Schulze, a Republican, and Thomas, a Democrat, banded together in support of sportsmen and women and conservation across the country, an issue that recognizes no political labels, to develop one of the most important entities for outdoorsmen and women in the country. Since being established in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has earned a reputation for its bipartisan effectiveness and for its unparalleled ability to advance policies of interest to sportsmen and women. The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus brings together members with a shared passion for our outdoor traditions to work together to protect and advance hunting, fishing, and professional wildlife management.

Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am proud to continue the legacy of Mr. Schulze and Mr. Thomas in support of hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters across the Nation.

In recognition of Schulze and Thomas' leadership in Congress and their innovative commitment to sportsmen and women through the establishment of the Congressional Sports-

men's Caucus, they have been chosen as this year's recipients of the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, a well-deserved recognition to individuals who have shown such dedication to their country and to America's outdoor heritage.

Named in recognition of the Dingell family—Congressmen John D. Dingell, Sr. and John D. Dingell, Jr.—and the late Congressman Don Young, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation created the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award to recognize the extraordinary individual and collaborative leadership of the Dingell family and Congressman Young, and their long-standing dedication to the advancement of conservation policy and our outdoor hunting and angling traditions. Like them, Schulze and Thomas' contributions to our outdoor traditions relied upon a unique commitment to bipartisan collaboration and a shared passion for hunting, fishing, and conservation. With their shared dedication and the vital role they played in establishing the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award is a fitting tribute for Schulze and Thomas.

I want to thank these innovative leaders for their contributions and dedication to America's outdoor heritage and for founding the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, something that I am truly proud to lead today in a bipartisan fashion, just as Mr. Schulze and Mr. Thomas envisioned. I would like to congratulate them for the well-deserved recognition as the recipients of the Dingell-Young Sportsmen's Legacy Award, the top award offered by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

CELEBRATING LATINO PRESS

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Latino Press, a Detroit-based newspaper, that serves Spanish-speaking readers all across Southeast Michigan, as they celebrate 30 years of sharing information and keeping communities connected.

Founded in 1993 by Elias Gutierrez, Latino Press has grown to become the area's largest Hispanic publishing company in Southeast Michigan. Mr. Gutierrez immigrated to the United States from Chile in 1991 in search of better opportunities in the United States. He took odd jobs by day and educated himself in the basics of design, layout, and publishing. Five years after starting Latino Press, Mr. Gutierrez was able to focus solely on publishing.

Latino Press is widely recognized as one of the leading voices in Spanish-speaking media. Countless readers rely on its information to stay informed about current and community events. In addition to its vast print outreach, Latino Press has a robust electronic presence, reaching thousands of our neighbors each week.

Please join me in recognizing Elias Gutierrez and Latino Press, as they celebrate 30 years of service to our community.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF 1ST LIEU-
TENANT KAREN LOUISE NUNAN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marine Corps Officer, 1st Lieutenant Karen Louise Nunan from Russellville, Tennessee for her distinguished military service during the Vietnam War Era. 1st Lieutenant Nunan began her career in the United States Marine Corps in 1972, where she specialized in data processing. During her assignment at Camp Lejeune (NC), she served on the committee that designed the first, inaugural base-wide computer network. After four years of valiant service to our country, 1st Lieutenant Nunan was honorably discharged in 1976.

The 1st Lieutenant remains an active member within her community. As a veteran's advocate, she currently serves as Commander of American Legion Post 52 in Morristown, as well as Chairperson of the Women Veterans Committee for the American Legion 1st District and East Division.

Please join me in thanking 1st Lieutenant Karen Louise Nunan for her leadership and honorable military service to our country.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE OF KENNETH LEE HART

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we come together to remember and honor Kenneth Lee Hart, a man whose life was marked by dedication, wisdom, and a passion for history and politics. Born in South San Francisco in 1939, Ken's journey left an indelible mark on this world before his passing on August 16, 2023, in Fresno, California. He was a son, a brother, an uncle, a friend, and a mentor, touching the lives of many with his wisdom and warmth. Ken's educational journey began in Fresno, where he attended Fresno High School, graduating in 1957. His thirst for knowledge led him to Fresno State College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science in 1961. His academic achievements were just the beginning of a life dedicated to learning and teaching.

A true patriot, Ken felt a profound sense of duty to his country. He volunteered to serve in the Army Signal Corps, stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, from 1962 to 1964. His service to his Nation was a testament to his commitment to a cause larger than himself. Upon returning to the United States, Ken embarked on a teaching career that would span several decades. He taught at Reedley High School from 1964 to 1968 and also coached the baseball team. His influence extended beyond the classroom, shaping the lives of his students both academically and personally. In 1967, he earned a Masters' Degree in United States history at Fresno State College. The following year, he assumed the role of an instructor at Merced College. In 1972, his dedication and passion

for teaching earned him the position of Chair of the Social Science Division. His contributions to education were further underscored when he received the prestigious honor of being named Merced College's Instructor of the Year in 1992, 1994, and 1998. Ken's commitment to enlightening young minds knew no bounds, and he continued to inspire and educate until his retirement in 2001.

Ken's passion for politics was the driving force behind his advocacy for positive change. His involvement in Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign was a testament to his unwavering belief in the power of politics to shape a better future. He went on to serve as the chairman of the Fresno County Democratic Party and as an alternate delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention. Ken's dedication to public service was truly remarkable. In 1978, Ken's political journey took a new turn as he entered the world of political consulting. He, along with his esteemed business partner Dalton Moore, became known for their expertise in creating effective campaign materials and impactful radio and television advertisements. Ken's passion for politics and his commitment to positive change extended to his role as a Probate Referee, a position he held from 1977 to 1997. His service to the residents of Fresno County and California in this capacity showcased his dedication to fairness and justice.

In 1997, Ken began a loving relationship with Patricia "Pat" Wynne. Their companionship was marked by shared adventures and a love for exploring the world. For 2 decades, Ken and Pat journeyed across all 7 continents, from the vibrant markets of Pakistan to the serene landscapes of Antarctica. Their shared experiences and countless photographs are a testament to a life fully lived. Ken's memory lives on in the hearts of his family, his friends, and all those he advised, mentored, and inspired. His legacy will continue to encourage us all.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Kenneth Lee Hart, a man whose passion for education, politics, and life itself left a permanent mark on our world. May we remember his wisdom, his dedication to justice, and his unwavering belief in the power of positive change.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIANA
MARCUM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to commemorate the life and legacy of Diana Marcum, a beacon of compassion and storytelling brilliance whose words touched our hearts and unveiled the essence of the human experience. Diana's journey was one of resilience, empathy, and a profound dedication to capturing the narratives of the overlooked and the underrepresented.

Born in Sonoma County on February 2, 1963, Diana embarked on an unorthodox path to journalism, driven not by formal credentials but by her innate ability to craft stories that resonated deeply. Her journey began as an editorial assistant and blossomed into a re-

markable career that left an indelible imprint on the world of journalism.

At the core of Diana's work was her gift for revealing the extraordinary within the ordinary. Her narrative prowess was on full display in her Pulitzer Prize-winning series "Scenes from California's Dust Bowl," which chronicled the impact of drought on the people of the San Joaquin Valley. Through her elegant prose, Diana wove together the stories of farmers, fieldworkers, and others in California's Central Valley, painting a vivid picture of their struggles, hopes, and triumphs. Her storytelling capability wasn't just a skill; it was a vehicle for bridging divides and fostering understanding among diverse communities.

Diana's genuine curiosity and empathetic approach allowed her to establish connections that went beyond the surface. That was my experience with her, as we bonded over our love and connection to the Azores.

Diana's narrative talents flourished outside the realm of traditional journalism as well. Her books, "The Tenth Island: Finding Joy, Beauty, and Unexpected Love in the Azores" and "The Fallen Stones: Chasing Butterflies, Discovering Mayan Secrets, and Looking for Hope Along the Way," revealed her boundless curiosity and love for exploration. Through her literary works, Diana invited readers to embark on journeys of discovery, reflecting her insatiable desire to understand the intricacies of our world.

Beyond her writing, Diana's influence extended into her personal interactions and relationships. Diana's ability to forge deep connections was a testament to her character—a character rooted in humility, authenticity, and a profound belief in the power of words.

Tragically, Diana's life's journey reached its conclusion on August 9, 2023, in Fresno, California. Her legacy will remain etched in the stories she told, the lives she touched, and the hearts she uplifted. As we honor Diana Marcum today, we are reminded of the immense impact that one person's dedication to empathy and storytelling can have on our world.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Diana Marcum. Let us be inspired by her tireless pursuit of truth, her unwavering commitment to highlighting the beauty within human struggles, and her ability to spark compassion and connection through her words. In celebrating Diana's life, we also celebrate the timeless power of narrative to bridge divides and illuminate the shared human experience.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NICK
GOMES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we gather to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Steven Nicholas "Nick" Gomes, a beloved son of Merced, California, whose legacy resonates with kindness, resilience, and unwavering love. Nick left an indelible mark on the hearts of friends, family, and community.

Born in Merced, California, Nick's life was a testament to his boundless curiosity and passion for learning. Even at the tender age of 2,

he displayed a remarkable ability to read newspaper comics with comprehension, foreshadowing a life marked by intellectual curiosity and a thirst for knowledge. Nick's childhood was a tapestry woven with the threads of joy and adventure, from mastering Nintendo games to relishing Sunday morning cartoons and comics.

As Nick transitioned to adolescence, his spirit of competition and determination flourished. At Merced High School, he harnessed his strategic mind and physical strength to dominate the football field as an offensive guard. His dedication and prowess on the gridiron were a testament to his unwavering commitment to success. In academics, Nick shone just as brightly, excelling in FFA and emerging as a leader in parliamentary procedure and debate. His high school journey continued at Golden Valley High School, where he further demonstrated his dexterity as a scholar, athlete, and leader. Nick's accomplishments, including academic excellence, athletic success, and contributions to his community, culminated in his graduation *summa cum laude*. With a full-ride scholarship to Oregon State University awaiting him, Nick's path took an unexpected turn due to injuries. His resilience led him back to his roots, where he earned an associate degree at Merced College while playing football and contributing to his community. Nick's professional journey, which included a successful tenure at Best Buy and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Grand Canyon University, paved the way for a distinguished career in public service.

Nick's dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others was evident through his role as one of my District Representatives in the Merced Area when I represented CA-16. Known for his patient demeanor, Nick's ability to engage with constituents exemplified his commitment to open dialogue and understanding. His efforts extended beyond office walls, as he advocated for community projects, such as securing grants for local water infrastructure improvements in communities like Dos Palos. Nick's compassion extended to his family, where he showed his love through selfless actions, genuine connections, and a willingness to go the extra mile. A devoted uncle, brother, and son, Nick's warmth and affection radiated through his interactions with family. His dedication to his niece and nephew, his unwavering support for his parents, and his loving presence at family gatherings underscored his deep-rooted connection to those he held dear. As a friend, Nick's impact was equally profound. For over two decades, he shared his love for strategy games and imaginative storytelling, enchanting those around him with his natural charisma.

In the spring of 2022, Nick met the love of his life, Lindsay Newman. Their connection showed the transformative power of love and the happiness it brings to those who find it. Nick's journey, marked by kindness, resilience, and a zest for life, teaches us that every mo-

ment is an opportunity to make a positive impact. We extend our deepest condolences to Nick's parents, Steven and Victoria Gomes, his sister Melissa, his nieces and nephews, and his friends who were fortunate to share in his journey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Steven Nicholas "Nick" Gomes, a talented young man who touched hearts and inspired all who had the privilege of knowing him.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 19

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Health Care
To hold hearings to examine aging in place, focusing on the vital role of home health in access to care.
SD-215
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine corporate manipulation of Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Federal Communications Commission.
SD-124
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight
To hold hearings to examine advanced technology, focusing on threats to national security.
SD-562

SEPTEMBER 20

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in financial services.
SD-538
- Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine public investment.
SD-608
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, and Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
SR-253
- 2:15 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine growing the economy of the future, focusing on job training for the clean energy transition.
SH-216
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power
To hold hearings to examine drought impacts on drinking water access and water availability.
SD-366
- Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine drinking water infrastructure and tribal communities.
SD-406
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine improving mental health and suicide prevention measures for our Nation's veterans.
SR-418
- ##### SEPTEMBER 27
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration, focusing on examining the Federal real estate portfolio.
SD-406
- ##### SEPTEMBER 28
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight
To hold hearings to examine solutions to address beverage container waste.
SD-406