

play with the 49ers. Then in March 2019, San Francisco gave him a three-year extension, and now he'll play in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Madam Speaker, for his tenacity and resiliency, I recognize Mike Person of Glendive for his Spirit of Montana.

ROBERT ERPELDING

HON. PAUL MITCHELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert Franklin Erpelding, a loving father, husband, and grandfather of Michigan. Bob moved to Detroit as a child and enlisted in the Navy in 1951 during the Korean War. He served as a radarman on the USS *Watts*, a Navy destroyer. Following his service in the armed forces, he worked for over 30 years on computers at the Burroughs Corporation.

After his long and admirable career, he began his next phase of life as a vintner, model plane designer, and craft brew enthusiast.

Bob was an upstanding man who led by example and encouraged his friends and family to appreciate the little things in life. He will be missed dearly by his wife, Marguerite, his two children Laura Cox and Robert Erpelding, as well as his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize School Choice Week.

As a father of two, I am well-versed with the parental drive to give your child the best opportunities possible in life. Each student deserves a rich, challenging curriculum to prepare them for success, and I believe parents have the right to select the best school that will provide them with the best education.

Millions of American students are trapped in schools that do not meet their aptitudes and needs, and as a nation, we face a tragically high dropout rate. In Arkansas, one in every twenty high school students will drop out before graduation, and this statistic mirrors the national rate. School choice most benefits students from low-income families, whose parents cannot buy a new home in a zip code with a better-performing public school.

I support school vouchers and other innovative educational options, such as magnet and charter schools, because they give parents the flexibility to place their child in the school that best meets their educational needs. As lawmakers, we owe families the right to access a high-quality education, unrestricted by zip code or income.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VICTIMS
OF THE BAKU AND SUMGAI T
POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom and the 30th Anniversary of the Baku pogrom.

On February 27, 1988, hundreds of Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and even burned alive for no reason other than their ethnicity. This senseless violence was instigated by hostile, anti-Armenian rhetoric from Azerbaijani citizens and officials.

Similarly, on January 12, 1990, a seven-day pogrom broke out against the Armenian population in Baku during which Armenians were beaten, murdered, and expelled from the city. Over 90 Armenian civilians were killed, over 700 were injured, and countless others were permanently displaced by the ethnic violence that ensued.

For over three decades, Azerbaijan has taken steps to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss the atrocities at Sumgait and Baku. Even more disturbing is that the perpetrators of this event and similar violent attacks have been lauded as national heroes by the Azeri government.

It is critical for the United States government to recognize and denounce violent assaults against any civilians. I continue to stand with the Armenian people in condemning this horrific massacre. Tragically, the Azerbaijani government's approach toward the Armenian people has changed little since the pogroms were initiated. We still hear the same violent rhetoric and witness intimidation tactics aimed at the people of the Republic of Artsakh.

If we do not condemn crimes against humanity and allow them to go unpunished and unrecognized, we only strengthen the resolve of those seeking to perpetrate these crimes in the future. It is especially critical to consider this as we prepare to commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus to remember the victims of the pogroms at Sumgait and Baku and condemn all acts of violence against people who are targeted simply because of their existence. I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting violent rhetoric and intimidation. In doing so, we renew our commitment to achieving a lasting peace and more humane way of living in the Caucasus.

HONORING BUDDY BAKER'S INDUCTION INTO THE 2020 NASCAR HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of racing legend Buddy Baker upon his induction into the eleventh class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

A native of Charlotte, Buddy Baker was a towering figure in the world of NASCAR and in 1980, won the Daytona 500 with an average race speed of 177.602 MPH—a track record that stands today. During his 33-year career, he accumulated 19 premier series wins, back-to-back Coca-Cola 600 titles, and a Southern 500 victory where he lapped the rest of the field.

Buddy Baker retired in 1992 and transitioned to television and radio, where he was a successful commentator for The Nashville Network and CBS and radio co-host on Late Shift and Tradin' Paint for SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. He passed away in 2015 and left behind a legacy of racing excellence and remains one of the sport's fastest drivers.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, competitors, members of the media, industry leaders, a nationwide fan vote, and the reigning Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Buddy Baker is especially deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his remarkable contributions to racing.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the legacy of Buddy Baker on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATING MAX FISHER
FOR BEING NAMED
MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY'S
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Max Fisher of Moorestown, New Jersey, for being named as his town's 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Each year, the Citizen of the Year Award is presented by the Moorestown Service Council to a resident who through service activities has significantly contributed to improving the quality of life of the community and their fellow citizens. This year's recipient has not just been contributing to his community in the last year, but has been an institution of service and volunteerism in Moorestown for decades.

Max Fisher moved onto Main Street in Moorestown when he was just four years old, and he and his wife Beth have lived and raised their children here since. Max has been an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Moorestown, organizing and participating in over 25 church mission trips in New Jersey and around the nation, helping to rebuild in communities devastated by Hurricanes Charlie, Katrina and Sandy. He been a mainstay on the Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development Committee (MEND) for 20+ years, and has been Chairman for the past 12 years. He was an original member of the YMCA's Men's Service Club, and has been a member of the Moorestown Volunteer Fire Department since 1971.

Max has also run the Taylor Rental Center in Moorestown for the last 30 years. His generosity has been legendary around Moorestown: Max was always quick to lend a hand and say "yes" when a service organization needed to borrow some of his equipment

for a project. To all that know him, Max is quiet and unassuming; but behind the scenes he has been a powerful force for good in Moorestown and the surrounding community for years.

It is a privilege to be able to congratulate Max Fisher as the Moorestown Service Council's 2020 Citizen of the Year. I thank Max for all the work he has done to improve the lives of those in need, and appreciate his relentless dedication to the people of Burlington County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, on January 30, 2020, I was absent from the House chamber due to my presence at my mother-in-law's funeral. Had I been present and voting, I would have opposed both amendments to H.R. 550.

As a 20-year Navy veteran who served in the Middle East and is currently serving a district in Hampton Roads, where one in five residents is active duty, a veteran, or an immediate family member, I took this decision very seriously and personally. From our district, the Harry S. Truman Canier Shike Group, the Bataan Amphibious Readiness group, and approximately ten thousand sailors and marines are deployed to the Middle East defending our national security interests.

The use of military force must be a last resort after all other options are exhausted. However, a strong presence in the Middle East is necessary to send the message that America is committed to ending Iran's malicious activities and to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear capabilities.

Under the Constitution, only Congress has the authority and power to declare war. Unfortunately, the pieces of legislation that we are debating do not address the underlying problem: that we are operating under a nearly two decade-old Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

Issues of life and death or war and peace should not be made on party lines using a procedural rule to silence the other side. We owe it to our troops to define their mission and take on the hard task of uniting as a governing body to replace the outdated AUMFs.

Today, I would like to submit my opposition into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because if we must send more Americans to war, Congress has the responsibility to debate a new AUMF that will shape war and peace for decades to come.

RECOGNITION OF EDWARD WANG, 2019 CONGRESSIONAL APP WINNER

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Wang, winner of the Congressional App Challenge for Arizona's Fifth District. This competition is offered to middle and high school students nationwide in search for

an original app that is programmed to provide a service beneficial to society.

Mr. Wang's app, ProAssign, embraces the App Challenge's mission: Inspire, Include, Innovate. ProAssign inspires students to improve their math and problem-solving skills by using a modern resource. Mr. Wang's submission includes each student's understanding of mathematics by assigning additional practice problems to strengthen their skills. His app enables teachers to innovate their teaching methods by modernizing the learning environment to better relate to today's students.

I have no doubt that Mr. Wang will continue to inspire our nation's youth to imagine bold solutions to the educational challenges of the twenty-first century. I am honored to have such talent and leadership in my district.

HONORING 2020 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE JOE GIBBS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend and racing legend Joe Gibbs upon his induction into the eleventh class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

A titan of NASCAR, Joe Gibbs ranks third all-time with over 160 premier series owner wins. After starting Joe Gibbs Racing in 1992, he saw his organization accumulate three Daytona 500 victories, five Brickyard 400 championships, five Xfinity Series titles, and four premier series championships with drivers Bobby Lobonte, Tony Stewart, and Kyle Busch.

Referred to by colleagues as "Coach," Joe Gibbs is a three-time Super Bowl champion football coach who was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996. Since then, he has become the heart and soul of racing and I am proud that he has taken his place among the greats in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, competitors, members of the media, industry leaders, a nationwide fan vote, and the reigning Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Joe Gibbs is especially deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his remarkable contributions to racing.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Joe Gibbs on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 3621—the Student Borrower Credit Improvement Act (Roll Call No. 32), I would have voted in favor of the measure.

HONORING LAURA SMITH ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate with our dear friend, Laura Smith, who is retiring from Yale University after thirty-nine years of dedicated service. In a career that has spanned four decades, Laura has become a fixture at the University, earning a respected reputation for her dedication as well as her commitment to her colleagues.

Laura's career at Yale began in the Bursar's Office where she served as a Collection Correspondent in the Student Loan Collection Department. In the decade that she spent there, she built lasting memories—many of which include calls made using a rotary phone as well as tracking collections with microfiche and pinned spreadsheets. Those of us who can remember using those technology trends can appreciate the humor with which she recalls those years. Laura's second decade with Yale began as an Editorial Assistant in the Alumni Records Department where she was tasked with maintaining the class reunion directories. Shortly after beginning this new role, the Department was merged with the Office of Development which has been Laura's professional home ever since. Over the course of her tenure in the Office of Development, Laura has held a myriad of positions and taken on a variety of responsibilities—all in support of alumni activities and communications.

In addition to her years of service within Development, Laura has been involved with the Local 34 union as an active member and leader throughout her career. In 1994, Laura was elected President of Local 34, a position in which she served for sixteen years. It was in her role with Local 34 that I had the opportunity to work closely with Laura. Her leadership, vision, compassion, and commitment not only inspired her members, but in all of us who support the labor movement. She proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with her hard-working colleagues, fighting to ensure that they were receiving a living wage, working in a safe environment, and were secure in their health and retirement. Laura was and is a passionate advocate for workers' rights and has long been a pillar of support for her union colleagues. Her tireless advocacy and unwavering support for her union brothers and sisters will most certainly be missed, though I have no doubt that she will continue to find ways to contribute to the cause.

Today, as Laura marks the end of her professional career, I hope that she knows how many lives she has touched and what a difference she has made. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Laura Smith as she celebrates her retirement. I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness.