

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ARNOLD LOUIS GRAY WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present Arnold Louis Gray of Groesbeck, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Today we honor an exemplary citizen whose continued leadership beyond his active duty has cemented him as a pillar of his community.

In 1966, at the age of 24, Arnold joined the Army and began as a recruiter in New York. His resilience was tested in Vietnam. Amid the Tet Offensive, when a critical helicopter crew met a tragic end, he stepped up as a door gunner. Following Vietnam, during Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia, Arnold stood firm as a Team Commander of tanks at the German border. Throughout these times, he was recognized with commendations including the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Service Medals, among others. He attained the rank of Specialist 5, receiving his honorable discharge in 1969.

Upon returning stateside, he achieved a Bachelor of Business Administration from Sam Houston State University. Arnold and his beloved wife, Penny, reside in Limestone County, raising Brangus cattle. In his community, Arnold's commitment shines through. He's been influential in church activities, notably at the Groesbeck Methodist Church. The duo's dedication to youth is evident in their support for the Limestone County 4H, FFA, and agricultural programs.

A testament to his leadership, Arnold has served organizations ranging from the Limestone County Fair Association to the Groesbeck Masonic Lodge. His service earned him the Golden Trowel award. He's also been active in the American Legion, Tri-County Antique Tractor Club, and has been a driving force behind numerous local boards.

Arnold and Penny's contributions to Limestone County haven't gone unnoticed. They've been hailed as citizens of the year by the Groesbeck Chamber of Commerce, with October 12, 2021, named in their honor. To many, Arnold's wisdom and integrity make him the "Go-To Guy." When questions arise, often the question asked is, "what would Arnold do?"

For his unwavering service to the Nation and continued leadership in his community, I am honored to present the Congressional Veteran Commendation to Arnold L. Gray.

RECOGNIZING BERTHA RAMSEY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bertha Ramsey, a long-time resident of the City of Detroit, as she celebrates 100 years of life.

Born October 2, 1923, Mother Ramsey's loving parents instilled in her the values of patience and hard work, as they raised her and her 12 siblings in rural Laurel, Mississippi. Her compassionate nature shined through in everything she did, and she always held onto faith, especially in trying times.

A move to Detroit in 1942 was pivotal for Mother Ramsey. It wasn't merely a change of address. In Detroit, she witnessed the World War II era, the Detroit race protests of 1943, the milestones of the Civil Rights Movement, the profound impact of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion, Detroit's first Black mayor, and the groundbreaking election of Barack Obama. Detroit was also where Bertha's path crossed with Burnett Ramsey. Together, they raised 4 children in a home full of love. As the family tree expanded to 8 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren, Bertha emerged as the spiritual compass, always emphasizing the importance of faith and kinship.

Please join me in wishing Mother Bertha Ramsey a happy 100th birthday as we recognize her contributions to our community in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING DAVID M. BAIRD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David M. Baird for his selfless dedication and service to the veterans of Eastern Washington. On September 24, 2023, after 13 years of service as Director of the Spokane Veterans Center, David began a new journey as the Senior Social Worker at the Boise VA Medical Center in Idaho.

David is a Navy veteran and therapist with a distinguished record of service. In his role as director, he completely transformed the Spokane Veterans Center from a small, simple office to a much larger and more welcoming facility. As a result, the Vet Center—as it's known to those it serves in our community—is more equipped to keep the promise of supporting veterans than ever.

Under David's leadership, the Vet Center has become a model of best practices. It's home to top-notch social and psychological services, as well as readjustment counseling programs, all of which have received national recognition for the high level of compassion

and care they provide. On average, the facility serves more than 15,000 veterans who walk through its doors each year.

These programs offered at the Vet Center have served as a lifeline for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They connect veterans with one another in open, non-judgmental settings, removing the stigma that is too often a barrier to seeking help. They have also been crucial for Gold Star families who rely on the Center for bereavement counseling as they cope with the heart-piercing grief of losing a family member on active duty.

Mr. Baird also established new therapeutic practices and facilities, including the "Heroes Garden" on the Spokane Vet Center campus, which offers a safe place for peaceful reflection to veterans and Gold Star family members. Additionally, he created a Native American sweat lodge experience for veterans and family members that takes place four times a year. David accomplished all this while successfully implementing a first-in-the-nation childcare program for veterans seeking readjustment counseling appointments at the facility.

David's dedication and tireless efforts have made him invaluable to our community. He has volunteered countless hours as a mental health professional for the Honor Flight Association, partnered with nonprofit agencies to provide stress-reduction wilderness retreats for veterans, and served as the Veteran Entry Coordinator for Spokane's annual Lilac Festival Torchlight Parade—the largest Armed Forces Day Parade in the Nation.

The number of lives David has changed is too many to count. I am deeply grateful to him for his dedication to our veterans, our community, and the United States of America through the years. Mr. Speaker, as David enters this new and exciting chapter, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his incredible contributions and wishing him all the best.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, the Republican FY24 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act.

Less than one week before the government is set to shut down, House Republicans brought forward a slate of funding bills that have no chance of passing the Senate or being signed into law by President Biden. With this bill, Republicans have doubled down on their cuts to the critical rural programs America's farmers rely on. The bill was so extreme

● 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.

that nearly 30 Republicans voted against it when it failed to pass the House Thursday evening by a vote of 191–237.

In July, Republicans passed out of the Appropriations Committee an Agriculture appropriations bill that provides just \$17.2 billion—a funding level so low, it was last seen in 2007—and \$9 billion below what was provided in 2023. It slashes loans that provide support for distressed farmers and funds for rural electric cooperatives. It underfunds direct loans for water and waste removal, money that ensures rural Americans have access to clean drinking water, and cuts the cash value voucher in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), undermining more than 100,000 Minnesotans' access to nutrition assistance.

But Mr. Chair, it seems as though the bill passed out of the Appropriations Committee didn't go far enough. With the passage of the rule on Tuesday, an additional 14.15 percent across-the-board cut was implemented on every program contained within this bill. In addition, another \$1.2 billion was cut from the vital Food for Peace Program, a program that ensures people around the world have access to nutritious surplus food grown by America's farmers.

This bill also contains harmful and partisan policy riders meant to appease the most extreme right-wing members of the Republican Caucus. The bill reverses a decision by the FDA to allow mifepristone to be dispensed in certified pharmacies to patients with a certified prescriber, instead of only in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices. Mifepristone has been safely used by more than 5 million women over the last two decades for safe and effective medication abortion. Congress acting to overturn a science-based decision by the Food and Drug Administration is yet another attempt by the majority to limit women's access to reproductive health care.

Mr. Chair, this bill is dead on arrival in the Senate. Instead of using this final week of Fiscal Year 2023 passing bills that will never become law, House Republican leadership should have focused on keeping the government open for the American people.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL)
EMANUEL BARNABY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) Emanuel Barnaby's 45 years of service to The Doctors Company, the practice of medicine, California, and his country throughout his lifetime and career.

Mr. Barnaby was born in Ames, Iowa. His father was a contractor for the United States military during World War II, which caused the family to move around the Southern, and then Eastern parts of the country until they landed in Syracuse, New York. When Mr. Barnaby was 10 years old, his family moved to California and he graduated from Sacramento High School in 1954 at only 16 years old.

In 1956, Mr. Barnaby joined the United States Army, completed Army basic training, and spent time stateside before being stationed overseas for active duty. The same

year he married his wife, Jean Sanchez, and was stationed near Bordeaux, in the south of France. In late 1957, Mr. Barnaby was transferred from active duty to the United States Army Reserve, California Military District, in which he would serve until his Honorable Discharge in 1963. Upon his transfer from active duty to reserve duty, Mr. Barnaby returned to Sacramento with Jean. While working for the Department of Motor Vehicles and studying at Sacramento Junior College, Mr. Barnaby received an Associate of Arts degree in 1959. He and Jean continued their studies at University of California (UC), Davis, where Mr. Barnaby received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1961.

While at UC Davis, Mr. Barnaby was bitten by the political bug and founded the Young Democrats on the UC Davis campus for the 1960 presidential campaign. Mr. Barnaby then worked in the U.S. Capitol, first for a U.S. Representative from Sacramento, and then as a Congressional Investigator, where he was granted Top Secret Security Clearance by the U.S. Department of Defense. While in Washington, D.C., the Barnaby's welcomed their first child, William Emanuel Barnaby III, in 1962.

In 1964, Mr. Barnaby returned to Sacramento and was hired to be a Consultant on the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and by KXTV Channel 10 in Sacramento as an election consultant. In 1966, the Barnaby's welcomed their second child, Kenneth Sanchez Barnaby. In 1967, Mr. Barnaby became a Consultant to the Assembly Education Committee. In 1968, Mr. Barnaby was offered a job as Consultant to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. From 1971 through 74, Mr. Barnaby attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, graduating with a Juris Doctor degree and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1974.

Mr. Barnaby left state service in 1976, when the chief lobbyist for the California Medical Association (CMA) hired him as CMA's first in-house lobbyist who was also an actively licensed attorney. Mr. Barnaby did not remain a CMA employee for long, as in 1978 he started his own lobbying firm. Mr. Barnaby added several clients in 1978, some of which he still represents to this day. Since Mr. Barnaby started his lobbying firm, he has worked with all his immediate family members, some longer than others. In 2018, the Barnaby lobbying firm merged with a new firm, which is now known today as Resolute.

Mr. Speaker, William (Bill) Emanuel Barnaby is known around the state capitol as a consummate historian of the legislature and for his deep institutional and healthcare policy expertise that are appreciated by all who know him.

COMMENDING DONNA WATTS FOR
HER SERVICE TO ALABAMA DIS-
TRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Watts for her 38 years of service in the Chamber of Commerce world. Donna has been an integral part of our district's

Chamber of Commerce. She began her career as director of the Bay Minette Area Chamber of Commerce. After 12 years, she moved to the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and has worked there since 1997. Her dedication and contributions to the Chamber of Commerce were incredibly influential to Baldwin County's businesses.

We are so grateful for all that she has done for our community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JOHN RAY-
MOND KNUE, USAF, RETIRED
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired Major John Raymond Knue, United States Air Force, of Robinson, Texas with a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

John was born the oldest of six children in a large and loving family in rural southern Indiana. Graduating from North Dearborn high school in 1968 and after a short time working in construction in civil engineering, he decided to enroll in the Air Force in December 1968 at the height of the Vietnam War.

He took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and was awarded his tech specialty in civil engineering. During his 22 years on active duty, John was overseas over five years to include tours in the Vietnam War as well as a tour in Germany. He was sent to advanced training for Vietnam, and in November 1970 arrived in Cam Ranh Bay with Unit 554 Civil Engineering Squad in heavy repair construction. This was part of the famous "Red Horse" squad, and in fact, the 554 was the last Red Horse unit in Vietnam.

Through hard work, he attained the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned an appointment at the Air Force Officers Training School and was commissioned in November 1978. Following a very successful career as a Commissioned Officer, he retired at the rank of Major in August 1998.

During his military career, Major Knue earned many prestigious decorations including three Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, six Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, four Vietnam Service Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his retirement, he received his Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Texas in 1998 and continued to serve others through employment, charity, and volunteer activities. In education, he was Facility Development Officer at Texas State Technical College and Senior Lecturer at Baylor University Hankamer School of Business. In civic duty, he was a Robinson City Council Member, McLennan County 911 District Board of Manager, and served in various capacities as a Robinson firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician.

For fellow veterans, he works tirelessly for Heart of Texas Waco Veterans One-Stop for earned military benefits as Lead Trainer for new volunteers, assists in holding Baylor University law clinics, and helps coordinate all

special events including weekly meals. He is a Veterans of Foreign Wars Lifetime Member and Officer and Vietnam Veterans Association of America Lifetime Member. John was honored as the State of Texas 2020 Appointment of the Year for Continued Service to Veterans of Vietnam War and All Wars.

John is very active in Meadowbrook Baptist Church where among other things, John and his wife Carol plan and supervise Wednesday night family night meals for one-hundred and fifty members from August to May of each year.

For an American who lives by "Never Stop Serving", I proudly award retired United States Air Force Major John R. Knue the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Childhood cancers force the most vulnerable among us to be the most courageous and call upon loved ones to overcome the unimaginable. Luckily, the federal government, universities, hospitals, and nonprofits are driving the research needed to treat and ultimately, cure these diseases.

I'm proud to say that one such non-profit is located in my district: Cannonball Kids Cancer Foundation. Thanks to the efforts of Cannonball Kids' staff, volunteers, and donors, the organization has awarded millions of dollars in research grants to top universities and clinics across the country that are striving to find a cure. Because of their important work, children and their loved ones will one day never have to experience the devastating news of a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WOODY KAPLAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JAMIE RASKIN, to honor the memory of Woody Kaplan, a civil rights champion, freethinker, and philanthropist who passed away at the age of 80 on August 3, 2023.

Woody was a prince of a human and a trusted friend. It is impossible to fully capture how much he contributed to our Nation and to furthering the secular movement.

Woody's fierce advocacy for freedom of expression, church-state separation, reproductive freedom, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and other causes spanned decades.

A lifelong atheist who fought for every person's freedom of conscience, Woody co-founded the Secular Coalition for America, the largest coalition of national atheist, humanist, and secular organizations in the United States.

Under Woody's leadership, the Secular Coalition for America went from representing four

disparate national organizations to uniting 21 organizations in a formidable political movement. The Secular Coalition for America also established the first full-time lobbyist in Washington, D.C. representing atheist, humanist, and secular Americans.

Woody also served admirably in leadership and advisory roles at organizations including the Defending Dissent Foundation, American Atheists, American Humanist Association, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), and the Secular Student Alliance. As a former member of the ACLU's National Board of Directors, he helped establish the organization's endowment fund. As a young man, Woody traveled to Mississippi to work on voter registration drives.

Woody is survived by his wife Wendy Kaminer, an author and lawyer who shares Woody's passions and beliefs; his daughters Abigail and Emily; 11 grandchildren; his sister Nancy Fischman and her husband Steve; and many other family members, friends and admirers who he touched with his formidable life.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join my colleagues and me in extending condolences to Woody's family and friends, and in expressing our collective appreciation for his decades of work for the public good.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4367, the Republican FY24 Department of Homeland Security Act.

This bill is another example of House Republican leadership appeasing the most extreme members of their caucus and is another funding bill that has no path to become law. With the passage of the rule on Tuesday, Republicans decided to hold this bill hostage. For H.R. 4367 to even be sent to the Senate, Republicans are demanding that the Senate pass and the president sign their extreme immigration bill, the Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2). When it passed the House in May, President Biden had already stated he would not sign it.

This week, Republicans continued to add to the chaos when the House Rules Committee met late at night Wednesday and sent another rule to the floor with self-executing provisions that cater to the most extreme Republicans. Members like Representatives GAETZ and BOEBERT demanded significantly reduced H-2B visas that help fill workforce shortages and Republican leadership caved to their demands in order to pass the bill. By continuing to only negotiate with the farthest right members of their conference, House Republican leaders are not serious about preventing a government shutdown.

H.R. 4367 contains misguided investments that double down on failed border policy by redirecting \$2.1 billion to border wall construction while divesting from proven, modern detection technology. The bill also contains more extreme rightwing policy riders targeting the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's ability to defend Americans against

disinformation campaigns from foreign adversaries and domestic extremists.

As we continue to feel the effects of a changing climate, Republicans have also cut all climate resiliency funding from the Homeland Security bill—over \$748 million in investments to ensure that as the global climate changes, America is prepared for the effects of stronger storms, higher temperatures, and increased migration. The Department of Defense has declared climate change a national security threat, as regions become uninhabitable, and people are forced to move from their homes. By passing this Homeland Security bill, Republicans continue to ignore the fact that climate change is a real and imminent threat to American lives and communities.

I cannot support a partisan Homeland Security bill that does not focus on real solutions to the issues our country faces.

HONORING DR. CAPTANE "CAP" PETER THOMSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Captane "Cap" Peter Thomson. Dr. Thomson grew up in Berkeley, California and lived in Davis, California. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, friend, mentor, public servant, and leader in the field of mental health.

Dr. Thomson was the second generation of his family to attend the University of California (UC), Berkeley and box for their Varsity team. After receiving his M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), interning at Denver General Hospital, and serving four years in the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Thomson completed a residency in psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Thomson then earned an M.S. in Community Mental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and spent the next year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

After completing his education, Dr. Thomson settled in Davis and became the director and program chief of Yolo County Mental Health Services. He held this post for almost three decades, crafting ground-breaking programs to treat the severely mentally ill and help reintegrate people back into our communities. Dr. Thomson also served as a clinical professor of psychiatry at UC Davis and UCSF, joyfully passing along his wisdom to the next generation of psychiatrists. Always going where he was needed, Dr. Thomson gained his Board Certification in Forensic Psychiatry and served as an expert witness at trials and parole hearings of mentally ill persons caught up in the criminal justice system.

A lifelong adventurer, Dr. Thomson treated the indigenous peoples of Alaska as a U.S. Public Health Service Officer on the Bering Sea Patrol, sailed between Hawaii and Japan on a Coast Guard weather ship, and evaluated aspiring American citizens at the U.S. Consulate in Palermo, Italy. He severed as a doctor at the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Games and returned as a member of the Doctor's Ski Patrol at Sugar Bowl for 50 years.

Beyond his work, Dr. Thomson loved traveling with his family, going on adventures

around the world, visiting National Parks, and taking his family hiking all over his beloved Sierra Nevada mountains, where as a college student he worked in Yosemite as a fireguard. A lifelong runner and member of the Davis Aquatic Masters, he swam with a team across Lake Tahoe and completed numerous endurance swims, triathlons, and eight marathons, including the Boston Marathon. Dr. Thomson was also the banjo player and back-up vocalist for the popular folk and bluegrass music band, The Putah Creek Crawdads, treasurer of the Yolo County Credit Union, and avid walker of several generations of Cairn Terriers.

Dr. Thomson's unfailingly cheerful spirit, humble demeanor, sage guidance, and unflinching willingness always to stand up and fight for what is right and just, will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen, his children Morag, Iain, and Mungo, their spouses Kirsten and Kerry, his grandchildren Darian, Eno, Tamsin, and Emit, his brothers Pate and Duncan, and many more loving family members.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Captane "Cap" Thomson was a dedicated public servant and leader in our community.

HONORING ROSALINE COHEN'S
SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a valued member of my staff, Rosaline Cohen, who is retiring after more than two decades of exceptional service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many of you know Rosaline as the chief counsel for the Committee on Homeland Security, a position she has held since 2007. In that capacity, she has earned a reputation as a trusted and dedicated civil servant and an enviable track record for reaching bipartisan agreements. At the same time, she understands, on a deep level, what it takes to be effective as "the loyal opposition"—as some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would occasionally lament.

Rosaline has been at my side since I was first named ranking member in 2005 and has been a steadfast and strategic partner during some of the most tumultuous days for this institution and the country.

Rosaline will tell you that her congressional career actually began in the fall of 1990, as an intern in the office of the late Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts. She secured the internship—only days into her freshman year at George Washington University—after walking the halls of the House buildings with her first resume in hand, hoping to get an on-the-spot interview with an intern coordinator for a Member from her home State, Massachusetts.

Her next chapter with the House started in February 2000, when—as a newly-minted attorney—Rosaline began working for former Congressman Ken Bentsen, whose district included her law school alma mater, the University of Houston Law Center. About a year and

a half later, Rosaline was evacuated from the Capitol during the September 11th terrorist attacks, sheltering most of her office in her basement apartment.

Her next employer, the late Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, provided her with an opportunity to get to know the newly created Department of Homeland Security, as a personal office staffer to the then-Select Committee on Homeland Security. In 2005, when the committee was made permanent and I took on the job of serving as the Democratic ranking member, Rosaline was one of my first hires. She started by handling transportation security, appropriations, and management matters.

In 2007, in her first year as chief counsel on the committee, Rosaline spearheaded complex House-Senate conference negotiations over H.R. 1, legislation I introduced on behalf of the new Democratic majority to fully implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. In the years that followed, she has led our legislative efforts on everything from information sharing and emergency management to cyber and border security.

As chief counsel, Rosaline has shepherded 438 bills through the House and 165 measures into law, leaving her mark on nearly every section of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and other historic legislation. This is an extraordinary record, but more, it is a testament to Rosaline's dedication to our great Nation. Her contributions have undoubtedly made America a better and safer country for us all.

And while serving as my principal legislative advisor—supervising and developing a staff of more than 30 subcommittee directors, professional staff, and executive branch detailees and fellows—Rosaline always made time to mentor the next generation of public servants. You could often find her explaining to interns current proceedings on the House floor and calling staff into her office to stand over her shoulder to draft bills and develop legislative strategies together.

Members of Congress over the years and across the aisle, and staff, both senior and new, have depended on Rosaline's wisdom and capabilities.

Rosaline's contributions to the House of Representatives and our Nation are a source of pride for her husband, Yaneev, son, Zachary, and mother, Cindy. Her work for Congress was also a point of pride for her late father, Ohaliav, a naturalized citizen.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Committee on Homeland Security—past and present—and the entire CHS staff, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating and congratulating Rosaline on her retirement. I wish her all the best as she explores new ways of sharing her talents.

RECOGNIZING NOAH COUGHLAN'S
FOURTH RUN ACROSS AMERICA

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I commend Noah Coughlan as he passes through Nashville today on his run across America.

Noah began his 167 day run to honor American soldiers and veterans on Memorial Day in

Blaine, Washington and plans to finish on Veterans Day in Miami, Florida. Carrying an American flag that was flown by the 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Noah has made a point of stopping along the way to meet with veteran's organizations, county sheriffs, police officers, and others who have chosen to serve our country. Having previously run across the country in 2011, 2013, 2015 to raise awareness of various diseases, this will be Noah's fourth, and perhaps final, run across America. When he arrives in Miami, Noah will become the 5th person cross the United States on foot four times.

Noah views this as a way to bring unity to the country. Calling veterans the glue that holds the Nation together, Noah praised them for not only the service they do while members of the Armed Forces, but also the continuing service to the country as first responders, law makers, and other essential roles.

I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Noah the best of luck on the rest of his run to Miami.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
VINCENT J. TOBOLA, JR.
USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor retired Lieutenant Colonel Vincent J. Tobola, Jr., United States Air Force, of Waco, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

A proud graduate of Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola embarked on a distinguished 24-year career in the United States Air Force, during which he showcased exceptional leadership and commitment. His postings spanned from Kincheloe Air Force Base in Michigan, Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, to Griffis Air Force Base in New York, among others. In roles such as Chief of the Contracts Support Division, Director of Base Engineering, and Civil Engineer Squadron Commander, he managed assets worth billions and supervised contracts in the hundreds of millions. His exceptional service earned him numerous accolades, including five Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals, and various others marking his outstanding dedication to duty.

After retiring from the Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola continued his devotion to public service with the City of Waco, TX. Contributing significantly as the Waco Facilities Program Administrator and subsequently as the Facilities Manager. His leadership played a pivotal role in advancing major upgrades across various city facilities.

His spirit of service didn't end there. Following his retirement from the City of Waco in 2018, he remained deeply involved in the Heart of Texas Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Not only did he serve as the chapter's president for two years, but he is also the active Treasurer both at the chapter and state levels. Beyond his administrative

roles, Lieutenant Colonel Tobola showcases his commitment by organizing MOAA's monthly membership meetings, special events, and the pivotal annual fundraiser. This fundraiser, under his guidance, has provided over \$140,000 in educational scholarships and supported Reserve Officer's Training Corps students in both high schools and universities throughout Waco.

For his enduring dedication to his nation, both in military service and beyond, and his embodiment of the MOAA's motto of "Never Stop Serving," it is with great admiration and respect that I present the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation to retired United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Vincent J. Tobola, Jr.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Solano Irrigation District on their 75th anniversary of serving our community.

Seventy-five years ago, the Solano Irrigation District (SID) sought to secure irrigation water from the Solano Water Project. This marked the beginning of a journey filled with challenges, achievements, and the steadfast pursuit of excellence. Since then, the district has played a pivotal role in providing vital resources to our community.

Today, the Solano Irrigation District stands as a cornerstone of our region's prosperity, delivering 141,000 acre-feet of irrigation water to over 59,000 acres of irrigable land. Not only does it supply bulk untreated water to a population of more than 300,000, including the cities of Benicia, Vacaville, Fairfield, and Vallejo, but it also treats and delivers drinking water to Suisun City, ensuring the well-being of our residents.

Unlike many other districts, SID does not need to import any water for its customers, thanks to its foresight in securing valuable water rights and access through 'The Solano Project.' This forward-thinking approach has made our district financially stable and well-managed, providing cost-efficient services while maintaining stable water rates.

Furthermore, the innovative spirit of the Solano Irrigation District is exemplified by the hydroelectric power plant at the base of Monticello Dam, a pioneering project that has set a remarkable precedent for local agencies across the United States.

The Solano Irrigation District has not only been a guardian of water resources but also a catalyst for progress and growth in our community. Its tireless efforts have made SID into a beacon of excellence, ensuring a prosperous future for Solano County.

Mr. Speaker, the Solano Irrigation District has been serving our residential and agricultural communities faithfully for 75 years.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE MARIE MCCOY, PASTOR EMERITUS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay my deepest respect in tribute to a wonderful woman of God, Dr. Rose Marie McCoy, who passed from this earthly realm to her heavenly home on September 13, 2023.

A wife, mother, grandmother, pastor, caregiver, community role model, missionary and counselor, Dr. Rose Marie was born on September 24, 1951, in Robbins, Illinois to parents Samuel Sr. and Jennie Eliza Merle Evans. Having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in the Spring of 1976, Rose Marie dedicated her life in service and selfless devotion to others throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Rose Marie met and married the love of her life Dr. William McCoy, over 57 years ago. Together they shared a love that withstood the test of time and created a strong family that will carry on their unique legacy. Rose Marie was steadfast in her commitment to the Lord, living each day as a living sacrifice that I am certain was holy and acceptable unto God, as her reasonable service.

You may be asking how I know Dr. Rose Marie McCoy so well and in response, I'd say that I've known her and her husband Chief Apostle Dr. William McCoy for decades upon decades. I have worked alongside Drs. Rose and William McCoy throughout Chicago's southside in an effort to improve the lives of our neighbors, friends, children, and other vulnerable populations in our community.

Dr. Rose Marie McCoy's enthusiasm for life and her dedication to others also showed in her work on behalf of the Brothers Keeper Outreach Church, which she co-founded with her husband. Additionally, Rose Marie was instrumental in development of the Brothers Keeper Community Resource Center and the International Pentecostal Assembly Ecumenical Faith and Community Action Network.

Collectively, Rose Marie's efforts and dedication to faith-based community social services has helped change the lives of countless individuals for the better. In fact, I would posit that perhaps all of our lives have been made better off simply by our interaction and association with pastor, Dr. Rose Marie McCoy along life's journey. To know Rose Marie, was to know genuine love, faith and service. May this beautiful soul rest with the Lord in peace.

To her family, including her husband Chief Apostle Dr. William McCoy and her children Victoria McCoy-Salter, Vanessa McCoy-Pulphus, Debracia McCoy Jones, Major Lee McCoy, and Otis McCoy, all of whom she leaves to carry on her works and love, I extend my sincerest condolences on your loved one's transition. I am truly grateful to Dr. Rose Marie McCoy, Pastor Emeritus for her tremendous contributions to so many in Chicago, Illinois, and our Nation. May God bless her, her family, and all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF THE IMPENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of the impending government shutdown on communities in my district that are experiencing the worst flash flooding since Hurricane Ida, which killed more than 40 people across the state. As we are in the middle of House Republican infighting that is jeopardizing the ability to keep the government open, our federal government's ability to serve the American people is threatened. Essential services from government agencies and employees pay will be affected as many face furlough and uncertainty about retroactive pay. In New York State, the Governor and Mayor have declared a state of emergency, but they cannot look to the federal government at a time when funding is uncertain.

Right now, in New York City, highways are closed, vehicles are stranded, subway trains have stalled, utility infrastructure is flooded and damaged, and many New Yorkers on the way to work and school have had their daily routines severely impacted. At a time like this we look to the federal government for resources, but Congress has not passed legislation to replenish the FEMA disaster relief fund, which is the primary pot of money the agency uses to respond to storms. Republicans refusing to work with Democrats and pass a clean Continuing Resolution are failing to support communities recovering from disasters during hurricane season. The Continuing Resolution Republicans have proposed hurts FEMA's readiness by neglecting the pressing need for additional disaster relief funds to address existing shortfalls and prepare for unforeseen future disasters. Due to climate change, storms have intensified and become more frequent across the country resulting in a record number of billion-dollar disasters to date. The importance of the FEMA disaster relief fund cannot be understated and the ability to deploy resources and funds by keeping the federal government open is even more critical.

Constituents in my district in Brooklyn and Queens living in single family homes and public housing complexes will be dealing with the impact of intense flash flooding for days after the storm passes. My constituents deserve a functioning government, not a shutdown. As communities vulnerable to flooding continue to bear the brunt of climate change, a government shutdown will leave New Yorkers and state and local government without critical assistance. Republican's refusal to fund the government will wreak havoc on New York's ability to recover from these floods in the days and months to come.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition of H.R. 4665, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024.

This bill makes devastating cuts to our foreign assistance and will undo years of progress in the areas of humanitarian aid, bolstering our national security, and combatting the effects of climate change. With this bill, House Republicans have completely abandoned our country's leadership on the global stage and made our country and other countries around the world susceptible to destabilization.

This bill eliminates U.S. support for climate adaptation, sustainable landscapes, and clean energy programming. Climate change is an existential threat to every single one of us—and this bill does nothing but bury our heads in the sand. These divestments will not only be devastating to our environment, but also to our national security. Cuts to climate programs will leave the Department of Defense more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Without adequate funding to address the climate crisis, people around the globe will be driven from their homes, unable to feed their families, and will fall deeper into poverty. At a time when a historic number of refugees are fleeing conflict and instability, the United States will turn its back and be unable to respond to and assist our allies.

The majority has authored this bill to satisfy the most extreme among us without considering the real-life consequences for our allies and for the world's most vulnerable populations. This bill zeros out or dramatically cuts several critical peacebuilding funding accounts, which will severely impact the United States' ability to prevent violent conflict, build sustainable peace, and save lives. This bill hurts women and children—codifying the expanded version of the harmful global gag rule, cutting foreign assistance for family planning and reproductive health, and prohibiting funding to the UNFPA, the United Nations reproductive health agency.

Mr. Chair, this bill fails to protect Americans and cedes leadership to our adversaries. With this level of funding, House Republicans are ignoring reality and making it impossible for the United States to engage peacefully and constructively with the international community—all while our adversaries are engaging aggressively. Millions of lives are on the line, and instead of making a serious attempt to address these problems, the majority has injected politics into our foreign policy and have authored a bill that has virtually no chance of passing in the Senate. For all of these reasons, I must vote against H.R. 4665.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT SOLENBERGER USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to present retired Colonel Robert I. Solenberger, United States Army, with the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation. He is the epitome of the U.S. Army's slogan, "Be All You Can Be."

Robert Solenberger was born in 1943 in Oakland, California, earning a bachelor's degree in engineering chemistry from the University of New Mexico in 1965. In the midst of the Vietnam War, a young twenty-five-year-old patriot commenced thirty years of active military service when he enlisted in 1968. While engaged in infantry training at New Jersey's Fort Dix, Robert incurred extensive lung damage, spending months in what was then the Valley Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania.

Medically discharged from the Army in 1972, with access to rehabilitation funding, Robert attended medical school at the University of Maryland, obtaining a Doctor of Medicine in 1974, later training in surgery. Ever the patriot, he then applied for a direct commission as a surgeon in the Army Medical Corps; with his acceptance in 1984, and assignment to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Robert began his final twenty-six years of active duty.

Some of Robert's deployments included Operation Desert Storm with the longest and largest Mass Casualty (MASCAL) exercise; Bright Star 95, for which he would be commended by the Army of Egypt; Ulchi Focus Lens 99 in Korea; supporting USMC forces in Afghanistan in 2002 with the 555 Forward Surgical Team; as well as Kuwait, Honduras, and Panama. Colonel Solenberger held the post of Chief Surgeon at Fort Cavazos in Killeen, Texas—the world's largest military base. Uniquely, he led the surgical team in delivering Conjoined Twins—and the workup leading to the only successful separation in a DOD hospital.

Among Colonel Solenberger's decorations are a Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon (three stars), Joint Service, Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal. He received an Order of Military Medical Merit in 1990; the "A" Designator (academic full professor), with pediatric surgery credentials in 1997, and the Combat Medics Badge.

Since retiring from active duty in 1994, Robert continues to mentor future military surgeons through his work with surgical residents at both the VA hospital system at Waco, Texas and the VA's Temple, Texas facility. Adding to his remarkable career is the also remarkable fact that Robert has performed in active military duty and as a hands-on, teaching surgeon with the Veterans Administration despite more than a sixty percent disability rating. Battlefield tested, Robert brings both empathy and inspiration to the Texas veterans he now serves with dedication and compassion.

For his love of country, tireless service and continuing to "Be All You Can Be" it gives me

great pleasure to award retired United States Army Medical Corps Colonel Robert I. Solenberger with the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING JACK WHITE'S INDUCTION TO THE RHODE ISLAND TELEVISION & RADIO HALL OF FAME

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the posthumous induction of Jack White to the Rhode Island Television & Radio Hall of Fame.

Residents of Rhode Island and Massachusetts came to rely on Jack's reporting in the Newport Daily News, the Providence Journal, WBZ TV in Boston, the Cape Cod Times, and finally during his time as Chief Investigative Reporter at WPRI TV in Providence.

A native of Pawtucket, Jack was a hard-hitting investigative journalist who never wavered on his principles. During the Watergate scandal, it was Jack's story in the Providence Journal that brought President Nixon's underpayment of federal income tax into national focus and caused the President to respond to a question from Jack's editor with the now infamous five-word phrase: "I am not a crook." That reporting won Jack White a Pulitzer Prize in 1974, cost President Nixon hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes, and spurred the practice of Presidents releasing their income tax returns for public inspection. True to his convictions as a journalist, Jack never divulged his source for the Nixon story and even delayed the story by twelve days to stand with striking reporters at the Providence Journal.

After leaving Providence for WBZ in Boston, it was a reporting job at the Cape Cod Times that brought the White family to West Barnstable, and Jack's commitment to his family that kept them on Cape Cod as he commuted back and forth to Providence during his decades at WPRI. His work at WPRI was marked by numerous major investigative stories, multiple Emmy Awards, and earned him the honorary title of "Dean of Rhode Island Journalism."

Sadly, Jack left us suddenly on October 12, 2005, at age 63, leaving behind his wife Beth, daughter Elizabeth, sons John, Patrick, and Timothy, and their families. Jack's son, Tim, followed his father into journalism and can be seen on televisions across Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts each week hosting the same "Newsmakers" program that Jack hosted during his time at WPRI.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the Rhode Island Television & Radio Hall of Fame in celebrating the journalistic accomplishments of Jack White, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Jack's posthumous induction into the Rhode Island Television & Radio Hall of Fame and the impact that his reporting has had on Southern New England and our nation.

MARKING THE 1000TH DAY OF
JIMMY LAI'S IMPRISONMENT BY
THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, this week marked the one thousandth day of imprisonment of one of Hong Kong's 1,648 political prisoners: Jimmy Lai, a hugely successful businessman, owner of Hong Kong's major newspaper, and a freedom fighter for the people of Hong Kong. His "crimes" that have landed him in a maximum-security prison at age 75? Supporting pro-democracy protests and publishing the truth about the Chinese Communist Party's creeping authoritarian takeover of Hong Kong.

I have begun the process of adopting his case as a "prisoner of conscience" with the Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights and I urge all colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to adopt a political prisoner, a religious prisoner or some other prisoner of conscience in this time of terrifying global crackdown on human rights and free expression.

Jimmy Lai recognized that a free press that reports the facts is essential to democracy and a free society. He founded one of Hong Kong's most reputable papers in 1991, *Apple Daily*, in reference to the Garden of Eden's fruit of knowledge. One of the paper's original mottos was "an apple a day keeps the liars away." Jimmy Lai's newspaper continued to report the facts as Hong Kong citizens from all walks of life—led by thousands of courageous young people—demonstrated for their freedom and against Beijing's repressive "National Security Law" in 2019.

It is for this principled defense of truth and common sense in a civil society that Mr. Lai has been unjustly detained by China's authoritarian expansion into the free city of Hong Kong. According to the Hong Kong Democracy Council, a human rights organization, Jimmy Lai is one of 1,648 Hong Kongers who are political prisoners today. This staggering number—reached after just four years—puts the once-free Hong Kong on the same plane as countries like Belarus and Myanmar. Everyday Hong Kongers who dared to dream of a democratic future are instead languishing in detention. They await trial and sentencing before a hyper-politicized judiciary executing a twisted facsimile of Hong Kong's traditionally independent, common law court system.

Jimmy Lai was first arrested in August 2020 as one of the first targets of the repressive "National Security Law" imposed by mainland China. He has since been arrested numerous times, charged with everything from collusion with foreign powers, to so-called "unauthorized assembly," to alleged fraud. Many of his fellow political prisoners in Hong Kong face charges that are similar affronts to a free society.

The reactionary movement against democracy is global, which is why our movement to defend democracy is also global. I salute the courageous activists, like Jimmy Lai, who refuse to bend to the brutal forces of fear and authoritarianism. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Hong Kong or Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine

their own destiny. I stand here today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in solidarity with Jimmy Lai as he marks his one thousand and first day as a political prisoner. Please join me in acting in solidarity with Jimmy Lai and demand his immediate release and freedom from the Chinese government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was not present for six votes yesterday evening. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 489, NAY on Roll Call No. 490, NAY on Roll Call No. 491, NAY on Roll Call No. 492, NAY on Roll Call No. 493, and NAY on Roll Call No. 494.

RECOGNIZING THE MERITORIOUS
SELFLESS SERVICE BY MID-
SHIPMAN SECOND CLASS MADISON
O'DONNELL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Midshipman Second Class Madison O'Donnell who decisively acted with the valor while saving a gentleman in peril when attending the United States Naval Academy in June 2023.

While driving near Santee Basin Dock, Maryland, Midshipman O'Donnell heard cries for help and halted her vehicle. Upon locating the distressed individual, she quickly ran towards the dock to rescue a gentleman who appeared to be drowning.

Midshipman Madison O'Donnell aptly assessed the situation and proficiently deduced that a severe laceration was impeding the gentleman from pulling himself to safety. Without hesitation, she rescued the drowning man by pulling him out of the basin.

Relieved from the danger of drowning, Midshipman O'Donnell calmed the gentleman and administered first aid treatment. She then drove him home to his family who expressed immense gratitude for her meritorious and selfless assistance.

In recognition of this act of valor, Colonel James P. McDonough, USMC, 89th Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, awarded Midshipman Second Class Madison O'Donnell the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for professional achievement in the superior performance of her duties as a midshipman on September 8, 2023.

As the member of the U.S. House representing Midshipman O'Donnell's hometown of Greenfield Township, Pennsylvania, and the Member responsible for nominating her to the United States Naval Academy's Class of 2025, I am proud to celebrate Midshipman O'Donnell's admirable act of heroism.

Midshipman Second Class O'Donnell's actions, dedication to duty and the preservation

of life reflect great credit upon herself, our community in Northeast Pennsylvania, the United States Navy, and the nation. I am confident that she will have an exemplary career in service to our Nation, and I look forward to sharing in her successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING SHARON
LEDBETTER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Ledbetter of Colfax, WA for her selfless service and the incredible impact she has had on the lives of veterans and their families in Eastern Washington.

In 2009, Sharon was instrumental in organizing the Lewis Clark Quilts of Valor, the Eastern Washington region's local branch of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Her goal was simple and honorable: Award servicemembers and veterans with hand-made quilts that recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our heroes, in the hopes of providing comfort and healing now that they have returned home.

As the wife of a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran, Sharon understood these Quilts of Valor can be lifesaving for veterans. That's why, for the last 14 years, she has organized countless Sew Days, taught quilting classes, and raised financial support from local businesses and veterans' groups. Under her leadership, the group has grown to 60 members and honored more than 3,000 veterans with high-quality quilts to recognize their dedication and sacrifice to our country.

Each Quilt of Valor is dedicated to the veteran it was made for with their name, service branch, and era of service sewed on, making them an incredibly personal gift of recognition and honor. The quilts—many of which Sharon made herself—are then presented at beautiful ceremonies that have been known to move even the most stoic veterans to tears. Thanks to Sharon, these presentations are now conducted by volunteers and members across Eastern Washington and North Central Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Ledbetter is a truly remarkable woman who deserves recognition. As she enters her retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating her tremendous work and tireless dedication to the veterans in the greater Eastern Washington region. The profound impact she has had on our communities and the veterans in them will not soon be forgotten.

TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO RYAN
MARTIN

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's (GCISD) Director of Facility Use, Ryan Martin.

A star athlete at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Ryan Martin brought his talent and dedication to helping others to North

Texas when he joined GCISD faculty 25 years ago. Since then, he's taught and coached students across several schools in GCISD, including Vista, Grapevine High School, and Colleyville Middle School, working as a special education teacher, history teacher, principal, interim principal, and head wrestling coach before becoming the Director of Facility Use.

Recently, Ryan had the distinction of being inducted in the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame, one of just 172 individuals in school history to earn the honor. Ryan wrestled for UCO from 1989 to 1994, becoming a national champion and two-time All-American. He won 91 matches in his 4-year career, including 30 bonus-point victories, qualified for nationals three times, and was a two-time regional champion.

I'd like to congratulate Ryan on his induction into the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2023, I missed Roll Call vote No. 406. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 466, H.R. 4665 (Amendment No. 17).

RECOGNIZING GOLDIE SIMPSON

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Goldie Simpson, a lifelong Detroit resident and "Rosie the Riveter," as she celebrates 100 years of life.

Born in 1923, Ms. Simpson was a bright student who studied business after she graduated from Detroit's Northeastern High School. After the outbreak of World War II, she directed her energies toward the cause of bolstering our nation's economy and morale by taking on work that had previously been performed by men who had been called up to military service. She was one of the hundreds of "Rosies" who contributed so much during a dark time for our Nation and the world, providing critical labor during a time of need.

Ms. Simpson found true joy in her family. She married the love of her life, Elmore Simpson in 1949, and together they raised 9 children. Ms. Simpson embodies the spirit of generosity. She has continued to be an engaged member of the community, whether as a neighborhood mother who looked out for all of the children in her neighborhood or as an active member of her community in faith. Ms. Goldie Simpson embodies the grace, strength, and resilience of Detroit.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Goldie Simpson, a happy 100th birthday as we recognize her contributions to our country and to our community in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pancretan Association of America (PAA) on the ribbon cutting ceremony of their first ever National Headquarters in the greater Washington, D.C. region in Bethesda, Maryland. As a proud Greek American and Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, it is an honor to acknowledge the PAA's work in recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the island of Crete around the world.

Founded by descendants from Crete, for over 90 years the Pancretan Association of America has been a cornerstone of the Greek-American community, striving to promote the historical significance of Crete, while honoring the cultural and historically Greek values of philoxenia and philotimo. Through its wide array of programs, the PAA promotes the longstanding Hellenic values of education, philanthropy, civil responsibility, and individual excellence. The PAA reaches out to Cretans of all ages and offers programs that strengthen their understanding and recognition of their culture, allows them to enjoy and preserve their heritage, and share it with others. These programs include many social, cultural, and educational activities that encompass Cretan culture, and scholarships that empower Cretan students to continue their education and become effective and responsible citizens.

The Pancretan Association of America's mission to celebrate Crete's historical place in the Hellenic world is critical now more than ever with the ever-expanding relationship between the United States and Greece. I know that I would not be who I am or where I am today without my upbringing in a Greek family, which was so focused on serving others. Through hard work, determination, and the support of the Greek-American community supporting him, my great-grandfather founded what would become our family restaurant, the Puritan Backroom. 106 years later it remains in our family, and the values that my great-grandfather lived by still guide us today. These shared values bind our two nations and our communities together, and I applaud PAA's role in highlighting and furthering those values for generations to come.

I congratulate the Pancretan Association of America on the opening of their first ever National Headquarters. This event marks a significant milestone in their history and is an important step towards the cultural preservation of Crete's heritage, strengthening the ties between our communities, and further solidifying the relationship between the United States and Greece.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill falls woefully short of adequately investing in important programs and policies that support the American people.

The bill's provisions targeting low-income women, infants, and children are especially concerning. The insufficient funding included in H.R. 4368 jeopardizes access to food and critical services for low and moderate income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children by drastically underfunding the program and undermining science-based WIC food benefits. This is especially concerning as the country continues to face an infant and maternal health crisis.

For over 25 years, there has been a bipartisan commitment to provide sufficient WIC funding to serve all eligible applicants and maintain the longstanding no-waitlist commitment—until now. The House agriculture appropriations bill purports to fund WIC at \$6 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, but the bill also demands a \$500 million rescission in a later section. Realistically, the bill only funds WIC at \$5.5 billion. This is \$800 million below the President's budget request for FY 2024 (\$6.3 billion) and \$185 million lower than the level of funding made available in FY 2023 (\$5.685 billion).

Last month, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) outlined the need for an additional \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2024 funding for WIC due to a significant increase in participation this fiscal year with a total of 6.7 million women, children, and infants being served by the program as of June. OMB has warned that without additional funding, participants could see disruptions in benefits. To prevent any disruption to a program crucial to supporting new parents and young children, it is vital that WIC funding be increased to align with projected participation and food costs as the process moves forward. Under the funding levels included in the House agriculture appropriations bill, up to 600,000 eligible new parents and children—including 11,600 Virginians could be turned away from the program.

While WIC participation is increasing, this bill also drastically cuts WIC's increased science-backed fruit and vegetable benefits for roughly 1.5 million pregnant and postpartum participants and 3.5 million children aged one to four. The bill reduces the monthly fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to \$11 for child participants, from \$44 to \$13 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and from \$49 to \$15 for breastfeeding participants. Current benefit levels ensure that participating women and children have access to recommended levels of fruits and vegetables, thus improving health outcomes and program retention. Pre-pandemic benefits of \$8 for children and \$11 for

pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding participants allowed for less than a one-cup equivalent of fruits and vegetables per day, woefully short of the recommended amounts.

In addition to insufficient funding for WIC, the bill includes other harmful provisions targeting nutrition programs. For example, the bill includes a rider that rejects a pending rule to revise WIC Food Packages. Additional riders reject nutrition standards in both school meals programs as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). These harmful riders weaken the science-based process that determines nutrition standards and criteria in child nutrition and related programs. A dozen health organization and other stakeholders, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association, the American Public Health Association, the National WIC Association, and UnidosUS implored Congress not to include harmful nutrition-related riders and to maintain and respect the current science-based processes.

In addition to the threats to the health and well-being of women and children, this bill would harm farmers as they recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, this legislation strips funding from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) programs enacted last Congress. Rescinding the IRA funding will harm farmers as they recover losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to divest from food security and those who produce the food and fiber we depend on is short sighted. I am also alarmed by amendments to curtail the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) work to advance equity and inclusion. For far too long, farmers of color, female farmers, and farmers who identify as LGBTQI+ have faced discrimination in farm lending. Restricting the USDA's ability to address these failures is detrimental to achieving the USDA's mission and ensuring food security.

For these reasons and many others, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN THOMAS WELLS, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great pride to recognize retired Colonel John Thomas Wells, United States Army, of Woodway, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Colonel Wells began his distinguished journey as a Military Graduate from Eastern Kentucky University in 1964. His early years saw him patrolling the East German and Czechoslovakian borders and later serving valiantly in the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam War. Upon returning stateside, his leadership capabilities led him from commanding roles at Fort Knox to significant contributions at the Army Combat Arms Training Board at Fort Benning. Notably, he was instrumental in developing the Army Training and Evaluation Program, a legacy that benefits both active and reserve units today.

His commitment took him to the heart of military planning, serving on the Army General Staff at the Pentagon before command roles in Korea. His final active-duty assignment was Chief, Manpower Division, Resource Management Directorate, U.S. Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia, after which he retired in 1989.

Colonel Wells's awards are a testament to his valor, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star with "V," Purple Heart, and numerous international honors.

His service didn't end in the military. He pursued the Holy Orders, was ordained in 1998, and contributed deeply to parishes in Texas. Throughout retirement, he lent his leadership to various churches, simultaneously earning accolades for his community service in Woodway, Texas. Notably, his two-decade dedication as a volunteer chaplain with the Waco Police Department speaks volumes of his commitment to service beyond uniform.

Educationally, besides his military training, Wells pursued theological studies at the esteemed University of Oxford and holds advanced degrees from Shippensburg University and the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Together with his devoted wife, Su, they have enriched the Woodway community, with Colonel Wells chairing the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. Their legacy continues through their four children and three grandchildren.

In recognition of a lifetime dedicated to service, both in uniform and as a steadfast community pillar, I am honored to present the 2023 Congressional Veterans Commendation to retired Colonel John Thomas Wells, United States Army. His story is a testament to duty, courage, and an unwavering commitment to country and community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF TED SILVER

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life and contributions of Mr. Ted B. Silver, who marked his centennial milestone on September 23, 2023. It's a profound honor to recognize a man whose legacy embodies the very essence of service, dedication, and community spirit.

Ted Silver's journey began in Mitchell County, and from there, he embarked on a lifetime of service to his country, community, and fellow citizens. Mr. Silver honorably served in the U.S. Merchant Marine, demonstrating his commitment to safeguarding our nation's interests during a pivotal period in history.

Following his military service, he spent over four decades working for Standard Oil, where he ascended to the role of district manager for the LP gas division before retiring in 1988.

However, it's Mr. Silver's unwavering dedication to the Garner community that truly sets him apart. He served as the first president of the Garner Civitan Club, an organization of volunteer service clubs dedicated to helping people in their communities.

Throughout his years as a Civitan, Ted Silver has been a tireless advocate for the youth

of Garner. He championed initiatives supporting organizations such as the Boys and Girls Homes, the Tammy Lynn Center, and the Caswell Center.

Ted Silver's involvement extended to the Civitan Club's Pop Warner Football program, where he volunteered his time and expertise. Additionally, he administered the Civitan scholarship program for students at Garner Senior High, embodying the spirit of giving back to the next generation. He worked hand in hand with the Junior Civitan Club at the high school, imparting wisdom and instilling the values of community service.

Mr. Silver's dedication and selflessness have not gone unnoticed within the Civitan community. He received numerous accolades, including the Garner Civitan of the Year Award in 1977, the Latt Wall Memorial Award in 1986, the Club Honor Key Award in 1991, and the esteemed Life Membership, Civitan's highest honor, in 1998.

Beyond the Civitan Club, Ted Silver has made a meaningful impact on Garner and its residents. He's participated in programs aimed at assisting people with mental and physical disabilities. He also dedicated himself to working with children with developmental disabilities in Garner schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ted B. Silver as he celebrates his remarkable 100th birthday. His lifetime of service, dedication, and tireless advocacy for the betterment of Garner and its youth exemplify the very essence of what it means to be a true community leader. May his legacy continue to inspire us all for generations to come.

Happy 100th birthday to Mr. Silver.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 LORDS AND
LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia, the Lords and Ladies of Fairfax.

Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 759 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors.

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments of the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and are worthy of our praise and sincere appreciation.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2023 Lords and Ladies of Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Lucy Capaldi and Lord Dr. Eric Goplerud

Braddock District: Lady Shari Zamorra and Lord John Rephlo

Dranesville District: Lady Delegate Kathleen Murphy and Lord Patrick Smaldore

Hunter Mill District: Lady Roberta Gosling and Lord Andy Sigle

Franconia District: Lady Sharron Dreyer and Lord Dr. Bryon L. Garner

Mason District: Lady Alis Wang and Lord Lassine Doumbia

Mount Vernon District: Lady Shirley Short and Lord Ron Fitzsimmons

Providence District: Lady Nada Bashir and Lord Tom Biesiadny

Springfield District: Lady Cathy Turner and Lord Rob Hahne

Sully District: Lady Cathy Martins Muha and Lord Prince D. Howard

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and expressing our gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts, which are deserving of our highest praise, provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

CELEBRATING THE HOUSE
CAREER OF MR. ANDY FLICK

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Mr. Andy Flick, my former Chief of Staff, as he departs the People's House after 14 years to serve Vice President Harris as her new Director of Legislative Affairs.

When I was elected to Congress in 2018, I had achieved success in business, but I was a novice at operating in the halls of Congress. I had big ideas about what our country needed, and I knew I needed the right team in place to execute and help me be as effective a legislator as I possibly could. It was recommended I speak with Andy, who had significant experience in the House, an impressive professional network, and was brimming with ideas on how to run a Congressional office.

I hired Andy and we were off and running. Andy knew how to both move legislation and manage a team to bring out their potential. Our best conversations revolved around my experience running a business and applying it to management on Capitol Hill. From Andy, I learned from his insights into politics and procedure. As a manager, Andy ran our team with professionalism and empathy, and consistently pushed the team to achieve our shared goals. Andy helped me realize one of my top priorities in Congress when we founded the Freshman Working Group on Addictive—which has since grown into the Bipartisan Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Task Force, a 140-member group dedicated to overcoming the opioid epidemic. We signed four bills into law my freshman term and chalked up more wins in the 117th Congress.

As a true talent, Andy was eventually offered a position he couldn't refuse—to become Executive Director of the New Democrat Coal-

ition. Over the three years he served in my office, Andy proved himself a consummate leader by hiring and training a team that operated with his same dedication to public service—and so was able to take the new opportunity, knowing he left the office in good hands. Similarly, he leaves the New Democrat Coalition for another opportunity, leaving behind a Coalition that is stronger and more impactful for his leadership.

I will continue to support Andy to achieve all his professional and personal goals. His hard work and innovative thinking have earned my respect, and his commitment to public service has earned my admiration. He will always be my first great advisor in public office, and a true friend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the staff of my office past and present, I celebrate Andy's 14-year career in the U.S. House of Representatives and wish him nothing but success in his next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted yes on Roll Call No. 476, Steube of Florida Part D Amendment No. 45. I intended to vote "nay" on Rollcall No. 476.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, in haste, I voted No on Roll Call No. 491, when I should have voted Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I missed Boebert Amendment No. 50. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 481.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall No. 417, and "yea" on Rollcall No. 418.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CHILD
CARE COUNCIL (4CS) OF ALA-
MEDA COUNTY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Representative LEE and Representative KHANNA to recognize the Community Child Care Council of Alameda County, which will celebrate 50 years of serving children and families in Alameda County on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

The Community Childcare Coordinating Council of Alameda County, which later became the "4Cs" of Alameda County, was founded in December of 1972 to offer essential resources to assist families with a network of community services.

4Cs provides access to affordable childcare and family-focused services including childcare referrals, payment assistance, playgroups, free tax preparation assistance, car seat installation checks, and family workshops. 4Cs also supports local childcare providers by offering health and safety trainings, best practices seminars, and ongoing consultation support.

Operating with locations in Hayward, Oakland, and Fremont, 4Cs is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors which employs 75 team members providing services in 18 languages, including English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Hindi.

As a leading family resource agency, 4Cs has provided over 3,500 personalized referrals, 91 trainings, and over \$28 million in payments to cover childcare costs for 1,961 families in Alameda County in 2022.

For 50 years, the 4Cs of Alameda County played a pivotal role in ensuring families can secure culturally competent, high-quality childcare in Alameda County. They have truly embodied their values of diversity, accountability, professionalism, teamwork, growth, innovation, and friendship for all children and families. We join the Community Child Care Council of Alameda County in celebrating its legacy and wish it many more productive years to come.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY
MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, each year our country recognizes October as Filipino American History Month, a time for all Americans to celebrate the incredible past, present and future of our fellow citizens whose heritage lies in the great country of the Philippines.

I am especially humbled to do so as the Representative of Hawaii's First Congressional District, where some 190,000 Filipino Americans live, more than any other of our 435 districts throughout the country. With Hawaii's Second Congressional District that has the second largest Filipino Americans population at about 180,000, our Fil-Am community in

Hawaii stands at 370,000. In total, fully a quarter of all Hawaii residents are Filipino Americans, by far the largest percentage of any state or territory.

We observe Filipino American History Month in October because the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental United States took place on October 18, 1587, when the “Luzones Indios” came ashore from the Manila-built galleon *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza* in Morro Bay, California. Today, across the country Filipino Americans have a population of approximately 4,400,000 and are the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States.

Many of the early Filipino immigrants were young men who came to the United States seeking a better life. Most found work in Hawaii, California, Washington and Alaska. This first generation of Filipino immigrants are commonly referred to as the Manong generation (Ilocano for first-born male). They worked mostly physically demanding jobs in tough conditions for very little pay. Over the years, they fought against discrimination, found a way forward and made a better future for themselves and their future generations. They became respected members of communities throughout our nation.

The history of the Fil-Am community in Hawaii is particularly rich and echoes the national story. In 1906, the first 15 sakada contract laborers arrived in Honolulu from the Philippines aboard the *SS Doric*, marking the first sustained immigration into our country and the humble beginnings of Fil-Ams in Hawaii. These first immigrants, those that followed and the subsequent generations eventually became trailblazers in politics and government, the military, business and entrepreneurship, journalism, popular culture, music and the arts and more.

Domingo Los Banos was Hawaii’s first Filipino American school principal and a loyal veteran of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment that fought in the Philippines during World War II.

Carolina Dizon Wong broke a glass ceiling when she obtained an M.D. degree and became the first Filipino American to start a medical practice in Hawaii in 1952.

Peter Aduja became the first Fil-Am elected to public office in the United States when he was elected to the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives in 1954.

Ines Cayaban was the first Filipino American graduate of the School of Public Health, Nursing and Social Work at the University of Hawaii. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1986 for her service.

In 1994, Ben Cayetano was elected the Governor of Hawaii, becoming the first Filipino American governor of a state in our union.

In 2019, Roy Macaraeg became the first Fil-Am to become a general officer in the history of Hawaii’s citizen soldier ranks.

In Hawaii, we also regularly honor the over 250,000 Filipinos who answered the call to protect and defend America and the Philippines in the Pacific theater. In 2016, President Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act to bestow Congress’s highest honor upon those veterans. With my colleagues in the House, I have introduced our Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which seeks to reunite World War II Filipino soldiers with their children, so that we can honor those living in our community who fought to protect the free and open Indo-Pacific that we have today.

Each and all of these lives of achievement are but a small sampling of a broader community that has achieved so much and contributed so much to the rich fabric of our country. And the story of Filipino Americans is still in its early chapters.

This is why it is important that we take the time to recognize groups like Filipino Americans. The story of Filipino Americans, and to an extent, the stories of all of our various ethnic groups, is the story of America. From very humble beginnings, they have risen through hard work, sacrifice, commitment to advancing the next generations and mutual support to achieve so much already. That well describes Filipino Americans overall—embracing the responsibilities and opportunities of America while honoring and treasuring the rich heritage of their ancestral homeland.

All of this is why I joined my friends and colleagues Congresswoman MICHELLE STEEL, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, Congressman JAMES MOYLAN and others in introducing this bipartisan resolution to express support for the designation of October as Filipino American History Month. We urge our colleagues’ support to promote an ongoing appreciation of the contributions of Filipino Americans to our country and the rich diversity of our nation.

To Fil-Ams everywhere, “Maraming Salamat Po” and “Dios ti Agngina”—congratulations. I truly look forward to partnering with them on their next proud chapters.

HONORING DAVE CORT

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Dave Cort’s 32 years of service as the San Geronimo Valley Community Center’s Executive Director.

Dave became the Community Center’s first executive director in June of 1991. This part-time job was the first paid position for the organization and came with only three required qualifications: owning a truck, being able to lift 100 pounds, and possessing people skills. His role and the services provided by the Community Center expanded exponentially over the next 3 decades.

Dave ensured the Community Center was a successful resource for the San Geronimo Valley residents. He reformed the local delivery service, partnered with Lagunitas School District to facilitate after-school and daycare programs, and managed the expansion of senior services to include a new Senior Lunch program in the early 2000s. Understanding the need for recreation opportunities to promote community wellness, Dave also worked to build the Community Gym in 2010.

In 2019, Dave rallied community donors to seed the Deepening Roots Endowment with \$2 million. A year later, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for financial security for the Center in order to provide critical services to the San Geronimo Valley community emergencies. During the pandemic, Dave assembled the Community Center’s resources to bring vaccines, tests, food, emergency funds, accurate information, and a sense of community to the residents of West Marin.

Today, the San Geronimo Valley Community Center has a staff of 22 people and a

comprehensive mission to foster healthy communities within the San Geronimo Valley and Nicasio. Thanks to Dave Cort’s dedication and leadership, the organization has become integral to the quality of life for the community, ensuring local residents have access to quality programs in the arts, youth services, senior services, community events, and more.

Mr. Speaker, Dave Cort exemplifies what it means to be a community-minded public servant. His contributions to the San Geronimo Valley Community Center and the people of West Marin are extraordinary and appreciated. Therefore, please join us in congratulating him for decades of inspiring work.

COMMENDING JOHN SHELL FOR HIS SERVICE TO ALABAMA DISTRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Shell for his service to Alabama’s First Congressional District. John Shell initiated the Eagle Reef Project, which involves deploying reef structures to foster marine life. These reefs are installed under docks or wharfs to filter and clean up to 10,000,000 gallons of water annually. They provide homes for many species of fish and crabs. John raised \$52,000 for 175 reefs in aims to expand the project to reach 1,000 reefs along the coast of Alabama, and eventually to Mississippi and Florida. He hopes to do a similar project in coastal areas along the Gulf and the Atlantic.

His environmental impact on our waters is remarkable. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING REUNION OF U.S. ARMY NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to hundreds of United States Army veterans who are gathering in and around our nation’s capital the week of September 25, 2023, to join in reunion of their graduation from the Noncommissioned Officers Candidate Course (NCOCC).

The program was established for the training of noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army. The program operated at Fort Benning, GA, Fort Bliss, TX, Fort Knox, KY, Fort Sill, OK, and Fort Leonard Wood, MO, from 1967 to 1972, during the height of the Vietnam War. As a proud graduate of the program and fellow Vietnam War veteran, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and saluting these leaders, combat veterans—many of them wounded—and unsung heroes.

As the Vietnam War progressed in the 1960s, the Army was running out of noncommissioned officers in several combat specialties. In order to meet these unprecedented requirements for Noncommissioned Officer

(NCO) leaders, the Army developed a solution based on the proven Officer Candidate Course. If a carefully selected soldier can be given 23 weeks of intensive training that would qualify him to lead a platoon, then others can be trained to lead squads and fire teams in the same amount of time. From this seed, the NCOCC was born.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson approved the concept on June 22, 1967, and on September 5, the first course at Fort Benning (now Fort Moore), Georgia, began with Sgt. Maj. Don Wright serving as the first NCOCC Commandant.

Potential candidates for the course were selected from groups of initial entry soldiers who had a security clearance of confidential, an infantry score of 100 or over, and demonstrated leadership potential. Based on recommendations, the unit commander would select potential NCOs, but all were not volunteers. Those selected to attend NCOCC were immediately made corporals and later promoted to sergeant upon graduation from phase one. The select few who graduated with honors would be promoted to staff sergeant. The outstanding graduate of the first class, Staff Sgt. Melvin C. Leverick, recalled "I think that those who graduated [from the NCOCC] were much better prepared for some of the problems that would arise in Vietnam." The NCO candidate course was designed to maximize the two-year tour of the enlisted draftee.

Though over 300 hours of instruction was given, eighty percent was conducted in the field. The final basic phase was a "dress rehearsal for Vietnam," a full week of patrols, ambush, defensive perimeters, and navigation. Twice daily, the Vietnam-schooled rangers critiqued the candidates, and all training was conducted tactically.

These men, many now of advanced age, served our country with great honor under challenging circumstances. Four were awarded the Medal of Honor. Six are still missing. Many—1,118 in all—never made it home.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that these outstanding noncommissioned officers and combat veterans were an indispensable part of our armed forces and served our country with bravery, dedication, and honor.

RECOGNIZING DIXIE FERGUSON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Dixie Ferguson, for her outstanding work and lifelong dedication to serving our men and women in uniform and the veterans of our Eastern Washington community.

Dixie began her service journey in 1966 when she joined the American Red Cross after graduating from the University of California, Davis. She joined the Clubmobile Service and provided support to our combat troops in Vietnam as a "Donut Dolly." Dixie became well-known for her work at USO shows—singing, dancing, and serving food—to the young men fighting for our freedom who were missing home. After returning home in 1968, Dixie served as a social worker at Long Beach Naval Hospital in California, Fitzsimons Army

Hospital in Colorado, and the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton where she supported those wounded in combat.

Fast forward more than 50 years later, and Dixie is still serving our active duty and retired service members through the American Red Cross Chapter in Walla Walla. In 2016, she earned the Red Cross Volunteer of the Year Award for her work as an outreach and emergency communications caseworker.

Dixie has gone above and beyond volunteering her time through the years. Most recently, she has played an instrumental role in documenting the stories of those who served in World War II and Vietnam through the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. To date, she has helped record nearly 200 veterans' stories. Additionally, Dixie has helped coordinate flights in the skies of Walla Walla for nearly 700 veterans as part of The Honour Project, while also proudly helping members of the Greatest Generation make their journey to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. as a part of the Inland Northwest Honor Flight.

There is truly no task too big or too small for Dixie. Throughout the years, she served on a local committee responsible for bringing the second Gold Star Families Monument to Washington state. In 2021, she established Volunteers Love Serving Veterans, a local non-profit committed to service. Most recently, she organized and planned an annual POW/MIA ceremony event, where she welcomed a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient to be the guest speaker.

One thing is certain: There are very few in our country who have rolled out the red carpet for our veterans like Dixie Ferguson has. Her love of service and dedication to our veterans has brought endless joy to the Walla Walla military and veteran community that continues to grow each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding service of Dixie Ferguson to our men and women in uniform. Her work on their behalf is awe inspiring, and the profound impact she has had on our Nation's heroes will leave a legacy not soon to be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING OUR LADY OF VICTORY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize the parish of Our Lady of Victory and its founding mother, Anna Bates, as they celebrate eighty years of service in faith to the people of Detroit in Michigan's 12th Congressional District.

Our Lady of Victory's story begins in a store front on Eight Mile Road in 1943. Mother Bates was instrumental in ensuring that the parish had a home in Detroit in spite of segregation and other challenges to a predominantly Black place of worship. In 1941, the city built an eight-foot segregation wall that extended a half-mile long just blocks from the new Our Lady of Victory mission site. As tensions over disparity and racial injustice came to a head, resulting in the 1943 protests, the wall became a symbol for the increasingly unjust living conditions for Black residents.

Spurred by the protest and increasing tension, Mother Bates spent ten years petitioning the archdiocese to create a house of worship for Black residents who were not permitted to enter any of the neighboring white Catholic Churches. Nearby Catholic parishes were adamantly opposed to welcoming Black Catholics. But Mother Bates persevered. Our Lady of Victory was finally recognized as a parish. Though the parish has relocated over the years, we are glad they are now housed in the St. Scholastica campus in Michigan's 12th District.

Please join me in recognizing of Our Lady of Victory's legacy in the fight against racial injustice, as they celebrate eighty years of service and fellowship in faith.

RECOGNIZING JAMES MANUEL VILLA WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2023

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present James Manuel Villa of Waco, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

James Villa's dedication is evident from his three combat deployments in Iraq with the Marines First Division, Second Battalion, 5th Regiment. Joining the Marines in 2002, his initial engagement in 2003 saw participation in the Battle of Al Faw, capturing pivotal regions around the Rumaila Oil Field, and ensuring security and stability in Samawah, Iraq. His subsequent deployment in 2004 to Ramadi earned him the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with combat distinguished service, a testament to his leadership as a fire team leader.

Even after fulfilling his enlistment and intending to pursue education at Baylor University, duty called him back. His third deployment brought more accolades for distinguished service in Fallujah, coupled with the significant responsibility of training 70 Iraqi police recruits. He attained the rank of Sergeant, receiving his honorable discharge in 2009.

Following his service with the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton in 2009, James transitioned to education. He achieved his Bachelor of Arts from Rockhurst University in 2011 and later a Master of Education from Tarleton State University. Besides his academic achievements, James's impact in the community of Waco is profound. As an eighth-grade science teacher, he was celebrated as the 2017 Waco ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Today, he stands as a beacon of leadership and hope as the principal of La Vega High School, holding a deep-seated belief in the potential of every student and their ability to effect change in their community.

James, alongside his wife Ivy, are the proud parents of five daughters and three sons, reflecting his commitment both to family and nation.

For his relentless dedication to his country, and now his community, it is with deep respect that I present the Congressional Veteran Commendation to James M. Villa.