

may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture this Saturday, September 24, 2016.

As the nineteenth museum to join the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of African American History and Culture joins the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture.

When the Smithsonian was founded in 1846, the United States was a far less perfect union than the one we live in today, and the idea of a museum that would tell the story of African Americans could hardly have been imagined. Yet there can be no denying that the story of America and its vitality, resilience, and optimism are rooted and reflected in the African American experience.

In the words of Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, "there are few things as powerful and as important as a people, as a nation that is steeped in its history."

As Members of Congress, we have the privilege of representing the entirety of the American people and working in the "People's House" and under the glorious dome of our U.S. Capitol and its crowning feature, the Statue of Freedom. In the pages of history, you will find extensive information about the architect of the Capitol, the artist who designed the Statue of Freedom, and the foundry owner who was commissioned for the casting of the statue. What is less known is the story of Philip Reid, the enslaved laborer of the foundry owner who was the only known slave working on Freedom and instrumental to its successful casting in bronze.

Philip Reid worked on the casting of Freedom from 1860 through 1862, despite the beginning of the Civil War and its toll on construction of the Capitol. When the statue was finally completed and placed atop the Capitol Dome in 1863, Reid had become a free man thanks to the Compensated Emancipation Act signed by President Lincoln.

The story of Philip Reid is the story of America, and only one of the many histories and cultural contributions that will be shared with the American public at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Like the building of the U.S. Capitol, the creation of this museum has taken almost a century, but its time has finally come.

Today, we celebrate its opening and its tribute to generations of Americans past, present

and future and the defining way in which our country has been shaped by our African American brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I recall the words of the Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes who wrote that "America is a dream . . . not my dream alone, but our dream. Not my world alone, but your world and my world." Let us all share in this great dream made real together.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE OPENING  
OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NA-  
TIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on Saturday, September 24, 2016. I am so proud that over 110 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me as original cosponsors.

This weekend will mark a historic moment in our Nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of people will convene in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall to celebrate and welcome this historic institution which is dedicated to documenting African American life, history, art, and culture. Many people in this body, across the nation, and around the world shall celebrate this great day.

Tonight, I applaud Dr. Lonnie Bunch, III, the Founding Director, Kinshasha Holman Conwill, the Deputy Director, Cheryl Smith, Chief of Staff, and the hundreds and thousands of people who worked so hard to make this dream a reality. For over 10 years, they have toiled day in and day out to prepare for the opening and operation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I know that the leadership and staff of the Museum have labored tirelessly for years and years—designing the building, raising funds, envisioning the exhibits, collecting artifacts, conducting research, and meeting with the many people across this country and around the world who are so excited about this historic moment. Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, dedication, and determination to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of African American History and Culture took over 100 years to evolve from a dream to a reality in the Nation's Capital on the National Mall. The most recent congressional effort began with the late former Congressman Thomas "Mickey" Leland from Texas who revitalized the legislation in 1985. I was proud to continue his work and fought for 15 years for the bill to pass the House and Senate before finally being signed into law by President George W. Bush.

It was a long, hard, labor of love, and there were so many wonderful Members on both sides of the aisle and the dome, who helped accomplish this mission which spanned generations, decades, and movements. In 1993,

the late Senator Paul Martin Simon from Illinois introduced a companion to the House legislation. Beginning in 2001, former Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas, former Senator Max Cleland from Georgia, and former Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut joined the House coalition which included Representatives William "Bill" Clay from Missouri, J.C. Watts, Jr. from Oklahoma, and Jack Kingston from Georgia who helped take this bipartisan, bicameral effort across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also thank some of the former congressional staff who worked for so many years to pass the legislation which authorized the Museum—Tammy Boyd in my office; Kern Watson with former Rep. J.C. Watts; LaRoche Young with former Sen. Sam Brownback; and Donni Turner with former Sen. Max Cleland. They refused to give up; they refused to give in, and we thank them for their hard work and service.

On the eve of this long-awaited day, I join with more than 110 of my colleagues in congratulating Smithsonian Institution's family, the countless staff, and many volunteers of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on their persistence, their determination, and—very, very soon—on their success.

Tonight, we should all be proud, and each and every one of us must take the necessary hours, days, weeks, and months to visit, learn, explore, and reflect on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and all that it signifies and entails.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARINDA LIONS  
CLUB

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Clarinda Lions Club of Clarinda, Iowa. The members of this service club exemplify the Lions motto: "We Serve." The Clarinda Lions Club members demonstrate this philosophy of selfless volunteer service each and every day.

The Clarinda Lions Club was chartered by Lions International in June 1946. Lions International began in 1917, when a Chicago businessman encouraged his local business club to go beyond business and focus on improving their communities and the world. After contacting other service groups to join this new effort, Lions International was born. Lions Clubs offer a number of services to the communities they serve. The Clarinda Lions Club puts on an annual pancake meal to raise funds to benefit the community, sponsors the Santa House during the holiday season, and participates in the SightFirst international program to help restore sight and prevent blindness. They also assist local residents with repurposing unwanted prescription glasses and send glasses overseas to people who have limited vision care.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the Clarinda Lions Club for the difference they continue to make in their community. Over the past 70 years, their members have been dedicated to helping and serving others, and it is a great honor to recognize them today. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of

Representatives to join me in congratulating the Clarinda Lions Club for their many accomplishments. I wish them nothing but continued success in all their future endeavors.

H.R. 5461 & H.R. 5931

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding H.R. 5461, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and H.R. 5931, the misleadingly named Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act.

Regional stability in the Middle East and ensuring that Iran is prevented from acquiring a nuclear weapon are top national security priorities of the United States and they are the reasons that, after very careful consideration, I chose to support the JCPOA. That agreement has already dramatically reduced Iran's stockpile of enriched nuclear material and subjects the country to a strenuous verification regime. For all these reasons, I will support the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and oppose H.R. 5931.

Iran's hugely wealthy and powerful Revolutionary Guard has been identified by leading international institutions, including the State Department, as a driving force behind Iran's sponsorship of terrorism around the world. The Los Angeles Times estimated in 2007 that the IRGC, which was tasked with rebuilding the country after the Iran-Iraq War, "now has ties to more than one hundred companies that control roughly \$12 billion in construction and engineering capital." In a 2012 country report on terrorism, the State Department noted "a marked resurgence of Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Quds Force, its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally Hezbollah."

H.R. 5461 will help illuminate the IRGC's control of a wide array of Iran's assets. The Treasury Secretary will be required to develop and post online in English, and the three main languages used in that country, a list of assets held by Iran's political and military leaders. The list will include a description of how these assets were acquired and how they have been employed. The bill will not only help make Iran's citizens more aware of how corrupt their government is, the reporting requirements may help to shed additional light on the ways Iran's Revolutionary Guard funds terrorism.

By contrast, H.R. 5931 would provide Iran with an excuse to abandon its JCPOA obligations and resume its nuclear enrichment activities. The bill purports to codify the long held position of the U.S. not to pay ransoms to terrorists, but the bill is much more than that. H.R. 5931 would prohibit the U.S. Government from making cash payments of any kind to Iran, even ones the U.S. is legally obligated to make. The most recent payment made to Iran by the U.S., for example, was owed to it as a result of a weapons sale that occurred in the days before the revolution. The U.S. was cer-

tainly not going to fulfill this obligation by sending Iran weapons, so the U.S. agreed to fulfill the contract instead with cash. Additionally, because the U.S. is a signatory to the Algiers Accords, there will be more payments in the future. Under that agreement, the U.S. is legally obligated to comply with the determinations of the Iran/U.S. Claims Tribunal. The recent payment made to Iran was a part of the settlement reached by that body. There are over a thousand more claims pending before the Tribunal.

The JCPOA is not based on trust. It is based on verification. According to the IAEA, Iran has, so far, complied with its obligations under the JCPOA. Faithfully observing the obligations of that agreement, especially the verification protocols, are in the national security interest of the United States and we must avoid providing the Iranians with an excuse not to uphold their side of the bargain. For that reason, I cannot support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA AND DARWIN BROCKMAN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Viola and Darwin Brockman of Hancock, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 24, 1956.

Viola and Darwin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCING THE "APOLLO 1" MEMORIAL BILL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Apollo 1 Memorial Act". The Nation's success in human spaceflight is well documented. Astronauts are American heroes. John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Sally Ride. These are some of the familiar names that our children read about in their textbooks.

Unfortunately, success in human spaceflight has come at a high cost. Brave men and women have paid the ultimate cost in the name of space exploration.

On January 27, 1967, Astronauts Command Pilot Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Senior Pilot Ed-

ward H. White II, and Pilot Roger B. Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke out inside their Apollo 1 Command Module on Launch Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Although all three astronauts were posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, it is surprising that we do not have a memorial to honor the lives of the crew of *Apollo 1* as was done for the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and *Columbia* crews.

This bill would redress that unfortunate omission. As Arlington National Cemetery is where we recognize heroes who have passed in the service of the Nation, it is fitting on the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 1* accident that we acknowledge these astronauts by building a memorial in their honor. This bill would direct the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to construct at an appropriate place in Arlington National Cemetery, a memorial marker honoring these fine men.

In addition to \$500,000 from the Army's fiscal year 2017 operations and maintenance appropriated funds, the bill provides the NASA Administrator with the authority to accept donations of services, money, and property for the memorial marker.

In closing Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo* accident, we have the opportunity to honor these three brave men and their contribution to America's preeminence in human spaceflight. It is time to build a memorial so that current and future Americans never forget their sacrifice.

I am pleased to be joined by Chairman JEFF MILLER and Representatives MARK TAKANO, CORRINE BROWN, DONNA EDWARDS and GUS BILIRAKIS as an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I hope that it can be swiftly enacted into law.

TRIBUTE TO LEONA AND TOM STUART

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Leona and Tom Stuart of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 15, 1956 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neola, Iowa.

Leona and Tom's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.