

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HANNAH CASTILLO WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor exceptional female leaders throughout our Nation who have recently been recognized as “Christian Women of Distinction” by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Hannah Castillo, has dedicated much of her career to promoting Christian causes nationally. In the world of politics, Hannah is one of the youngest to have served a senior role on a presidential campaign. In 2016, she was named Campaign Manager of the Year by the San Diego County Republican Party and has contributed valuable advice to many. Today, Hannah is with Prayer House DC, a ministry dedicated to worship and community.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Hannah, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this extreme MAGA measure. The 260,000 dedicated men and women who served honorable on the frontlines protecting our Nation’s borders,

skies, waterways, and critical infrastructure are watching the House with great anxiety. They are just days away from being told that they will have to work indefinitely without pay or alternatively, will not be able to work at all and support their households. And when they turn their eyes to this chamber, what do they see? And what are House Republicans doing about it? Are they taking decisive action to forestall the devastating impact of the shutdown on DHS’ ability to carry out its vital missions? Regrettably, no.

Instead, consumed by infighting, they have decided to rally around an extreme MAGA DHS funding bill that will most certainly never be transmitted to the Senate. Yes, you heard that right. With the passage of the rule, at the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 4367, the Speaker will set aside this bill until H.R. 2, the “Child Deportation Act” is enacted. H.R. 2 will never be law.

Forcing the House to engage in prolonged debate on dozens and dozens of extreme MAGA amendments instead of a continuing resolution to avert a catastrophic government shutdown is a terrible waste of the little time we have. The most extreme wing of the Republican party has hijacked what was supposed to be an orderly appropriations process.

House Republicans go on and on about wanting to save money but they pay little mind to the hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, lost revenue, and late fees associated with shutting down and restarting the government. The U.S. travel sector alone is projecting economic losses in excess of \$140 million a day during this impending shutdown.

House Republicans say they care about the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol yet are asking them to work without knowing when their next paycheck will come. A government shutdown will negatively impact the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to address everything from cybersecurity threats posed by China to supporting disaster preparedness at the local level.

Mr. Chair, we do not have enough time to get into all the damaging effects of the forthcoming shutdown on DHS. They are too numerous. I will, instead, use my remaining time to talk about House Republicans’ proposed Homeland Security funding bill. It is so loaded with hyper-partisan culture war nonsense that I almost don’t know where to begin.

H.R. 4367 includes policy riders to restrict inspections on immigration detention centers to ensure that facilities that they want to fill to the rafters are providing appropriate care. Catering to the fringe elements in their base, it prohibits gender-affirming care for immigrants held in detention and slashes funding from critically-important oversight offices intended to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of Americans.

Mr. Chair, my Republican colleagues assert that their extreme MAGA bill would give more money than ever, but they have little interest in ensuring that that oversight mechanism are actually funded to make sure the money is not wasted. I urge my colleagues to vote against

this toxic, short-sighted, and needlessly cruel bill.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4365—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

As with all the additional appropriation bills up for consideration on the House Floor, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following:

It is disappointing this bill does not include funding for a new Southwest Border Contingency Fund. This fund would enable DHS to respond more effectively to changing conditions on the Southwest border and fulfill its critical and complementary missions of securing the border, performing efficient and effective screening and processing, and meeting the Nation’s humanitarian obligations.

It also shameful that this bill seeks to eliminate the Shelter and Services Program, a priority grant program for DHS that provides temporary food, shelter, and other services to state and local entities and nongovernmental organizations that provide support to migrants who are released from DHS custody. This grant program is a key mechanism for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to relieve overcrowding in short-term holding facilities.

This bill further fails to provide appropriations for USCIS application processing and grant programs. Without this funding, USCIS would be unable to improve its operations and the application processing backlog would continue to grow in FY 2024.

It is absolutely abhorrent that this bill eliminates the TVTP grant program. TVTP provides funding to nonprofits and to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop multidisciplinary targeted violence and terrorism prevention capabilities in local communities, to pilot innovative prevention approaches, and to identify prevention best practices that can be replicated in communities across the Nation.

Targeting violence and terrorism at our borders and throughout our Nation is the only way we will be able to combat the incredibly intricate and widespread webs of trafficking run by violent gangs and terrorists.

The ability to combat human trafficking and missing and exploited children depends on the ability of jurisdictions, organizations, and programs to receive government funding and support.

I also stand with the Administration in strongly opposing section 220 of the bill, which would prohibit U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from using appropriated funds to carry out the Administration’s immigration enforcement priorities, as well as 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.

requirement in the bill for ICE to fill 41,500 detention beds and enroll all nondetained migrants in Alternatives to Detention. These requirements are unrealistic, pose implementation challenges, and would dilute the Department's focus on protecting America from security threats.

This bill wrongfully eliminates funding for the Young Adult Case Management Program, as well as for Operation Horizon, and grant funds for a case management pilot program. These restrictions would simultaneously strain limited resources and remove valuable flexibilities in managing low-risk populations.

Prohibiting the transport of noncitizens to interior locations risks overcrowding at border processing sites and other DHS facilities, threatening to exacerbate life and safety concerns of those in custody.

Section 222 of the bill is also particularly harmful, which would make it more difficult to access lawful reproductive healthcare. I stand in strong opposition to this section, which targets LGBTQI + individuals who are in ICE detention.

This bill further prohibits the use of funds to implement the Administration's Asylum Processing Rule—which serves as a key part of the Administration's efforts to streamline the immigration system, allowing USCIS Asylum Officers to hear and decide certain asylum claims in the first instance.

I further oppose the bill's prohibition on using funds to implement the Administration's Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Rule. The Rule encourages migrants to use lawful, safe, and orderly processes for entering the United States; imposes conditions on asylum eligibility for those who fail to do so or fail to seek protection in a country through which they transit; and supports the swift return of migrants who do not have valid protection claims. The bill would undermine DHS's continued ability to safely, effectively, and humanely enforce and administer U.S. immigration law.

I also strongly oppose the bill's restrictions on using the CBP One application. A key part of the Administration's efforts to foster fair and orderly conditions at the border, the CBP One application allows border officials to screen migrants seeking asylum along the Southwest border, and issue them a document to appear in court upon their arrival.

Lastly, I oppose the homeland security appropriation bill for its rescission and reappropriation of \$2.1 billion in border wall funding. Building a border wall is not a serious policy solution nor is it a responsible use of Federal funds.

In addition, certain provisions of this bill raise separation of powers concerns, including by conditioning the Executive's authority to take certain actions on receiving the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

This bill does nothing to advance our ability to fund our government appropriately and responsibly. And it also does nothing to prevent a shutdown, which is what we should be focusing our time on preventing.

Aside from being built on a foundation of negating on the budget agreement that was just signed into law, the 2024 Homeland Security funding bill squanders billions of dollars on misguided border measures, while disregarding the threats presented by terrorists, transnational criminals, and violent extremists.

As outlined above and summarized below, this legislation:

Wastes over \$3.7 billion on ineffective border security and immigration policies, while failing to address the ongoing fentanyl and opioid crisis and doing nothing to address the growing requirements at our ports of entry and interior Border Patrol checkpoints—thus, providing a false sense of national security by spending billions on outdated and expensive border wall, leaving our ports of entry and interior Border Patrol checkpoints vulnerable to the trafficking of fentanyl and other illicit narcotics.

Eliminates critical funding for CBP's border management requirements, \$2.4 billion below 2023 levels, and fails to fund a third Joint Processing Center—thus, cutting necessary funding to manage the border safely and securely, putting our DHS workforce and our border communities at risk.

Cuts requested funding to combat terrorism, extremism, and cybersecurity attacks by over \$232 million—thereby, weakening our national security through inadequate cybersecurity and infrastructure security investments, opening the U.S. to increased cyberattacks and foreign adversary influence and failing to protect our communities from violent extremists, underfunding programs that enhance regional preparedness and response capabilities, making our communities less secure.

Guts funding for climate-change, climate-resiliency, and facilities transformation initiatives by over \$748 million—thus, leaving Americans vulnerable to the growing number and increasing severity of natural disasters by failing to deliver needed resources to mitigate the loss of life and property, combat climate change, and support climate resilience.

Reverses our commitments to the TSA workforce cutting funding for workforce pay and collective bargaining initiatives by over \$469 million from the request—thus, undermining the Transportation Security Administration workforce by unfairly implementing the pay restructuring we committed to last Congress.

Slashes funding for humanitarian programs by over \$796 million, including family reunification efforts, immigration detention oversight, the Citizenship and Integration Grant program, and refugee processing—mandating ICE maintain no less than 41,500 detention beds and requires all individuals on the non-detained docket enrolled into the Alternatives to Detention Program be on GPS monitoring program throughout the duration of their immigration proceedings without the funding to implement.

Reduces funding for diversity and inclusion efforts by over \$12.5 million—thereby, setting us back as a nation not only in critical recruitment and retention, but in our morals, standards and liberties as Americans representing and fighting for and on behalf of a nation that can only elevate through advancements in diversity and embracing inclusivity.

This offensive and irresponsible appropriations bill is a shameful effort to target underserved, underrepresented, and vulnerable populations while only weakening our Nation's defenses and resiliency.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING CHARMARINE HEDDING WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor exceptional female leaders throughout our Nation who have recently been recognized as "Christian Women of Distinction" by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Charmaine Hedding, is a global development manager in the non-profit sector. In this role, she focuses on the protection of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East and Africa. A fierce proponent of religious freedom, she has also assisted in many humanitarian projects, including the evacuation of over 9,000 people from Afghanistan. Today, she also consults for government agencies, authorities, and faith-based organizations.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Charmaine, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF RICHARD CALABRESE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief Richard Calabrese who is being honored by Temple Sinai in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, for his unwavering commitment to community safety and combating antisemitism.

Richard has been the epitome of service both in his professional and personal life. After serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, he began his long career in law enforcement with the Camden County Park Police before eventually joining the Cinnaminson Township Police Department in 2004. For eight years, Richard took the time to enhance his skills within the computer forensic

investigation field, and soon after was promoted to Sergeant within the Department. Richard's leadership did not end there, and he continued to rise through the ranks as Lieutenant, Internal Affairs Commander, and eventually, Chief of Police in 2019.

No matter the role, our community has seen Richard be there to ensure each and every person feels safe and respected. His work with Temple Sinai specifically goes to show that, for him, his work is more than a job—it is about public service, and building a community we can continue to be proud of. Not only has he served his neighbors in times of emergency, but he took extra time to ensure the synagogue had proper security systems in place, and train community members on how they can stay safe in a crisis. While fulfilling all the day-to-day duties of his job, it is certainly also true that Richard has become a pillar of trust and leadership to those around him.

As we see a rise of antisemitic incidents across the country, we are collectively reminded that it is on us to continue pushing back against harmful bigotry that seeks to divide us and incite violence. I hope more people will follow in Richard's footsteps and work together to make sure everyone feels safe and welcome in our communities.

We are grateful to Richard for his dedication to public safety and for working to create a society that looks out for one another, regardless of our differences. I wish him all the best as he is deservedly honored by Temple Sinai for his outstanding contributions to New Jersey's 3rd District.

HONORING THOSE FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE MARINE BARRACKS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON ON OCTOBER 23, 1983

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those service members who died on October 23, 1983 when the Marine barracks was blown up in Beirut, Lebanon by two terrorists from Hezbollah.

There were 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers who died on that ill-fated day.

A few minutes later in a coordinated attack, another suicide bomber blew up the French barracks just a few blocks away killing 58 French paratroopers.

In the summer of 1983, the Reagan Administration approved the deployment of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) from the world-renowned Camp Lejeune, which is in my congressional district.

This deployment was at the request of the Lebanese government, and the battalion landing team (BLT) was First Battalion Eighth Marines, now known as "The Beirut Battalion".

Their mission was a peacekeeping one. The Beirut Memorial in Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, North Carolina has this sentence forever etched in stone,

"They came in peace".

They were there to help bring peace to the war-torn city of Beirut, Lebanon.

These American service members and the French paratroopers paid the ultimate sacrifice for their beloved nations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of these noble men. Many who still live in my congressional district today.

God bless them for keeping the faith and enduring the loss of their loved ones. May they never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include in the RECORD the poem on the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, North Carolina as it is fitting to do so on this solemn occasion.

"THE OTHER WALL" BY R.A. GANNON

It does not stand in Washington
By others of its kind
In prominence and dignity
With mission clear defined.
It does not list the men who died
That tyranny should cease
But speaks in silent eloquence
Of those who came in peace.
This Other Wall is solemn white
And cut in simple lines
And it nestles in the splendor
Of the Carolina pines
And on this wall there are the names
Of men who once had gone
In friendship's name to offer aid
To Beirut, Lebanon
They did not go as conquerors
To bring a nation down
Or for honor or for glory
Or for praises or renown.
When they landed on that foreign shore
Their only thought in mind
Was the safety of its people
And the good of all mankind
Though they offered only friendship
And freedom's holy breath
They were met with scorn and mockery
And violence and death
So the story of their glory
Is not of battles fought
But of their love of freedom
Which was so dearly bought
And their wall shall stand forever
So long as freedom shines
On the splendor and the glory
Of the Carolina pines.

God bless them and their outstanding families. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SO SO DEF RECORDS AND ITS FOUNDER JERMAINE DUPRI

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the coming 30th anniversary of So So Def Records and its founder, Jermaine Dupri. On October 12, 1993, So So Def released 'Hummin Comin' at 'Cha by Xscape, officially debuting one of Hip Hop's greatest producers.

As we know, Atlanta Influences Everything, especially music. Originally from Atlanta's southside, Grammy Award-winning artist, songwriter, and producer Jermaine Dupri founded So So Def Records in 1993. Over the past 30 years, So So Def has welcomed people to Atlanta, and become one of the music industry's most successful and influential labels. Serving as the home for artists like Da Brat, Xscape, Bow Wow, Anthony Hamilton and Jagged Edge, So So Def Records have dominated the airways with a young and refreshing sound.

Through his work at So So Def Records, Dupri has produced and shaped the sound of modern hip-hop and R&B music of the 2000's. His talent and dedication have earned him highly coveted awards and accolades, including induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018.

The party continues with So So Defs successes beyond music. Dupri's infectious work ethic built a culture of innovation and creativity within the label and the city of Atlanta. His tireless work to develop, mentor, and introduce new talent pushed the boundaries of what was possible in the music industry. Dupri and So So Def's musicians led the charge behind a cultural shift in music, showing the country Atlanta's deep love and appreciation for Hip-Hop—and that the South has something to say.

Beyond his work at So So Def, Dupri has also been a dedicated philanthropist, using his platform to support numerous charitable organizations and causes. He has been known for the use of his talent and resources to spread a wealth of knowledge to not only upcoming artists, but also his community and supporters at large. A longtime advocate for youth empowerment, Dupri has supported Boys and Girls Clubs of America and City of Hope, creating opportunities and providing resources to ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive, no matter your race, bank account, or ZIP Code. He has also stood as a longtime advocate for social change in the Black community, working closely with the Social Change Fund, a charitable initiative aimed at providing support and solutions for problems that have continued to affect the Black community. Dupri's philosophy of bridging gaps of service has become his calling card far past his contributions to music.

As a beloved figure in his hometown of College Park, he has been a cornerstone in shaping the foundation of the city's cultural landscape. He has been a leader and advocate for Atlanta's music scene and has helped to put the city on the map as a cultural mecca for hip-hop, R&B, and all things entertainment. Dupri has spearheaded the growth and development of modern Black entertainment and a generation of talented and influential musicians. His dedication and investment into our city and our people are a testament to his character and his commitment to raising a community up with him.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of So So Def Records, I would like to take a moment to recognize Jermaine Dupri for his contributions to the music industry and his commitment to Atlanta. His perseverance and imagination have shaped the last 30 years of hip hop, and we know there's at least 30 more years to keep building his legacy. On behalf of the people of Atlanta, we say . . . Thank You to Jermaine Dupri.

RECOGNIZING RILEY GAINES WHO SHE LEADS AMERICA IS HONORING AS A CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor exceptional female leaders throughout

our Nation who have recently been recognized as “Christian Women of Distinction” by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Riley Gaines, is a brave spokeswoman for fairness in women’s sports. Riley is no stranger to me or my team—a recent graduate from the University of Kentucky and 12-time NCAA All-American swimmer, she gained recognition after tying against Lia Thomas at the NCAA championships. She began the Riley Gaines Center, which has since led a movement to protect and support women’s sports. To many athletes, her work is an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Riley, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH 2023

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month 2023. Each year from September 15th to October 15th, Americans across the country recognize and celebrate the history and culture of those individuals whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This observance was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The month encapsulates celebrations of independence for many Latin American countries. September 15th is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th.

This year on October 3rd, Gwinnett County will celebrate a Heritage Night Celebration in observance of Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the county. As the representative for Georgia’s most diverse and fastest-growing congressional district, it is my privilege to uplift the Latino community and celebrate their contributions to this district, the Nation, and the world.

In every facet of our daily lives, Latino leaders have made an indelible mark on this country and created a more perfect union for us all. These contributions take form in creative talents, culinary offerings, and civic development and leadership. Our community is well represented by artists, business owners, and elected officials whose Hispanic heritage enhances the diversity of our community and enriches the moral fiber of our nation. I am proud of their countless contributions to our country’s story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that these Americans play in our society and in Georgia’s Seventh Congressional District in particular.

While we continue to celebrate the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we celebrate the power and pride of our Latino community in Georgia. As a representative of our state, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day. On behalf of myself, the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF HENRY CHESTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Henry Lewis Chester of Fort Worth, Texas, who passed away on August 12, 2023.

Mr. Chester was born on April 9, 1948, in Los Angeles, California to Henry Lewis Chester, Sr. and Robbie Lenora Chester. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Army Band during the Vietnam War. After returning home, Mr. Chester attended California State University, Dominguez Hills and later received two master’s degrees in special education and rehabilitation counseling.

In 2007, Mr. Chester moved to the Lone Star State and worked as a counselor for the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center in Dallas, Texas. He married his wife Darlene, and together, they raised four amazing children and have many more grandchildren. Mr. Chester was very passionate about music, and he often worked as a substitute teacher in the music department at H.F. Stevens Middle School in Crowley, Texas. He also helped supervise band competitions and participated in numerous city bands in the Fort Worth metroplex during his free time.

Furthermore, Mr. Chester was a devoted man of faith. He regularly attended the Greater Saint Stephen First Church and was also a member of the Carter Metropolitan CME Church in Fort Worth. In these churches, Mr. Chester sang as part of a mass choir. He also frequently volunteered at his local food pantries to assist those in need. Those who knew Mr. Chester can attest to his care for family and community, and his loved ones truly cherished every moment with him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize Mr. Chester’s remarkable life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING STANLEY “STAN”
AUSTIN RANSOM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley “Stan” Ransom, an esteemed musician and historian.

Stan was born in Winsted, Connecticut on January 24, 1928. After graduating from high school in 1945, he attended Yale University on a full scholarship. Stan enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946, achieving the rank of Corporal while serving in Japan. After his military service, Stan returned to Yale to complete his BA in Intellectual History, English, and Sociology. Stan earned his Masters Degree in Library Services from Columbia University in 1953 and worked for the New York Public Research Library.

In 1956, Stan began working for the Huntington Public Library, first as Assistant Director and later as Director. In 1974, he was named Director of the Clinton-Essex-Library System in Plattsburgh, a position he held for seventeen years. Stan retired briefly before serving as the Director of the Plattsburgh Public Library from 2007 to 2012, for which he secured grant funding to upgrade computers and created a program to teach computer skills to local residents.

Stan has nurtured a love of professional folk singing and storytelling. Developing his talents as a folk singer, known as “The Connecticut Peddler,” he recorded twelve albums of folk music from around New York State. Stan has performed at public libraries, children’s centers, local nursing homes, and assisted living facilities across the North Country.

Stan’s historical research uncovered the works of an obscure slave and poet named Jupiter Hammon, who wrote poems in the 1700’s in the Huntington area. Stan published a book of Hammon’s poetry in 1970, earning him an Award of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. Stan established October 17th, Hammon’s birthday, as “Black Poetry Day” in 1970, a holiday officially recognized by New York State in 2022.

Stan is an active member of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, Sons of the American Revolution, Toastmasters Club, and serves as the Secretary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. He and his wife Chris have been integral members of the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee since 2000, providing 19th-century children’s games for the annual Commemoration. Stan also performs music from the early 19th century throughout the Celebration weekend.

Stan has received countless awards recognizing his contributions to brotherhood, libraries, history, intellectual freedom, and folklore. In July 2019, he was honored by the Clinton County Senior Center in their “Six Over Seventy” Award series.

On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I wish to recognize Stanley Ransom for his lifetime of service to this Nation, to the preservation of history, and to the arts.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH DOYLE
WHOSE MISSION IT IS TO HONOR
WOMEN OF FAITH THROUGHOUT
AMERICAN SOCIETY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Doyle, an exceptional leader in faith and in her community.

For over 50 years, Elizabeth Doyle has been a tremendous inspiration to many. In 1972, Elizabeth began her speaking career in Belfast, Ireland, at the height of the Troubles conflict. It was there that she met her husband, Syd, who joined her in pioneering and leading three churches throughout Southeast England.

After 25 years in Southeast England, Elizabeth and her husband moved to the United States and started Nations Light Ministries, an organization dedicated to training leaders across the world. Elizabeth also founded Releasing Daughters of the Last Days, which has led her to over 50 countries across 6 continents. This organization inspired tens of thousands, oftentimes divided by terrorism or civil war, to find their faith.

Today, Elizabeth continues to inspire many throughout the nation by serving as Executive Director of She Leads America. Alongside Michigan State Representative Nancy DeBoer and Sylvia Williams, Elizabeth honors Christian women of distinction for their accomplishments across every professional sector.

Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth's remarkable journey is an inspiration to us all. In times of anguish, her spirit and devotion to the Lord has lifted me up. We are all deeply grateful for the wonderful work of Liz and her team as they continue to honor impactful women of faith everywhere.

SUPPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL LEADING ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS THROUGH DIVERSITY MONTH

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise in support of designating the Month of September as "National Leading Entertainment and Arts through Diversity Month" or "National LEAD Month."

Despite growing diversity in the United States, minorities and communities of color remain underrepresented in the television and film industries.

Although Hispanics make up 18 percent of the population, we hold about 12 percent of the jobs in the media industry. Greater diversity on and off-screen is critical to promote the lived experiences of marginalized groups.

Through authentic storytelling, diverse representation provides audiences with narratives they can better empathize with. That's why I'm a cosponsor of House Resolution 191, which recognizes the need for diversity in the entertainment industry and establishes September as National LEAD month.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution on this critical issue.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
ROBERT SIENKIEWICZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a philanthropic leader and revered member of the Buffalo community, Robert "Bob" Sienkiewicz. A proud graduate of University at Buffalo's political science program. Bob is not originally from the area, but he has called Buffalo his home ever since his college years.

Bob has a passion for ensuring the beauty of our community by fighting to maintain the original design of its neighborhoods. As houses and buildings throughout the City of Buffalo began to deteriorate in the 1980s, he became Executive Director at the Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Housing Service. Indeed, his commute to the office on Fillmore Avenue was nearly non-existent—he lived just a few houses down the street. Bob's success with NHS is clear; they keep asking him back in new capacities to share his wisdom and experience. He continued as President and is now back on the board. In 1994, his work with NHS led to a position as the Director of Housing for the Mayor of Buffalo's task force. Bob has also worked as a legislative assistant for the Buffalo City Council, worked for the New York State Department of Health, and sits on the boards of the Polish Community Center, the Broadway Market, the Plewacki Post, and the Nature Sanctuary Society of WNY. He recently donated 50 acres to the Nature Sanctuary Society, only further cementing his legacy within our community.

Every part of the City of Buffalo and its growth has been influenced by Bob, and all its citizens owe him an incredible debt of gratitude. Our neighborhoods remain prosperous and rooted in history due to his lifetime of efforts. As a political volunteer and friend of many, Bob's face is one of the most recognized in Western New York. Though his presence on various boards and organizations is irreplaceable, as a nature-lover, everyone hopes that he will take more time to enjoy the very nature that gives him so much joy. On behalf of a grateful community, it is my honor to recognize Robert Sienkiewicz as his friends and family reflect on his incredible career of public service.

HONORING SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS
GENE WESLEY BEAUCHAMP

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Colusa County resident Gene Wesley Beauchamp who tragically passed away earlier this year at the age of 75 years old.

Gene was an exceptional member of our community; he was deeply devoted and loyal

to our nation. He could always be found helping others. Gene was a truly selfless servant and will be missed by all.

Gene was born August 14, 1948, to Leonard and Lona Beauchamp. He attended local schools, graduating from Colusa High School. On October 3, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he would serve 3 years of active duty and 3 years in the reserves.

From 1968 to 1969, Gene served in Vietnam as a Helicopter Aircraft Mechanic. He was trained on several army helicopters and even acted as crew chief. Gene was one of our nation's most highly decorated servicemen, being awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for valor, a Purple Heart and fourteen Air Medals.

After his military service, Gene came back to Northern California and attended Chico State University. After which he would return to his family's rice farm in Colusa County. In 1975 he married his wife, Lana, and they raised a family on the rice farm in the very same home he grew up in.

After retiring from farming, Gene could be found volunteering with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2441 and the American Legion Post 218. During his time with these organizations, Gene could be found serving at fellow veterans' funerals, carrying the American flag in parades or local football games, and participating in ceremonies honoring the U.S. military and our treasured veterans.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Lana Beauchamp; his children Lance and Kimi, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. In honor of his outstanding military career, Gene will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. His presence will be greatly missed in our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARRIOTT'S

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Chuck and Debby Garriott.

Reverend Charles "Chuck" Michael Garriott and Deborah "Debby" Cacace Garriott met while they were both in high school and married January 26, 1974, in Pikesville, Maryland, both at the age of 20. Their marriage has brought about the blessing of four children and seven grandchildren. Their son Phillip and his wife Brooke Garriott have four children: Blevin, Kiefer, Hazel, and Harper. Their daughter Katie and husband Tony Yang have three children: Avery, Linus, and Cason. Their daughter Anna lives in Washington, D.C., and their son Peter in Los Angeles, California.

Chuck and Debby have used their life together to invest in friends and family. Chuck served as a pastor in Oklahoma for many years and has served as the Executive Director of Ministry to State, a ministry that has invested in the spiritual lives of our leaders in the Nation's Capital, since 2004. Debby cares for patients as a physical therapist while also investing in the lives of men and women through Ministry to State.

They enjoy spending time with their family and at the beach. Debby enjoys her community garden plot and Chuck enjoys writing and

keeping busy with his hands. They count it as a privilege to have spent their entire married life in Christian ministry sharing the love of Jesus.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD C.
VARA

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 44½ years of service and dedication of Houston's own Judge Richard C. Vara, a trailblazer who was the youngest person to be elected Justice of the Peace at that time.

Judge Vara grew up in the historic east end of Houston, graduating from Austin High School, the University of Houston, and South Texas College of Law.

The Judge got his first encounter with politics by going to LULAC meetings with his parents. This sense of service to the Latino community remained with him throughout his career.

Both in the courtroom and in the community, Judge Vara has exemplified public service and commitment to bettering his community.

He has created and volunteered for countless organizations in Houston, all aimed at improving the lives of those around him.

Please join me in congratulating Judge Richard Vara for his many years of service. Felicidades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 417.

HASC HEARING ON EXAMINING IRREGULARITY IN THE STRATEGIC BASING PROCESS FOR U.S. SPACE COMMAND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America is grateful for the leadership of Chairman MIKE ROGERS of Alabama for his vision and persistence to support the creation of U.S. Space Command along with President Donald Trump. This recognizes the threats of dictators, war criminal Putin and the CCP who have developed capabilities in space to threaten American families—we can achieve peace through strength.

It is sad when political interference controls basing, not first the priority of national security.

In South Carolina, we experienced this as the Charleston Naval Base was re-located to New Hampshire. The obvious advantages of Charleston with a temperate climate of unlim-

ited operations was ignored as the then Senate Majority Leader was from Maine with his constituents commuting to New Hampshire.

Congressman AUSTIN SCOTT is correct. Now Politics determines where the missions go. This is a dangerous game, with national security to suffer.

HONORING HEALTHLINC CEO BETH
WROBEL

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Ms. Beth Wrobel and wish her well upon her retirement as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HealthLinc. For her lifelong commitment to providing quality health care to communities throughout the region, she is to be commended.

In 2002, Ms. Wrobel became CEO of HealthLinc. At the time, HealthLinc was a single, free medical clinic serving the local community. Under her direction, HealthLinc expanded its medical services to include pediatrics, women's health, and prenatal care, while also adding service lines including dental, optometry, behavioral health, substance abuse, podiatry, chiropractic, clinical pharmacy, health insurance enrollment, medical legal partnership, and more. The organization continues to grow and is comprised of twelve clinics across Northern Indiana, as well as two school-based telehealth clinics, one mobile medical and dental clinic, and a team of more than 490 employees. As CEO, Ms. Wrobel has worked tirelessly to ensure the accessibility of affordable, quality care to countless individuals and families who are underinsured, uninsured, or unable to pay. For her outstanding dedication to the people of Northern Indiana, especially those most in need, Ms. Wrobel is worthy of the highest praise.

In addition to her noteworthy career, Ms. Wrobel has offered her time and support to numerous foundations and organizations throughout the years. Among her many leadership roles, Ms. Wrobel has served on the board of directors for the National Association of Community Health Centers, and she currently serves as trustee for Ivy Tech Community College's Valparaiso Campus. She is also a member of the board of directors for the Indiana Primary Healthcare Association.

Ms. Wrobel's dedication to serving the residents of Northern Indiana is exceeded only by her love and devotion to her three sons, Chris, Tom, and David, her daughter-in-law, Heather, and her cherished grandson, J.J. I wish her quality time with her family in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Beth Wrobel for her unwavering commitment to improving health care throughout Northern Indiana and beyond and in wishing her well upon her retirement. For her many remarkable contributions, Ms. Wrobel is worthy of our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO REP. DAVID MACK III

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a passionate civil rights advocate, trusted community voice, and humble public servant. South Carolina State Representative David James Mack III transitioned from this life on September 20, 2023, in Charleston, South Carolina. He will be well remembered and sorely missed.

David Mack III was born on December 13, 1953, in Charleston, South Carolina to David J. Mack, Jr. and Dorothy Mack. Representative Mack attended Charleston public schools and pursued higher education at Howard University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975. There he joined Omega Psi Phi, my own fraternity, which he credited with having played a pivotal role in shaping his values and his work throughout his life. He embodied the cardinal principles he learned as a proud member of our Omega brotherhood: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

The value of community service was instilled in Representative Mack early in his life. After graduating from Howard, he returned to Charleston and began working at the Committee on Better Racial Assurance (COBRA). At COBRA, he dedicated himself to the organization's mission of bringing about equality in the Charleston community and providing services for individuals and families with Sickle Cell Anemia. Representative Mack served at the organization for 47 years in various capacities, including Part-Time Assistant Director, Coordinator of Sickle Cell Services, and Part-Time Hemoglobinopathy Counselor. He also served on COBRA's Board of Directors until his passing.

In addition to his work at COBRA, Representative Mack served the Charleston community in numerous ways. He worked with the Carolina Youth Development Center and served on the Boards of Directors of the Opportunities Industrialization Center and the South Carolina Substance Abuse Commission. He was also a passionate civil rights advocate and served on the Board of the South Carolina Coalition for Black Voter Participation. He was a member of the North Charleston Branch of the NAACP and Charleston Chapter of Rainbow PUSH.

Representative Mack was a firm believer in the notion that knowledge is power and relished the opportunity to communicate important information to the people of Charleston. He became the host of the WPAL Radio station talk show "Open Rap" in 1979, and "Drive Time Dialogue" in 1986. At Sunrise Communications of Charleston, where Representative Mack served as president, he created the PM Urban Edition talk show. Most recently, David created The David Mack Radio Show where he had conversations with civil leaders, academics, and health professionals in the Charleston community.

Representative Mack was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives for District 109 in 1997 and served in the South Carolina General Assembly for 24 years. Deeply respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, he served with distinction on the

Labor, Commerce, and Industry; Judiciary; and Medical, Military, and Municipal Affairs committees. He was also a proud member of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman.

A man of faith, Representative Mack was a longtime member and leader of the historic Old Bethel United Methodist Church in downtown Charleston. He was beloved by his family, and together with his wife Sheryl Ann they had 3 sons—David IV, Brandon, and Daniel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Representative David Mack III. The entire Charleston community and the state of South Carolina is grateful for his lifetime of public service. He leaves a rich legacy that will continue to touch generations of South Carolinians for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 to H.R. 4365—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 is an important and potentially life-saving amendment in an unfortunate and distracting appropriations bill.

Namely, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 seeks to allocate \$10 million to fund Triple Negative Breast Cancer Research (“TNBC”).

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

Breast cancer accounts for 12.5 percent of all new annual cancer cases worldwide, making it the most common cancer in the world.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20-40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

There are few people in this country whose lives have not been touched by breast cancer.

Yet, there are persistent disparities in breast cancer incidence and death rates:

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States for Black and Hispanic women.

Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group.

Experts believe that it’s partially because about 1 in 5 Black women is diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, more than any other racial or ethnic group.

Compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are less likely to receive guideline adherent care and have an approximate 2-fold higher mortality incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer (“TNBC”) is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts for about 15–30 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States.

Due to its aggressive behavior, TNBC grows quickly and is more likely to have spread at the time it is found and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer.

TNBC cells do not contain (are “negative for”) three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers; therefore, there are limited treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer.

Patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians.

Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against TNBC.

Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of TNBC on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations about the underlying determinants driving the disparities.

It is necessary to promote TNBC education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle inequities within the health care delivery such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and survival.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90 would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

We all know, by the way, that breast cancer can affect both men and women.

The bad news is breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat.

Let me say that sentence again. Breast cancer has been just about as brutal on women in the military as combat.

More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the *Army Times*; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011. And according to that same study, more are suspected. It grows.

The good news is that we have been working on it, and I want to add my appreciation to the military. This amendment, however, will allow for the additional research needed.

As new young women come into the United States military, as women stay longer in the United States military, as women get older in the United States military, as women ascend to leadership roles in the United States military, these dollars provide research.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly

greater risk for contracting breast cancer, says Dr. Richard Clapp, a top cancer expert at Boston University who works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on military breast cancer issues. He says life in the military can mean exposure to a witch’s brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

So, my friends, I am asking that we do the right thing.

We are on the right track, we are on the right rail, we are on the right road.

But with the expansion of women in the military, I can assure you, for long life, a vital service that these men and women give, it is extremely important to move forward with this amendment.

Researchers have pointed to a higher use of oral contraception in the military than in the general population, and oral contraception has long been linked to breast cancer among women—an alarming factor that would ensure that this particular amendment would be a positive step forward.

Despite significant advancements in prevention, diagnoses and treatment, more progress can and must be made, not only to reduce the fatality rate of breast cancer, but also to research methods of prevention and ways to drastically reduce risk factors.

To this end, I have over the years been successful in winning passage of several Jackson Lee Amendments to the National Defense Appropriations Act in prior years to improve breast cancer research across the United States.

I am here today seeking support for the same amendment to provide increased funding for the Defense Health Program’s research and development by \$10 million. These funds would specifically address the issue of breast cancer in the United States military.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as Triple Negative Breast Cancer research funding.

Additionally, I have introduced H.R. Bo, the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Education Act of 2013, which focuses on expanding, intensifying, and coordinating programs for the conduct and support of research on triplenegative breast cancer, a type of breast cancer that is difficult to detect but disproportionately impacts African American and Hispanic women.

I am very proud of the work that I and Congress have done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

As a breast cancer survivor myself, I understand the toll which this destructive disease takes on patients and their family members.

Support and encouragement are invaluable resources to those battling

cancer, and spreading awareness of one of the most pressing health concerns can help minimize the burden on those currently fighting.

The men and women who are on the front lines or have already completed their valiant service to this country have many pressing issues and challenges they already must face; breast cancer should not be one of them.

Our service members fight and sacrifice for our freedoms.

Now, as lawmakers, we should be working to ensure to protect their lives and freedoms—not trying to take their rights away.

While the negatives of this defense appropriations bill disappointedly outweigh my positive amendment, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 90—notwithstanding my strong opposition and encouragement to vote down the underlying bill.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE
MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Modesto Irrigation District is celebrating 100 years of supplying clean, reliable power to our communities. Since the construction of the Don Pedro Dam and the coinciding establishment of the Don Pedro Powerhouse, Modesto Irrigation District has been providing the City of Modesto and the surrounding areas with power that has brought innovation, growth, and development to the region.

In 1919, a bill was introduced to provide for the development of power by irrigation districts. Governor William D. Stephens signed the bill into law May 21, 1919. Three days before the bill was to become effective, construction of the Don Pedro Dam and Powerhouse began.

On October 27, 1921, the first concrete was poured at the dam. With construction of both the Don Pedro Dam and Powerhouse underway, the decision was made for the plants to generate and distribute their own power. In 1923, Modesto Irrigation District raised its first power pole. It took determined, fearless people with incredible foresight to accomplish such an achievement despite the presence of a powerful and already established, competitive private utility.

Throughout the years, the successes of the retail distribution of power out of Modesto Irrigation District continued. In 1950, there was a net energy profit of \$1 million-a-year as shown

by the electrical department, and energy consumption increased 10 percent per year in the post-war years.

Due to being publicly owned and locally controlled, the Modesto Irrigation District could provide the people of Modesto and the surrounding area with lower energy rates than private utilities. These lower rates helped grow Modesto and the surrounding region in both the residential and industrial fields at a rapid rate.

Today, 100 years since the introduction of retail power in the region, Modesto Irrigation District serves an area of 560 square miles with electricity. This electricity is transmitted over 1,800 miles of power lines throughout their service area. The District relies on a diverse, balanced power resource mix to meet customers' needs. Embracing the latest technology and sustainable practices, Modesto Irrigation District continues to be a leader in the public power industry.

Through the courageous determination of their founders, Modesto Irrigation District evolved into a robust and self-reliant community-owned utility. On behalf of the people of California's 1311, Congressional District, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Modesto Irrigation District for 100 years of service and offer my sincerest wishes to their future.

RECOGNIZING SUICIDE
PREVENTION MONTH

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suicide Prevention Month. We know our country is in the midst of a severe mental health crisis, and people are struggling. After declines in the suicide rate from 2019 to 2020, the rates increased almost percent in 2021. Provisional data from the CDC shows that the rate is continuing to rise, up 2.6 percent from 2021 to 2022. According to this data, which is not yet final, we lost about 49,450 people to suicide in 2022.

This is a dire situation, but we have tools to help save lives and the opportunity to transform how we as a nation respond to suicide, mental health, and substance use crises. I am grateful to my colleagues for supporting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Formerly the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the 988 Lifeline has helped connect millions of individuals across the country with support and resources in their darkest hours. Since its transition to the 988—dialing code from the longer, 10—digit

hotline in July of 2022, the Lifeline has received almost 5 million contacts (through calls, chats, and texts). Vibrant Emotional Health, the administrator of the Lifeline, estimates that this number could reach 9 million in the next fiscal year (FY24).

We must ensure that anyone in crisis—regardless of the time of day, or where they are—has someone to talk to, someone to respond, and a safe place to go. Continued federal investment is critical for the 988 Lifeline to sustain the crisis care continuum and build out the call centers, as well as mobile crisis response teams and crisis stabilization facilities.

Suicide does not discriminate and impacts all communities, with some populations being at increased risk. For example, between 2018 and 2021, increases in age-adjusted suicide rates were highest amongst Native Americans (26 percent), with Blacks (19.2 percent) and Hispanics (6.8 percent) also experiences significant increases. Other disproportionately impacted populations include Veterans, people living in rural areas, LGBTQ people, middle-aged and older adults, tribal populations, and youth.

Vibrant estimates that about 80 percent of chat and text contacts are initiated by youth and young adults. We must meet children and adolescents where they are and ensure that chat and text capacity is strong enough to meet this great demand. To address mental health challenges among our youth, I will be reintroducing the Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention Act, which would help young people support their mental health by establishing a competitive grant program for middle and high schools to facilitate student-led suicide prevention programs.

A study from Pew Charitable Trusts earlier this year revealed that only about 13 percent of adults in the US are aware of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The 988 Lifeline represents a chance to change how our country supports those in crisis; it cannot reach its potential if most people are unaware of its existence, and of its numerous resources and supports it can offer them when they need them most. A coordinated, national suicide prevention public awareness campaign is necessary to educate people across the country of what 988 has to offer. That's why I will be reintroducing the Campaign to Prevent Suicide Act to support culturally competent advertisements across the lifespan.

Suicide prevention has long been an important issue to me. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me this month in raising awareness and supporting legislation that promotes mental health and suicide prevention to help save lives.