

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MAHSA AMINI HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights Security Accountability (MAHSA) Act.

This bill would require the President of the United States to impose property- and visa-blocking sanctions on certain individuals and entities affiliated with Iran.

Additionally, this bill would impose requirements that the President periodically make determinations about whether certain existing sanctions apply to specified persons and impose the applicable sanctions, including determinations concerning:

(1) the Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran;

(2) the President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran; and

(3) any entity overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in supporting human rights abuses or terrorism.

Iran currently faces widespread unrest because of various human rights violations.

In 2022, security forces killed more than 500 persons, including at least 69 children, and arrested more than 19,000 protesters, including children, according to the nongovernmental organization Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Some of those arrested faced the death penalty, including children.

The government also routinely disrupted access to the internet and communications applications to prevent the free flow of information and to attempt to interrupt or diminish participation in protests.

Iran and its people deserve peace.

This bill has been built on positive intentions that seek to solve an important and pressing issue.

RECOGNIZING YOUNG LEADERS ADVOCATING IN FAVOR OF STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of young leaders from my District who are in Washington, D.C. this week advocating in favor of statehood for Puerto Rico.

It fills me with joy to witness our young generation assuming a leading role in addressing Puerto Rico's political status and promoting ef-

orts to champion the equal treatment of the 3.2 million American citizens in Puerto Rico. This group of young people has come to Washington to directly demand statehood in meetings with members of Congress and Senators. Their advocacy demonstrates not only their unwavering dedication to the cause but also their commitment to the democratic principles that uphold our nation. Their actions serve as an inspiring example for all, reminding us that the pursuit of equality and representation knows no age boundaries. As these young leaders continue to work tirelessly, their vision of Puerto Rico becoming a State of the Union draws ever closer to becoming a reality.

Please join me in honoring Alexander López, Alexander Nieves, Alexandra Meléndez Iturrino, Andrés Dávila Suárez, Andrés F. Rosado Martínez, Ángel Morales, Anibal Rodríguez, Anthony Jiménez Chaparro, Antonio Díaz-Agosto, Aurelio Agelviz, Bianca Cardona, Braulio Hernández Jiménez, Carol Pérez González, Cesar Méndez, Christopher Cabán Echevarría, Coralys Vega Rodríguez, Edwin Francisco Rivera, Jahn Tacoronte González, Jaime Ramírez, Javier Porrata, Josué Rivera, Keishla "Keka" Rodríguez, Kevin Romero, Luis Alberto Arroyo, Luis Carrucini Ortiz, Luis Miguel Clemente Rosario, Manuel López Alamo, Marcos Fabián González, María Quiñones, Marino Puello Rivera, Oscar Rosa Vizcarrondo, Paola González Negrón, Paola Román Goytía, Quiriat Rodríguez Nieves, Randy Rodríguez, Ricardo Marrero, Roberto Lefranc Fortuño, Saned Trinidad Alejandro, Santos Soel González García, Sherlyn Osorio Nieves, Valeria Santiago, Victor Berríos Sierra, Yeareb Rodríguez Nieves, Yeline Nieves Díaz, and Zairelys Medina Villanueva for boldly championing the long-awaited equality that Puerto Ricans have consistently demanded. I also want to recognize Shadow Delegate Roberto Lefranc Fortuño for being an integral part in spearheading this effort to have young Puerto Ricans actively engaged in this movement.

I am beyond proud of these leaders and applaud their efforts to advance Puerto Rican statehood.

CELEBRATING BOB GIBSON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the milestone birthday of Bob "Gibby" Gibson who celebrated his 100th birthday on September 4, 2023.

Gibby has dedicated his life to public service. Born in Hampton, New Jersey in 1923, he went on to serve in the United States Army during World War II. Following his service in major campaigns such as the D-Day Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge, Gibby was honor-

ably discharged in 1945, and returned to his hometown of Hampton.

Once home, he further proved his dedication to his community by joining the Hampton Fire Company, of which he climbed the ranks, becoming Chief in 1957. Continuing to demonstrate his remarkable commitment to public service, Gibby was elected Mayor of Hampton in 1966 and held office until 1971. Gibby has continued his dedication to public service throughout his life, currently serving as the Vice President of the Hampton Relief Association.

On behalf of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, I ask that we honor the celebration of Bob "Gibby" Gibson's 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pilgrim Hall Museum's 200th anniversary.

Two centuries after the Pilgrims landed, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chartered the Pilgrim Society in 1820 to preserve the history of early Plymouth. It was decided that a museum should be constructed to tell the Pilgrim's story. Tasked with the responsibility of constructing the museum, builders Job and Abner Taylor laid the cornerstone on September 1, 1824, and on December 17, members of the Pilgrim Society met for the first time inside the Pilgrim Hall Museum.

Pilgrim Hall Museum is the oldest continuously operating public museum in the U.S. and is home to a collection of 17th century artifacts, including several pieces that were originally on the Mayflower. Over the last two centuries, the museum has continued to collect artifacts, books, and documents to tell the stories of the Wampanoag—who were in South-eastern Massachusetts thousands of years before early settlers arrived—and the Pilgrims. Artifacts include the Bible of William Bradford; William Brewster's great chair; the only portrait painted from life of Edward Winslow; the cradle that Susanna White rocked her son, Peregrine, in; and the earliest sampler embroidered in America by Loara Standish.

Of the 33,000 museums in the U.S., Pilgrim Hall Museum is one of less than 1,100 museums accredited by the American Association of Museums. This is a notable achievement that signifies a museum's credibility and quality and further ensures the integrity of a museum's collection.

In addition to serving as a museum, Pilgrim Hall also hosts lectures and small concerts, as well as the Annual Pilgrim Society Meeting, which is held on Forefathers' Day in the Main Hall. Today, Pilgrim Hall Museum continues to tell the story of the Pilgrims and the

• 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.

Wampanoag in a manner that is both accurate and inclusive, while highlighting and recognizing narratives that have traditionally been silenced.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Pilgrim Hall Museum, and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this monumental occasion of the museum's 200th anniversary and wishing Pilgrim Hall Museum continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMES HAIRSTON III AND TRINA HAIRSTON, LEAD PASTORS OF ALL NATIONS WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the services and accomplishments of James Hairston III and Trina Hairston, the Lead Pastors of All Nations Worship Assembly Washington, D.C.

Both natives of Bridgeport, Connecticut came to being the Lead Pastors in January of 2019 of All Nations Worship Assembly Washington, D.C. At the start of launching, they hosted live-streaming Bible Study sessions and live worship services called "Preaching to the Choir" to draw the local community closer to God. Within the last four years, they have built a culture of outreach, discipleship, and fellowship for the local Prince George's County communities. As Lead Pastors, they have purposed in their heart to cultivate the community through love, prayer, and teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We recognize that Pastors James Hairston III and Trina Hairston as a force within the Prince George's County community. Their passion has been powerful by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through prayer, love, outreach, discipleship, and fellowship into the lives of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Their commitment to God has both led Pastor James Hairston III and Trina Hairston to be great faith-based pillar within Prince George's County.

On behalf of Maryland 4th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lead Pastors James Hairston III and Trina Hairston for their exemplary accomplishments, dedication to public service, and trailblazing leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize Friends University as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

Friends opened its doors in September of 1898. In his opening address, President Edmund Stanley said, "The purpose of this school shall be to give to the world and to give our country a class of citizens that will be in every sense loyal citizens." He went on to

say, "Loyalty means that mental training and discipline which makes the child think—the development which makes him strong in mind and body; strong in his moral nature; a full man in that intelligence which should direct the efforts of all men for conscientious, honorable and successful private life and citizenship."

And that is just what they have done—for the past 125 years Friends has provided Kansas, our country and the world, with men and women who are honorable citizens wherever they go after graduation, bringing value to their communities. Being a Friends University Falcon is a respected recognition and the reach of Friends touches many industries and states in the country.

The University offers a distinguished liberal arts education with majors ranging from Accounting to Zoo Science and enrolls traditional and adult students seeking associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

I'm so pleased to help Friends University celebrate this milestone anniversary and offer my sincere congratulations on 125 years of success, and I look forward to another century and a quarter of equipping students under the iconic clock tower in the heart of the Sunflower State. Happy 125th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Previous Question (Roll No. 388), NO on H. Res. 681 (Roll No. 389), YES on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1435 (Roll No. 390), and NO on passage of H.R. 1435 (Roll No. 391).

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUSTICE CRUZ REYNOSO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of former Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court Cruz Reynoso.

Cruz Reynoso was born in Brea, California and was raised in La Habra, California. By the age of 11, he led a successful petition to have his rural community receive deliveries from the postman.

Upon discovering the power in using his words to right the wrongs he witnessed, Judge Reynoso set off on a path as a civil rights advocate.

His high school art teacher saw his talents and convinced him to attend Fullerton College. There his speech teacher recommended Reynoso be chairman of the first freshman class meeting. He was elected as the freshman class president and then the following spring, he was elected the college's first Latino student body president.

Prior to his graduation in June of 1951, he was offered a scholarship to attend Pomona

College. After graduating from Pomona College in 1953, he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces, serving in the Counterintelligence Corps.

Following his enlistment, he enrolled in UC Berkeley's School of Law and graduated in 1958.

From 1958 to 1959, he studied constitutional law through a Ford Foundation fellowship at the National University of Mexico and after passing the bar, he opened a private practice in El Centro, California.

His full-time job was teaching law at the University of New Mexico, becoming one of the first Latino law professors in the country.

He continued to make his mark in the legal field by being appointed to the California Court of Appeal in 1976 and the California Supreme Court in 1982 as an Associate Justice.

From 1991 to 2001, he became a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2001, he was rewarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Clinton. The same year, he became a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of California, Davis.

His wife of 53 years, Jeannene, died in 2007. He remarried, and he and his wife Elaine lived in Davis, where he enjoyed the time spent with his 17 grandchildren. In May 2021, Cruz Reynoso passed away.

In April 2013, Fullerton College Centennial Celebration saluted the achievements of Cruz Reynoso as an inaugural member of its Hall of Fame.

Today, Fullerton College renamed its Student Services Building as Cruz Reynoso Hall to honor Judge Reynoso, a Hornet alumnus and the first Latino Supreme Court Justice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the commitments and accomplishments of Judge Cruz Reynoso.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the vote series on September 14, 2023. My wife contracted COVID-19 while I was in Washington this week and I returned home to take care of her and our children.

H.R. 1435 would disrupt the growing electric vehicle market in the United States, jeopardize American jobs in auto manufacturing, and hurt the EPA's ability to protect our clean air. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call vote No. 391, H.R. 1435.

RECOGNIZING ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI JI'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding global interfaith leader, Acharya Dr.

Lokesh Muni Ji. For the last 30 years, Acharya Lokeshji has been an advocate for communal harmony, non-violence, peace, and mutual cooperation.

Born in 1961 in northwest India, Acharya Lokeshji studied Jain, Buddhist, and Vedic philosophy from an early age, and left home at the age of 22 to take initiation into Jainism. After receiving the title of Acharya, one of the highest honors in Jainism, Acharya Lokeshji travelled the world and authored dozens of books to reflect on the principles of religious harmony and unity in diversity. He is also outspoken on critical issues such as environmental protection and substance use disorder.

Acharya Lokeshji's brave actions back up his doctrine of non-violence. In 2013, while on a tour of London, he rushed back to India to assist victims of a deadly riot between Hindus and Muslims. Prior to that, he resolved a Sikh religious dispute in the Punjab region of India. As a capstone to his initiatives, Acharya Lokeshji also recently dedicated India's first "World Peace Center" in Gurugram, one of the country's largest cities. These examples all serve as a testament of Acharya Lokeshji's ability to put his principles into practice.

We are all grateful for Acharya Lokeshji's dedication to interfaith dialogue and peace. His selfless service is an incredible example of global citizenship, and we wish him success in his continued work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2023, I did not arrive in Washington in time for the vote on H.R. 1567—ACRES Act, as amended, and H.R. 3324—To extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029. I missed both votes because I was in attendance and speaking at the funeral for Lawrence Lacks, Sr., the last living child of the late Henrietta Lacks, the mother of the medically famous HeLa cell, and a former neighbor of mine in my youth. Had I been in D.C., my vote would have been YEA on H.R. 1567, Roll Call No. 386, and YEA on H.R. 3324, Roll Call No. 387.

HONORING BOB KNAPP

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions and tireless dedication of Mr. Bob Knapp, a distinguished individual, devoted advocate, and community leader in Colorado.

Mr. Knapp has exemplified exceptional commitment to his community and has been an integral part of various organizations dedicated to improving the lives of retired Americans, advancing the cause of democracy, and promoting the rights of American workers.

Mr. Knapp's contributions include co-founding the Colorado Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans. For 2 decades, he served

as its Secretary, working to ensure the needs and concerns of retired Americans were addressed and advocating for policies that enhanced their quality of life.

Perhaps one of Mr. Knapp's most remarkable achievements is his service on the AFL-CIO Executive Board for over 30 years. His long-standing commitment to the AFL-CIO has been marked by strong leadership and dedication to American workers.

Throughout the past 20 years, Mr. Knapp has provided strong leadership, demonstrating an ability to keep everyone on track and focused on achieving their goals. His dedication and his tireless efforts on behalf of the community are an inspiration to us all.

In recognition of his outstanding service and important contributions, I extend a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Bob Knapp on behalf of Colorado's 7th Congressional District. His legacy will inspire generations to come.

HONORING WALTER ATKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Walter L. Atkins, Jr.

Walter L. Atkins, Jr. was born November 10, 1972, to Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Atkins, Sr. in Clarksdale, MS. He was the first born of 4 children. In 1978, he moved to Darling, MS and resided there until 1990 with his parents and siblings.

Walter attended Falcon Elementary School and furthered his education by attending Quitman County High School and graduated in 1990. Walter joined the United States Army Reserve in 1989. Upon completion of his Basic and Advanced Individual Trainings, he furthered his education by attending Alcorn State University from 1991 to 1998. There he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Secondary Education in Biological Sciences. During his freshman year of college, tragedy struck with the sudden death of his mother.

Walter began his educational profession in the South Delta School District, where he served as a science teacher for 5 years. He left the profession for 3 years to pursue a career in auto sales. Fortunately, he returned to the profession that he so loved 3 years later in the Leland School District. In 2011, he joined the Drew School District where he served as a high school science teacher. The following year, the district consolidated with the Sunflower County School District to form the newly formed Sunflower County Consolidated School District. Walter left the classroom in hopes of becoming an administrator.

In 2012, he served as an assistant principal and shortly after principal of R.H. Bearden Elementary School in the West Tallahatchie School District. In 2016, he returned to his home county, where he took the position as high school principal of (formerly known as Quitman County High School) Madison S. Palmer High. Upon returning, he was given the task of raising the graduation rate to 95 percent. In 2020, the district was recognized by MDE for its 95.7 percent graduation rate

which placed the Quitman County School District in the top 10 of all school districts within the state of Mississippi.

In addition, he spearheaded and began a College Prep initiative that took the financial burden of paying for college courses from the parents. He served in that capacity for 6 years where the school made many educational strides and received recognition from MDE for its academic successes. He currently serves as the district's Director of Curriculum and Instructional Management. Walter is the proud father of 2 sons—D'Kedrianane and Jeremy, and has 2 grandchildren that he enjoys spending time with.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Walter L. Atkins, Jr., for he is a reflection of a hero.

IN MEMORY OF BILL RICHARDSON

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, the enchanted State of New Mexico, the United States and families seeking justice everywhere lost a statesman, a former Ambassador, Governor and Congressman.

Governor Bill Richardson is survived by our former First Lady of incredible grace, Mrs. Barbara Richardson.

In 1983, Governor Richardson began his public service career as the first Representative of the newly formed 3rd Congressional district. I stand on his shoulders, and am grateful for his sage advice on how to best serve this district.

As Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus he opposed cruel immigration policies and brought attention to Latino policy priorities.

As Governor, he recognized the importance of education and economic diversity as he raised teacher salaries and increased film production.

May we honor Richardson as a tenacious champion for New Mexicans, skillful diplomat and a committed public servant.

I include in the RECORD Linda Lynch's story on how Richardson rescued her husband held hostage.

17 years ago, this month, I flew to Khartoum with the late Governor Bill Richardson.

The mission was to free my husband, Paul Salopek, a journalist, from captivity in Sudan, along with his translator, Suleiman Moussa, and driver, Idriss Anu. Paul was reporting a story for National Geographic magazine when they were abducted on the western border of Sudan. On August 6, 2006, they disappeared for 10 days. When they surfaced, they had been traded for a box of uniforms and turned over to the Sudanese government. They were flown by helicopter deep into Darfur, separated, imprisoned, and charged by the government with "espionage, passing information illegally, and reporting false news."

I will never forget the day Governor Richardson telephoned me at home in Columbus, New Mexico offering help. At that time, I, together with Paul's editors at National Geographic and the Chicago Tribune, had scrambled to locate Paul and were grappling with how to get them out. Over the course of days, we worked an intricate web of contacts

and communications, 3:00 a.m. conference calls, check-ins with the State Department and congressional members. We also dispatched a message to the Governor that one of his constituents had been imprisoned in Sudan. Immediately, Governor Richardson picked up the phone and called me.

In that watershed moment, everything changed. Bill Richardson began his unique methodical and deliberate steps to bring Paul home. Unintimidated by despots or warlords, the Governor saw Paul in a familiar situation that he had adroitly handled before. Watching him in those urgent days that culminated in our flight to Khartoum, it became clear that he had a rare gift of intelligence, diplomacy, and magic. He never took a single success for granted, and it was his respect for the “stardust”—the alignment of the seemingly impossible—that made it all work.

It was 34 days before Paul, Suleiman, and Idriss would see their freedom, a shorter time fortunately than many others detained have endured, but every bit as vivid and terrifying and dangerous.

The day we crossed into north African air space I remember looking out over the vast sand of the Sahara while everyone slept, the anxiety of what would transpire more palpable as we approached Khartoum. As soon as we disembarked the Governor was whisked away to meet with President Umar Al-Bashir. Three hours later Governor Richardson emerged with a “Pardon” for Paul based on humanitarian grounds.

But Paul was not in Khartoum. He was 489 miles away. We would have to fly there to rescue him.

After a tense and uneasy night, the next morning we boarded a smaller aircraft and flew two hours into Darfur, a province ripped apart by arson and genocide. There, we waited all day. The provincial governor of Darfur was unhappy. He had not been consulted before the president pardoned Paul. I watched as Governor Richardson went to work again soothing the irritation, Paul, Suleiman, and Idriss were put through a 15-minute mock trial where their charges were read aloud. They were admonished but ultimately released. Governor Richardson had worked his magic again.

We returned to Khartoum at dusk with our prize of three and left several hours later for New Mexico with Paul. Suleiman and Idriss were reunited with their families in Chad. The whole excursion took only 48 hours.

For all the admirable things Governor Richardson accomplished in his distinguished lifetime of public service, I believe it was his extraordinary diplomacy that he would most want to be remembered for, that, and the stardust that so often aligned for and with him.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH
FUNCHESS, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elizabeth Funchess. Elizabeth is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 8G, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

The multiyear journey to the Eagle Scout Award is one of the most involved and trans-

formative experiences a young person can have. They try new things through the merit badge program, develop confidence in the outdoors, practice leadership tactics, and plan, develop and give leadership to a service project that benefits their community. For Elizabeth's Eagle Scout service project, she, built 2 picnic tables that convert into benches for her church to have an outdoor classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elizabeth Funchess for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMENDING DIVISION CHIEF
KEVIN RITTENHOUSE FOR EX-
CEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE DUR-
ING HURRICANE IDALIA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my commendation for the outstanding performance displayed by Division Chief of Training Kevin Rittenhouse during Hurricane Idalia. His dedication and exemplary efforts went above and beyond the call of duty.

In the face of extreme adversity, Chief Rittenhouse demonstrated exceptional leadership, ensuring the safety and well-being of both his team and the affected community. His quick thinking and decisive action played a pivotal role in mitigating potential hazards and securing vital resources. Chief Rittenhouse was the area incident commander for the Hernando Beach area as storm surge was rising, structure fires were difficult to access due to flooding, and high-water rescues were being performed. Simultaneously, Chief Rittenhouse's home was being damaged by storm surge waters.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge Kevin's exceptional performance. We are immensely grateful for his invaluable contributions during this critical time. His actions embody the highest standards of professionalism and serve as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
FORMER MARYLAND CONGRESS-
MAN ROSCOE BARTLETT

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, who faithfully represented Maryland's 6th Congressional District for 2 decades, from 1993 to 2013.

As one of the longest-serving representatives in Maryland history, Congressman Bartlett and I have shared the honor of representing Western Maryland in the U.S. House of Representatives.

And while our politics differ, one of Congressman Bartlett's efforts that I strongly commend was to expand green energy and fight against climate change. As former Leader STENY HOYER once said, “Roscoe was green before it was cool to be green.”

Congressman Bartlett embodies the spirit of a true self-made American. Born a few years before the Great Depression and raised on a tenant farm in Western Pennsylvania, he persevered to become an engineer for the U.S. Navy, earn a Ph.D. in physiology, and serve as a Member of Congress. Beyond his congressional service, he is a loving husband and a devoted father of 10.

Today, we thank Congressman Bartlett for his service to this Nation.

RECOGNIZING JULY CONSTITUENT
OF THE MONTH MATTHEW REBELO

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Carlsbad resident and attorney Matthew Rebelo as my July Constituent of the Month. In his work assisting Afghan refugees through the legal challenges of gaining asylum, Matthew embodies the critical importance of supporting those who face violence—especially the women and children most often at risk.

For Matthew, this work is personal. In 2015 he immigrated to the United States from South Africa and relates his own experience with starting anew here to his desire to help others coming to the United States. A former barrister in South Africa, Matthew continued his legal career in the United States after obtaining his green card and passing the California bar exam. It's inspiring to witness Matthew's initiative in using his time and skills to assist on a pro bono basis those escaping the Taliban's violence.

I'm forever grateful to the members of our CA-49 community who dedicate their time and effort towards helping others in critical need. I'm proud to honor Matthew Rebelo as my July Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING VICKI HELFER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Vicki Helfer, recipient of the Colorado High School Counselor of the Year award.

As a counselor for Aurora Central High School, Vicki advises students to work through their assignments and supports them through the anxieties that come with graduating. Outside of her counselor responsibilities, she advocates on behalf of her students. Vicki has helped her students obtain gender-neutral bathrooms and has assisted in creating programs to support students whose first language is not English.

Vicki is a model mentor and an outstanding civilian. Her dedication to supporting our youth has undoubtedly led to the recognition she deserves. I congratulate Vicki for being named the Colorado High School Counselor of the Year and wish her continued success.

CONGRATULATING GRACE
VERGARA-MACTAL

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Vergara-Mactal, Executive Director of SEIU 1107, for her upcoming retirement and a career of service to Nevada.

Grace was born and raised in the Philippines where she earned her bachelor's degree and worked as a medical technician. Immigrating to the U.S. in 1989, her first job involved mopping floors for \$3.50 an hour, but she worked her way back into the health care field as a hospital lab technician. As a leader and organizer for her fellow lab workers, Grace was suspended from her job while circulating a petition. Undeterred, she pursued this activism, climbing from volunteer, to organizer, Organizing Director, Chief of Staff, and eventually leader of Local 1107.

As one of the foremost leaders of the labor movement, both in Nevada and across the country, Grace has been a tireless advocate for good jobs and quality services during her incredible 3-decade career. As Executive Director, she represents nearly 20,000 health care and public service workers across the state.

In this position, Grace has led with a commitment to mobilizing and empowering workers and families while fighting for economic, racial, and social justice. Her work focused on growing Local 1107, passing historic legislation, winning major contract battles, and building vital community coalitions. She also serves as Vice President and Executive Board Member of the Service Employees International Union, officer of the SEIU Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, and Executive Board Member of the Nevada AFL-CIO.

In addition to being an important union leader, Grace is a trailblazer in our community. As the first member of the AANHPI community to serve as an officer for Local 1107, she is an important representative for one of Nevada's fastest growing demographics. Grace has a particular dedication to developing and supporting worker leaders, especially workers of color in her leadership with SEIU Local 1107 and the Nevada AFL-CIO.

Grace often says that she will always be an organizer at heart, so I am confident that her retirement will not be the last that I see of her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Grace Vergara-Mactal on her outstanding service to Nevada and our Nation, and in congratulating Grace on her retirement.

THANKING MONET STRAUB FOR
HER SERVICE TO KANSAS

HON. JAKE LaTURNER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation for a member of my staff for her dedicated service to the people of Kansas. Monet Straub has been an invaluable member of my team since she joined my staff in 2017 when I was still serving as State Treasurer.

Monet has worked tirelessly as my Deputy District Director for the past 2½ years—helping thousands of Kansans from across the Second Congressional District navigate our federal agencies through high-quality and reliable constituent services.

From organizing the Topeka office to running Mobile office hours, Monet's dedication, patience, and hard work have been vital in ensuring the success of our district operation. Most importantly, Monet always put our constituents first and Kansans knew they could count on her to get the job done. I am grateful for Monet's positive attitude and dedication to service over these past 6 years. I wish her the very best and look forward to seeing her excel in her new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONSULATE OF
MEXICO IN FRESNO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno on the 213th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico and thank them for their significant contributions to the Central Valley.

The Consulate of Mexico in Fresno opened in 1931 to support the needs of Mexican agricultural workers located in the Central Valley. The mission of the consulate is to help Mexican citizens assimilate into the community and advance their rights while residing in California. For nearly a century, those working in the consulate have been dedicated to that mission, providing invaluable assistance to local immigrants including identification services, health guidance, and educational opportunities. The consulate connects local immigrants with the services they need to thrive.

Through their Mobile Consulate, which travels to different cities across the Central Valley throughout the year, Mexican immigrants have greater access to the over 30 services the consulate provides. The consulate is also focused on the educational outcomes of Mexican students.

Last year alone, the consulate, in partnership with other local organizations, granted more than \$45,000 in scholarships to 30 college students pursuing careers in public health. On this day, as we celebrate the independence of the Mexican people, I want to recognize the incredible contributions Mexican immigrants have made to our communities in the Central Valley and across the nation. As the son of immigrants, I understand first-hand the perseverance, determination, and sacrifice of immigrants who come to the United States in search of greater opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 213th Anniversary of the Independence of Mexico and thanking the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno for their dedication to the well-being of our Mexican community.

HONORING WORLD-RENOWN CONSERVATIONIST, THEO PAGEL WITH AMERICAN HUMANE/GLOBAL HUMANE'S KIESSLING INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR SPECIES CONSERVATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize heroic efforts on behalf of wildlife worldwide. American Humane, the first and most experienced national humane organization, which was created in 1877 to ensure the safety, welfare, and well-being of animals, has awarded Prof. Theo Pagel, CEO of the Cologne Zoo in Germany with the 2023 Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation. This award was created in honor of Wolfgang F. Kiessling, the founder of Loro Parque and global leader in conservation.

Prof. Theo Pagel has dedicated his life to ensuring the survival of countless species, and inspiring and educating generations of people. As the CEO of the Cologne Zoo, the former president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and Chair of the Reverse the Red Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Pagel has led significant change for animals both in the wild and in zoos. He was inspired at an early age by his father, also an animal lover, and started a breeding program in 1988 to save the endangered Bali Starling—a program he coordinated for nearly 20 years.

Pagel created sustainability strategies and guidelines for conservation education during his tenure as president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He approaches conservation through inspiring the public as well as leading high-level strategies on saving countless species from the very largest Asian Elephant to the smallest Asian songbird.

He has led a global charge to push back the effects of what scientists call a "Sixth Mass Extinction," with up to one million species at risk of disappearing forever.

Mr. Speaker, wildlife conservationists put the world first, wildlife first, the future first. They don't seek a hero's reward, a medal, or a prize. But they surely deserve it. Mr. Speaker, I ask today that we recognize the impact Theo Pagel has had on saving species, honor his work and acknowledge American Humane's Kiessling Prize as a way to shine a light on the important work of saving species for future generations to love.

CELEBRATING DAVID HECKER'S
40+ YEARS BUILDING THE LABOR
MOVEMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Hecker, the President of AFT Michigan on the occasion of his retirement. The tireless work he has put in to ensure our state has a strong public school system and the teachers to staff it is worthy of commendation.

David was born in the Bronx to a family of strong Polish roots. Both parents were proud union members and like many Jews of the era, were supporters of progressive politics. David and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, who is also a well-known activist, are longtime members of Shir Tikvah in Troy.

Aimed with a Masters degree from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD from University of Wisconsin, David began his work in labor when he joined Local 3220 in 1977, the union of graduate assistants at University of Wisconsin. After being elected president, David decided that building the labor movement would be his life's work. Subsequent experience with the Allied Industrial Workers, Michigan State AFL-CIO, and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO led to David taking a position at AFT Michigan, where he was eventually elected president in 2001. Since 2004, he has also been the Vice President of the National AFT.

David spent his time as President of AFT Michigan aggressively promoting the ideal that "K-12 public education is the foundation of our democracy". During his tenure, AFT Michigan organized many new locals representing thousands of new members and built deep partnerships with community allies. Notably, David was one of the co-chairs of the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children. This Coalition's report and legislative work resulted in legislation that saved the future of the Detroit Public Schools. David is also a co-chair of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition, a group of leaders brought together from business, labor, and the government to the same table to respond to our region's challenges and opportunities. No matter where he is, David is always working to bring people of all perspectives together to reach common goals that improve our region for all who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the lifetime of work David Hecker has contributed to the cause of public education. Within our state and around the country, children in our public schools have quality educators and better access to resources due in no small part to his tireless efforts. We are saddened to see him leave, but we know his activism will not stop in "retirement". I thank David for his significant contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE 112TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

I join all those celebrating this Day, memorializing the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911 that led to the collapse of the long-reigning imperial Qing Dynasty and foundation of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

Chinese Americans are a vital, valued, and vibrant community not only in my legislative district, but throughout our United States. I wish them and all observing this occasion, Godspeed, and a safe, happy, and momentous celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District, I'm privileged, humbled, and honored to commemorate the 112th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). May the friendship between our two Free Nations remain robust.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S PRISONERS OF WAR AND THOSE WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our Nation's prisoners of war and those who are missing in action.

"Though not here, their sacrifice is not forgotten" is the official phrase for the 2023 POW-MIA day that this year falls on September 15.

These heartfelt words serve as a reminder that there still are families that hope for the safe return of their loved ones that are missing in action and the wellbeing of those who were prisoners of war. Among those whose sacrifice will not be forgotten are over 130 Missing in Action service members and almost half a dozen of former Prisoners of War from Puerto Rico.

For Puerto Rican families, these words are more significant when we remember that families extend beyond the immediate relations of the spouse and children of the service member. The pain of the loss and the hope that the loved one will return to the "familia" spreads from the immediate nucleus into endless tree branches of the extended family. Conscious of this feeling it is important that we remember that while the missing served the Nation, hundreds of families miss them and plead that the sacrifice of their loved ones is not forgotten.

Puerto Ricans who were called to serve in distant lands under the most difficult conditions sacrificed everything, convinced that by fighting for the freedom of others they were preserving and guaranteeing the freedom, prosperity and democracy of their loved ones and of our country. Inspired by these ideas they performed feats of courage that surprised their enemies and earned them the respect of their brothers in arms and the recognition of their superior commands, creating a legacy of service that is difficult to emulate.

As time passes and the memory of the POW and MIA begin to fade, we run the risk of forgetting the sacrifice of the Missing in Action and the scars of their time as Prisoners of War. I encourage my congressional colleagues to make a solemn pledge to continually strive to never forget the honorable legacy of our POW and MIA and ensure that future generations never forget their sacrifice.

HONORING THE 2023 FLORIDA INVESTORS HALL OF FAME

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ten inventors who have

been selected as the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. To be named as an Inductee, these inventors were nominated by their peers nationwide and have undergone a thorough review by the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly impacting the quality of life, economic development, and welfare of their communities, the residents of Florida, and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. Its mission is to encourage individuals of all backgrounds to strive toward the betterment of Florida and society through continuous, groundbreaking innovation by celebrating the incredible scientific work that has been, or is being, accomplished in Florida and by its citizens.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors (living or deceased) who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and his or her invention should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized, or led to important innovations.

The 2023 Inductees constitute the ninth class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their groundbreaking discoveries have transformed medicine and health care, computer technology and semiconductors, optics and photonics, communications, nuclear energy, and modern color technology. They collectively hold more than 1,100 U.S. patents and come from across industry, academia, and government. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 68 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,100 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the residents of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2023 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame on this outstanding achievement. We are incredibly grateful to these innovators for their contributions to society and its constant revolutionization through their inventions. As the following ten inventors are inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame's growing community, I hope this may encourage future generations to strive toward this achievement and to continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2023 Inductees of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame are:

James L. Cairns: Founder and Executive Director of the Cairns Foundation, and CEO of Abyssal Systems, Inc., who is recognized for pioneering underwater electrical, fiber-optic connector technologies that allowed circuits to be successfully and seamlessly mated and demated reliably within the harsh environment of the deep ocean thereby revolutionizing subsea surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and ocean energy production.

Jason Eichenholz: Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Luminar Technologies, who is recognized for trailblazing innovations in laser and optics-enabled technologies, especially in lidar (light detection and ranging) applications advancing the self-driving vehicle industry; as well as fundamental product development and commercialization for early

cancer detection, environmental studies, and military explosives detection, among others.

David Finchbaugh: CEO of Technology Applications International, and CTO of Advanced Medical Innovations, who is recognized for breakthrough technologies reducing fatalities from catheter-associated urinary tract infections affecting millions worldwide; developing the world's first Nuclear Service Robot to help maintain, decontaminate, and refuel nuclear reactors; and devising the first imaging laser radar system.

Ophir Frieder: Professor at Georgetown University Medical Center's Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Biomathematics and the Department of Computer Science; Lead Science and Technology Advisor for Aurora Forge; and Chief Scientific Officer of Invariant, Inc. He is recognized for sustained and extensive innovations in scalable information processing systems, especially for developing behavioral health monitoring used to prevent self-harm/suicide, and predictive medical and well-being treatment methods to optimize treatment effectiveness while reducing negative side effects.

William Hauswirth: University of Florida Professor and the Maida and Morris Rybaczki Eminent Scholar Chair in Ophthalmic Sciences at the University of Florida's College of Medicine, who is recognized for groundbreaking advancements in gene therapy to prevent blindness, especially through pioneering the first gene therapy drug, Luxturna, to treat both adults and children with inherited retinal disease; as well as his work restoring vision to the functionally blind.

Daniel Joseph: Principal Illusion Integrator at Walt Disney Imagineering, who is recognized for landmark innovations in industrial design, special effects, and the integration of three-dimensional illusions, creating immersive and interactive experiences for museums and theme parks, especially at Disney theme parks around the world.

Jonathan Rothberg: Founder and Chair, 4 Catalyzer Corporation, who is recognized for pioneering next-generation human DNA sequencing that enables low-cost decoding of the human genome, which transformed life science research, healthcare, agriculture, and the development of biofuels; and for the revolutionary Swoop Portable Magnetic Resonance Imaging System making MRI accessible to every patient, regardless of income or resources.

Deepika Singh: CEO of R&D Investment Holdings and former CEO of Sinmat, Inc., who is recognized for seminal discoveries in chemical/mechanical polishing of a class of superhard semiconductors, significantly enabling the advancement of 5G communications infrastructure and defense electronics, as well as the manufacture of smartwatches, smartphones, and components for electric vehicles.

Krishna "Kris" Singh: Founder, President and CEO of Holtec International, who is recognized for extensive transformational innovations that provide the foundational structure for modern nuclear power energy, including systems and equipment, safe storage, transportation of spent fuel; as well as improved operations, safety and efficiency of nuclear power plants.

Gary K. Starkweather (Deceased): An American engineer who is recognized for inventing the world's first laser printer and lead-

ing the frontier of the field of color management technology, including Apple's ColorSync technology; as well as advancements in imaging for Microsoft and the film industry, especially as part of the digital effects team for the original Star Wars.

Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are encouraged to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN EK

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Genevieve Ek, known as "Jean" by her beloved friends and family. Jean passed away last month after a life full of love, friendship, and kindness.

She was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in December of 1941, growing up in Racine before moving to Two Harbors, Minnesota. She opted to stay in Two Harbors even after her family moved to Oregon because of the strong and lasting relationships she had built with her friends and the love of her life, Harold. Jean and Harold would go on to marry in 1963 and have 3 children—Adele, Lura, and John.

Jean was well known during her career in medical administration, helping mentor dozens during her tenure as she worked diligently to advance from receptionist to Executive Director of Crossroads Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Harold, their 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

While Jean will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her, her legacy of leadership, kindness, and compassion remains.

I am honored to commemorate the life of Jean Ek and wish her family and friends strength and peace in their grief.

CELEBRATING HOBSON ELLIS RODENBAUGH ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my warmest wishes to Hobson Ellis Rodenbaugh in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Hobson or Hobby as he is more affectionately known, was born in Hunterdon County on August 11, 1923. At 19, Hobby enlisted in the Army Signal Corps, serving in the Marshall Islands, Japan, and the Philippines during World War II. After being discharged, he came home to New Jersey where he married the Love of his life Virginia Mae Wands.

Hobby continued to express his passion for service by serving on the Clinton Town Council and as Police Commissioner. In his retire-

ment, Hobby joined the Union Township Senior Club of Hunterdon County and has served as both the Vice President and President of the organization. During his tenure Hobby has shared his passion for travel by arranging for the group to visit many locations around the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Hobby who should inspire us all. I wish to convey our appreciation for his years of service to our country and community. May he continue to touch the lives of many for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL C. HAYES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Michael C. Hayes.

Born on August 23, 1950, Michael was raised in Scituate, Massachusetts by his parents, Miriam and Robert Hayes. He attended Thayer Academy in Braintree and graduated from Boston College and Suffolk Law School. Infected with polio in 1955, Michael lived the remainder of his life in leg braces, serving as an inspiration to all and guiding his lifelong commitment to working for tolerance and acceptance of all people.

After graduating from law school in 1975, Michael, a third-generation lawyer, practiced law alongside his brother, Joe, and his cousin, John, and later went on to serve as an Assistant District Attorney for Plymouth County. After a short time in California, Michael returned to his hometown to practice law on Front Street in Scituate Harbor. Throughout his legal career, he always sought to help those in need. Not only did Michael establish himself as a pillar of the community through his work as an attorney, but he was also a devoted public servant.

First elected to the Scituate School Committee in 1988 in the wake of Proposition 2½ budget cuts, Michael proudly served Scituate's students until choosing not to run for re-election in 1994. He was recognized by the Scituate Town Meeting in 1995 for his "his untiring and diligent efforts to secure the funding necessary to support and maintain excellence in public education despite pressing economic constraints." Michael returned to the school committee in 1998 and oversaw the construction of the new Jenkins School and an extensive renovation of Scituate High School and championed the funding for programs dear to him, including the arts and the METCO program. In 2014, Michael chose not to seek re-election and took a step back to concentrate on his health. Ever committed to Scituate's schools, Michael returned once more, beginning his third tenure on the School Committee in 2016, which saw the opening of the new Gates School in 2017. Michael won his tenth and final term on the School Committee in 2019.

Sadly, Michael left us too soon on August 21, 2023, leaving behind his children Patrick, Lucy, and Fred, and his five granddaughters, Chelsea, Lena, June, Iris, and Willow. Michael was predeceased by his daughter Heidi Rose.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Michael Hayes, and I ask that my colleagues

join me in recognizing his life's commitment to serving his town and community.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S \$6 BILLION
IRAN PAYOFF

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the passage of the MAHSA Act, which is an important step in holding the Iranian regime accountable for its continued oppression of its own people.

However, we cannot ignore the Biden Administration's latest misstep in handing over \$6 billion to Iran.

Longstanding U.S. policy dictates that we do not negotiate with terrorists.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what President Biden did with this payoff, enabling Iran to continue threatening the security of the free world.

I've introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Solidifying Iran Sanctions Act with Foreign Affairs Chairman MCCAUL.

Our legislation will hold Iran accountable and prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran poses a serious threat to global stability and peace.

We need strength—not payoffs and appeasement—to deter future hostility from this rogue regime.

HONORING MR. LOUIS JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and selfless leader, Mr. Louis Johnson. He has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to make a difference.

Mr. Louis Johnson, affectionally known as "Bay Bay", is the winner of the first annual Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Bill Hetrick Community Service Award. The Bill Hetrick Community Service Award is named after Bill Hetrick, who served as a long-time board member and Past President of the Mississippi Sports Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Johnson, the former Chief of Police in Edwards, Mississippi for 39 years, parlayed his love of sports into coaching youth baseball and softball. He was able to coach while also giving the children in his community a positive role model to follow. When the number of kids playing baseball started to dwindle, Mr. Johnson started coaching basketball, and, at one point he was coaching 6 different teams at the same time. He has been a great asset to his community, and his work never goes unnoticed.

The Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame will honor Louis Johnson for his lifetime commitment to his community with this award during its annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, set for Saturday, July 29, at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Louis Johnson for his dedication and hard work in caring for the constituents in the State of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Conference of Western Wayne on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of their founding. The services that they have provided to 18 different communities in Western Wayne County are worthy of commendation.

The Conference of Western Wayne was created in 1978 to help integrate the local gov-

ernments of Western Wayne County. Encompassing 18 communities, 340 square miles and over 730,000 residents, the CWW coordinates 911 services and projects for the residents of Western Wayne. CWW also represents its 730,000 residents by meeting monthly to discuss issues such as transportation, public safety, community and economic development, the environmental health of the region, and legislation. The conference is constantly strategizing on potential legislation at the federal, state, and local level that impacts the communities of the conference. This constant discussion allows for the conference to identify areas where their communities can work together and support each other.

In 2016, the CWW was the first 911 Service District in Wayne County to implement Text to 911, a service that has done wonders for those who are deaf, mute, or those for whom English isn't their first language. On top of their 911 responsibilities, the CWW is also well involved in the communities they represent. The CWW oversees the Rescue Recovery project in partnership with Growth Works and Trinity Health to provide substance use services to those in need, with a primary focus on opioid abuse. Last year, the Western Wayne Rescue Recovery program met with over 1,100 clients, providing support through face-to-face and telehealth meetings, as well as coordinating services with healthcare providers and the court system. CWW also partners with local Youth Assistance Programs to help provide families and youth within the CWW region with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the achievements of the Conference of Western Wayne over the last 45 years. With the support of the CWW, the residents of Western Wayne County have had better response times to emergencies and have had access to a plethora of programs to enhance their daily life. We thank the CWW for all the support they provide to our Western Wayne communities and hope to see another 45 years of tremendous service to those in need.